

Inclusion of *Cyphostemma montagnacii* in Appendix II

Proponent: Madagascar

Summary: *Cyphostemma montagnacii* 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. The species forms a thickened tuber-like stem or caudex with distinctive tubercular bark from which extend vine-like stems up to 1.5 m in length. As far as is known, the species has a restricted distribution in south-west Madagascar, with an extent of occurrence estimated at around 260 km² and an area of occupancy of just under 100 km² (10 000 ha). Survey of one small population estimated a density of 25 plants per hectare. Regeneration, as assessed by the proportion of young plants in the population, was judged to be good. It is not known if the species occurs in any protected areas and at least one population is believed affected by quarrying and fire. As with other *Cyphostemma* the species is in some demand in the international horticultural trade, grown chiefly by hobbyists who specialize in succulent plants. Authorities in Madagascar have reported the export of just over 200 specimens in the period 2003–2006, all except two in 2004. Internet searches did not reveal the species currently for sale, though evidently wild-collected plants have been offered for export from Madagascar in the recent past.

Two other species of Malagasy *Cyphostemma* have been proposed for inclusion in Appendix II at CoP15: *C. elephantopus* and *C. laza*, the subjects of proposals Prop. 39 and Prop. 40, respectively. *C. montagnacii* bears some resemblance to *C. elephantopus*.

Analysis: The very limited available information suggests that *Cyphostemma montagnacii* has a small range and may occur at a relatively low density within this. Extrapolation from the estimated area of occupancy and known population densities indicate it may have a reasonably large wild population, although it is not known if the species occurs continuously within this area. At least some populations are reported to be affected by factors such as fire and quarrying of stones. The species has featured in international trade, with relatively small quantities of plants exported by Madagascar in recent years, but it does not appear to be readily available, if at all, at present outside Madagascar. Collection for export may lead to local depletion, but given the small numbers in trade it seems unlikely that current levels of trade are such that regulation is required 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
Madagascar	<u>Taxonomy</u>
	<u>Range</u>
	<u>IUCN Global Category</u>
	 <i>Not assessed.</i>

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
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>The species has a very restricted distribution, being known only from the Table de Toliara mountain in Toliara Province, south-west Madagascar. Around 50 individuals were counted on the Table de Toliara Mountain and its surroundings in 2006. The area where the species occurs is subject to considerable pressure from fire and quarrying.</p> <p>Recorded exports are: 0 in 2003, 200 in 2004, 0 in 2005, 2 in 2006.</p> <p>Application of the IUCN Criteria indicated that the species would be classified as “critically endangered”.</p>	<p><i>The species has an area of occurrence estimated at around 260 km² and an area of occupancy of just under 100 km² (10 000 ha) in south-west Madagascar. Survey of one small population estimated a density of 25 plants per hectare. Regeneration, as assessed by the proportion of young plants in the population, was judged to be good (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>Internet searches revealed the plant offered for export from Madagascar in 2007 as wild-collected tubers at EUR92 at one site, and possibly more recently at another. The plant was not found offered for sale by suppliers outside Madagascar.</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>	
	<p><i>Two other species of Cyphostemma (<i>C. elephantopus</i> and <i>C. laza</i>) are proposed for inclusion in Appendix II (see proposals Prop. 39 and Prop. 40, respectively). <i>C. montagnacii</i> bears some resemblance to <i>C. elephantopus</i>. Around 23 other species of Cyphostemma, some of which are in trade, occur in Madagascar, and there are some 250 species in total (www.madagascar.com).</i></p>
<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
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Fire and quarrying

Threats

Natural habitats in southern Madagascar are also affected by charcoal and fuelwood extraction, over-grazing and conversion to agriculture. It is not known to what extent these affect this species.

Conservation, management and legislation

Captive breeding/artificial propagation

May be propagated by seed. (Some horticulturalists report that propagation of *Cyphostemma* species is difficult or impossible [www.desert-tropicals.com]).

Other comments

Reviewers:

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa

References:

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.

www.madagaskar.com Viewed January 4 2010

www.desert-tropicals.com Viewed January 4 2010