

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Taxus wallichiana* in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

India.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Gymnospermae
12. Order: Taxales
13. Family: Taxaceae
14. Scientific Name: *Taxus wallichiana* Zucc. in Abhandl. Bayer. Acad. Classe. Math. Phys. 3: 805. t. 5. 1843
15. Scientific synonyms: *Taxus baccata* sensu Hook.f. 1888. auct non L.: *Taxus baccata* L. ssp. *wallichiana* (Zucc.) Pilger in Engl. Das Pflanzenreich Heft 18: 112. 1903
16. Common Names:
English: Himalayan Yew
French:
Spanish:
Beng.: Burmie, birmie, iichujhau;
Hindi: Thuno, thuner, Birmi, Zirnupbirmi
Kashmir: Birmi, Postil
Khasi: Basmi, birni chogam, dhunu, dingsableh
Kumaon: Thaner, Thuner, Brahmi, Gallu
Lepcha: Cheongbu, tumsi
Nepal: Talis patra, Barme salle, Dhengra salla, Teheiraysulah, tcheiraygulab
Sans.: Manduparni

17. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Population Status: Not yet designated.
22. Population Trend: At threat.
23. Distribution: Throughout Himalayas.

24. Habitat Availability: Subtemperate to subalpine Himalayas between 1500-3500 m, in association with Oaks, Silver Firs, Deodar, Spruce and Rhododendron.
25. Geographic Trend: Subtemperate to subalpine Himalayas from West to East and extending to Burma through Meghalaya and Manipur.
26. Threats: The young shoots, leaves and bark have been traditionally used for their medicinal properties for a long time. But now huge quantities of leaves are being commercially and destructively exploited for their potential anticarcinogenic properties. The present indiscriminate collection from wild source is creating a severe threat to the species.

3. Utilization and Trade

31. National Utilization: Leaves, young shoots and bark are used locally to a limited extent for various medicinal purposes. The wood is valued and used for various fancy articles and for wood-carving and inlaying.
32. Legal International Trade: Since 1992 substantial quantities of leaves and roots have been exported or presented for export (export has now been banned). Recorded amounts are:

Exported from Madras/Cochin: 495.137 MTonnes
 Exported through Delhi: 53.75 MTonnes

It is said that the same companies still have in hand 600 Mtonnes and access to a further 2000 Mtonnes which they wish to export.

Permits for over 5000 Mtonnes have been issued by Arunachal Pradesh apparently mainly intended for export via Madras.

Several companies including Dabur India are using this species for extraction and processing of taxol. Export records for taxol are not available.

33. Illegal Trade: Attempts have been made to export *Taxus wallichiana* (*T. baccata*) by misdeclaration. However this species has only recently been prohibited for export.
34. Actual Potential Trade Impact: The recent enormous upswing in demand mainly for the leaves of this species for the processing of Taxol both by indigenous and foreign companies is having a marked effect on the survival of the species. It has been noted that collection of the relevant parts is being done in a highly destructive manner (including felling of the tree) and the long term effect of such exploitation on a slow growing species such as this is greatly to be feared.
35. Captive Breeding or Artificial Propagation (outside country of origin): Not known.

4. Conservation and Management

41. Legal Status:

411. National: Plant, plant portions and their derivatives prohibited for export under Export (Control) Order.

412. International: None so far.

42. Species Management:

421. Population Monitoring: Distribution studies being urgently taken up.

423 Habitat Conservation: Occurs in some already protected areas and reserve forests.

423. Management Measures: Distribution surveys and studies into regeneration and nursery techniques are being taken up and cultivation attempted.

43. Control Measures:

431. International Trade:

432. Domestic Measures: Exploitation from wild source is being strictly regulated; methods of plucking and royalty payments are being reassessed. Some states have banned the issue of permits.

5. Information on Similar Species

51. Similarity in Appearance: Linear leaved *Cephalotaxus griffithii* Hook.f. looks to some extent similar to *T. wallichiana* Zucc. but the former can be distinguished by its spirally crowded scales of female cone and two or more ovules on each scale, while the scales of female cone of *T. wallichiana* Zucc. are few and imbricate and ovules solitary.

52. Nature of Specimen in Trade: Roots, bark, young shoots and leaves. Derivatives.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Similar exploitation increase occurring from Nepal Himalaya.

7. Additional Remarks

Description: Large, evergreen trees attaining ca 30 m height and 1.5-1.8 m in girth with spreading branches. Leaves distichous, linear, more or less falcate with recurved margin, shining green above and paler beneath, uninerved. Flowers usually dioecious; male strobili stalked, globose arising from the axils of the leaves on the underside of the branches; female strobili solitary, axillary. Seeds borne in a scarlet, fleshy cup.

8. References

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Raizada, M.B. & Sahni K.C. 1960. *Indian Forest Rec. N.S. Bot.* 5: 103. 1960.

