

AMMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Papilio hospiton in Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

- 11. Class: Insecta
- 12. Order: Lepidoptera
- 13. Family: Papilionidae
- 14. Species: Papilio hospiton
- 15. Common Names: English: Corsican swallowtail
French: porte-queue de Corse
Spanish:
German: korsicher Schwalbenschwanz
Italian: Papilio di Sardegna
- 16. Code Numbers: None available

2. Biological Data

- 21. Distribution: The Corsican swallowtail occurs only on the islands of Corsica (France) and Sardinia (Italy), where the populations are believed to be extremely localised (3, 9).
- 22. Population: Few details are known but the species is believed to have declined dramatically and breeding sites are extremely localised on both Corsica and Sardinia (6). The species is listed as endangered in the IUCN Red Data Book on Threatened Swallowtail Butterflies of the World (4).
- 23. Habitat: The species occurs in mountainous maquis at altitudes between 600 and 1,500 m (7, 9). In nature the larval foodplant appears to be represented mostly by Ferula communis although other plant species such as Foeniculum vulgare, Peucedanum paniculatum and Ruta spp. are promptly accepted by captive caterpillars (9, 14, 15, 6). Although both Corsica and Sardinia contain large tracts of mountainous country much of this, apparently suitable, habitat is adversely affected by agricultural practices. The umbelliferous foodplants are believed to be poisonous to sheep and local people set fire to affected areas as a weed control measure (7). Habitat has also been lost to developments such as ski resorts (7).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Both adult and immature stages are taken by local and foreign collectors who are aware of the rarity of the species. It is believed this continues on Corsica, where collecting is prohibited, as well as Sardinia. In some areas of Sardinia Papilio hospiton larvae are collected in large numbers every spring, commercial collectors are seen as welcome tourists at a time when hotels are mostly empty (1).
32. Legal International Trade:
 321. General: The trade in butterflies worldwide is very considerable, running into tens of millions of dollars annually, although the precise figure is disputed (10, 11, 13). The number of commercial dealers has risen dramatically over the last 30 years (12). The bulk of this trade is in the use of butterflies for ornamental purposes but there is also a substantial low volume trade supplying high value dead specimens to scientists, museums and collectors. The price of these specimens tends to reflect their rarity, size, beauty, the difficulty of capture and general state.
 322. Specific: Although little is known about the extent of the Corsican swallowtail in trade it is widely believed that this rare species is collected to excess for private and commercial purposes and that this is causing severe declines in butterfly numbers (7, 8). Although there is little advertised trade commercial collecting parties are known to occur, at least on Sardinia (1).
33. Illegal Trade: It is believed that although the Corsican swallowtail is protected from collection under French law that collecting on Corsica still continues (4).
34. Potential Trade Threats: The Corsican swallowtail is one of the rarest of European butterflies. It is an attractive species and prized by collectors. It is now regarded as being endangered in the wild, due to habitat destruction and collecting. Losses through collection and trade are potentially serious for the survival of the species in the wild (4).

4. Protection Status

41. National:
 411. France: The Corsican population is protected under a French decree published on 22 August 1979. This decree prohibits collecting but does not protect the habitat or foodplants.
 412. Netherlands: Under the 1980 Endangered Foreign Species Act of the Netherlands, the species may not be imported or purchased by Dutch citizens.
42. International: Nothing known.
43. Additional Protection Needs: There is an urgent need for the Corsican swallowtail to be protected on Sardinia under Italian law and that on both islands protection be extended to include

sufficient areas of habitat. Designation of nature reserves for the butterfly on both islands is required and a recovery plan for the species prepared and implemented. Detailed surveys of the populations of both islands should be carried out and larval foodplants and habitat requirements evaluated to assist the management of protected areas (4, 5).

5. Information on Similar Species

Papilio hospiton could be confused with its European congener Papilio machaon. The latter is much more common, and occurs on Corsica and Sardinia at lower altitudes than hospiton. Their ranges overlap slightly and hybrids are known. P. hospiton has less black at the base of the forewing than P. machaon. Female illustrated in Collins and Morris (1985) (4).

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Italy is a co-proponent with the United Kingdom *. France has also signified its support of the proposal.

7. Additional Remarks

The species is recognized as endangered in the Council of Europe Report (Heath 1981). It is noted as seriously threatened by Bernardi (1979). It has been proposed for listing in Appendix II of the Berne Convention (5).

8. References

- (1) Balletto, E. and O. Kudrna, 1985. Some aspects of the conservation of butterflies in Italy, with recommendations for a future strategy. Bollettino della Societa Entomologica Italiana. 117 (1-3):39-59.
- (2) Bernardi, G., 1979. Lepidoptères protégés. Sciences Nat. Bulletin, 24:12-14.
- (3) Bretherton, R.F. and C.G. de Worms, 1963. Butterflies in Corsica 1962. Entomologists' Record and Journal of Variation. 75:93-104.
- (4) Collins, N.M. & M.G. Morris, 1985. Threatened Swallowtail Butterflies of the World. The IUCN Red Data Book. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. 401 pp. 8 pl.
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- (6) Fausser, J., 1980. Observations concernant Papilio hospiton Gene en Haute-Corse. Bulletin Liaison l'Association Entomologique d'Evreux 5:18-19.

* Italy never officially informed the Secretariat that it was presenting such a proposal. (Note from the Secretariat).

- (7) Heath, J., 1981. Threatened Rhopalocera (Butterflies) in Europe. Nature and Environment Series (Council of Europe) No 23, 157 pp.
- (8) Heath, J., 1984. Summary of Comments received from a number of authorities during preparation of reference 7. In litt, 27 February.
- (9) Higgins, L.G. and N.D. Riley, 1980. A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Britain and Europe. 4th ed. revised. Collins, London 384 pp, 63 pl, 384 maps.
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- (11) Jackman, B., 1976. Bye-bye birdwing. Sunday Times, 12 September.
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- (13) National Research Council, 1983. Butterfly Farming in Papua New Guinea. Managing Tropical Animal Resources Series. National Academy Press, Washington DC.
- (14) Watson, A., 1981. Butterflies, Kingfisher Books, London.
- (15) Whalley, P., 1981. The Mitchell Beazley Guide to Butterflies. Mitchell Beazley, London. 168 pp.