77. Dypsis lutea

A distinctive undergrowth species with fairly large, entire, pale green leaves and a branched inflorescence. The name lutea means golden yellow, and this alludes to the colour of the inflorescence.

**Distribution.** Masoala and the Moramanga area.

**Habitat.** Lowland and submontane rain forest; ridge top (always); 40–1100 m.

**Local Names.** Not recorded.

**Uses.** Not recorded.

**Conservation Status.** Critical. There is only one recent collection, from an unprotected area which is being destroyed; the other collections are over eighty years old.

*Dypsis lutea* (Jum.) Beentje & J. Dransf. **comb. nov.**

**Synonyms:**


*Dypsis lutea*. A crown x 2.5; B detail of undersurface of leaf x 2; C detail of rachilla x 2. All from Dransfield et al. JD6421. Drawn by Margaret Tewbs.
Clustering or solitary palm. **STEM** 2.5–3 m high, to 0.8 cm diam., the distal internodes c. 7 cm, blackish brown, covered in laciniate scales. **LEAVES** c. 9 in the crown, entire; sheath 10–17 cm long, c. 1 cm diam., pale green, distally covered in dense reddish brown laciniate scales when young, with or without triangular auricles to 3 mm long and laciniate; petiole absent or to 4.5 cm long, c. 1.5 mm diam., with brown laciniate scales mixed with silvery scales; blade obtriangular, 30–55 cm long, pale green, midrib/rachis 21–43 cm long, lobes 9–17 x 2.3–4.2 cm, main veins 7–17, scattered scales on the midrib and to a lesser extent on the veins, apices 5–15 mm wide and dentate, also dentate on the distal outside margins.

**INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, yellow to orange, branched to 1 or 2 orders, 33–77 cm long; peduncle 19–60 cm, 2.5–5 mm diam., densely scaly but glabrescent; prophyll 14–37 cm long, 0.5–1 cm wide, borne at 2.5–9 cm above the base of the peduncle, for the distal 2.5 cm, with scattered scales; peduncular bract deciduous or persistent, inserted at 12–27 from the base of the peduncle, 13–31.5 cm long, split in the distal 4 cm, with scattered scales; rachis 4–16 cm long, glabrous, without or with up to 5 bracts, and 4–11 unbranched first order branches, the proximal of the branched ones with up to 4 rachillae; rachillae 4–17 cm, with dense triads and dark yellow flowers. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1–1.5 x 1–1.4 mm; petals 2.1–2.5 x 1.4–1.6 mm; stamens 6, equal or offset for up to 0.3 mm, filaments 0.8–1 mm long, 0.2–0.3 mm diam., cylindrical with slightly triangular base, anthers 1–1.5 x 0.7–0.8 mm, dorsifixed, versatile, the locules parallel and obtuse; pistilode 0.4–1.1 mm high, 0.3–0.4 mm diam., cylindrical with slightly triangular base, anthers 1–1.5 x 0.7–0.8 mm, dorsifixed, versatile, the locules parallel and obtuse; pistilode with sepals 1–1.2 x 1.2–1.6 mm, ciliate; petals 2.8–3 x 2.2–2.7 mm, ciliate?; staminodes 6, 0.3–0.6 mm long; gynoeicum 2.8–3 mm high, 1.6–2.7 mm diam. **FRUITS** (young) oblong, incurved, attenuate towards an obtuse apex.

**NOTE.** Var. transiens was separated on the base of the peduncular bract being deciduous, not split at the apex, and beaked, whereas var. lutea has peduncular bract remaining, opening only at the apex, not beaked. Perrier 12002 has one inflorescence which differs strongly from the others on that specimen and looks very much like that of var. transiens, including the stouter prophyll, the deciduous peduncular bract and the inflorescence branched to two orders. Perrier 18391 shows a peduncular bract with a 1 cm long beak, just as in var. transiens. We see no reason to uphold the varieties.

