

# "CITES NEWS" - PLANTS

*A Newsletter for the European Region of the CITES Plants Committee*

Issue 5  
March 1997

Also produced in Spanish, French & German

This issue includes:

- **7th CITES Plants Committee Meeting**
- **COP10 Proposals**
- **Rescue Centres for Plants in the European Region**

Since the last issue of CITES News the CITES Plants Committee has had its Seventh successful meeting. It was held in San José, Costa Rica, November 1996 - thanks to the generous invitation of the Ministry of Environment and the University of Costa Rica. Some of the points discussed at the meeting are included in this issue of the newsletter, as well as the working programme to be carried out by the Plants Committee between COP10 and COP11.

The meeting was attended by 81 delegates from 27 countries and 13 NGOs. There was good representation from countries of the European Region (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, and the United Kingdom). We were able to discuss possible plant proposals to be submitted to COP10 and approve plans and projects to be undertaken over the next two years.



Many congratulations to Jim Armstrong on his appointment as Deputy Secretary General of CITES. I wish him luck and enjoyment in his new post. This new appointment meant that Jim and his family had to move from Australia to Switzerland - I hope they are all now happily settled and enjoying life in the northern hemisphere (summer is nearly here... ☺).

I would like to invite you to the Second European Regional Meeting of CITES Authorities for Plants, which will be held from 14 - 16 April 1997 in Sofia, Bulgaria. This is an important opportunity to discuss plant topics that will be debated at COP10 as well as continuing to promote co-operation between the European CITES authorities.

## **Provisional agenda for the second European Regional Meeting of CITES Authorities**

1. Opening
2. Follow up to the First European Regional Meeting for Plants
  - 2.1 Co-operation between CITES authorities in Europe: Directory
  - 2.2 Standardisation of information
  - 2.3 Registration of scientific institutions
  - 2.4 Nursery registration
  - 2.5 Use of Phytosanitary certificates as CITES documents within the European region
  - 2.6 Information on confiscations
  - 2.7 Rescue centres for plants in Europe
  - 2.8 Co-operation between Management Authorities and amateur societies
  - 2.9 Training needs in the European region
  - 2.10 Mechanisms for information exchange
  - 2.11 Movement of plants across European borders by private individuals
  - 2.12 'Supermarket plants'
  - 2.13 Artificial propagation of European orchids
  - 2.14 Medicinal plants
  - 2.15 *Sarracenia* trade in the European region
3. Report on 7th Meeting of the Plants Committee
4. Species proposals (plants) for COP10
5. Technical proposals (plants) for COP10
6. Timber species
7. CITES Identification Manual for Plants
8. Significant Trade projects
9. Review of the CITES Criteria
10. Trade in medicinal plants
11. Regional representation in the Plants Committee
12. Role of the Scientific Authorities
13. Rules of procedure for the Plants Committee
14. Date and venue of the third European Regional Meeting for Plants
15. Any other business

*Margarita Clemente, Representative for Europe*

# DIARY 1997

## 3 - 5 April

'Eurogard 97', The First European Botanic Garden Conference, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, UK

## 14 -16 April

2nd CITES European Regional Meeting, Sofia, Bulgaria

## 16 - 20 April

11th European Orchid Congress Geneva, Switzerland

## 9 - 20 June

10th Meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties, Harare, Zimbabwe

## 1 - 5 September

3rd Meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, Montreal, Canada

## End November

8th CITES Plants Committee, Chile

Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will be held in Bratislava, Slovakia from 4 - 15 May 1998

'Eurogard 97', Edinburgh, UK. This is the first European Botanic Garden Conference. Hosted by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, it will take place over three days. Sessions will cover the following:

- Botanic gardens and biodiversity conservation in Europe
- Networking European botanic gardens
- Botanic gardens and education
- Botanic gardens - a part of European heritage
- Defining research priorities
- Building capacity for action
- CITES workshop
- Biodiversity Convention workshop

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**11th European Orchid Congress**, Geneva, Switzerland. Conservation will be the theme of the first session and Dr Ger van Vliet, Plants Officer CITES Secretariat will give a presentation on 'The positive results of CITES implementation'. This will be followed by a CITES workshop, for/with European Management and Scientific Authorities.

