

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

—————  
Nomenclature Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 18, 20 and 23 May 2005

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2005 MEETINGS OF THE NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE

**Part 1 – Flora: 18 May 2005**

1. Opening remarks ..... no document

The botanist of the Nomenclature Committee (NC) chaired the meeting and welcomed all participants.

2. Preparation of the minutes..... no document

The Chairman suggested that the minutes from the meeting be translated, circulated and published on the CITES website.

3. Official tasks..... NC2005 Doc. 4

The observer from the Netherlands commented that most trade in plants is in artificially propagated plants and cultivars and asked the Committee how it intended to deal with names of these types of specimens. The Chairman suggested that they be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

It was agreed that this agenda item be deferred for consideration at the joint fauna-flora meeting of the NC.

4. Working practice of the Committee ..... NC2005 Doc. 5

It was agreed that this agenda item be deferred for consideration at the 2005 joint fauna-flora meeting of the NC.

5. UNEP-WCMC Checklist ..... No document

The observer from UNEP-WCMC announced that the *Checklist of CITES species* had been revised and that the new edition would be published soon.

6. Nomenclature issues following the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties..... no document

The Chairman noted that there would be value in adopting a standard reference for the new listings adopted at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on *Hoodia*, *Gonystylus*, *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops* species. He pointed out that for *Hoodia* spp. there is a suitable reference for the region (Plants of Southern Africa, Germishuizen & Meyer 2003), which he had already submitted to the range States concerned for consideration and which could be proposed for adoption at CoP14.

The Chairman sought the guidance of observers on suitable standard references for *Gonystylus*, *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops* spp. The Committee agreed to compile a composite list of standard references using information from UNEP-WCMC, from the proponent of the CoP13 proposals and perhaps the reference *Flora Malesiana* as a basis. It was noted however that a new species of the genus *Aquilaria* had been described from Viet Nam and that the generic distinction between *Aquilaria* and *Gonystylus* was in doubt.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of the Plants Committee from Asia and North America, observers from Indonesia, the Netherlands, the United States of America and IWMC-World Conservation Trust.

7. Groups for which the Nomenclature Committee has not recommended a standard reference ..... NC2005 Doc. 6

With respect to the taxa *Anacampseros*, *Avonia*, *Cyathea* and Didiereaceae, the Committee agreed to use the UNEP-WCMC Checklist as a basis and to seek suggested amendments to it from regional taxonomists. The Chairman urged the regional representatives of the Plants Committee to assist and coordinate with experts from range States.

For *Guaiacum*, the Chairman referred participants to document NC2005 Doc. 6, which contained a draft standard reference prepared by Germany and Mexico and which UNEP-WCMC could include in its Checklist.

8. Update of the checklists..... no document

Concerning the *CITES Orchid Checklist* Volume 4 (*Aerides*, *Coelogyne*, *Comparettia*, *Lycaste* and *Masdevallia*), the Chairman commented that new work on *Lycaste* had been done and that incorporating this information and circulating it to experts from range States would take some time. Therefore he recommended that publication of Volume 4 move ahead with the exclusion of the genus *Lycaste*. This was agreed.

Regarding the *CITES Orchid Checklist* Volume 1, the Chairman commented that this volume needed to be updated with new information on *Paphiopedilum* and *Phragmipedium*.

As concerns the genus *Bulbophyllum*, Austria was about to publish a reference and the Chairman observed that more news on this would be reported during the 15th meeting of the Plants Committee.

For the *CITES Cactaceae Checklist*, the Chairman noted that a new edition of the *Lexicon of Cacti Names* would be published at the end of 2005 and that an extract would be circulated to CITES experts for comments.

It was agreed that this agenda item also be considered at the 2005 joint fauna-flora meeting of the NC.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the observers from Mexico and the Netherlands.

9. Databases..... no document

It was agreed that this agenda item be discussed at the 2005 joint fauna-flora meeting of the NC and the Chairman clarified that the intention would be to prepare a bibliography of databases. The observer from Mexico welcomed this initiative.

10. Funding ..... no document

The Chairman commented that there is a very limited budget for the Nomenclature Committee's work. It was agreed that this matter be discussed at the 2005 joint fauna-flora meeting of the NC.

