

32. DYPsis ACUMINUM

A rare species, which may well be the same as *D. onilahensis*. The Latin name means 'of the peaks'.

DISTRIBUTION. N Madagascar: Manongarivo and Marojejy Mountains.

HABITAT. Montane forest; alt. 700–1900 m.

LOCAL NAMES. *Lafaza* (Manongarivo).

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Unknown. Only known from a single recent collection, but it is possible this taxon

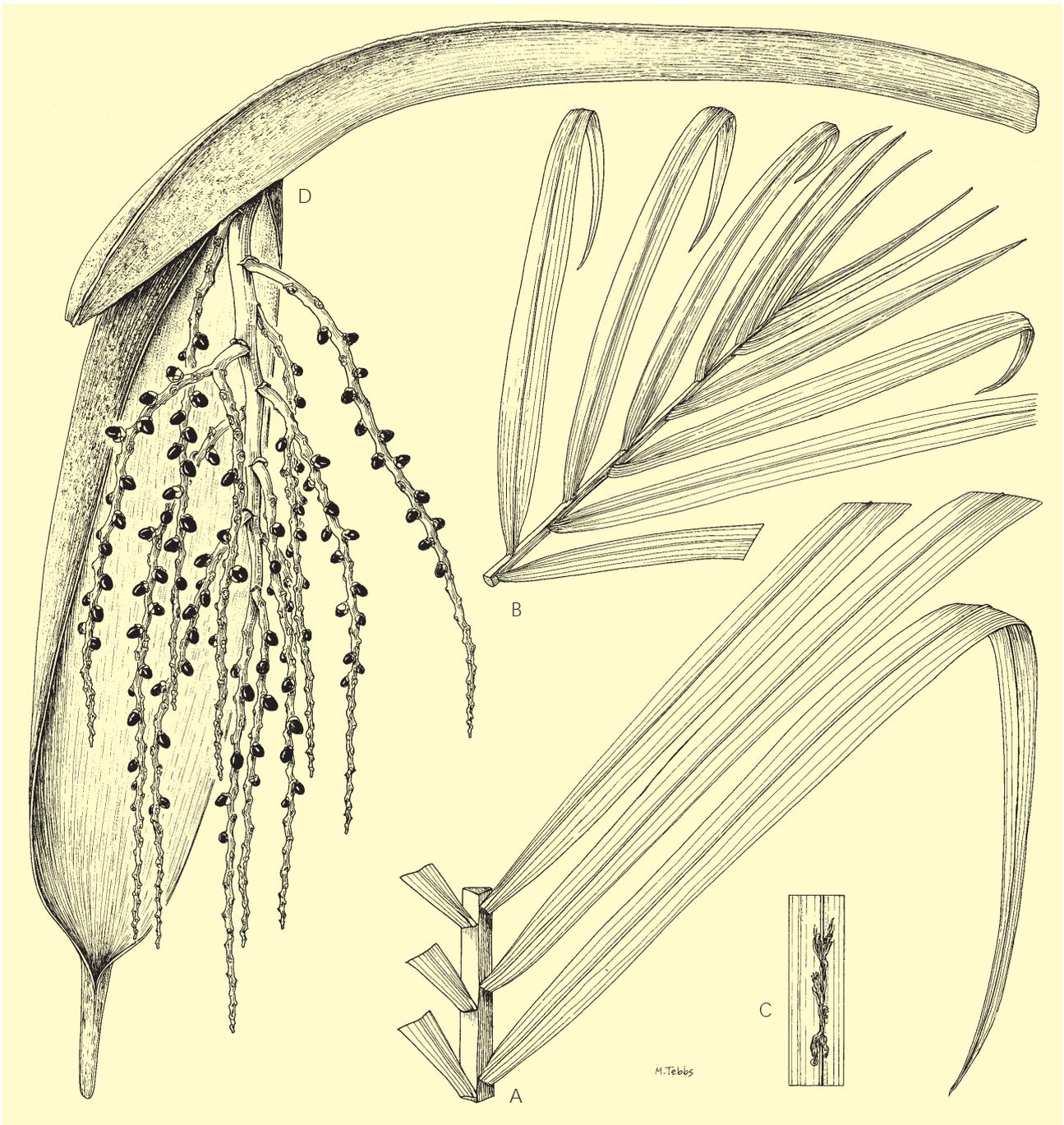
occurs on more high mountains of the north, most of which are not well known botanically.

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

SYNONYM:

Chrysalidocarpus acuminum Jum., Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 3. 10, 3: 16 (1922); Jum., Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae: 7 (1938); Jum. & H. Perrier, Fl. Madagascar 30: 109 (1945). Type: Madagascar, Manongarivo, *Perrier* 15801 (Holotype P).

Solitary, moderate palm. **STEMS** 4–6 m tall, 8 cm diam.; internodes dark green to greyish, nodal scars forming obvious rings. **LEAVES** 5–6, arching, 1–1.5 m long; sheath 30–32 cm long, when flattened 8–10 cm wide, adaxially dark reddish purple, abaxially



Dypsis acuminum. **A** mid section of leaf $\times 1/2$; **B** leaf tip $\times 1/2$; **C** detail of ramenta $\times 4$; **D** young infructescence $\times 1/2$. All from *Perrier* 15801. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.



