

129. DYPsis BOSSERI

Known only from a single collection, this is a small palm of the forest undergrowth. It most resembles *D. hildebrandtii* but is larger in all its parts and has a rather congested inflorescence. It is named for the collector of the type, Jean Bosser.

DISTRIBUTION. Known only from forest west of Mahavelona.

HABITAT. Lowland forest.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Possibly extinct; not collected since the original collection, and most of the forest at Mahavelona has now disappeared.

Dypsis bosseri J. Dransf. sp. nov.

inter species floribus staminatis triandris staminibus antepetalis, staminodiis antesepalis alternantibus, *D. hildebrandtii* similis sed habitu multo majore, folio robustiore epetiolato inflorescentia congesta rachillis pilis ferruginosis dense tectis differt. Typus: Madagascar, East Coast, Mahavelona, Bosser 16972 (Holotypus P).

Slender forest undergrowth palm to 2.5 m tall. **STEM** not preserved in available specimen. **LEAF** sheath dimensions not known, surface very densely covered in thick ferruginous scales, auricles apparently absent; petiole absent; rachis 37–40 cm, c. 5 mm wide at the base, adaxially with scattered ferruginous scales, abaxially rather densely covered with caducous ferruginous scales; leaflets 4–5 on each side of the rachis, the lowermost pair very short, 5 × 0.5 cm, sometimes only partly separated from the second pair, second pair of leaflets 14–19 × 2–2.5 cm, third pair to 25 × 6 cm, apical pair to 15 × c. 8 cm, joined for 12.5–14 cm along the rachis, with an apical notch to 5 cm deep, the apical margins deeply lobed to 5 mm, occasionally deeper, adaxial surface glabrous, abaxially with scat-

tered brown punctiform scales and bands of scattered brown scales. **INFLORESCENCE** branched to 2 orders, relatively stout; peduncle 21 cm long; prophyll 16 × 1 cm, membranous, with scattered red-brown scales; peduncular bract similar, exceeding the prophyll by c. 6.5 cm; rachis 11 cm long, c. 2.5 mm diam., densely covered with red-brown trichomes to c. 1 mm long; rachillae c. 28, 2.5–6 cm long, c. 0.8 mm diam., very densely covered in red-brown trichomes, triads c. 2 mm apart, rachilla bracts to 0.5 mm, lacinate. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** c. 1.5 mm diam.; sepals rounded, c. 0.5 × 0.5 mm, keeled, margins erose; petals triangular, striate, c. 1.5 × 1 mm; stamens 3, antepetalous, c. 0.5 mm high, anthers c. 0.2 × 0.1 mm, didymous, staminodes triangular, antesepalous, c. 0.2 × 0.2 mm; pistillode conical, minute. Other parts not known.

NOTE. We have described this new species, even though it is known only from a single specimen, because it seems so distinctive. The combination of robust epetiolate leaf with few broad and very close segments and the stocky inflorescence, with axes all densely covered in thick ferruginous hairs is distinctive. Perhaps it most resembles robust forms of *D. hildebrandtii*, but is more massive in all its parts.

SPECIMEN SEEN. Toamasina: Mahavelona, Dec. 1962 (fl.), Bosser 16972 (Holotype P).

130. DYPsis FURCATA

There is only one herbarium specimen of this slender palmlet. In spite of that, the form of leaf appears to be so distinctive and unusual that there should be no difficulty in identifying it, should it be refound. This must have been a very beautiful palm. The species name refers to the deeply forked leaf.



Dypsis bosseri



Dypsis furcata

DISTRIBUTION. Central East Coast of Madagascar.

HABITAT. Rain forest at low elevation.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Presumed extinct. Not collected since the type collection was made more than sixty-five years ago.

Dypsis furcata J. Dransf. **sp. nov.**

inter species floribus staminatis triandris staminibus antepetalis, staminodiis antesepalis alternantibus, foliis valde furcatis, inflorescentia 2-ramosa distincta. Typus: Madagascar, East Coast, Mangoro, Perrier 18051 (Holotypus P).

Clustering slender forest undergrowth palm to 1–2 m tall. **STEM** 7

mm diam., internodes 13–16 mm long, bearing scattered dark brown scales. **LEAVES** probably c. 5 in crown, entire deeply bifid, to 35 cm long; sheaths 6–8.5 cm, c. 1.2 cm diam., striate, rather densely covered with red-brown scales and branched trichomes, auricles triangular, 7 × 6 mm; petiole 7–13 cm long, c. 3.5 mm wide at the base, with abundant caducous dark brown scales; costa 2 cm only; blade deeply bifid, the two lobes 27–35 × 2–3 cm, tapering to the narrow tips, apical margin shallowly and irregularly lobed, adaxial surface with sparse scattered brown punctiform scales, abaxial surface with abundant brown punctiform scales and bands of elongate pale trichomes with brown bases. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar at first, later infrafoliar, branched to 2 orders; peduncle 23–30 cm, c. 3 mm wide at the base; prophyll inserted c. 4–5.5 mm above base, 17–21 × 0.8 cm, membranous, sparsely scaly; peduncular bract similar to prophyll, exceeding it by 5–7 cm; rachis when fully expanded 16–26 cm, densely covered in red-brown branched trichomes; most (not just basalmost) first order



Dypsis furcata. **A** crown × 2/5; **B** inflorescence and leaf sheath × 3/5; **C** detail of rachilla × 3; **D** staminate flower bud × 4; **E** open staminate flower × 4. All from Perrier 18051. Drawn by Margaret Tebbis.

branches branched to a further order; rachillae c. 70, 1.5–3 cm long, c. 0.8 mm diam., with scattered red-brown branched trichomes, triads c. 0.8–1 mm apart, rachilla bracts 0.25×0.5 mm, rounded, with entire margins. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** bud 0.6 mm diam.; sepals 0.4×0.4 mm, margins erose; petals 0.5×0.4 mm, triangular, striate; stamens 3, antepetalous, alternating with 3 minute antesepalous staminodes; pistillode minute. Persistent striate petals at base of very immature fruit to 1×1.1 mm. Other parts unknown.

