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From: Cites PVP office <citesflora@gmail.com>
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To: Martin Otto Hitziger
Cc: UNOG-UNEP-CITES Info
Subject: Nomenclature for Appendix-II listed orchids

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Dear Martin,

On behalf of CITES M.A. of Thailand for flora, we would like to share our experiences regarding nomenclature for appendix-II listed orchids species which has affected our work. It is undeniable that the system of plant nomenclature has been always changed by the data receiving from modern technology such as the whole genome DNA sequencing. By doing that, several scientific names of many genera in this family have not been yet stable. Owing to this reason, it can be directly caused an issue for other people are now working with regard to scientific name; for instance, gardeners, importer, exporter, customs officer or authority.

There are 3 downsides that we would actually like to share our experiences of using the unstable of standard nomenclature in orchid taxonomy.

First and foremost, being used several botanical names for 1 plant of orchid, will lead to a confusion for other people who are involved with the importing and exporting. This is because many individuals might think that it is another species. On top of that, if e-CITES permit system for issuing the permit lacks an updated data which has been changed, some species of orchid would not be able to regulated by CITES. Since the new name does not show in the system, and the system cannot recognize the status of the plant.

Furthermore, a large number of customers are mostly familiar with the trade name, which might be reduced as synonyms. Thus, it can cause complication for them while checking and typing the scientific name of the plant in the CITES permit system.

The last one, demoting the taxonomic status from species to synonym is obviously considered as a complexity for customs officer or authority working at the checkpoint because they cannot recognize the current scientific name which is not corresponded with the morphology. To illustrate, all species of *Ascocentrum* were formerly grouped in the *Ascocentrum* genus; however, this genus is now reduced as synonym of genus *Vanda* although they have significantly different morphologies.

Eventually, we have to take into account and follow the CITES's purpose, and should not make a burden for the other countries in the Parties.

Best regards,

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