

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

To amend the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II to read as follows:

Artificially propagated hybrids of the following genera are not subject to the provisions of the Convention, if conditions, as indicated in paragraphs a) and b) below, are met: *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossum*, *Oncidium*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Vanda*:

- a) Specimens are readily recognizable as artificially propagated and do not show any signs of having been collected in the wild such as mechanical damage or strong dehydration resulting from collection, irregular growth and heterogeneous size and shape within a taxon and shipment, algae or other epiphyllous organisms adhering to leaves, or damage by insects or other pest; and
- b)
 - i) when shipped in non flowering state, the specimens must be traded in shipments consisting of individual containers (such as cartons, boxes, crates or individual shelves of CC-containers) each containing 20 or more plants of the same hybrid; the plants within each container must exhibit a high degree of uniformity and healthiness; and the shipment must be accompanied by documentation, such as an invoice, which clearly states the number of plants of each hybrid; or
 - ii) when shipped in flowering state, with at least one fully open flower per specimen, no minimum number of specimens per shipment is required but specimens must be professionally processed for commercial retail sale, e.g. labelled with printed labels or packaged with printed packages indicating the name of the hybrid and the country of final processing. This should be clearly visible and allow easy verification.

Plants not clearly qualifying for the exemption must be accompanied by appropriate CITES documents.

B. Proponent

Switzerland

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

- 1.1 Class: Monocotyledonae
- 1.2 Order: Orchidales
- 1.3 Family: Orchidaceae

1.4 Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year:

1.4.1 *Miltonia* Lindl. 1837

1.4.2 *Odontoglossum* H. B. & K. 1815

1.4.3 *Oncidium* Sw. 1800

1.5 Scientific synonyms: *Miltonia* incl.: *Miltonioides* Brieger & Lückel 1983 (UNEP-WCMC *Checklist of CITES species*). *Anneliesia* Brieger & Lückel 1983 is not treated as a synonym in the UNEP-WCMC *Checklist of CITES species*, but in the Germplasm Resources Information Network of the United States Department of Agriculture, where *Macrochilus* Knowles & Westc. 1837 is also treated as a synonym. *Chamaeleorchis* Senghas & Lückel 1997 and *Miltoniopsis* God.-Leb. 1889 are sometimes also treated as synonyms.

Oncidium incl.: *Baptistonia* Barb. Rodr. 1877, *Braasiella* Braem, Lückel & M. Rüssmann 1984, *Cyrtochilum* H.B. & K. 1815, *Gynizodon* Raf. 1836, *Lophiaris* Raf. 1836, *Miltonioides* Brieger & Lückel 1983, *Papiliopsis* E. Morr. ex Cogn. & Marchal 1874, *Xaritionia* Raf. 1836, *Xeilyathum* Raf. 1836 (*Checklist of CITES species*). *Cohnia* Rchb. f. 1852 and *Cohniella* Pfitzer 1889 are not treated as synonyms in the UNEP-WCMC *Checklist of CITES species*, but in the Germplasm Resources Information Network of the United States Department of Agriculture, where *Tolumnia* Raf. 1836 is also treated as a possible synonym.

Odontoglossum: *Solenidiopsis* Senghas 1986 is not treated as synonyms in the UNEP-WCMC *Checklist of CITES species*, but is sometimes included (Germplasm Resources Information Network of the United States Department of Agriculture).

1.6 Common names: Intergeneric hybrids involving *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossum* and *Oncidium*, are often traded under the name 'Cambria'. This originates from a successful hybrid that was created by the orchid nursery Charlesworth in England in 1931, with the name *Vuylstekeara Cambria* "Plush". *X Vuylstekeara* hort. 1911 itself is a hybrid involving the genera *Cochlioda* Lindl. 1853, *Miltonia* and *Odontoglossum*. 'Cambria' is commonly (incorrectly) applied in a much broader sense.

Hybrids in horticulture are usually registered under a name, but it is outside the scope of this proposal to list these for the three genera concerned.

Many common names in Spanish are reported from range States for specific species (this is not relevant in the context of this proposal, as it only concerns artificial hybrids) e.g. *Miltonia endresii* = Tigrilla, *Miltonia (Miltoniopsis) roezlii* = Reina del Dagua, *Oncidium sphacelatum* = Lluvia de oro, *Oncidium jonesianum* = Flor de Piedra, *Odontoglossum chiriquense* = Monedas, *Odontoglossum hortensiae* = Tigrillo (Costa Rica), *Odontoglossum schlieperianum* = Torito Reina (Costa Rica). Certain popular species also have common names in English, e.g. *Odontoglossum hortensiae* = Jungle Cat orchid, *Odontoglossum grande* = Tiger orchid. Such common names for botanical species however are not relevant here. *Miltonia* and *Oncidium* have English common names at generic level, as indicated below.

