

CITES news - Prague



Czech Environmental Inspectorate



10.5.2011 – Customs officers at the post office warehouse in Prague with the cooperation of CEI inspectors checked two consignments of butterflies which were posted from Solomon Islands and found 27 dried specimens of the species **Queen Victoria's Birdwing** (II/B) (*Ornithoptera victoriae*). No documents were attached to these consignments, no import permit was issued.

This species is found only in the Solomon Islands and Bougainville Island (Papua New Guinea) and is listed in the Annex of the Commission regulation (EU) No 997/2010 as a species whose introduction (both wild and ranched) into the Union is suspended. CEI tried to contact Solomon Islands Management and Scientific Authority to get their statement in this matter, but got no reaction from either of them.

Both packets were seized, but the importer will not be fined, as he declared he had ordered common non-cites species and not the protected ones. The importer is well known to the CEI as a regular importer of dried butterflies.

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