Dypsis thermarum. Whole plant in undergrowth at Ranomafana.

This is a clustering undergrowth palm that is abundant in the undergrowth in deep valleys of the Ranomafana National Park. It can easily be distinguished by its few narrow and long leaflets and the densely hairy short inflorescences. It forms rather untidy clumps at the foot of steep slopes. The species name is the Latin for "of the hot springs", a translation of the Malagasy ranomafana.

**Distribution.** Only known from Ranomafana National Park.

**Habitat.** Humid montane rain forest, on steep slopes; 800-1400 m.
**Local Names.** Fanikara (Tanala).

**Uses.** Stems used for making traps to catch crayfish.

**Conservation Status.** Rare, probably not at present under threat, despite being geographically restricted.

**Dypsis thermarum** J. Dransf., sp. nov.


Slender solitary or clustering undergrowth palm, forming small clumps of up to 8 stems. **Stems** to 2 m tall, 4–9 mm diam., internodes 10–42 mm long, dark green with pale yellow-green vertical striping, glabrescent, or with very sparse pale brown scales. **Leaves** c. 6 in crown; sheaths 6–8 cm long, 0.6–1 cm diam., sparsely brown scaly, whitish or pale yellow-green, forming a well-defined crownshaft, auricles present, rather narrow, 6–11 x 4–5 mm; petiole 4–14 cm long, 2 mm diam., sparsely scaly; rachis 8–14 cm; leaflets 2–5 on each side of the rachis, ± equal, mostly composed of a single fold, occasionally with up to 4 folds, sometimes slightly irregular, 15–35 x 0.4–2.5 cm, adaxially lamina with scattered pale brown punciform scales, abaxially with abundant pale brown punciform scales and scattered bands of caducous dark brown scales. **Inflorescence** branching to 1, very rarely to 2 orders, much shorter than the leaves; peduncle 10–16 cm long, c. 2 mm wide; prophyll 9–12 x 0.5–0.7 cm, rather densely covered in reddish brown indumentum; peduncular bract similar to prophyll,
This is a small palm of the undergrowth of low crown forest occurring on the isolated peak of Vatovavy, at the edge of the coastal plain south of Mananjary. We refound it in November 1994. The Latin name means narrow, presumably in reference to the narrow leaflets.

**Distribution.** East Coast, only known from the Ifanadiana area and Farafangana.

**Habitat.** Rain forest; 45–500 m.

**Local Names.** Not recorded.

**Uses.** Not recorded.

**Conservation Status.** Endangered. Only known from three sites, in which population numbers are low. None of these sites is protected.

**Dypsis angusta** Jum.


Slender clustering undergrowth palm. **Stems** to 2 m or more tall, 5–10 mm diam., internodes to 9 cm long near the stem base, decreasing to 0.8–1.2 cm long near the crown, basally bearing abundant chocolate-brown caducous scales, glabrescent distally; crown with c. 4–6 leaves; leaf-sheaths 5–7 cm long, forming a crownshaft, striate, covered with caducous chocolate-brown scales, auricles scarcely developed or to 10 x 2 mm, membranous. **Leaf** to 43 cm long including petiole; pebole 3–12 cm long, 1.3–3 mm wide, ± triangular in cross-section, bearing sparse caducous pale and chocolate-brown scales; rachis 10–29 cm long, bearing 2–3 or 7–9 (see notes below) narrow, ± approximate, regularly arranged leaflets on each side; leaflets 9–30 x 0.7–2.1 cm, drying dark or pale orange at maturity, fusiform, 11 x 4 mm. **Seed** 7 x 3.5 mm; endosperm homogeneous, embryo lateral near the base.

**Note.** This species appears to be a common palm of the forest undergrowth on steep slopes in the National Park at Ranomafana. It resembles *D. angusta* but can be distinguished by the staminate flowers having six rather than three stamens. The leaflets are also of a different texture. *D. anovensis*, known only from its type, is superficially similar, but has an inflorescence of very different form. Collections made in November 1994 (Dransfield & Beentje JD7511) have flowers at staminate anthesis, and these flowers appear to have six fertile stamens. Despite this, the affinities of the palm remain with the species formerly included in *Trichodypsis*.