

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Ten Year Review Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Deletion of Platymiscium pleiostachyum from Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Swiss Confederation.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Magnoliopsida (Dicotyledonae)
12. Order: Fabales
13. Family: Leguminosae (= Fabaceae)
131. Subfamily: Papilionoideae (Faboideae)
14. Species: Platymiscium pleiostachyum Donn. Smith 1913
15. Common Names: English:
French:
Spanish: Cristóbal, ambar, Granadillo
16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Usually thought to be endemic to Costa Rica (e.g. Holdridge and Poveda, 1975), where it is found in the North-West, e.g. on the Nicoya Peninsula. However, the species also occurs in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. Standley and Calderón (1925) reported the species in El Salvador; there are specimens (at US) from El Desagüe, Laguna de Güija; Dept. Chalatenango, sin loc. (S. Calderón 2161) (Smithsonian Institution, n.d.); and Dept. Santa Ana, vicinity of Metapán (at F). There are specimens (annotated L. Poveda, 1984) at Field Museum of Natural History (K. pers. comm. to B. MacBryde, 1/06/89) from Guatemala: Dept. Chiquimula, between Ramírez and Cumbre de Chiquimula, and Dept. Jutiapa, El Tablán region North-East of Jutiapa; and from Honduras: Dept. Comayagua, sin loc. and Río Selguapa. In Nicaragua, the species is known from Dept. Chontales, Hacienda Corpus West of Juigalpa, and Dept. Matagalpa, Quebrada Santa Cruz (specimens at MO, and W.D. Stevens, pers. comm. to MacBryde, 1/06/89).
22. Population: Unknown. It is rare in Palo Verde National Wildlife Refuge and Santa Rosa National Park, Costa Rica (Hartshorn and Poveda, 1983).
23. Habitat: A canopy tree on flatlands and slopes [wooded hills (Donnell Smith, 1913)] at lower and middle-lower elevations in humid, seasonally semideciduous forest (Hartshorn and Poveda,

1983; Holdridge and Poveda, 1975; Hartshorn, 1983). The specimens in several countries have been reported from elevations of less than 320-850 (-900) m.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: According to Holdridge and Poveda (1975), the wood is attractive for furniture and always in good demand, and favored for making the keys of marimbas. In earlier times, it often was used for the wheels of ox carts, because of the resonant sound transmitted.
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. Given the uses of the wood, perhaps products made from it have been exported inadvertently.
34. Potential Trade Threats: Unknown. There does not appear to be selective international demand for wood of this species.

4. Protection Status

41. National: In Costa Rica, an interdepartmental Commission was set up to analyze the situation for this and other native species regulated by CITES, together with their other potentially threatened species (Costa Rican Dirección General Forestal in litt. to TPU, 1980). Davis et al. (1986) cite lists of rare trees of El Salvador, and that a draft law was in consideration. Guatemala has a manuscript list of rare species, and legally protects some plants; the situations for Honduras and Nicaragua are not known (Davis et al., 1986). It is not known whether any of these latter four countries has evaluated or protects this species.
42. International: Unknown. Resolution Conf. 2.19 at least does not appear to support retaining this species in Appendix I, in view of its larger, yet unknown population numbers now that its distribution is realized to extend as far as Guatemala, and in view of the apparent lack of international trade in it.
43. Additional Protection Needs: Unknown. The species is not one of the plants Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala or Nicaragua 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]. However, Costa Rica in 1965 and Nicaragua in 1941 included P. pinnatum in the Annex [Costa Rica: Organization of American States (OAS), 1967; Nicaragua: (as P. polystachyum), Pan American Union, 1941], and Guatemala also in 1965 included P. dimorphandrum (OAS, 1967; cf. Toledo, 1982). Honduras is not a party to that Convention.

5. Information on Similar Species

There are about 20 species in this tropical American genus. Wood of several species is used for knife handles, brush backs, and turnery, as well as veneers (Record and Hess, 1943). Platymiscium pinnatum (Jacq.) Dugand (syn. = P. polystachyum Benth. ex Seem.) (roble, also

called Cristóbal among other names), ranges from at least Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica (Allen, 1956), where it is used for furniture and flooring, to Colombia (Mabberley, 1987) and Venezuela (Schnee, 1973). It is used locally for construction and cabinet work, and has been exported under the name Panama redwood, for making furniture and tool handles (Standley, 1937).

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

None; to be sought.

7. Additional Remarks

Resolution Conf. 4.26 encourages completion of the 10-year review. Submitted on behalf of the Chairman, Plants Committee.

8. References

Allen, P.H., 1956. The Rain Forests of Golfo Dulce. Univ. Florida Press, Gainesville, Fla., U.S.A. 417 pp.

Davis, S.D. et al., 1986. Plants in danger: What do we know? Threatened Plants Unit, IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, England, U.K. 461 pp.

Donnell Smith, J., 1913. Undescribed plants from Guatemala and other Central American republics, 37. Bot. Gaz. 56: 54.

Hartshorn, G.S., 1983. Plants. Site descriptions: Santa Rosa, Palo Verde, pp. 125-132 in D.H. Janzen, ed. Costa Rican Natural History. Univ. Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.

Hartshorn, G.S. and L.J. Poveda, 1983. Checklist of trees, pp. 158-183 in Janzen, op. cit. above at Hartshorn.

Holdridge, L.R. and L.J. Poveda, 1975. Arboles de Costa Rica Vol. 1. Centro Científico Tropical, San José, Costa Rica.

Mabberley, D.J., 1987. The Plant-Book. Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge, U.K. 706 pp.

Oldfield, S., 1988. Rare Tropical Timbers. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, U.K. 37 pp.

Organization of American States, 1967. Listas de especies de fauna y flora en vías de extinción en los Estados miembros. La Convención para la protección de la flora, de la fauna, y de las bellezas escénicas naturales de los países de América. Washington, D.C., U.S.A. 48 pp.

Pan American Union, 1941 (-1942). Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere. Annex. Lists of species referred to in Article VIII of the Convention. U.S. Dept. State, T.S. 981: Annex, pp. 27-66; Explanatory notes and translations, pp. 68-77. Washington, D.C.

Prance, G.T. and T.S. Elias, eds., 1977. Extinction is Forever. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, N.Y., U.S.A. 437 pp.

- Record, S.J. and R.W. Hess, 1943. Timbers of the New World. Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, Conn., U.S.A.
- Schnee, L., 1973. Plantas Comunes de Venezuela, ed. 2. Univ. Central Venez., Facult. Agron., Maracay. 822 pp.
- Smithsonian Institution. n.d. (1978?). Plant taxa on Appendix I of the Convention. Endangered Flora Project, Washington, D.C. Manuscript.
- Standley, P.C., 1937. Flora of Costa Rica, Part 2. Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Bot. 18: 553.
- Standley, P.C. and S. Calderón, 1925. Lista preliminar de las plantas de El Salvador. San Salvador, El Salvador. 279 pp.
- Toledo, V.M., 1982. Pleistocene changes of vegetation in tropical Mexico, pp. 93-111 in G.T. Prance, ed., Biological Diversification in the Tropics. Columbia Univ. Press, New York.