

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



Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

Inclusion of *Operculicarya decaryi* in Appendix II.

B. Proponent

Madagascar*

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Dicotyledons

Subclass: Rosidae

1.2 Order: Sapindales

1.3 Family: Anacardiaceae

1.4 Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year: *Operculicarya decaryi*. H. Perrier. 1944.

1.5 Scientific synonyms: ---

1.6 Common names: jabihy, tabihy

1.7 Code numbers: ---

2. Species characteristics

2.1 Description

Diœcious bush with a bulbous and slightly tapered conical or cylindrical trunk with gnarled ramifications, with long and short zigzagging branches and bark which exudes thick soluble aromatic gum. Alternate, odd-pinnate compound leaves on long branches and grouped at the apex of short branches. Pseudoterminal inflorescences at the apex of short branches, solitary (female), small pentamerous flowers. The fruit is a small fleshy indehiscent green to red (at maturity) drupe with a single seed. Taproot.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

2.2 Distribution

Operculicarya decaryi is an endemic species which is widely distributed in the Toliara Province from Tongobory Betioky to Amboasary Sud.

2.3 Population

Four hundred and forty specimens were counted on the Tongobory site in 2006. The number of specimens on other sites was about the same as on this one.

2.4 Habitat

It is distributed in dry dense forest, dry and subarid deciduous thicket, and in low xerophytic shrub thickets of the south.

2.5 Conservation status

It has been given a "Vulnerable" (**VU**) conservation status in accordance with the IUCN Red List criteria (2006).

3. Utilization and trade

3.1 National utilization

It is an ornamental plant which is highly demanded owing to its bonsai form.

3.2 Legal international trade

The species is exported in the form of seedlings. This species is not yet subject to CITES regulations.

3.3 Potential trade impacts

According to the CITES report on export (Management Authority), the number of exported specimens of this species has been increasing continuously since 2003 (see table).

| Years | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--------------|------|------|------|-------|
| CITES report | 56 | 200 | 495 | 2,647 |

4. Protection status

4.1 Nationally

Some populations of this species can be found in the Andohahela National Park and in the Cap Sainte Marie Special Reserve.

4.2 Internationally

The species is not yet included in CITES Appendix II.

5. Comments by the country of origin

The inclusion of this species in CITES Appendix II could be an efficient way of ensuring its conservation from now on.

6. References

SCHATZ G, 2001. Flore générique des arbres de Madagascar. Royal Botanical Garden, Kew. 503p

RAKOUTH, B. RAVAOMANALINA, H. RAKOTONAVALONA, A. 2006. Etude biogéographique et bioécologique de quelques espèces menacées dans le Sud de Madagascar dans le cadre de la CITES pour l'année 2005. Rapport final. Conservation International Madagascar.

Map: Geographical distribution of *Operculicarya decaryi*

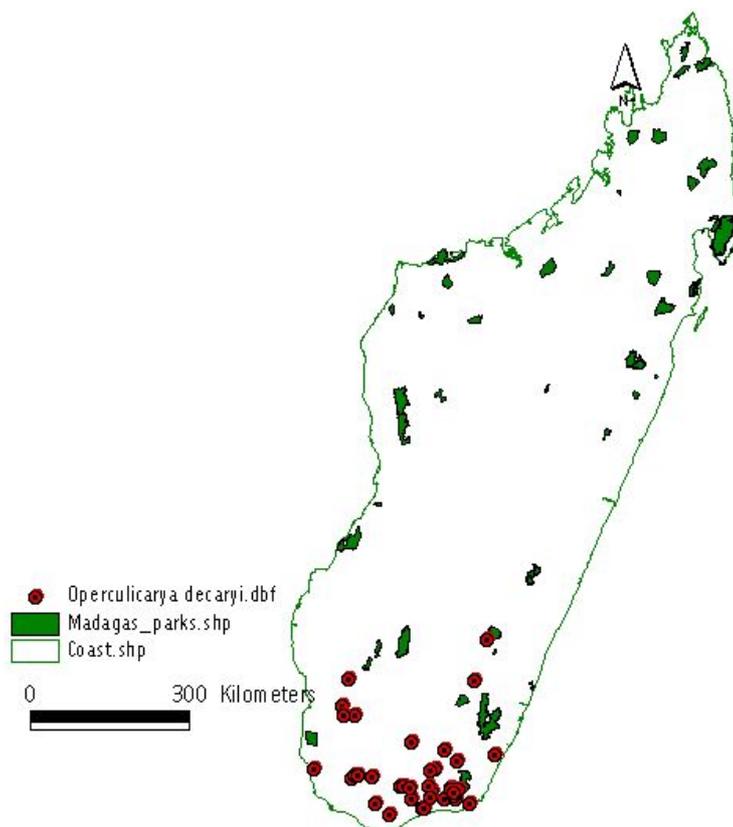


Photo 1:
Operculicarya decaryi,
cultivated



Photo 2:
Operculicarya decaryi,
habitat in Cap Sainte Marie Tsihombe



Photo 3:
Operculicarya decaryi,
flower