

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 *Cyphostemma elephantopus* in Appendix II.

B. Proponent

Madagascar*

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

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|-----|--|--|--|
| 1.1 | Class: | Dicotyledons | |
| | Subclass: | Rosidae | |
| 1.2 | Order: | Rhamnales | |
| 1.3 | Family: | Vitaceae | |
| 1.4 | Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year: | <i>Cyphostemma elephantopus</i>
Descoing. 1962. | |
| 1.5 | Scientific synonyms: | --- | |
| 1.6 | Common names: | Lazampasika | |
| 1.7 | Code numbers: | --- | |

2. Species characteristics

2.1 Description

Perennial plant with a very large trunk, 20 to 30 cm in diameter, with a conical base. The underground system consists of a huge tuber. Hard bark. Presence of tendrils, elongated stipule. Compound pinnate or bipinnate leaves; 10 to 12 cm long. Inflorescence: many-flowered cyme; yellow flowers with loose pubescence. The fruit is a glabrous round berry.

* *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 in southern (Toliara table mountain, Ankilibe, north of Toliara, Tsingoritelo) and south-western parts of Madagascar (Toliara and Tsimanampetsotsa).

2.3 Population

About 500 plants of this species have been counted in Andatabo and Tsingoritelo to the north of Toliara and its surroundings.

2.4 Habitat

The species grows in dry, degraded forests and in xerophytic scrubland in the south.

2.5 Conservation measures

The species has been given a "Vulnerable" (**VU**) conservation status in accordance with the IUCN evaluation criteria (2006).

3. Utilization and trade

3.1 National utilization

This species is an ornamental plant.

3.2 Legal international trade

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

3.3 Potential trade impacts

According to the CITES report, the number of exported specimens decreased in the year 2005 (see table). The maximum number of sold seedlings was recorded in 2004, at 563.

Years	2003	2004	2005	2006
CITES report	-	563	116	70

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

In addition to the fact that only few specimens remain, the habitat of this species on the Ifaty route lies in seaside areas intended for the construction of large hotels, and the habitat found in Ankilibe, Andatabo lies on a private property. If measures are not taken, the rapid destruction of the habitat of this species could, in the short term, lead to its disappearance.

Its inclusion in Appendix II could be a way of ensuring a sustainable use and, thereby, the protection of the species. At the same time, the introduction of a programme to protect its habitat and to propagate the species artificially would be desirable in order to strengthen its wild population.

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: Distribution of *Cyphostemma elephantopus*

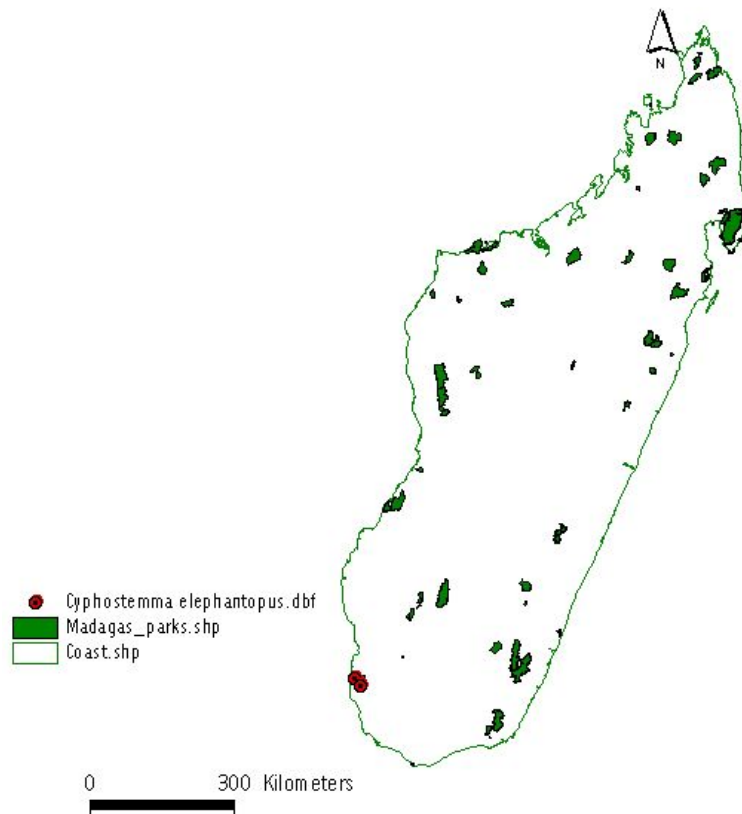


Photo 1: *Cyphostemma elephantopus*, mother plant



Photo 2: *Cyphostemma elephantopus*, in fruit