

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Ten Year Review Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Deletion of Quercus copeyensis from Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Swiss Confederation.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Magnoliopsida (Dicotyledonae)
12. Order: Fagales
13. Family: Fagaceae
14. Species: Quercus copeyensis C.H. Muller 1942
15. Common Names: English: roble, copey oak
French:
Spanish:
16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: The species occurs from central Costa Rica South-East along the Continental Divide (central Cordillera de Talamanca) to western Panama. The original forests of Q. copeyensis are said to have covered 1940 sq. km (750 sq. miles), or about 4 percent of Costa Rica. The Costa Rican material called Q. aaata C.H. Muller is included here, but it requires additional study to decide whether that species as now restricted to Guatemala and Honduras should be considered part of Q. copeyensis as well (Burger, 1977). In Panama, Q. copeyensis occurs in Chiriquí Province, on Volcán Chiriquí.
22. Population: and 23. Habitat: Copey oak is restricted to the cloud forest, or wet temperate forest, of high mountains. Under natural conditions, it is a dominant species of the wet evergreen montane (premontane and lower montane rain) forest formations, between (1800-) 2000-2800 (-3000) m in elevation (Burger, 1977). The forest was a pure stand of Quercus copeyensis or with the oaks dominant or emergent. It has been called the worlds largest oak, with trees to 35 m tall and over 1 m to nearly 2 m in diameter (Little, 1948).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: "Until recently (Barbour, 1943), these unique mountain oak forests were so utterly inaccessible as to be in no danger of destruction. Now with the development of the

Inter-America highway, whose route traverses the heart of the oak forest for many miles, the situation has changed." Sample plots contained 60,000 board ft. (1 board ft. = 144 cu. in. = 2360 cu. cm) per acre (0.405 ha) of Q. copeyensis. According to Knight (1964), a great deal of the oak forests has been destroyed: three quarters of the accessible trees were removed by 1947. Some trees were cut for railroad ties and building timber.

32. Legal International Trade: No evidence (Oldfield, 1988). According to the Costa Rican Dirección General Forestal [in litt. to IUCN Threatened Plants Unit (TPU), 1980], there is no international trade from Costa Rica in this species. (Resolution Conf. 4.26 encourages completion of the 10-year review.)
33. Illegal Trade: None known.
34. Potential Trade Threats: Unknown.

4. Protection Status

41. National: In 1961, Costa Rica set up a forest reserve to protect Q. copeyensis, by a decree forming Articles 7-E and 14 of Law No. 2825. The Costa Rican Dirección General Forestal (in litt. to TPU, 1980), stated that an interdepartmental Commission had been established to analyze the situation for this and other native species regulated by CITES, together with other potentially threatened species in Costa Rica.
42. International: Unknown.
43. Additional Protection Needs: Unknown. The species is not one of the plants (including six other species of Quercus) that Costa Rica included in 1965 in the Annex to the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere [OEA/Ser.A/74a (SEPF); cf. Prance and Elias, 1977].

5. Information on Similar Species

Burger (1977) recognizes 12 species of Quercus in Flora Costaricensis, and states that C.H. Muller recognizes a taxonomically somewhat different 10 species. Quercus copeyensis is a white oak with grayish bark forming flat scales, which distinguishes it from the black oak Q. costaricensis, as they have similar foliage.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

None; to be sought.

7. Additional Remarks

Submitted on behalf of the Chairman, Plants Committee.

8. References

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- Little, E.L., Jr., 1948. Copey oak, Quercus copeyensis, in Costa Rica. Carib. For. 9: 345-353(-359).
- Oldfield, S., 1988. Rare Tropical Timbers. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, U.K. 37 pp.
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