

1.5 × 0.5 mm, the locules parallel; pistillode c. 1.3 × 0.3 mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1.3–1.8 × 1–2.1 mm; petals 1.8–2.9 × 1.4–2.4 mm; staminodes 0.3–0.7 mm; gynoecium c. 1.9 × 1.3 mm. **FRUIT** red, ovoid or ellipsoid, 11–13 × 5–8 mm, with an obtusely pointed apex; endocarp fibrous, the fibres slightly anastomosing. **SEED** ellipsoid, 10–10.5 × 5–5.5 mm, pointed at both ends; endosperm homogeneous.

**NOTE.** Very distinct; the open leaf sheath is reminiscent of *D. brevicaulis*.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Mananjary: without further locality except “zone cotière”, March/April 1909 (fl.), *Geay* 8056 (P); idem, (y. fr.), *Geay* 8057 (Holotype P). Farafangana: Manombo, Nov. 1991 (bud), *Beentje* 4512 (K). Vangaindrano: Ankararano (loc. not found), May 1919 (fr.), *Perrier* 12625 (P).

## 95. *DYP SIS BREVICAULIS*

The leaves of this species appear to come directly from the ground, but there is a small underground stem. The Latin name means ‘short-stemmed’.

**DISTRIBUTION.** East Coast just N of Manantenina and Manafiafy/Sainte-Luce.

**HABITAT.** Evergreen forest on white sand or laterite; 1–700 m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** Not recorded.

**USES.** Not recorded.

**CONSERVATION STATUS.** Critical. Only known from



**Dypsis digitata.** **A** habit × 1/6; **B** leaf bases, leaf and inflorescence × 1.5; **C** fruit × 3; **D** endocarp × 3; **E** endocarp and seed in cross section × 3. **A** from *Beentje* 4512, **B** from *Geay* 8056, **C** – **E** from *Perrier* 12625. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.

three sites; numbers are extremely low (less than twenty have been seen) and forests in the area are under threat from shifting cultivation and proposed ilmenite mining operations.

**Dypsis brevicaulis** (Guillaumet) Beentje & J. Dransf. **comb. nov.**

**SYNONYM:**

***Neophloga brevicaulis*** Guillaumet, *Adansonia sér.* 2, 13 (3): 343, figs. 1-2 (1973). Type: Madagascar, Analalava forest N of Manantenina, *Guillaumet* 4003b (Holotype P; isotype K).

Solitary (?) dwarf palm, almost acaulescent (*Humbert* 20671 has 'suffrutex 1 m'). **STEM** largely underground, 5–15 cm, 0.9–2 cm diam. **LEAVES** 5–8, entire; sheath 7–11 cm long, densely covered with reddish scales but glabrescent, with 2 small auricles, almost

open in outermost leaves, then with ragged margins; petiole 0–8 cm long, 2–2.5 mm diam., adaxially flat, abaxially concave, with scattered scales; lamina narrowly triangular, 28–150 × 2.7–4.5 cm, with attenuate base, with c. 4 main veins on each side, adaxially with the proximal part of the midrib scaly, abaxially with the midrib scaly, and with minute scattered scales all over, lobed for 3.5–12 cm, the lobes 1.6–2 cm wide and with rather narrow, dentate apex, the outside margin also with one or two indistinct teeth at 6–10 cm from the apex. **INFLORESCENCE** unbranched or rarely branched into 2 rachillae; peduncle c. 13 cm; prophyll c. 13 × 0.3 cm; peduncular bract not seen; rachilla 9–17 cm, c. 1 mm diam., lepidote, with 60–80 triads, these pro-trandrous; rachilla bract wide, concave, rounded-triangular. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with keeled sepals 1.3–1.5 × 1–1.2 mm, acute, slightly gibbous; petals 2–2.2 × 1.2 mm, ovate, acute; stamens 6, didymous, biseriate, the antepetalous inserted 0.2–0.5 mm higher up, filaments 0.8–0.9 × 0.3 mm, anthers c. 0.4 × 0.6 mm;



**Dypsis brevicaulis.** **A** habit × 1/4; **B** detail of underside of leaf × 4; **C** rachilla × 1/3; **D** staminate flower bud × 8; **E** open staminate flower × 10. All from *Guillaumet* 4003b. Drawn by Margaret Tebbis.



