



**Dypsis
lutea**

Clustering or solitary palm. **STEM** 2.5–3 m high, to 0.8 cm diam., the distal internodes c. 7 cm, blackish brown, covered in lacinate scales. **LEAVES** c. 9 in the crown, entire; sheath 10–17 cm long, c. 1 cm diam., pale green, distally covered in dense red-brown lacinate scales when young, with or without triangular auricles to 3 mm long and lacinate; petiole absent or to 4.5 cm long, c. 1.5 mm diam., with brown lacinate scales mixed with silvery scales; blade obtriangular, 30–55 cm long, pale green, midrib/rachis 21–43 cm long, lobes 9–17 × 2.3–4.2 cm, main veins 7–17, scattered scales on the midrib and to a lesser extent on the veins, apices 5–15 mm wide and dentate, also dentate on the distal outside margins. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, yellow to orange, branched to 1 or 2 orders, 33–77 cm long; peduncle 19–60 cm, 2.5–5 mm diam., densely scaly but glabrescent; prophyll 14–37 cm long, 0.5–1 cm wide, borne at 2.5–9 cm above the base of the peduncle, split for the distal 2.5 cm, with scattered scales; peduncular bract deciduous or persistent, inserted at 12–27 from the base of the peduncle, 13–31.5 cm long, split in the distal 4 cm, with scattered scales; rachis 4–16 cm long, glabrous, without or with up to 5 branched, and 4–11 unbranched first order branches, the proximal of the branched ones with up to 4 rachillae; rachillae 4–17 cm, with dense triads and dark yellow flowers. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1–1.5 × 1–1.4 mm; petals 2.1–2.5 × 1.4–1.6 mm; stamens 6, equal or offset for up to 0.3 mm, filaments 0.8–1 mm long, 0.2–0.3 mm diam., cylindrical with slightly triangular base, anthers 1–1.5 × 0.7–0.8 mm, dorsifixed, versatile, the locules parallel and obtuse; pistillode 0.4–1.1 mm high, 0.3–0.4 mm diam. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1–1.2 × 1.2–1.6 mm, ciliolate; petals 2.8–3 × 2.2–2.7 mm, ciliolate?; staminodes 6, 0.3–0.6 mm long; gynoecium 2.8–3 mm high, 1.6–2.7 mm diam. **FRUITS** (young) oblong, incurved, attenuate towards an obtuse apex.

NOTE. Var. *transiens* was separated on the base of the peduncular bract being deciduous, not split at the apex, and beaked, whereas var. *lutea* has peduncular bract remaining, opening only at the apex, not beaked. *Perrier* 12002 has one inflorescence which differs strongly from the others on that specimen and looks very much like that of var. *transiens*, including the stouter prophyll, the deciduous peduncular bract and the inflorescence branched to two orders. *Perrier*

18391 shows a peduncular bract with a 1 cm long beak, just as in var. *transiens*. We see no reason to uphold the varieties.

Decary 5064 is from Ivohibe: Ifandana, Sept. 1926 (bud), (P), and is very like *D. lutea*. It is 5 m high; the leaf is 62 cm long, with lobes 42 cm long; the inflorescence is branched to 2 orders, with a rachis of 24 cm with 15 branched and 10 unbranched first order branches; rachillae are 5–9 cm long. The staminate flowers are smaller in all dimensions, but they are in bud.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Maroantsetra/Antalaha: Masoala Peninsula, Nov. 1912 (fl.), *Perrier* 11940 (P, type of var. *transiens*). Moramanga: Ambatovola, Jan. ?1913 (fl.), *Perrier* 12002 (P, syntype); idem, Jan. 1928 (fl.), *Perrier* 18391 (P, syntype); Andasibe, Anevoke, Nov. 1986 (bud), *Dransfield et al.* JD6421 (K, P, TAN).

78. DYP SIS BETAMPONENSIS

A small palm with entire leaves, much-branched inflorescences, and didymous stamens; distinct, and presumably extinct as well. The species name is derived from the type locality.

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from a single collection from Betampona.

HABITAT. Lowland rain forest; c. 100 m (according to Jumelle & Perrier (1945); the type specimen gives no altitude).

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.



**Dypsis
betamponensis**

CONSERVATION STATUS. Presumed extinct: not seen for seventy years. Betampona has been visited by several palm collectors, including HB, in recent years.

