



NDF WORKSHOP CASE STUDIES

WG 2 – Perennials

CASE STUDY 1 SUMMARY

Cibotium barometz

Country – **China**

Original language – English

NON-DETRIMENT FINDING FOR *CIBOTIUM BAROMETZ* IN CHINA

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Cibotium barometz formally member of the Dicksoniaceae, now of Cibotiaceae. The plants of this family are all large tree ferns, and are valued greatly as ornamental garden plants. The whole family was listed as early as 1975 in the CITES Appendix II, the category of controlled trade species. *Cibotium barometz* is listed as Appendix II plants.

Cibotium barometz (L.) J. Smith is a tree fern. The rhizome of this plant is very thick, woody, covered by long soft, golden yellow hairs, hence the name “Jinmao Gouji” (Golden Hair Dog Fern), or “Huanggoutou” (Yellow Dog’s Head Fern) in Chinese. It is a famous traditional Chinese herb medicine known as “Gouji” (Cibot Rhizome, Rhizoma Cibotii), and Chinese people have long known its medicinal use. The actions are believed to be to replenish the liver and kidney, strengthen the bones and muscles, expel and ease the joint and for deficiency of liver and kidney manifested as chronic rheumatism, backache, flaccidity and immovability of lower extremities, and frequent enuresis. The hairs on the rhizome have long been used as a styptic for bleeding wounds in China and in Malaysia.

With the increase of trade of *C. barometz* from China, the natural resources of this species have been greatly decreased and this aroused the attention of international and national authorities. In order to achieve sustainable use of the natural resources of this species, and meet the requirements of the CITES convention, a detail survey was made of the distribution, quantity, and status of trade of *C. barometz* in China. Up to now in China there is no artificial cultivation of *Cibotium barometz*; all the materials used are collected from wild populations.

C. barometz is not evenly distributed in China. By filed plot method carried out during 1997 to 1998, combined with experience of local people,

we can roughly get the biomass of the rhizome in each province and district. According to the richness of "Gouji" deposits in different counties, three classes are distinguished and mapped.

It is estimated that each year about 3,000 tons of "Gouji" enter the market for trade, and the largest consumers are factories for producing pills of "Zhuangyao Bushen Wan", a kind of medicine helpful for the function of kidney. Apart from the above markets, some "Gouji" is used in private or for export.

China has the most abundant deposits of "Gouji" in the world, and it is also a country that has the most export trade during the years between 1993 and 1997. The main import countries and regions are: South Korea, the United States, Hongkong of China, Canada and so on.

From 1997, Chinese CITES office decided export trade should not be allowed until a survey of the resources of *Cibotium barometz* is made. In recent years, the export of *C. barometz* was restricted, so the medicinal materials collected mainly circulated through internal markets. Considering all kinds of circulation channels, the whole collection quantity was less or equal to the annual allowed collection quantity.

It is hoped that international and national agencies will help with investigation of artificial cultivation, artificially promoting natural regeneration, and new medicinal products in order to lessen the pressure on wild resources of this much exploited species.