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**CITES European Regional Meeting**, Sofia, Bulgaria. Hosted at the generous invitation of the Bulgarian authorities. For provisional agenda, see front page of this issue.

If you would like to attend this meeting, please contact the CITES Secretariat for further details (see back page).

**3rd Meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice**. will be held in Montreal, Canada at the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) building. For further information contact:

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Email: biodiv@mtl.net.



# EUROPEAN NEWS

## Tree Fern Parts in Trade in Central and South America

The tree fern families Dicksoniaceae and Cyatheaceae are listed in Appendix II of CITES. A WCMC report presented at the 6th CITES Plants Committee meeting, Tenerife 1995, revealed trade in only a small number of tree fern species; with only a few taxa seemingly endangered by trade.

In order to avoid delisting of endangered taxa when re-considering the position of the tree fern families in Appendix II, an evaluation of easily recognisable characters for the systematic determination of parts of tree ferns in trade was proposed for *Dicksonia sellowiana* (but including other Dicksoniaceae and Cyatheaceae, especially from Central and South America, if possible).

Since tree fern material in trade lacks leaf, sorus or spore characters, macroscopical **and** light microscopical studies of vegetative parts had to be carried out. The aim was to identify characters which would allow customs officers without special botanical training to identify these tree fern parts with certainty.

In Central and South America four families of tree ferns are represented (Table 1). Excluded in this treatment are neotropical taxa endemic to the Juan Fernandez Islands.

Due to their growing pattern, members of the families Lophosoriaceae and Metaxyaceae, and of the genera *Culcita* and *Cnemidaria* have no commercial value and can also be excluded.

As a result of these studies a key was produced of the distinguishing characteristics of members of the families Dicksoniaceae and Cyatheaceae from Central and Southern America.

The characters are easily recognisable even for non-botanists: members of Dicksoniaceae are characterised by long, golden hairs on stem and/or petiole base, Cyatheaceae species by scales or spines on stem and/or petiole base.

Determination up to species level is possible for South American Dicksoniaceae: in almost all cases it will be *Dicksonia sellowiana* (except for Andean Peru: here also *D. stuebelii*). For Central American Dicksoniaceae a clear-cut distinction between *D. sellowiana* and *Cibotium regale* (incl. *C. guatemalense*, *C. wendlandii*) or *C. schiedeii* without further characters is not possible.

In Cyatheaceae there is no character in the investigated material which allows determination to species level.

**Table 1. Tree fern families and genera in Central and South America**

Family	Genus
Cyatheaceae	Alsophila, Cnemidaria, Cyathea, Nephelea, Sphaeropteris, Trichipteris
Dicksoniaceae	Cibotium, Culcita, Dicksonia, Thyrsopteris
Lophosoriaceae	Lophosoria
Metaxyaceae	Metaxya

### Identification key

1. petiole base present ..... Go to **2.**
- 1'. petiole base absent ..... Go to **3.**
2. petiole base with long, golden hairs, scales or spines lacking..... Go to **4.**
- 2'. petiole base with scales and/or spines, golden hairs absent ..... Go to **5.**
3. stem covered densely with hairs; if loose material, at least long, golden hairs between fibrous root fragments, scales or spines lacking ..... Go to **4.**
- 3'. Stem covered with scales; if loose material, only fibrous root fragments present or mixed with scales, golden hairs absent ..... Go to **5.**
4. Dicksoniaceae; origin South America ..... *Dicksonia sellowiana*
- 4'. Dicksoniaceae; origin Central America..... *Dicksonia sellowiana, Cibotium*
5. Cyatheaceae..... *Alsophila, Cyathea, Nephelea, Sphaeropteris, Trichipteris*

# 7TH MEETING OF THE CITES PLANTS COMMITTEE

## Closed Session

Margarita Clemente (European Representative) and Lúcia Helena de Oliveira (Representative, South, Central America and the Caribbean) were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

Discussion included:

## Plants Committee - Regional Representation

It was agreed that:

- continuity of the members of the Plants Committee is essential to ensure full participation at the annual meetings;
- appropriate financial support should be provided by the respective Parties of the Representatives;
- the regional Representatives appointed in the Committee should be *individuals* rather than *Parties*, and this issue should be discussed in the regional meetings to be held during the week of the Conference of the Parties.

