CONSERVATION STATUS. Possibly extinct; not seen for over 70 years.

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

**Synonym:**


Solitary palm. **TRUNK** 4–6 m high, c. 20 cm diam., smooth, ringed. **LEAVES** with the sheath (fide Perrier) whitish, glabrous, with distinct, unequal, obtuse auricles; petiole not seen; rachis in mid-leaf keeled, c. 1.8 cm wide and 2.2 cm high, with scattered scales; leaflets presumably regular, the proximal not seen, median c. 120 x 2.3–2.5 cm (interval 3.5–4 cm), with thickened margins, with scattered red ramenta 2–4 mm long on the proximal part of the midrib, otherwise glabrous, apices unequally attenuate, bifid. **INFLORESCENCE** branched to 2 orders; the only first order branch seen with a secondary rachis 27 cm long, proximally 1.2 x 0.6 cm, glabrous, with 17 rachillae; rachillae 24–34 cm long, 2–2.5 mm diam., with distant slightly sunken triads, the rachilla bracts small and rounded. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** not seen. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** not seen; in fruit the persistent sepals 1.8–2.2 x 2.5–2.6 mm, petals 3.2–3.6 x 3.8–4.1 mm; staminodes 0.6–0.7 mm, flat. **FRUIT** yellowish, ellipsoid, 12–16 x 7–8.5 mm, with an obtuse apex; endocarp fibrous, the fibres anastomosing. **SEED** ellipsoid, c. 13 x 7.5–8 mm, pointed at the base, obtuse at the apex, with a sub-aequatorial depression; endosperm ruminate, the ruminations few, distant, 1–2 mm deep.

**NOTE.** The protologue describes the auricles as 0.8–1.5 cm long; the petiole as 12 cm long; the proximal segments as 75–100 x 0.4–0.8 cm; inflorescence branched to 2 orders; prophyll 40 x 6 cm, with scattered scales. It also has the Sakalava name Kindro. None of these details is apparent from the Paris specimen. We are unable to comment on the affinities of this species.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Ambilobe: Belinta, Feb. 1923 (fr.), Perrier 15414 (Holotype P).

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18. **Dypsis saintelucei**

A medium-sized, elegant palm which would probably do well in cultivation. It occurs on white sand, and so would probably do well in the drier tropics; the habitat is that of *D. lutescens*, one of the most successful ornamental palms.

**DISTRIBUTION.** Only known from the Sainte-Luce forest in the extreme South-East of the island.

**HABITAT.** Coastal forest on white sand; 10–20 m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** Not recorded.

**USES.** Not recorded.
Dypsis saintelucei. A tip of leaf sheath, petiole and basal leaflets x 2/3; B mid section of leaf x 2/3; C leaf tip x 2/3; D first order branch of inflorescence x 2/3; E staminate flower in vertical section x 10; G fruit in vertical section x 2. A - E from Beentje 4760, F, G from Beentje & Andriampaniry 4609. Drawn by Rosemary Wise.
Dypsis ovobontsira

This is a beautiful palm of restricted distribution. The name is taken from the Betsimisaraka name for this species.

**Distribution.** Only known from the Mananara Biosphere Reserve.

**Habitat.** Moist forest, steep mid slope, ultramafic soils with deep humus layer; c. 265 m.

**Local Names.** Ovobontsira (Betsimisaraka).

**Uses.** Not recorded.

**Conservation Status.** Critical. Only known from a single site, where less than ten individuals are known.

Dypsis ovobontsira Beentje sp. nov.

*inter species arborescentes foliolis regulariter dispositis endospermio ruminato inflorescentia interfoliacea pedunculo longo folis spiraliter dispositis vagina folii hirsutissima distincta. Typus: Madagascar; Antananarivo, Beentje et al. 4645 (Holotypus K; isotypi BH, MO, P, TAN)*

Solitary palm. **Trunk** to 8–10 m, 13 cm diam., near crown 9 cm diam.; internodes 14 cm, near crown 2–2.5 cm; wood pink, with dense fibre-layer below bark. **Leaves** spiral, 6, arching; sheath c. 62 cm, at crown 14 cm diam., green with dense brown and white scales; petiole c. 47 cm, green with dense white scales, proximally 6 x 5 cm, distally 5 x 4.5 cm, channelled with sharp edges; rachis 2.5–2.6 m, in midleaf 2.5 x 2.3 cm, green, waxy with sparse scattered scales; leaflets 68–69 on each side of the rachis, very regular, stiff, in 1 plane, the proximal 68–71 x 3.3–4.2 cm (sometimes with long pendulous reins), median 86–90 x 4.6–5.2 cm, dark green, glabrous. **Inflorescence** interfoliar, arching

**Note.** In its group of large tristichous palms with regular leaflets and ruminate endosperm closest to *D. amasindavae* but distinct in the closed leaf sheath and the interfoliar inflorescence, resulting in long peduncles and very long bracts.

**Specimens seen.** Tolanaro: 5 km W of Manafiasy (Ste. Luce), March 1992 (stc.), Beentje & Andriampaniry 4609 (K); idem, Dec. 1992 (fl.), Beentje 4760 (Holotype K; isotypes BH, MO, P, TAN).