

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

Twenty-sixth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 5 – 9 June 2023

Appendices of the Convention

Nomenclature matters

Flora

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE FOR ROSEROOTS (*RHODIOLA* SPP.)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat, in consultation with the specialist on botanical nomenclature of the Plants Committee (Ms. Ronell R. Klopper).
2. Following consideration of [CoP19 Prop. 45](#) at its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties agreed the inclusion of the genus *Rhodiola* spp. in Appendix II with annotation #2 (*All parts and derivatives except: a) seeds and pollen; and b) finished products packaged and ready for retail trade*).
3. The Conference of the Parties did not, however, adopt a taxonomic reference for the genus *Rhodiola* [see Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*]. Therefore, as a complement to the inclusion of *Rhodiola* spp. in Appendix II, CoP19 adopted Decision 19.289 on *Standard nomenclature for roseroots* (*Rhodiola* spp.) as follows:

Directed to the Plants Committee, with the support of the Secretariat

19.289 *The Plants Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, shall:*

- a) *consider and evaluate the nomenclatural issues related to *Rhodiola* spp., as outlined in document CoP19 Doc. 84.4 and identify a suitable standard nomenclatural reference for amendment of the Annex to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on Standard nomenclature; and,*
 - b) *formulate recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*
4. For ease of reference, document CoP19 Doc. 84.4 [cited in paragraph a) of Decision 19.289] is included in the Annex to the present document.
 5. The taxonomy and nomenclature of the genus *Rhodiola* is not completely resolved. According to paragraph 2 of document CoP19 Doc. 84.4, the number of accepted species in the genus ranges from *circa* 58 to 90 species, depending on the nomenclatural source consulted.
 6. Furthermore, different sources present different taxonomic placements and nomenclatural considerations of some species. Paragraph 3 of document CoP19 Doc. 84.4 outlines additional complications with the taxonomy of *Rhodiola*, including differing taxon delimitations, synonymy, and distribution of species and infraspecific taxa.

7. Additionally, after consultation with the specialist on botanical nomenclature, the Secretariat draws the attention of the Plants Committee to the following online sources relevant to the genus *Rhodiola* and the number of accepted species they list as of 31 March 2023:
 - a) the *Plants of the World Online*¹ lists 69 accepted species in the genus *Rhodiola*;
 - b) the *World Flora Online Plant List*² lists 53 accepted species in the genus *Rhodiola*; and
 - c) the *Global Biodiversity Information Facility*³ lists 72 accepted species in the genus *Rhodiola*.
8. According to the Plants Committee's specialist on botanical nomenclature, the most recent comprehensive taxonomic treatment of the genus remains that by Ohba (2003)⁴, which recognizes 58 accepted species and a number of infraspecific taxa. In fact, Ohba (2003) was used as the taxonomic framework for CoP19 Prop. 45 and was recommended as the most preferable standard reference in paragraph 4 of document CoP19 Doc. 84.4.
9. However, at least 11 new species in the genus *Rhodiola* spp. have been published since the publication of Ohba (2003), and these would not be included in the proposed standard nomenclature reference should Ohba (2003) alone be accepted as such.

Recommendations

10. In accordance with Decision 19.289, the Plants Committee is invited to:
 - a) consider and evaluate the nomenclatural issues related to *Rhodiola* spp., as outlined in the present document and its Annex (document CoP19 Doc. 84.4);
 - b) identify a suitable standard nomenclatural reference for amendment of the Annex to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*; and
 - c) formulate recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

¹ <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:30061153-2>

² <https://wfoplantlist.org/plant-list/taxon/wfo-4000033013-2022-12?page=1>

³ <https://www.gbif.org/species/2985687>

⁴ Ohba, H. 2003. *Rhodiola*. In U. Eggli (Ed.). *Illustrated Handbook of Succulent Plants. Crassulaceae*. Springer, Berlin. pp. 210–227.

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Panama City (Republic of Panama), 14 - 25 November 2022

Species specific matters

Maintenance of the Appendices

Standard nomenclature

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE FOR *RHODIOLA* SPP.

