

Inclusion of *Cyphostemma laza* in Appendix II

Proponent: Madagascar

Summary: *Cyphostemma laza* is a succulent plant from Madagascar. It is one of 250 or so species of *Cyphostemma*, a genus in the grapevine family or Vitaceae that is widely distributed in the tropics, of which around 23 species occur in Madagascar. It forms an elongated, thickened trunk or caudex up to 50cm in diameter and 1.2 m in height, from which extend vines up to five metres or so in length. The species typically grows in partially shaded areas in semi-deciduous dry forest and has a wide distribution in Madagascar, being recorded in locations in the south, south-west, west and north. Its extent of occurrence has been estimated at around 35 000 km² within which its area of occupancy is thought to be more than 5 000 km². Population densities, based on surveys at three small sites, varied from 60 to 730 plants per hectare. There were few young plants at these sites. The species is recorded from at least four protected areas and probably occurs in others.

The species is in trade as an ornamental plant, grown chiefly by specialist collectors of succulents. Recorded exports from Madagascar in the period 2003–2006 amounted to around 12 000 plants, with a rising trend. It seems very likely that a large proportion, if not all of these, were wild-collected. Propagation is by seed. The plant is available outside Madagascar, though apparently not widely, both as artificially propagated small plants and large, almost certainly, wild-collected specimens. The species is in some use as a medicinal plant in Madagascar.

Two other species of Malagasy *Cyphostemma* have been proposed for inclusion in Appendix II at CoP15: *C. elephantopus* and *C. montagnacii*, the subjects of proposals Prop. 39 and Prop. 41, respectively,

Analysis: *Cyphostemma laza* has a wide distribution in Madagascar and is evidently not uncommon in areas where it occurs. Taking lower estimates for population densities of 60 plants per hectare and an area of occupancy of over 500 000 ha indicates that the population is likely to be very numerous, even though occurrence within its area of occupancy is probably patchy. Although the population is likely to be declining owing to general pressures on its habitat from fire, over-grazing and conversion to agriculture, it is known to occur in at least four protected areas and probably occurs in others. The species features in the Malagasy pharmacopeia although there is no evidence for intensive or extensive local use in Madagascar. Reasonable numbers of plants have been recorded as exported in recent years, a large proportion, if not all of which, may have been wild-collected. This may well have led to local depletion of populations, but in view of the wide range and almost certainly large or very large wild population, it is unlikely that regulation of trade is necessary to prevent the species becoming eligible for inclusion in Appendix I in the near future, or to prevent harvest for trade reducing the population to a level at which its survival might become threatened by continued harvest or other influences.

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
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Taxonomy

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Range

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Madagascar

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<u>IUCN Global Category</u>	
<i>Not assessed.</i>	
Biological and trade criteria for inclusion in Appendix II (<i>Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) Annex 2 a</i>)	
<u>A) Trade regulation needed to prevent future inclusion in Appendix I</u>	
<p>Recorded in the north of Madagascar (Antsiranana province) and the south (Toliara province). Around 250 individuals were counted in the Andoharano forest north of Toliara, in the Tongobory Betsiky forest and in the forest of Elomaka Amboasary Sud. All these are areas where the plant is collected.</p> <p>Its habitat is threatened by anthropogenic factors. It has been assessed as "vulnerable" under IUCN Criteria.</p> <p>Number exported: 419 in 2003; 1177 in 2004; 2487 in 2005; 7814 in 2006.</p>	<p><i>The species typically occurs in partially shaded areas in semi-deciduous dry forest. Extent of occurrence has been estimated at 35 000 km² and area of occupancy at around 5300 km² (530 000 ha). A number of different populations are known. Population densities of between 60 and 730 plants per hectare were recorded at three different sites in field surveys in 2005. Regeneration as indicated by the proportion of young plants was generally poor at these sites. Around 50 young plants a year were reported as collected (Rakouth et al., 2006).</i></p>
<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>	
	<p><i>The species is reportedly used locally, in south-east Madagascar at least, for its narcoleptic qualities (Anon., undated).</i></p>
Inclusion in Appendix II to improve control of other listed species	
<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>	
<u>B) Compelling other reasons to ensure that effective control of trade in currently listed species is achieved</u>	
Other information	

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Threats</u></p> <p><i>Natural habitats in Madagascar in general 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></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Conservation, management and legislation</u></p> <p><i>Recorded from at least four, widely separated protected areas (Andohahela, Tsingy de Bemaraha, Kirindy and Massif de l'Ankarana) (Anon, 2009).</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Captive breeding/artificial propagation</u></p> <p><i>Reportedly straightforward to cultivate; propagated by seeds (Corman, 2008).</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Other comments</u></p>

Reviewers:

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa.

References:Anon. (undated). <http://www.travel2mada.com/national-park/andohahela-national-park.xhtml>. Viewed January 4 2010Anon. (2009), www.madacamp.com. Viewed January 4 2010.Corman, D (2008). <http://www.cactuspro.com/encyclo/Cyphostemma/laza> Viewed January 4 2010

Rakouth, B., Ravaomanalina, H. and 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.