

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

To not annotate any plant species presently in Appendix I of CITES, so that in consequence the artificially propagated hybrids of these species will be treated as artificially propagated specimens of Appendix II species, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 6.19 a).

B. PROPONENT

The United States of America.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

About 125-130 plant species are listed in Appendix I, in 30 families.

2. Explanation

At present Resolution Conf. 6.19 has no practical effect for the species now in Appendix I of CITES. It is as if all these species were now annotated, and thus to be treated as stated in Resolution Conf. 6.19 b).

Since listings can not be amended retroactively by any resolution, such as Resolution Conf. 6.19, it was stated in Doc. 6.32 that a proposal would be presented at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to implement the Resolution for past listings. [For listing proposals adopted at this 7th meeting and subsequently, Resolution Conf. 6.19 has automatic effect: if the species in Appendix I is not proposed for annotation, it will not be annotated, and the lesser regulation of Resolution Conf. 6.19 a) for the artificially propagated hybrids will be in effect.]

At the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Ottawa), document Doc. 6.32 was presented as the explanation and justification for recommending the draft that became Resolution Conf. 6.19. In document Doc. 6.32 is a lengthy discussion of the general characteristics of plants, the ease with which many of them can be hybridized, and circumstances to consider when deciding whether there is conservation value in identifying and regulating the artificially propagated hybrids of the Appendix I species strictly as the species, or whether to treat these hybrids fully as artificially propagated specimens of Appendix II species. It is recommended that document Doc. 6.32 be consulted as an integral part of this proposal.

3. Biological Data

We have reviewed the species in Appendix I to consider whether they are known to hybridize, and whether there is conservation value in their artificially propagated hybrids, which are generally also artificial hybrids (i.e. the cross first has been made by people), rather than natural hybrids (i.e. the cross first has occurred in nature, and subsequently the hybrid has been artificially propagated).

The most hybridization occurs in the orchids; it was an Appendix I orchid (Cattleya trianae) that was used for the genealogical diagram in document Doc. 6.32 (the diagram did not at all show the full range of hybrids of that species!). The orchids demonstrate the extensive parentage that can be involved in an Appendix I hybrid, and the lack of conservation value in tracing that parentage to see if there is Appendix I germplasm in the hybrid. Pietropaolo (1986) lists 20 mostly complex hybrids (crosses with more than two species) of Nepenthes khasiana (Appendix I), showing a situation not unlike that with several crosses of C. trianae.

Nepenthes x kinabaluensis Kurata, suspected to be a natural hybrid between N. rajah (Appendix I) and N. villosa (Appendix II), perhaps represents the other extreme (Kurata, 1976) to the genealogy of orchids such as Cattleya trianae. Yet we see no conservation value to regulating strictly the artificially propagated specimens of N. x kinabaluensis, for the reasons put forth in document Doc. 6.32. In the other genera (e.g. Sarracenia) with pertinent hybrids, situations approaching or similar to these extremes occur.

#### 4. Trade Data

Some hobbyists or commercial growers of various plant groups prefer to work with hybrids rather than species, such as in Orchidaceae, Nepenthes, or the intrageneric and intergeneric Epiphyllum (Cactaceae) hybrids (Rowley, 1980; none of those pertinent cactus species are currently in Appendix I). Those peoples' interest is in crossing plants to see what they can develop.

In Orchidaceae, these artificial hybrids represent the bulk of the trade for the United States. Resolution Conf. 5.14 g) states that for Appendix II orchid hybrids that are artificially propagated, Parties need only report quantity rather than the particular hybrid in trade. This again suggests that the hybrids are of limited conservation value, as a general rule. The guidance of Resolution Conf. 5.14 g) will need to be understood to extend to these artificially propagated Appendix I orchid hybrids treated as Appendix II by regulation under Resolution Conf. 6.19 a), or it would be necessary to work out the genealogy of each hybrid in order to report it, something document Doc. 6.32 discourages (recall Cattleya trianae!).

#### 5. Protection Status

The usual purpose for regulating hybrids is to be able to effectively regulate the species of concern. In deciding whether to propose an annotation in an Appendix I proposal for a species, it is helpful to refer to document Doc. 6.32. Usually, making regulation of the artificially propagated hybrid less stringent (treating it as in Appendix II) is likely to free up effort to concentrate protection on the species themselves.

#### 6. Additional Remarks

This is in effect a proposal for a downlisting, by removing some regulation for the artificially propagated hybrids of Appendix I species. Before or at the time of the 7th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, another Party can introduce information on particular species and hybrids if it believes that those artificially propagated hybrids should remain or be regulated as the Appendix I species,

following Resolution Conf. 6.19 b), rather than changing to Conf. 6.19 a). The United States would have done so for particular species within this proposal if it considered that the species would benefit. For any subsequent meeting of the Conference of the Parties (or by postal procedures), a Party can introduce a proposal in the usual way to annotate an Appendix I species that is already listed, whenever it is considered useful to improve conservation of that species.

8. References

- Kurata, S., 1976. *Nepenthes of Mount Kinabalu*. Sabah National Parks Publ. No. 2. Sabah National Parks Trustees, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. 80 pp.
- Pietropaolo, J. and P., 1986. *Carnivorous Plants of the World*. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. 206 pp.
- Rowley, G.D., 1980. *Name that Succulent*. Stanley Thornes (Publ.), Cheltenham, U.K. 268 pp.

