orders, and we hereby put N. affinis into the syn-
omony of D. scottiana.

Jumelle mentions the two species only briefly in his 1929 revision of Neophloga, since he did not believe the two taxa belonged to the genus. Not hampered by the fact that he had not seen the type of N. scottiana, he based his opinion on the description by Beccari (to whom he usually refers to as 'the Italian botanist'). In the Flora (Jumelle & Perrier 1945) the species are treated under Neophloga, with the brief remark that they are intermediate between Neophloga and Chrysalidocarpus.

A collection from lowland rain forest (Beentje 4599) matches the collections from white sand forest and heath scrub at much lower altitudes; the main differences are the higher number of leaflets (up to 27 on each side of the rachis, rather than the 11–19 of the white sand populations) and the slightly longer peti-
one. The inflorescence agrees perfectly, however, and we see no reason to distinguish the forms formally.

A collection from Manombo Forest, much further north, looks similar to D. scottiana, but with the following differences: leaf sheath 6.5–9.5 cm long; LEAFLETS 7–11 on each side of the rachis; inflores-

cence branched to 2 orders; prophyll and peduncular bract slightly shorter; rachis with 1–5 branched and 8–9 unbranched first order branches; STAMINATE FLOWERS with sepals 0.7–1.2 mm. Other characters overlap [Farafangana: Manombo, Jan. 1993 (fl.), Beentje & Andriampanary 4782 (K, MO, P, TAN). It is not the same, but is verging towards it!

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Tolano: forest near Fort Dauphin (Tolano), May 1890 (fl.), Scott Elliot 2615 (Holotype K); between Pic St. Louis and the sea, 1928 (fl.), Humbert 5958 (P); 13 km N of Ezoamba, March 1992 (fl.), Beentje & Andriampanary 4599 (K, MO, P, TAN); 24 km N of Tolano, April 1989 (ster.), Rabevohitra et al. 1932 (K, P); idem, March 1992 (fl.), Beentje & Andriampanary 4607 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN) and (fl., fr.), Beentje & Andriampanary 4608 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN); St. Luce forest, March 1992 (fl., fr.), Phillipson et al. 3061 (K); idem, Dec. 1992 (fl.), Beentje 4759 (K, MO, P, TAN); L. Mananivo-Andriamanda, March 1989 (fl.), Dumetz et al. 616 (K, P); NW Marokozy, March 1989 (y.fr.), Dumetz et al. 618 (K, P, TAN); Mandena, March 1989 (fr., fr.), Dumetz et al. 503 (MO); idem, (fl.), Dumetz et al. 527 (K, P); idem, April 1989 (bud, fr.), Rabevohitra et al. 1888 (K, P). Fort Dauphin (Tolano), without further locality, without date (fl.), Cloisé 108 (P, type of N. affinis); idem, Oct. 1932 (fl., fr.), Decary 10729 (K, P, TAN).

**50. DYPsis singularis**

A handsome small palm, sadly on its way to extinc-
tion. The name indicates that it is a peculiar taxon (due to the didymous stamens on a palm of this habit), as well as the fact that it is known from a single collection from only one site. Nevertheless, it is a distinct species.

**DISTRIBUTION.** Only known from Manombo forest.

**HABITAT.** Lowland rain forest; slope base; c. 45 m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** Not recorded.
USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Critical. Single-site status, in a forest being gradually destroyed by fire, shifting cultivation and logging; numbers low, estimated at less than a hundred.

*Dypsis singularis* Beentje sp. nov.

Palma concinna foliolis paucis connatis inflorescentia in 2 ordines ramificanti D. commersonianaæ affinis sed antheris didymis distincta. Typus: Madagascar; Manombo, Beentje 4513 (Holotypus K; isotypus TAN).

Solitary palm to 6 m. **STEM** distally c. 1 cm diam; internodes distally c. 0.5 cm, nodal scars c. 1 mm. **LEAVES** c. 6 in the crown, porrect, pinnate; sheath 9–13 cm long, with scattered reddish scales which are rather dense distally, and auricles to 1 cm long; petiole 0–1.5 cm long, 3–7 x 2–3 mm diam., with scattered scales; rachis 40–59 cm long, in mid-leaf 2.5–4 mm wide, with tiny scattered scales; leaflets 3–7 on each side of the rachis, solitary or in groups of 2, group interval 6–16 cm, leaflet interval 0.5–0.8 cm, proximal 8–16 x 0.6–2.2 cm, median 16–25 x 1.5–5 cm, distal 14–19 x 3.5–6 cm, main veins 3–5 (but faint), up to 7 in the distal pair, with scattered scales on the major and minor veins, distal pair joined for 4–8 cm, dentate over a width of 0.5–1.7 cm. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar; branched to 2 orders; peduncle 51–61 cm long, 2.5–3 mm diam., glabrous; prophyll 29–37 cm long, 8–18 mm wide, borne at 4–10 cm above the base of the peduncle, open in the distal 1.5–4 cm with scattered scales; peduncular bract inserted at 18–20 cm from the base of the peduncle, 36–41 cm long, open in the distal 3.5–5 cm, with scattered scales; rachis 37–69 cm long, glabrous, with 13–23 branched and 15–23 unbranched first order branches, the proximal to 12.5 cm long and with up to 7 rachillae; rachillae 5–19 cm long, 1 mm diam., glabrous. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** in young bud with sepals 0.5–0.7 x
0.5–0.8 mm; petals 0.8–1.3 x 0.7–0.8 mm; stamens 6, uni- or biseriate, didymous, filaments 0.3 mm long (and possibly connate for 0.5 mm?), anthers 0.2 x 0.3 mm; pistil c. 0.3–0.4 x 0.4 mm. **Pistillate flowers** with sepals 0.6–0.7 x 0.6–1 mm; petals 1.2–1.5 x 0.9–1.6 mm; staminodes invisible; pistil 1.5–1.6 mm high, c. 1.8–1.9 mm diam. **Fruit** unknown.

**Note.** With its few broad, connate leaflets and inflorescence branched to 2 orders it resembles *D. commersoniana* and *D. humbertii* but is distinct in the didymous anthers.

**Specimens seen.** Farafangana: Manombo, Nov. 1991 (bud), Beentje 4513 (Holotype K; isotype TAN).

### 51. **Dypsis intermedia**

A strange little palm, only known from a single forest, with leaves resembling those of *D. commersoniana*, and the inflorescence that of *D. scottiana*; the name refers to this.

**Distribution.** Only known from Manombo.

**Habitat.** Lowland rain forest; gentle slope; 30–60 m.

**Local names.** Not recorded.

**Uses.** Not recorded.

**Conservation Status.** Critical. Only known from a single forest, which is disappearing steadily. Numbers are estimated at less than fifty.

*Dypsis intermedia* Beentje sp. nov.

*Palma concinna foliolis paucis connatis inflorescentia in 2 ordines ramificanti D. commersonianae affinis sed anthers didymis distincta. Typus: Madagascar, Manombo, Beentje & Andriampaniry 4794 (Holotypus K; isotypus TAN).*