

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Ten Year Review Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Deletion of Cynolebias constanciae, Cynolebias marmoratus, Cynolebias minimus, Cynolebias opalescens and Cynolebias splendens from Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Swiss Confederation.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Pisces
12. Order: Atheriniformes
13. Family: Cyprinodontidae
14. Species & ID Manual Code:
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Cynolebias constanciae</u> | (525.005.008.002) |
| <u>Cynolebias marmoratus</u> | (525.005.008.003) |
| <u>Cynolebias minimus</u> | (525.005.008.004) |
| <u>Cynolebias opalescens</u> | (525.005.008.006) |
| <u>Cynolebias splendens</u> | (525.005.008.007) |
15. Common Names:
- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| English: | pearlfish, annual tropical killifish |
| French: | cynolebias |
| Spanish: | Pez anuales |
16. Code Numbers: see above.

According to Lazara (in press) minimus and opelescens are not valid but only synonyms of Cynolebias splendens.

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Brazil, near Rio de Janeiro.
22. Population: According to the Management Authority of Brazil/Zoological Museum of the University of Sao Paulo:
- Cynolebias constanciae: rare, decreasing, localized to one site.
- Cynolebias marmoratus: unknown, localized to one side.
- Cynolebias opalescens: unknown, localized to one site.
- Cynolebias splendens: unknown, localized to one site.

Captive population: There are some Cynolebias marmoratus in captivity which go back to eggs collected from the wild (L.H. Amato, Montevideo Natural History Museum, pers. comm., 1989).

23. Habitat: Cynolebias species are adapted to a life in shallow, periodically drying fresh waters. The fish reach an age of only one year, i.e. they all die as soon as the temperature in the drying pond becomes too high, while the spawn survives in the mud. The next generation of fish will develop after a few months, following the onset of the rainy season.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: None.

32. Legal International Trade: Has never been recorded in trade since 1975. One entry relating to splendens is apparently a computer error ("3 meat" imported to US from Mexico).

33. Illegal Trade: No evidence.

34. Potential Trade Threats:

4. Protection Status

Unprotected at the national level.

CITES history: Listed at Washington, D.C., 1973. The United States of America proposed Appendix I listing. Has never been reviewed.

5. Information on Similar Species

There are some similar Cynolebias species which are not listed in CITES appendices: Cynolebias fluminensis, Cynolebias ladigesii, Cynolebias sandrii and Cynolebias sichleri.

There are Cynolebias species which are restricted to one or two known localities also in other Latin American countries, e.g. Cynolebias melanoorus, affinis and cinereus in Uruguay.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

When the proposal was drafted first, the Brazilian Management Authority gave no tentative view regarding the proposal. On the questionnaires it is indicated that the situation of the species could become more critical if removed from Appendix I, despite the fact that there is no evidence of trade and that the threat is attributed to deterioration of habitat in all five "species" and to environmental pollution in constanciae, marmoratus, opalescens and splendens.

7. Additional Remarks

The proposal was already submitted at the Ottawa meeting. It was withdrawn when the Brazilian delegation indicated that they wished to submit additional information for a more thorough review. This information has not been received within the time convened. Consequently, Animals Committee requested Switzerland to resubmit the proposal after having checked trade data again with WTMU.

It should be noted also that if trade in specimens taken from the wild were to take place, this trade most likely would not be in adult fish, but in spawn which certainly could not be considered as "readily recognizable parts or derivatives" in terms of the Convention.

As a consequence, CITES is not a suitable vehicle for protecting these species, but protection should take place in situ.

8. References

Amato, L.H., 1986. Seis especies nuevas del género Cynolebias Steindachner, 1876, de Uruguay y Paraguay (Cyprinodontiformes, Rivulidae). Com. zool. Mus. Hist. Nat. Montevideo, Vol. XI, Nr. 162.

