



**Dypsis
forficifolia**

NOTE. Our interpretation of *D. hirtula* differs from that of Beccari (1910) and Jumelle and Perrier (1945). The holotype of *D. hirtula* is an unnumbered Poivre collection in the Jussieu Herbarium in Paris. Vegetatively this specimen fits within the range of variation of *D. forficifolia*. The inflorescence, however, is branched to three (very rarely four) orders and the rachillae are slender, bearing scattered dark brown lacinate scales and rather distant triads. Viewed in isolation the types of *D. forficifolia* and *D. hirtula* thus appear rather different and can be differentiated using the character of rachilla scaliness utilised by Beccari. However, with the wide range of material now available, illustrating considerable variation in *D. forficifolia*, it is no longer possible to make a clear distinction and we have concluded that *D. hirtula* represents one extreme of the variation of *D. forficifolia*. We have not been able to examine the Majastre collection illustrated by Beccari (1910) as *D. hirtula* but we suspect that this is *D. viridis*. Perrier 17466, cited in the Flore de Madagascar as *D. hirtula* and used as the basis of the illustration, is, we believe, *D. viridis* (q.v.). We have also included *D. masoalensis* in synonymy with *D. forficifolia*. Jumelle described the former as differing from the latter in the presence of lacinate rachilla bracts and hairs on the rachillae, and the presence of up to six leaflets on each side of the rachis. The leaf of *D. masoalensis* fits within the range of variation of *D. forficifolia* and the rachillae, similarly, in *D. forficifolia* can vary from being glabrous to with very sparse caducous lacinate scales and the rachilla bracts from being entire to sparsely lacinate. *D. littoralis* fits within the range of variation of *D. forficifolia* and so is included here too.

Plants from near Ambanizana, Masoala Peninsula, tend to have inflorescences branched to three rather than two orders with rather slender and very numerous more or less glabrous rachillae.

Dypsis forficifolia var. *reducta* has staminate flowers with six stamens with didymous anthers, so clearly does not belong here (see under *D. schatzii*).

SPECIMENS SEEN. Maroantsetra: Masoala, Aug. 1912 (buds), Perrier 12034 (Holotype of *D. masoalensis* Jum. P); idem, Aug. 1912 (buds), Perrier 12037 (P); Ambanizana, Oct. 1986 (fl.), Dransfield et al. JD6387 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN); Antalavia, Feb. 1988 (fr.), Dransfield et al. JD6470 (K, NY, MO, P, TAN); idem, Nov. 1989 (fr.), Dransfield et al. JD6746 (K, TAN); Andronabe, Feb. 1992 (fr.), Zjhra & Hutcheon 139 (K, MO, TAN); Andranofotsy River, Sahavary, Feb. 1988 (fr.), Dransfield et al. JD6450 (K, MO, NY, P, TAN); idem, Feb. 1988 (fr.), Dransfield et al. JD6456 (K, MO, NY, P, TAN); Bay of Antongil, Fananehana, Aug. 1912 (fl.), Perrier 12091 (P). Mananara Avaratra: Mananara, littoral forest, Aug. 1912 (fl.), Perrier 12056 (Holotype of *Dypsis littoralis* Jum., P); 10 km west of Antanambe, April 1992 (fl.), Beentje et al. 4624 (K, TAN); 5 km south of Antanambe, April 1992 (fl., fr.), Beentje et al. 4633 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN); idem, April 1992 (fl.), Beentje et al. 4637 (K, TAN). Soanierana-Ivongo: Soanierana-Ivongo, Feb. 1969 (fl.), Guillaumet 2406 (P). Île Sainte Marie: Tafondrou, March 1847 (fl.), Boivin 1704 (FI, P); Forêt de Kalalao, Nov. 1994 (fl., fr.), Dransfield JD7525 (K, P, TAN). Without locality: *Du Petit Thouars* s.n. (Holotype P); *Poivre* s.n. (Holotype of *D. hirtula* Mart., P).

97. DYPISIS INTERRUPTA

A strikingly beautiful small palm of the forest undergrowth, known as yet from a single collection from the lowlands in the southeast of the island. The species name refers to the interrupted sequence of otherwise regularly arranged leaflets on each side of the rachis.

DISTRIBUTION. Ifanadiana area.

HABITAT. Hill forest; 510 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Critical. The extraordinary forests of Ambinanindrano are gradually being destroyed by shifting cultivation.