The Chairman pointed out that since the number of Parties in the European Region had recently risen to 30, it was now insufficient to have just one representative to undertake regional co-ordination. It was therefore agreed to:

- Include, in a working document prepared by the Secretariat for discussion at COP10, the consideration of the provision of a second representative for the European Region.

## Main Meeting

A summary of the minutes of the main meeting may be obtained from the European Representative (see back page for address). Two articles relating to items discussed in the meeting have been submitted for inclusion in this issue of the newsletter - see page 3 for 'Trade in Tree Ferns', and page 6 for 'Supermarket Plants'. We have also included a table to show the results of the survey on 'Rescue Centres for Plants in the European Region' - see page 7.

**The 8th Meeting of the Plants Committee will be held in Chile, November 1997**

## Working programme of the Plants Committee between COP10 and COP11

The Plants Committee approved the following set of actions:

- Preparation and annual update of regional directories of the management and scientific authorities directly in charge of CITES plants issues.
- Development of the Significant Trade Review for plants included in Appendix II, following the programme agreed upon by the Plants Committee.
- Review of the Appendices through the application of the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24, to complement the Significant Trade Review process.
- Continuation of the preparation of checklists for CITES plants, as they are important for species subject to significant trade.
- Urgent preparation of the identification sheets. Up to now sheets have been produced for only seven of the 25,000 taxa included in the Appendices.



# COP10 - PLANT PROPOSALS

Taxa	Proposal	Proponent(s)	PC View
<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> and natural hybrids with <i>Swietenia humilis</i> - (Logs, sawn wood, whole veneer sheets, plywood sheets).	AII	USA and Bolivia	-
<i>Hydrastis canadensis</i> - Golden Seal	AII	USA	-
<i>Nardostachys grandiflora</i> - (roots only)	AII	India	-
<i>Picrorhiza kurrooa</i> - (roots only)	AII	India	-
Seeds of Appendix II Wild-Collected Cacti	AII	Mexico	✓
<i>Protea odorata</i>	AI → AII	South Africa	✓
<i>Orothamnus zeyheri</i>	AI → AII	South Africa	✓
<i>Lewisia tweedii</i>	Delete	USA	✓
<i>Camellia chrysantha</i>	Delete	China	✓
Delisting of 'Supermarket Plants'	Delete	Denmark	✓
Extension of annotation relating to Cut Flowers	Delete	Switzerland on behalf of PC	✓
Amend annotation (#3) relating to <i>Panax quinquefolius</i> - American Ginseng	Clarify annotation	Switzerland on behalf of PC	✓
Annotation (#5) relating to parts and derivatives of Timber	Reword annotation	Switzerland on behalf of Standing Committee	-

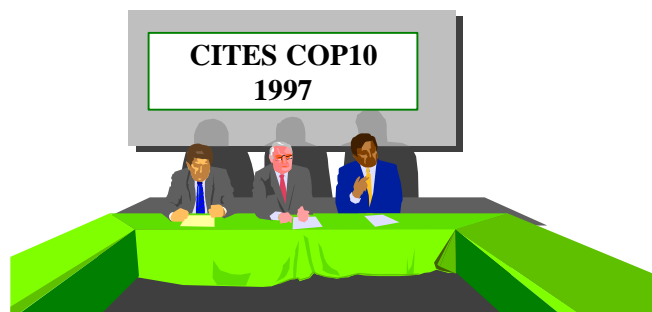
Key: ✓ PC supported

× PC did not support

- PC did not review

## Other items of interest

- Disposal of Confiscated Specimens
- CITES Review - Report of Study on how to improve the effectiveness of CITES
- Trade in Alien Species - the threats posed to conservation of biodiversity
- Designation of Scientific Authorities - separate from Management Authorities
- Significant Trade in Appendix II Plant Species
- Shipments travelling on a Customs Carnet - the issue of appropriate documents
- Establishment of Committees



**10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10).** The Secretariat has circulated details (Notification 953, 6 February 1997) to the Parties covering Registration and Reservation forms, Provisional Agenda, Working Programmes and Rules of Procedure for COP10.

