

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



Twentieth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Dublin (Ireland), 22-30 March 2012

Proposals for possible consideration at CoP16

Proposals to amend the Appendices

Annotations

*BULNESIA SARMIENTOI* (DECISION 15.96)  
REPORT OF ARGENTINA

1. This document has been submitted by *la Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación – Argentina* (Argentine National Secretariat for Environment and Sustainable Development).
2. Trading range States and importing Parties, in collaboration with the Plants Committee, should:
  - a) *identify the best methods for the identification of essential oil and wood;*
  - b) *produce identification materials and guidance;*
  - c) *develop appropriate annotations for identification methods;*
  - d) *explore whether additional species need to be listed for identification and regulation of wood and oil; and*  

*Argentina suggests that the text read: "d) explore whether additional species need to be listed for the identification of and regulation of trade in wood specimens and extracts".*
  - e) *report on progress at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, if necessary, prepare additional proposals for that meeting.*
3. With regard to wood, Argentina considers that *B. sarmientoi* has a distinctive odour that is released upon scraping or cutting into the wood. As for the identification of essential oils, there exists a "gas chromatography method", but this test must be performed in a laboratory because of its complexity. For that reason, further knowledge is required on quick identification methods, which could then be used by inspection bodies.
4. With regard to the identification of *B. sarmientoi* wood, Argentina has prepared an identification sheet which includes details of various cuts of wood (see the Annex "*B. sarmientoi* information sheet – Argentina").

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\* *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.*

5. As mentioned in annotation #11:
  - "extracts" means substances extracted from raw plant material, often by using a solvent such as ethanol or water.
  - "essential oil" means a hydrophobic liquid obtained from natural plant material by distillation with water or steam. The essential oil is subsequently separated from the aqueous phase by physical means.
6. As stated in the "Extracts and derivatives" section of the Annex, palo santo essential oil is obtained by extraction from the plant's oil glands. The process for extracting the essential oil is referred to as "steam distillation", and therefore does not use any chemical solvents. This means that palo santo essential oil is 100% natural, which corresponds to the definition given for the term "extracts" used in annotation #11, since the oil is obtained from raw material and the solvent used is water.
7. Therefore, given that extracts are included in Appendix II of the Convention, and following the connection made above, Argentina considers that the essential oil should also be covered by the Convention.
8. Argentina is currently assessing similarities between *Caesalpinia paraguariensis* and some species of the *Tabebuia* genus.