English: *Miltonia* = Pansy orchid, *Oncidium* = Dancing Ladies,
Dancing Dolls, Golden Showers orchid, Shower of Gold
French:
Spanish:

1.7 Code numbers: ---

2. Overview

2.1 Background

Decision 13.98 directs Parties to monitor the implementation of the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II and report to the Plants Committee. With Notification No. 2005/047 of 11 August 2005 the Secretariat therefore requested Parties on behalf of the Plants Committee to provide information.

Responses are evaluated in document PC16 Doc. 17.2. No increase of illegal trade has been reported and it seems that the exemption has not lead to any conservation problems in range States and exporting Parties. However, the annotation providing the exemption should be improved to become more effective and easier to implement.

At the 16th meeting of the Plants Committee in Lima, Peru (3-8 July 2006), the working group in charge of annotations for Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II recommended to change the wording and to extend the exemption to the genera *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossum* and *Oncidium*. According to this recommendation, it is proposed here to include *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossum* and *Oncidium* in the annotation and integrate these hybrids in the further monitoring by Parties and the Plants Committee. Similar draft decisions are submitted for consideration of the present meeting (see document CoP14 Doc. 31). The Plants Committee shall continue to monitor and assess possible conservation problems arising from the implementation of exemptions.

2.2 Rationale

As long as there are no specific and unusual or disproportionate problems with identification, it has to be considered an unintended side-effect of the Convention that artificially propagated hybrids, produced on an industrial scale and traded worldwide by the million every year, must be traded with CITES permits, controlled upon import and that this trade has to be reported annually; and shipments that are not covered with valid CITES permits have to be seized, in commercial trade as well as in tourist traffic. Unfortunately such activities are likely to consume a considerable proportion of the sometimes limited resources that can be allocated to CITES enforcement in some Parties. CITES resources should in the first place be allocated where there is a documented positive impact on conservation, monitoring and sustainable use of wild fauna and flora. Control and management measures should, as far as possible, be risk-based and focused on trade with a potential risk of unsustainable harvest of wild fauna and flora for international trade.

2.3 Guiding principles

This proposal is made in accordance with the provisions of paragraph e) under the second RESOLVES in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP13):

[S]pecies of which all specimens in trade have been bred in captivity or artificially propagated should not be included in the Appendices if there is a negligible probability of trade taking place in specimens of wild origin;

as well as in accordance with the provisions of paragraph a) under DETERMINES in the section of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP13) Regarding hybrids:

[H]ybrids shall be subject to the provisions of the Convention even though not specifically included in the Appendices if one or both of their parents are of taxa

included in the Appendices, unless the hybrids are excluded from CITES controls by a specific annotation in Appendix II or III.

3. Species characteristics

Not applicable to artificially propagated hybrids.

4. Status and trends

Not applicable to artificially propagated hybrids.

5. Threats

Not applicable to artificially propagated hybrids.

6. Utilization and trade

6.1 National utilization

A country-by-country account of national utilization of these hybrids would not be meaningful because they are not natural entities and they are traded worldwide.

6.2 Legal trade

Data from the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre show that an increasing number of artificially propagated specimens, including an increasing percentage, makes up the total recorded legal trade. Of the tens of millions of orchids traded annually, approximately 95 % or more are artificially propagated. At the same time, the total numbers of wild-collected plants in trade appear to be declining, although it is difficult to make such a statement with certainty due to the potential for recent years' data to be incomplete (see proposal CoP12 Prop. 51).

6.3 Parts and derivatives in trade

Not applicable to orchid hybrids traded as ornamental plants.

6.4 Illegal trade

Artificially propagated hybrid specimens of these genera are illegally traded, although deliberate efforts to smuggle orchids generally involve botanical species, especially wild-collected specimens rather than artificial hybrids. Illegal trade of hybrids often consists of small numbers of specimens by hobbyists who are unaware of documentation requirements. Commercial growers are usually aware of the requirements for permits or certificates and obtain them as needed, although occasional irregularities occur (see proposal CoP12 Prop. 51).

