

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

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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 montagnacii* in Appendix II.

B. Proponent

Madagascar\*

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Dicotyledons

Subclass: Rosidae

1.2 Order: Rhamnales

1.3 Family: Vitaceae

1.4 Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year: *Cyphostemma montagnacii* Descoing 1962.

1.5 Scientific synonyms: ---

1.6 Common names: lazambohitra

1.7 Code numbers: ---

2. Species characteristics

2.1 Description

Shrub-like liana with thick bark. The underground system consists of a single cylindrical-conical tuber. A few thin cylindrical roots. Sessile, compound, generally triternate leaves with oblong elongated stipules. Inflorescence: many-flowered, glabrous cymes. Glabrous yellow flowers. The fruit is an oblong greenish-yellow berry which becomes blackish-purple at maturity.

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\* *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 has a very localized range in the Toliara Province: only on the Toliara table mountain.

## 2.3 Population

About 50 specimens were counted on the Toliara table mountain and in its surroundings in 2006.

## 2.4 Habitat

The species grows in low xerophytic thicket on limestone, and in scrubland.

## 2.5 Conservation measures

The species has a "Critically Endangered" (**CR**) conservation status in accordance with the IUCN evaluation criteria (2006).

## 3. Utilization and trade

### 3.1 National utilization

No local utilization has been recorded for this species.

### 3.2 Legal international trade

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

### 3.3 Potential trade impacts

The number of exported specimens of this species is indicated in the table below:

Years	2003	2004	2005	2006
CITES report	-	200	-	2

## 4. Protection status

### 4.1 Nationally

The species grows in unprotected areas which are subjected to strong anthropogenic pressures such as fire and the extraction of building stones.

### 4.2 Internationally

The species is not yet included in CITES Appendix II.

## 5. Comments by the country of origin

The number of mature specimens in the wild is very limited, which means that the species is at risk of continuous decline if conservation measures are not taken immediately. Its inclusion in Appendix II could be one way to better control trade in this species.

The rapid destruction of the habitat of this species (the Toliara table mountain) and the export of wild specimens could, in the short term, lead to its disappearance.

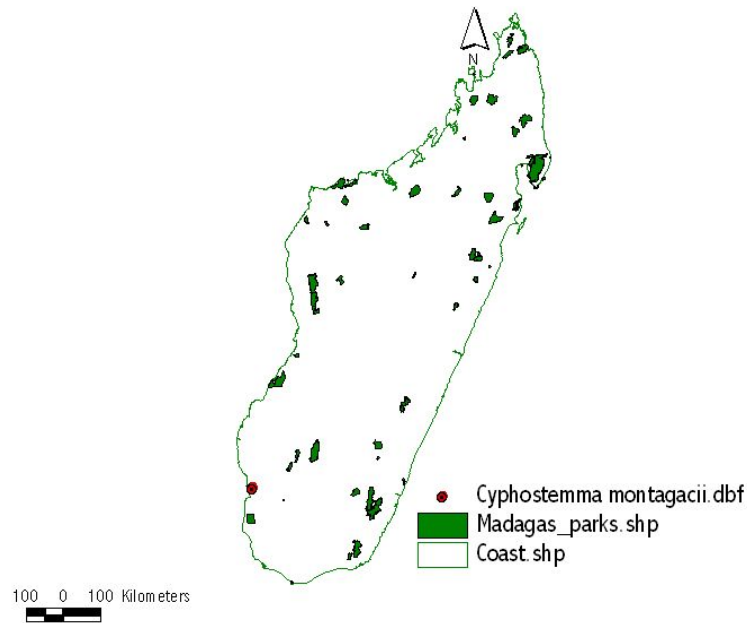
The introduction of an artificial propagation programme would be desirable in order to strengthen the wild population.

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 montagnacii*



**Photo 1:** *Cyphostemma montagnacii*, exportable size



**Photo 2:** Leaves of *Cyphostemma montagnacii*