

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of *Cypripedium elegans* from Appendix II to Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

India.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Monocotyledoneae
12. Order: Orchidales
13. Family: Orchidaceae
14. Scientific Name: *Cypripedium elegans* Reichb. f. in Flora 69: 561. 1886.
15. Scientific Synonyms: None.
16. Common Names: English: "Lady's Slipper" Orchid  
French:  
Spanish:
17. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Population Status: Listed as "Rare" in the Red Data Book of Indian Plants vol.1.
22. Population Trend: Vulnerable.
23. Distribution: U.P., Sikkim. Nepal; Bhutan; S.E. Tibet.
24. Habitat Availability: In moist shady places near streams or along open hill slopes at alt. 3300-4200 m.
25. Geographic Trend: Himalayas, from Garhwal eastward to Sikkim and S.E. Tibet.
26. Threats: Becoming rare due to drastic habitat destruction, overgrazing and ruthless collections.

3. Utilization and Trade

31. National Utilization: Horticultural and ornamental for elegance of flowers.

32. Legal International Trade: Trade regulated under CITES Appendix II.

*Cypripedium* spp. Exports 1983-1987:

1983 Total: 5433 plants (AU,3; GH,730; DE,110; NL,4500; NZ,30; US,60)

1984 Total: 1373 (AU,446; FR,50; DE,300; NL,3; CH,400; US,111; JP,60; CA,3)

1985 Total: 11085 (AU,5020; 78; HK,400; NL,3000; US, #&; JP,2450)

1986 Total: 7963 (AU,1228; DK,1050; DE,1300; HK,200; NL,3312; CH,300; US,308; JP,190; GB,75)

1987 Total: 1236 (AU,150; BE,18; HK,400; US,588; GB,80)

33. Illegal Trade: Insufficient data available.

34. Actual Potential Trade Impact: It is an attractive high altitude ground orchids with elegant flower having high potentiality in national and international trade.

35. Captive Breeding and Artificial Propagation (outside country of origin): As reported artificial propagation through tissue culture is difficult.

4. Conservation and Management

41. Legal Status

411. National: Export of wild orchids prohibited under Export (Control) Order.

412. International: Export regulated under Appendix II of CITES.

42. Species Management

421. Population Monitoring: Being undertaken.

422. Habitat Conservation: *In situ* habitat conservation measure taken in Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks.

423. Management Measures: Multiplication through tissue culture technique and subsequent reintroduction in areas of similar habitat is being tried.

43. Control Measures

431. International Trade: Regulated under Appendix II of CITES.

432. Domestic Measures: Exploitation from wild source prohibited and some *in situ* protection within national parks/sanctuaries is being undertaken.

5. Information on Similar Species

51. Similarity in Appearance: All *Cypripedium* species belong to "Lady's Slipper" Orchid group and superficially the habit of seedlings and flowers look alike but *Cypripedium elegans* can be separated by nearly orbicular 2-leaved habit and very short lip, ca 1 cm long.

52. Nature of Specimen in Trade: Seedlings, mature plants and flowers.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

7. Additional Remarks

Description: Hairy herbs, 10-60 cm high. Leaves 2, without stalk (sessile), opposite, nearly orbicular, 5 x 3.5 cm, hairy. Flower single, 2-2.5 cm. across, brownish with dark lines. Lip shorter than sepals, ca 1 cm long, depressed, sides abruptly infolded about 1 cm long.

8. References

Chakrabarti, K., Indian Orchid Trade - A Critical Review, in press.

Hajra, P.K. 1983. Botany of Nanda Devi National Park. POSSCEF. BSI.

Hajra, P.K. 1987. In Red Data Book of Indian Plants vol. 1: 243. eds : Nayar, M.P. & Sastry, A.R.K., BSI.

Kataki, S.K. 1984. The Lady's slipper orchids of India. POSSCEF. BSI.

Pradhan, U.C. 1976. Indian Orchids : Guide to Identification and culture 1 : 34, Kalimpong.

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