***Dypsis interrupta* J. Dransf., sp. nov.**

inter species floribus staminatis triandris staminibus antesepalis pistillodio conico foliolis linearibus numerosis in quoque latere rachidis interrupte dispositis distinctissima. Typus: Madagascar, East Coast, Ifanadiana, Ambinanindrano, Beentje 4528 (Holotypus K; isotypus TAN).

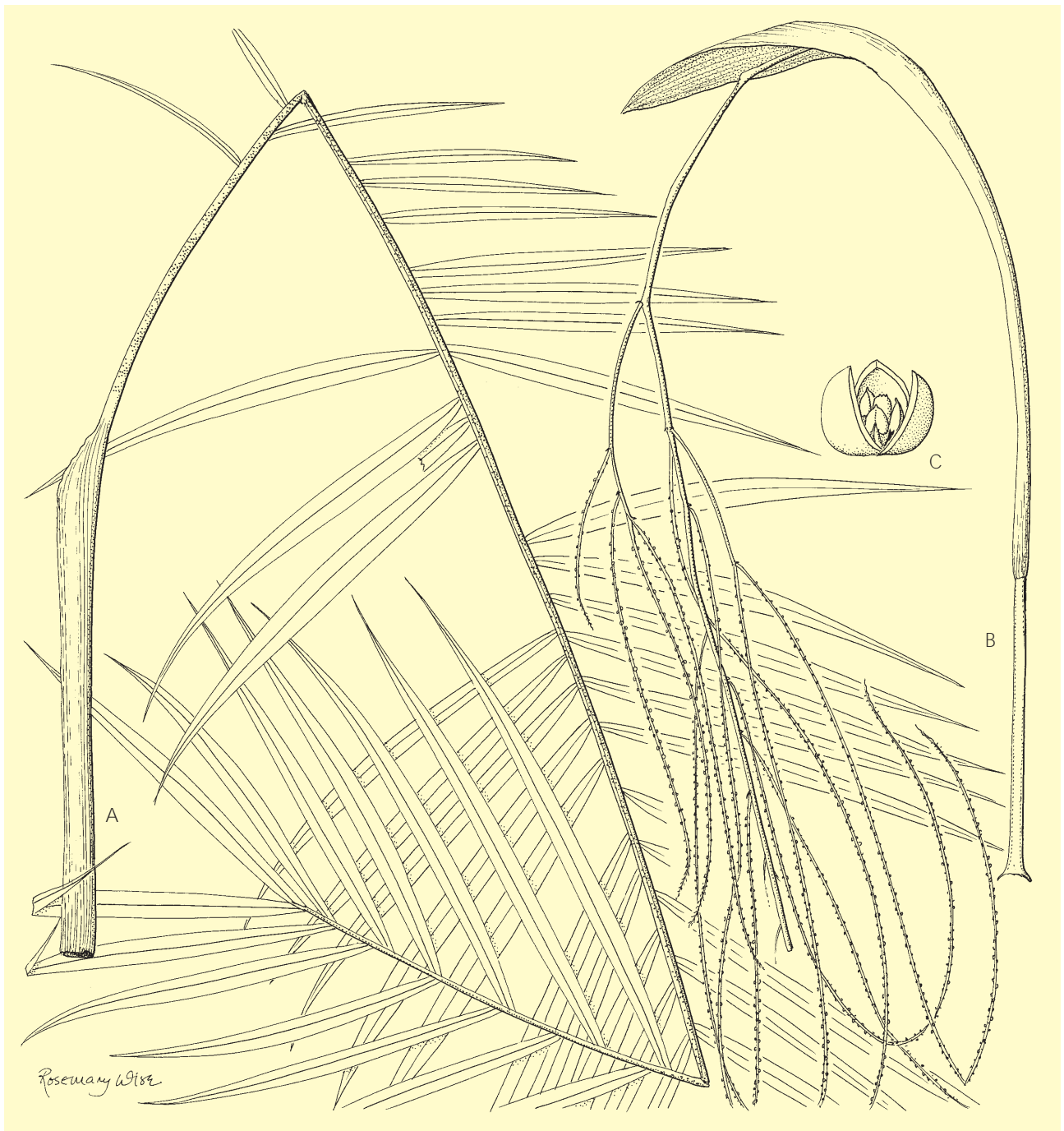
Solitary palm of forest undergrowth. **STEMS** to 3 m tall, c. 12 mm diam.; internodes 60–70 cm long. **LEAVES** 7 in crown; sheaths forming a well defined crownshaft; sheath 19–20 cm long, 1.5 cm diam., with sparse scattered dark brown scales; low auricles present but apparently soon tattering; petiole 9–12 cm long, c. 4 × 2 mm in cross section, deeply channelled, rather densely covered in discrete dark brown scales; rachis 64–70 cm long, scaly as the petiole; leaflets 24–29 on each side of the rachis, all except the apical pair single-fold, linear, grouped in proximal part of the leaf, regularly arranged distally, regularly arranged within the groups, the leaflet series thus appearing interrupted rather than fascicled, mid-leaf leaflets 15–23 × 0.8–1.5 cm, apical pair slightly shorter, basalmost leaflets 6–8 × 0.4–0.8 cm, leaflet

