Deletion of *Tillandsia mauryana* from Appendix II

Proponent: Mexico

Summary: *Tillandsia mauryana* is a bromeliad plant endemic to Mexico. It has a limited range in Hidalgo State where it occurs on the vertical faces of limestone cliffs that are difficult to access. Surveys have located 31 populations of this species but, due to site inaccessibility, it has only been possible to evaluate abundance and population density in 9 of these. These contained between 3 and 304 individuals. Only a small proportion of the population at each site reproduces each year and the overall population may be decreasing[1]. Its range is located mainly in the Metztitlán Gully Biosphere Reserve, an area affected by rock mining, road building and urban development. The area's management programme contains specific actions for the protection of the species.

There are around 540 species of *Tillandsia* ranging from the southern USA to Argentina and Chile. A few species are widely distributed, but most have limited ranges. *Tillandsia* species in general feature in the horticultural plant trade. Some forms are artificially propagated in very large numbers and widely sold as ornamental plants. Others are grown largely by enthusiasts. *T. mauryana* was included in Appendix II in 1992 owing to concerns regarding the possible impact on it of wild-collection for international trade. The original listing proposal at CoP8 covered all *Tillandsia* spp. At the CoP it was agreed to include only seven species, including two from Mexico: *T. mauryana* and *T. xerographica* (the latter also found in Guatemala).

Since the species was listed, around 190 plants have been recorded in trade, mainly between Hungary and Switzerland, and all reported as artificially propagated. No trade in this species has been recorded from Mexico, no exports of wild specimens have been reported and there is no evidence of ongoing wild collection or illegal trade. The CITES Trade Database records a very small number of specimens of unidentified *Tillandsia* spp. as confiscated by the USA (90 specimens between 1993 and 2014); some 175 *Tillandsia* spp. occur in Mexico.

Artificial propagation of this species from seed is known to occur in nurseries in Germany and Hungary, and artificially propagated plants are offered for sale on the internet in a number of other countries, including the Czech Republic, Switzerland and the USA. Demand for this species by enthusiasts appears to be low and seems to be fully supplied by artificially propagated specimens.

Tillandsia mauryana is not similar to other CITES-listed *Tillandsia* species but does resemble other species that are not listed in the Appendices.

This proposal has resulted from the Plants Committee's Periodic Review process.

Analysis: It would appear that *Tillandsia mauryana* does not fulfil the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II as regulation of trade is not required to prevent harvesting of specimens from the wild from threatening the survival of the species. No export of wild harvested plants has been recorded since the species was listed in Appendix II and it seems that the limited demand for specimens is met entirely with artificially propagated plants. The species has not been subject to a recommendation under the provisions of the Review of Significant Trade within the last two intervals between meetings of the Conference of the Parties. It seems unlikely that its removal from the Appendices would stimulate trade in wild specimens such that it would meet the criteria for listing in Appendix II in the near future, as outlined in the precautionary measures in Annex 4 of *Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16*), nor is its retention required to ensure that trade in any other Appendix-II listed species is effectively controlled.

References:
Information not referenced in the Summary section is from the Supporting Statement.

[1] Valverde, T., Mondragón D., & Hernández-Apolinar, M. (2013) *Evaluación de la situación de Tillandsia mauryana en el Apéndice II de la CITES, según su estado de conservación y comercio*. Informe final CONABIO proyecto KE003. Facultad de Ciencias, UNAM. México.