

111. **DYP SIS MOOREI**

A massive undergrowth litter-trapping palm, known only from the type; named for Hal Moore (1917–1980), who discovered it.

DISTRIBUTION. Masoala Peninsula.

HABITAT. Lowland rain forest with low canopy; c. 50 m?

LOCAL NAMES. *Maroala* (Betsimisaraka).

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Endangered; only known from a single collection from an area which is known to be under severe threat of degradation.

Dypsis moorei Beentje *sp. nov.*

D. perrieri affinis sed petiolo multo longiore rachide multo breviora inflorescentia glabra semel ramificanti pedunculo graciliore sepalis petalisque floris staminibus differt. Typus: Madagascar, Antalaha: across Onive R from Ambatobe, *Moore* 9918 (Holotypus P; isotypi BH, K).

Solitary palm. **TRUNK** c. 1 m high, covered in old leaf bases.

LEAVES ascending to erect; sheath fibrous; petioles green, c. 3.5 m long, distally c. 2 × 1.6 cm, channelled, densely scaly; rachis c. 1.4 m long, in mid-leaf c. 1.5 × 1.2 cm, glabrous, possibly slightly waxy; leaflets c. 54 on each side of the rachis, regular, directed forward (Moore), green on both surfaces, the proximal 61–66 × 1.4–1.7 cm, median 80–81 × 3.7–3.8 cm (interval 4–5.5 cm), distal 10–46 × 1.1–2.3 cm, main veins 3, with minute reddish scattered scales on the minor veins, apices attenuate or acute.

INFLORESCENCE interfoliar, branched to 1 order, erect, c. 1.5 m



Dypsis moorei. **A** basal leaflets × 1/3; **B** mid section of leaf × 1/3; **C** leaf tip × 1/3; **D** distal part of peduncle × 1/3; **E** peduncular bract × 1/3; **F** tip of inflorescence × 1/3; **G** detail of rachilla × 2. All from *Moore* 9918. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.



Dypsis moorei

long; peduncle c. 90 cm long, c. 2.6 × 1.6 cm diam. medially, distally 1.7 × 1.1 cm, densely scaly; prophyll not seen; peduncular bract caducous, inserted high on the peduncle (*vide* Moore), c. 1.3 m long, green, drying brown; rachis 18–30 cm long, densely scaly; rachillae stiff, 42–51 cm long, c. 7 mm diam., densely scaly, slightly zigzag with distant triads. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** greenish white; sepals 3.3–4.5 × 4–4.9 cm, keeled, gibbous, imbricate; petals 5.7–7 × 3.5–4 mm; stamens 6, biseriate (offset c. 1 mm), filaments connate at the base for c. 0.2 mm, free for c. 2 mm, anthers 2.7–3 × 1.6–2.2 mm, latrorse and versatile, with parallel locules and a wide black connective; pistillode c. 1.3 × 1.2 mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 3.5–6 × 6–8 mm, the innermost widest; petals c. 8 × 7.5 mm in bud; staminodes 6, 0.8–1 mm high, flat; ovary slightly stalked, c. 6.5 mm × 2.8 mm. Mature **FRUIT** ± spherical, to 25 × 22 × 22 mm, stigmatic remains lateral or slightly below the equator; endocarp strongly fibrous. **SEED** 22 × 15 × 18 mm, endosperm deeply ruminant, embryo subbasal. **EOPHYLL** deeply bifid.

NOTE. This species is somewhat near *D. perrieri* but differs in the petiole being much longer, the rachis much shorter, the inflorescence branching to 1 order only, with glabrous axes; the peduncle is much more slender; the staminate sepals and petals are larger.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Antalaha: across Onive R from Ambatobe, April 1971 (fl.), Moore 9918 (Holotype P; isotypes BH, K).

112. DYP SIS DRANSFIELDII

This species is distinctive in its rather open clustering habit, fibrous leaf sheaths that do not form a well defined crownshaft (but lacking pendulous piassava) and the surprisingly long peduncle that projects beyond the leaves. Such inflorescences are reminiscent of those of the group of *Dypsis* species that were formerly included in *Vonitra*. In fact *D. dransfieldii*, as an intermediate between *Vonitra*

and *Neodypsis*, was one of the first pieces of evidence we discovered for the general blurring of generic boundaries within *Dypsidinae*, which has led to the recognition of the single large genus *Dypsis*. Curious rather than beautiful, this palm is a distinctive feature of coastal white sand forests along the western side of the Masoala Peninsula and has been found nowhere else.

DISTRIBUTION. NE Madagascar: Masoala Peninsula.

HABITAT. Littoral forest, on steep or level slope; 2–20 m.

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

USES. None recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Endangered. Single site status, in a fragile habitat.

Dypsis dransfieldii Beentje sp. nov.

a *D. nossibense* foliorum foliolorumque numero, pedunculi longitudine differt. Typus: Madagascar, Antalavia, *Dransfield et al.* JD6735 (K holotypus; isotypi P, TAN).

Clustering palm in clumps of 3–5, basally with short stilt roots. Mature **STEMS** unbranched, 6–8 m tall, 7–8 cm diam.; wood very hard; internodes c. 10 cm (2 cm near the crown); bark dull reddish brown, distally with red-brown tomentum, ringed with



Dypsis dransfieldii. Inflorescences in bud and at staminate anthesis (*Dransfield et al.* JD6469).