

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of Dendrobium pauciflorum from Appendix II to Appendix I.

B. PROPOSANT

The Republic of India.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Monocotyledonae
12. Order: Orchidales
13. Family: Orchidaceae
14. Species: Dendrobium pauciflorum King & Pantl., in Journ. Asia. Soc. Beng. 64:332, 1896.
15. Common Names: English: literally means 'few flowered dendrobium'
French:
Spanish:
16. Code Numbers: -

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: India. Endemic to two sites in the Tista River valley in West Bengal bordering Sikkim.
22. Population: Natural populations are considered endangered or possibly extinct in the wild due to felling of its host trees. In 1970, a thorough search in its distribution area yielded only one plant that could not be grown in a nursery (Pradhan, 1978).
23. Habitat: Epiphytic, reportedly found in riverine forests at the altitude 600-1,000 m.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Extent unknown; but it is unique in the genus having golden-yellow flowers with purple-red margins and thus could have been in use for hybridization, in the past.
32. Legal International Trade: Nothing is known.
33. Illegal Trade: Suspected to have been in illegal trade for raising picotee dendrobiums although specific reports are lacking.
34. Potential Trade Threats:
341. Live Specimens: Possible trade in live plants for hybridization; specimens for herbaria throughout the world.

342. Parts and Derivatives: Possibly the mature pods for viable seeds; herbarium collections.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Collection banned by the Government (H.E. Chogyal) of Sikkim since 1910. The species has been included in the endangered species lists published by the Botanical Survey of India and has been proposed for inclusion in the Schedules of the Wildlife Protection Act of the Government of India.
42. International: The family is included in Appendix II of CITES. The species is included in the IUCN Plant Red Data Book 5, 1978.
43. Additional Protection Needs: Strict measures to protect the surviving plants and a complete ban on their collection, felling of trees and other forestry operations; efforts to relocate for multiplication through tissue culture, conservation and re-introduction.

5. Information on Similar Species

Nearly all the species of the genus Dendrobium are similar in general floral characteristics and vegetative parts, although they are recognizable by means of distinctive taxonomic characters in their flowers and vegetative parts.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

The species is endemic to a very small area in India. Its flower colour, a rare combination in the genus, possibly may have been taken advantage of in hybridization, in the past.

7. Additional Remarks

The genus Dendrobium is reported to contain alkaloids of medicinal value (Pradhan, 1978).

8. References

Kataki, S.K., S.K. Jain and A.R.K. Sastry, 1984. Threatened and endemic orchids of Sikkim and N.E. India. POSSCEF, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah.

King, G. and R. Pantling, 1978. Orchids of the Sikkim Himalaya, in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Calcutta, 8:54-55. t.76.

Pradhan, U.C., 1978, in G. Lucas and H. Synge (Ed.). Plant Red Data Book 5:363-364. IUCN, Morges.