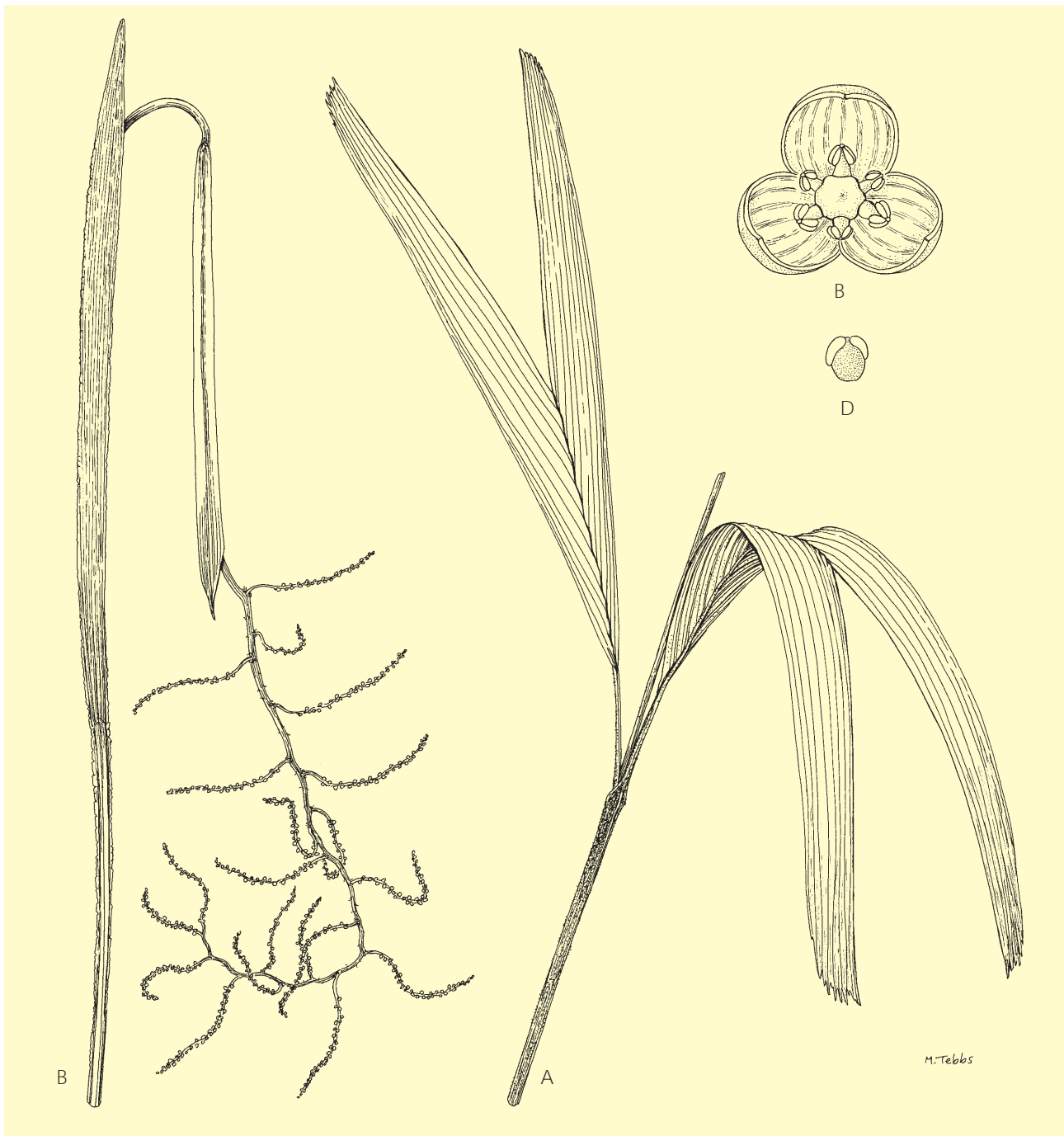
Dypsis betamponensis (Jum.) Beentje & J. Dransf. **comb. nov.**

SYNONYM:

Neophloga betamponensis Jum., Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 4, 6 (3): 33 (1929); Jum. & H. Perrier, Fl. Madagascar 30: 76 (1945). Type: Madagascar, Betampona near Ambodiriana, Perrier 17469 (Holotype P).

