

73. *DYPSIS HIARAKAE*

A slightly nondescript medium-sized palm from rain forest in the north. The name refers to a village on the west coast of Masoala.

DISTRIBUTION. Manongarivo, Masoala and Mananara Avaratra.

HABITAT. Lowland to submontane rain forest; ridgetop or flat slope; 240–600 m.

LOCAL NAMES. *Sinkiara*, *Tsirika* (Tsimihety).

USES. Stems used to make blowpipes in Manongarivo.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Rare, possibly vulnerable. Numbers are probably less than a few hundred.

***Dypsis hiarakae* Beentje sp. nov.**

palma solitaria folio irregulariter pinnato pinnis fasciculatis inflorescentia in 2 vel 3 ordine ramificanti flore staminato 6 staminibus antheris versatilibus endospermio homoganeo distincta. Typus: Madagascar, Ambanizana, Oct. 1986 (y. fr.), *Dransfield et al.* JD6398 (Holotypus K; isotypus TAN).

Solitary palm. **STEM** 3–6 m, 1.2–2.5 cm diam., sometimes stilt-rooted at the base; internodes 1.5–6 cm long, pale green, ± glabrous. **LEAVES** 7–9 in the crown, arching, pinnate; sheath 18–22 cm long,

2/3 closed, pale green with few scattered scales, denser distally, with ragged margins; petiole 15–17 cm long, 5–8 × 2–4 mm diam., adaxially flat, with scattered brown scales; rachis 35–67 cm long, in mid-leaf 2–4 mm wide, with scattered scales; leaflets 12–21 on each side of the rachis, in groups of 2–5, slightly fanned, the group interval 5–12 cm, leaflet interval 0.5–0.9 cm, the proximal 18–24 × 0.3–0.9 cm, median 15–31 × 1.5–5 cm, distal 10–25 × 1.3–4.5 cm, main veins 1–3 (in the distal pair 3–5), with scattered scales on the major and minor veins, and sometimes with long ramenta, apices attenuate, distal pair joined for 1–5 cm, with the apices dentate over a width of 5–10 mm. **INFLORESCENCE** infrafoliar, branched to 2 (rarely 3) orders, erect with numerous arching to hanging rachillae; peduncle 7–37 cm long, proximally c. 12 × 4 mm, distally 3–6 × 3.5–5 mm, densely scaly; prophyll 10–19 cm long, 8–12 mm wide, borne at 1–4 cm above the base of the peduncle, with scattered scales, open in the distal 1–3.5 cm; peduncular bract inserted at 9–14 cm from the base of the peduncle, 14–26 cm long, open for most of its length, beaked for 3 cm, glabrous, rapidly deciduous; rachis 7.5–17 cm long, glabrous or nearly so with 7–10 branched and 5–8 unbranched first order branches, the proximal of these with an axis of up to 7 cm with up to 6 rachillae; rachillae 17–27 cm long, 1–2 mm diam., glabrous to puberulous. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1–1.2 × 1–1.2 mm; petals 2.8–3 × 1.5–2 mm; stamens 6, biseriate, filaments c. 1 mm, anthers 1.3–1.5 × 0.6 mm, parallel and dorsifixed; pistillode c. 1 mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 0.9–1.4 × 0.6–1.5 mm; petals 1.5–2.1 × 1.6–2.4 mm; staminodes 6, 0.3–0.5 mm. **FRUIT** red, ellipsoid with a rounded apex, c. 9 × 5 mm. **SEED** 6.5–7 × 3.5 mm, obtuse at both ends, with homogeneous endosperm.

NOTE: This species seems closest to *D. confusa*, but is distinct in the long rachillae.

SPECIMENS SEEN: Ambanja: Ambalafary, Feb. 1992 (fr.), *Beentje et al.* 4578 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN); Amsahakolany Valley, June 1923 (fl.), *Decary* 2139 (K, P). Maroantsetra: Hiaraka, Oct. 1986 (bud), *Dransfield et al.* JD6378 (K, TAN); Ambanizana, Oct. 1986 (y. fr.), *Dransfield et al.* JD6398 (Holotypus K; isotype TAN). Mananara



Dypsis hiarakae, collected at Ambalafary (*Beentje et al.* 4578).



Dypsis hiarakae

Avaratra: Antanambe, Oct. 1994 (bud), *Dransfield & Beentje* JD7508 (K, TAN).

SIMILAR SPECIMENS. Close, but with significant differences is Midongy Atsimo: Midongy, May 1992 (bud, fr.), *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4671 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN) from submontane rain forest on slight slopes, c. 500 m.

Clustering palm in tufts of 15–25, the stems 2–6 m tall. **LEAVES** with petiole 3.5–10 cm long; leaflets 15–17 on each side of the rachis, median 18–28 × 1.1–2.1 cm, glabrous. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar in bud, infrafoliar in fruit, branched to 2 orders; rachis c. 18 cm long, with c. 3 branched and 12 unbranched first order branches; rachillae 9–19 cm long, 1–1.5 mm diam., minutely puberulous. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** only known from very young buds with 6 stamens, appearing slightly didymous (but possibly because of extreme immaturity). **FRUIT** ellipsoid, obtuse, c. 10 × 4.5 mm. **SEED** c. 3.5 mm diam., with homogeneous endosperm.

74. DYP SIS CONFUSA

The specific epithet derives from the fact that of the first four specimens we saw two had been named as *Neophloga*, and the other two as *Dypsis* and *Phloga* respectively. It is indeed a palm looking like several other taxa at the same time!

DISTRIBUTION. Masoala, Mananara and Betampona.

HABITAT. Lowland rain forest or peat swamp forest; flat ground or ridge top; 5–300 (–900) m.

LOCAL NAMES. *Tsikara* (Betsimisaraka); *Tsimikara* (Sihanaka).



Dypsis hiarakae. **A** Crown × 2/5; **B** infructescence × 2/5. From *Dransfield et al.* JD6398. Drawn by Rosemary Wise.