

Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees**TWO/50/10****Fiftieth Session****Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, September 11 to 15, 2017****Original:** English**Date:** August 16, 2017

EXPERIENCES WITH NEW TYPES AND SPECIES*Document prepared by an expert from the European Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

The Annex to this document contains a copy of a presentation on “Difficulties in the application of TG/296/1 Eucalyptus”, prepared by an expert from the European Union, to be made at the fiftieth session of the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO).

[Annex follows]

DIFFICULTIES IN THE APPLICATION OF TG/296/1 EUCALYPTUS

Presentation by an expert from the European Union



Difficulties in the application of TG/296/1

EUCALYPTUS

Jens Wegner

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Overview:

1. Difficulties observed
 - Subject of the TG
 - Time to assess certain characteristics
 - Practical difficulties in the DUS test
 - Financial challenges
2. Relevance of all characteristics for the title holder
3. Conclusion for the CPVO

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1.1 Difficulties on formalities: subject of the TG

- Some 800 *Eucalyptus* species known
- Subject of the test guideline:
 - All species of the sections *Transversaria*, *Maidenaria* and *Exsertaria* of the subgenus *Symphyomyrtus*
 - Some 200 species belong to these sections
 - Citing subsections in the scope of the TG may be taxonomically correct, HOWEVER,
 - References on scientific plant names only deal with genus and species name → cumbersome to verify if TG is applicable
 - Only less than 20 species actually in cultivation



1.2 Difficulties: material required – time of observation

- Material is to be supplied in form of young plants, 4 to 6 month old
- Characteristics should be observed at a fixed age:
 - (a) 10 to 12 month old trees
 - (b) 20 to 22 month old trees
 - (c) 42 to 44 month old trees
 - (d) 64 to 66 month old trees
- European conditions: 10 years to see flowers and fruit → characteristics not observed as prescribed for (c) and (d)



1.3 Practical Difficulties :

Photo: only the plants at border flower



- European conditions: flowers and fruits only on trees being ≈ 10 years old
- TG: "*observations on the leaf to be made on terminal shoots in active growth*" ... how?
- How to identify e.g. an off-type flower at the top of the tree with reasonable effort?



1.4 Financial challenges:

- Applicant shall pay for each year of the technical examination EUR 1,730
- 10 years of technical examination = EUR 17,300 per variety



2. Description of fully grown plants useful for the right holder?

- Title holders have to enforce their rights in the first instance on propagation material
- Fully grown plants, flowers and fruits are not traded → title holder should not have any interest in these characteristics.
- Important for the trade: young plants, cut foliage and timber; however, does the assessment of timber characteristics justify 10 years of testing?



Comparison with other tree species

- No observation of flowers or fruits:
 - *Acer*: 1 or 2 years
 - *Abies*, *Betula*, *Fagus*, *Picea*, *Robinia*, *Paulownia*, *Populus*, *Quercus*, *Salix*: 2 years
- Observation of flowers:
 - *Magnolia*: 2 or 3 years
- Observation of flowers and fruits:
 - Apple, pear, peach: 4 years
 - *Citrus*: 5 years
- Why then observing flower, fruit and timber characteristics in *Eucalyptus*?



3. Conclusion for the CPVO:

- DUS tests on plant material being taller than 2 to 3 meters hardly feasible
- Long DUS test expensive
- If compliance with DUS requirements can be established within two years why describing fully grown plants?

- Project: to develop an independent CPVO test guideline limited to the species cultivated and to characteristics that can be observed within two years



TWO 2017: Eucalyptus TG

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CPVO

Community Plant Variety Office

The CPVO would like to learn how
TG/296/1 works for other authorities

Thank you!

wegner@cpvo.europa.eu

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