

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 *Zygosicyos pubescens* in Appendix II.

B. Proponent

Madagascar*

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Dicotyledons

Subclass: Dilleniidae

1.2 Order: Violales

1.3 Family: Cucurbitaceae

1.4 Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year: *Zygosicyos pubescens* Beentje.1995.

1.5 Scientific synonyms: ---

1.6 Common names: tobory

1.7 Code numbers: ---

2. Species characteristics

2.1 Description

Diœcious herbaceous liana with branches growing out of globular flattened tubers, 10 to 20 cm in diameter. Simple leaves, covered with straight erect hairs. Solitary greenish-yellow male and female flowers. Obconical fruit. Elliptical seed.

* 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 is an endemic species with a very localized range. Only one locality has been recorded: the Ekodida forest in Amboasary Sud.

2.3 Population

One hundred and fifty specimens were counted on 3 ha in this Ekodida forest.

2.4 Habitat

The species usually grows on a gneissic rocky ground in dry forests. The habitat is restricted because it consists only of patches of forest.

2.5 Conservation status

It has been given an “Endangered” (**EN**) conservation status by the IUCN based on our field observations in 2006.

3. Utilization and trade

3.1 National utilization

This species is an ornamental plant.

3.2 Legal international trade

This species is exported in the form of seedlings; it is not subject to any CITES regulations.

3.3 Potential trade impacts

The CITES reports for 2004 and 2005 give the number of exported specimens of this species. There is little export of specimens because only a small number of plants enter into international trade, but this number could change in the future. This could occur as a result of the rarity of the species and of the difficulty of finding specimens.

Years	2003	2004	2005	2006
CITES Report	-	25	25	32

4. Protection status

4.1 Nationally

The species grows in unprotected areas which are subjected to strong anthropogenic pressures.

4.2 Internationally

The species is not yet included in CITES Appendix II.

5. Comments by the country of origin

The very localized range could be the main cause for its disappearance in the near future. The species deserves all possible controls, both local and international.

An artificial propagation programme is needed in order to strengthen the wild population and only plants propagated *ex situ* should be sold.

The inclusion of the species in Appendix II could be one way of controlling the development of trade in this species.

6. References

MABBERLEY, D. J. 2000. The plant book. A portable dictionary of the vascular plants. Second EDITION. 858 p.

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 *Zygosicyos pubescens*

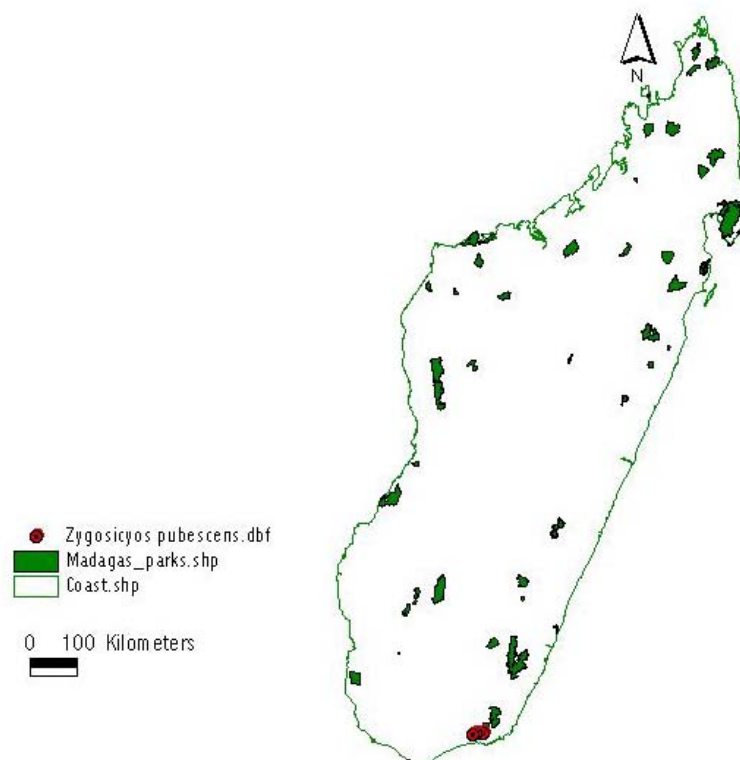


Photo 1: *Zygosicyos pubescens*, leaves



Photo 2: *Zygosicyos pubescens*, seeds



Photo 3: *Zygosicyos pubescens*, exportable size