



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
International Affairs  
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: IA  
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

February 14, 2024

In Reply Ref. to:  
DSA\CITES\Response to Notification 2024/010

Mr. Martin Otto Hitziger  
Associate Scientific Support Officer, Science Unit  
CITES Secretariat  
International Environment House  
11 Chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219 Châtelaine  
Geneva, Switzerland

VIA EMAIL: martin.hitziger@cites.org

Dear Martin:

This letter provides the United States response to Notification to the Parties No. 2024/010 - *Nomenclature for Appendix-II listed orchids* (Orchidaceae spp.), which requests information on the experience of Parties using the *CITES Appendix II Orchid Checklist* (Dhanda *et al.* 2022).

The Scientific Authority of the United States (i.e., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Scientific Authority) uses the *CITES Appendix II Orchid Checklist* as a nomenclature reference for verifying species of the 28 orchid genera covered by the *Checklist*. The three-part format of the *Checklist* is convenient and easy to use. However, in our experience using this reference, we have noticed that for some species the nomenclature is out-of-date compared to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBGK) Plants of the World Online (<https://powo.science.kew.org/>) database. We note that the basis of the *Checklist* was a download from the RBGK World Checklist of Selected Plant Families in 2018.

The United States Management Authority and U.S. plant inspection officials report using the CITES Species+ for checking the nomenclature of Appendix-II orchid species and other CITES-listed plant species. The CITES Species+ database is updated with the species names included in the *CITES Appendix II Orchid Checklist* (Dhanda *et al.* 2022), as well as other CITES standard nomenclature references.

Martin Otto Hitziger

With regard paragraph b) of Decision 19.285 on *Nomenclature for Appendix-II listed orchids (Orchidaceae spp.)*, directed to the Secretariat, concerning updating the standard nomenclature references for Appendix II-listed orchids. The United States suggests a time-stamp download of Appendix II orchid genera from the RBGK World Checklist of Vascular Plants (WCVP) database. The WCVP is updated daily and is the taxonomic backbone of the RBGK Plants of the World Online database. According to colleagues and specialists queried, Plants of the World Online is the most commonly used plant species database.

If you have any questions concerning the information above, please feel free to contact me at [rosemarie\\_gnam@fws.gov](mailto:rosemarie_gnam@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Gnam  
Head, Division of Scientific Authority  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

cc: [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org)