small triangular part, ciliolate; staminodes six, flat, up to 0.7 mm high. Young fruit fleshy; mature fruit not seen. Seed ellipsoid with slightly asymmetrical pointed base and rounded apex, 15–16 x 12-14 mm, with a very adherent endocarp, close-fitting, appearing fibrous at base but more distally so anastomosing that it seems a smooth coat with a few pits; sub-basal depression of 3 mm diam.; endosperm ruminate, the intrusions many, wavy and irregular; 2-6 mm deep.


### Dypsis oropedionis

Although the material of this palm is incomplete, it needs a name; it is clearly distinct, and severely threatened. The specific name is Greek for ‘of the plateau’, referring to the habitat.

**Distribution.** Known from two sites on the western side of the central high plateaux. 

**Habitat.** Relict dry evergreen plateau forest in steep-sided valleys; 1100–1450 m.

**Local Names.** Not recorded.

**Uses.** Not recorded.

**Conservation Status.** Critical. Numbers within the two sites were low; both populations are without real protection, with their habitat under serious threat from annual fires as well as tree-cutting.
Dypsis oropedionis Beentje sp. nov.
inter species maximas foliolis fasciculatis inflorescentiis molto ramo-
sis pedunculo breve rachillis glabris endospermio ruminato distincta.
Type: Madagascar: Ambohitsaratelo, Dransfield et al. JD6446
(Holotypus K; isotypus TAN).

Solitary palm. Trunk 8–20 m tall, 27–35 cm diam., near the
crown c. 20 cm diam.; internodes 10–20 cm, grey-brown but dis-
tally green, nodal scars pronounced, 4–5 cm; crownschaft
grey-green, covered in white wax. Leaves tristichous, 6–11 in the
crown, porrect to spreading; sheath grey-green, white-waxy,
80–157 cm, without auricles; petiole 25–35 cm long, channelled,
densely scaly, 5.5–6 x 4.5–5 cm diam.; rachis c. 3.1 m, in mid-leaf
c. 3.5 cm wide; leaflets 80–172 on each side of the rachis, in groups
of 3–9 and fanned within the groups, stiff with the distal 1/3
pendulous, the proximal 80–93 x 1.7–2.1 cm, median 102–110 x
2–3.5 cm, distal 15–43 x 0.8–1.8 cm, main vein 1, plus thickened
margins, with few ramenta to 8 mm long, otherwise glabrous,
apices unequally bifid, attenuate. Inflorescence infrafoliar,
branched to 3 orders, spreading, 85–130 x 90–100 cm; peduncle
18–40 cm, c. 10 x 6 cm diam., glabrous; prophyll c. 72 x 20 cm,
borne at c. 11 cm above the base of the peduncle, erect, split
over its length; peduncular bract deciduous, inserted at 18 cm from
the base of the peduncle, 87 cm long, 24 cm wide, closed for its
distal 7 cm beak; rachis with c. 27 branched and 13 unbranched
first order branches, these proximally 3.4–4 x 1.4–1.5 cm diam.;
rachis bracts to 7 mm long; rachilae spreading-pendulous,
cream, 10–37 cm long, 3.5–5 mm diam., glabrous, with distant

Dypsis oropedionis, surviving in a forest fragment in the midst of degraded man-made grassland.
Dypsis pilulifera

A large and beautiful tristichous palm, virtually unknown until a few years ago, but found recently in several places.

Distribution. Sambirano region, Marojejy, and Mantady.

Habitat. Moist submontane forest; slight or steep mid slopes; alt. 750–950 m.

Local names. Ovomamy (Tsimihety), Lavaboko (Marojejy), Hozatanana (Mantady).

Dypsis oropedionis. A leaf sheath × 1/4; B distal part of petiole with lowermost leaflets × 1/4; C mid section of leaf × 1/4; D leaf tip × 1/4; E inflorescence × 1/4; F detail of rachilla × 3; G staminate flower × 6. All from Dransfield et al. JD6446. Drawn by Margaret Tekbs.