

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



Eleventh meeting of the Plants Committee
Langkawi (Malaysia), 3-7 September 2001

Technical proposals for the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

HARVESTING TECHNIQUES FOR *GALANTHUS* IN GEORGIA

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The Animals Committee at its 17th meeting discussed a document, prepared under contract to the Secretariat, dealing with 'Control of captive breeding, ranching and wild harvest production systems for Appendix-II species' (AC17 Doc. 14; provided as PC11 Inf. 3). The main purpose of this document was to propose a standard approach for the various ways in which the source code 'R' has been used.
3. The Secretariat believes that the source code 'R' for ranching should only be used for specimens harvested under the provisions of Resolution Conf. 11.16 on 'Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II' or, in the case of Appendix-II species, that are derived from ranching programmes that meet the requirements of the said Resolution.
4. Consequently, several new source codes have been proposed for specimens harvested in a different manner than the one referred to under paragraph 3. above. These can be found in paragraphs 6. and 7. of PC11 Inf. 3.
5. Georgia has been using the source code 'R' for export of *Galanthus woronowii* since 1999. This was based on a statement in the report on the bulb trade in Georgia by Flora and Fauna International that the Plants Committee at its ninth meeting had agreed that there was merit in further developing the concept of 'ranching' for plants. This is, however, not recorded in the proceedings of the meeting concerned.
6. In the context of the review of the source codes, the Secretariat has had an extensive exchange of opinions with Georgia on the subject. At the request of Georgia and of the Secretariat the issue has been included in the agenda for this meeting.
7. In May 2001, the Scientific Authority of Germany paid a visit to Georgia. A report on this visit will be presented to the Plants Committee. Some comments that the Secretariat received from the Scientific Authority of Germany are included below.
8. Bulbs are only harvested in south-western Georgia, namely in the Ajarian Autonomous Republic and partly in the Guria region. Bulbs are only collected from cultivated agricultural lands, mainly cornfields and citrus or tea plantations. It is most likely that these cultivated

fields have been laid out in areas of natural distribution of *Galanthus* species. This also explains why, in the past, the plants of this species were removed as weeds. However, nowadays the local people are keen to grow them on the cultivated land as an additional source of income. Collecting bulbs from natural wild plant communities is strictly prohibited by Georgian federal law. However, clearing of forest for agricultural purposes is permitted, and such clearing can still affect natural stands of *Galanthus*.

9. In Georgia, after harvesting, the bulbs are transported to the bulb delivery station at Gonio. The Scientific Authority of Georgia informed the Secretariat that at Gonio the soil and very small bulbs are separated from the larger ones. The latter are further sorted and those too small for export are added to the soil mixture. These bulbs (and soil) are replanted in farm fields, and harvested later, on a rotational basis. The bulbs thus produced would be considered as artificially propagated were it not for the fact that there is still a proportion of smaller wild harvested bulbs that are transplanted in these cultivated fields.
10. The current stocks of *Galanthus* in the cultivated fields are of wild origin. However, transplanted bulbs are apparently added to these stocks. Recognizing that the bulbs in these cultivated fields are a mixture of truly wild specimens and transplanted wild specimens from other sites, the Secretariat suggests that for these a new source code be used, 'Wt', wild-transplanted, indicating that although the bulbs are of wild origin, they are not taken from natural vegetations (source code 'W') but from cultivated fields. The same code could also be used for bulbs produced by some of the experimental propagation techniques in Turkey.
11. The source code 'Wt' should be used for all *Galanthus* exports from Georgia, until it has been determined that the bulbs produced following the method described in paragraph 9 are truly artificially propagated. The report of the Scientific Authority of Germany might provide more details on the procedures in Georgia.