Dypsis lanceolata (Becc.) Beentje & J. Dransf. comb. nov.

SYNONYM:
Type: Comoros, Combani Forest, Humboldt 1347 (Holotype P, isotype K).

Dypsis lanceolata is a clustering palm. STEMS 5–6 m high; nodal scars pronounced. LEAVES "somewhat plumose" (Hull); petiole distally 1.5–1.7 cm diam., red-dish pubescent on both surfaces, channelled; rachis 1.8–1.9 m long, in mid-leaf 1–1.6 cm wide, keeled, densely scaly or with scattered pale scales; leaflets slightly irregular (interval in mid-leaf 1.5–5 cm), proximal 30–43 x 1–2.7 cm, median 30–48 x 3.5–7 cm, distal 4–24 x 0.7–3.0 cm, main veins 3–5, with very conspicuous thickened margins, with several large (0.5–1 cm long) pale-coloured laciniate ramenta on midrib and main veins proximally, and faint minute reddish scales in longitudinal lines on the main and minor veins on the type, but absent in modern collections, acuminate.

INFLORESCENCE branched to 3 orders or more, c. 60 cm long; rachis bract (one seen) 4.5 cm long, narrowly triangular; rachillae 13–24 cm long, 1.5–3 mm diam., glabrous, with distant superficial triads. STAMINATE FLOWERS with sepals 1.2–1.4 x 1.4–1.6 mm; petals connate for 0.5 mm, free for 2.6–2.9 x 1.4–1.6 mm, spreading at full anthesis; stamens 6, uniseriate, filaments 1 (in closed flowers)–3 (in fully open flowers) mm long, narrowly cylindrical, anthers 1.4 x 0.5–0.6 mm; pistillode 1.6–1.7 mm high, 0.4–0.6 mm diam.

PISTILLATE FLOWERS not seen. FRUIT ellipsoid, 13–17 x 6–10 mm, with rounded apex; endocarp fibrous, with anastomizing fibres. SEED slightly obovoid with obtuse apex, (10–) 13–16 x 5–7 mm, with homogeneous endosperm.

NOTE. Affinities of this taxon are unclear.


SIGHT RECORDS. Anjouan: Mt. Ntingui, around Lac Dzialandzei (Hull).

CULTIVATED. Hull reports that this species is cultivated at the Galawa Beach hotel at the N end of Grande Comore.

Dypsis pumila Beentje sp. nov.

Palma nana monticola si caespitosa D. heteromorphae affinis sed multo brevioris vagina folii minima foliis minoribus inflorescentiae semel ramificantibus, sic solitaria D. acuminum affinis sed endospermi ruminato vagina folii minima differt. Typus: Madagascar, Marojejy summit, Cours 3576 (Holotypus P; isotypus K, TAN).

Dwarf palm 0.3–1 m, apparently solitary. STEM erect or procumbent, 2.2–7 cm diam., internodes 2–5 mm distally. LEAVES 3–4 per crown; sheath 11–19 cm long, c. 2 cm diam., waxy and distally densely scaly, without auricles but with square shoulders; petiole absent or up to 4 cm, 7–11 x 4–8 mm diam., densely scaly; rachis

40. Dypsis pumila

A species from high mountains in the north; the specific name means ‘dwarf’, and refers to the habit: in this case short and stocky rather than the ‘tiny’ it often means. This species holds the altitude record for Madagascar palms as it occurs at a higher elevation than any other.

DISTRIBUTION. NE Madagascar; only known from the Marojejy Mts.

HABITAT. On gneiss and quartzite, in encoid vegetation or montane forest, also in high altitude swamp; 1500–2100 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Vulnerable. Only known from a single locality, which is protected. Not collected in recent years.
26–47 cm, densely scaly; leaflets regular, 19–21 on each side of the rachis, the proximal 11–18 × 0.3–1.2 cm, median 13–20 × 1–2.1 cm (interval 0.8–2 cm), distal 2.5–9 × 0.2–1 cm, apices attenuate, not bifid, main vein 1–3, as well as thickened margins, few to many small scales on midrib and margins abaxially, with a few scales on the proximal midrib adaxially. **Inflorescence** infrafoliol, branching to 1 order; peduncle 7–16 cm, 4–8 mm diam.; prophyll dark green, 17–24 cm long, borne at 2.8–8 cm above the base of the peduncle, 3–3.5 cm wide, the distal half open; peduncular bract inserted at 4.5–12.2 cm, 10–15 × 3.6 cm, open, with scattered small scales; rachis 3–5 cm long, glabrous, with 9 rachillae (always), rachillae 6–10 cm long, 1.5–3 mm diam., glabrous, the triads distant, sunk in pits; rachilla bracts acute, entire. **Staminate flowers** with sepals 2.3–3.9 × 1.8–3.2 mm, ovate or elliptic, proximally slightly gibbose, keeled, with membranous margins, acute or obtuse, entire; receptacle 1.8–2 mm high; petals 3–5.8 × 2.6–3.6 mm, ovate or elliptic, strigate, acute; stamens 6, uniseriate, filaments 2.8–5 × 0.7–1 mm, flat, anthers 1.4–1.8 × 0.8–1 mm, dorsifixed, versatile, the locules slightly diverging proximally, obtuse; pistilode c. 1.8–3 × 0.7–1 mm. **Pistillate flowers** with sepals 2.6–3.2 × 1.7–3.3 mm (to 4.7 mm wide in fruit), (broadly) ovate, concave, acute; petals (in bud) imbricate with a minute valvate apex, broadly ovate, 2.2–2.8 × 1.8–2.2 mm, or (in fruit) white and reddish, 4.2–4.8 × 5–5.5 mm; staminodes (four seen) flat, up to 0.6 mm high; gynoecium c. 2.2 × 1.5 mm. **Fruit** subglobose to slightly obovoid, 17–26 × 12–20 mm, pointed at the base, rounded at the apex, endocarp fibrous, but not adhering to the seed. **Seed** slightly obovoid, 16–17 × 13–14 mm, pointed at the base, rounded at the apex, with a faint subequatorial depression; endosperm ruminate with many intrusions, 2–6 mm deep.

*Dypsis pumila*.
**NOTE.** This species is near *D. heteromorphus* but is solitary, much shorter, has a shorter sheath, smaller leaves, and the inflorescence branches to only one order; it is also near *D. acuminum* but is distinct by its ruminate endosperm and shorter sheath.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Marojejy E peak, Dec. 1948 (dead infl.), Humbert 22756 (K, P); idem, March 1949 (fl., fr.), Humbert 23679 (K, P); idem, March/April 1949 (fr.), Humbert & Cours 23799 (K, P); Marojejy summit, April 1949 (fl.), Cours 3576 (K, P, TAN); Marojejy, without further loc., 1900 m, Nov. 1972 (?), Guillaumet 4059 (TAN).

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**41. DYPsis TSARATANANENsIS**

A rare clustering palm from a montane habitat. The name refers to the type locality, Tsaratanana.

**DISTRIBUTION.** Only known from Mt Tsaratanana.

**HABITAT.** 1000–1700 m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** Kindro (Antankarana).

**USES.** Palm-heart edible and highly esteemed.

**CONSERVATION STATUS.** Uncertain. Not seen for more than seventy years, but this mountain has not been

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*Dypsis tsaratananensis.* A leaf sheath, petiole and basal leaflets x 1/5; B mid section of leaf x 1/5; C leaf tip x 1/5; D part of inflorescence x 1/4; E detail of rachilla x 5; F fruit x 2.5; G fruit in cross section x 2.5. All from Perrier 15265. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.