

20. DYPsis TANALENSIS

INSUFFICIENTLY KNOWN SPECIES

DISTRIBUTION. Known from a single collection from the Vohipeno area, south of Manakara. It was named for the people living in this area, the Tanala.

HABITAT. Lowland rain forest; 100 m.

LOCAL NAMES. *Matitanana*, *Matitana* (Tanala, meaning dead hand, supposedly after the dead inflorescences when fallen on the ground).

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Possibly extinct. Not seen for over eighty years; HB visited the area, which now seems devoid of tree palms.

Dypsis tanalensis (Jum. & H. Perrier) Beentje & J. Dransf. **comb. nov.**

SYNONYM:

Neodypsis tanalensis Jum. & H. Perrier, Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 3, 1 (1): 18 (1913); Jum., Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 4, 2 (2): 29 (1924); Jum., Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae: 19 (1938); Jum. & H. Perrier, Fl. Madagascar 30: 155, fig. 44 (1945). Type: Madagascar, Matitanana basin, *Perrier* 12072 (Holotype P; not mentioned in protologue, but the only specimen mentioned in Jumelle 1924).

LEAVES with the sheath with sloping shoulders without any sign of auricles, tomentose with peltate scales with white-laciniate edges; petiole 12 cm long (cut lengthwise in the type), densely tomentose; rachis in mid-leaf white-tomentose, distally keeled; leaflets regular or grouped?, in mid-leaf the interval 1–2 cm; proximal leaflets c. 115 × 1.2 cm, median 129 × 2.4–2.6 cm, near-distal 63 × 2.4 cm, main vein 1, abaxial midrib with a few basal reddish ramenta to 6



Dypsis tanalensis

mm, with scattered minute reddish glands on the minor veins, apices bifid, unequally attenuate. **INFLORESCENCE** branched to 1 order or more?; rachillae 26–33 cm long, 2.5 mm diam. in flower, 4 mm diam. in fruit, with minute bundles of bristles but glabrescent, the triads distant, slightly sunken, with small acute rachilla bracts. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1.8–2 × 1.6–2.5 mm; petals 3.8–4.4 × 2.1–2.5 mm; stamens 6, ?slightly 2-seriate, filaments 1.4–1.8 mm in bud, to 2.6 mm at anthesis, anthers 1.8–2.5 × 0.6–0.8 mm, versatile; pistillode 2–2.8 × 0.4–0.5 mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** not seen at anthesis, in fruit with sepals 2–2.8 × 3–3.6 mm; petals 3–3.4 × 3.8–4.5 mm; staminodes 0.7–0.8 mm. **FRUIT** ellipsoid, 9–14 × 5.5–7 mm. **SEED** 8–13 × 4.5–6 mm; endosperm ruminant, with quite dense ruminations, 1–2 mm deep.

NOTE. Data given in the protologue, but not apparent from the type or its label: **TRUNK** 15–20 m high, diam. 20–50 cm, internodes greyish, nodal scars very evident. **LEAVES** (incl. sheath) 4–6 m long; sheath 1–1.5 by 0.4–0.5 m (but then the authors go on and say it is channelled adaxially—so it is uncertain whether they refer to the petiole or the rachis), smooth, green, distally with a thin whitish puberulous indument; rachis 3–5 m; leaflets regular, median 130 × 3 cm. Every trunk with 3–4 interfoliar to infrafoliar **INFLORESCENCES**; these pendulous, branched to 3 or 4 orders, 1.5–2 by 1.2–1.6 m; prophyll 50 × 15 cm, opening near the apex only; peduncular bract 80 × 13 cm.

The specimen looks like *D. pilulifera*, but the ruminant endosperm separates it from that taxon. Among ruminant endosperm taxa it resembles *D. hovomantsina* and *D. tsaravoasira* - but in every case the material of *D. tanalensis* does not have quite the same look or feel to it.

According to the protologue, the epiphytic orchid *Oeonia* often grows on this palm.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Vohipeno: Matatana (Matitana) basin, no date (fl., fr.), *Perrier* 12072 (P, type).

21. DYPsis ANKAIZINENSIS

Yet another species of which various specimens were housed in different genera. It is still somewhat of a mystery, and it combines characters from several other species, without being quite the same as any of them. The name derives from Ankaizina, the southern foothills of Mt. Tsaratanana.

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from Mt Tsaratanana.

HABITAT. Montane forest, in moist depressions or on ridge crests; 1400–2000 m. Said to be very common.

LOCAL NAMES. *Laboka*, *Hovatra*, *Lavaboka*.