1. This document has been submitted by the European Union and its Member States*

Background

2. In CoP19 Prop. 45 it is proposed to amend CITES App. II to include the genus *Rhodiola*, which is a diverse and widely distributed genus of perennial plants. The taxonomy of *Rhodiola* remains partially unresolved: the number of accepted species ranges from c. 58 to 90 species, depending on the consulted nomenclatural source, with differing taxonomic placements and nomenclatural considerations of single species.
3. The taxonomic framework of CoP19 Prop. 45 is Ohba (2003), which accepts 58 species. Annex 1 of CoP19 Prop. 45 lists all *Rhodiola* species outlined in Ohba (2003), alongside their respective scientific synonyms. Ohba (2003) is a published expert author book chapter that coherently considers the entire genus and which (for the critical aspects of *Rhodiola* taxonomy and nomenclature) is in accordance with Kew's curated and regularly updated [World Checklist of Vascular Plants](#) (WCVP). However, other commonly used nomenclatural references, such as Mabberley's Plant Book (Mabberley 2017), [The Plant List](#) (TPL), [World Flora Online](#), the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#) (GBIF), and the [Flora of China](#) have partially different representations of the genus *Rhodiola*. Some of these references merge single species (including *R. rosea*, which is one of the main species in trade) into *Sedum*, or state an unresolved status for some species. Additional ambiguity remains regarding the taxonomic placement and synonymy of certain species, geographical populations or varieties within the genus *Rhodiola*.
4. In the case that CITES App. II is amended to include *Rhodiola* spp., the above-mentioned nomenclatural discrepancies and ambiguities create the potential for confusion or misinterpretation among Parties in the context of implementation and enforcement of trade controls for *Rhodiola* specimens under CITES. In order to address such issues, and with regard to Res. Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard Nomenclature*, it is considered that a CITES standard nomenclatural reference for *Rhodiola* spp. would become necessary, with

* 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.

Ohba (2003) being the most preferable reference for this. After consultations and in agreement with the Nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee the following is proposed.

Recommendations

5. Should CoP19 Prop. 45 on the inclusion of *Rhodiola* spp. in Appendix II be adopted by CoP19, it is recommended that the Conference of the Parties takes note of the nomenclatural ambiguities for the genus outlined above and directs the Plants Committee to provide advice on the possible amendment of the Annex to Res. Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) by proposing a standard reference for the genus *Rhodiola*. The following draft decisions are proposed for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties:

Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall:

- 19.AA a) Consider and evaluate the nomenclatural issues related to *Rhodiola* spp., and, if considered appropriate, propose a standard nomenclatural reference for amendment of the Annex to Res. Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard Nomenclature* taking into consideration Ohba (2003) and the representation thereof in Annex 1 to proposal CoP19 Prop. 45.
- b) Report with recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

References

- Ohba, H. 2003. *Rhodiola*. In U. Egli (Ed.), *Illustrated Handbook of Succulent Plants. Crassulaceae*. Springer, Berlin. pp. 210–227.
- Mabberley, D. J. (2017). *Mabberley's plant-book*. A portable dictionary of plants, their classification and uses (4th ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the draft decision in the document, subject to proposal CoP19 Prop. 45 being adopted at the present meeting. The Secretariat therefore recommends this document to be considered together with CoP19 Prop. 45 on *Rhodiola* spp.. The Secretariat also point's Parties attention to its assessment of said proposal as contained in document CoP19 Doc. 89.1.
- B. Although the taxonomy and nomenclature of the species subject to CoP19 Prop. 45 is under review, in order to address possible confusion or misinterpretation among Parties if the proposal is adopted, the proponents, suggest that 'Ohba, H. 2003. *Rhodiola*. In: Egli, U. (Ed.). *Illustrated Handbook of Succulent Plants. Crassulaceae*. Springer, Berlin. Pp. 210–227' be adopted by addition to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature*. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt this suggestion.
- C. Should proposal CoP19 Prop. 45 be adopted, the Secretariat recommends the adoption of the draft decision contained in in paragraph 5 of the document, with the following revisions

(Proposed new text is underlined, proposed deletions are indicated in ~~strike through~~)

Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee, with support of the Secretariat, shall:

- 19.AA a) Consider and evaluate the nomenclatural issues related to *Rhodiola* spp., as outlined in document CoP19 Doc. 84.4 and identify a suitable, ~~if considered appropriate, propose a standard nomenclatural reference for amendment of the Annex to Resolution-~~ Conf. 12.11

(Rev. CoP18) on *Standard Nomenclature* taking into consideration Ohba (2003) and the representation thereof in Annex 1 to proposal CoP19 Prop. 45.; and,

b) ~~Report with~~ formulate recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

D. Further, should the draft decision be adopted, the Secretariat also draws Parties' attention to paragraph 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) which outlines the procedure for updating current standard nomenclatural references and adoption of new ones.

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. The Secretariat proposes the following tentative budget and source of funding.

As no new nomenclature reference is proposed for development during the upcoming intersessional period, the Secretariat considers that the workload implications for the implementation of the draft decision(s) by the Plants Committee (and the Secretariat, should the revisions proposed be adopted) can be accommodated using existing resources.