



**Dypsis  
ambanjae**

cles absent; petiole 13–27 cm long, proximally (in a young leaf) 8 × 7 mm, distally 4 × 6 mm, channelled adaxially; rachis slender, in a young leaf 1 m long, in mid-leaf 3–5 mm wide, slightly keeled, almost glabrous; leaflets c. 47 on each side of the rachis, in groups of 2–6, the group interval 4–5 cm, rather stiff, linear, in a young leaf the proximal 38–40 × 0.3–0.5 cm, median 34–36 × 0.6–0.8 cm, distal 8–23 × 0.3–0.6 cm, main vein 1, ramenta few, 1–3 mm long, or absent, rest of leaf glabrous, apices unequally bifid, attenuate. **INFLORESCENCE** branched to 2 orders; peduncle c. 42.5 cm long, distally curved, proximally c. 8 × 3 mm diam., distally c. 7 × 4 mm diam.; prophyll c. 52 cm long, 3 cm wide, borne at c. 23 cm above the base of the peduncle, waxy, glabrous, open in its upper 20 cm; peduncular bract inserted at c. 35 cm from the base of the peduncle, 29–40 cm long, opening over its length except for the beak of 5 mm; rachis c. 18 cm long, glabrous with c. 8 branched and 13 unbranched first order branches, the proximal of these with a secondary rachis up to 2.5 cm long and proximally 4 × 2 mm diam., with up to 4 rachillae; rachillae 4–11 cm long, c. 1.5 mm diam., glabrous, sinuous, with distant superficial triads; rachilla bracts c. 1 mm, acute. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** unknown. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1.8–2.2 × 2.8–3 mm; petals 3–3.3 × 3.3–3.6 mm; staminodes 0.6–0.7 mm; ovary 2.5–3.3 × 1.8–2 mm. **FRUIT** ellipsoid or slightly obovoid, 11–14 × 8–11 mm, the apex rounded; endocarp very fibrous, with interwoven fibres. **SEED** ellipsoid, 11.5–12.5 × 9.5–10 mm, pointed at the base with a sub-basal depression, rounded at the apex; endosperm ruminant, the ruminations distant and c. 1 mm deep.

**NOTE.** According to the Flore de Madagascar, this is synonymous with *P. gracilis* (now *D. oreophila*), and the description is a hotchpotch – the small fruit of *D. oreophila* is not mentioned, nor is the type of *D. sambiranensis*. The look of the plant is different, and the inflorescence is much larger; we believe this is a taxon in its own right.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Ambanja: upper Sambirano, Dec. 1912 (fl., fr.), *Perrier* 12070 (P, type).

#### 44. DYPISIS COURSI

A curious montane species, with a short, wide trunk. The name refers to one of the collectors, G. Cours, who made many good palm collections between 1939 and 1952.

**DISTRIBUTION.** Only known from the Marojejy area.

**HABITAT.** Moist montane forest or dense sclerophyll forest on ridges; on gneiss and quartzite, (400–) 900–1850 m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** Not recorded.

**USES.** Not recorded.

**CONSERVATION STATUS.** Vulnerable. Distribution area small, but protected. Numbers unknown, but thought to be low.

**Dypsis coursii** *Beentje* sp. nov.

Palma distinctissima caule breve lato foliolis in greges distantes dense aggregatis fructo grande profunde ruminato. Typus: Madagascar, Marojejy W, near Doanyanala col, *Humbert* 23159 (Holotypus P; isotypus K).

Solitary palm. **STEM** 2–8 m, 8–18 cm diam., near the apex c. 2.2 cm diam. **LEAVES** c. 4 in the crown; sheath 18–36 × 9 cm, with dense reddish tomentum and wax, and with triangular auricles to 5 × 3 cm; petiole 4–27 cm long, 1.1–1.3 × 0.3–0.7 cm diam., with few scattered scales; rachis 0.4–1 m long (*Humbert* 23159: leaves 2 m long), in mid-leaf 0.6–1 × 0.4 cm diam., with scattered scales; leaflets 35–39 on each side of the rachis, in groups of pairs proximally, in 2–7 medially (group interval 2.2–7 cm), the proximal 10–29 × 0.2–1.2 cm, median 12–34 × 1.6–3.5 cm (interval 0.7–1.2 cm), distal 6–17 × 0.4–2.2 cm, main veins 1–5, and thickened margins, ramenta few or none, plus red scattered scales on midrib and veins, apex acute, unequally bifid. **INFLORESCENCE** infrafoliar, pendulous,