USES. Palm-heart slightly bitter, but edible.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Unknown. Not seen for over seventy years, but the Tsaratanana area has not been visited by botanists for a long time.

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

SYNONYM:

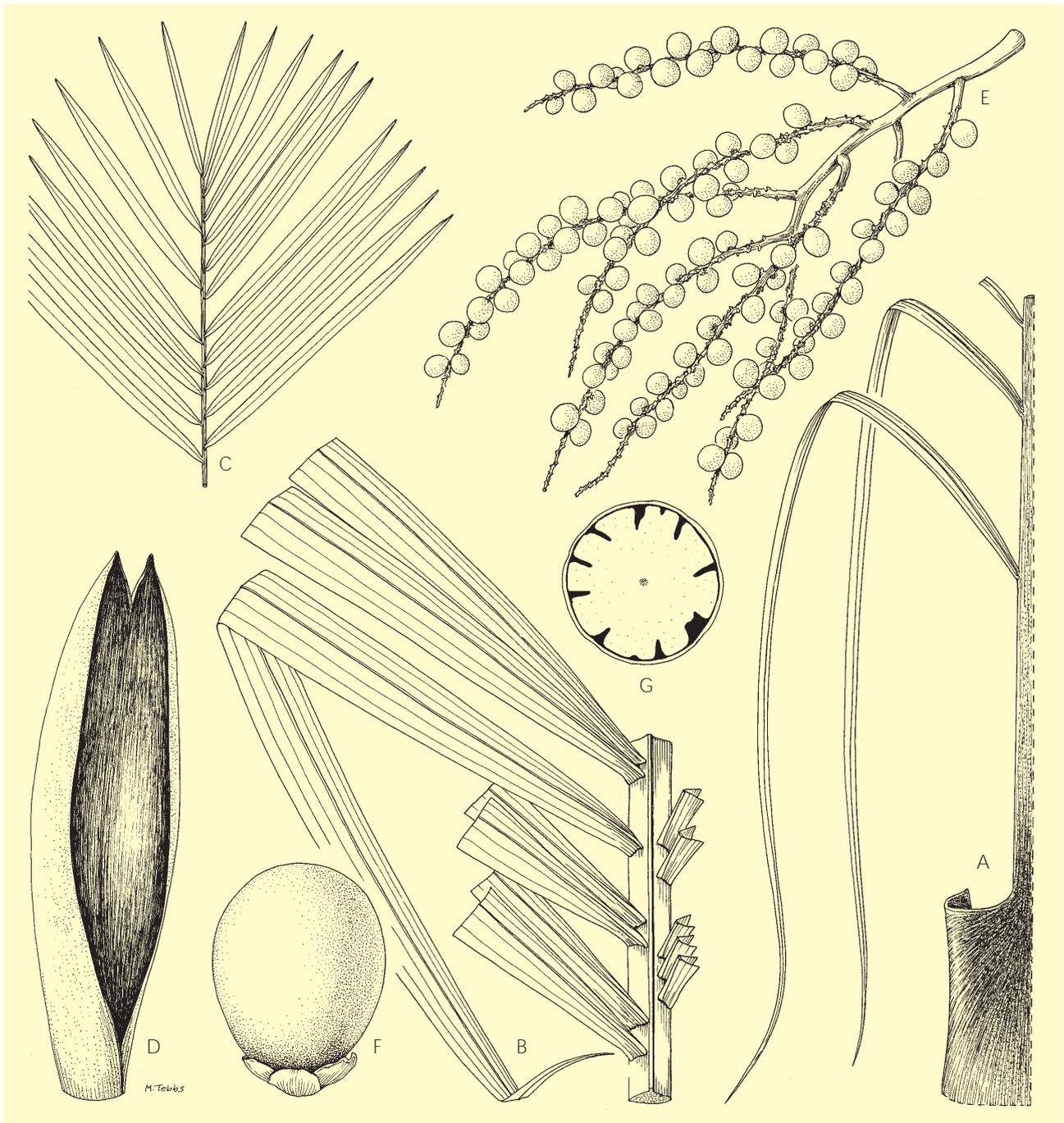
Chrysalidocarpus ankaizinensis Jum., Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Marseille sér. 10, 3: 23 (1922); Jum., Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae: 8

(1938); Jum. & H. Perrier, Fl. Madagascar 30: 119 (1945). Type: Madagascar, Tsaratanana, *Perrier* 11936 (Holotype P)

Neodypsis lobatus Jum., Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 4, 2 (2): 13 (1924); Jum., Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae: 18 (1938); Jum. & H. Perrier, Fl. Madagascar 30: 142 (1945), **synon. nov.** Syntypes: Tsaratanana, *Perrier* 16227 (P), 16227bis (P).

