



**Dypsis  
coriacea**

long, open in the distal 1–1.5 cm, with scattered scales, quickly deciduous; non-tubular peduncular bract 2–2.5 mm; rachilla 3–26 cm long, 1–2 mm diam., densely pubescent to puberulous, with distant triads. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 0.8–1.5 × 0.7–1.6 mm, ciliolate, with scales; petals white, 1.8–2.4 × 1–1.7 mm, striate; stamens 6, uniseriate or very slightly biseriate, filaments 0.8–1.5 mm, thin, anthers 0.8–1.6 × 0.3–0.6 mm, versatile; pistillode 0.7–1 × 0.3–0.5 mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 0.8–1.2 × 1.4–1.7 mm; petals 2.1–4 × 1–2.8 mm; staminodes 6, c. 0.5 mm; ovary c. 2 × 1.3 mm. **FRUIT** when young narrowly ovoid, 11–15 × 4.5–6 mm, obtuse, with fleshy mesocarp and fibrous endocarp. **SEED** c. 12.5 × 4 mm, with homogeneous endosperm.

**NOTE.** The species somewhat resembles *D. lucens* but the leaf veins are glabrous and there are no rammenta; the rachilla is puberulous. It also resembles *D. catariniana*, but has versatile stamens (not didymous ones). There is some variation in the degree of lobing and the length of the rachilla.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Maroantsetra: Hiaraka, Ampanga R., Oct. 1986 (bud), *Dransfield et al.* JD6382 (K, TAN); Sahavary, Feb. 1988 (fl., y.fr.), *Dransfield et al.* JD6459 (Holotype K; isotypes P, TAN); Antalavia, Feb. 1988 (fl.), *Dransfield et al.* JD6482 (K, TAN); Andronabe, feb. 1992 (fl.), *Zjhra & Hutcheon* 120 (K). Mananara Avaratra, Antanambe, April 1992 (fl., y.fr.), *Beentje et al.* 4617 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN).



**Dypsis coriacea.** Close-up of infructescence (*Dransfield et al.* JD6459).

## 89. DYPISIS MINUTA

The name of this exquisite little palm, which is restricted in its distribution, indicates its size; it is a tiny solitary palm, one of the smallest on the island.

**DISTRIBUTION.** Masoala and Maroantsetra.



**Dypsis  
minuta**

**HABITAT.** Lowland rain forest; ridgetops; 200–550 m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** Not recorded.

**USES.** Not recorded.

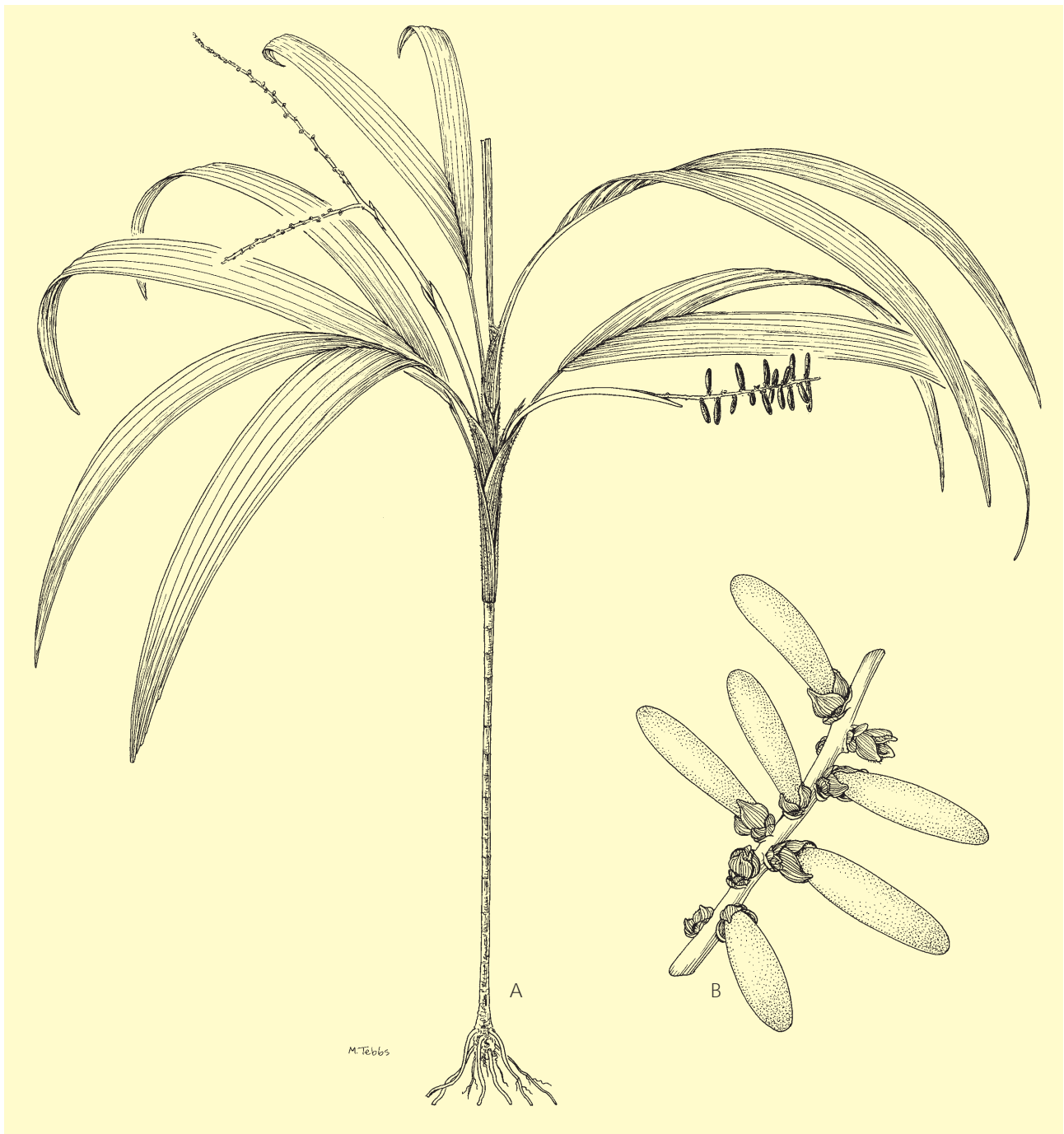
**CONSERVATION STATUS.** Vulnerable. Occurs over a restricted distribution area, without official protection; numbers are thought to be fairly low.

