

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of Paphiopedilum druryi from Appendix II to Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Republic of India.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Monocotyledonae
12. Order: Orchidales
13. Family: Orchidaceae
14. Species: Paphiopedilum druryi (Bedd.) Stein, Orchideen Buch 466.1892. (Cypripedium druryi Bedd. Icon. Plant. Ind. Orient. 23 t.112. 1868).
15. Common Names: English: Drury's slipper orchid, lady's slipper orchid  
French:  
Spanish:
16. Code Numbers: -

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Travancore and Kalakkad Hills in Kerala, southern Western Ghats in peninsular India. Endemic to a small area.
22. Population: Endangered or possibly extinct in the wild due to forest fires and over-collection in the past.
23. Habitat: In open sunny forest areas along gentle hill slopes on hard limey soil, often growing with sedges and grasses and sometimes epiphytic on Euphorbia sp. growing in association with Aerides maculosum Lindl.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Although no precise data exist on the extent of its collection from the wild, it is certain that the population, restricted in distribution range, has been over-collected since its discovery in 1865 (by Drury) for trade purposes, as this species was in great demand in horticulture for its highly ornamental flowers. Also the forest fires have caused partial destruction of its habitat.
32. Legal International Trade: The extent of its export in international trade is not precisely known, but recent records/reports indicate that the species was subjected to export

in international trade from plants collected in the wild. As a result the species has not been seen in the wild since 1972 with a near total depletion of its natural population.

33. Illegal Trade: Extent unknown, suspected to have taken place as the natural populations were almost depleted due to collections in the past.

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: Entire live plants from the wild for unregulated export in horticultural trade must have been taking place; also specimens for herbaria world over.

342. Parts and Derivatives: Possibly the mature pods for seeds and cut flowers for ornamental purposes.

4. Protection Status

41. National: The species is listed as endangered or possibly extinct in several endangered species publications brought out by the Botanical Survey of India in recent years. The Director, Botanical Survey of India, has already written on this aspect to the Chief Conservators of Forests of Tamil Nadu and Kerala about protection of its populations that may still be surviving and their habitats for immediate protective measures. The species has already been proposed for inclusion in the Schedules of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, to the Director, Wildlife in the Department of Environment and Forests to accord a ban on its collection and provide protection. One or two small plants of this species are being reared in the Orchidarium of the Botanical Survey of India at Yercaud in the S. India.

42. International: The family Orchidaceae is included in Appendix II of CITES and this species is now being proposed for inclusion in Appendix I of CITES. The species is also included in the IUCN Plant Red Data Book 5.

43. Additional Protection Needs: The Government of India should impose stringent punitive measures on those who collect the species for trade and take immediate strict measures for protection of the surviving plants and its natural habitats. Efforts should be made for its location, ex-situ conservation in conservatories, multiplication through tissue culture or seed germination and re-introduction of the plants into their natural habitats.

5. Information on Similar Species

The species of the genus Paphiopedilum were earlier traded under the genus Cypripedium to which they are closely allied and have been collectively called the lady's slipper orchids, because of the striking resemblance of the lip to a lady's shoe. Subsequently, orchidologists have differentiated these lady's slipper orchids into four genera, viz., Cypripedium, Paphiopedilum, Selenipedium and Phragmapedium based on taxonomic characters. Of these four genera, Paphiopedilum with nine species and Cypripedium having four species are represented in India, all of which are closely allied and are in great demand in horticultural trade from which several hybrid varieties have been developed.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

This species is one of the orchids in demand or sought by orchid lovers, horticulturists and traders and this resulted in the over-collection and depletion of natural populations and destruction leading to its suspected extinction.

7. Additional Remarks

While all other species of the genus in India are chiefly distributed in the eastern Himalayas and sub-Himalayan ranges in the N.E. India and adjoining Bangladesh and Burmese territories, P. druryi is strikingly occurring in another geographical area showing distinct disjunct distribution and endemism to the southernmost hills of the Western Ghats in South India.

8. References

Beddome, R.H., 1869-74. Ic. Pl. Ind. Orient. I. p.23.t.112. (as Cypripedium drurii).

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