

mm; petals 3, \pm free, ca. 2.5×0.5 mm, 3-veined, eventually disintegrating leaving the veins free; staminodes 6, filaments very slender, flattened, anthers sagittate, flattened, empty; ovary flask-shaped, ca. 3×1 mm, stigmas 3, short, recurved. Mature fruit broadly ovoid, ca. 10×8 mm, stigmatic remains lateral near the base; epicarp yellow, drying wrinkled, mesocarp apparently thin, endocarp very thin; seed rounded, ca. 5 mm diam.

Specimens Examined: COMORE ISLANDS: Grand Comore, Charboni-La Grille, at the north end of the island, Aug. 1961, *H. St. John 26544* (pistillate) (BH, K), *26543* (staminate) (BH, K); Maoueni, La Grille, Dec. 1967, *Bernardi 11646* (staminate) (G, K); without locality, *H. Humbert 395* (staminate) (K), *1608* (staminate) (FI, P); Anjouan, March 1877, *Bewsher 34* (staminate) (K); April 1861, *Dr. Kirk s.n.* (pistillate) (K); Moheli, Nov. 1968, *Schlieben 11214* (pistillate) (K); Johanna Is., in mountain forest, *Hildebrandt 1743* (pistillate) (\dagger B, FI).

Cultivated: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Palm House, May 1884 (staminate) (holotype K); April 1891 (staminate and pistillate) (K); June 1901 (pistillate) (K); Herrenhausen, comm. *H. A. Wendland* Sept. 1884 (pistillate) (K), May 1885 (pistillate) (K).

Ravenea moorei J. Dransf. & N. W. Uhl, sp. nov. (Fig. 1).

Palma robusta elegantissima, ab altera specie Insularum Comorensium, *R. hildebrandtii*, habitu multo majore distinctissima, *R. robustiori* et *R. rivulari* Insulae Madagascariensis ut videtur affinis, sed a *R. rivulari* foliis paucioribus, foliolis majoribus, inflorescentiis solitariis, rachillas longiores ferentibus et fructu majore, et a *R. robustiore* fructu semper monospermo, rachillis brevioribus, foliolis minoribus et vagina folii lobo oppositipetiole carenti differt. Typus: Insulae Comorenses, Grand Comore, *H. E. Moore & A.*

Moelevoce 9028 (holotypus BH; isotypus K).

Robust, solitary, unarmed, pleoanthic, dioecious tree palm. Stem to 20 m tall, 12–35 cm diam. at breast height, grossly swollen at the base, internodes ca. 20 cm long in lower part, much shorter towards the apex, nodal scars not very prominent, bark grey-brown. Leaves numerous, \pm spreading or erect, not curved, ca. 3 m long; sheath soon splitting, margins with long fine fibers, abaxial surface covered with thick tomentum, white in unexposed areas, soft brown where exposed, becoming thinner distally; petiole very short, ca. 10 cm long, 4 cm wide, 1.5 cm thick, adaxially flattened, abaxially \pm rounded, sparsely tomentose abaxially, glabrous adaxially; rachis elongate, gradually tapered, abaxially rounded, adaxially shallowly grooved or angled, laterally grooved, sparsely tomentose; leaflets very numerous, pendulous, ca. 80 on each side, regularly arranged, rather close, \pm opposite, rather narrow, long acuminate, proximal few leaflets very crowded and narrow, 15–25 cm long, ca. 1 cm wide; mid leaf leaflets 70×2.5 cm, decreasing in size towards the leaf tip, apical leaflets 15×0.7 cm, main veins ca. 5, the midrib the largest, prominent adaxially, abaxially bearing conspicuous, close, pale, \pm regularly arranged ramenta; transverse veinlets obscure, caducous tomentum present abaxially near the base. Inflorescences solitary, axillary; staminate inflorescence known only in the dead state, ca. 90 cm long, branched to 2 orders; peduncle ca. 35 cm long \times 1.5 cm diam., \pm rounded in cross section, bracts not known; rachillae numerous, slender, up to 15 cm \times 1.5 mm; pistillate inflorescence ca. 1.5 m long, \pm pendulous, branched to 1 order, rather lax; peduncle ca. 90 cm long, ca. 2 cm diam. near the base, rounded or elliptic in cross section, bearing caducous, soft brown tomentum; prophyll tubular, 2-keeled, 20×5 cm, rather thin bearing caducous pale brown tomentum, tattering

and becoming fibrous with age; peduncular bracts 4, inserted close together, the proximal 3 tubular, similar to the prophyll but not 2-keeled, the 4th open, the longest one ca. 130 × 5 cm, irregularly splitting and becoming fibrous; rachis ca. 60 cm long, gradually tapering distally; rachillae numerous, ca. 100, rather stiff, ± straight, 30–45 cm long, distal ones 15–20 cm long, 5 mm diam. at the base, tapering to 1.5–2.5 mm distally, bearing spirally or subdistichously arranged peg-like floral pedicels, 0.5–5 × 1–1.5 mm; pistillate flowers not known. Fruit ripening bright yellow to orange, spherical, 16 mm diam., stigmatic residue lateral, persistent sepals triangular, ca. 1.25 × 1 mm; persistent petals similar but smaller; epicarp smooth, wrinkling on drying, mesocarp fleshy, ca. 1.3 mm thick, endocarp not differentiated. Seed spherical, 9–11 mm

diam., dark brown, basally attached; endosperm solid, homogeneous, embryo basal.

Specimens Examined: COMORE ISLANDS: Grand Comore, on lava between Boboni and Kafeni, below Chemin du Capitain Dubois, 600–800 m altitude, surviving in secondary rain forest, vernacular name 'inazi', Nov. 1963, *H. E. Moore & A. Moelevoce 9028* (holotype BH, isotype K); Aug. 1961, *H. St. John 26542* (BH, K).

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