

## Inclusion of *Zygosicyos pubescens* in Appendix II

### Proponent: Madagascar

**Summary:** *Zygosicyos pubescens*, also known as *Xerosicyos pubescens*, is a succulent plant from Madagascar in the gourd family or Cucurbitaceae. It has a swollen, tuber-like stem or caudex which may exceptionally reach nearly one metre in diameter from which extend vine-like branches. Known occurrences of the species are confined to five localities in an area of some 400 km<sup>2</sup> in south-east Madagascar, where the species grows in scrub and dry forest in rocky areas with a little shade. The area it occurs in is generally affected by a range of anthropogenic pressures, including fire, overgrazing, fuelwood extraction and charcoal production. It is not known to occur in any protected area. The species is in some demand internationally as a horticultural plant, grown chiefly by specialist collectors of succulents. The CITES Management Authority of Madagascar records the export of some 80 specimens in the period 2003–2006. It may be assumed that most or all of these were wild-collected plants. The species does not appear to be widely available outside Madagascar at present. It can reportedly be propagated by both seeds and cuttings. Specimens were offered for sale by one exporter at EUR95.

**Analysis:** Available information, which is sparse, indicates that *Zygosicyos pubescens* has a restricted range with a small number of known occurrences. There is no information on its abundance in the wild. The very small number of individuals reported in trade in recent years is unlikely to have an impact on the wild population, but in the absence of any population information this cannot be said with certainty. There is therefore insufficient information to determine whether the species meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II or not.

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
Madagascar	<u>Taxonomy</u>
	 <i>Synonym: Xerosicyos pubescens. Placed in Zygosicyos by Rowley (2002); this designation is not universally accepted.</i>
	<u>Range</u>
	 <u>IUCN Global Category</u>  <i>Not assessed.</i>

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<b>Biological and trade criteria for inclusion in Appendix II (<i>Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) Annex 2 a</i>)</b>	
<b><u>A) Trade regulation needed to prevent future inclusion in Appendix I</u></b>	
<p>The species is extremely localized with only one known locality, the Ekodida Forest at Amboasary Sud. Around 150 individuals were censused in a 3-ha plot in the forest. Its habitat is restricted to forest remnants. Results of 2006 field work indicate the species would be classified as "endangered" under IUCN Criteria.</p> <p>The species grows in areas that are not protected and that are subject to human pressure.</p> <p>Reported trade: 0 in 2003; 25 in 2004; 25 in 2005; 32 in 2006.</p>	<p><i>Rauh (1996) reported the species from five sites contained within an area of around 400 km<sup>2</sup> in south-east Madagascar to the west of Taloagnaro. It grew in scrub and dry forest in rocky areas with a little shade. The main site was near the village of Andrahomana, south-east of Amboasary, where the plant grew in degraded Didierea scrub. It also occurred at the base of several small hills in the vicinity and was believed to be confined to this area.</i></p> <p><i>The species is dioecious (Rauh, 1996).</i></p> <p><i>One exporter offered the plant for EUR95 on a 2007 list; it was not otherwise found offered for sale, either under Xerosicyos or Zygosityos.</i></p>
<b><u>B) Regulation of trade required to ensure that harvest from the wild is not reducing population to level where survival might be threatened by continued harvest or other influences</u></b>	
<b>Inclusion in Appendix II to improve control of other listed species</b>	
<b><u>A) Specimens in trade resemble those of species listed in Appendix II under <i>Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) Annex 2 a</i> or listed in Appendix I</u></b>	
<b><u>B) Compelling other reasons to ensure that effective control of trade in currently listed species is achieved</u></b>	
<b>Other information</b>	
<b><u>Threats</u></b>	
<i>Natural habitats in southern Madagascar are affected by fire, charcoal and fuelwood extraction, over-grazing and conversion to agriculture. It is not known to what extent these affect this species.</i>	
<b><u>Conservation, management and legislation</u></b>	
Not known to occur in any protected area.	

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
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**Captive breeding/artificial propagation**

| Can reportedly be propagated by cuttings and seeds (Bihrmann, undated.).

**Other comments**

**Reviewers:**

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa

**References:**

Bihrmann, (undated). <http://www.bihrmann.com/caudiciforms/subs/xer-pub-sub.asp>

Rowley, G. (2002). *Zygosicyos pubescens* (Curcubitaceae), reclassified and renamed. *Cactus and Succulent Journal* 74(6): 273.

Rauh, W. (1996). Observations complémentaires sur *Xerosicyos pubescens* (Cucurbitaceae) de Madagascar *Bulletin du Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle*, Paris, 4e sér., 18, Section B, n° 1-2:161–166