



**Dypsis
ambanjae**

cles absent; petiole 13–27 cm long, proximally (in a young leaf) 8 × 7 mm, distally 4 × 6 mm, channelled adaxially; rachis slender, in a young leaf 1 m long, in mid-leaf 3–5 mm wide, slightly keeled, almost glabrous; leaflets c. 47 on each side of the rachis, in groups of 2–6, the group interval 4–5 cm, rather stiff, linear, in a young leaf the proximal 38–40 × 0.3–0.5 cm, median 34–36 × 0.6–0.8 cm, distal 8–23 × 0.3–0.6 cm, main vein 1, ramenta few, 1–3 mm long, or absent, rest of leaf glabrous, apices unequally bifid, attenuate. **INFLORESCENCE** branched to 2 orders; peduncle c. 42.5 cm long, distally curved, proximally c. 8 × 3 mm diam., distally c. 7 × 4 mm diam.; prophyll c. 52 cm long, 3 cm wide, borne at c. 23 cm above the base of the peduncle, waxy, glabrous, open in its upper 20 cm; peduncular bract inserted at c. 35 cm from the base of the peduncle, 29–40 cm long, opening over its length except for the beak of 5 mm; rachis c. 18 cm long, glabrous with c. 8 branched and 13 unbranched first order branches, the proximal of these with a secondary rachis up to 2.5 cm long and proximally 4 × 2 mm diam., with up to 4 rachillae; rachillae 4–11 cm long, c. 1.5 mm diam., glabrous, sinuous, with distant superficial triads; rachilla bracts c. 1 mm, acute. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** unknown. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1.8–2.2 × 2.8–3 mm; petals 3–3.3 × 3.3–3.6 mm; staminodes 0.6–0.7 mm; ovary 2.5–3.3 × 1.8–2 mm. **FRUIT** ellipsoid or slightly obovoid, 11–14 × 8–11 mm, the apex rounded; endocarp very fibrous, with interwoven fibres. **SEED** ellipsoid, 11.5–12.5 × 9.5–10 mm, pointed at the base with a sub-basal depression, rounded at the apex; endosperm ruminant, the ruminations distant and c. 1 mm deep.

NOTE. According to the Flore de Madagascar, this is synonymous with *P. gracilis* (now *D. oreophila*), and the description is a hotchpotch – the small fruit of *D. oreophila* is not mentioned, nor is the type of *D. sambiranensis*. The look of the plant is different, and the inflorescence is much larger; we believe this is a taxon in its own right.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Ambanja: upper Sambirano, Dec. 1912 (fl., fr.), *Perrier* 12070 (P, type).

44. DYPISIS COURSI

A curious montane species, with a short, wide trunk. The name refers to one of the collectors, G. Cours, who made many good palm collections between 1939 and 1952.

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from the Marojejy area.

HABITAT. Moist montane forest or dense sclerophyll forest on ridges; on gneiss and quartzite, (400–) 900–1850 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Vulnerable. Distribution area small, but protected. Numbers unknown, but thought to be low.

Dypsis coursii *Beentje* sp. nov.

Palma distinctissima caule breve lato foliolis in greges distantes dense aggregatis fructo grande profunde ruminato. Typus: Madagascar, Marojejy W, near Doanyanala col, *Humbert* 23159 (Holotypus P; isotypus K).

Solitary palm. **STEM** 2–8 m, 8–18 cm diam., near the apex c. 2.2 cm diam. **LEAVES** c. 4 in the crown; sheath 18–36 × 9 cm, with dense reddish tomentum and wax, and with triangular auricles to 5 × 3 cm; petiole 4–27 cm long, 1.1–1.3 × 0.3–0.7 cm diam., with few scattered scales; rachis 0.4–1 m long (*Humbert* 23159: leaves 2 m long), in mid-leaf 0.6–1 × 0.4 cm diam., with scattered scales; leaflets 35–39 on each side of the rachis, in groups of pairs proximally, in 2–7 medially (group interval 2.2–7 cm), the proximal 10–29 × 0.2–1.2 cm, median 12–34 × 1.6–3.5 cm (interval 0.7–1.2 cm), distal 6–17 × 0.4–2.2 cm, main veins 1–5, and thickened margins, ramenta few or none, plus red scattered scales on midrib and veins, apex acute, unequally bifid. **INFLORESCENCE** infrafoliar, pendulous,