11. Any other business ..... NC2005 Doc. 8

The observer from the Netherlands noted that the generic standard reference cited in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP13): The Plant-Book, second edition, [D. J. Mabberley, 1997, Cambridge University Press (reprinted with corrections 1998)] was being revised. This could lead to substantial generic name changes. The Chairman stated that any changes would only be recommended for adoption by the Conference of the Parties if they were appropriate for CITES use.

The Plants Committee regional representative of North America noted the difficulties that resulted from the two names given as synonyms in the *CITES Orchid Checklist: Phragmipedium* and *Maxipedium*, as there seemed to be consensus that these were two separate genera. This had resulted in practical problems with CITES implementation. The Chairman responded that this should be clarified when the Appendices were next revised.

The observer from Switzerland drew attention to document NC2005 Doc. 8 and commented that there were numerous new names of Aloes since the standard reference *CITES Aloe & Pachypodium Checklist* had been published. Switzerland would prepare an addendum to the standard reference. The Chairman congratulated Switzerland for its work and added that this revision should be submitted to CoP14 for approval.

12. Closing remarks..... no document

The Chairman thanked the observers for their work and continuous support with the tasks that the Nomenclature Committee needed to fulfil with respect to flora.

## Part 2 – Fauna and Flora: 20 May 2005

1. Opening remarks ..... no document

The botanist and zoologist of the Nomenclature Committee (NC) welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was chaired by the botanist.

2. Official tasks ..... NC2005 Doc. 4

There was a general consensus that there may be a need to streamline the Conference instructions to the Committee in order to avoid duplication. The Chairman agreed to check that Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP13) clearly distinguished between the standard references adopted by the Parties and the UNEP-WCMC *Checklist of CITES species* adopted as an official digest of scientific names contained in the standard references.

3. Working practice of the Committee ..... NC2005 Doc. 5

The observer from Mexico introduced document NC2005 Doc. 5, the contents of which were noted by the Committee.

4. UNEP-WCMC Checklist ..... no document

The observer from UNEP-WCMC announced that the new edition of the *Checklist of CITES species* would be published in July. On this occasion, the members of the Committee had checked draft versions of the text extensively. The observer from UNEP-WCMC appealed for comments from users of the Checklist to be sent to the Nomenclature Committee.

5. Databases ..... no document

The Chairman advised that the members of the Committee were preparing a simple bibliography of taxonomic databases and that this would be posted on the Nomenclature Committee pages of the CITES website.

6. Funding ..... no document

The Chairman noted that funding for the Nomenclature Committee's work was limited and that offers of funding were welcome. The observer from Humane Society International suggested that commercial sponsorship could be sought to provide free access library references for CITES purposes and that it would be useful if the text of the standard references could be downloaded from the CITES website.

7. Any other business ..... no document

The Chairman advised that the NC had met to discuss common problems and that the joint fauna-flora meeting was a welcomed development. They had noted that in theory the full provisions of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP13) applied to the conduct of meetings, but that in practice the Committee had adopted a more informal approach. The Committee agreed that as it did not, as a rule, have decision-making powers, a more informal approach was appropriate but this conflicted with a strict reading of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP13). It was noted that the review of the scientific committees in Decisions 13.9 and 13.10 included the Nomenclature Committee and that this question might be raised during this exercise.

8. Closing remarks ..... no document

The botanist and zoologist of the Nomenclature Committee thanked the observers for their participation and expressed their appreciation for the cooperative spirit of the meeting.

### Part 3 – Fauna: 23 May 2005

1. Opening remarks ..... no document

The zoologist of the Nomenclature Committee, as Chairman of the meeting, welcomed the participants noting that fauna-flora and flora meetings of the NC had already taken place on 18 and 20 May and that some items on the agenda were for information only, while others were for reporting progress.

2. Official tasks ..... NC2005 Doc. 4

The Committee noted the document.

3. Working practice of the Committee ..... NC2005 Doc. 5

The Committee noted the document.

4. UNEP-WCMC Checklist ..... no document

The observer from UNEP-WCMC announced that the new edition of the *Checklist of CITES species* would be published in July 2005. Observers were encouraged to submit any comments, corrections or problems to UNEP-WCMC.