**Dypsis  
brevicaulis**

pistillode  $0.8 \times 0.5$  mm, club-shaped. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with cucullate sepals; petals ovate, staminodes 6, very short at the base of an oblong ovary, this trigonous, with connivent stigmas. **FRUIT** unknown.

**NOTE.** This species has most distinctive long, narrow leaves.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Tolanaro: Analalava forest, Dec. 1971 (fl.), *Guillaumet* 4003b (K, P, type); Mt Vohimavo, N. of Ampasimena, March 1947 (old infl.), *Humbert* 20671 (K, P); St. Luce forest, March 1992 (ster.), *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4610 (K, TAN).

## 96. DYPISIS FORFICIFOLIA

A slender solitary or clustered palm of the forest undergrowth. This is the commonest small palm of the forests of the northeast. It is very variable and, as can be seen from the list of synonyms, we are including within its range of variation species that have in the past been recognised as distinct. It appears to flower and fruit abundantly and so there should be little difficulty in obtaining seed. It would certainly make a very handsome ornamental. It could be confused with *D. ambilaensis* but differs in the position of the three stamens (see under *D. ambilaensis*). The species name is derived from the Latin for a pair of shears or scissors, presumably in reference to the forked leaves, reminiscent of an open pair of shears.

**DISTRIBUTION.** NE Madagascar, apparently quite common.

**Dypsis forficifolia.** View of crown and inflorescence form with divided leaves, Sahavary (*Dransfield et al.* JD6456).

**HABITAT.** Coastal lowlands and hill forest; 5–500 m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** Not recorded.

**USES.** Not recorded.

**CONSERVATION STATUS.** So widespread in the north-east of the island as to be at present not threatened.

**Dypsis forficifolia** *Noronha ex Mart.*

Hist. Nat. Palm. 3 (ed. 1): 180, t. 143, f. 2 (1838); Baill., Bull. Soc. Linn. Paris 147: 1161 (1894); Becc., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 38, Beibl. 87: 12 (1906); Palme del Madagascar 10 (1912); Jum., Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 3, 6 (1): 30, 33 (1918); Bull. Acad. Malgache 6: 9 (1923); Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae: 12 (1938); Jum. & H. Perrier, Fl. Madagascar 30: 39 (1945). Type: Madagascar, *Du Petit Thouars* s.n. (Holotype P).

**SYNONYMS:**

**Dypsis hirtula** Mart., Hist. Nat. Palm. 3 (ed. 1): 181 (1838); Becc., Palme del Madagascar 13 (1912); Jum., Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae: 13 (1938). Type: Madagascar, "Rocam Bondi", *Poivre* s.n. (Holotype P). **Synon. nov.**

**Dypsis littoralis** Jum., Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 3, 6 (1): 34 (1918); Bull. Acad. Malgache 6: 10 (1923); Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae: 13 (1938); Jum. & H. Perrier, Fl. Madagascar 30: 40 (1945). Type: Madagascar, Mananara, *Perrier* 12056 (Holotype P). **Synon. nov.**

**Dypsis masoalensis** Jum., Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 3, 6 (1): 36 (1918); Bull. Acad. Malgache 6: 15 (1923); Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae: 14 (1938); Jum. & H. Perrier, Fl. Madagascar 30: 48 (1945). Type: Madagascar, Masoala, *Perrier* 12034 (Holotype P). **Synon. nov.**



**Dypsis forficifolia**, a common forest undergrowth palm in north-east Madagascar, form with entire leaves (*Dransfield et al.* JD6387)