

66. DYP SIS ELEGANS

The name has been chosen to reflect the great beauty of this small understory palm. It would make an exceptionally beautiful ornamental, but might be too choosy in its habitat requirements to live anywhere but a greenhouse.

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from Manombo forest.

HABITAT. Lowland rain forest, on well-drained rocky soil; c. 65 m.

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

USES. None recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Critical. HB has seen less than ten individuals in a forest which is being destroyed by fire and timber-cutting.

Dypsis elegans Beentje *sp. nov.*

foliis pinnis aggregatis sed in gregibus regulariter dispositis rachillis brevibus staminibus 6 distincta. Typus: Madagascar: Manombo, Beentje & Andriampaniry 4788 (Holotypus K; isotypus TAN).

Solitary or tufted palm. **STEM(S)** to 2 m tall, 1–2 cm diam.; internodes 4–6 cm, green, with dense scales distally. **LEAVES** c. 6 in the crown, pinnate, porrect and slightly arching; sheath 11–17 cm long, densely red-scaly, with sloping shoulders; petiole 9–14 cm long, 3–4 mm diam., densely scaly; rachis 50–68 cm long, in mid-leaf 2–3 mm wide, densely red-scaly; leaflets 41–65 on each side of the rachis, in groups of 4–5, group interval 3–4.5 cm, leaflet interval c.



Dypsis elegans. **A** portion of stem $\times 1/2$; **B** crown with leaves and inflorescences $\times 2/5$. From Beentje & Andriampaniry 4788. Drawn by Rosemary Wise.



**Dypsis
elegans**

5 mm, the proximal 3–5 × 0.1–0.3 cm, median 8–15 × 0.4–0.6 cm, distal 5–9 × 0.3–0.9 cm and connate for 0.5–1.5 cm, main vein 1 (in the distal pair 3–4), with some scales on midrib and especially on the margins but mainly glabrous, apices attenuate, in the distal pair dentate over a width of 2–4 mm. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, branched to 2 orders; peduncle 33–36 cm long, 1.5–2 mm diam., densely scaly; prophyll 10–14 cm long, 3–5 mm wide, with scattered scales, open in the distal 2 cm; peduncular bract with its apex at 7–8 cm above the apex of the prophyll, open in the distal 2 cm, with scattered scales; rachis 10–14 cm long, with scattered scales, with 5–6 branched and 11–12 unbranched first order branches, the most proximal of these with an axis of up to 2 cm and with up to 4 rachillae; rachillae 2.5–4.2 cm long, c. 1 mm diam., scaly, slightly recurved. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** yellow in bud, orange at anthesis; sepals 0.8–1 × 0.9–1.2 mm; petals 2–2.1 × 1.1–1.2 mm; stamens 6, biseriate (offset 0.2–0.3 mm), filaments 0.8–1 mm and thin, anthers 1.3–1.4 × 0.5–0.6 mm, versatile; pistillode c. 0.8 × 0.5 mm, columnar. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** unknown. **FRUIT** unknown.

NOTE. Distinct in its leaves with groups of regularly spaced narrow leaflets, and the short rachillae. Relationships are vague (also because of the lack of pistillate and fruiting material) but possibly with *D. concinna*. Very similar to this is a collection from Mahanoro: lower Mangoro basin, alt. 300 m, Oct. 1927 (bud), *Perrier* 18049 (P); which has a shorter sheath (7–10 cm), shorter petiole (3–5 cm), shorter rachis (20–30 cm) with 28–32 leaflets which are smaller (4–7 × 0.6–0.9 cm); the inflorescence is branched to one order with, again, all parts shorter (peduncle 16 cm, prophyll 5.7 cm, rachis 5.8 cm, rachillae nine in number, 4.5–6.5 cm long); despite all these differences, we believe it is the same taxon; but the material is not enough to be certain. This locality appeared without natural vegetation when HB visited the area in 1991.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Farafangana: Manombo, Jan. 1993 (fl.), *Beentje & Andriampaniity* 4788 (Holotype K; isotype TAN).

