

14. *Ravenea lakatra* (Jum.) Beentje comb. nov.

*Louvelia lakatra* Jum. in Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille 4, 5, 1: 50 (1927);  
Jum. & H. Perrier in Fl. Madagascar 30: 164 (1945). Type: Madagascar,  
Analamazaotra, Anevoka, Perrier 12022 (holotype P), **synon. nov.**

Slender palm; trunk 4.5–14 m, DBH 13–17 cm, to 11 cm across near the crown; nodal scars c. 1 cm (to 3.5 cm near crown), internodes 10–16 cm (c. 2 cm near crown), light brown; wood very hard, with black fibre layer; sheath remnants clothing distal part of trunk; short, erect woody sheath base remnants set at nodes over the whole length of trunk, very hard, to 7 cm long; base of crown c. 22 cm across. *Leaves* 8–10 in the crown, porrect, slightly arching, held on edge in distal part of leaf; sheath 75–80 × 16 cm, with down-pointing fibres on margins, white-tomentose, with black internal fibres; petiole 80–160 cm, proximally 5–6 × 3–6 cm across, distally 4 × 3 cm across, canaliculate, with very sharp (almost sawtooth) edges, proximally closely denticulate, with white or grey tomentum but glabrescent; rachis 234–350 cm, in midleaf 1.2–2.2 × 1.3 cm across, with white to grey tomentum but quickly glabrescent; leaflets stiff, in one plane, mid-green, 87–98 on each side of the rachis, the proximal 42–102 × 0.8–3.8 cm, the median 66–77 × 2.7–4.7 cm (interval 3–4 cm), distal 23–49 × 0.7–2.3 cm; few small rammenta near the rachis, but these deciduous; sinuous transverse veinlets clearly visible. *Staminate inflorescence* interfoliar, solitary, branched to 1 order (only seen as dead); peduncle not seen; prophyll not seen; peduncular bracts seen 89, 103 cm; rachis c. 92 cm; rachillae 6–30 cm, 1–1.5 mm across; pedicel 1.2–1.6 mm; calyx connate for 1 mm, with free lobes 0.8 × 0.2–0.3 mm; petals probably connate for 1.8 mm, free lobes 5–5.5 × 1.3 mm; stamens ? in 2 series, the epipetalous ones adnate for/inserted at 2.2–2.5 mm, the filaments absent, the anthers 1.5 × 0.5 mm. *Pistillate inflorescence* solitary, erect, interfoliar among old leafbases in fruit, branched to 1 order; peduncle 82–130 cm, proximally 3.5–4 × 1.5–2 cm, distally 2.5 × 1.5 cm, densely white-brown pubescent; prophyll 10–25 × 5 cm, tattering, white, membranous; peduncular bracts 20–43 cm, 30–40 cm (inserted at 22–24 cm from the base of the peduncle), 140 cm (inserted at 48 cm), 88–119 cm (inserted at 60–87 cm), all densely white- to brown-pubescent abaxially, glabrous adaxially; rachis 44–86 cm, white-tomentose, with 50–70 porrect rachillae; rachillae 7–65 cm, 2 mm across, sinuous, proximally 11 × 5 mm; pedicels 3–6 mm; bracteole 1.5 × 1.5 mm, connate for up to 1 mm; calyx connate for 2–2.5 mm, 3.5 mm across, the free lobes 0.8–2 × 0.9–1.2 mm; petals 5–8 × 2.5–5.5 mm. *Fruit* blackish, slightly depressed globose, 15–20 mm, 18–21 mm across, with terminal stigmatic remains, 1-/2-/3-seeded; each seed with sclerified layer 8–11 mm and 6–10.6 mm across with sharp distal acumen 2.5–3 mm, the layer 0.3–0.35 mm thick; seed 9–10 mm, 5–10 mm across, with distal acumen of 1.5 mm; seed coat black, 0.2 mm thick.

DISTRIBUTION. E Madagascar: between Andasibe and Vangaindrano.

