

338 in profusion, but the single label with date and locality has the number 1338.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Grande Comore: Combani forest, Oct. 1884 (bud), *Humblot* 1338 or 338 (K, P; type).

**SIMILAR SPECIMENS.** Comoro Islands: without further locality, anno 1847–1852 (ster.), *Boivin* s.n. (P) is a palm only known from the leaves: sheath 20.5 cm long, c. 2 cm diam., waxy with reddish scales, with ragged sloping shoulders; petiole c. 1.5 cm long and  $0.9 \times 10.5$  cm diam.; rachis c. 58.5 cm long, in mid-leaf 3–4 mm wide, slightly keeled and glabrous; leaflets c. 23 on each side of the rachis, irregular or in groups of 2–3, the more distal regular, ?in one plane, the proximal  $25\text{--}32 \times 0.2\text{--}0.6$  cm, median  $43\text{--}47 \times 1.7\text{--}1.8$  cm, distal  $9\text{--}16 \times 0.5\text{--}1$  cm; main vein 1 (– 3); glabrous?; acuminate; the distal pair not connate. Because it is sterile it is impossible to decide on its status.

### 39. DYPISIS LANCEOLATA

This would be a wonderful ornamental. Hull describes it as 'even more beautiful than *D. cabadae*'. The name refers to the shape of the leaflets, which are unusually broad for the genus *Dypsis*.

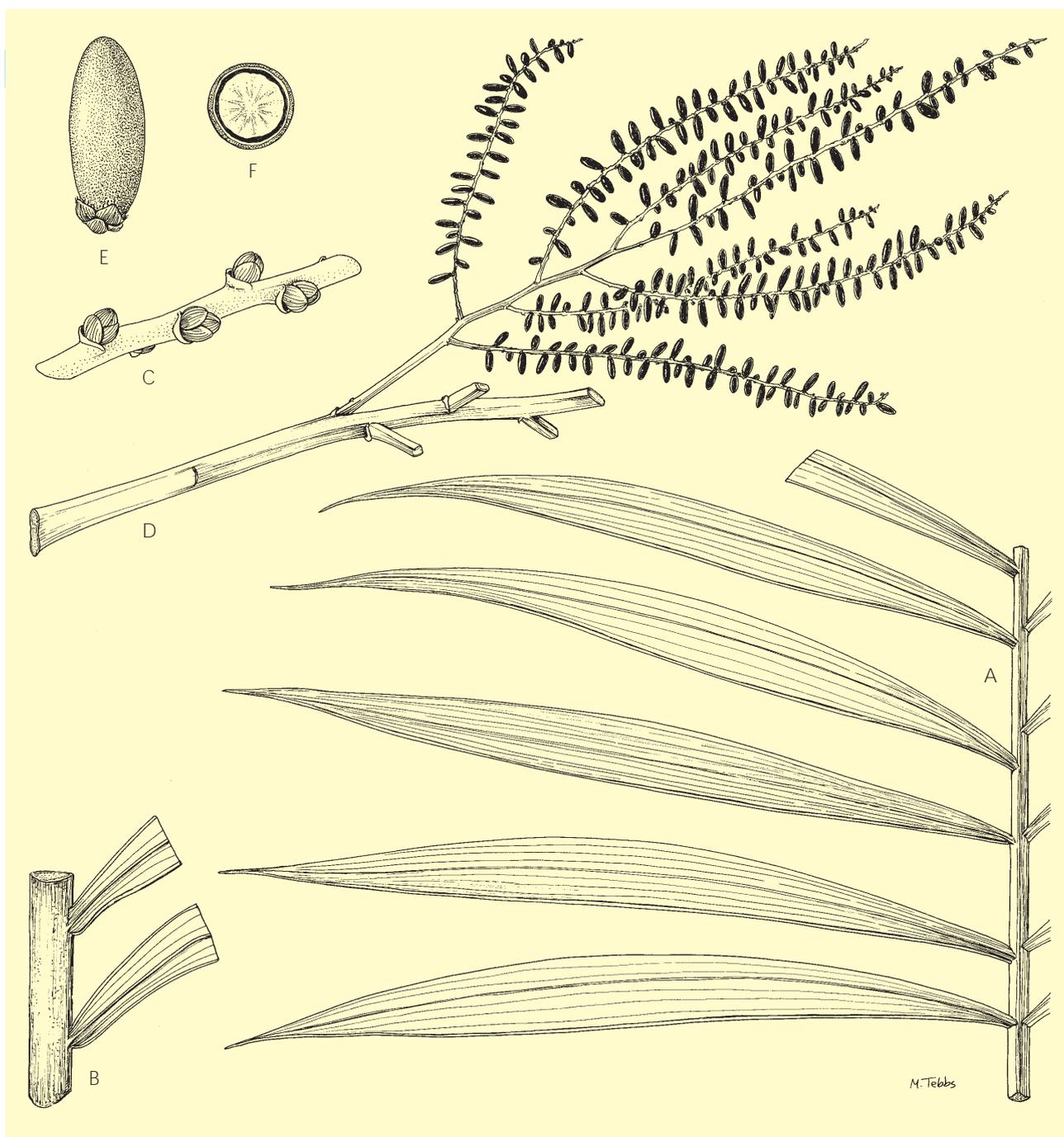
**DISTRIBUTION.** Comoro Islands: Grande Comore, Moheli.

