

scattered scales; leaflets 25–28 on each side of the rachis, stiff, proximally at an angle of 90° with the leaflets on the opposite side of the rachis, more distal in one plane, regular, glossy dark green, proximal ones 19–41 × 0.3–2.5 cm (most proximal ones short and narrow), median 38–51 × 1.8–3.2 (interval 2.5–3 cm), distal 13–31 × 0.8–2.5 cm, the apical pair hardly connate, apices attenuate and bifid, main veins 3, with the midrib prominent adaxially, leaflets glabrous or with a few scattered scales near the base. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, erect, branching to one order (in *Beentje* 4651 with the most proximal rachilla bifurcate); peduncle 47–132 cm, proximally 5–6 × 4 mm, distally 3–5 × 2–4 mm, with dense reddish lacinate scales but soon glabrescent; prophyll 10–34 cm long, 2-keeled, with a few scattered reddish scales, cylindrical, split at apex only, soon disintegrating at the apex; peduncular bract inserted at 7–14 cm from base, 30–48 cm long, pale brown with patches of dense reddish scales, circumscissile but carried up and covering the rachillae until expansion, beaked for 9–10 cm; rachis 7–15 cm, with 17–22 branches; rachillae green, occasionally with a bulbous base, 12–32 cm long, 2–2.5 mm diam., covered in minute stellate scales; triads spirally arranged, quite close, in pits. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** globose in bud; sepals 0.6–1 × 1–1.3 mm; petals 1.7–1.8 × 1.2–1.5 mm, ovate, acute; stamens 6, in 2 series, didymous, filaments 0.4–0.8 mm long, anthers 0.4–0.5 × 0.5–0.6 mm, rounded; pistillode 0.2–0.9 × 0.4–1 mm, hexagonal with central trifid apex. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals c. 0.5 mm high, 1 mm wide, petals 1.4–1.8 × 1.2–1.3 mm; ovary 1–1.4 mm high, 1.1–1.2 mm diam., slightly asymmetrical; staminodes 0.3 mm high. **FRUIT** purple to black, obovoid, rounded, 13–19 × 9–15 mm; mesocarp 1.2 mm thick, rather fleshy; endocarp fibrous. **SEED** 15–16 × 9–12 mm, with endosperm ruminations 3–4 mm deep.

**NOTE.** Distinct by its small stature, its trunk which rarely branches and its short inflorescence branched



*Dypsis pusilla*. HB provides scale, Mananara Avaratra.

to only one order; only very few inflorescences are present at the same time, which is unusual in the *Vonitra* group.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Maroantsetra: Antalavia, Feb. 1988 (y.fr.), *Dransfield et al.* JD6467 (K, TAN); idem, Feb. 1988 (y.fr.), *Dransfield et al.* JD6474 (K, P, TAN); Ambanizana, Nov. 1992 (bud, fr.), *Schatz et al.* 3394 (K). Mananara Avaratra: Antanambe, Oct. 1991 (bud), *Beentje* 4461 (K, MO, P, TAN); idem, Oct. 1991 (fr.), *Beentje* 4468 (BH, K, TAN); idem, April 1992 (fr.), *Beentje et al.* 4651 (K, TAN).

## 119. DYPISIS AQUATILIS

### INSUFFICIENTLY KNOWN SPECIES

This species is known from a single incomplete specimen. The collector described it as growing beside a river and in the water. The inflorescence seems to have a long peduncle and is somewhat reminiscent of those of members of the “*Vonitra*” group. We are tempted to suggest that this is a stemless rheophyte and those with a mind to try to refine it should perhaps look for a palm with a habit reminiscent of *Chamaedorea cataractarum*.

**DISTRIBUTION.** Manantenina.

**HABITAT.** “Riverside and in the water” (Guillaumet).

**USES.** Not recorded.

**CONSERVATION STATUS.** Uncertain. Probably Endangered, since it seems to be restricted to a single area.



*Dypsis aquatilis*

**Dypsis aquatilis** Beentje sp. nov.

Palma acaulescens verosimiliter rheophytica *D. fibrosae* affinis folio pinnata pinnis squamas dispersas ramentas ferentibus inflorescentia pedunculo longo terete in 2 ordines ramificanti distincta. Typus: Madagascar, Tolanaro: Manantenina, *Guillaumet* 4003a (Holotype P).

"Trunk very short, if not non-existent" (Guillaumet). **LEAVES:** sheath unknown; petiole part on type 25 cm long, proximally 2 cm diam., deeply channelled, rapidly tapering to the distal diam. 0.8 cm and slightly channelled; rachis c. 8 mm diam. in upper/mid-leaf; leaflets regular, close, the median 21–23.5 × 1.2–1.3 cm, the distal 10–18 × 0.4–1.1 cm, main vein 1, apices unequally acute, indument: adaxial midrib as well as margins with small dark ramenta, abaxial minor veins with dense but scattered minute scales. **INFLORESCENCE** branched to 2 orders; peduncle at least 21.5 cm and probably considerably longer, 5 × 3 mm diam., glabrous; bracts at least 3 major ones, opening near the apex only, the most distal tubu-

lar bract 5.5 cm long; non-tubular peduncular bract c. 1 cm long; rachis (one seen) 27.5 cm long, with 12 branches, the proximal 4 or 5 bifurcate; rachis bracts proximally c. 5 mm long; rachillae 17–24 cm long, 1.5 mm diam., glabrous, with spaced triads. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1.5–1.8 × 1–2 mm; petals 1.8–2.4 × 1.6–1.7 mm, acute to obtuse; stamens 6, didymous, uniseriate, the filaments 1–1.4 × 0.5–0.6 mm, flat and slightly triangular, anthers 0.4–0.5 mm high, 0.7–0.8 mm wide, dorsifixed; pistillode 1.7–2 × 0.8 mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** unknown. **FRUIT** unknown.

**NOTE.** Distinct from all other species in the "*Vonitra*" group by the leaves with scattered scales and much ramenta, as well as by their small size.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Tolanaro: Manantenina, Dec. 1971 (fl.), *Guillaumet* 4003a (P).



**Dypsis aquatilis.** A petiole and basal leaflets × 2/5; B distal part of leaf × 2/5; C inflorescence × 2/5; D detail of rachilla × 2. All from *Guillaumet* 4003a. Drawn by Margaret Tebbis.