*If you are a representative of a Non-Government Organisation, remember your organisation must contact your Management Authority and the CITES Secretariat (Geneva) if you wish to attend.*

# EUROPEAN NEWS

## Supermarket Plants

Supermarket plants can be characterised by:

- large production of artificially propagated specimens as hybrids, cultivars and other man-made selections of Appendix II plant species;
- those traded in large volumes of artificially propagated specimens.
- no recorded international trade in wild-collected specimens - except in small quantities for scientific purposes.

The general view expressed at the 6th (Tenerife, June 1995) and 7th (Costa Rica, November 1996) meetings of the CITES Plants Committee, was that a solution should be found to reduce the resources used in monitoring this trade.

In the 'Supermarket Plants Working Group' report to the 7th Plants Committee, it was suggested that Plant Health Certificates be used as a temporary solution, however, the International Plant Protection Convention is currently under revision and it is uncertain whether

the future use of Plant Health Certificates for CITES purposes will be accepted under the Plant Protection Convention.

The Working Group suggested that trade data on examples of the most heavily traded plants should be analysed to ensure that no trade in wild plants is reported.

The Plants Committee supported the Working Group and Denmark has submitted a proposal to exclude **only artificially propagated** specimens of taxa by annotations.

The information from the proposal is summarised in the table below. The data are based on information received from the World Conservation Monitoring Centre's trade database and International Wood Products Association.

Copies of the proposal can be obtained from The Management Authority for plants in Denmark.

☐ Else Mikkelsen, The Danish Plant Directorate, Skovbrynet 20, DK-2800 Lyngby, Denmark.  
Fax +45 45 96 66 13.

Taxa	Natural Distribution of Wild Populations	Trade in Wild specimens 1985 - 1995	Cultivars/ Hybrids	Exporting countries	Art. Prop. Trade reported Annually	Annual Art. Prop.
<i>Hatiora x graeseri</i>	Brazil	2 (Brazil) Scientific	100 cultivars 1884	Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Poland	0.4 mill.	10 mill.
<i>Schlumbergera</i> hybrids & cultivars	Brazil	No records	1000 hybrids/ cultivars 1840	Canada, Denmark, Netherlands	1.75 mill.	6.5 mill.
<i>Gymnocalycium mihanovichii</i> cultivars (forms lacking chlorophyll, grafted)	Argentina Paraguay	No records	50 cultivars 1941	Brazil, Japan, Republic of Korea	3.3 mill.	10 - 15 mill.
<i>Opuntia microdasys</i>	Mexico	No records	30 cultivars 1827	Canada, China (Province of Taiwan), Malta Spain	traded as mixed cacti	2-3 mill.
<i>Euphorbia trigona</i> cultivars	Angola Ghana	1 (Madagascar)	Several cultivars beginning of the 18th century	Brazil, Denmark, Dominican Republic	2.5 mill.	5 mill.
<i>Cyclamen persicum</i> hybrids & cultivars does not apply to dormant tubers	Algeria Cyprus Greece Lebanon Syrian Arab Republic Israel Jordan Tunisia Turkey	35 (Greece and Israel)	400 hybrids/ cultivars 1850	Denmark, Israel, Netherlands	2.5 mill.	50 mill.

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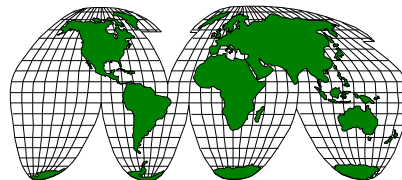
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