PINGUICULA

The genus Pinguicula L. has been extensively studied within the past ten years by S. Jost Casper of the Institut für Spezielle Botanik der Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena. Dr. Casper has published a number of monographs and shorter regional papers on the genus Pinguicula from which we have compiled this check list. There are still a number of areas of controversy. For example, Casper separated P. macrorcaras from P. vulgaris as a distinct species, the former ranging from northern California through Alaska and to Japan, the latter from northern Europe through Siberia, northern Alaska, Canada and the north-eastern United States. The only interface is in northwestern Canada and Alaska. Other taxonomists prefer to combine the two into P. vulgaris.

A second area of dispute concerns the Mexican Pinguiculas. McVaugh and Mikel (1963) prefer to combine many of the species found in Mexico while Casper prefers to separate them. We feel Casper presents a good argument for his decisions and we have consistently followed his approach in this check list.


(Bob Ziener and J.A. Mazrimas)
In the preparation of this listing, we relied upon the early work of two great botanists, J. M. Macfarlane and B. H. Danser. This genus is especially complex to decipher taxonomically because of its polymorphism nature and the relatively few constant characters within the species. As a result, the listing bulges with synonyms which we tried our best to record for you. Hybrids present even a greater problem since much of the time, the same cross made on different occasions was given a different name, or names have been mixed and various back and secondary crosses not properly recorded. Here, we relied on various horticultural encyclopedias to give us the most consistent information. Finally, many of the Japanese books and journal papers yielded helpful clues.


(N. Mazrimas and Bob Ziener)