NOTE. Though this species slightly resembles giants such as D. bejofo and D. pilulifera, the open leaf sheaths make it immediately recognizable. The open sheath and large size are reminiscent of D. prestoniana, but that taxon has a more slender trunk.


### 14. **Dypsis ifanadianae**

A rather slender tree palm reminiscent of D. lastelliana through the pendulous leaflets, but immediately distinct from that species by its green leaf-sheath. The name comes from the nearest large town and administrative unit.

**Distribution.** Only known from the Ifanadiana area.

**Habitat.** Lowland rain forest; steep mid slopes; 200-450 m.

**Local names.** Not recorded.

**Uses.** Not recorded.

**Conservation Status.** Critical. Restricted to a small area, where clearing of forest is continuing apace; less than fifty trees known.

**Dypsis ifanadianae** Beentje sp. nov.

Palma insignis habitu D. lastellianae superficialiter similis sed vagina folii viride non brunneo-tomentosa, D. nauseosae affinis sed...
Slender solitary palm. **Trunk** 15–24 m tall, conspicuously stepped and ringed, 18 cm diam.; internodes 12 cm long, orange-brown with white nodal scars 1.5 cm broad, with age the whole trunk becoming pale grey to almost white; upper internodes green with white scars. **Leaves** 7 in the crown, spirally inserted, porrect with leaflets in one plane but curving downwards; sheath 72 cm long, at the base 20 cm wide (when flattened), green, 50–75% open, with minute scattered scales, with brown triangular ligules 5 x 2.3 cm; petiole 30 cm long, proximally 6 x 4 cm, distally 4 x 3 cm, channelled with sharp edges, waxy and with minute scattered scales; rachis c. 3 m long, proximally channelled, in mid-leaf 1.4–2.5 cm diam., sharply keeled, waxy and with minute scattered scales; leaflets regular, c. 55 on each side of the rachis, the proximal 90–108 x 1–3 cm, median 104–110 x 4.3–5 cm (interval 4 cm), distal 15–37 x 0.4–2.2 cm, glaucous and glabrous, with attenuate apices, main veins 5, prominent. **Inflorescence** infrafoliar, with curved peduncle, branched to 3 orders; peduncle 57 cm long, proximally 4 x 2 cm, distally 3 x 2 cm diam.; prophyll c. 89 cm, borne at c. 5 cm above the base of the peduncle, 10 cm wide, 2-winged; peduncular bract inserted at 26 cm from the base of the peduncle, 65 cm long, the distal 18 cm closed, beaked for 4 cm; rachis c. 12 cm long, with c. 21 branched and c. 16 unbranched first order branches, these proximally 2.8 x 1.6 cm; rachillae 12–33 cm long, 3–4 mm diam., with distant triads in slight pits, with triangular, entire bracts. **Staminate flowers** unknown. **Pistillate flowers** with imbricate sepals 2.5–3 x 2.5–3.5 mm, orbicular, rounded, slightly spurred at the base; petals
4–4.5 x 3–5 mm, hooded, orbicular with minute acute apex; staminodes 0.8–1.3 mm, flat and narrow; ovary c. 3.5 x 4.5 mm, asymmetrical, the stigmas slightly lateral and 1.3 mm high. **Fruit** 8 x 7–10 mm; endocarp with anastomosing fibres. **Seed** transversely ellipsoid, broader in one plane than in the other, 6.5 x 5.5 x 8–9 mm, with homogeneous endosperm. **Eophyll** bifid.

**Note.** This species is rather close to *D. nauseosa* but distinct by its small fruit with homogeneous endosperm.

**Specimens seen.** Ifanadiana: 34km E of Ifanadiana, July 1992 (fl., fr.) Beentje & Beentje 4729 (Holotype K; isotypes MO, TAN).

**Sight record.** This species has been observed by HB at Ambinanindrano and Andranomaitso.

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15. **Dypsis lastelliana**

This is a very elegant species, now widespread in cultivation. The densely red-brown hairy crownshaft is particularly ornamental. In cultivation it seems to require warmer and moister conditions than *D. leptochelios*. The name refers to the collector of the type, de Lastellé.

**Distribution.** NW, NE and E Madagascar.

**Habitat.** Moist lowland forest on slopes (gneiss, quartz, granite), often rather open or near forest mar-

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**Dypsis lastelliana.** A portion of leaf sheath x 1/3; B petiole and basal leaflets x 1/3; C mid section of leaf x 1/3; D leaf tip x 1/3; E peduncular bract x 1/12; F part of infructescence x 1/5; G fruit x 2/3; H fruit in cross section x 2/3. All from Dransfield et al. JD6359. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.