2–2.6 x 1.3–1.7 mm; stamens 6, biseriate (offset 0.2–0.3 mm), filaments 0.9–1.7 mm and thin (and occasionally connate for c. 0.2 mm), anthers 1.3–1.8 x 0.4–0.6 mm, versatile; pistilode 0.9–1.7 mm and thin (and occasionally connate for c. 0.2 mm), anthers 0.6–1 x 0.9–0.5 mm, pyramidal. **Pistillate flowers** with sepals 1.2–2.2 x 1.6–2.1 mm; petals 3–3.9 x 2.8–3.6 mm; staminodes 0.3–0.9 mm; gynoeceum 2.8–4 x 2.2–2.6 mm, trifid. **Fruit** unknown.

**NOTE.** This species slightly resembles *D. digitata* but is distinct in its shorter petioles and closed leaf sheaths; it is close to *D. andapae*, but that species clusters and occurs in high mountains.

**Specimens seen.** Fenoarivo Atn.: without precise locality, 1909 (fl.), Geay 9064 (P); Maningory ferry, Jan. 1964 (fl.), Peltier & Peltier 4635 (K, P; some galled flowers present); Tampolo, Feb. 1969 (fl.), Guillaumet 2370 (P). Central Madagascar, without date (fl., y.fr.), Baron 2323 (K). Without any locality, without date (around 1750?), Poivre s.n. (Holotype P).

**Distribution.** NE and E Madagascar, between Tsaratanana and Andohahela.

**Habitat.** Lowland to montane rain forests to bamboo forest, slight to steep mid slope; (150–) 450–1900 m.

**Local names.** Sinkaramboalavo (Betimsisaraka); Varaotra (Antanosy).

This is the commonest small palm of the island, occurring in nearly all East Coast forests over a wide altitude range. It would make a good ornamental, with both the entire-leaved form and that with pinnate leaves being handsome, but will require a humid atmosphere. The name refers to the collector of the type, Louis Domingue Maria Catat (1859–?, who collected in Madagascar in 1889).

**Uses.** Not recorded.

**Conservation Status.** Not threatened. Widespread and common.

**Dypsis catatiana** (Baill.) Beentje & J. Dransf. comb. nov.

**Synonyms:**


Solitary small or dwarf palm (Schatz et al. 1694 is described as colony-forming, to 1.5 m; Perrier 12026 and 15985 are said to be clustering). **Stem** 0.2–1 m high, 4–9 mm diam.; internodes 0.5–3 cm, dark green, often with a vertical pale green stripe; nodal scars 0.1–0.2 cm. **Leaves** 4–10 in the crown, erect to spreading; sheath 3–8 cm long, the outermost often open for c. 50 %, pale green with minute brown or reddish scales, in young leaves with clear triangular ligules 3–6 mm long on each side of the petiole; petiole absent or to 5 cm long, 1.5–2.5 mm diam., slightly channelled adaxially; lamina entire or with (2–) 3–5 (-7) pairs of flat leaflets, shiny medium green, slightly paler on the abaxial surface, young leaves reddish; when entire lightly bifid, 14–32 cm long, the midrib 10–22 cm.
Dypsis catatiana. A crown of form with divided leaves x 2; B, C stem and leaf sheaths of form with entire bifid leaves x 2; D staminate flower x 20; E fruit x 2.5. A, E from Beentje 4428, B - D from Schatz et al. 1694. Drawn by Rosemary Wise.
Dypsis

88. Dypsis coriacea

A very attractive small palm with thick shiny leaves. This species was known as ‘leather-leaf’ among collectors, and the Latin name is a straight translation of this. The entire leaf dries pale green, which is most distinctive.

Dypsis coriacea. An undergrowth palm with very leathery leaves, Sahavary (Dransfield et al. JD6459).