



CITES Secretariat

International Environment House 15, Chemin des Anémones CH 1219 Châtelaine (Geneva) Switzerland

Tel: +41 (0) 22 917 81 39/40

Email: info@cites.org Website: www.cites.org



UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

219 Huntingdon Road Cambridge CB3 0DL United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1223 277314

Email: species@unep-wcmc.org Website: www.unep-wcmc.org

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CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. CITES has a large membership, with 178 Parties.

The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is the specialist biodiversity assessment centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the world's foremost intergovernmental environmental organisation. The Centre has been in operation for over 30 years, combining scientific research with practical policy advice.

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INTRODUCTION

The Conference of the Parties recognizes the *Checklist of CITES species* as an official digest of scientific names contained in the official standard references. The *Checklist of CITES species* is now dynamically linked to Species+, a database of information on MEA-listed species that is managed by UNEP-WCMC, allowing, for the first time, taxonomic and listing changes to be reflected within this document as they are updated. This will include amendments to CITES Appendix III made between meetings of the Conference of the Parties. For this reason, it will be important for users of the *Checklist* to take note of the date of download, as outputs will change over time on the basis of changes adopted by Parties.

The Checklist website also provides the flexibility to create tailored outputs by higher taxonomic group, Appendix and country or region, with additional "Advanced options" for including or excluding elements such as Authors' names, scientific synonyms and common names. If filters have been applied, some of the descriptions below may not be applicable. For instance, if scientific synonyms have been excluded, the synonym records will not appear in the output.

Structure

The Checklist of CITES species comprises two parts: the Index of CITES species (the present output) and the History of CITES listings. While users can choose to download tailored outputs of the Index of CITES species, the complete publication is an alphabetical list of all animal and plant taxa included in the CITES Appendices. The only exceptions to this are Appendix-II orchids. These are only included if they are listed in the CITES Orchid Checklist, volumes 1-4, published by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, or in the Checklist for Bulbophyllum and allied taxa (Sieder, Rainer & Kiehn, 2007). For the orchid species not found in these references, the CITES Species Index contains a record of the genera to which they belong, e.g. Aa spp, but not of the individual species in each genus.

Three types of record are included in the *Index of CITES species*:

- 1) scientific names, which are the main records and contain all information;
- 2) common names, which refer to the main record; and
- 3) scientific synonyms, which refer to the main record.

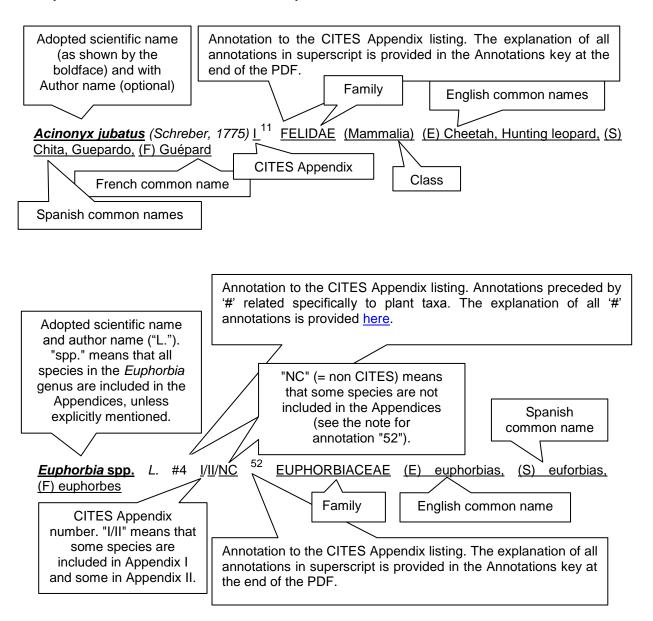
1 The scientific name record

This record is the main record that contains all the information available for each taxon.

Taxonomic names that have been officially adopted by the Conference of the Parties [see current list of standard nomenclatural references in <u>Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP16)</u>] appear in boldface in the *Checklist*, e.g. *Acinonyx jubatus* (the cheetah). This is the case for most taxa. In some cases, nevertheless, a standard nomenclatural reference for the constituent species of a higher taxon has not yet been adopted. In such instances, a reference identified by UNEP-WCMC has been used. The names of these taxa are not in boldface, e.g. *Tridacna maxima* (or any Tridacnidae species).

Higher taxa are only included when there is an Appendix listing at that level or if the higher taxon has inherited a listing from another higher taxon. For instance, a genus within Scleractinia spp. would be included so that it would be clear to readers that all species within the genus are listed (e.g. *Acropora* spp.). If, alternatively, the inclusion in the Appendices goes no further up than the species level, as in the case of *Dugong dugon*, the genus, family or order would not appear in this case (e.g. *Dugon*, Dugongidae and Sirenia would not appear).

Examples of scientific name records and explanation



Key to abbreviations and annotations

| I | listed in Appendix I |
|----------------------------------|--|
| II | listed in Appendix II |
| III | listed in Appendix III |
| NC | non CITES |
| spp. | all species of a higher taxon |
| var. | variety |
| Superscript annotations 1 to 74. | see the key for <i>Annotations</i> <u>not</u> preceded by "#" at the end of this PDF |
| #1-#14 (flora only) | see Key to # annotations |

2 The common name record

Where available, English (E), Spanish (S) and French (F) common names are provided. The common name is followed by the corresponding scientific name under which all information is recorded. There is only one entry for each common name, e.g. there is an entry for 'Eagle, Golden' but not for 'Golden Eagle'.

Examples of common name records and explanation

- 1) Hummingbird, Emerald-chinned (E): Abeillia abeillei
 - = go to "Abeillia abeillei" to see the full record of the "emerald-chinned hummingbird".
- 2) parrots (E): PSITTACIFORMES (Aves)
 - = go to "PSITTACIFORMES" to see the full record of "parrots".
- 3) orchids, slipper (E): Paphiopedilum spp. / Phragmipedium spp.
 - = go to "Paphiopedilum spp." and "Phragmipedium spp." to see the full record of "slipper orchids", because the same common name is used for both genera.

3 The synonym record

A synonym is followed by '=' and the scientific name under which all information is recorded.

Example and explanation

Loxodonta cyclotis = Loxodonta africana

<u>Explanation:</u> Loxodonta cyclotis is a synonym of Loxodonta africana. Go to "Loxodonta africana" to see the full record.

Note: A same species name may be displayed as both a synonym and an accepted name when it has been given by different authors to different species. Thus, the *Index of CITES species* contains the following consecutive entries:

Porites solida = Porites astreoides

Porites solida: II PORITIDAE (Anthozoa)

These mean:

Porites solida (Verrill, 1868) = Porites astreoides (Lamarck, 1816)

Porites solida (Forskål, 1775): II PORITIDAE (Anthozoa)

On the Checklist website, users can select "Author's name" in the *Advanced options* in order to display the authors' names both on screen and in the downloads. This will help provide clarity in these situations.