

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF  
WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Amendments to Appendices I and II of CITES

13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conferences of the Parties  
Bangkok, Thailand, October 2-14, 2004

A. Proposal

To annotate Euphorbiaceae in Appendix II to excluded the artificially propagated colour mutants of *Euphorbia lactea*; are not subject to the provisions of the Convention.

The annotation to specifically read as following:-

“Artificially propagated specimens of *Euphorbia lactea* are not subject to the provisions of the Convention when they are:

- a) grafted on rootstocks of *Euphorbia neriifolia* L.;
- b) colour mutants; or
- c) crested-branch forming or fan-shaped.”

B. Proponent

Thailand.

C. Supporting Statement

1. Taxonomy

- 1.1 Class : Dicotyledonae
- 1.2 Order: Euphorbiales
- 1.3 Family: Euphorbiaceae
  - Genera: *Euphorbia* L.
  - Species: *Euphorbia lactea* Haw.
  - Scientific synonyms: -
- 1.4 Common names: Candelabra cactus, False cactus, Dragon bone tree.
- 1.5 Code numbers: -

2. Biological Parameters

- 2.1 Distribution
  - Not applicable.
- 2.2 Habitat availability
  - Not applicable.
- 2.3 Population status
  - Not applicable.
- 2.4 Population trends
  - Not applicable.

## 2.5 Geographic trends

Not applicable.

## 3. Utilization and Trade

### 3.1 National Utilization

*Euphorbia lactea*; All plant parts considered poisonous, especially the white sap (milky sap). Colour mutants are cultivated as house plant in tropical countries. In Thailand, crested or fan-shaped and colour mutants usually are grafted on cultivated *Euphorbia neriifolia* L.

### 3.2 Legal international trade

The crested or fan-shaped and colour mutants of *Euphorbia lactea* is widely cultivated in the tropics and subtropics where it is valued as an unusual ornamentals. In Thailand, it is traded as grafted plants.

### 3.3 Illegal trade

#### 3.3.1 National illegal trade

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#### 3.3.2 International illegal trade

International illegal trade in specimens of the crested or fan-shaped and colour mutants of *Euphorbia lactea* (artificial propagated plant) occurring in small number, mostly tourist who is unaware of CITES documentation.

### 3.4 Actual or potential trade impacts

Exempting of the artificially propagated specimens of the crested or fan-shaped and colour mutants of *Euphorbia lactea* will not be harmful to the wild population, because they are cultivated, not natural occurring specimens.

### 3.5 Captive breeding or artificial propagation for commercial purposes (outside country of origin)

The crested or fan-shaped and colour mutants of *Euphorbia lactea* are quite easy to artificial propagation and trade in worldwide. They are propagated by cutting and grafting on the stocks.

Thailand export of artificially propagated the crested or fan-shaped and colour mutants of *Euphorbia lactea* recorded 24,095 plants in 2001 and 219,505 plants in 2002 to different 25 countries.

## 4. Conservation and management

### 4.1 Legal status

#### 4.1.1 National

Trade control and harvested of wild-collected subject to legal control at the national level of the original range state to effect the protection of species.

#### 4.1.2 International

Since, Euphorbiaceae spp. (succulent species only) was included in Appendices; except the artificially propagated

specimens of cultivars of *Euphorbia trigona* and annotation with # 1 are not subject to the provisions of the Convention.

#### 4.2 Species management

##### 4.2.1 Population monitoring

Not applicable.

##### 4.2.2 Habitat conservation

Not applicable.

##### 4.2.3 Management measures

Not applicable.

#### 4.3 Control measures

##### 4.3.1 International trade

The artificially propagated specimens of the colour mutants of *Euphorbia lactea* when it in trade are subject to distinguished from the exhibit characteristics from wild original, the specimens should be; (a) colour mutants and/or lacking chlorophyll (b) crested branches forming and /or fan-shaped (c) grafted on the grafting stocks e.g. *Euphorbia nerifolia* L.”

##### 4.3.2 Domestic measures

Not relevant for this proposal.

#### 5. Information on similar species

Not applicable.

#### 6. Other comments

This proposal is made in accordance with PC 13 doc. 13.2, regarding on Review of the Appendices Artificially propagated plants traded in large quantities. This document prepared by Secretariat. With the provisions of paragraph 4 and 6 remark as following;-

4) The following taxa included in the CITES Appendices are known to contain or comprise taxa that are traded in large quantities as artificially propagated plants: the families Cactaceae, Cycadaceae and Orchidaceae (mostly Appendix II with some taxa in Appendix I); the genera *Cyclamen*, *Galanthus* and *Sternbergia* (ornamental bulbs or corms listed in Appendix II); the insectivorous plant genera *Nepenthes* and *Sarracenia* (mostly Appendix II with some taxa in Appendix I); the Venus fly-trap *Dionaea muscipula* (Appendix II); the succulent plant genera *Aloe*, *Euphorbia* (succulent species only) and *Pachypodium* (mostly Appendix II with some

taxa in Appendix I). Depending on the precise definition of 'traded in large quantities', other taxa may also qualify (e.g. the family *Didiereaceae* and the succulent genus *Anacampseros*, *Agave victoriae-reginae* and possibly the newly-listed *Swietenia macrophylla*).

6). A number of taxa have been exempt from the provisions of the Convention for some time when traded as artificially propagated specimens, namely cultivars of *Euphorbia trigona* and *Cyclamen persicum* and the following cactus hybrids or cultivars: *Hatiora x graeseri*; *Schlumbergera x buckleyi*; *Schlumbergera russelliana x Schlumbergera truncata*; *Schlumbergera orssichiana x Schlumbergera truncata*; *Schlumbergera opuntoides x Schlumbergera truncata*; *Schlumbergera truncata* (cultivars); *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii* (cultivars) forms lacking chlorophyll, grafted on the following grafting stocks: *Harrisia 'Jusbertii'*, *Hylocereus trigonus* or *Hylocereus undatus*; *Opuntia microdasys* (cultivars). At the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP12, Santiago, 2002) the listing for *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii* was amended to cover all Cactaceae spp. colour mutants lacking chlorophyll.

7. Additional remarks

*Euphorbia lactea* Haw. : Shrub to 2 m tall; branches 3-4 angled, dark green with paler band; leaves rudimentary, caduceous; inflorescence from new growth, with yellow cyathea. Natives to India. Sometimes, there is a cristated form.

Yok is the Thai trade name of *Euphorbia lactea* for colour mutants and crested or fan-shaped forms.

8. References

- Inskipp, T. & Gillett, H.J. (Eds.) 2003 *Checklist of CITES Species*. Compiled by UNEP-WCMC. CITES Secretariat, Geneva, Switzerland and UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK. 339pp. & CD – ROM.
- Mabberley, D.J. 1993. *The Plant-Book. A portable dictionary of the higher plants*. Cambridge University Press. Great Britain; 707pp.
- Sajeva, M. and Costanzo, M. 2002. *Succulents II, The new illustrated Dictionary*. Timber Press, Inc, Oregon, 234pp.
- Sungkasubuan, S. and all. 2003. *Annual Report 2002. Plant Varieties Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Chatu Chak, Bangkok*; 118 pp.
- Thitiprasert, W. and all. 2002. *Annual Report 2001. Plant Varieties Protection Office, Department of Agriculture, Chatu Chak, Bangkok*; 79 pp.

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