Decary 5064 is from Ivohtebi: Ifandana, Sept. 1926 (bud), (P), and is very like D. lutea. It is 5 m high; the leaf is 62 cm long, with lobes 42 cm long; the inflorescence is branched to 2 orders, with a rachis of 24 cm with 15 bracts and 10 unbranched first order branches; rachillae are 5–9 cm long. The staminate flowers are smaller in all dimensions, but they are in bud.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Maroantsetra/Antalaha: Masoala Peninsula, Nov. 1912 (fl.), Perrier 11940 (P, type of var. transiens). Moramanga: Ambatovola, Jan. 71913 (fl.), Perrier 12002 (P, syntype); idem, Jan. 1928 (fl.), Perrier 18391 (P, syntype); Andasibe, Anevoke, Nov. 1986 (bud), Dransfield et al. JD6421 (K, F, TAN).

**DISTRIBUTION.** Only known from a single collection from Betampona.

**HABITAT.** Lowland rain forest; c. 100 m (according to Junelle & Perrier (1945); the type specimen gives no altitude).

**LOCAL NAMES.** Not recorded.

**USES.** Not recorded.

A small palm with entire leaves, much-branched inflorescences, and didymous stamens; distinct, and presumably extinct as well. The species name is derived from the type locality.

**78. DYPsis betamonensis**

Dypsis lutea

Cluster or solitary palm. **STEM** 2.5–3 m high, to 0.8 cm diam., the distal internodes c. 7 cm, blackish brown, covered in laciniate scales. **LEAVES** c. 9 in the crown, entire; sheath 10–17 cm long, c. 1 cm diam., pale green, distally covered in dense red-brown laciniate scales when young, with or without triangular auricles to 3 mm long and laciniate; petiole absent or to 4.5 cm long, c. 1.5 mm diam., with brown laciniate scales mixed with silvery scales; blade obtriangular, 30–55 cm long, pale green, midrib/rachis 21–43 cm long, lobes 9–17 x 2.3–4.2 cm, main veins 7–17, scattered scales on the midrib and to a lesser extent on the veins, apices 5–15 mm wide and dentate, also dentate on the distal outside margins.

**INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, yellow to orange, branched to 1 or 2 orders, 33–77 cm long; peduncle 19–60 cm, 2.5–5 mm diam., densely scaly but glabrescent; prophyll 14–37 cm long, 0.5–1 cm wide, borne at 2.5–9 cm above the base of the peduncle, for the distal 2.5 cm, with scattered scales; peduncular bract deciduous or persistent, inserted at 12–27 from the base of the peduncle, 13–31.5 cm long, split in the distal 4 cm, with scattered scales; rachis 4–16 cm long, glabrous, without or with up to 5 bracts, and 4–11 unbranched first order branches, the proximal of the branched ones with up to 4 rachillae; rachillae 4–17 cm, with dense triads and dark yellow flowers. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1–1.5 x 1–1.4 mm; petals 2.1–2.5 x 1.4–1.6 mm; stamens 6, equal or offset for up to 0.3 mm, filaments 0.8–1 mm long, 0.2–0.3 mm diam., cylindrical with slightly triangular base, anthers 1–1.5 x 0.7–0.8 mm, dorsifixed, versatile, the locules parallel and obtuse; pistilode 0.4–1.1 mm high, 0.3–0.4 mm diam., cylindrical with slightly triangular base, anthers 1–1.5 x 0.7–0.8 mm, dorsifixed, versatile, the locules parallel and obtuse; pistilode with sepals 1–1.2 x 1.2–1.6 mm, ciliate; petals 2.8–3 x 2.2–2.7 mm, ciliate?; staminodes 6, 0.3–0.6 mm long; gynoeicum 2.8–3 mm high, 1.6–2.7 mm diam. **FRUITS** (young) oblong, incurved, attenuate towards an obtuse apex.

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**HABITAT.** Lowland rain forest; c. 100 m (according to Junelle & Perrier (1945); the type specimen gives no altitude).

**LOCAL NAMES.** Not recorded.

**USES.** Not recorded.