

Avaratra: Antanambe, Oct. 1994 (bud), *Dransfield & Beentje* JD7508 (K, TAN).

SIMILAR SPECIMENS. Close, but with significant differences is Midongy Atsimo: Midongy, May 1992 (bud, fr.), *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4671 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN) from submontane rain forest on slight slopes, c. 500 m.

Clustering palm in tufts of 15–25, the stems 2–6 m tall. **LEAVES** with petiole 3.5–10 cm long; leaflets 15–17 on each side of the rachis, median 18–28 × 1.1–2.1 cm, glabrous. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar in bud, infrafoliar in fruit, branched to 2 orders; rachis c. 18 cm long, with c. 3 branched and 12 unbranched first order branches; rachillae 9–19 cm long, 1–1.5 mm diam., minutely puberulous. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** only known from very young buds with 6 stamens, appearing slightly didymous (but possibly because of extreme immaturity). **FRUIT** ellipsoid, obtuse, c. 10 × 4.5 mm. **SEED** c. 3.5 mm diam., with homogeneous endosperm.

74. DYP SIS CONFUSA

The specific epithet derives from the fact that of the first four specimens we saw two had been named as *Neophloga*, and the other two as *Dypsis* and *Phloga* respectively. It is indeed a palm looking like several other taxa at the same time!

DISTRIBUTION. Masoala, Mananara and Betampona.

HABITAT. Lowland rain forest or peat swamp forest; flat ground or ridge top; 5–300 (–900) m.

LOCAL NAMES. *Tsikara* (Betsimisaraka); *Tsimikara* (Sihanaka).



Dypsis hiarakae. **A** Crown × 2/5; **B** infructescence × 2/5. From *Dransfield et al.* JD6398. Drawn by Rosemary Wise.

USES. Stems used to make blowpipes (fide Cours).

CONSERVATION STATUS. Rare, possibly Vulnerable. Found in several sites, but only one of these is in a protected area. Numbers are thought to be low.

Dypsis confusa Beentje sp. nov.

D. scottianae superficialiter similis sed foliis infra squamis dispersis infra tectis petalis floris staminati longioribus differt, a *D. hiarakae* rachillis brevioribus recedit. Typus: Madagascar, Masoala, Antalavia, Feb. 1988, *Dransfield & Staniforth* JD6481 (Holotypus K; isotypi MO, TAN).

Solitary or clustering palm. **STEMS** 3–7 m tall (*Cours* 1904 says 15 m), 1–4 cm diam.; internodes 1–11 cm long, green with some brown scales distally; nodal scars c. 5 mm; crownshaft c. 40 cm long, pale green with brown or reddish scales; wood white, hard. **LEAVES** 5–8 in the crown, pinnate; sheath 12–25 cm long, pale green, dense-

ly red-scaly but glabrescent (*Perrier* 15012: with irritant hairs), with rounded, ragged shoulders or with auricles to 1.5 cm long, the outer half open; petiole 3–32 cm long, 3–6 × 2–4 mm diam., with scattered brown scales; rachis 49–86 cm long, in mid-leaf 2.5–5 mm wide, with scattered scales or glabrous; leaflets 11–28 on each side of the rachis, in groups of 2–4 (–8) and in one plane or in slightly ascending fans, group interval 4–14 cm, the proximal 14–37 × 0.2–3.2 cm, median 21–36 × 0.7–2.6 cm, distal 8–20 × 0.2–2.6 cm, connate for 1.5–3 cm, main veins 1 (–3), in the distal pair 2–3, ramenta rarely present, faint reddish glands/scales present on the minor veins, plus occasionally in marginal bands, apices attenuate, unequal, distal pair dentate over a width of 5–6 mm. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, branched to 2 orders, erect; peduncle 20–37 cm long, 2.5–12 × 2–6 mm diam., densely reddish pubescent; prophyll 13–29 cm long, 0.9–1.5 cm wide, borne at 5–14 cm above the base of the peduncle, with scattered scales, open in the distal 1.5–7 cm; peduncular bract inserted at 2–25 cm from the base of the peduncle, 17–24 cm long, green with scattered scales, split over its



Dypsis confusa. **A** crown with inflorescence × 2/5; **B** leaf × 2/5; All from *Dransfield & Staniforth* JD6481. Drawn by Rosemary Wise.



