

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Ten Year Review Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Deletion of Alocasia sanderiana from Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Republic of the Philippines and the Swiss Confederation.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Liliopsida (monocotyledons)
12. Order: Arales
13. Family: Araceae
14. Species: Alocasia sanderiana [Hort. ex] Bull 1884
[syn. = Schizocasia sanderiana (Bull) Engler]

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: This species occurs in the Philippines, where it is endemic on Mindanao Island, and known from: Misamis; Agusan River (Butuan subprovince); Pautar (Merrill, 1925; Burnett, 1984; Smithsonian Institution, n.d.).
22. Population: Not known.
23. Habitat: This species grows in damp primary forest at low elevations (300-600 m) (Merrill, 1925).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Unknown. J.B. Alvarez, Jr. (Philippine Bureau of Forest Development) States that "only cultural specimens" are founded in trade [in litt. to U.S. Scientific Authority (R. McManus, 25/07/77)].
32. Legal International Trade: According to Quisumbing (1967) and the Delegation of the Philippines (1973) it is "very rare now; great quantities exported in past years; desirable ornamental." Dr D. Nicolson, [Smithsonian Institution, in litt. to the IUCN Threatened Plants Unit (TPU), 1980], stated that it is "a popular greenhouse plant but probably not much in trade outside of tropical areas. It is not tolerant enough of growing in houses and I suspect, rather hard to reproduce on a commercial scale".

In Australia, *A. sanderiana* is available horticulturally through collectors [sic] (Burnett *in litt.* to TPU, 1980), and is quite common in collections (Burnett, 1984). It is only rarely offered in nurseries and plant shops and there is no evidence of importation for the retail trade (Burnett *in litt.* to TPU, 1980). This species was not seen in trade in Germany (Bognor *in litt.* to TPU, 1980). A nursery based in Calcutta listed the plant in its catalog (Doc. 3.19 Annex 1). It is quite common also in collections in the U.S.A. (Burnett, 1984). *Alocasia sanderiana* additionally is in commercial trade in U.S.A.; e.g. about 40 nurseries in the south Florida area artificially propagate the species. Propagation is thought to be rapid enough to easily supply present demand without looking for wild-collected material (Dr. D. Burch *in litt.* to TPU, 1980).

33. Illegal Trade: Unknown. If there is such a trade from the Philippines, cut portions of rhizomes and corms (an underground stem-base, a vegetative reproductive body) would be hard to detect and identify.
34. Potential Trade Threats: Unknown. Burnett (1984) mentions the need to introduce some new wild stock, as he believes that "after many decades of repeated vegetative propagation, it is apparent that the quality of horticultural stock is declining". The species flowers infrequently (Burnett, 1984).

4. Protection Status

41. National: Unknown. The Philippines has several laws that might protect this species if necessary (Davis et al., 1986), but whether it qualifies and is specifically included in Act no. 3983 or Presidential Decrees No. 1152 and No. 1586 is unknown, nor is it known how those laws are enforced.
42. International: Unknown. Resolution Conf. 2.19 does not appear to support the CITES listing of this species in Appendix I, considering the extent to which it is established in horticulture and the apparent lack of an international trade threat to it. *Alocasia sanderiana* has been a popular ornamental plant since its introduction around 1884. It appears to be well established from cultivated sources now (Burnett, 1984; Leedy et al., 1984; Bailey, 1976). The species was described by Bailey (1939) as "one of the best of recent introductions. Runs into various forms and has entered largely into cultivated hybrids" (see section 5 below).
43. Additional Protection Needs: Unknown. Burnett (1984) comments on the difficulty of seeking new material from "the troubled island" of Mindanao; Myers (1988) addresses general environmental pressures there. Artificially propagated by suckers of cutting of the rhizome.

5. Information on Similar Species and Hybrids

Walters et al. (1984) provide keys to related genera in cultivation (whether flowering or not). There are less than 70 species in the genus, which occurs in the Indomalaysian area. Gutiérrez (1974) lists a total of 10 endemic species of *Alocasia* in the Philippines; *A. zebrina* also was listed in Appendix I, but delisted at the 7th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Leedy et al. (1984) discuss 14 species of *Alocasia* in cultivation and provide a key to 11 of them. Bailey (1976) covers several *Alocasia* species and hybrids. *Alocasia macrorrhiza* (L.) G. Don fil. (giant taro) is grown for its edible rhizome and shoots, and as an ornamental plant. Burnett (1984) illustrates and comments on the cultivated alocasias, stating that

A. sanderiana is one of the most strikingly different of them all. He also mentions three non-hybrid cultivars of A. sanderiana.

Bailey (1976) says that through hybridization, many handsome cultivars of Alocasia have been produced; some plants in the trade may be of mixed hybrid parentage and so difficult to identify. According to Birdsey (1951), in the Miami, Florida area there were countless hybrid seedlings with A. sanderiana as one of the parents. Well-known artificial hybrids of A. sanderiana with several species are (Leedy et al., 1984):

A. 'Amazonica' = A. putzevskii N.E. Brown [syn. = A. lowii W.J. Hooker var. grandis Hort. ex Sander] x A. sanderiana;

according to Burnett (1984), this is "perhaps the most enduringly popular Alocasia hybrid."

A. x chantrieri André = A. plumbea (C. Koch) Van Houtte X A. sanderiana

6. Comments from Country of Origin

Endemic.

7. Additional Remarks

8. References

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