



**Dypsis
sanctaemariae**

broad imbricate; petals triangular 3.5 × 2 mm; staminodes 6, minute; ovary 3 × 2 mm, conical, stigmas eccentric. **FRUIT** unknown.

NOTES. The form of the inflorescence and stamen number suggest that this species is related to *D. boiviniana*. It may be distinguished from the latter



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species by the form of the leaf, which is entire and bifid, or with few irregular approximate leaflets as opposed to numerous fascicled and divergent leaflets, and the rachillae which are more slender and with inconspicuous rachilla bracts. It is similar to *D. mangorensis* but differs in the very much larger leaf, lacking a petiole and in the much longer rachillae.

Maroantsetra: Hiaraka, Oct. 1986 (bud), *Dransfield et al.* JD6367 (K, TAN) seems a very slender (clustering) plant of this species; the stem is 1 cm thick, the sheath 15–16 cm long, the petiole is almost absent; the leaflets are regular and slightly smaller than in the above description; the inflorescence is also slender, with a 2 mm thick peduncle; there are four rachillae 21–23 cm long.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Île Sainte Marie: Lokintsy, Forêt d'Ambohidena, Nov. 1994 (fl.), *Dransfield et al.* JD7526 (Holotype K; isotype TAN), JD7527 (K, TAN).

63. DYPISIS SOANIERANAE

The description of this species is not complete, but the single long fat rachilla makes it so distinct that we feel obliged to give it a name, which refers to the locality.

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from Soanierana-Ivongo.

HABITAT. Lowland rain forest, 75 m.

LOCAL NAMES. *Tsinkary* (a rather general Betsimisaraka name for smaller palms).

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Probably extinct. Not seen since 1938, in an area where the forest has been severely fragmented and is under continuing pressure.

Dypsis soanieranae *Beentje* sp. nov.

D. boiviniana affinis folio pinnato foliolis fasciculatis sed inflorescentia spicata rachilla longa distincta. Typus: Madagascar, Soanierana-Ivongo, Ambahoabe, *Lam & Meeuse* 5659 (Holotypus L).

Solitary palm. **STEM** 4–5 m tall, distally with internodes 4–6.5 cm long, c. 1.5 cm diam., distally with dense scales; nodal scars 2–5 mm. **LEAVES** pinnate; sheath 16–17.5 cm long, with scattered scales and ragged shoulders; petiole 13–13.5 cm long, 5–6 × 3–5 mm diam., flat adaxially, with scattered scales but glabrescent; rachis 71–95 cm long, with scattered scales, in mid-leaf 2–4 mm wide; leaflets 19–21 on each side of the rachis, in groups of 2–3, group interval 6–9 cm, the most proximal 17 cm below the next, proximal 17–25 × 0.4–0.8 cm, median 21–37 × 1.3–1.9 cm (interval 0.3–2 cm), distal 16–22 × 1.2–2.2 cm, lanceolate or slightly sigmoid, main veins 1–3, with faint reddish scattered scales on the minor veins, apices attenuate, distal pair joined for 1–3 cm, with 2–3 main veins and narrowly (< 4 mm) dentate apices. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, unbranched; peduncle 40–47 cm long, dense red-pubescent, 3–4.5 mm in diam.; prophyll 20–28 × 0.8 cm, with scattered scales, open for the distal 1–2.5 cm, borne at c. 9 cm above the base of the peduncle; peduncular bract 22–27+ cm exserted from the sheath, opening in the distal 3–9 cm, densely scaly; rachilla (16 cm in Perrier, bud?) c. 72 cm long, 4–5 mm diam., densely puberulous, with rather densely packed triads. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1.7–2.2 × 1.2–1.5 mm; petals 2.7–3.2 × 1.6–1.8 mm; stamens 6, slightly biseriate (offset 0.1 mm), filaments 1–1.2 mm, thin, anthers

1.4–1.7 × 0.6–0.7 mm, versatile to slightly sagittate; pistillode 0.4–1.2 × 0.2–0.5 mm, trifid. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** not seen. **FRUIT** not seen.

NOTE. Distinct among all *Dypsis* species by its unbranched inflorescence combined with the large pinnate leaf and long rachilla. The inflorescence reminds us of a long version of that of *D. pervillei*.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Soanierana-Ivongo: Ambahoabe, Dec. 1938 (fl.), *Lam & Meeuse* 5659 (Holotype, L); Simianona (Simiane) R., Sept. 1912 (bud?), *Perrier* 12065 (Fl, photo at K; absent from P).

64. *DYPsis CURTISII*

Only represented by two ancient collections, this remains one of the lesser known palms of the island. The name refers to the collector of the type, Charles Curtis (1852–1928), who collected in Madagascar in 1881.

DISTRIBUTION. Unfortunately, we are not sure where Curtis collected, and his number 117 (the only other specimen we have seen made by this collector) is an unidentifiable palm leaf, also without locality.



***Dypsis soanieranae*.** **A** crown × 1/5; **B** detail of rachilla × 3; **C** staminate flower × 6. All from *Lam & Meeuse* 5659. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.