



**Dypsis  
occidentalis**



**Dypsis  
montana**

Nov./Dec. 1948 (bud), *Humbert & Capuron* 22173 (P); Ambatoharanana Valley to upper Antsahaberoka R., Nov./Dec. 1959 (fl.), *Humbert & Saboureaux* 31703b (P); Anjanaharibe W of Beamalona, June 1992 (bud), *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4684 (K).

#### 84. DYP SIS MONTANA

A rare small palm from the high mountains (hence the name). This species slightly resembles *D. occidentalis*, which occurs in the same area.

**DISTRIBUTION.** Tsaratanana.

**HABITAT.** Montane forest; c. 1500 m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** Not recorded.

**USES.** Not recorded.

**CONSERVATION STATUS.** Unclear. Known from a single site only, but the Tsaratanana is not well known botanically.

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

**SYNONYM:**

*Neophloga montana* *Jum.*, *Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille* sér. 4, 6 (3): 29 (1929); *Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae*: 21 (1938); *Jum. & H. Perrier, Fl. Madagascar* 30: 70 (1945). Type: Madagascar, Tsaratanana, *Perrier* 15646 (Holotype P).

Clustering palm to 1 m tall. **STEMS** < 4 mm diam. **LEAVES** c. 5 in the crown; leaf sheath 7–9 cm long, proximally glabrous, distally with patches of reddish indument, with small triangular auricles 2–5 mm high; petiole 2.5–5 cm long, c. 2 mm diam., with scattered scales; rachis 16–27 cm long, in mid-leaf c. 2 mm wide, with scattered scales; leaflets 3–5 on each side of the rachis, the proximal 10–13 × 0.9–2 cm, median 11–16 × 1.5–2.4 cm, distal pair forming a flabellum 16–22 cm long, connate for 7–8 cm, leaflet interval 1–3 cm, but usually with a large gap just below the terminal flabellum, with scattered scales on the abaxial surface,

main veins 1, to 7 on the terminal flabellum. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, unbranched; peduncle 23–27 cm long, densely scaly; prophyll 10–12 cm long, 3–5 mm wide, open only near the apex; peduncular bract inserted at 4.5–13 cm from the base of the peduncle, 7.5–15 cm long, split in the distal 5–9 cm; rachilla 10–14 cm long, 1–2 mm diam., densely stellate-puberulous, with distant triads. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 0.5–0.7 × 0.4–0.6 mm; petals 1–2 × 0.5–1.2 mm; stamens 6, equal, the filaments c. 0.5–0.8 mm long, flattened, anthers 0.6–0.7 × 0.4–0.6 mm, dorsifixed; pistillode 0.7–0.9 × 0.2–0.3 mm, slender and conical. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 0.5–0.7 × 0.6–0.7 mm; petals 2–2.2 × 1.4–1.5 mm; staminodes c. 0.2 mm; gynoeceium c. 1.6–1.7 × 1.4–1.7 mm. **FRUIT** unknown. (Plate: see next page).

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** ?Ambanja: Tsaratanana, Dec. 1922 (fl.), *Perrier* 15646 (Holotype P); idem, S. Andohanitrema, May 1993 (bud), *Malcomber & Hemingway* 2471 (K).

#### 85. DYP SIS BERNIERANA

A charming little palm, quite distinct by its leaf shape and open leaf sheaths. The name refers to the collector of the type, Bernier, about whom very little is known, except that he was French and collected in Madagascar around 1834.

**DISTRIBUTION.** Masoala Peninsula and down the coast to Vatomandry.

**HABITAT.** Lowland to submontane rain forest, steep slope; 100–1200 m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** *Ambosa* (Betsimisaraka, *vide* Bernier).

**USES.** Not recorded.

**CONSERVATION STATUS.** Vulnerable. This seems to be a rare species, and all over its distribution area the vegetation is under threat from fragmentation and agricultural conversion.