

129. DYP SIS BOSSERI

Known only from a single collection, this is a small palm of the forest undergrowth. It most resembles *D. hildebrandtii* but is larger in all its parts and has a rather congested inflorescence. It is named for the collector of the type, Jean Bosser.

DISTRIBUTION. Known only from forest west of Mahavelona.

HABITAT. Lowland forest.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Possibly extinct; not collected since the original collection, and most of the forest at Mahavelona has now disappeared.

Dypsis bosseri J. Dransf. sp. nov.

inter species floribus staminatis triandris staminibus antepetalis, staminodiis antesepalis alternantibus, *D. hildebrandtii* similis sed habitu multo majore, folio robustiore epetiolato inflorescentia congesta rachillis pilis ferruginosis dense tectis differt. Typus: Madagascar, East Coast, Mahavelona, Bosser 16972 (Holotypus P).

Slender forest undergrowth palm to 2.5 m tall. **STEM** not preserved in available specimen. **LEAF** sheath dimensions not known, surface very densely covered in thick ferruginous scales, auricles apparently absent; petiole absent; rachis 37–40 cm, c. 5 mm wide at the base, adaxially with scattered ferruginous scales, abaxially rather densely covered with caducous ferruginous scales; leaflets 4–5 on each side of the rachis, the lowermost pair very short, 5 × 0.5 cm, sometimes only partly separated from the second pair, second pair of leaflets 14–19 × 2–2.5 cm, third pair to 25 × 6 cm, apical pair to 15 × c. 8 cm, joined for 12.5–14 cm along the rachis, with an apical notch to 5 cm deep, the apical margins deeply lobed to 5 mm, occasionally deeper, adaxial surface glabrous, abaxially with scat-

tered brown punctiform scales and bands of scattered brown scales. **INFLORESCENCE** branched to 2 orders, relatively stout; peduncle 21 cm long; prophyll 16 × 1 cm, membranous, with scattered red-brown scales; peduncular bract similar, exceeding the prophyll by c. 6.5 cm; rachis 11 cm long, c. 2.5 mm diam., densely covered with red-brown trichomes to c. 1 mm long; rachillae c. 28, 2.5–6 cm long, c. 0.8 mm diam., very densely covered in red-brown trichomes, triads c. 2 mm apart, rachilla bracts to 0.5 mm, lacinate. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** c. 1.5 mm diam.; sepals rounded, c. 0.5 × 0.5 mm, keeled, margins erose; petals triangular, striate, c. 1.5 × 1 mm; stamens 3, antepetalous, c. 0.5 mm high, anthers c. 0.2 × 0.1 mm, didymous, staminodes triangular, antesepalous, c. 0.2 × 0.2 mm; pistillode conical, minute. Other parts not known.

NOTE. We have described this new species, even though it is known only from a single specimen, because it seems so distinctive. The combination of robust epetiolate leaf with few broad and very close segments and the stocky inflorescence, with axes all densely covered in thick ferruginous hairs is distinctive. Perhaps it most resembles robust forms of *D. hildebrandtii*, but is more massive in all its parts.

SPECIMEN SEEN. Toamasina: Mahavelona, Dec. 1962 (fl.), Bosser 16972 (Holotype P).

130. DYP SIS FURCATA

There is only one herbarium specimen of this slender palmlet. In spite of that, the form of leaf appears to be so distinctive and unusual that there should be no difficulty in identifying it, should it be refound. This must have been a very beautiful palm. The species name refers to the deeply forked leaf.



Dypsis bosseri



Dypsis furcata