mossing fibres. **Seed** ellipsoid, 12–13 x 5–6 mm, pointed at the base, rounded at the apex, attached to the spot corresponding to the stigmatic remnant on the outside; endosperm deeply ruminate, the ruminations reaching the middle.

**Note.** The following data from the protologue do not appear on the type label: found at 100 m altitude. This species resembles both *D. bejofo* and *D. canaliculata* but is distinct in the smaller and thinner trunk, the more branched inflorescence and the much smaller fruit.


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**5. Dypsis Ampasindavae**

A rare species, with the leaves in three ranks. The new name refers to the village nearest to the forest where the type was found, and where HB stayed when he refound the species (‘the sand across the bay’ in Malagasy).

**Distribution.** Restricted to Nosy Be and Manongarivo Mountains.

**Habitat.** Moist lowland forest, on steep mid slope; 10–200 m.

**Local names.** Lavaboka (Tsimihety).

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*Dypsis ceracea.* **A** leaf sheath, petiole and basal leaflets x 1/5; **B** mid section of leaf x 1/2; **C** leaf tip x 1/5; **D** part of infructescence x 1/5; **E** fruit x 2; **F** fruit in cross section x 2. All from Perrier 17474. Drawn by Margaret Tehbs.
**Dypsis ampasindavae**

**Uses.** Used in house construction; palm-heart eaten. **Conservation Status.** Endangered. Known from only two sites, both of which are protected; but tree poaching is a severe threat in Lokobe Special Reserve (see Adany et al. 1994). HB has seen less than 25 trees in the two sites.

**Dypsis ampasindavae** Beentje nomen nov.

**Synonym:**


**NOTE.** The epithet 'loucoubensis' is too close to that of *Chrysalidocarpus lucubensis* Becc. of 1906, a synonym of *D. madagascariensis*.

Large solitary palm. **Trunk** 12-15 m, 18-25 cm diam., with basal swelling 20 cm high and 40-55 cm diam., with surface roots; internodes 10-17 cm long, pale brown; nodal scars 1-3 cm, grey; near the crown 17 cm diam., and the internodes here c. 17 cm long, nodal scars 2 cm. **Leaves** 9-11 in the crown, tristichous, procer incurved with pendulous leaflets; sheath 110-146 cm long, 20-23 cm diam., pale green with some wax, half open, without auricles or with slight auricles to 1 cm high; petiole absent or up to 18 cm long, 5-8.5 x 3-4.5 cm diam., channelled, green and with scattered scales or glabrous; rachis 3.6-5 m long, in mid-leaf 2-3 x 1.8-2.5 cm diam., keeled, with scattered scales; leaflets 84-103 on each side of the rachis, regular, pale or mid-green, in one plane but with the
Dypsis tsaravoasira

**CONSERVATION STATUS.** Endangered. Only known from three sites, two of which are under agricultural pressure; numbers within the populations are low, and we have seen less than thirty altogether.

**Dypsis tsaravoasira** Beentje sp. nov.

*Inter species maximas tristichas foliolis regulariter dispositis inflorescentis multo ramosis numero foliorum infra glandibus dispersis tectorum distincta. Typus: Madagascar, Sahavary, hills E of village, Andilampananina, Dransfield et al. JD6463 (Holotypus K; isotypi P, TAN).

Solitary palm. **Trunk** 10–25 cm, 18–40 cm diam, prominently ringed above, scarcely below, 7.5–25 cm across near crown, internodes 5–15 cm, pale brown, distally green. Crownsheet green, swollen, 1–1.5 m. **Leaves** 5–9, tristichous, procumbent, stiff to arcuate; sheath 69–150 cm long, 12 cm across, green, distally densely scaly, with or without irregular ligule c. 22 mm; petiole 0–13 cm, distally 4.5×4 cm, densely scaly to glabrous; rachis strongly arcuate, 2.3–3.5 m long, glabrous or scaly, in mid-leaf 2–3 cm wide; leaflets 102–120 on each side of the rachis, regular, stiff to arcuate, dull dark green, the ones on opposite sides of the rachis in one plane or at a slight angle, less conspicuously so near the tip, mid-green, proximal leaflets 68–135 x 0.5–3.1 cm with conspicuous pendulous reins, median 81–127 x 2.2–3 cm (interval 1.5–3 cm), distal 10–48 x 0.2–2 cm, apex single or bifid, unequal, main vein 1, thickened margins, rest faint, scattered tufts of ramenta, and with a few scattered scales on the minor veins. **Inflorescence** infrabulb,branching to 3 orders, arching with pendulous rachillae; peduncle 22–26 cm, strongly curved, distally c. 4 x 3 cm, with peduncular bract inserted at 15–16 cm, c. 90 cm long; 14–9 cm diam., green with a white bloom, beaked for 6 cm; rachis 90–120 cm long, pale whitish green, with 18–22 branched and 15–21 non-branched first order branches, the most proximal of these with a rachis of up to 32 cm, at its base 2.5–5 x 1.2–1.5 cm diam., with to up 21 second order branches and rachillae; rachillae whitish green, 24–58 cm long, 3.5–5 mm diam., glabrous; triads distant, in slight pits; rachilla bract small, acute. **Staminate flowers** cream; sepals 1.5–2.1 x 1.4–1.8 mm, broadly ovate, gibbously proximally, keeled, acute to truncate, with ciliate membranous margins; petals 3–3.4 x 1.7–2 mm, ovate, acute; stamens 6, uniseriate, filaments 1.2–1.5 mm long, thin, anthers 2–2.3 x 0.5–0.6 mm, dorsalfix, versatile, the ones on opposite sides of the rachis in one plane or at a slight angle, less conspicuously so near the tip, mid-green, proximal leaflets 68–135 x 0.5–3.1 cm with conspicuous pendulous reins, median 81–127 x 2.2–3 cm (interval 1.5–3 cm), distal 10–48 x 0.2–2 cm, apex single or bifid, unequal, main vein 1, thickened margins, rest faint, scattered tufts of ramenta, and with a few scattered scales on the minor veins. **Endosperm** fibrous, the fibres slightly anastomizing. **Seed** ellipsoid, 9–11 x 7–8 mm, pointed at the base, rounded at the apex, with a subaqueatorial depression; endosperm ruminate, the ruminations distant and 1–2 mm deep.

**NOTE.** Closest to the other large tristichous species, *D. tsaravoasira* and *D. pilulifera*. Distinct in its longer rachillae and homogeneous endosperm.


### 6. Dyypsis tsaravoasira

A majestic, tristichous palm. The leaves are in three ranks.Although the material is incomplete, this is clearly a distinct taxon. The name derives from the local name.

**DISTRIBUTION.** Only known from Marojejy, Maroantssetra and Mananara.

**HABITAT.** Open primary forest, steep upper slopes or ridgetop hollows; 275–1050 m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** Tsaravoasira, Hovotravavy, Lavahoko (Betsimisaraka).

**USES.** Palm-heart edible.

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**Dypsis tsaravoasira**, the crowns of curving leaves visible in the distance, Antalavia.