5. Nomenclature issues following CoP13 or earlier CoPs ..... no document

- a) Birds/Parrots [possible option for standard reference:

Howard & Moore, 2003, *Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World*] ..... no document

The Chairman reported considerable activities in the context of Decision 13.94. It seemed that the standard reference for bird species, except for Psittaciformes & Trochilidae (Sibley, C. G. and Monroe, B. L., Jr. 1990. *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* and its 1993 Supplement) was not likely to be updated in the coming years. Consequently, the Chairman had considered recommending replacing it with Dickinson, E.C. Ed. 2003 *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world*, which was thoroughly referenced, up to date, contained brief information on distribution and was a widely-used compilation. It was noted that, especially for Passeriformes, it might be less desirable to use this reference for order- and family-level names for birds, in place of Morony, J. J., Bock, W. J. and Farrand, J., Jr. 1975, *Reference List of the Birds of the World*. The observer from the Netherlands offered to look at this in more detail.

The implications for adopting this reference for birds at species level had already been analysed and would be presented for discussion at the next NC meeting.

All observers were asked to seek comments on the suitability of the suggested new standard reference and send comments as soon as possible to the zoologist of the NC.

- b) *Chamaeleo excubitor* ..... no document

According to the standard reference currently adopted by the Parties (Klaver, C. J. J. and Böhme, W. 1997. Chamaeleonidae. *Das Tierreich* 112), *Chamaeleo 'excubitor'* was a subspecies of *C. fischeri*. The reference indicated by Kenya in document CoP13 Doc. 59.2 at the latest meeting of the Conference of the Parties was a field guide and not a taxonomic publication. Unless a solid taxonomic publication could be submitted on this issue, it would be difficult to recommend changes in the current nomenclature. The observer from Kenya agreed to submit to the Chairman the scientific literature and reference upon which it had based its request regarding the taxonomy of this taxon. Based on this information, the matter could be discussed further at the next meeting of the NC and a formal recommendation could be made at CoP14.

- c) Amphibians (Decisions 11.120 and 11.167) ..... no document

For information only. The Committee understood that the Secretariat should extract an update of the online Frost reference before every other CoP and distribute a printout to Parties. This should happen prior to CoP14. The printout should ideally be made available seven months before CoP14 or earlier.

- d) *Brachypelma* (draft checklist)..... NC2005 Doc. 7

It had been intended to use the online catalogue of Platnick in the same way as was done for the Amphibia reference of Frost. As a consequence, the wording in the Resolution should have been the same for the Frost and Platnick references (thus accepting the online version of Platnick connected with a specific date) and adding the Platnick catalogue to Decisions 11.120 and 11.167. This needs to be changed at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Chairman contacted the author of the *The World Spider Catalog* and will propose an ongoing updating process in relation to CITES-listed spider species at CoP14.

6. Other nomenclatural issues..... no document

- a) Turtles/Tortoises ..... no document

The Chairman announced that the German Government had committed funds for a taxonomic review of these taxa for discussion at the next NC meeting and possible adoption of a standard reference at CoP14. Given the complicated taxonomy of the group and the large number of CITES-listed species, this development was welcomed.

- b) Groups without adopted standard reference ..... no document

The Order Scleractinia was identified as one group where a standard reference would be of particular benefit.

7. Databases..... no document

It was agreed that it would be useful to know which Parties had their own taxonomic databases, what they contained and how accessible and up to date they were. It was suggested that the Secretariat send out a Notification to the Parties to solicit this information.

8. Funding ..... no document

Participants were asked to keep the Chairman informed about any funding possibilities to undertake taxonomic work.

9. Any other business ..... no document

The Committee noted that in cases where the accepted names of Appendix-III species were changed, this might expand the number of range States of the species concerned and these may not know that they have to issue certificates of origin. It was agreed that this aspect would be taken into consideration when suggesting nomenclatural changes for species names listed in Appendix III, and that relevant instances should be highlighted in the NC reports to meeting of the CoP, followed by the issuance of Notifications to Parties where appropriate.

The Chairman explained that she would like to use the CITES website more actively in future. She would produce a list which would show an alphabetical list of taxa and the corresponding standard taxonomic reference.

10. Closing remarks..... no document

The Chairman thanked participants and asked the Secretariat to produce a summary record of the discussions within 40 days of the meeting.