

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Ten Year Review Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Deletion of Vantanea barbourii from Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Swiss Confederation.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Magnoliopsida (Dicotyledonae)
12. Order: Linales
13. Family: Humiriaceae
14. Species: Vantanea barbourii Standley 1943
15. Common Names: English:
French:
Spanish: Caracolillo, Ira chiricana, Nispero

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Known only from southern Costa Rica: in the vicinity of San Isidro del General (San José Province) (Barbour, 1943); and in Puntarenas Province: Golfo Dulce area, Esquinas Forest, Palmar Sur (Allen, 1956). To be expected in adjacent Panama (Chiriquí Province) (Gentry, 1975). Some of these large, canopy-tree species may only appear rare because they are difficult to collect, and so rarely collected and documented [J. Engel, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, in litt. to U.S. Scientific Authority (B. MacBryde), 6/04/89].
22. Population: Allen (1956) found it locally very common on forested hillsides. Frequent on flatlands and occasional on slopes in Corcovado National Park (Hartshorn and Poveda, 1983). On the undulating plateau North of Llorona in the North-West part of the park, this species was the most important (at 8.5%, based on density, frequency, and basal area occupied, of 108 spp. measured) on a 1 ha study plot; it was also the largest tree (65 m tall, 2 m dbh) (Hartshorn, 1983a, 1983b). However, Hartshorn (1983b) has found practically no regeneration of the species in the park.
23. Habitat: A canopy tree of the tropical wet forest life zone (Holdridge system), it occurs from about 60-800 m elevation (Allen, 1956; Barbour, 1943).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: "The strong, reddish-brown wood is fairly hard and heavy, and is reported to be very durable, having been used for bridge timbers on the Pan-American highway" (Allen, 1956). The species was first discovered as a sawmill sample (Barbour, 1943).
32. Legal International Trade: No evidence (Oldfield, 1988). According to the Costa Rican Dirección General Forestal [in litt. to the IUCN Threatened Plants Unit (TPU), 1980], there is no Costa Rican trade in this species.
33. Illegal Trade: None known.
34. Potential Trade Threats: Unknown. There had been timbering in the area now conserved as Corcovado National Park, which is most accessible by sea (IUCN, 1989). However, according to Record and Hess (1943), the dense grayish brown timber of Vantanea had no important uses at that time. Merker et al. (1943) considered it not abundant enough for a general market. It is not included in A Handbook of Hardwoods (1972).

4. Protection Status

41. National: An interdepartmental Commission was established to analyze the situation for this and other native species regulated by CITES, together with other potentially threatened species in Costa Rica (Costa Rican Dirección General Forestal in litt. to TPU, 1980). Resolution Conf. 4.26 encourages completion of the 10-year review.
42. International: Unknown. Resolution Conf. 2.19 does not appear to support the CITES listing of this species, in view of its abundance and the apparent lack of international trade interest in it.
43. Additional Protection Needs: Unknown. The species is not one of the plants Costa Rica included 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

The Humiriaceae is essentially a South American family, and was not known to occur in Central America until V. barbourii was discovered in Costa Rica (Standley, 1943). There are about 14 species in the genus, which extends to southern Brazil. Vantanea occidentalis (described in 1950), which occurs from western Colombia to Panama, forms one of the most important large trees in premontane wet forest and tropical wet forest in central Panama (Gentry, 1975).

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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