



**Dypsis
glabrescens**

0.9 mm; petals valvate apically, strongly imbricate at base, fleshy, 1.2 × 1 mm; staminodes 6 (fide Beccari); ovary c. 0.8 mm diam. **FRUIT** cherry-red at maturity, ovoid, 13–15 × 10–11 mm. **SEED** 10 × 6 mm, endosperm homogenous.

NOTE. This species resembles *D. mocquersiana* in its small stature and entire-bifid or sparsely divided leaf and the position of the three stamens. It differs, however, in the inflorescence that has a much shorter rachis bearing many fewer rather uniform and relatively long rachillae that generally diverge at an acute angle; the rachillae are usually minutely papillose. *Perrier* 12037, cited in Flora of Madagascar under *D. glabrescens*, has antesealous stamens, so cannot belong to *D. glabrescens*. It is included under *D. forficifolia*. A palm from Betampona, represented by *Beentje* 4488 matches *D. glabrescens* in all its parts except for lacking the minute papillosity of the rachillae of *D. glabrescens*. At first we thought that the specimens from Mananara Avaratra represented an undescribed taxon, but then a new collection from the type locality of *D. glabrescens* has illustrated a wider range of variation into which the Mananara collections fit. *Razanaparany* RN10018 (K, P) from nearby Ambodiriana, has similar rachillae to *Beentje* 4488, but has a robust leaf with many scales and of quite different texture and form and with a very much larger inflorescence. We have not been able to match this incomplete collection.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Mananara Avaratra: 10 km west of Antanambe, April 1992 (fl.), *Beentje & Dransfield* 4631 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN); idem, Oct. 1994 (fl., fr.), *Dransfield & Beentje* JD7501 (K, TAN). Île Sainte Marie: Tafondrou, July 1849 (fl.), *Boivin* 1709 (Holotype P; isotype fragment FI); Forêt de Kalalao, Nov. 1994 (dead infl.), *Dransfield et al.* JD7530 (K, TAN). Toamasina: Betampona, Oct. 1991 (fl.), *Beentje* 4488 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN).

126. DYPISIS LAEVIS

This species, known only from its type, is distinctive in its epetiolate leaves with minute basal leaflets and long lax inflorescence with glabrous axes. The species name is Latin for smooth, referring to the lack of hairs on the inflorescence branches.

DISTRIBUTION. Central east coastal Madagascar, known only from Manombo near Farafangana.

HABITAT. Lowland forest.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Critical. The small protected area where this species occurs is severely threatened with illegal logging and shifting cultivation.

Dypsis laevis *J. Dransf. sp. nov.*

inter species floribus staminatis triandris staminibus antepetalis, staminodiis antesepalis alternantibus *D. ambilaensi* affinis, sed forma folii et inflorescentia longa laxa glabra differt. Typus: Madagascar, East Coast, Farafangana, Manombo, *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4785 (Holotypus K; isotypus TAN).

Slender, solitary forest undergrowth palm. **STEM** to 3 m tall, c. 15 mm diam., internodes 15–30 mm, green with scattered dark red-brown to blackish scales. **LEAVES** 9 in crown, porrect; sheath 8–9 cm long, c. 13 cm diam., pale green with scattered red-brown scales, auricles membranous, rounded-triangular, c. 8 × 8 mm, disintegrating; petiole absent; rachis 26–38 cm, c. 4 mm wide at the very base, with scattered caducous dark scales; leaflets 5–7 on each side of the rachis, the proximal 1–4 very small and slender, 1–9 × 0.1–1.0 cm, mid-leaf leaflets broad, somewhat irregular in arrangement, 9–20 × 1.8–7 cm, somewhat sigmoid, acuminate in a long drip-tip, apical pair to 12 × 4 cm, joined for 5–7 cm along



**Dypsis
laevis**

rachis, conspicuously lobed along the margins, adaxial surface glabrous, abaxial surface with minute scattered red-brown punctiform scales. **INFLORESCENCE** longer than the leaves, branched to 2 orders, all axes reddish brown, glabrous; peduncle 37–46 cm long, c. 2–3 mm diam.; prophyll borne c. 2 cm above base of peduncle, 22 cm long, c. 1 cm wide, very sparsely and minutely punctate scaly; peduncular bract borne c. 9 cm above base of peduncle, to 26 cm long, similar to prophyll, exceeding it by 14 cm; rachis 30 cm; branches rather lax and distant; rachillae c. 45 in number, 6–7.5 cm long, 0.7–0.8 mm diam., triads c. 1 mm apart, rachilla bracts inconspicuous. **STAMINATE FLOWER** still immature, c. 0.7 mm diam.; sepals 0.3×0.3 mm, rounded, smooth, keeled, margins erose; petals striate, c. 0.6×0.5 mm; stamens still very young, 3, antepetalous, alternating with 3 antesepalous staminodes; pistillode minute. **PISTILLATE FLOWER** c. 1.2 mm diam.; sepals broadly imbricate, 5×7 mm, margins erose; petals striate, 1×0.8 mm, basally imbricate; staminodes 6, strap-shaped,

minute; ovary gibbous c. 0.8 mm diam., stigmas \pm lateral. Immature **FRUIT** curved, 6×3 mm. **SEED** 5×1.5 mm; endosperm homogeneous, embryo basal.

NOTE. The position of the three stamens allies this species with those species previously included in *Dypsis* § *Trichodypsis*. It perhaps most resembles *D. ambilaensis* but differs in the leaf form and in the long, lax, glabrous inflorescences.

SPECIMEN SEEN. Farafangana: Manombo Forest, Jan. 1993 (fl., fr.), *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4785 (Holotype K; isotype TAN).



Dypsis laevis. **A** crown $\times 1/4$; **B** detail of rachilla $\times 4$; **C** open staminate flower $\times 30$; **D** fruit $\times 3$. All from *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4785. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.