**HABITAT.** Mid-altitude rain forest; 500–1000 m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** *Ivovowo* (fide Hull).

**USES.** Not recorded.

**CONSERVATION STATUS.** Unknown, but at least Vulnerable.



**Dypsis lanceolata.** **A** mid portion of leaf  $\times 1/3$ ; **B** detail of leaflet bases  $\times 1$ ; **C** detail of rachilla  $\times 3$ ; **D** part of infructescence  $\times 1/3$ ; **E** fruit  $\times 2$ ; **F** fruit in cross section  $\times 2$ . **A** – **C** from *Humblot* 1347, **D** – **F** from *Bernardi* 11750. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.



**Dypsis lanceolata**  
(x: sight records)

**Dypsis lanceolata** (Becc.) Beentje & J. Dransf. **comb. nov.**

**SYNONYM:**

**Chrysalidocarpus lanceolatus** Beccari, Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 38, Beibl. 87: 34 (1906); Jum. & H. Perrier, Fl. Madagascar 30: 97 (1945). Type: Comoros, Combani Forest, *Humboldt* 1347 (Holotype P, isotype K).

Clustering palm. **STEMS** 5–6 m high; nodal scars pronounced. **LEAVES** “somewhat plumose” (*Hull*); petiole distally 1.5–1.7 cm diam., reddish pubescent on both surfaces, channelled; rachis 1.8–1.9 m long, in mid-leaf 1–1.6 cm wide, keeled, densely scaly or with scattered pale scales; leaflets slightly irregular (interval in mid-leaf 1.5–5 cm), proximal 38–43 × 1–2.7 cm, median 30–48 × 3.5–7 cm, distal 4–24 × 0.7–3.8 cm, main veins 3–5, with very conspicuous thickened margins, with several large (0.5–1 cm long) pale-coloured lacinate ramenta on midrib and main veins proximally, and faint minute reddish scales in longitudinal lines on the main and minor veins on the type, but absent in modern collections, acuminate. **INFLORESCENCE** branched to 3 orders or more, c. 60 cm long; rachis bract (one seen) 4.5 cm long, narrowly triangular; rachillae 13–24 cm long, 1.5–3 mm diam., glabrous, with distant superficial triads. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1.2–1.4 × 1.4–1.6 mm; petals connate for 0.5 mm, free for 2.6–2.9 × 1.4–1.6 mm, spreading at full anthesis; stamens 6, uniseriate, filaments 1 (in closed flowers)–3 (in fully open flowers) mm long, narrowly cylindrical, anthers 1.4 × 0.5–0.6 mm; pistillode 1.6–1.7 mm high, 0.4–0.6 mm diam. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** not seen. **FRUIT** ellipsoid, 13–17 × 6–10 mm, with rounded apex; endocarp fibrous, with anastomizing fibres. **SEED** slightly obovoid with obtuse apex, (10–) 13–16 × 5–7 mm, with homogeneous endosperm.

**NOTE.** Affinities of this taxon are unclear.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Grande Comore: Combani forest, Oct. 1884 (fl.), *Humboldt* 1347 (K, P; type); Mt Kartala, above Boboni, Oct. 1993 (fr.), *Hull* s.n. (K). Moheli: Mt St. Antonio, Dec. 1967 (fr.), *Bernardi* 11750 (K, P).

**SIGHT RECORDS.** Anjouan: Mt Ntingui, around Lac Dzilandzei (*Hull*).

**CULTIVATED.** Hull reports that this species is cultivated at the Galawa Beach hotel at the N end of Grande Comore.

## 40. DYP SIS PUMILA

A species from high mountains in the north; the specific name means ‘dwarf’, and refers to the habit: in this case short and stocky rather than the ‘tiny’ it often means. This species holds the altitude record for Madagascar palms as it occurs at a higher elevation than any other.

**DISTRIBUTION.** NE Madagascar, only known from the Marojejy Mts.

**HABITAT.** On gneiss and quartzite, in ericoid vegetation or montane forest, also in high altitude swamp; 1500–2100 m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** Not recorded.

**USES.** Not recorded.

**CONSERVATION STATUS.** Vulnerable. Only known from a single locality, which is protected. Not collected in recent years.

**Dypsis pumila** *Beentje* **sp. nov.**

Palma nana monticola si caespitosa *D. heteromorphae* affinis sed multo brevior vagina folii minima foliis minoribus inflorescentiis semel ramificantibus, si solitaria *D. acuminum* affinis sed endospermio ruminato vagina folii minima differt. Typus: Madagascar, Marojejy summit, *Cours* 3576 (Holotypus P; isotypi K, TAN).

Dwarf palm 0.3–1 m, apparently solitary. **STEM** erect or procumbent, 2.2–7 cm diam., internodes 2–5 mm distally. **LEAVES** 3–4 per crown; sheath 11–19 cm long, c. 2 cm diam., waxy and distally densely scaly, without auricles but with square shoulders; petiole absent or up to 4 cm, 7–11 × 4–8 mm diam., densely scaly; rachis



**Dypsis pumila**