Small palm to 1 m. **LEAVES** entire, with the sheath c. 11 cm long, 6.5 mm diam., with sparse reddish scales and c. 2 mm high auricles; petiole c. 6 cm long, 2.5–3 mm diam., with reddish scales; lamina 49–52 cm long, midrib 21.5 cm, lobes 30 × 5.7 cm, main veins c. 7,

with lines and bands of reddish scales, apices 0.8–1.8 cm wide, long-dentate. **INFLORESCENCE** c. 63 cm, branched to 1 (2) order(s); peduncle c. 41 cm long, c. 2 mm diam., glabrous; prophyll c. 30 cm long, 1 cm wide, borne at 10.5 cm above the base of the peduncle, with scattered pale brown scales; peduncular bract inserted at c. 30 cm from the base of the peduncle, c. 12 cm long; rachis c. 16 cm long, with sparse long (1–2 mm) red curly hairs, especially in the axils of rachillae, with 1 branched and 22 unbranched first order branches, the branched one with 3 rachillae; rachillae reflexed, 3–5.2 cm, c. 1 mm diam., glabrous, with quite dense triads. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals imbricate, 0.6–0.8 × 0.8–1.1 mm; petals 0.8–0.9 mm high; stamens 6, biseriate, didymous, the filaments 0.2–0.25 mm long and connate at their bases, anthers 0.2–0.35 mm long and wide, in the type often with 4 fertile, 1 sterile and 1 missing or vestigial stamen; pistillode c. 0.2 mm high. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** only known from very young buds, with sepals imbricate, the petals still enclosed within. **FRUIT** unknown.



Dypsis betamponensis. **A** crown × 1/2; **B** inflorescence × 1/2; **C** staminate flower × 20; **D** stamen × 30. All from Perrier 17469. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.

NOTE. The didymous stamens are very rare in entire-leaved *Dypsis* species, and only *D. catatiana*, *D. fanjana* and *D. singularis* are similar in this respect.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Toamasina: Betampona, Dec. 1925 (bud), *Perrier* 17469 (Holotype P).

79. DYPISIS MAHIA

This is a very small species with pencil-thin stems. The small, entire leaves with long lobes are very distinct. *Mahia* is Malagasy for 'slender' and refers to the very slender lobes of the lamina which, curiously and most unusually in the genus, are acuminate rather than dentate.

DISTRIBUTION. Manombo, only known from the type.

HABITAT. Lowland rain forest on thin humus layer over rocky soil; c. 60 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Critical. Known from a single site, which is slowly being destroyed by fire, shifting cultivation and logging.

***Dypsis mahia* Beentje sp. nov.**

palma minima lobis folii integri longis acutis distincta. Typus: Madagascar, Manombo, *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4792 (Holotypus K; isotypus TAN).

Solitary or with paired stems. **STEMS** to 60 cm, c. 6 mm diam; internodes 3–6 mm, glabrous; nodal scars 1–2 mm. **LEAVES** 8–10 in the crown, entire; sheath 5–5.5 cm long, the outer open, the inner closed, pale brown with scattered reddish scales distally, with lacinate edges, without auricles; petiole 5.5–7 cm long, 2–2.5 mm wide, with scattered scales; lamina entire, 34–38 cm long, connate for 5–7 cm, lobed for 80–85 %, the lobes 1.1–1.8 cm wide; main veins 5, with few small reddish scales; apices long-acuminate, not dentate. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, erect, branched to 1 order; peduncle 15–16 cm long, 1.5–2 mm diam., glabrous; prophyll 11–11.5 cm long, open in the distal 1 cm, with few scattered scales; peduncular bract inserted at c. 8 cm from the base of the peduncle, c. 10.5 cm long, open in the distal 4.5 cm, with few scattered scales; rachis c. 6 cm long, glabrous, with 12 rachillae; rachillae porrect, 3–5 cm long, 0.6 mm diam., glabrous. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** yellow in bud, with sepals 0.5–0.6 × 0.5–0.7 mm; petals 0.7–0.9 × 0.8 mm; stamens 6, uniseriate?, the filaments connate at the base, 0.4 mm long and thin, anthers 0.4 × 0.3 mm,



***Dypsis mahia*.** **A** crown × 1/4; **B** detail of rachilla × 3. All from *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4792. Drawn by Margaret Tebbis.