

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

To transfer species of Malagasy orchids from Appendix II to Appendix I.

B. Proponent

Madagascar.

C. Supporting statement1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Liliopsida

1.2 Order: Liliales

1.3 Family: Orchidaceae

1.4 Tribe: Sarcantheae

Aerangis elata / *Aerangis platyphylla* (B. S. Williams) Schltr. (1914)

1.5 Scientific synonyms: *Angraecum ellisii* B. S. Williams, Orch. Grow. Man.: 87 (1871)
Angraecum dubuyssonii God. Leb. in Orchidophile: 280 (1887)
Aerangis buyssonii God. Leb. in Orchidophile: 282 (1891)
Angrochis ellisii (B. S. Williams) Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 651 (1891)
Aerangis caulescens Schltr. in Beih. Bot. Central bl. 34 (2): 334 (1916)
Aerangis platyphylla Schltr. in Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih.33: 387 (1925)
Aerangis ellisii H. Perr. in Notul. Syst. (Paris) 7: 38 (1938)
Aerangis cryptodon sensu H. Perrier, Fl. Mad. Orch. 2:101 (1941)

Aerangis alata H. Perr and *Aerangis platyphylla* Schltr. were formerly identified as being two different species, according to *La Flore de Madagascar et des Comores* [The Flora of Madagascar and the Comoros]. The subsequent revision made by Du Puy *et al.* (1999) grouped them together as being synonymous. This demonstrates the need for a biosystematic study of these taxa in order to clarify their identification, but in no way negates the listing proposal for the species.

1.6 Common names: French:
 English:
 Spanish:

1.7 Code number:

2. Biological parameters

2.1 Distribution

Endemic species known in Antananarivo, Antsiranana, Fianarantsoa, Toliara.

2.2 Population status

No relevant data on the population of the species.

2.3 Habitat

Epiphyte of dense rain forests or stony plateaux, found at an altitude between 300 m and 1800 m.

Ecosystem subject to severe anthropogenic pressure essentially resulting from destructive deforestation for itinerant slash and burn agriculture, over-exploitation of natural resources and bush fires.

According to Rabakonandrianina (*personal communication*), the habitat of the species is currently badly damaged, and the sphingids which pollinate these plants are on the verge of extinction because of bush fires, which might in turn lead to the extinction of the population.

Flowering observed in December, May and October.

2.4 Conservation measure

IUCN conservation status: 'Endangered'.

3. Use and trade

3.1 Domestic use

Ornamental plant. In 1999, a relatively low number of specimens were traded locally (between 5 and 20 stems, according to the official report of INSTAT).

3.2 Legal international trade

International trade in the species is fairly significant, with approximately 200 stems having been exported in 1999 (INSTAT Report, cited by Rakouth and Faliniaina, 2000). However, for the years 2000 and 2001, a major discrepancy relative to the figures given by the reports of the Malagasy Management Authority can be observed.

It would appear that there is a rising trend in the number of stems exported for the year 2001.

Year	1999	2000	2001
CITES Reports		3	16
INSTAT	1 - 200		
Destination	RE/JP/DE/PH/FR/NL		

3.3 Illegal trade

Illegal trade is highly likely, given the number of importing countries and the number of specimens exported legally.

4. Plants propagated artificially

Research by various specialised bodies (PEAE, Plant Physiology Laboratory of the Faculty of Science) on the artificial propagation of orchid species is already under way, primarily concentrating on *in vitro* propagation.

Among the species proposed for relisting, only *Aerangis ellisii*, *Aeranthes henrici* and *Eulophiella roempleriana* have been propagated *in vitro*. However, the plants produced in this way are still at the research stage, and are not yet ready for marketing, either domestically or internationally.

5. Situation from the protection standpoint

5.1 Domestic

Trade in wild plants listed in the CITES Appendices is prohibited. Gathering and trade are regulated by a Decree on Forests (Ord. 75-014). Artificially propagated plants are not subject to this prohibition.

However, all orchid species in Appendix II which are exported are said to be of wild origin. A check on the export quotas would still appear to be necessary.

In addition, the horticultural propagation of orchids by root cutting is often difficult, lengthy and unprofitable, which means that the horticulturists are often obliged to go and look for specimens in the wild.

5.2 International

These taxa have been listed in Appendix II since 1975.

6. Comments by the country of origin

This proposal is intended to discourage once and for all any gathering from the wild environment.

In the light of the low numbers in the population, bordering on rare, and the threats facing these orchid species, sustainable use of these taxa no longer seems possible in the medium or long term.

The establishment of a programme of artificial propagation, potentially with reinforcement of populations in decline, would be highly desirable.

7. References

ONE/PNUE/ANGAP, 1997.- *Monographie nationale sur la biodiversité* Ministère de l'environnement/Ministère des Eaux et Forêts, Antananarivo. 324p.

RAKOUTH, B., and FALINIAINA, L., 2000.- *Malagasy Orchid Commercialization at local and international market*.- Rapport pour Seacology, USA, Faculté des Sciences, Antananarivo. 22p.

ANGAP, 2001. *Plan de gestion de Réseau National des Aires Protégées de Madagascar*. Ministère de l'environnement, Madagascar, 112p.

CITES, 2000. -*Rapport annuel Année 2000*, CITES- Organe de Gestion CITES de Madagascar, Antananarivo.

CITES, 2001. -*Rapport annuel Année 2001*, CITES- Organe de Gestion CITES de Madagascar, Antananarivo.

INSTAT, 1999.- Rapport non publié sur le commerce international des orchidées malgaches.

IUCN, 2000. - Red Data Book.

8. Abbreviations

BE: Belgium

DE: Germany

FR: France

GB: United Kingdom

IT: Italy

JP: Japan

MA: Mali

NL: Netherlands

RE: Réunion Island

SN: Singapore

US: United States

ZA: Zambia