

134. DYP SIS BEENTJEI



Dypsis cookei. Detail of inflorescence (*Dransfield et al.* JD6761).

This beautiful species is immediately recognizable by its stemless habit and dark green bifid leaves, each with a central pale yellow line. So far it is known only from an area of forest developed on supposed ultramafic rock in the Biosphere Reserve south of Mananara Avaratra. Here it grows in a valley bottom, in damp hollows and along small streams. It would make a handsome ornamental.

DISTRIBUTION. East Coast.

HABITAT. Rain forest, waterlogged alluvial flat beside river, ultramafic bedrock; c. 250 m.

LOCAL NAME. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Endangered. Although known from a single population, this does occur within the Biosphere Reserve. However, we have seen no more than about thirty plants.

Dypsis beentjei *J. Dransf. sp. nov.*

acaulescens folio bifido atroviride, linea media albo-lutea, inflorescentia sparse divaricate ramosa floribus staminatis triandris, staminibus antepetalis staminodiis antesepalis alternantibus. Typus: Madagascar, Mananara Avaratra, 10 km west of Antanambe, *Beentje et al.* 4626 (Holotypus K; isotypi BH, MO, P, TAN).

Clustering acaulescent palm with stems subterranean and procumbent, forming tufts in the forest undergrowth. **STEM** c. 4 × 1.4 cm, dull brown, bearing robust roots c. 2 mm diam. Leaves c. 9 in crown, ± erect; sheath 7–9 cm long, 2.5–3 cm wide at the base when opened out, pale creamy brown, tinged reddish when fresh, drying reddish brown, with a conspicuous central pale yellow line, the sheath striate on drying, densely covered with caducous dark brown scales;



Dypsis beentjei. Detail of infructescence (*Beentje et al.* 4626).

petiole to 55 cm long or more, c. 4 mm wide, \pm triangular in cross section, pale creamy brown, covered in caducous dark brown scales; lamina narrow-triangular, entire-bifid, to 60 cm long, c. 10 cm wide across the two tips, apically cleft to 19 cm, the lobes to 3.5 cm wide at the base, tapering to the shallowly lobed tip, 0.5 cm wide, the lamina base long decurrent on the petiole, lamina leathery in texture, adaxially dark shining green when fresh, with scattered minute punctiform dark brown scales, the mid-line pale cream-coloured, abaxially matt, bearing rather dense apparently caducous dark brown scales of varying size with lacinate margins, particularly along the ribs. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, erect at first, becoming curved, branching to two orders, \pm rectangular in outline; peduncle to 25 cm long, 3 mm diam., rounded in cross-section, densely covered in dark brown lacinate-margined scales; prophyll to 8×0.5 cm, membranous, soon tattering, bearing scattered dark brown scales; peduncular bract long exceeding the prophyll, to 18×0.5 cm, membranous, soon tattering, scaly as the prophyll; rachis to 9 cm long, scaly as the peduncle; lowermost 3–4 branches branched with

one branch of the second order; rachillae 15–20, 3–5 cm long, c. 6 mm diam., somewhat zigzag, the triads 2–6 mm distant, each subtended by a lacinate rachilla bract to 1.5×0.5 mm, the rachilla surface partially obscured by dark brown lacinate scales. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** at anthesis pale green, depressed spherical, 2×2.5 mm; sepals rounded and gibbous at first, to c. 1×1 mm, then becoming explanate and splitting irregularly into 3 sections; corolla spherical, tubular at the base, lobes gaping at anthesis; stamens 3 free, antepetalous, alternating with 3 antesepalous staminodes; staminodes wedge-shaped, succulent, 0.9×0.8 mm; fertile stamens with succulent filaments 1.0×0.5 mm, connective dark, 0.3×0.3 mm, anthers didymous, 0.5×0.3 mm; pistillode pyramidal c. 0.4 mm high. **PISTILLATE FLOWER** buds very immature, c. 1 mm diam. Mature **FRUIT** scarlet, irregularly ovoid to ellipsoid, to 17×10 mm; epicarp glabrous; mesocarp soft, fleshy; endocarp ellipsoid, 12×6 mm, c. 0.2 mm thick, with longitudinal brown fibres, irregularly anastomosing. **SEED** irregularly ellipsoid, $9\text{--}10 \times 5$ mm, shallowly longitudinally grooved; endosperm homogeneous, embryo lateral.



Dypsis beentjei. A habit $\times 2/5$; B detail of rachilla $\times 2$; C infructescence $\times 2/5$. All from *Beentje et al.* 4626. Drawn by Rosemary Wise.



**Dypsis
beentjei**



Dypsis beentjei. Whole plant, showing the pale stripe along the midrib, Mananara Avaratra (*Beentje et al.* 4626).

NOTE. This unusual species is immediately recognizable by its acaulescent habit and relatively large entire bifid dark green leaves, each with a central pale yellow band. The inflorescence is sparsely and divaricately branched and is partially hidden among leaf litter on the ground. Apart from being obviously allied to other species with three antepetalous stamens, its relationships are not clear.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Mananara Avaratra: 10 km west of Antanambe, Oct. 1991 (fl.), *Beentje* 4475 (K, TAN); idem, April 1992 (fl., fr.), *Beentje & Dransfield* 4626 (Holotype K; isotypes BH, MO, P, TAN).

135. DYPISIS PACHYRAMEA

This is one of the smallest members of the genus. It is an attractive species with mid green, deeply plicate leaves and short, squat inflorescences hidden among the leaf bases. It is found in very humid lowland forest on the western side of the Masoala Peninsula. The species name is derived from the Greek for thick branches.

DISTRIBUTION. Masoala Peninsula.

HABITAT. Lowland forest, on steep slopes and in humid valley bottoms; to 400 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Vulnerable. Only known from two sites.



**Dypsis
pachyramea**