and Neodypsis, was one of the first pieces of evidence we discovered for the general blurring of generic boundaries within Dypsidinae, which has lead to the recognition of the single large genus Dypsis. Curious rather than beautiful, this palm is a distinctive feature of coastal white sand forests along the western side of the Masoala Peninsula and has been found nowhere else.

**DISTRIBUTION.** NE Madagascar: Masoala Peninsula.

**HABITAT.** Littoral forest, on steep or level slope; 2–20 m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** None recorded.

**USES.** None recorded.

**CONSERVATION STATUS.** Endangered. Single site status, in a fragile habitat.

**Dypsis dransfieldii** Beentje sp. nov.

*a D. nombense foliorum foliolorumque numero, pedunculi longitudine differt.* Typus: Madagascar, Antalaha, Dransfield et al. JD6735 (K holotypus; isotypi P, TAN).

Clustering palm in clumps of 3–5, basally with short stilt roots. Mature stems unbranched, 6–8 m tall, 7–8 cm diam.; wood very hard; internodes c. 10 cm (2 cm near the crown); bark dull red-brown, distally with red-brown tomentum, ringed with

**NOTE.** This species is somewhat near D. perrieri but differs in the petiole being much longer, the rachis much shorter, the inflorescence branching to 1 order only, with glabrous axes; the peduncle is much more slender; the staminate sepals and petals are larger.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Antalaha: across Onive R from Ambatobe, April 1971 (fl.), Moore 9918 (Holotype P; isotypes BH, K).

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This species is distinctive in its rather open clustering habit, fibrous leaf sheaths that do not form a well defined crownshaft (but lacking pendulous piassava) and the surprisingly long peduncle that projects beyond the leaves. Such inflorescences are reminiscent of those of the group of Dypsis species that were formerly included in Vonitra. In fact D. dransfieldii, as an intermediate between Vonitra and Neodypsis, was one of the first pieces of evidence we discovered for the general blurring of generic boundaries within Dypsidinae, which has lead to the recognition of the single large genus Dypsis. Curious rather than beautiful, this palm is a distinctive feature of coastal white sand forests along the western side of the Masoala Peninsula and has been found nowhere else.

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Dypsis dransfieldii. A leaf sheath opened out x 1/2; B distal part of petiole with lowermost leaflets x 1/2; C mid section of leaf x 1/2; D leaf tip x 1/2; E mid portion of inflorescence rachis x 1/2; F staminate flower, one petal removed x 10; G fruit x 2; H endocarp and seed in cross section x 1.5. A – G from Dransfield et al. JD6735, H from Dransfield et al. JD6468. Drawn by Rosemary Wise.
what pitted, 1.2–2 mm diam. at anthesis, 2.5–3 mm diam. in fruit, covered with dense simple scales; flowers cream-coloured. **Staminate flowers** with sepals 0.8–1.4 x 1.4–2.2 mm, unequal, keeled, hooded; petals 2.4–2.5 x 1.6–1.8 mm, ovate, acute; stamens 6, in 1 series (only on large magnification a slight distinction in 2 series apparent), the filaments 0.5–0.6 mm, anthers 1.6–1.8 x 0.4–0.6 mm, dorsifixed, the locules parallel; pistillode 0.8–1 mm high, c. 0.4 mm diam. **Pistillate flowers** only known in bud stage, with sepals c. 1.5 x 1.8 mm, petals c. 1.3 x 1.2 mm, gynoecium c. 1 x 0.7 mm. **Fruit** ovoid, 15–20 x 12–14 mm, with persistent sepals 2–3 mm and persistent petals 3.5–6 x 5 mm, fruit verrucose when mature. **Seed** c. 13 x 9 mm; endocarp with loose fibrous strands 10–22 mm long, the basal ones longest; endosperm ruminate for 2–2.5 mm. **Eophyll** bifid, with scaly petiole; scale leaves 2 (respectively 2 and 5–7 cm long).

**Note.** This species differs from *D. nossibensis* in the number of leaves, the number of leaflets, and the size of the peduncle.

**Specimens seen.** Mananantenina: Antalavia, Feb. 1988 (fr.), Dransfield et al. JD6468 (K, P, TAN); idem, Feb. 1988 (fr.), Dransfield et al. JD6469 (K, TAN); idem, Nov. 1989 (fl.), Dransfield et al. JD6735 (K holotype; isotypes P, TAN); idem, Nov. 1989 (seedling), Dransfield et al. JD6736 (K, TAN).