

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

Other proposals

A. Proposal

It is proposed that *Camellia chrysantha* be withdrawn from Appendix II

B. Proponent

The People's Republic of China

C. Supporting Statement**1. Taxonomy**

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|------------------------|---|
| 1.1. Class | Dicotyledonae |
| 1.2. Order | Theales |
| 1.3. Family | Theaceae |
| 1.4. Genus and species | <i>Camellia chrysantha</i> (Hu) Tuyama 1975 |
| 1.5. Synonyms | <i>Theopsis chrysantha</i> Hu 1965;
<i>Camellia petelotii</i> (Merrill) Sealy 1949;
<i>Thea petelotii</i> Merrill 1924;
<i>Camellia nitidissima</i> C. W. Chi 1948 |
| 1.6. Common names | Golden-flowered Camellias |

2. Biological Parameters**2.1. Distribution**

This beautiful species is distributed in China and Vietnam. In China it is found in southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. According to Min and Zhang (1993) the species consists of two varieties: *C. petelotii* var. *petelotii* and *C. petelotii* var. *microcarpa*. The former occurs in Yongning, Fangcheng, Long'an, Pingguo, Ningming and Longzhou counties, while the latter occurs in Yongning, Fangcheng, Wuming and Fusui counties.

They grow at low elevations up to an altitude of 700 m, and mostly in limestone areas.

2.2. Habitat availability:

Camellia petelotii grows in primary or secondary monsoon rain forests in valleys.

The species prefers warm, humid and shady environments with red loam soils or lime soils with pH 4.5-7.0. If such forests are destructured individuals of this species are doomed to die.

2.3. Population status

We have no information on the number of populations and their size in China at present, but according to Li and Camellia peteloti Huang (1994) the population in Fangcheng is rather large, comprising 635 thousands individuals, and Su (1994) reports based on his plot exploration that there are 317 individuals in an area of 100m² in the Nonggang Nature Reserve. Thus, *Camellia chrysantha* (*C.petelotii*) has quite a large amount of individuals.

2.4. Population trend

Su (1994) considers, after having investigated population ecology, that in mature and relatively well protected communities this species forms a stable and continuous structure of populations. Among the 317 individuals in the plot in the Nonggang Nature Reserve, according to Su's (1994) statistics, 180 are in range of 0.5-2 m in height, 109 in range of 2-4 m, and 28 in range of >4 m.. From this structure of ages, *C.petelotii* may be considered to be in a stable state, even with a tendency of growth.

2.5. Geographic trends

There is no record of the past distribution of *Camellia petelotii*, and thus we can not say that the range of this species is expanding or shrinking.

2.6. Role of the species in the ecosystem

Camellia petelotii is not a keystone species, but it is an important indicator of what has happened and is still happening to the forests.

2.7. Threats

The main threats have been loss of habitats to agriculture or to artificial afforestation, and being cut for firewood outside the nature reserves. Individuals of this species were dug for transplantation in 1980's and leaves were collected for several years as materials for production of health drink by the beginning of 1990's, but these two actions have ceased now.

3. Utilization and Trade

3.1. National utilization

Because of its large flowers with golden-yellow color, *Camellia petelotii* has been used as genetic resources for breeding. It was widely introduced and raised in 1980's directly as flowers for private gardens but usually with little success, and thus this action has nearly stopped. Leaves of this species were collected a couple of years ago as material for producing health drink, which is of limited market.

3.2. Legal international trade

In 1994, there are 114 *Camellia chysantha* to be exported as a purpose of Breeding after the first international symposium of *Camellia chysantha* . After that, there is no export record of *Camellia chysantha*.

3.3. Illegal trade

The largest national trade took place in the 1980's and early 1990's, when thousands of young plants were sold as flowers and leaves were sold in tons as material for producing health drink, but there is no precise record.

3.4. Actual or potential trade impacts

Because *Camellia petelotii* can not be introduced directly as flowers, and the health drink produced with its leaves as material is of limited market, there is no at present apparent actual and potential trade impacts.

3.5. Artificial propagation for commercial purposes.

Camellia petelotii and its allies reproduce with seeds in wild . They can be propagated easily with seeds . Vegetative propagation like cuttage can have success as high as more than 90% (the Nanning City Arboretum and Nanning City Golden-flowered Camellias Garden).Yang (1994) from the Management Office of Xishan Scenery Area in Guiping County , Guangxi, reports that the transplantation of two year old seedlings is successful by 100%; the propagation with seeds successful by 95%; the success of cuttage can reach 90%; the grafting is a method with success of 95%; the air layering is also a successful and commonly used method of vegetative propagation.

4. Conservation and Management

4.1. Legal status

Camellia petelotii is listed in "China Plant Red Data Book"(Vol.1) (Fu, 1992) , and listed as a state protected species of second grade. Thus no person may pick, sell or export any *Camellia petelotii* without permission

4.2. Species management

China's government and the authority of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region have paid more attention to the nature reserves and has so far established eight nature reserves in SW. Guangxi, where *Camellia petelotii* is mainly distributed: the Fangcheng Nature Reserve, the Fusui Nature Reserve, the West Damingshan Nature Reserve, the Longhushan Nature Reserve, the Chongzuo Nature Reserve, the Nonggang Nature Reserve, the Shiwandashan Nature Reserve and the Qinglongshan Nature Reserve (according to the Forestry Department of Guangxi: " The Nature Reserve in Guangxi") . These eight nature reserves cover nearly all localities of the species , with the only one locality in Yongning outside the nature reserves.

4.3. Control measures.

China has recently issued a law and , as mentioned above , *Camellia petelotii* is listed as a state protected species of second grade. Therefore, *Camellia petelotii* is protected by the state law.

5. Information on similar species

Camellia petelotii has several similar species, i.e. *C. euphlebia*, *C. fascicularis*, *C. tonkinensis*, *C. impressinervis* and *C. flavida*. However, there is none in trade among these five species ,which could be confused with *Camellia petelotii*.

6. Other opinions

Camellia chysantha is distributed in the northern part of Vietnam except China. The CITES Management Authority of China has faxed the draft of proposal to the CITES Management Authority of Vietnam for comments on Dec. 23 ,1996, but we haven't received any information at present.