HABITAT. Moist lowland forest on slight midslope or ridgecrest; 90–850 m.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED. Moramanga: Andasibe, Nov. 1986, (juv.), Dransfield *et al.* JD 6424 (K, P, TAN); Anevoka, (prob. Dec. 1914) (fr.), Perrier 12022

(holotype P). Ifanadiana: Tsaratanana (juv.), *Beentje* 4440 (K, MO, TAN). Manakara: 39 km NNE of Manakara, July 1992 (fr.), *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4726 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN). Farafangana: Manombo, Nov. 1991 (y.fr.), *Beentje* 4523 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN); idem, Jan. 1993 (old stam.), *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4793 (K, TAN).

LOCAL NAMES & USES. 'Lakatra'; at Andasibe extensively used as a source of fibre for weaving of high-quality hats, the young leaves being harvested; this prevents the trees from growing, and most populations are pruned to a perpetually juvenile rosette stage. In its southern distribution area not well known, 'Lakatra' and 'Tsilanitafika' (cannot be cut down by an army) used occasionally.

The type and the material I found much further south agree perfectly in leaf and inflorescence details. The Flora (Jumelle & Perrier de la Bathie 1945), but not the protologue, describes the tree as being 15–30 m high, and with a DBH of 15–30 cm, while the wood is described as white and soft. I would treat these later additions with suspicion.

The seed is unique within the genus in having a pointed acumen.

### 15. *Ravenea albicans* (Jum.) *Beentje* comb. nov.

*Louvelia albicans* Jum. in Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille 5, 1, 1: 5 (1933); Jum. & H. Perrier in Fl. Madagascar 30: 162 (1945), **synon. nov.** Pollen illustrated in Genera Palmarum (1987): 27, Plate 1.7: H. Type: Madagascar, Masoala, *Perrier* 11939 (holotype P).

Slender undergrowth palm; *trunk* 3–6 m, DBH up to 11 cm, covered in marcescent, litter-trapping sheath bases. *Leaves* c. 8 in the crown, porrect, 3–4 m long; sheath c. 72 cm, with brown-velvety tomentum over green; petiole 0–34 cm, proximally about 5 × 4 cm across, distally 3.7 × 3.3 cm across, canaliculate; rachis c. 3.7 m long, in midleaf 2–2.2 cm wide with 8 mm wide keel, with transverse ('zebra') striping especially abaxially; leaflets stiff, in one plane, 45–47 on each side of the rachis, the proximal 62–65 × 2.2–2.5 cm, median 75–83 × 6.6–7.2 cm (the protologue gives 50–60 × 2–2.5, but in the type the apices are broken off and the leaflets are folded) (interval 4.5–5 cm), distal 20–25 × 0.8–1.5 cm; abaxially with continuous white tomentum. *Staminate inflorescences* solitary, interfoliar, branching to 1 order, hardly exerted, mostly hidden among sheaths and leaf remnants; peduncle distally 12 × 6 mm, dense white-puberulous; with 3(–4?) bracts, the first being destroyed at anthesis, the ones seen 25 cm, 30 cm, 32–35 cm; rachillae 5–8 cm long, 2.5 mm across; calyx reduced to 3 small triangular teeth < 2 mm; petals elongated, triangular and acuminate, 5.5–6.5 mm, free or hardly connate at the base; episepalous stamens with large filament, appearing free among the spread petals; epipetalous stamens with filament connate to inner side of petals, the anthers therefore appearing sessile. *Pistillate inflorescences* solitary, interfoliar, erect, 126–150 cm, branched to 1 order; peduncle 94–120 cm, proximally 2.5–3.4 × 1.2–1.7 cm across, distally 1.5 × 0.8 cm; prophyll c. 18 × 7.5 cm; peduncular bracts seen 27 cm, 34 cm, 46 cm; rachis 8–12 cm; rachillae 8–13 in number, 17–29 cm long; pedicels 1–2 mm; flowers unknown. *Fruit unknown*. Eophyll bifid, with the