

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Gloriosa superba in Appendix II.

B. PROPOSANT

The Republic of India.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Monocotyledonae
12. Order: Liliales
13. Family: Liliaceae
14. Species: Gloriosa superba Linn. sp. Pl., p. 305, 1753
15. Common Names: English: Malabar glory lily
French:
Spanish:
Hindi: Bachnag
16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Through out tropical parts of India up to an altitude of 2,000 m and Andaman Islands. Also in tropical Africa, Malacca, China-Cochin.
22. Population: Once a common species, has now become scarce all over India.
23. Habitat: In sandy and open situations along coastal belts and in forest clearings.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Although no trade data on the quantities collected is available, the plant is apparently in demand in various drug markets. The tubers are medicinal and contain the alkaloid colchicine.
32. Legal International Trade: Export of plants and derivatives of this species from India is not permitted. However, seeds grown in farms are permitted for export. In April 1989, 6.3 metric tonnes of seeds of this species of nursery origin were exported to France from Bombay.
33. Illegal Trade: Extent not known but is suspected to exist.

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: Entire plants as the plants are uprooted for tuberous root stock.
342. Parts and Derivatives: Tuberous root stock contains poisonous alkaloids—superbaine and gloriosine used in medicine.

4. Protection Status

41. National: It is included in Part A of Schedule I of the Export (Trade) Control Order 1988-1991 and export of plants and derivatives of these 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

Only species in India and does not bear any similarity to any other species.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

The species was widely distributed and common all over, especially along coastal plains until two or three decades ago, is now scarcely seen apparently due to over-collection and loss of its habitats.

7. Additional Remarks

The species with its scarlet red or red, large showy flowers and elegant foliage is of ornamental value. The tubers are used as an adulterant of aconite (Wealth of India 4: 140, 1956).

8. References

Anon., 1956. The Wealth of India - Raw materials. 4:140. CSIR, New Delhi.