AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Ten-Year Review Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Deletion of *Alocasia zebrina* from Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The United States of America.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Liliopsida (Monocotyledonae)

12. Order: Arales

13. Family: Araceae

14. Species: *Alocasia zebrina* C. Koch & (Hort.) Veitch 1862

15. Common Names: English:
French:
Spanish:

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: This species is endemic to the Philippines, occurring on the islands or island groups of Luzon, Mindanao, Leyte, Samar and Palawan (Merrill, 1925; Smithsonian Institution, n.d.). It has usually been considered endemic to Luzon (e.g. Burnett, 1984).

22. Population: Burnett (1984) reports that "he observed it in abundance" when on Luzon in 1982. Dr. T.B. Croat states that "it is common where (he) saw it in the Philippines" (in litt. to B. MacBryde, 19/04/89); [he is an aroid specialist at the Missouri Botanical Garden and coauthor of *Alocasia* Necker for The European Garden Flora (Leedy *et al.*, 1984)].

23. Habitat: Primary forests at low and medium altitudes, on wet humus-covered ground or among boulders in the forest (Merrill, 1925). "Growing as lithophytes" (Burnett, 1984).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Unknown. J.B. Alvarez, Jr. (Philippine Bureau of Forest Development) stated that "only cultural specimens" are found in trade (in litt. to R. McManus, 25/07/77).

32. Legal International Trade: According to Quisumbing (1967) and the Delegation of the Philippines (1973) it is "very rare now; great quantities exported in past years; desirable ornamental."

Dr. D. Nicolson, [Smithsonian Institution, in litt. to the IUCN Threatened Plants Unit (TPU), 1980], stated that it is "a popular greenhouse plant but probably not much in trade outside of tropical areas. It is not tolerant enough of growing in houses and I suspect, rather hard to reproduce on a commercial scale." In Australia, A. zebrina is only rarely available horticulturally and would never be available in trade (Burnett, pers. comm. to TPU, 1980). This species was not seen in trade in the Federal Republic of Germany (Bognor in litt. to TPU, 1980). The small number of nurseries that sell this species in Florida, U.S.A., are propagating it for sale from their own stock, even though it is slow to reproduce; it is rare in the trade [so far as Dr. D. Burch (1980) in litt. to TPU is aware].

33. Illegal Trade: Unknown. If there is such a trade from the Philippines, cut portions of rhizomes and corms (i.e. an underground stem-base, a vegetative reproductive body) would be hard to detect and identify.

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: Unknown. Burnett (1984) considered it "curious" that the species is listed in Appendix I of CITES. (Resolution Conf. 4.26 encourages completion of the 10-year review.)

342. Parts and Derivatives: Unknown.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Unknown. The Philippines has several laws that might protect this species if necessary (Davis et al., 1986), but whether it is specifically included in Act No. 3983 or Presidential Decrees No. 1152 and No. 1586 is unknown, nor is it known how those laws are enforced.

42. International: Unknown. This species has been a popular ornamental plant since its introduction around 1862. It appears to be established in cultivation now (Bailey, 1976; Burnett, 1984; Leedy et al., 1984). Resolution Conf. 2.19 does not appear to support the CITES listing of this species in Appendix I, considering its wider distribution, its relative abundance in known populations, and the apparent lack of international trade interest in it in recent times.

43. Additional Protection Needs: Unknown. Artificially propagated by suckers or cutting of the rhizome.

5. Information on Similar Species

Walters et al. (1984) provide keys to related genera in cultivation (whether flowering or not). There are less than 70 species in the genus, which occurs in the Indomalesian area. Gutiérrez (1974) lists a total of 10 endemic species of Alocasia in the Philippines; A. sanderiana also is listed in Appendix I. Leedy et al. (1984) discuss 14 species of Alocasia in cultivation and provide a key to 11 of them. Bailey (1976) covers several species and hybrids. Burnett (1984) illustrates and comments on the cultivated alocasias; he notes

that A. 'Tigrina Superba' is sometimes confused with A. zebrina. Alocasia macrorrhiza (L.) G. Don fil. (giant taro) is grown for its edible rhizome and shoots, and as an ornamental.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

None; to be sought.

7. Additional Remarks

None.

8. References

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