

77. *DYP SIS 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

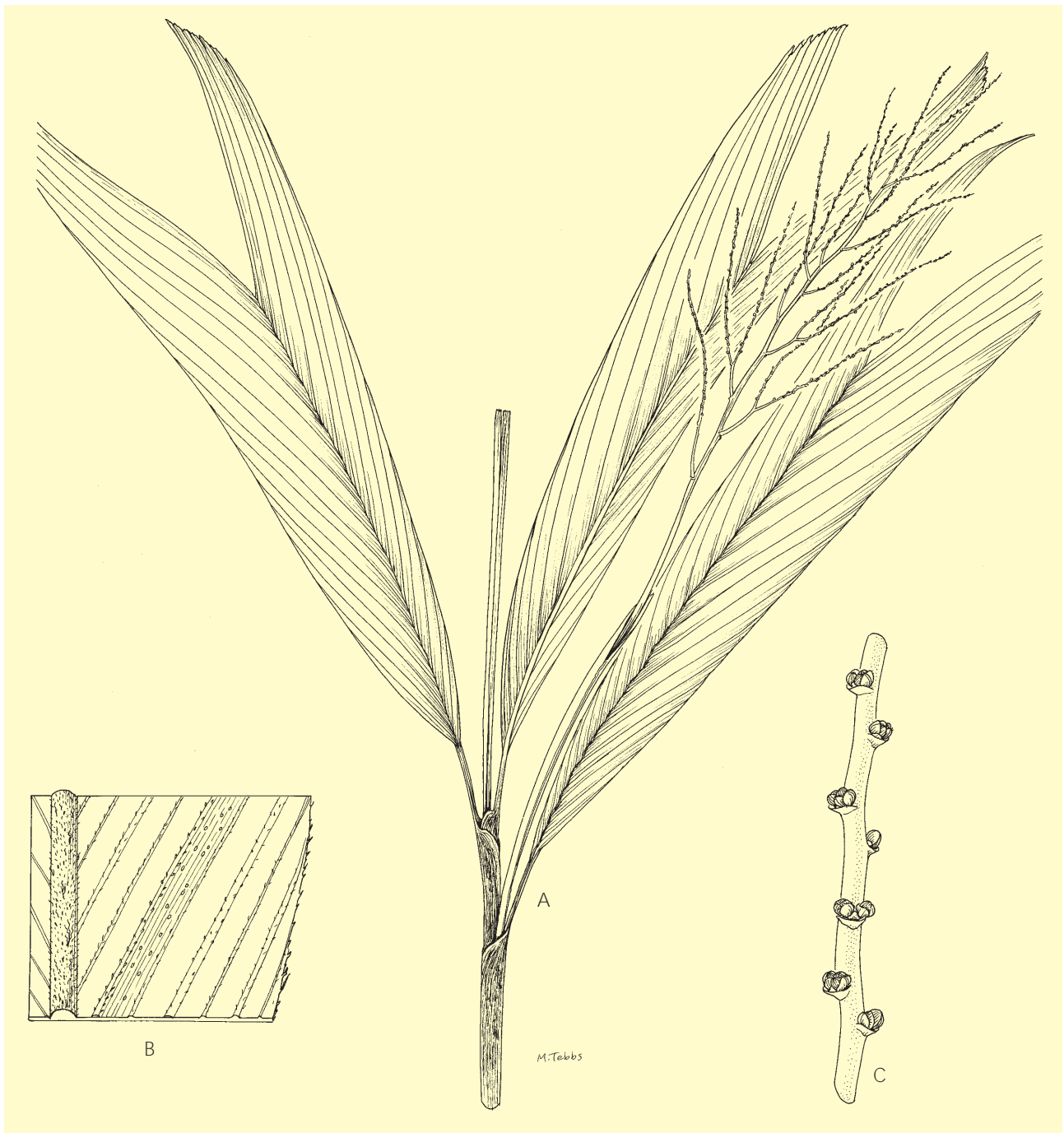
recent collection, from an unprotected area which is being destroyed; the other collections are over eighty years old.

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

SYNONYMS:

Neophloga lutea Jum., Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 4, 6 (3): 32 (1929); Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 5, 1 (3): 6 (1933); Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae: 21 (1938); Jum. & H. Perrier, Fl. Madagascar 30: 74, fig. 20 (1945). Syntypes: Madagascar, Ambatovola, *Perrier* 12002 (syntype P) & 18391 (syntype P).

Neophloga lutea Jum. var. ***transiens*** Jum. & H. Perrier, Fl. Madagascar 30: 76 (1945). Type: Madagascar, Masoala Peninsula, *Perrier* 11940 (Holotype P), **synon. nov.**



***Dypsis lutea*.** **A** crown $\times 2.5$; **B** detail of undersurface of leaf $\times 2$; **C** detail of rachilla $\times 2$. All from *Dransfield et al.* JD6421. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.



**Dypsis
lutea**

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 lacinate 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 lacinate scales when young, with or without triangular auricles to 3 mm long and lacinate; petiole absent or to 4.5 cm long, c. 1.5 mm diam., with brown lacinate scales mixed with silvery scales; blade obtriangular, 30–55 cm long, pale green, midrib/rachis 21–43 cm long, lobes 9–17 × 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, split 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 branched, 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 × 1–1.4 mm; petals 2.1–2.5 × 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 × 0.7–0.8 mm, dorsifixed, versatile, the locules parallel and obtuse; pistillode 0.4–1.1 mm high, 0.3–0.4 mm diam. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1–1.2 × 1.2–1.6 mm, ciliolate; petals 2.8–3 × 2.2–2.7 mm, ciliolate?; staminodes 6, 0.3–0.6 mm long; gynoecium 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 Ivohibe: 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 branched 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. ?1913 (fl.), *Perrier* 12002 (P, syntype); idem, Jan. 1928 (fl.), *Perrier* 18391 (P, syntype); Andasibe, Anevoke, Nov. 1986 (bud), *Dransfield et al.* JD6421 (K, P, TAN).

78. DYP SIS BETAMPONENSIS

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.

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from a single collection from Betampona.

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

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.



**Dypsis
betamponensis**