

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Iphigenia stellata in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Republic of India.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Monocotyledonae
12. Order: Liliales
13. Family: Liliaceae
14. Species: Iphigenia stellata  
Blatter in J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 32:734,  
1928.
15. Common Names: English: starry iphigenia  
French:  
Spanish:
16. Code Numbers: -

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: India, endemic to Panchgani and Mahabaleswar Plateau region, Sahyadri Ranges, Satara District, Maharashtra State.
22. Population: Natural populations of the species are vulnerable due to large scale exploitation of seeds for possible use in commerce as they yield colchicine and also as a result of want on damage to their natural habitats due to tourist traffic.
23. Habitat: Terrestrial annuals growing in moist grassy plateau areas in open laterite soils.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Precise data on its exploitation are unknown but the species is being over-exploited for its colchicine containing seeds.
32. Legal International Trade: Precise data lacking.
33. Illegal Trade: Extent unknown but suspected to be in illegal trade.
34. Potential Trade Threats:
341. Live Specimens: Possible due to demand for cultivation specimens for study and herbaria.

342. Parts and derivatives: The seeds are the source of the valuable alkaloid colchicine.

4. Protection Status

41. National: The species is being included in the Plant Red Data Book of India being processed for publication, and is being recommended for inclusion in the Schedules of the Wildlife Protection Act.
42. International: None so far; now being proposed for inclusion in Appendix II of CITES.
43. Additional Protection Needs: Protective measures to conserve its habitat and to ban collection of its seeds from natural populations; cultivation on large scale for trade needs.

5. Information on Similar Species

It is closely allied to other species of the genus.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

The species is endemic and the populations are meagre at present.

7. Additional Remarks

Should be considered for large scale cultivation for extraction of the highly valuable alkaloid colchicine derived from its seeds.

8. References

Ansari, M.Y. and R.S. Rao, 1973. Iphigenia stellata Blatter (Liliaceae) - Its identity and economic importance in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 15 (1 & 2): 118-122.

Ansari, M.Y., 1986, in M.P. Nayar and A.R.K. Sastry (Ed.). Plant Red Data Book of India. (In press).