NOTE. Known from a single collection, this is nevertheless a very distinctive species, with deeply divided leaf blades and densely hairy inflorescences with numerous rachillae.

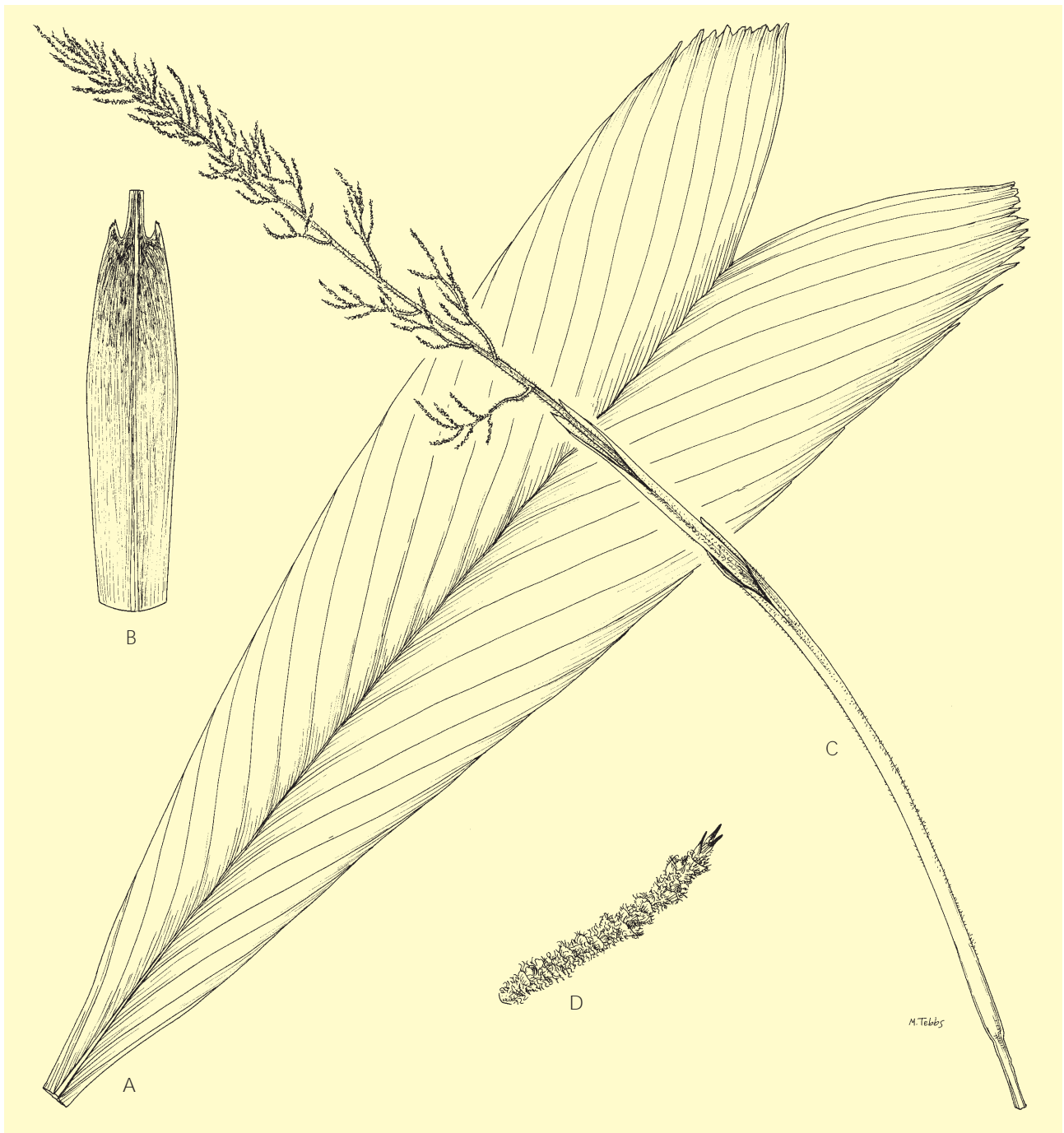
SPECIMENS SEEN. Mahanoro: Lower Mangoro, forest remnants, Oct. 1927 (fl.), *Perrier* 18051 (Holotype P).

131. DYP SIS LANUGINOSA

Represented by a single herbarium specimen collected in 1922. We know little about this undergrowth palmlet. Its most distinctive feature is the densely woolly inflorescence with a large number of rachillae. Superficially it resembles *D. eriostachys*, but the latter has staminate flowers with six rather than three stamens. The species name refers to the woolly hairs on the inflorescence.

DISTRIBUTION. Lower Mangoro.

HABITAT. Lowland forest; 300 m.



Dypsis lanuginosa. **A** leaf $\times 2/5$; **B** leaf sheath $\times 2/5$; **C** inflorescence $\times 2/5$; **D** detail of rachilla $\times 3$. All from *Perrier* 18050. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.