

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Conepatus* spp. in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Republic of Chile.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Mammalia

12. Order: Carnivora

13. Family: Mustelidae

14. Species: *Conepatus chinga*
Conepatus casteneus
Conepatus leuconotus
Conepatus mesoleucus
Conepatus rex
Conepatus semistriatus
C. humboldtii (already included in Appendix II)

15. Common Names: English: Hog-nosed skunk, Patagonian skunk.
French: Moufette à nez de cochon
Spanish: Zorrino, Zorrillo, Chingue, Añatuya, Mepurite (Venezuela and Colombia), Mofeta (Mexico)
Portuguese: Jaritataca, Yaguaritaca o Maritaca (Brazil)

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution:

The genus *Conepatus* occurs from southern United States to the Strait of Magellan through Central and South America, but is absent from Tierra del Fuego.

The species *C. chinga* has the widest distribution and occurs in Southeast Brazil, West of Bolivia, Southeast of Peru, North of Chile, central Chile to the Chiloé Island and Uruguay. *C. rex*, in Argentina, is restricted under Olrog and Lucero (1982) to the Puneña region, i. e. North and west of Jujuy, east of Salta and north of Catamarca; in Chile it is restricted to the altiplano of the Province of Tarapacá.

The Patagonian skunk *Conepatus humboldtii* (CITES Appendix II) in Argentina, extends its distribution from Río Colorado, in the Province of Río Negro, to the South of the Province of Buenos Aires, to the Provinces of Chubut and Santa Cruz to the Strait of Magellan. It occurs also in South Chile.

C. castaneus occurs from Río Colorado northwards covering the Provinces of Río Negro, Buenos Aires, Córdoba y la Rioja.

C. leuconotus is distributed on the coast of the Gulf of Texas (USA) to the coast of Veracruz (Mexico).

C. mesoleucus is distributed in Arizona, Colorado and Texas (USA) and southwards to Nicaragua.

C. semistriatus: Typical locality: Colombia. Distribution: Veracruz, Tabasco and Yucatan (Mexico), to Peru and East of Brazil.

22. Population: There is no reliable population estimates.

23. Habitat:

Conepatus chinga occurs in savannahs and forests, in hills up to 3,000 m altitude.

C. castaneus lives in open lands, while *C. rex* lives in arid zones between 3,500 and 4,000 m in high mountains.

C. humboldtii lives in bush zones, stony soils, pampas, in general in open lands.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: In Argentina, the skin is used in the fur industry to manufacture jackets, coats and blankets.

32. Legal International Trade: Under Ojeda and Mares (1982), 1,243,129 skins were exported between 1972-1979, including skins of the four Argentine species.

The significant decrease in the number of exported skins since 1980 may be attributed to the protection granted in 1979 by the inclusion of *Conepatus humboldtii* in CITES Appendix II and partly to a shrinkage of the skin market.

All species of skunks exported after the inclusion of *C. humboldtii* in CITES Appendix II went out under this name which leads to suppose that the other species were traded but not identified.

33. Illegal Trade: There are no concrete figures. In some cases of confiscation, the number of skins found were never significant.

34. Potential Trade Threats

341. Live Specimens: The trade in live animals is practically non-existent.

342. Parts and Derivatives: Nowadays, these species are not very much used in the fur industry.

4. Protection Status

41. National:

In Argentina, export, interprovincial transit and commercialization of products and subproducts of all species of skunks are prohibited at the federal level by Resolution 793/87 until the legally declared stocks are exhausted.

In Brazil, Paraguay y Bolivia the commercial use of the wild fauna is prohibited.

In Chile, the whole genus *Conepatus* is protected by an indefinite hunting ban by Dec. Supremo No. 40 of 1972 from Agriculture and, since 1993 by Dec. Supremo No. 133, there is a hunting ban for conservation for 20 years (equivalent to the former indefinite hunting ban).

42. International:

The species *Conepatus humboldtii* is included in CITES Appendix II since 1979.

43. Additional Protection Needs: The inclusion of all species of *Conepatus* in CITES Appendix II is considered necessary to obtain data on the trade in the different species, assess the level of exploitation and improve the controls on export to avoid that skins of the species from the South cone be exported indistinctly under the name *C. humboldtii*.

5. Information on Similar Species

The coloration of these animals, even though it follows a general pattern, presents a marked variability, even within populations of the same species. Variations in an individual are also noticeable during different seasons of the year. This circumstance complicates the clarification of the taxonomy of the species.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Copies of this proposal have been sent for comments to the countries of the genus range (Paraguay, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela).

7. Additional Remarks

As from 1990 an increased demand in skunk skins is observed and it is expected that this trend will continue in the future.

8. References

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