

Deletion of leaf-bearing cacti (Cactaceae) from Appendix II. Proponent: Switzerland.

Summary: See the general introduction to proposals 12.43, 12.44 and 12.45. The taxa in question are distinctive amongst cacti in bearing recognisable, relatively large leaves for at least part of their growth cycle (other members of the sub-family Opuntioideae bear rudimentary leaves, often only near the growing tips of the stems). The proposal covers the sub-family Pereskioideae, with two genera – *Pereskia* (17 species) and *Maihuenia* (two species, and included by some in a separate subfamily, the Maihuenioideae), and two genera in the sub-family Opuntioideae – *Peresklopsis* with seven species and *Quiabentia* with two. Species vary in form from low cushions to vines, shrubs and trees and occur variously in Central and South America and the West Indies. One species at least (*Pereskia aculeata*) grows wild in the USA, notably in Florida, but is unlikely to be native. This species is established in the wild outside the Americas and is considered an invasive weed. Plants are subject to a variety of local uses and some are grown as ornamentals both within and outside range States. Those forms that are widely in cultivation are very easy to propagate. There is little demand for other species amongst specialist collectors. All species have been included in CITES Appendix II since 1975. Very little trade in wild-collected plants of any of the species has been recorded in annual reports to CITES during 1991-2000. The proposal aims to simplify implementation of the Convention with regards to cacti by removing these species from Appendix II on the grounds that there is insignificant international trade in wild-collected plants of these taxa, that such trade as exists is neither unsustainable nor poses a threat to the species concerned, and that these taxa can easily be distinguished from other cacti and particularly from all species in Appendix I.

The genera *Peresklopsis* and *Quiabentia* are also included in proposal 12.44, deletion from Appendix II of the subfamily Opuntioideae, family Cactaceae.

Analysis Under Resolution Conf. 9.24, there is no evidence that trade in any of the species in question needs regulating to prevent that species meriting future inclusion in Appendix I, nor is there evidence that harvesting of any species for international trade has a detrimental impact on the wild population by exceeding the sustainable yield or reducing the population to a potentially threatened level. It appears that, in general, these cacti when in leaf are fairly easily distinguishable from other cacti. However, when in a leafless state, *Maihuenia*, *Peresklopsis* and *Quiabentia* species may be confused with other cacti, notably some *Opuntia* spp., although not with any species currently included in Appendix I. *Pereskia*, in a leafless state, is unlikely to be confused with any other cactus and is unlikely to be easily recognised as a cactus at all.

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<u>Taxonomy</u>	
Subfamily Pereskioideae comprising the genera <i>Pereskia</i> (17 spp.) and <i>Maihuenia</i> (two spp.).	
Genera <i>Peresklopsis</i> (seven spp.) and <i>Quiabentia</i> (two spp.) (subfamily Opuntioideae).	
The genus <i>Rhodocactus</i> is included in <i>Pereskia</i> .	
<i>Maihuenia</i> is sometimes treated as a separate subfamily Maihuenioideae.	
<u>Range</u>	
The Americas from Central America south to Chile and Argentina and the West Indies. A list of range States taken from the CITES Cactus checklist (2nd edition) is included. SS notes that <i>Pereskia</i> is only doubtfully native to Florida, USA.	<i>The Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants, produced by the Institute of Systematic Botany, University of South Florida notes that Pereskia aculeata is not a native (Anon., 2002). None of the other species occur in the USA, so that it is possible that the USA is not a range State in the context of this proposal.</i>
	<i>Pereskia aculeata is established (and considered an invasive species) outside its original range in South Africa and Australia (Leuenberger, 2002).</i>

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
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IUCN Global Category

Pereskia quisqueyana is classified as Endangered (pre-1994 criteria) in the 1997 IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants.

Biological and trade criteria for retention in Appendix II

A) Trade regulation needed to prevent future inclusion in Appendix I

Although concrete data are lacking, there is no evidence that any of the species will merit consideration for inclusion in Appendix I in the near future.