**Dypsis
acuminum**

pale brown distally with scattered black scales, waxy, without ligules but with rounded shoulders; petiole 11–16 cm, proximally c. 1.2 × 0.6 cm, distally 0.8–1.3 × 0.6–0.7 cm diam., channelled with sharp edges, red-brown with blackish scales; rachis with dense to scattered blackish scales, in mid-leaf 0.6–1.2 × 0.6–0.7 cm diam.; leaflets regular, c. 30 on each side of the rachis, acuminate, proximal 35–36 × 0.3–1 cm, median 27–39 × 1.2–1.8 cm (interval 1.5–3 cm), distal 6–30 × 0.3–1.4 cm, main veins 1, glabrous but for 3–4 scattered rameta. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar at anthesis, infrafoliar in fruit, branched to 1 or 2 orders; peduncle 28–41 cm long, proximally c. 2 × 0.4 cm, distally 1.2 × 0.6 cm, glabrous; prophyll 30–35 cm long, borne at 6–9 cm above the base of the peduncle, with scattered scales but glabrescent, open for the distal 10 cm; peduncular bract inserted at 18–20 cm from the base of the peduncle, 36–37 cm long, split over its whole length or except for the distal 3–4 cm, beaked for 3–4 cm, with dense but scattered scales; non-tubular peduncular bracts 1–1.3 cm, near the apex of the peduncle; rachis 12–34 cm, with 15–18 unbranched first order branches, in the type with one of the branches bifurcate; rachillae 10–25 cm long, 2.5–4 mm diam., glabrous, with quite dense triads, slightly sunken in pits; rachilla bract c. 2 mm long, acute to acuminate. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** unknown. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** only known from the young fruiting stage, with the sepals 2.8–3.6 × 3–4 mm; petals 3.5–5.2 × 4–6 mm; staminodes 0.5–1 mm; gynoecium probably c. 4 mm high. **FRUIT** ellipsoid, 9–10 × 6–7 mm., rounded at apex; endocarp fibrous, with few anastomations. **SEED** ellipsoid, 8–8.5 × 5.5–6 mm, the base with a slight bump and a sub-basal depression corresponding to the embryo, the apex rounded; endosperm homogeneous.

NOTE. The altitude on the type is indicated as 2000 m, but the highest point in the Manongarivo Mts., Antsatrotro, is 1876 m. This taxon is probably the same as *D. onilahensis*; only the branching pattern of the inflorescence is distinct, being much less branched in *D. acuminum*.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Ambanja: Manongarivo, probably Antsatrotro, May 1909 (y.fr.), *Perrier* 15801 (P, type). Andapa: Marojejy, Feb. 1989 (y.fr.), *Miller & Lowry* 3941 (P, TAN).

33. DYPISIS LUTESCENS

One of the best-known Madagascar palms (at least under its old name): this species is very widespread in cultivation all over the tropics, doing well under a wide range of conditions. This is in strange contrast to its native country, where it is restricted to a special habitat: white sand forest in a narrow strip close to the sea. The name means ‘becoming yellow’ and refers (probably) to the leaf sheath, petiole and rachis.

DISTRIBUTION. E Madagascar.

HABITAT. Littoral forest or heath vegetation on white sand, also on rock; persists in secondary growth and may be locally common. Alt. 5–35 m.

LOCAL NAMES. *Rehazo*, *Lafahazo*, *Lafaza* (Betsimisaraka).

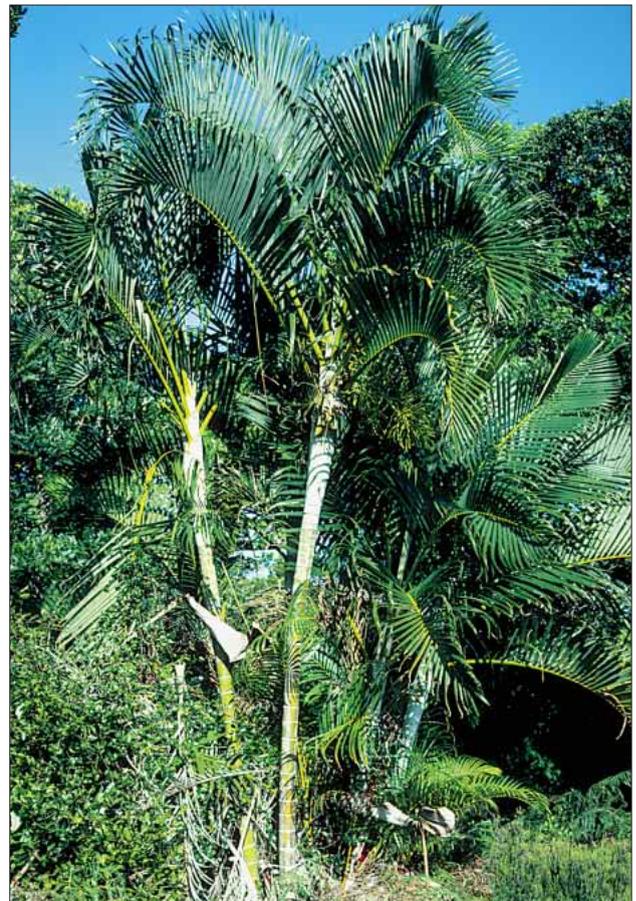
USES. Local uses not recorded, but this is one of the most important ornamental palms in commerce.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Not threatened. Total numbers of this palm in the wild are estimated at more than a thousand.

Dypsis lutescens (*H. Wendl.*) *Beentje & J. Dransf. comb. nov.*

SYNONYMS:

Chrysalidocarpus lutescens H. Wendl., Bot. Zeitg. 36, 8: 117 (1878); Beccari, Bot. Jahrb. 38, Beibl. 87: 32 (1906); Beccari, *Palme del Madagascar* 38 (1914); Jum., Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille



Dypsis lutescens, in coastal forest on white sand, Ambila-Lemaitso (*Dransfield et al.* JD6441).