

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



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-20 March 2012 and Dublin (Ireland), 22-24 March 2012

IDENTIFICATION OF CITES-LISTED CORALS IN TRADE [DECISION 15.64 B]  
REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP  
(Agenda item 21)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Co-Chairs: representatives of Asia (Mr Soemorumekso) and Europe (Mr Fleming);  
Parties: Australia and United States or America; and  
IGOs and NGOs: Ornamental Fish International and TRAFFIC.

Mandate

Draft a proposed update of the list of coral taxa for which identification to genus level was acceptable, but which should be identified to species level where feasible.

Recommendations

1. The working group agreed to use the following criterion to determine which species be considered for adding to the list of coral taxa for which identification to genus level is acceptable but which should be identified to species level where feasible.

*It is not possible even for an informed non-specialist, with reasonable effort, to be able to distinguish between all the species in the genus with confidence without recourse to a specialist taxonomist*

2. The group recommends that the Animals Committee adopt the revised list (attached as Annex A) of coral taxa for which identification to genus is acceptable and provide this to the Secretariat for dissemination as a Notification to Parties.
3. The working group noted that the list will require revision to conform to a standard nomenclature reference for CITES-listed corals (arising from work under Decision 15.64.a), should one be adopted, and with any subsequent changes to this reference.
4. The group noted the difficulties of identifying corals, especially by non-specialists, but recommend that Parties should be reminded, in the Notification, that coral specimens not in this list of genera should be identified to species level.

CORAL TAXA WHERE IDENTIFICATION TO GENUS LEVEL IS ACCEPTABLE\*,  
BUT WHICH SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED TO SPECIES LEVEL WHERE FEASIBLE

[Changes to current list in Notification 2010/014 shown in **bold**]

Taxa	Number of species in the genus
<i>Acanthastrea</i>	10
<i>Acropora</i>	127
<i>Agaricia</i>	7
<i>Alveopora</i>	12
<i>Anacropora</i>	5
<i>Astreopora</i>	11
<i>Balanophyllia</i>	56
<i>Barabattoia</i>	3
<b><i>Blastomussa</i></b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Caulastraea</i>	4
<i>Coscinaraea</i>	9
<i>Ctenactis</i>	3
<b><i>Cycloseris</i></b>	<b>11</b>
<i>Cyphastrea</i>	7
<i>Dendrophyllia</i>	21
<b><i>Diaseris</i></b>	
<i>Distichopora</i>	23
<i>Echinophyllia</i>	8
<i>Echinopora</i>	9
<i>Euphyllia</i> (dead)	9
<i>Favia</i>	18
<i>Favites</i>	9
<i>Fungia</i>	25
<b><i>Galaxea</i></b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Goniastrea</i>	8
<i>Goniopora</i>	20
<b><i>Heterocyathus</i></b>	<b>3</b>
<b><i>Heteropsammia</i></b>	<b>2</b>
<b><i>Hydnophora</i></b>	<b>7</b>
<b><i>Isopora</i></b>	<b>?</b>
<i>Leptastrea</i>	6
<i>Leptoseris</i>	14
<b><i>Lithophyllon</i></b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Lobophyllia</i>	7
<i>Madracis</i>	15
<i>Millepora</i>	17
<i>Montastrea</i>	9
<i>Montipora</i>	56
<i>Mussismilia</i>	3
<i>Mycetophyllia</i>	5
<i>Oculina</i>	9
<i>Oxypora</i>	3
<b><i>Pachyseris</i></b>	<b>12</b>
<i>Pavona</i>	17
<i>Pectinia</i>	5
<i>Physogyra</i> (dead)	2
<i>Platygyra</i>	9
<i>Plerogyra</i> (dead)	4
<i>Pocillopora</i>	7
<i>Porites</i>	41

Taxa	Number of species in the genus
<i>Psammocora</i>	11
<b><i>Seriatopora</i></b>	<b>5</b>
<i>Scolymia</i>	5
<i>Siderastrea</i>	4
<i>Styaster</i>	75
<i>Stylocoeniella</i>	3
<i>Stylophora</i>	5
<i>Symphyllia</i>	7
<i>Tubastraea</i>	6
<i>Turbinaria</i>	12

- \* Parties are reminded that specimens of stony corals not in the genera listed above should continue to be identified to species level.