Solitary palm. **TRUNK** 10–15 m high, 15–40 cm diam. **LEAVES** with sheath very large, green (Perrier), distally with dense dark brown lacinate scales, with square shoulders, not very large, to c. 8.5 cm wide when flat; petiole 2–13 cm long, up to 4 cm diam., flat with sharp margins and with dense dark scales; rachis in mid-leaf 1.3–2.2 cm wide, proximally channelled, distally keeled, with scattered white hairs and reddish glands; leaflets not very stiff, the distal half pendulous, in groups of 2–4 in mid-leaf, the group interval 2.5–5 cm, the leaflet interval 0.2–0.6 cm; proximal 47–132 ×

0.6–1.2 cm, median 50–72 × 1.9–2.7 cm, distal 13–33 × 0.5–2.5 cm, main vein 1, margins thickened, sometimes slightly glaucous, pale faint glands scattered on the minor veins, apices bifid, unequally attenuate or acute. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar or infrafoliar, branched to 2 orders, erect or arching; prophyll 25–30 cm long, c. 6.6 cm wide, with scattered scales, borne at 14 cm above the base of the peduncle; peduncular bract 42–70 cm long, c. 10 cm wide, with scattered scales, beaked for 2 cm, opening over its entire length; first order branches with a secondary rachis of 6–18 cm, proximally 1.2–1.8 × 0.4–0.7 cm diam., glabrous, with 6–14 rachillae; rachillae 14–25 cm long, 2.5–4 mm diam., with distant to close slightly sunk triads, rachilla bracts proud, acute. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** seen as densely packed buds, with sepals 2.7–3.1 × 2.5–3.3 mm; petals 2.5–2.8 × 2.2 mm; stamens 6, uniseriate, filaments c. 1 mm and thin, anthers c. 1.3 × 0.6 mm; pistillode c. 1.8 × 0.5 mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** not seen, but fruit with persistent sepals 3–3.4 × 3.2–4 mm; petals 4.5–5.2 × 3.5–6 mm; staminodes 0.8–1 mm. **FRUIT** ellipsoid, 13–17 × 8.5–12



Dypsis ankaizinensis. **A** sheath, petiole and basal leaflets × 1/3; **B** mid section of leaf × 1/3; **C** leaf tip × 1/5; **D** peduncular bract × 1/4; **E** first order branch of infructescence × 1/3; **F** fruit × 2.5; **G** fruit in cross section × 2.5. All from *Perrier* 16227. Drawn by Margaret Tebbis.



**Dypsis
ankaizinensis**

mm (to 25 × 18 mm when fresh), with a rounded apex. **SEED** ellipsoid, 9.5–15 × 7.5–10 mm, with pointed base and rounded apex; endosperm ruminant, the ruminations distant, 1–2 mm deep.

NOTE. *Neodypsis lobatus* is clearly the same taxon, and comes from the same habitat from the same mountain. Jumelle states that in the palms from ridge crests

(16227bis) the stem is twice as short as in the ones from slope forest; so is the sheath.

We are uncertain about the affinities of this species. The inflorescence has the look of *D. tsaravoasira*, but the leaflets are grouped and, in their turn, look more like *D. hovomantsina* - but the leaf sheath is glabrous. This is one of those species which seem to combine features of several others.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Ambanja/Ambilobe/Bealanana: Mt Tsaratanana area, anno 1912 (y.fr.), *Perrier* 11936 (P, type); idem, April 1924 (fr.), *Perrier* 16227 (syntype; P); idem, April 1924 (fr.), *Perrier* 16227bis (syntype; P).

22. DYPISIS MADAGASCARIENSIS

This species is widespread in the northwest and west of the country, occurring in drier forest than most other *Dypsis* species; it even survives in moister localities in dry bushland. This is a handsome palm which does well in cultivation, and is widespread throughout the tropics; in its native country it even grows in forest margins next to the beach.

DISTRIBUTION. NW and W Madagascar.

HABITAT. Moist rain forest or semi-deciduous dry or plateau forest; rare in palm grassland; in dry bushland usually in gullies or ravines; may grow very close to the sea shore; alt. 1–650 m.

POLLINATION & DISPERSAL. Flowers visited by bees and/or other insects (fide *Moore* 9026); fruit eaten by



Dypsis madagascariensis. View of crown, Lokobe.