

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 *Adenia subsessifolia*^{*} in Appendix II.

B. Proponent

Madagascar**

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Dicotyledons

Subclass: Dilleniidae

1.2 Order: Violales

1.3 Family: Passifloraceae

1.4 Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year: *Adenia subsessifolia*. Perr., 1940.

1.5 Scientific synonyms: ---

1.6 Common names: katakata

1.7 Code numbers: ---

2. Species characteristics

2.1 Description

Liana which can reach 1.5 meters in height; greyish stem with a tuber of 30 cm in diameter; fertile branches; coarse leaves, grey or whitish on top; presence of a gland on the side of the petiole; stipule more or less triangular; greenish-yellow tube-shaped flowers; green fruit with a tinge of purple.

* Note from the Secretariat: according to the standard nomenclatural reference adopted by the Conference of the Parties, this species is named *Adenia subsessifolia*.

** 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

Adenia subsessifolia has a relatively wide but fragmented and localized range: Toliara region: the Toliara table mountain, Cap Sainte Marie Special Reserve, Behara in Amboasary Sud.

2.3 Population

Around 100 plants have been counted on the Toliara table mountain (collection area used by operators). The populations found on the two other sites, Cap Sainte Marie and Behara, do not exceed 50 mature individuals.

2.4 Habitat

This species prefers xerophytic scrubland with Euphorbia and Didieraceae. *Adenia subsessifolia* also grows in xerophilic scrubland on limestone, as well as on forest edges. It grows on rocky substrates and on silty and granite soil at an altitude of 0 to 3,000 m.

2.5 Conservation measures

The species has been classified as “Vulnerable” (**VU**) by IUCN on the basis of field observations made in 2006.

3. Utilization and trade

3.1 National utilization

The tubers are bitter and inedible. Powder made from the stem is used to treat wounds.

It is also sold as an ornamental plant.

3.2 Legal international trade

The plant is exported in the form of seedlings. It is not yet included in CITES Appendix II, so it is not yet subject to any of CITES regulations. The species was exported the most in 2004.

Years	2003	2004	2005	2006
CITES report	-	115	3	8

3.3 Potential trade impacts

There are already few adult individuals left in the wild. Owing to habitat disturbance, the species has difficulty regenerating; the regeneration rate is low – 35 %. Since this is not a CITES species, its collection and export are not subject to any regulations, and collectors tend to harvest everything they find. In addition, in the field, it is very difficult to distinguish between a young individual and an adult one. Therefore, its export could lead to the absence of mature plants capable of bearing fruit and ensuring natural regeneration.

4. Protection status

4.1 Nationally

Despite the fact that the species can be found in the Cap Sainte Marie Special Reserve, it deserves special attention because the areas where this species is collected are already over-exploited.

4.2 Internationally

The species is not yet included in CITES Appendix II.

5. Comments by the country of origin

The species should be included in CITES Appendix II in order to ensure its sustainable exploitation. At the same time, the introduction of an artificial propagation programme would be desirable in order to strengthen the wild population.

6. References

MABBERLEY, D. J. 2000. The plant book. A portable dictionary of the vascular plants. Second EDITION. 858 p.

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 *Adenia subsessifolia*

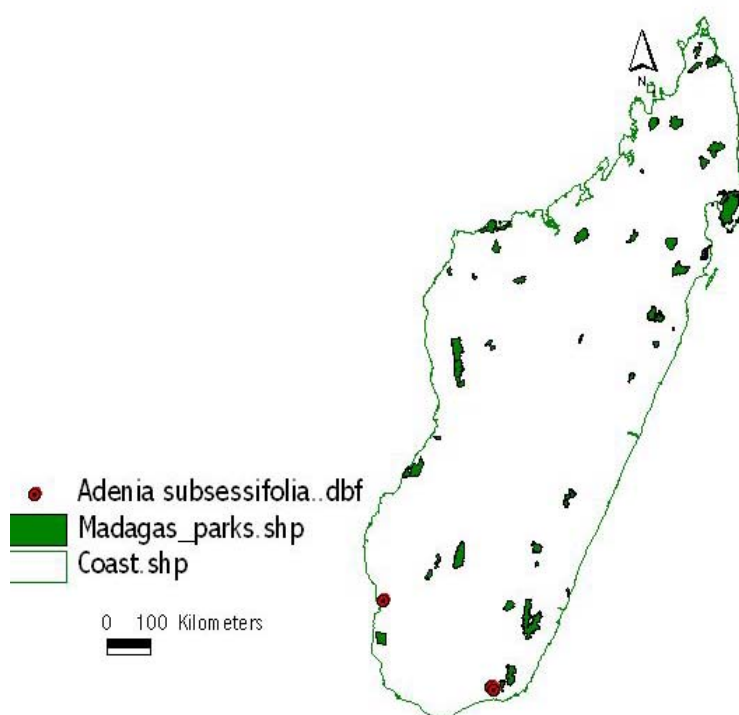


Photo 1: *Adenia subsessifolia*, adult specimen on the Toliara plateau



Photo 2: Fruit of *Adenia subsessifolia*