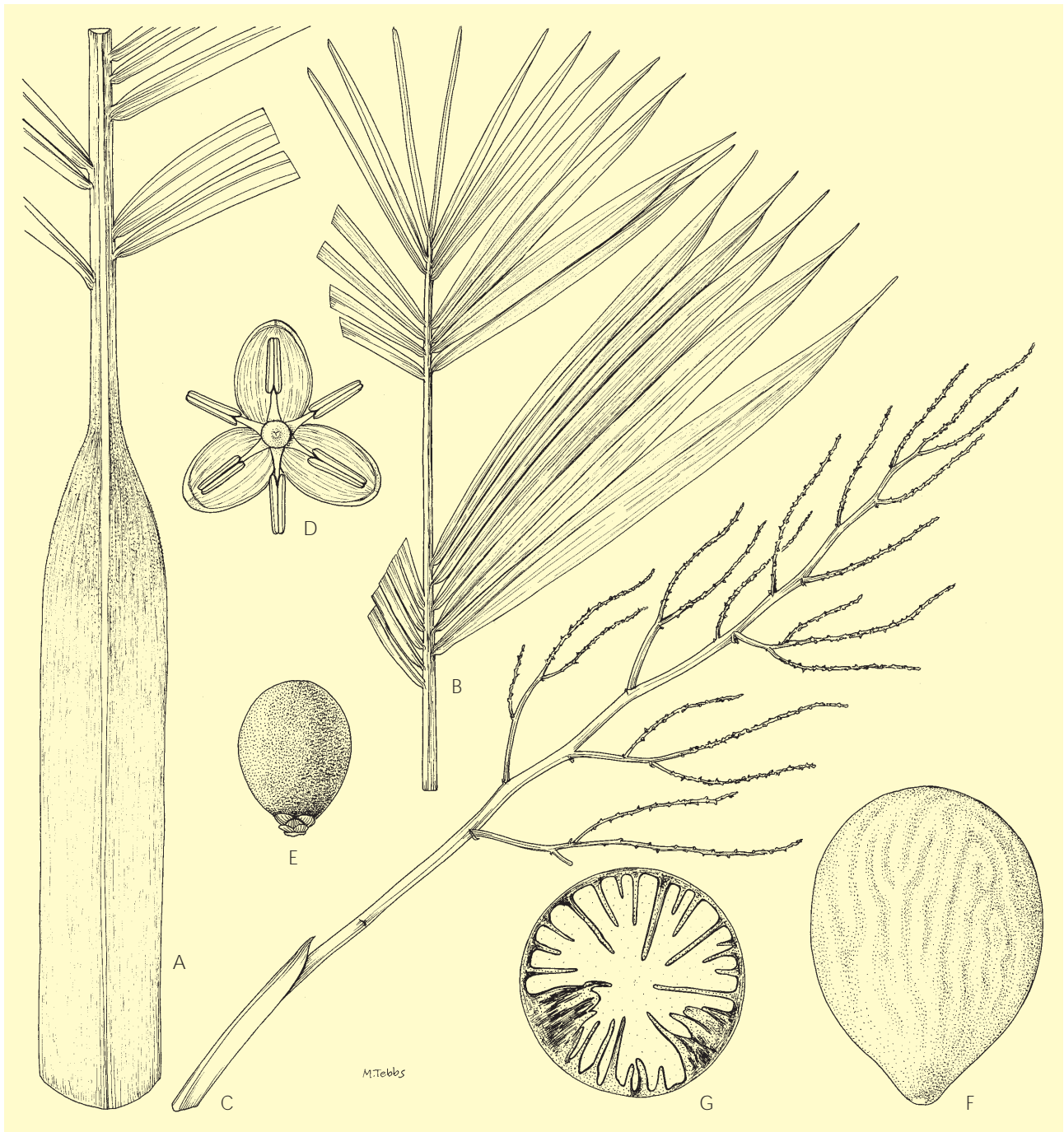
**Dypsis
coursii**

branching to (1-) 2 orders; peduncle 23-70 cm, 5-10 × 2-4 mm diam., with dense to few scattered scales; prophyll 12-26 cm long, borne at 1-6 cm above the base of the peduncle, 1.6-2 cm wide; peduncular bract inserted at 2-17 cm, deciduous, 24 cm long; sterile bract inserted at 19-25 cm, 0.2-3 × 0.6-3 cm; rachis 19-36 cm, glabrous or nearly so, with 6 branched (first order rachis to 20 cm, proximally to 8 × 4 mm diam., with up to 9 rachillae) and 8-22 unbranched first order branches; rachis bracts to 3 mm; rachillae 1-27 cm, 1.2-3 mm diam., glabrous; triads distant, superficial; rachilla bract c. 1 mm, obtuse. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** yellowish; sepals 1.5-1.6 × 1.3-1.8 mm; petals 2.7-3 × 1.6-2 mm; stamens 6, uniseriate, filaments 1.6-2.8 mm long with triangular base and cylindrical distal half, anthers 1.2-1.6 × 0.6-0.9 mm; pistillode 0.6-1 mm high, 0.4-0.6 mm diam. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1.7-2.8 × 1.5-3.9 mm; petals 4-5 × 2.5-5.5 mm; staminodes 0.3-0.8 mm long; ovary 2.5-3 mm high, 0.9-1.5 mm diam. **FRUIT** ellipsoid or slightly obovoid, 20-35 × 15-25 mm, pointed at the base, rounded

at the apex; endocarp flaky. **SEED** obovoid, c. 25 × 13-17 mm, pointed at the base, rounded at the apex, the surface slightly channelled, with a sub-basal or lateral depression; endosperm ruminant, the ruminations many, 2-7 mm deep.

NOTE. Distinct by its short, wide trunk, the distant groups of densely set leaflets, and large ruminant fruits.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Mt Beondroka, N of Maroambihy, March 1949 (fr.), *Humbert* 23463 (K, P); Marojejy W, near Doanyanala col, Jan./Feb. 1949 (fl.), *Humbert* 23159 (K, P); Marojejy E, W of Manantenina R, Dec. 1948 (bud), *Humbert* 22558 (K, P); Marojejy E trail, Oct. 1988 (fl., y.fr.), *Miller et al.* 3566 (TAN); Marojejy, 1700-1800 m, Nov. 1972 (fl.), *Guillaumet* 4105 (P, TAN); idem (bud), *Guillaumet* 4106 (P, TAN). Sambava: Mt. d'Ambatosoratra, Jan. 1949 (fr.), *Cours* 3299 (K, P, TAN).



Dypsis coursii. A leaf sheath, petiole and basal leaflets × 1/3; B mid section of leaf and leaf tip × 1/3; C inflorescence × 1/3; D staminate flower × 6; E fruit × 1; F seed × 2; G seed in cross section × 2. All from *Humbert* 23463. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.