AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Papilio chikae in Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Insecta

12. Order: Lepidoptera

13. Family: Papilionidae

14. Species: Papilio chikae

15. Common Names: English: Luzon peacock swallowtail
French:
Spanish:

16. Code Numbers: None available

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: The Luzon peacock swallowtail is a species endemic to the island of Luzon in the Philippines. It has only been recorded from the North of the island in the Baguio and Bontoc regions of the Cordillera Central (9). It is believed to be a relict species of continental origin which colonised Luzon from mainland Asia during the last ice age and which persisted at its isolated Philippines locality as the ice retreated and sea levels rose (2). The species appears only at altitudes above 1,500 m; the type locality is Mt. Santo-Thomas, south of Baguio City, which rises to 2,258 m (4).

22. Population: No details available. The species is listed as endangered in the IUCN Red Data Book on Threatened Swallowtail Butterflies of the World (2).

23. Habitat: The butterfly is probably restricted, even within the Cordillera Central, to land over 1,000 m. The countryside is broken up by steep gullies and ravines (2). The vegetation is montane subtropical with open grassy meadows, scattered bushes and small copses in the ravines. The most common tree is the Benguet pine (Pinus insularis). The larval foodplant is unknown. It is likely that many of the slopes, gullies and other potential breeding sites will remain uneconomical for agriculture and forestry (2). Mining has severely affected areas in the North of Luzon and fire may also be a problem. However, the main threat to the species is probably collecting. A motorable track runs all the way up to the type locality on Mt. Saint Thomas, and population

pressure and recreational development are resulting in new roads being built into the Cordillera Central facilitating access (2). Collecting is probably the principal threat to this species.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: It is unlikely that there is significant national utilization of this species.

32. Legal International Trade:

321. General: The trade in butterflies worldwide is very considerable, running into tens of millions of dollars annually (5, 6, 8), although the precise figure is disputed. The number of commercial dealers has risen dramatically over the last 300 years (7). The bulk of this trade is in the use of butterflies for ornamental purposes but there is also a substantial low volume trade supplying high value dead specimens to scientists, museums and collectors. The price of these specimens tends to reflect their rarity, size, beauty, the difficulty of capture and general state.

322. Specific: The Luzon peacock swallowtail is a beautiful iridescent butterfly and is greatly prized by collectors. The Luzon peacock swallowtail is easily captured (9). It has been noted that many of the employees at radio stations in the mountains keep butterfly nets, presumably for commercial collecting. Japanese collectors have been known to offer 35 mm cameras to the local Philippine people in exchange for specimens (3). It is sought after by Japanese collectors and in Europe; a female specimen was offered for the equivalent of $150 in 1983(2), and a male for a similar figure at about the same time (1). It has been reported that a Philippines dealer purchases specimens from local collectors in Baguio City at high volume and at the equivalent of $40 per pair (in litt, 9 October 1986).

33. Illegal Trade: Not applicable.

34. Potential Trade Threats: The Luzon peacock swallowtail is one of the world's rarest species of butterflies and is strikingly beautiful. It is highly regarded by collectors and is in great demand. In the wild it is regarded as being an endangered species (2), and although it has sustained some loss of habitat the main threat is probably collecting. Improved access into the Cordillera Central will increase the collecting threat to a species which can be easily captured. Losses through collection and trade are potentially serious for the survival of the species in the wild (9).

4. Protection Status

41. National: Philippines: None known.

42. International: None known.

43. Additional Protection Needs: There is an urgent need for a survey of the Cordillera Central to assess the distribution of this species, its habitat requirements and larval foodplants. Monitoring of population levels, the establishment of reserve areas and regulation of collecting are also necessary (2).

5. Information on Similar Species

Papilio chikae is a member of the paris group, the "Gloss" swallowtails. All 12 species in the group are in demand and some are common and widespread e.g. Papilio mackii. However, none of this group except P. chikae occurs on Luzon. The only other Philippine species is P. karna which is found on Palawan; it has large green patches on the hind wings, absent in P. chikae. All species of "Gloss" swallowtails have a characteristic sheen but differ in their wing patterns. Male illustrated in Collins and Morris (1985) and also D'Abrera (1982).

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Sought but not yet received.

7. Additional Remarks

None.

8. References

1) Berjaya Butterflies (1980s?). Sale catalogue. 4 The Pinfold, Bingham, Notts, NG13 8ER.

2) Collins, N.M. & M.G. Morris, 1985. Threatened Swallowtail Butterflies of the World. The IUCN Rad Data Book. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. 401 pp. 8 pl.

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4) Harada, M. 1965. The capture of Papilio chikae. Tyo To Ga (Transactions of the Lepidopterists' Society of Japan). 16:48-49.

5) Inskipp, T. and S. Wells, 1979. International Trade in Wildlife. Earthscan, London. 104 pp.

6) Jackman, B., 1976. Bye-bye birdwing. Sunday Times, 12 September.

7) Nagano, C.D., 1984. The International Trade in Butterflies. Unpublished manuscript. 27 pp..

8) National Research Council, 1983. Butterfly Farming in Papua New Guinea. Managing Tropical Animal Resources Series. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C.

9) Tusukada, E. and Y. Nishiyama, 1982. Butterflies of the South East Asian Islands. Vol 1 Papilionidae (transl K. Morishita). Plapac Co Ltd, Tokyo. 457 pp.