B) Harvesting for international trade has, or may have, detrimental impact on population (i) exceeds sustainable yield; (ii) reduces population to potentially threatened level

There has been minimal reported trade in CITES Annual Reports of wild-collected specimens of any of the species.

There is probably no international trade of whole field-collected individuals of Pereskia or Maihuenia; only branches, cuttings, stem segments and propagated plants are likely to be in trade (Leuenberger, 2002).

Demand for the species amongst growers of cacti is very limited.

There is very limited interest in Maihuenia in the United Kingdom (TRAFFIC North America, 2002).

Retention in Appendix II to improve control of other listed species

Specimens resemble other species and are difficult to distinguish, or most of taxon is already listed

The leaf-bearing cacti included in the proposal have been chosen so that they can be identified on the basis of simple morphological criteria and can be distinguished from all members of the sub-family Cactoideae (which includes all cacti currently listed in Appendix I).

Leafy cacti as circumscribed in the proposal are fairly easily distinguished from other cacti as long as the leaves are present. Superficially, Maihuenia in leafless state could conceivably be confused with a few Opuntia (Maihueniopsis) species, although it lacks the glochids (barbed spines) characteristic of the sub-family Opuntioideae. Pereskiopsis and Quiabentia in leafless state could perhaps be confused with some Opuntia spp. by non-experts. None of the species can be confused with any cactus species currently included in Appendix I (Leuenberger, 2002).

In whatever state (ie. in leaf or not), Pereskia would probably not be identified as a cactus by most non-experts and would therefore not be confused with any other species of cactus.

Other information

Threats

Pereskia quisqueyana is regarded as at risk because of its limited natural range but is now the subject of a specific conservation programme and is considered secure. *P. aureiflora* is reported to suffer from clearance of caatinga vegetation in its native Brazil, but is probably not rare. In Mexico several species may have declined through habitat destruction.

In Argentina, Pereskia nemerosa is common but may be adversely affected by agriculture (Neris, 2002). Maihuenia patagonica is very common in parts of Patagonia in Argentina; it appears to do well in overgrazed areas (Kiesling, 2002).

Conservation, management and legislation

Species of Quiabentia and Pereskia both occur in protected areas in Paraguay, although neither genus is specifically protected under Paraguayan legislation.

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
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Artificial propagation

Several species of *Pereskia* are widely cultivated. *Pereskiaopsis spathulata*, a taxon of horticultural origin, is widely propagated as a stock for grafting other cactus species. It propagates extremely easily from cuttings.

Virtually all species are in cultivation (generally in small numbers), either grown from seed or by vegetative propagation, mostly in botanical gardens. Pereskia aculeata "Godseffiana" and P. grandifolia are the only relatively widely grown forms other than Pereskiaopsis spathulata (Leuenberger, 2002).

Other comments

The USA, reportedly a range State for *Pereskia aculeata* (but see Range above), and Chile, a range State for *Maihuenia poeppigii*, do not support the proposal. SS observes that neither of these two species is considered threatened.

Mexico supports the proposal under the condition that other range States also agree.

Reviewers: Leuenberger, B., TRAFFIC North America.

References:

- Anon., 2002. Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants. <http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu>. Viewed August, 2002.
 Kiesling, R. 2002 *in litt.* to D. Ramadori *per* TRAFFIC South America.
 Leuenberger, B., 2002. *in litt.* to IUCN/SSC Wildlife Trade Programme, Cambridge, UK.
 Neris, L.C., 2002. *in litt.* to Ortiz, 2002 *per* Robbins, 2002 (TRAFFIC North America., 2002. *in litt.* to IUCN/SSC Wildlife Trade Programme, Cambridge, UK).
 TRAFFIC North America, 2002. *in litt.* to IUCN/SSC Wildlife Trade Programme, Cambridge, UK.