

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

Inclusion of *Operculicarya hyphaenoides* in Appendix II.

B. Proponent

Madagascar*

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

- 1.1 Class: Dicotyledons
- Subclass: Rosidae
- 1.2 Order: Sapindales
- 1.3 Family: Anacardiaceae
- 1.4 Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year: *Operculicarya hyphaenoides*.
H. Perrier, 1944.
- 1.5 Scientific synonyms: ---
- 1.6 Common names: jabihy, sakoakomba, saby, tabily, zabily
- 1.7 Code numbers: ---

2. Species characteristics

2.1 Description

Diœcious bush with a bulbous and slightly tapered conical or cylindrical trunk with gnarled ramifications, with long and short zigzagging branches. Its bark exudes thick soluble aromatic gum. Thick, alternate, odd-pinnate compound leaves on long branches and grouped at the apex of short branches. Pseudoterminal inflorescences at the apex of short branches, solitary (female), small pentamerous flowers, five imbricate sepals. The fruit is a small fleshy indehiscent green to red (at maturity) drupe with a single seed. Taproot.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

2.2 Distribution

This endemic species is found only on some sites in the south of Madagascar (Tsimanampetsotsa, Bemananteza, Zohin'i Mitoho and on the Toliara table mountain). Its range is fragmented.

2.3 Population

Five hundred and fifty plants were counted in 2006 on the Toliara table mountain up to Saint Augustin.

2.4 Habitat

It is found in low arid and subarid xerophylic shrub thickets of southern Madagascar.

2.5 Conservation status

It has an "Endangered" (**EN**) conservation status based on the field studies carried out in 2006.

3. Utilization and trade

3.1 National utilization

The bark of *Operculicarya hyphaenoides* is used to make herbal tea to help women recover their strength after childbirth. It is also an ornamental species.

3.2 Legal international trade

The species is exported in the form of seedlings. This species is not yet subject to CITES regulations.

3.3 Potential trade impacts

According to the CITES database, the number of exported specimens of this species has been increasing continuously (see table).

Years	2003	2004	2005	2006
CITES report	-	25	161	395

4. Protection status

4.1 Nationally

The species is found in unprotected areas and is subjected to strong anthropogenic pressures such as fires and excessive harvesting.

4.2 Internationally

The species is not yet included in CITES Appendix II.

5. Comments by the country of origin

Its inclusion in CITES Appendix II could be an efficient way of ensuring the proper management of specimens in the wild and, thereby, the protection of the species.

Its habitat must be protected in order to preserve the wild population.

6. References

SCHATZ G, 2001. Flore générique des arbres de Madagascar. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. 503p.

RAKOUTH, B. RAVAOMANALINA, H. RAKOTONAVALONA, A. 2006. Etude biogéographique et bioécologique de quelques espèces menacées dans le Sud de Madagascar dans le cadre de la CITES pour l'année 2005. Rapport final. Conservation International Madagascar.

Map: Geographical distribution of *Operculicarya hyphaenoides*

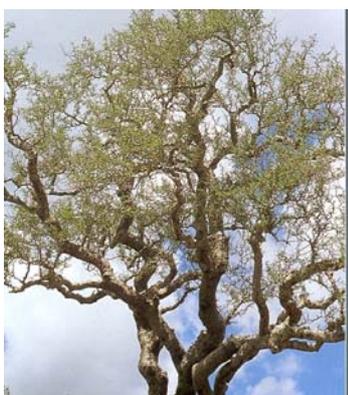
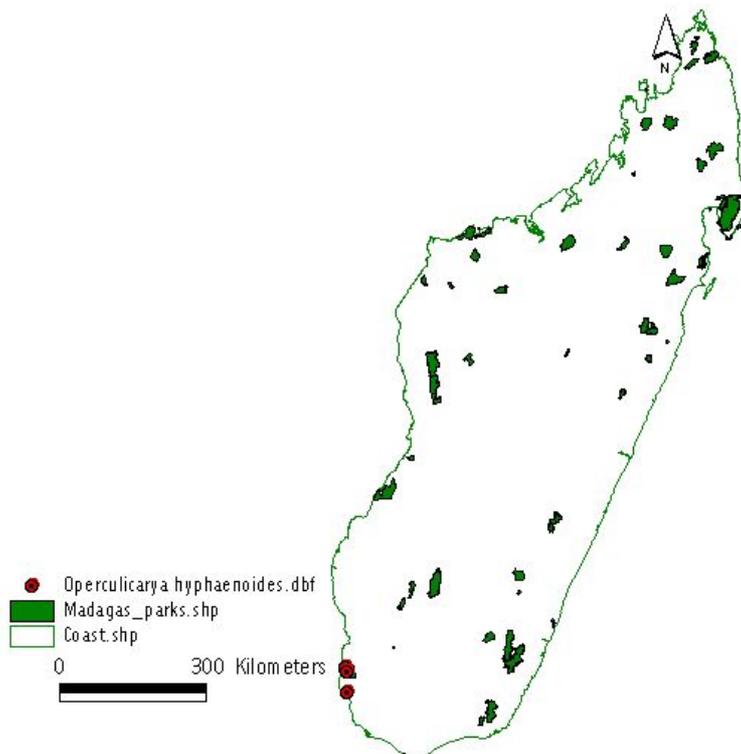


Photo 1:
Operculicarya hyphaenoides,
mother plant

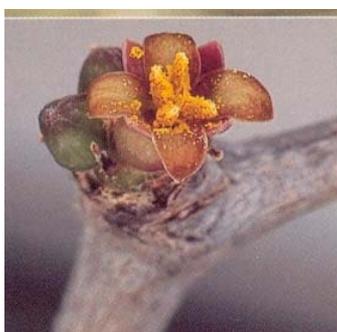


Photo 2:
Operculicarya hyphaenoides,
flower



Photo 3"
Operculicarya hyphaenoides,
leaves