

CITES identification manual: The Aloes and Euphorbias of CITES Appendix I and the genus *Pachypodium*

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Identification is a basic element of CITES enforcement. After publication of "The Cacti of CITES Appendix I" in 2002, many ornamental plant species of the CITES appendices still remained without identification sheets. Succulent plants other than cacti, the so-called "other succulents", represent a major group of ornamental plants in the appendices, besides of orchids and cycads. Therefore, the CITES management authority of Switzerland (the federal veterinary office), upon an agreement with the CITES secretariat, decided to cover part of the "other succulents" with ID sheets and this project was started in 1999. The genera *Pachypodium*, *Euphorbia* and *Aloe* are the most popular of the "CITES-succulents" among collectors and amateurs and were therefore selected. However, there are simply too many species of succulent euphorbias and of aloes to cover them all in this frame and moreover, only a limited number are relevant in international trade. Consequently, as with the cacti, only the species of succulent euphorbias and of the genus *Aloe* that are listed in CITES Appendix I were covered, together with the whole genus *Pachypodium*.

For convenience of the user, the 57 ID sheets are published in book-form with the hope, that this publication will help to improve and facilitate CITES enforcement in the field of "other succulents". The identification sheets of this manual are arranged by genus and then, within genera, alphabetically. It was refrained from subdividing the genera *Aloe* and *Pachypodium* geographically into Madagascan and continental African species. *Pachypodium* names are treated in a separate chapter, as there is a considerable number of synonyms, partly resulting from various attempts to re-arrange taxa. A key for identification of pachypodiums is provided. It is however partly only applicable to flowering specimens. The book covers 17 Madagascan and four continental African aloes, further 10 Madagascan euphorbias, as well as 21 Madagascan and five continental African pachypodiums.

There were a number of obstacles that delayed publication of this volume, such as partial unavailability of data and cultivated plant material for study and illustration. In most cases, it was possible to make drawings from living, cultivated plants. During the period of the ID Manual project, only a single change occurred in the CITES listings: *Aloe thorncroftii* Pole-Evans, a South African species, was reviewed and proposed for down-listing to appendix II by South Africa and the Conference of Parties (CoP) adopted this proposal at its 12th meeting in Santiago (Chile). It entered into effect on 13 February 2003. Completion of the task was only possible with important contributions of a number of people and institutions. Cultivated plants were provided by Walter Roosli & Ralph Hoffmarm, Zürich, Switzerland, and by the IOS reference collection Sukkulenten-Sammlung Zürich, the Botanical Garden of the University of Bern and Matthias Uhlig, Stuttgart, Germany. Drawings were made by Urs Woy.