**Dypsis
confusa**

length, with a beak of up to 1.5 cm, circumscissile; rachis 10–36 cm long, scaly, with 8–18 branched and 8–17 unbranched first order branches, the proximal with an axis of up to 8 cm long and with up to 11 second order branches; rachillae yellow to orange, 2.5–15 cm long, c. 1 mm diam., minutely scaly/puberulous to glabrous. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 0.6–1 × 0.7–1.3 mm; petals 1.9–2.5 × 1.2–1.7 mm, orange; stamens 6, 1- to biseriate, filaments 0.9–1 mm, thin, anthers 1.1–1.4 × 0.6–0.7 mm, dorsifixed, not versatile; pistillode 0.6–0.8 × 0.3–0.5 mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 0.8–1 × 1.1–1.3 mm; petals 1.8–2.3 × 1.8–2.2 mm; staminodes 0.2–0.4 mm; pistil only seen as young fruit. **FRUIT** orange to red, ellipsoid with a pointed apex, 6–10 × 3–5 mm. **SEED** 3–5 × 2.5–3.5 mm, with homogeneous endosperm.

NOTE. Most of all this species reminds us of *D. scottiana* from which it differs in the leaflets with scattered scales abaxially, and the longer staminate petals; the rest is gradual: rachis, group interval, leaflets and rachillae are as long as, or slightly longer than specimens of *D. scottiana*. It also resembles *D. hiarakae*, from which it is only distinct by the length of the rachilla.

Moramanga: Mantady, Dec. 1991 (fl.), *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4545 (K, TAN) keys out as this taxon, but looks quite different. It is clustering with overhanging stems; petiole 0.5–1 cm, leaflets 23–26 on each side of the rachis, almost regular, the median 13–16 × 0.9–1 cm; rachillae 10–13 cm. Similar are: Mandritsara/Andilamena: N of Andilamena, Nov. 1929 (bud), *Perrier* 15012 (P). Ambatondrazaka: Ambatondrazaka, Dec. 1944 (bud), *Homolle* 548 (K, P).

SPECIMENS SEEN. Maroantsetra: Hiarakaka, Oct. 1986 (dead infl.), *Dransfield et al.* JD6383 (K, TAN); Ambanizana, Oct. 1986 (fl.), *Dransfield et al.* JD6386 (K, TAN); idem, Feb. 1989 (fl.), *Schatz & Lowry* 2616 (K, TAN); Andronabe, Feb. 1992 (fl., y.fr.), *Zjhra & Hutcheon* 163 (K); Antalavia, Feb. 1988 (fl.), *Dransfield & Staniforth* JD6481 (Holotype K; isotypes MO, TAN). Mananara Avaratra: Antanambe, April 1992 (y.fr.), *Beentje et al.* 4627 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN). Toamasina: Ambodiriana, Dec. 1944 (bud), *Cours* 1904 (K, P, TAN).

75. DYP SIS SAHANOFENSIS

This was one of our mysteries, only known from the type (collected in 1911) with very fragmentary material and no description to speak of. Then, just before taking this book to press, we visited Mt Vatovavy, some 70 miles/100 kilometers from the type locality, and we collected a medium-sized palm which turned out to match the type material beautifully. This kind of discovery gives a real thrill!

DISTRIBUTION. E Madagascar; only known from the type and one recent collection.

HABITAT. Rain forest; 315–1400 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Endangered. The forest on Vatovavy is not protected, except by local fady (taboos), and population numbers were low. If forest clearance in the area continues, the status will become Critical within a few years.



Dypsis sahanofensis, on the isolated hill, Vatovavy (*Beentje & Dransfield* 4835).