

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 pachypus* 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 pachypus*,
H. Perrier, 1944.

1.5 Scientific synonyms: ---

1.6 Common names: tabily, beoditra, botiboty, jabihy, zaby

1.7 Code numbers: ---

2. Species characteristics

2.1 Description

Bonsai-like shrub, 0.2 to 1 m high; bulbous and slightly tapered conical or cylindrical trunk with gnarled ramifications, with long and short zigzagging branches. Its bark exudes thick soluble aromatic gum. 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, small pentamerous flowers. 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 the Toliara table mountain in the south of Madagascar.

2.3 Population

Seven hundred and five specimens were counted on an area of 1 ha in Andatabo. The surface area of Andatabo and its surroundings is estimated at 15 ha. The number of specimens found on the second site was about the same as in Saint Augustin.

2.4 Habitat

It is distributed in low dry and subarid xerophytic shrub thickets in southern Madagascar.

2.5 Conservation status

In accordance with the IUCN Red List criteria and based on our studies in 2006, the species has a "Critically Endangered" (**CR**) conservation status.

3. Utilization and trade

3.1 National utilization

The bark of *Operculicarya pachypus* is used to make herbal tea to treat diarrhoea in children.

It is also used as an ornamental plant in horticulture.

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

Collectors tend to harvest everything they find without leaving any seed bearers to ensure the production of new plants. Given its limited range and the continuous destruction of its habitat by fire, exports could lead to the absence of natural regeneration and, in the long term, to the decline and disappearance of populations in the wild.

According to the CITES report, the number of exported specimens of this species was very high in 2004 (see table).

Years	2003	2004	2005	2006
CITES report	70	1,212	312	259

4. Protection status

4.1 Nationally

The species is found in unprotected areas which are subjected to strong anthropogenic pressures, such as fires.

4.2 Internationally

The species is not yet included in CITES Appendices.

5. Comments by the country of origin

The inclusion of this species in CITES Appendix II seems to be an efficient way of ensuring the survival of the species.

The introduction of an artificial propagation programme would be desirable in order to strengthen the wild population.

6. References

SCHATZ G, 2001. Flore générique des arbres de Madagascar. Royal Botanical Garden, 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 pachypus*

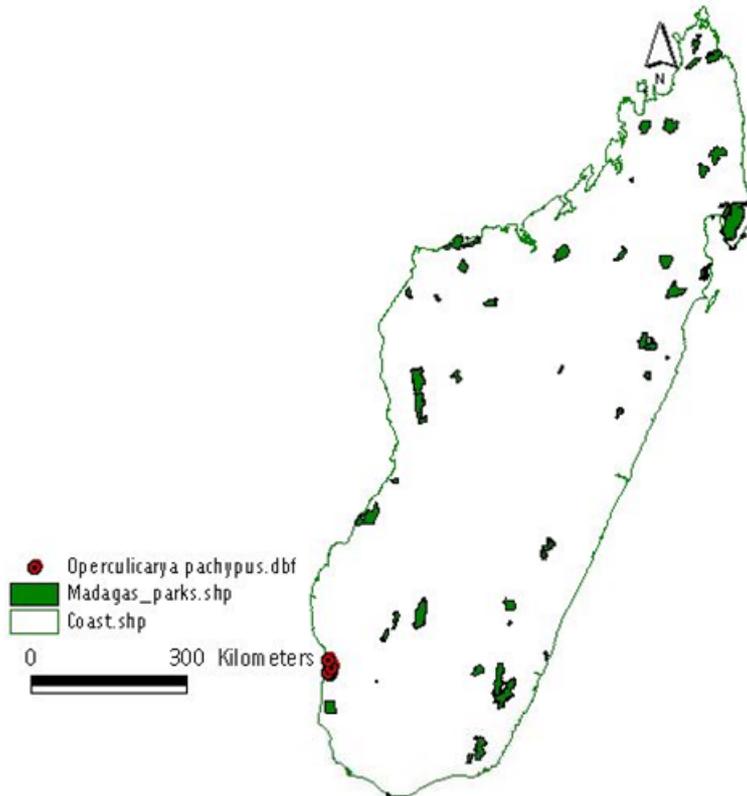


Photo: *Operculicarya pachypus*, in cultivation