

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)]

TAXONOMIC PROBLEMS WITH *NARDOSTACHYS* AND  
ITS POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR TRADE DATA AND CONTROL

1. This document has been submitted by Austria.\*
2. In the context of a diploma work at the University of Vienna (Palme 2015), the current status of *Nardostachys grandiflora* as regards trade data and control were evaluated. The following document reports some of the relevant findings and proposes actions to overcome the observed difficulties in the trade data reports and trade control.
3. The study pointed out that the actually reported data are not likely to reflect the trade volume correctly. The main reason for this was already flagged out by Mulliken (2000) – the taxonomic ambiguities related to the genus *Nardostachys* and the species recognized within this genus. The difficulties are additionally increased because no synonyms for *Nardostachys grandiflora* DC. are officially listed in the Appendices, none appear in CITES+ or the most recent “Checklist of CITES Species” (UNEP-WCMC 2014) although the proposal from 1997 mentions, among others, *Nardostachys jatamansi* (D. Don) DC. as a scientific synonym (CoP 10 Prop.75 1997). This lack of listed synonyms very likely leads to incorrect trade data. “*Nardostachys jatamansi*” seems to be the more popular used name for the species in trade, and this taxonomic name is, even in literature, not considered to be regulated by CITES. One published example for such a misperception is found in Rathnayake and Peiris (2012), who mention *Nardostachys jatamansi* in their list of medicinal plant species used in Sri Lanka, but exclude it later on in their presentation from the list of CITES listed species of Sri Lanka.
4. In order to clarify the situation, it might be worthwhile to consider a proposal to list *Nardostachys* on the genus level (*Nardostachys* spp.). This would allow an effective control irrespective of the different taxonomic concepts of *Nardostachys* regarding its species delimitations.

Recommendation

5. The Plants Committee is requested to consider the inclusion of the synonym “*Nardostachys jatamansi* (D. Don) DC.” and recommend that the checklists be updated accordingly in order to ensure that management authorities are able to accurately regulate all specimens in international trade.

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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.

Literature cited:

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Mulliken, T. and Crofton, P. (2008): Review of the status, harvest, trade and management of seven Asian CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plant species. BfN-Skripten 227, Federal Agency for Natural Conservation, Bonn, Germany. <http://www.neobiota.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/service/skript227.pdf> accessed:12/02/2013

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