**Dypsis minuta** *Beentje sp. nov.*

*D. coriaceae* similis sed vagina folii pubescenti inflorescentia arcuata non erecta et folio vivendi non coriaceo differt. Typus: Madagascar, Sahavary, *Dransfield et al.* JD6457 (Holotypus K; isotypi P, TAN).

Solitary palm, stem 15–50 cm. **STEMS** to 5 mm diam.; internodes c. 1–2 cm, densely rusty-red hairy; nodal scars 0.2 mm. **LEAVES** 5–8 in the crown, entire or with several leaflets (fide JD6371, but

not apparent from collection); sheath 6–9 cm long, half open, densely red-pubescent, with long-laciniate auricles to 1 cm; petiole 3–18 cm long, 1.5–2 mm diam., densely scaly; lamina entire, 19.5–33 cm long, bright greyish green, midrib 4.5–6 cm, lobes 16–26 × 1.3–2.5 cm, main veins 4–6, with minute reddish scattered scales on major and minor veins, white wax present? or white-punctate, apices narrowly dentate, 2–4 mm wide. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, unbranched (a single bifid rachilla present in JD6457), erect to spreading; peduncle 6–19 cm; prophyll 7–15 cm, pale brown, open in the distal 1 cm; peduncular bract inserted at 6–11.5 cm from the base of the peduncle, 3–12 cm long, glabrous or with scattered scales, open for most of its length; non-tubular peduncular bract often present, 1.5–2 mm long; rachilla 4–12 cm long, 1–2 mm diam., minutely puberulous or glabrous, with distant triads. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 0.7–0.9 × 1–1.9 mm, ciliate; petals 1.7–2 × 1.1–1.2 mm; stamens 6, uniseriate, filaments 1–1.2 mm, anthers 1.3–1.4 × 0.4 mm, versatile;



**Dypsis minuta.** **A** crown × 2/5; **B** detail of fruiting rachilla × 2.5. **A** from *Dransfield et al.* JD6457, **B** from *Dransfield et al.* JD6483. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.

pistillode c.  $1 \times 0.3$  mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** white; sepals  $0.6\text{--}1.2 \times 1\text{--}1.5$  mm, ciliate; petals  $1.8\text{--}2.5 \times 1.5\text{--}1.8$  mm; staminodes  $0.3\text{--}0.4$  mm; gynoecium on a  $0.2$  mm stalk,  $1.7\text{--}2.3 \times 1.2\text{--}2$  mm. **FRUIT** when young  $11\text{--}12 \times 2\text{--}3$  mm.

**NOTE.** Very similar to *D. coriacea* but differs in the pubescent leaf sheath, the curved (not erect) inflorescence and the less leathery leaf, at least when fresh.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Maroantsetra: Hiaraka, Oct. 1986 (bud), *Dransfield et al.* JD6371 (K, P, TAN); Antalavia, Feb. 1988 (y.fr.), *Dransfield et al.* JD6483 (K, TAN); Sahavary, Feb. 1988 (fl., y.fr.), *Dransfield et al.* JD6457 (Holotype K; isotypes P, TAN). No locality, collected before 1867, (fl.), *Lyll* 323 (K, syntype of *N. heterophylla* but not conspecific with the lectotype of that species, *Baron* 486).

## 90. DYP SIS TENUISSIMA

This is one of the smallest palms in the world, with extremely slender stems. This is reflected in the species name, which is Latin for 'most slender'.

**DISTRIBUTION.** Only known from Andohahela.

**HABITAT.** Lowland rain forest, slight mid slope; 500–550 m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** Not recorded.

**USES.** Not recorded.

**CONSERVATION STATUS.** Endangered. Only known



**Dypsis tenuissima.** **A** whole plant  $\times 1/2$ ; **B** divided leaf  $\times 1/2$ . **A** from *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4592, **B** from *Beentje* 4601. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.