

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Dyscophus antongili in Appendix I.

B. PROponent

The Kingdom of the Netherlands.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

- 11. Class: Amphibia
- 12. Order: Anura (Salienta)
- 13. Family: Microhylidae
- 14. Species: Dyscophus antongili
- 15. Common Names: English:
French:
Spanish:
- 16. Code Numbers: -

2. Biological Data

- 21. Distribution: The species is endemic to Madagascar. It is known only from two localities: the Bay of Antongil (Moroantsera, Foizana) and South of Tamatave (Andevoranto). Both areas are small, well known and relatively easily accessible.
- 22. Population: No population data for Dyscophus antongili are available to proponent.
- 23. Habitat: Hot areas near the coast, with high humidity. In and around ditches. The frogs are large and show a tendency to hide themselves (Kahl, Kamp and Schmidt, 1980; Schulte, 1980).

3. Trade Data

- 31. National Utilization: No national utilization of the species is known to proponent.
- 32. Legal International Trade: The species has been imported for the terrarium trade at least since early 1970's (Bergmans, pers. comm.; Schmidt, 1970). It occurs regularly in terrarium literature (see 8. References). Apparently, it is being bred in captivity (Christophel, 1977:98) and an application for one specimen (captive bred) for international trade from the Netherlands to the United Kingdom is recorded (Groombridge, in litt. 1985). There is, however, no official publication known to proponent in which the breeding in captivity is described. Meier (in litt., 1985) denies that it has been bred in captivity, but states that it probably will be possible in due course.

33. Illegal Trade: Export of wild caught specimens is prohibited by law in Madagascar, all import of wild caught specimens of Dyscophus antongili is contrary to Malagasy legislation. The species is currently offered in large quantities in West European pet shops (Meier, in litt., 1985) and imported regularly from Madagascar, for example, into the Federal Republic of Germany, where collecting trips to Madagascar occasionally occur. However, the results of these trips are not (yet) in print (Niekisch, in litt., 1986).

34. Potential Trade Threats: The areas where the species occurs are small and the species' natural habitat is extremely vulnerable to destruction (Blanc, in litt., 1986). Mass collections of specimens possibly wipes out an entire population of the frogs. The frogs are large (female: 90 mm male: 65 mm) and brightly reddish coloured. Judging from publications in terrarium magazines, many terrarium fanciers show their interest in the frogs and in obtaining specimens. It is not clear to the proponent whether the species is bred in captivity.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Protected by law in Madagascar. Export of wild caught specimens is prohibited.

42. International: None.

43. Additional Protection Needs:

5. Information on Similar Species

Dyscophus antongili is the only species in the genus which is reddish and more or less uniformly coloured. The genus Dyscophus consists of two other species, both endemic to Madagascar. Dyscophus quineti is greyish, with a dorsal pattern. Dyscophus insularis is much smaller than the other two species in the genus (40-50 mm) and of variable colour, but mostly grey and always with a dorsal pattern (Guibé, 1978). D. quineti and D. insularis have a wider distribution on Madagascar and are considered to be less attractive for terrarium keepers.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

7. Additional Remarks

Dr. Charles Blanc (Director of Laboratoire de Zoogéographie, Univ. de Montpellier, France) urges that Dyscophus antongili and Mantella aurantiaca (see proposal to include also this species in Appendix I of the Convention) require extremely strict protection to ensure their survival. Moreover, also on the scientific level all research should be strictly controlled (Blanc, in litt., 1986).

8. References

Christophel, F.W., 1977. Freude mit Terrarientiere. Hamburg, FRG, 177 pp.

Guibé, J., 1978. Les batraciens de Madagascar. Bonn. Zool. Monogr. 11:1-141.

Kahl, B., P. Gaupp and G. Schmidt, 1980. Falkenhandbuch: Das Terrarium. Niederhausen, FRG, 335 pp.

Schmidt, G., 1970. Einerfreulicher Import: Der Tomatenfrosch Dyscophus antongili. Aquarien-Terrarien Zeitschrift 23: 254-256.

Schulte, R. 1980. Frösche und Kröten. Ulmer, FRG. p. 148.

Stettler, P.H., 1978. Handbuch der Terrarienkunde. Stuttgart, FRG, 228 pp.

