

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Gentiana kurroo in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Republic of India.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Dicotyledonae
12. Order: Gentianales
13. Family: Gentianaceae
14. Species: Gentiana kurroo Royle, Illustr. Bot. Himal., p. 278. t. 68, fig. 2, 1835
15. Common Names: English: Indian gentian
French:
Spanish:
Hindi: Karu
Bengali: Kutki
Kashmiri: Nilkanth
16. Code Numbers: Nil

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Kashmir (Srinagar, Trikuta Hills, Pahalgam) and N.W. Himalayas.
22. Population: Scarce and declining. Reported to be threatened in Jammu and Kashmir (Kapur, 1983).
23. Habitat: In moist grassy slopes in temperate regions in the altitude of 2,000 - 4,000 m Habitat degradation in its distribution range is a causative factor for decline of the populations.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Dried rhizomes and roots are used as a substitute for true gentian. Used as a tonic for stomach ailments and digestive disorders, in fevers and urinary complaints. Of the 60 species reported in India, G. kurroo is regarded most in native medicine and large quantities of rhizomes are collected from the wild populations in the Western Himalayas and are sold in herbal drug markets in Punjab.

32. Legal International Trade: Extent unknown. Reports of trade from Singapore are received. Export from India is banned.:

33. Illegal Trade: Extent unknown but suspected to exist.

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: Entire live specimens.

342. Parts and Derivatives: Rhizomes and roots.

4. Protection Status

41. National: It is included in Part A of Schedule I of the Export (Trade) Control order 1988 and export of plants and derivatives of this species from India is banned. There are restrictions on collection of this species from the Reserved Forests under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act.

42. International: Nil.

43. Additional Protection Needs: This species is in short supply throughout its range and cannot withstand the pressure of unregulated trade. It should be included in Appendix II of CITES to provide it international protection against being endangered in the near future.

5. Information on Similar Species

Root of Picrorrhiza kurroo Royle ex Benth. have similar medicinal properties and are used as a substitute for the Indian gentian.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Nil.

7. Additional Remarks

Plant does not seem to have been cultivated on a large scale anywhere in India. It takes some years to produce flowers and considerable time elapses before the roots reach marketable size.

8. References

Anon., 1956. Wealth of India - Raw materials 4:124-125, CSIR, New Delhi.

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