

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Tenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Shepherdstown, West Virginia, United States of America, 11 – 15 December 2000

Checklists and nomenclature

NOMENCLATURE PROBLEMS

This document has been prepared by the Vice-Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee.

1. The following items have been referred to the Nomenclature Committee for their consideration.
2. **Cactaceae**
3. During recent years, an increase in the trade of Nopal as well as several other preparations made from parts and derivatives of *Opuntia* spp. have been noticed:
 - a) Two species of *Opuntia* spp. namely *O. streptacantha* and *O. ficus-indica* are mainly used.
 - b) In the Interpretation of Appendix I and II, annotation #4 e) stipulates that 'separate stem joints (pads) and parts and derivatives thereof of naturalised or artificially propagated plants of the genus *Opuntia* subgenus *Opuntia*' are exempted.
 - c) However, there is no clear definition of which species are actually listed in the subgenus *Opuntia*. There are over 300 *Opuntia* species and more than 900 names can be found in the literature. Different taxonomic opinions are found in the literature.
4. Recommendation:
 - a) In order to allow proper implementation of annotation #4 e), the Nomenclature Committee needs to consider what species should be included in the subgenus. This was considered at the time of production of the second edition of the *CITES Cactaceae Checklist* but no easy solution was found.
 - b) A brief review of the trade in Nopal/other *Opuntia* preparations is required to see what species are involved, whether there is any likelihood of detrimental trade and to what level the material can be identified.
5. **Thymeleaceae (Aquilariaceae), *Aquilaria* spp.**
6. *Aquilaria malaccensis* was included in CITES Appendix II in 1995. The proposal by India included only one synonym - *A. agallocha*. The genus is considered to contain some 15 species.

7. There are conflicting views with regard to the species which are included in the entity known as *A. malaccensis* as indeed there is with the number of species included in the genus. For example, *A. malaccensis* may include *A. sinensis* and some consider *A. agallocha* to be a separate species.
8. The eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties directed the Plants Committee to continue its review of the genus *Aquilaria* to consider *inter alia* how species might be distinguished from each other when traded as Agarwood.
9. Recommendation:
10. For such a review to be effective it should include a review of the present taxonomic status of the species to be carried out in association with the Nomenclature Committee.
11. **Valerianaceae, *Nardostachys grandiflora***
12. *Nardostachys grandiflora* was included in CITES Appendix II in 1997. The proposal put forward by India included the synonyms, *Valeriana jatamans* sensu D.Don, *Patrinia jatamanis* D. Don, *Fedia grandiflora* Wall., *Nardostachys jatamansi* DC. and *Nardostachys gracilis* Kitamura.
13. There is some confusion as regard to what is included in *N. grandiflora*. Some authors consider taxa cited as synonyms in the original proposal to be good species in their own right. In particular, the names *Nardostachys jatamansi* and *Valeriana jatamansi* which are used in Nepal.
14. The proposal cites *Valeriana jatamans sensu* D.Don as a synonym of *Nardostachys grandiflora*. This name was wrongly applied.
15. Recommendation:
16. Despite the confusion surrounding the synonymy of *Nardostachys jatamansi* and *Valeriana jatamansi* the intent of the original proposal seems clear. The intent was to include both taxa as synonyms in the original proposal adopted by the Conference of the Parties. For the present, it seems it can be taken that the intent was to include these taxa under CITES control. However, the Nomenclature Committee should review the status of the taxon to clarify the general confusion. An annotation of the Appendices may be required to assist Parties in implementation of the listing.
17. **Scrophulariaceae, *Pichorhiza kurrooa***
18. *Pichorhiza kurrooa* was included in CITES Appendix II in 1997. The proposal put forward by India included no synonyms.
19. *Pichorhiza scrophulariiflora* is considered to be a synonym of this species in Nepal and China. Some authors however consider *Pichorhiza scrophulariiflora* to be a separate species.
20. There is apparently no official record which indicates that the listing intended to control *P. scrophulariiflora*, the original proposal referred to this taxon as an 'allied species'. However reviewers of the original proposal were consistent in pointing out to the proponent that *P. scrophulariiflora* was considered to be a synonym of *Pichorhiza kurrooa*. Whether this is sufficient evidence to say that the meeting of the Conference of the Parties approved the proposal in the knowledge that the species were synonymous is a moot point. However this did seem to be the prevailing view at the time of the listing.
21. Recommendation:
22. That the Nomenclature Committee review the status of this taxon, in the interim, the listing should be taken to include *P. scrophulariiflora* as this was the perceived view at the time of the original listing.