



**Dypsis
sahanofensis**

long; rachis c. 27 cm, puberulous, with c. 5 branched, and 11–16 unbranched first order branches, the proximal of these with a secondary rachis of up to 5 cm long and 7 × 2.5 mm diam. at base, with up to 3 rachillae; rachillae 19–33 cm long, 1–3.5 mm diam., puberulous, with very distant triads in pits with proud acute rachilla bracts. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** only seen in young bud: sepals to 1.5 × 1.3 mm, keeled and slightly hooded; petals still smaller than the sepals at this stage; stamens still less than 0.3 mm, but clearly 6, anthers probably versatile. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 2.6–3.2 × 2.5–3 mm; petals connate for 0.6–0.8 mm, free for 5.1–5.7 × 3–3.5 mm; staminodes 6, 0.8–1.2 mm long; ovary 5–5.3 × 2–2.2 mm. **FRUIT** not seen.

NOTE. The type at P consists of three sheets. Two sheets of *Perrier* 12049, *Neophloga littoralis*, (sheath and middle part of rachis) were originally excluded by us as not belonging to that taxon. In fact the two pieces not only match those of the type of *D. sahanofensis*, but fit parts of the rachis on the type sheet! There is no doubt that they are the same number; the sheath is figured in Jumelle & Perrier (1913).

SPECIMENS SEEN. Ambositra: upper Sahanofa basin between Ambohimanga du Sud and Ambositra, Nov. 1911 (fl.), *Perrier* 12060 (P; type). Mananjary: Vatovavy, Nov. 1994 (bud), *Beentje & Dransfield* 4835 (K, TAN).

76. DYPISIS ERIOSTACHYS

This handsome little palm, distinctive in its entire-bifid leaf and silky hairy inflorescence, is known only from low crown forest near the summit of the isolated peak of Mount Vatovavy, southwest of Mananjary. The forest on Vatovavy is home for several curious palms, such as *Dypsis basilonga*, *D. trapezoidea* and *D. angusta*. The lower parts of the hill have been largely cleared for shifting cultivation and parts of

the exposed northeastern face have at some time been partially destroyed by fire. Nevertheless much of the summit area is covered with fine forest that receives some degree of protection under local beliefs or *fady*. The species name is Greek for woolly spikes, referring to the hairy inflorescences.

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from Vatovavy.

HABITAT. Gentle slope in low canopy forest near summit of hill; 450 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Endangered. Single site status; forest only protected by local custom.

Dypsis eriostachys *J. Dransf. sp. nov.*

habitu, statura, folio bifido et inflorescentia lanuginosa *D. lanuginosae* superficialiter similis, sed pagina inferiore folii ramentis elongatis, rachillis c. 30 (vice c. 100) pilis inflorescentis longioribus, non crispatis, floribus staminatis staminibus 6 differt. Typus: Madagascar, Mananjary, Vatovavy, *Dransfield et al.* JD7513 (Holotypus K; isotypi MO, P, TAN).

Slender solitary undergrowth palm to 1.5 m tall. **STEM** 9 mm diam., internodes 13–17 mm long, dark green with pale brown lines, with scattered dark brown caducous scales. **LEAVES** 10 in crown; sheath 8 × 1.7 cm, distally very densely covered with thick red-brown tomentum and scales; auricles ill defined; petiole 1–3 cm, 3 mm wide, densely grey or brown hairy; rachis 23–25 cm; blade entire bifid 32–37 cm long, gradually widening from the base to widest at the tip where 11–13 cm, the two lobes with a broad sinus, and shallowly to deeply lobed apically, adaxially shining, with very inconspicuous punctiform scales, abaxially with minute brown punctiform scales and scattered elongate brown ramenta along a few veins, emerging leaf tinged reddish. **INFLORESCENCE**



**Dypsis
eriostachys**

erect or spreading, becoming pendulous in fruit, branching to 2 orders; peduncle 25–28 cm long, c. 4 mm wide at the base tapering to 3 mm diam. distally, densely covered with long silky silvery hairs with brown bases; prophyll c. 14 × 0.7 cm, with scattered long silky silvery hairs with dark bases; peduncular bract exceeding the prophyll by 8–16 cm; rachis 16–24 cm, very densely silky hairy; rachillae c. 30, c. 3–5.5 cm long, c. 1.5 mm diam., densely covered in pale brown and silvery silky hairs, triads c. 3 mm apart, rachilla bracts rounded, c. 0.5 mm high, lacinate, edged with hairs. **STAMINATE FLOWER** buds pyramidal, 1.6 × 1.1 mm; sepals rounded, 1.0 × 0.8 mm, margins somewhat erose; petals triangular, 1.3 × 0.8 mm, striate; stamens 6, biseriolate, antesealous with filaments to 0.2 × 0.2 mm, antepetalous with filaments 0.4 × 0.2 mm, anthers elliptic in outline, 0.4 × 0.3 mm; pistillode conical, 0.4 mm high. Immature **PISTILLATE FLOWER** rounded, c. 0.8 mm diam. Submature **FRUIT** fusiform, 16 × 6 mm. **SEED** fusiform, 1.2 × 4.5 mm; endosperm homogeneous; embryo basal.

NOTE. Initially we identified this palm as *Dypsis lanuginosa*, previously known only from a single specimen. On closer examination, however, the newly collected material proved to have six stamens rather than three, and other features such as the long silky more or less straight, rather than twisted, hairs, fewer rachillae, with more distant triads, and the presence of elongate rameta on the undersurface of the leaf, added evidence that the present species was undescribed.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Mananjary: Vatovavy, Nov. 1994 (fl., fr.), *Dransfield et al.* JD7513 (Holotype K; isotypes MO, P, TAN).



Dypsis eriostachys. **A** crown with leaves and inflorescence × 3/5; **B** detail of rachilla with flowers × 3; **C** staminate flower, one petal removed × 25; **D** fruit × 2.5; **E** fruit in cross section × 2.5. All from *Dransfield et al.* JD7513. Drawn by Rosemary Wise.