6.5 Actual or potential trade impacts

Concern over the impact of trade is not related to these entities, but to the naturally occurring species within these genera. Exempting artificially propagated hybrids may be harmful to wild populations if wild-collected specimens of these genera are misrepresented in trade as artificially propagated hybrids. However, this risk is the same as the risk of wild-collected specimens being traded with permits or certificates issued for artificially propagated specimens. The restrictions in the proposed annotation are intended to preclude abuse of the exemption by traders in wild-collected species, specimens of which generally (a) are traded in smaller quantities; (b) are not uniform in appearance; and (c) exhibit characteristics of wild origin (see proposal CoP12 Prop. 51).

According to Decision 13.98 the Plants Committee monitored the impact of the current exemptions of artificially propagated hybrids of *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Vanda* between CoP13 and its 16th meeting, based on reports from Parties.

No increase of illegal trade has been reported and no conservation problems identified in range States and exporting Parties (see document PC16 Doc. 17.2).

7. Legal instruments

7.1 National

Artificially propagated hybrids may be subject to legal controls at the national level to ensure the protection of species in the wild.

7.2 International

Orchid hybrids, with the exception of certain shipments of certain hybrids exempted through the current annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II, currently require CITES export documents to ensure that their export is legal.

8. Species management

8.1 Management measures

Not applicable to artificially propagated hybrids.

8.2 Population monitoring

Not applicable to artificially propagated hybrids.

8.3 Control measures

8.3.1 International

Not applicable to artificially propagated hybrids.

8.3.2 Domestic

Not applicable to artificially propagated hybrids.

8.4 Artificial propagation

Artificially propagated hybrids of the currently exempted genera and the genera proposed here for exemption from CITES together constitute by far the largest component of international commercial orchid trade. Hybridization of orchids and selection of hybrids began in the middle of the 19th century. A *Cattleya* hybrid was the first interspecific hybrid recorded, ca. 1850, though it was not the first to flower. Since 1922, when Lewis Knudson introduced asymbiotic seed culture for orchids, their hybridization has exploded, with over 110,000 hybrid gregi (plural of grex, the term used for the progeny resulting from a cross of two particular parental plants) registered by the end of 2000. Seed culture, while still a vital part of large-scale commercial orchid production – particularly in *Phalaenopsis*, by far the leader in numbers of plants produced – tissue culture or cloning ('meristemming') of popular cultivars have enabled the global market to grow at an exponential rate.

The phenomenal growth rate of the global orchid trade, as evidenced by trade figures, has been fuelled by several factors. These include: an increase in popularity and the realization by consumers that orchids are affordable and amenable to home culture; technological improvements in orchid culture, which enable plants to be grown in greater quantities, faster, and therefore at a lower cost; improved transport from lower-cost production areas to distant markets where production is less cost-effective; and improved communication between producer countries and consumer countries, where higher prices can be obtained by superior marketing.

Major producing nations include Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Thailand and the United States of America. Increasing demand in developed nations provides the opportunity for the development of export markets by other developing nations in Southeast Asia and Latin America.

8.5 Habitat conservation

Not relevant for this proposal.

8.6 Safeguards

Artificially propagated specimens of the hybrids proposed here for exemption from CITES can be distinguished from wild specimens by the following characteristics:

- the plants are traded in large volumes by traders who specialize in mass-marketed pot plants;
- specimens of the same taxon are highly uniform in size and form, especially within a shipment, because the plants are of the same age and in the same stage of growth;
- specimens are generally free of pests, disease, and damage;
- specimens are typically grown in pots and often will have roots conforming to the shape of the pot in which they were grown;
- prices of these plants are typically low and consistent within taxa;
- artificially propagated hybrids will often be exported in large volumes from countries that do not include the natural range of the parent species, although this is not always the case.

9. Information on similar species

This proposal only relates to artificially propagated hybrid plants of the specified genera, which are relatively easy to identify to genus or type. The artificially propagated hybrids of these genera may be confused in trade with artificially propagated specimens of their parent species (congeners) due to similarity of appearance, but confusion with wild-collected material is unlikely.

10. Consultations

Parties have been made aware through P16 Summary Record, item 17.2.

11. Additional remarks

If this proposal should be adopted, the proponent shall submit draft identification material for the hybrids concerned to the Secretariat within 30 days. Furthermore, two draft decisions are proposed that provide the Parties and the Plants Committee with a mandate to monitor the implementation of the proposed annotation (see document CoP14 Doc. 31).

12. References

Decisions 13.98 and 13.99
Document PC16 Doc. 17.2
Document PC16 WG4 Doc. 1
PC16 Summary Record
Proposal CoP12 Prop. 51

ILLUSTRATIONS



'Cambria' (intergeneric hybrid involving *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossum* and *Oncidium*)



Miltonia hybrid



Oncidium hybrid