

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Nardostachys grandiflora in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Republic of India.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Dictyledonae
12. Order: Valerianales
13. Family: Valerianaceae
14. Species: Nardostachys grandiflora DC., Coll. Mem. 7(4), t.2. 1830
15. Common Names: English: Himalayan spikenard, India nard
French:
Spanish:
Hindi: Jatamansi
16. Code Numbers: Nil

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: The plant (a perennial herb) is found in the alpine Himalayas from Punjab to Sikkim and Bhutan at an altitude of 3,000 - 5,000 m.
22. Population: Of wide occurrence but nowhere abundant. Vulnerable and scarce in the wild, due to degradation of habitats and collection from the wild. Reported to be threatened in Jammu and Kashmir (Kapur, 1983).
23. Habitat: In open grassy meadows and along gentle mountain slopes in the alpine zone.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Root-stock aromatic and medicinal and is in trade. It is reported that ca. 18,650 kg of the rhizomes are marketed annually in Punjab alone.
32. Legal International Trade: Extent not known, but is reported to be in demand in S.E. Asian countries. Export of plants and derivatives of this species from India is prohibited.

33. Illegal Trade: Cases of smuggling of roots and rhizomes of Nardostachys are often detected in India. In January 1989, wildlife authorities seized in Bombay a consignment containing 750 kg of Nardostachys grandiflora being exported to Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) under the name "stone flower".

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: Entire plants are involved as they are uprooted for rhizomatous root-stock.

342. Parts and Derivatives: Root-stock.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Nardostachys grandiflora is included in Part A of Schedule I of the Export (Trade) Control Order 1988 and export of specimens, roots, rhizomes and other products of this species from India is banned. Under provisions of the Indian Forest Act, there are restrictions on collection of specimens from the Reserved Forests.

42. International: Nil.

43. Additional Protection Needs: It is feared that unregulated international trade will adversely affect the status of this species in nature in the long run. Hence, it should be included in Appendix II of CITES to ensure international protection for it.

5. Information on Similar Species

The roots of Valeriana officinalis and Cymbopogen schoenanthus are often mistaken for Nardostachys. Recently, roots and rhizomes of Selinum veginatum have been found as adulterant of Nardostachys.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Nil.

7. Additional Remarks

The species is very variable (C.B. Clarke, in Hooker, J.D., Flora of British India 3:211, 1881).

8. References

Anon., 1984. Wealth of Indian Raw materials. 7:3. CSIR, New Delhi.

Hajra, P.K., 1984. In: Jain, S.K. & A.R.K. Sastry (ed.) The Indian Plant Red Data Book I, p. 157, BSI, Howrah.

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Jain, S.K. & A.R.K. Sastry, 1980. Threatened Plants of India - A State of the Art Report, p.27. BSI, Howrah.

Kapur, S.K., 1983. Threatened Medicinal Plants of Jammu and Kasmir. Jour. Sci. Res. Pl. and Med. 4 (3) pp.40-46.