midrib prominent adaxially, texture membranous. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, branched to 2 orders, arching with pendulous rachillae; peduncle 50 cm long, c. 4 mm wide at the base, tapering to 2.5 mm wide, glabrous; prophyll inserted 14.5 cm above the base of the peduncles, 30×1.5 cm, membranous, striate, very sparsely scaly; peduncular bract inserted c. 20 cm above the prophyll, otherwise not known; rachis c. 30 cm long, glabrous; rachillae slender, c. 20, 19–30 cm long, glabrous, c. 1.5 mm diam., triads c. 3 mm apart, rachilla bract c. 0.8 mm high, rounded, glabrous. **FLOWERS** very immature in available specimen. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with 3 ?sagittate antesealous stamens and a conical pistillode. **FRUIT** unknown.

NOTE. This taxon, although known only from a single specimen, is so distinctive that we have considered it important to name it, even though sev-

eral parts are not represented. Among the species of *Dypsis* with three sagittate antesealous stamens and a conical pistillode, *D. interrupta* is immediately distinguishable by its numerous linear leaflets arranged in an interrupted series on each side of the rachis. This is clearly a very beautiful species and it would be desirable not only to recollect it to complete our understanding of it as a species, but also to introduce it into cultivation. It was found growing on a steep slope in open forest.

SPECIMEN SEEN. Ifanadiana: 1 km S of Ambinanindrano, 17–19 Nov. 1991 (fl. buds), *Beentje* 4528 (holotype K; isotype TAN).



Dypsis interrupta. A leaf $\times 2/5$; B inflorescence $\times 2/5$; C open staminate flower $\times 20$. All from *Beentje* 4528. Drawn by Rosemary Wise.



Dypsis interrupta. An elegant palm with grouped leaflets (Beentje 4528).

98. DYP SIS LANTZEANA

This is a common palm in the rain forests surrounding the Bay of Antongil. It grows in the forest undergrowth and rarely exceeds about 4 m tall. It could be confused with *D. forficifolia* but can be distinguished by its very hairy rachillae. It is in cultivation in the Palm House of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. This is a most attractive species with its neat habit, young leaves tinged reddish and cherry-red inflorescence branches. The species is named for the collector of the type.

DISTRIBUTION. Northeastern Madagascar, particularly around the Bay of Antongil.

HABITAT. Lowland rain forest; up to 350 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Vulnerable. The distribution is limited, and the forests are under some threat from shifting cultivators.

Dypsis lantzeana Baill.

Bull. Soc. Linn. Paris 2:1163 (1893); Becc., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 38, Beibl. 87: 13 (1906); Palme del Madagascar 11 (1912); Jum. in Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 3, 6 (1): 30 (1918); Bull. Acad. Malgache 6: 7 (1923); Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae: 13 (1938); Jum. & H. Perrier, Fl. Madagascar 30: 12 (1945) "lanceana". Type: Madagascar, Bay of Antongil, 7 Oct. 1871, Lantze s.n. (holotype P).

SYNONYM:

Dypsis lantzeana* var. *simplicifrons Becc., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 38, Beibl. 87: 13 (1906); Palme del Madagascar 13 (1912). Syntypes: Madagascar, *Mocquerys* 332, 334 (G-DC).



Dypsis interrupta



Dypsis lantzeana. Crown showing pink-tinged emerging leaf, Masoala (*Dransfield et al.* JD6363).