AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Aconitum deinorrhizum* in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Republic of India.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Dictyledonae

12. Order: Ranales

13. Family: Ranunculaceae

14. Species: *Aconitum deinorrhizum* Holmes ex Stapf in Abb. Roy. Bot. Gard., Calcutta 10, 1905.

15. Common Names:
English: aconite
French: aconite
Spanish:
Hindi: Mohra

16. Code Numbers: Nil

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: The Himalays, Jammu and Kashmir, (Bhadarwah), Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Nepal and Bhutan.

22. Population: Sporadic and scarce. Wild populations are on the decline. Reported to be threatened in Jammu and Kasmir (Kapur, 1983).

23. Habitat: Alpine meadows in the altitude of 3,000 - 4,000 m.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Tuberous roots, which are used in medicine, contain highly toxic alkaloids. The use of aconite in criminal cases and homicidal purposes is well known. A preparation of the roots is used by some hill tribes of India to poison arrows. The aconite alkaloids can be used as natural rodenticide and also as an effective insecticide.

32. Legal International Trade: Extent unknown but the rhizomes are reportedly in international trade. Export from India is not permitted.

33. Illegal Trade: Extent unknown but suspected to exist.

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: Entire live plants.

342. Parts and Derivatives: Rhizomes.

4. Protection Status

41. National: The species is included in the threatened plants list and in the Red Data Book of Indian Plants (Vol. 1). It is included in Part A of Schedule I of the Export (Trade) Control Order 1988 and export of plants and derivatives of this species from India is banned. There are restrictions on collection of the same from the Reserved Forests under the Indian Forest Act.

42. International: Nil.

43. Additional Protection Needs: This species is in short supply throughout its range and may become endangered unless international trade is suitably regulated. Hence, this species is proposed for inclusion in Appendix II of CITES.

5. Information on Similar Species

Several species of Aconitum are reported from the Himalayan region which have medicinal importance, but A. deinorrhizum is the most important and valued in trade. The root stock of Gloriosa superba is reportedly used as an adulterant of this species.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

The species has become scarce due to regular exploitation for trade.

7. Additional Remarks

There is no large scale cultivation of this species to meet trade demands.

8. References

Anon. 1984: Wealth of Indian Raw materials. 1:60, CSIR, New Delhi

Hajra, P.K., 1983. In: Jain, S.K. and A.R.K. Sastry (ed.). Materials for a catalogue of threatened plants of India. p.49, POSSCEF, BSI, Howrah.

Hajra, P.K. & M.J. Kothari, 1984. In: Jain, S.K. & A.R.K. Sastry (ed.) The Indian Plant Red Data Book, I.P. 133, BSI, Howrah.

Jain, S.K. & A.R.K. Sastry, 1980. Threatened Plants of India - A State of the Art Report, p.12, BSI, Howrah.

Kapur, S.K., 1983. Jour. Sci. Res. Pl. and Med. Vol 4, No. 3, pp.40-46.

Stapf, D., 1905. Aconites of India. Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard., Calcutta 10: 115-197. t. 103.

Doc. 0963c