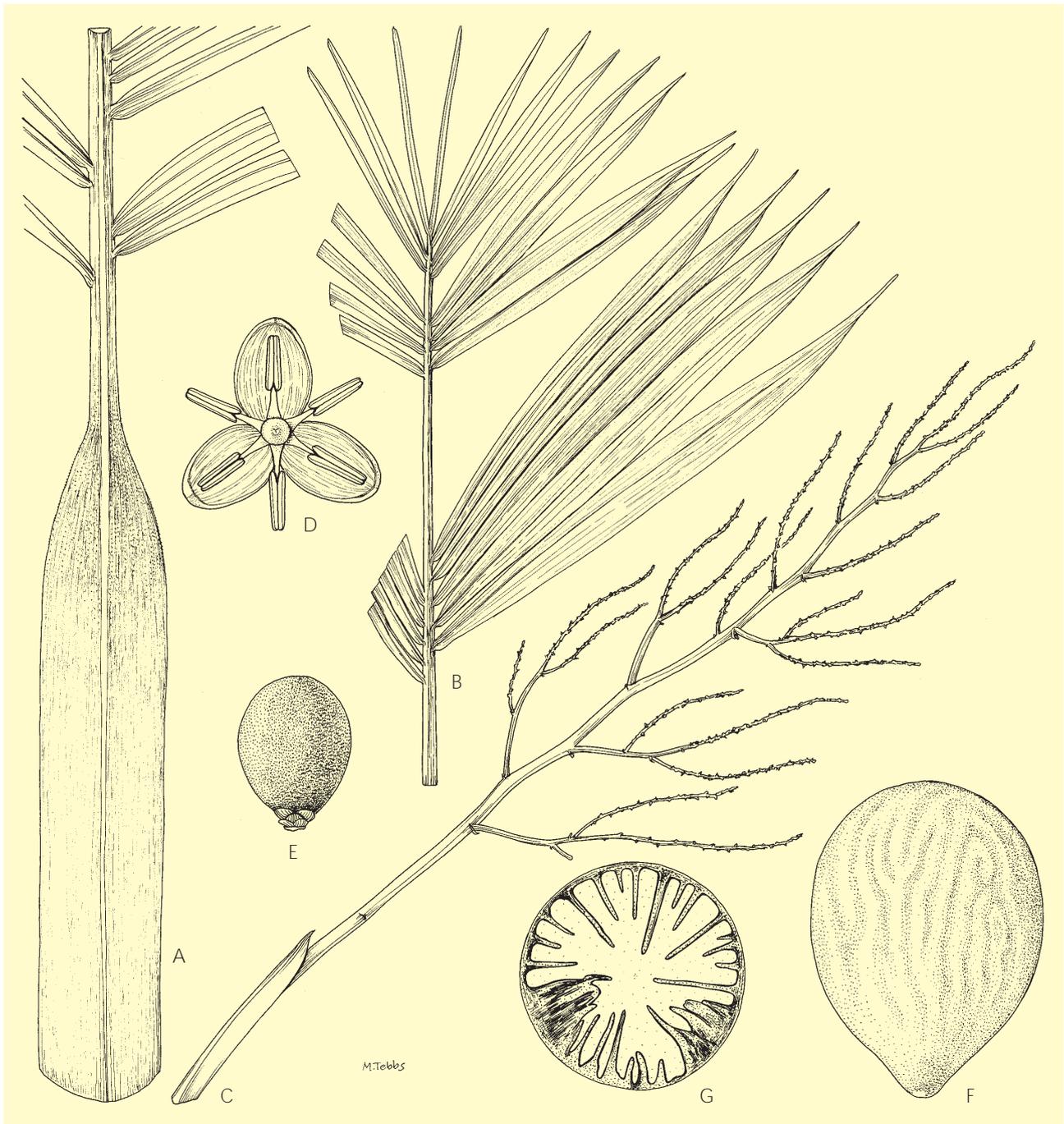
**Dypsis  
coursii**

branching to (1-) 2 orders; peduncle 23-70 cm, 5-10 × 2-4 mm diam., with dense to few scattered scales; prophyll 12-26 cm long, borne at 1-6 cm above the base of the peduncle, 1.6-2 cm wide; peduncular bract inserted at 2-17 cm, deciduous, 24 cm long; sterile bract inserted at 19-25 cm, 0.2-3 × 0.6-3 cm; rachis 19-36 cm, glabrous or nearly so, with 6 branched (first order rachis to 20 cm, proximally to 8 × 4 mm diam., with up to 9 rachillae) and 8-22 unbranched first order branches; rachis bracts to 3 mm; rachillae 1-27 cm, 1.2-3 mm diam., glabrous; triads distant, superficial; rachilla bract c. 1 mm, obtuse. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** yellowish; sepals 1.5-1.6 × 1.3-1.8 mm; petals 2.7-3 × 1.6-2 mm; stamens 6, uniseriate, filaments 1.6-2.8 mm long with triangular base and cylindrical distal half, anthers 1.2-1.6 × 0.6-0.9 mm; pistillode 0.6-1 mm high, 0.4-0.6 mm diam. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1.7-2.8 × 1.5-3.9 mm; petals 4-5 × 2.5-5.5 mm; staminodes 0.3-0.8 mm long; ovary 2.5-3 mm high, 0.9-1.5 mm diam. **FRUIT** ellipsoid or slightly obovoid, 20-35 × 15-25 mm, pointed at the base, rounded

at the apex; endocarp flaky. **SEED** obovoid, c. 25 × 13-17 mm, pointed at the base, rounded at the apex, the surface slightly channelled, with a sub-basal or lateral depression; endosperm ruminant, the ruminations many, 2-7 mm deep.

**NOTE.** Distinct by its short, wide trunk, the distant groups of densely set leaflets, and large ruminant fruits.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Mt Beondroka, N of Maroambihy, March 1949 (fr.), *Humbert* 23463 (K, P); Marojejy W, near Doanyanala col, Jan./Feb. 1949 (fl.), *Humbert* 23159 (K, P); Marojejy E, W of Manantenina R, Dec. 1948 (bud), *Humbert* 22558 (K, P); Marojejy E trail, Oct. 1988 (fl., y.fr.), *Miller et al.* 3566 (TAN); Marojejy, 1700-1800 m, Nov. 1972 (fl.), *Guillaumet* 4105 (P, TAN); idem (bud), *Guillaumet* 4106 (P, TAN). Sambava: Mt. d'Ambatosoratra, Jan. 1949 (fr.), *Cours* 3299 (K, P, TAN).



**Dypsis coursii.** **A** leaf sheath, petiole and basal leaflets × 1/3; **B** mid section of leaf and leaf tip × 1/3; **C** inflorescence × 1/3; **D** staminate flower × 6; **E** fruit × 1; **F** seed × 2; **G** seed in cross section × 2. All from *Humbert* 23463. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.