



**Dypsis
integra**



Dypsis integra, at Manombo (Beentje 4515).

with red lacinate scales, very dense distally, with narrowly triangular ligules 3–4 mm long at the base of the petiole; petiole 0.3–2 cm, 2–2.5 mm diam., densely scaly; blade entire, narrowly obovate, 15–33 × 4–7 cm, acute at the base, the margins toothed in the distal third or half, rounded at the apex with a 3–17 mm deep notch, midrib prominent on both surfaces with lacinate scales, other veins faint with minute scattered scales in lines. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, erect to spreading, unbranched; peduncle 12–15 cm long, 1.5–3 × 1.5 mm diam., with scattered lacinate scales; prophyll 7–11 cm, borne at 2–3.5 cm above the base of the peduncle with c. 2 mm wide wings, with a 2-sided lateral split in the distal few cm; peduncular bract inserted at 5–7 cm from the base of the peduncle, 7–12 cm long, with scattered scales, laterally split on one side in the distal 1–2 cm; rachilla 5–11 cm long, 1–2 mm diam., with scattered scales, with slightly distant superficial triads; rachilla bracts entire, rounded, at the margins with reddish lacinate scales. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 0.8–1 × 0.8–1 mm, keeled, gibbous, ciliolate to ciliate, with slightly connate base, membranous; petals 2–2.2 × 1–1.3 mm, elliptic, acute, striate, almost free; stamens 6, uniseriate, equal, filaments 0.8 mm long, connate at the base in a 0.2 mm high ring, anthers 1.5–1.6 × 0.5–0.6 mm, dorsifixed, the locules parallel and blunt; pistillode 1.2–1.3 × 0.3 mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** only known from young bud, with sepals imbricate, 1.2–1.3 × 1–1.5 mm, ciliate, rounded; petals valvate, 1.8 × 0.7 mm; ovary 1.6 × 0.7 mm; staminodes c.0.2 mm. **FRUIT** unknown.

NOTE. This species is close to *D. simianensis* and more material might even show the species to be synonymous.

Beentje 4515 differs from the type in the hairiness of the sheath (which is greater in 4515) and the shape of the sheath (more open, and much wider in 4515) as well as in the leaf venation (transverse, sinuous veinlets clearly visible in 4515).

SPECIMENS SEEN. Soanierana-Ivongo: Simiane (Simianona) R., Sept. 1917 (old infl.), *Perrier* 11944 (Holotype P). Mahanoro: lower Mangoro basin, Oct. 1927 (bud), *Perrier* 18047 (P). Farafangana: Manombo, Nov. 1991 (bud), *Beentje* 4515 (K, MO, TAN).

94. DYP SIS DIGITATA

This was thought to be extinct until HB refound it in Manombo Forest, the site of several other palms which were thought to be extinct. The Latin name indicates that the leaflets appear to be in the shape of the fingers of a hand, i.e. almost palmate, which is unique among Madagascar undergrowth palms.

DISTRIBUTION. East Coast between Mananjary and Vangaindrano.

HABITAT. Lowland rain forest; 45–100 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Critical. The site of the only recent collection is being destroyed by fire, shifting cultivation and logging. Both the older collection sites are now devoid of forest.

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

SYNONYM:

Neophloga digitata Becc., *Palme del Madagascar* 36 (1914); *Jum., Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 4, 6 (3): 20 (1929)*; *Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae: 20 (1938)*; *Jum. & H. Perrier, Fl.*

Madagascar 30: 66 (1945). Type: Madagascar, Mananjary Province, March-April 1909, *Geay* 8057 (Holotype P).

Small solitary palm, occasionally subcolonial (Beentje). **STEM** very short or 10–40 cm, in *Perrier* 4512 with roots above the surface, 1–1.5 cm diam.; internodes 2–6 mm, brown; nodal scars 1–2 mm. **LEAVES** 7–13 in the crown, erect-arching, often with a few marcescent leaves; sheath 7–13 cm long, 3/4 open, dark reddish with dark scattered scales and ligules 5–10 mm high in young leaves; petiole 5–43 cm long, 1.5–3 mm diam., pale brown with dense to scattered scales; rachis 4–11 cm long, with scattered scales; blade *entire*, 23–41 cm long, midrib 4–11 cm, densely hairy, lobes 19–32 × 1.2–2.9 cm or *pinnate* and then leaflets 2–3 on each side of the rachis, 21–29 × 0.9–2.3 cm (interval 0.6–2 cm), linear, ± equal except that the terminal pair having narrow dentate apices (2–3 teeth only), not acuminate as the more proximal leaflets, main veins 2–4, and often with sinuous transverse veinlets, seemingly glabrous or with scattered scales on the minor veins, or with bands of dense scales on the abaxial surface. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, unbranched, 18–58 cm; peduncle 12–41 cm or more long, densely scaly, 1.5–3.5 mm diam.; prophyll 3–16 × 0.5–0.8 cm, borne at 0.5–2.5 cm above the base of the peduncle, opening near the apex only for 2–6 cm, dark brown, with dense scales; peduncular bract inserted at 2–15 cm from the base of the peduncle, 10–20 cm long, opening in the distal 1–4 cm, sometimes with a closed beak of c. 5 mm long, pale brown with scattered scales; non-tubular peduncular bract sometimes present near the apex of the peduncle, c. 2 cm long; rachilla 6–17 cm long, 1.5–2.5 mm diam., densely puberulous, with very dense, almost continuous triads. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 0.8–1.5 × 0.7–1.6 mm; petals (1.2–1.5 mm in bud) 2.8 × 1.5 mm; stamens 6, ± equal, with filaments c. 2.2 mm long and anthers c.



**Dypsis
digitata**



Dypsis digitata, at Manombo (*Beentje* 4512).

1.5 × 0.5 mm, the locules parallel; pistillode c. 1.3 × 0.3 mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1.3–1.8 × 1–2.1 mm; petals 1.8–2.9 × 1.4–2.4 mm; staminodes 0.3–0.7 mm; gynoecium c. 1.9 × 1.3 mm. **FRUIT** red, ovoid or ellipsoid, 11–13 × 5–8 mm, with an obtusely pointed apex; endocarp fibrous, the fibres slightly anastomosing. **SEED** ellipsoid, 10–10.5 × 5–5.5 mm, pointed at both ends; endosperm homogeneous.

NOTE. Very distinct; the open leaf sheath is reminiscent of *D. brevicaulis*.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Mananjary: without further locality except “zone cotière”, March/April 1909 (fl.), *Geay* 8056 (P); idem, (y. fr.), *Geay* 8057 (Holotype P). Farafangana: Manombo, Nov. 1991 (bud), *Beentje* 4512 (K). Vangaindrano: Ankararano (loc. not found), May 1919 (fr.), *Perrier* 12625 (P).

95. *DYP SIS BREVICAULIS*

The leaves of this species appear to come directly from the ground, but there is a small underground stem. The Latin name means ‘short-stemmed’.

DISTRIBUTION. East Coast just N of Manantenina and Manafiafy/Sainte-Luce.

HABITAT. Evergreen forest on white sand or laterite; 1–700 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Critical. Only known from



Dypsis digitata. **A** habit × 1/6; **B** leaf bases, leaf and inflorescence × 1.5; **C** fruit × 3; **D** endocarp × 3; **E** endocarp and seed in cross section × 3. **A** from *Beentje* 4512, **B** from *Geay* 8056, **C** – **E** from *Perrier* 12625. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.