

reflexed rachilla 2.5–3.5 cm long. The sepals are c. 0.7 mm long, and the stamens seem to be didymous; the plant is in young bud, so we are unable to reach a conclusion as to its identity.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Toamasina: Betampona, Dec. 1925 (bud), *Perrier* 17467 (P); idem, April 1989 (fr.), *Schatz et al.* 2687 (Holotype K; isotype MO, not seen); idem, Oct. 1991 (bud), *Beentje* 4487 (K, TAN).

70. DYPISIS CORNICULATA

This is a very beautiful small and neat undergrowth palm with slender stems and dark green, shiny leaves. Based originally on a single inflorescence, this species remained for long a misunderstood taxon. The specific name is Latin for 'curved in the shape of a horn', presumably a reference to the young fruit.

DISTRIBUTION. Mananara, Mandritsara, Sainte-Marie, Betampona.

HABITAT. Rain forest, flat to steep mid slopes or ridgetops; 70–850 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Vulnerable. Numbers are thought to be low (less than two hundred).

Dypsis corniculata (Becc.) Beentje & J. Dransf. **comb. nov.**

SYNONYM:

Neophloga corniculata Becc., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 38, Beibl. 87: 24 (1906); Becc., Palme del Madagascar 25, fig. 18, t. 23 (1912); Jum., Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae: 20 (1938). Type: Madagascar, Ile Sainte Marie, Tafondru forest, March 1847, *Boivin*, lectotype P, indicated here.

Clustering palm in groups of 5, or solitary but in subcolonial groups. **STEMS** 1.5–6 m tall, occasionally with remnants of sheath bases; distal internodes 0.8–2 cm long, 5–20 mm diam., grey-brown, distally reddish pubescent; crownshaft pale green with dark brown scales. **LEAVES** 6–10 in the crown; sheath 6–15 cm, with patches of reddish scales or with scattered scales, with lacinate auricles to 15 mm; petiole absent or up to 7.5 cm long, 2–2.5 mm diam., with scattered scales; rachis 13–40 cm long, in mid-leaf c. 2 mm wide, with dense to scattered scales; leaflets 9–18 on each side of the rachis, in groups of 2–4 but sometimes the distal ones regular, the group interval 3–6 cm, the proximal 4–10 × 0.4–1.8 cm, median 6–14 × 1.2–2.6 cm, distal 5–10 × 1–2.5 cm, main veins 1–3, with marginal bands of scattered scales, sometimes with scattered scales on the major and minor veins, and distally along the margin with some larger scales, apices unequally acuminate to almost praemorse, bases often flat and connate with the rachis for c. 5 mm, distal pair joined for 1.5–4 cm, with bands of scattered scales, dentate at the apex. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, branched to 1 or 2 order(s); peduncle 9–26 cm long, distally 2–5 mm diam., pubescent or with scattered to dense red-brown scales; prophyll 16–27 × 0.6 cm, borne at c. 6 cm above the base of the peduncle, with scattered scales, the apex open for 1–2 cm; peduncular bract inserted at 4–15 cm from the base of the peduncle, 4–11 cm long, with scattered scales, open over its whole length except for a 5 mm beak, deciduous and carried upwards by the lengthening **INFLORESCENCE**; non-tubular peduncular bract 1–20 mm, sometimes almost tubular; rachis 1–9 cm long, scaly, with 0–6 branched and 3–16 unbranched branches; rachillae (3–) 6–14 cm long, 1–1.5 mm diam., slightly zigzag, minutely puberulous with a few scales, with distant triads. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1–1.5 × 1–2.1 mm, the middle one very asymmetric, ciliolate; petals white, 2.2–2.5 × 1.2–1.4 mm, on a 0.4 mm high



**Dypsis
corniculata**

receptacle; stamens 6, uniseriate, the filaments 0.6–1 mm, thin, anthers 0.7–1.5 × 0.4–0.8 mm, versatile; pistillode 0.6–0.8 × 0.2–0.3 mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 0.9–1.7 × 1–2.4 mm, orbicular, slightly keeled, entire, the innermost largest; petals 2–3.5 × 2.3–3.5 mm, suborbicular, striate, imbricate with brief triangular valvate apices; staminodes 6, 0.2–0.6 mm; pistil 1.5–3.6 × 0.8–2.2 mm. **FRUIT** red, ellipsoid, 10–12 × 4–5.5 mm, with an obtuse point; endocarp fibrous, the fibres free or slightly anastomosing. **SEED** c. 7.5 × 4.5 mm, pointed at the base, rounded at the apex, with a median depression and homogeneous endosperm.



Dypsis corniculata. Close up of crown and inflorescence, Mananara Avaratra (*Beentje & Dransfield* 4820)

NOTE. The type of *N. corniculata* is an inflorescence with a few curved fruits, collected by Boivin on Sainte-Marie, and described and illustrated by Beccari (1912). Jumelle did not mention it in his 1929 treatment of *Neophloga*. It was mentioned as "espèce insuffisamment connu" in Flore de Madagascar (Jumelle & Perrier 1945). In November 1994, just before this book was going to press, JD recollected this at the type locality, and we were able to match it with the distinctive inflorescence of the type. With habitat and leaf details, we have now been able to identify other collections from E Madagascar as *D. corniculata*.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Mananara Avaratra: Antanambe, Oct. 1994 (dead infl.), *Dransfield & Beentje* JD7504 (K, TAN); idem, Oct. 1994 (fl.), *Beentje & Dransfield* 4820 (K, TAN). Mandritsara: Antsiatsiaka, April 1974 (fl., fr.), *Morat* 4489 (P, TAN). Sainte-Marie: Tafondrou forest, March 1847 (fl., y.fr.), *Boivin* s.n. (P, lectotype); Tafondrou forest Dec. 1849/ de ravine tsara April 1851 (y.fr.), *Boivin* s.n. (P, syntype); Kalalao forest, Nov. 1994 (fl.), *Dransfield* JD7522 (K, TAN). Toamasina: Betampona RNI, April 1989 (fl.), *Schatz et al.* 2689 (K); idem, Oct. 1991 (fl.), *Beentje* 4489 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN).

SIMILAR SPECIMEN. *Rakotovo* RN 10610 is a rather scrappy specimen from Manaka (S Zahamena area), collected in January 1960 (fl.) (P). It is probably this species.



Dypsis corniculata. **A** crown with inflorescence $\times 3/5$; **B** leaf $\times 3/5$; **C** infructescence $\times 3/5$; **D** fruit $\times 2$; **E** fruit in cross section $\times 2$. **A - C** from *Schatz et al.* 2689, **D, E** from *Morat* 4489. Drawn by Rosemary Wise.