67. DYPISIS HETEROPHYLLA

An aptly named species: *heterophylla* means with different or variable leaves, and that is certainly true. The type has entire leaves and pinnate leaves on the same stem. This is a small clustering palm of the submontane forest, with quite some variation, some forms being very decorative.

DISTRIBUTION. Reasonably widespread between Tsaratanana and Marojejy in the north to the Ambositra area.

HABITAT. Submontane rain forest; steep slopes or ridges; 550–1450 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Rare; occurring in a wide area, but not common anywhere.

Dypsis heterophylla Baker, J. Linn. Soc. 22: 525 (1887). Type: Central Madagascar, *Baron* 486 (lectotype K, indicated here; see note).

SYNONYMS:

Neophloga heterophylla (Baker) Becc., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 38, Beibl. 87: 28 (1906); Becc., *Palme del Madagascar* 33, fig. 26, t. 32 (1914); Jum., *Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 4, 6* (3): 37 (1929); Jum., *Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae*: 20 (1938); Jum. & H. Perrier, *Fl. Madagascar* 30: 74 (1945).

Dypsis rhodotricha Baker, J. Linn. Soc. 22: 525 (1887). Type: Madagascar, between Tamatave and Antananarivo, *Meller* 2 Aug. 1862 (Holotype K).

Neophloga rhodotricha (Baker) Becc., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 38, Beibl. 87: 29 (1906); Becc., *Palme del Madagascar* 34, t. 27, t. 22, 33–34 (1914); Jum., *Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 4, 6* (3): 25 (1929); Jum., *Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae*: 22 (1938); Jum. & H. Perrier, *Fl. Madagascar* 30: 72, fig. 19 (1945), **synon. nov.**

Dypsidium vilersianum Baill., Bull. Soc. Linn. Soc. Paris 148: 1173 (1894). Type: Central Madagascar, *Le Myre de Vilers* s.n. (Holotype P).

Dypsidium emirnense Baill., Bull. Soc. Lin. Paris (1894): 1173. Type: Madagascar, Androngaloaka (Andrangaloaka), *Le Myre de Vilers* March 1889 (Holotype P).

Neophloga emirnensis (Baill.) Becc., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 38, Beibl. 87: 28 (1906); Becc., *Palme del Madagascar* 32, fig. 25, pl. 31 (1912).

Neophloga majorana Becc., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 38, Beibl. 87: 23 (1906); Becc., *Palme del Madagascar* 23, t. 21 (1912); Jum., *Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 4, 6* (3): 36 (1929); Jum., *Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae*: 21 (1938); Jum. & H. Perrier, *Fl. Madagascar* 30: 78, fig. 21: 1–2 (1945). Type: Madagascar, Ambohitombo forest, *Forsyth Major* 605 (Holotype; see note), **synon. nov.**

Neophloga linearis Becc. var. *distachya* Jum., *Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 4, 6* (3): 44 (1929); Jum. & H. Perrier, *Fl. Madagascar* 30: 88 (1945). Type: Madagascar, Vohitra R., Ambatovola, *Perrier* 18399 (Holotype P), **synon. nov.**

Clustering palm, often seeming solitary. **STEMS** 0.5–2.5 m tall, 7–8 mm diam.; internodes 3–6 cm long, dark green, distally 0.7–4 cm long, densely dull rusty-scaly. **LEAVES** 5–9 in the crown, spiral, entire or pinnate, porrect, sometimes marcescent; sheath 6–12 cm long, pale green and densely scaly with long-laciniate purple to red scales, with auricles absent or up to 1 cm long; petiole absent or up to 12 cm long, 1.5–3 mm wide, densely puberulous; rachis 9–28 cm long, densely puberulous to almost glabrous, in mid-leaf 1–2 mm wide, hardly keeled; lamina entire and 17–24 cm long, midrib