

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Aconitum ferox* in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

India.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Dicotyledoneae
12. Order: Ranales
13. Family: Ranunculaceae
14. Scientific Name: *Aconitum ferox* Wall. ex Seringer in Mus. Helv. 1: 160, t. 15, ff. 43-44. 1823
15. Scientific Synonyms: None.
16. Common Names:
English: Indian Aconite
French:
Spanish:
Beng.: Katbish
Guj.: Vacchanag
Hindi: Bacchanag bish, Mahoor, Mitha zahar
Kan.: Vasanabhi
Lepcha: Nyiene
Mal.: Vatsanabhi
Mar.: Bachnag
Tam.: Vashanabi
Tal.: Ativasanabhi
16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Population Status: Listed in Red Data Book of Indian Plants, vol.1 as "vulnerable".
22. Population Trend: Endemic to Himalaya; the present level of exploitation for the roots is considered to be pushing the species towards endangered category.
23. Distribution: Kashmir to Sikkim. Nepal, Bhutan.
24. Habitat Availability: Himalayan moist forests, amongst shrubs at altitude ca 2100-3800 m.
25. Geographic Trend: Himalayas; from north-west (Kashmir) extending eastward to Bhutan.

26. Threats: Becoming endangered due to excessive collection of roots for medicinal uses.
3. Utilization and Trade:
31. National Utilization: It is a chief source of 'India Aconite' of commerce used for curing many diseases and also as arrow poison.
32. Legal International Trade:
33. Illegal Trade: Raw materials as well as extract is exported but the quantities are not known.
34. Actual Potential Trade Impact: Has high potentiality in trade as the plant is a chief source of "Indian Aconite" having high trade demand and the plant is endemic to Himalayas. Present exploitation levels are seriously depleting stocks.
35. Captive Breeding or Artificial Propagation (outside country of origin): Not known.
4. Conservation and Management:
41. Legal Status:
411. National: Export of plant and its derivatives is prohibited under Export (Control) Order.
412. International:
42. Species Management:
421. Population Monitoring: Being undertaken to some degree.
422. Habitat Conservation: No specific conservation strategy is implemented so far but certain areas of its occurrence are included under different declared protected areas.
423. Management Measures: Measures for *in situ* conservation are being undertaken and attempts made to develop and promote cultivation.
43. Control Measures:
431. International Trade:
432. Domestic Measures: Due to over-exploitation the species is under severe threat. So, measures are being undertaken to protect the plant in its natural habitat, to ban the collection from the wild source and to attempt large scale cultivation as well as *ex situ* propagation.
5. Information on Similar Species
51. Similarity in Appearance: Commercial Crude 'A. ferox' or 'Indian Aconite' available in the market is a mixture of number of *Aconite* spp. mainly *A. ferox*, *A. deinorrhizum*, *A. laciniatum*, *A. atrox*, *A. spicatum*, *A. heterophyllum* and *A. balfourii* of which *A. ferox* constitutes the chief source. All species have high medicinal potentiality, thus the genus *Aconitum* is being considered for Appendix II of CITES.
52. Nature of Specimen in Trade: Root and extracted alkaloid.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

61. Range States: Himalayan range of Nepal and Bhutan. Listed as an important medicinal plant traded from Nepal (Nepal-UK Forestry Research Project).

7. Additional Remarks

Description: Biennial, erect herb with tuberous roots. Leaves palmately 5-fid, 8-15 cm in diam., lobes 5, ovate, wedge-shaped, acuminate, deeply incised. Flowers 2-3 cm long, blue, uppermost sepal 2-2.5 x 0.8-1 cm with short acute beak; upper lateral sepals ovate, *ca* 10 x 3 mm. Petal heads somewhat S-shaped *ca* 6 mm long; spur recurved. Follicles 5, finely hairy.

8. References

Anonymous 1985. *The Wealth of India*. CSIR, New Delhi, Vol. I: 57-63 (Rev. ed.).

Chowdhery, H.J. 1987. In *Red Data Book of Indian Plants* Vol. 1: 313. eds: M.P. Nayar & A.R.K. Sastry, BSI.

Rao, M.A. 1993. Ranunculaceae in *Flora of India* Vol. I: 12-13, BSI. Calcutta.

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