

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



Twenty-second meeting of the Plants Committee
Tbilisi (Georgia), 19-23 October 2015

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Standard nomenclature [Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP16)]

REPORT OF THE SPECIALIST ON BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE

1. This document has been prepared by the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee.*

Update on CITES Checklists

2. **The CITES Orchid Checklists:** A substantive range of standard reference checklists, available both on-line and as hard copies, have been produced for use by the CITES Parties. However, a number of these checklists are now dated and there still remain a number of gaps in coverage of the orchid family. The Parties, and in particular the CITES enforcement community, have indicated in the past that they prefer both on-line checklists and hard copy publications. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to access funding to produce hard copy publications specifically formatted for the CITES community. New funding sources are being explored and discussions are also underway with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK as regard to how elements of their extensive and authoritative datasets may be made available online in a format that is suitable for their adoption as CITES standard references.
3. **The CITES Cactus Checklist:** The checklist editor continues to work on the update of this list. An account of *Opuntia* subgenus *Opuntia* was prepared by the editor (David Hunt) and submitted as an information document to the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee. This account has been further revised. This revised account and a draft introduction to the checklist is being submitted to this meeting as an information document as it exceeds the page limit for a formal agenda document. Members of the Committee and Observers are asked to recommend experts from range States for the editor to liaise with during the process of preparing the final draft of the list. It is vitally important that any checklist that goes forward for adoption at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties has the confidence and support of the relevant range States.
4. **The World List of Cycads:** CITES and Cycads: Checklist 2013 (Roy Osborne, Michael A. Calonje, Ken D. Hill, Leonie Stanberg and Dennis Wm. Stevenson) was included as an annex in the publication *CITES and Cycads a user's guide* (Rutherford, C. *et al.*, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. UK 2013), which was launched at the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee, and has been widely distributed since that time. It is also available on-line at: <http://www.kew.org/science-conservation/research-data/science-directory/projects/cites-checklists-and-user-guides>. Following the review period it is proposed to have the

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updated list put to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties for adoption as the new standard reference for Cycads.

5. ***Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* – Madagascar Checklist:** Annex 3 of Decision 16.152 includes “that the Plants Committee shall recommend and facilitate the preparation of a standard reference for the names of *Diospyros* spp. (populations of Madagascar) and *Dalbergia* spp. (populations of Madagascar) to be adopted, if appropriate, at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties”. Document [SC65 Inf. 21](#) was prepared for the 2014 meeting of the CITES Standing Committee and this comprised “A PRELIMINARY DALBERGIA CHECKLIST FOR MADAGASCAR FOR CITES” based on the Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of Madagascar. Taking into account any necessary revisions or updates it is proposed to move forward to adopt such a list at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of Madagascar is also the best source of names with regard to *Diospyros* and it is hoped that progress can be made on a suitably substantive list within the deadlines for the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
6. **Aloe species:** At the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee South Africa updated the Committee on recent changes in taxonomy which may impact on the CITES listing. South Africa was tasked by the Committee to work with the specialist on botanical nomenclature to update, as appropriate, the standard reference for this group and also review the need to prepare listings proposals to be submitted to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. South Africa has considered the situation with regards to the CITES listings and checklist and makes recommendations to the Committee in a separate document.

Other Issues

7. ***Platymiscium pleiostachyum*:** As a result of a request by the working group on the periodic review, a review of the taxonomic status of this species was requested by the Plants Committee. This taxon was listed on Appendix I in 1975 and it is taken that the intent was to list *Platymiscium pleiostachium* Donn.Sm. As part of the ten-year review process a delisting proposal was put forward by Switzerland at the 7th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (Lausanne, 1989). The species was downlisted to Appendix II at CoP7 and the same proponent re-submitted a delisting proposal to the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Kyoto, 1992, Doc. 8.44 No. 16). This proposal was not adopted. However, the supporting statement noted the taxon to be *Platymiscium pleiostachium* Donn. Smith 1913 and noted the distribution as “usually thought to be endemic to Costa Rica, however the species also occurs in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.” A comprehensive review of the genus *Platymiscium* (19 species) was carried out in 2005 by Bente B. Klitgaard (*Platymiscium* (Leguminosae: Dalbergieae); biogeography, systematics, morphology, taxonomy and uses. Kew Bulletin. Vol. 60, No. 3 (2005), pp. 321 – 400). This review included *Platymiscium pleiostachium* Donn.Sm. in *Platymiscium parviflorum* Benth. which the author describes as having a distribution “infrequent and scattered over a wide geographical area in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica”. At time of preparation of this document the nomenclature specialist was awaiting responses from experts on this taxon and will complete the review when these have been received and considered.

Summary

8. The Plants Committee is asked to convene a Nomenclature Working Group to:
 - a) Consider the best means to ensure that the Parties have scientifically valid, accessible, up to date and practical standard references for species of orchids in trade
 - b) Review progress on the revision of the Cactus Checklist, recommend experts from range States to liaise with the editor, and advise on the best means to ensure that a revised list be adopted with range State support by a meeting of the Conference of the Parties
 - c) Note that a revised draft Cycad list has been prepared, circulated in hard copy, made accessible on the web, and make recommendations to ensure that Parties actively comment on the list
 - d) Note progress being made on the checklist for *Dalbergia* and suggest means by which the production of substantive checklist for *Diospyros* might be facilitated
 - e) Consider the document prepared by South Africa on Aloe and recommend the best way forward to resolve the issues identified in a practical fashion

- g) Note and review the update on the taxonomic status of *Platymiscium pleiostachyum*
- h) Consider any other relevant issues raised by Parties at the meeting and make recommendations on these to the Committee.