

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 antesealous 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.

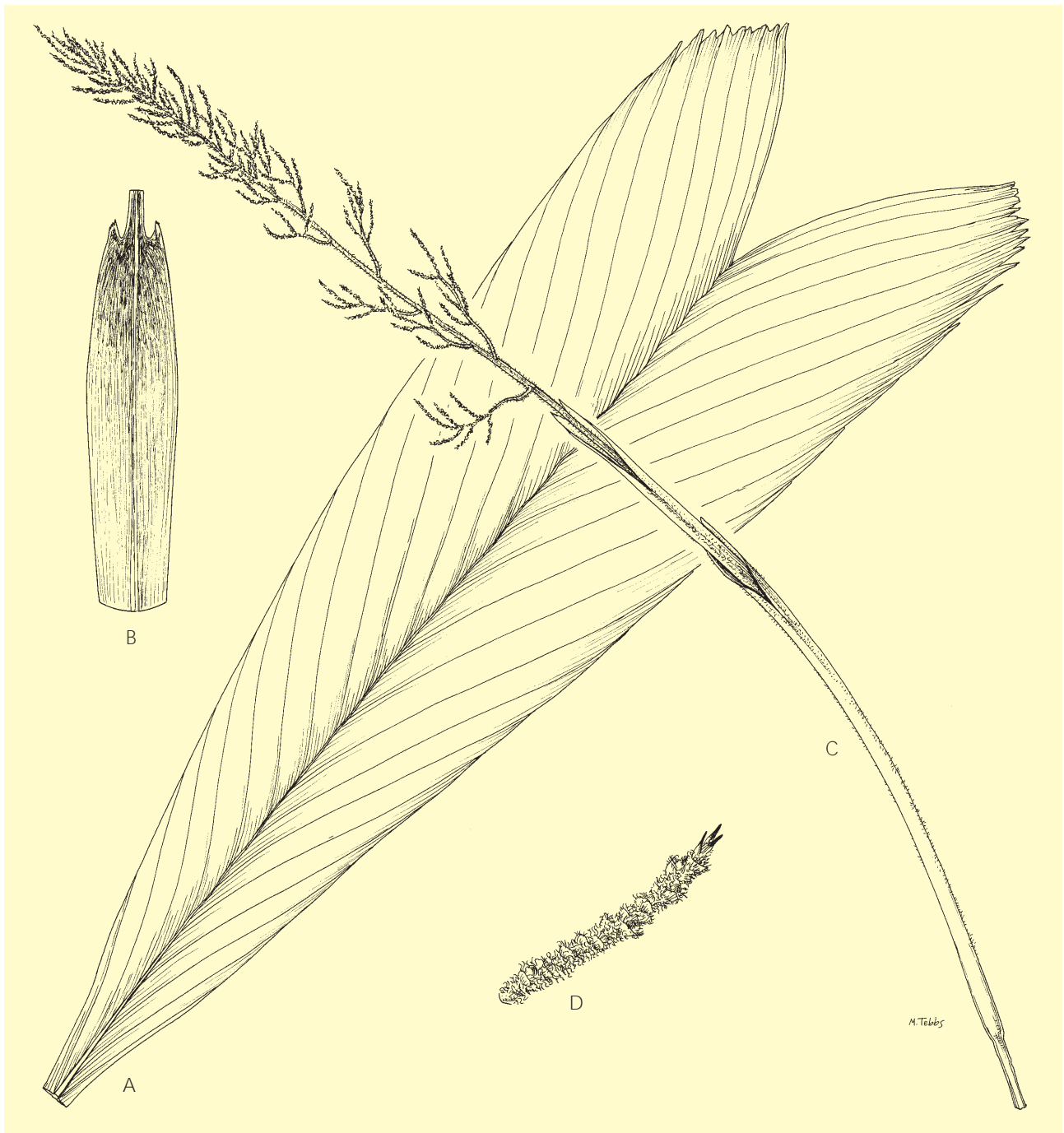
SPECIMENS SEEN. Mahanoro: Lower Mangoro, forest remnants, Oct. 1927 (fl.), *Perrier* 18051 (Holotype P).

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.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Presumed extinct. Not collected for more than seventy years. The forests of the lower Mangoro River have now disappeared.

Dypsis lanuginosa *J. Dransf. sp. nov.*

gregem specierum floribus staminatis triandris staminibus antepetalis, staminodiis antesepalis alternantibus pertinens, folio magno integro-bifido inflorescentia lanuginosa distincta; *D. lantzeanae* superficialiter similis sed positione staminum omnino diversa. Typus: Madagascar, lower basin of Mangoro, *Perrier* 18050 (Holotype P).

Slender clustering undergrowth palm to 4 m tall. **STEM** 13 mm diam., but said to reach 40 mm diam., internodes 24–27 mm long, covered in dark brown caducous scales. **LEAF** with sheath c. 15 cm long, c. 2 cm diam., distally very densely covered with thick red-brown tomentum and scales; auricles ill-defined; petiole absent; rachis 38–44 cm; blade entire bifid or with very small basal leaflets, otherwise entire-bifid, probably undulate and bullate; basal leaflets where present 7–11 × 0.4–1 cm, blade to 48 cm long, gradually widening from c. 4 cm near the base to widest at the tip where 18 cm, the two lobes with a broad sinus, and shallowly to deeply lobed apically, adaxially with minute brown punctiform scales, abaxially minutely roughened and with irregular bands of caducous dark brown scales. **INFLORESCENCE** probably erect, branching to 2 orders; peduncle 40 cm long, c. 4 mm wide at the base tapering to 3 mm diam. distally, loosely shaggy hairy; prophyll inserted at least 3.5 cm above the base, 28 × 0.7 cm, with scattered dark and pale stellate and shaggy hairs; peduncular bract exceeding the prophyll by 9 cm; rachis 25 cm; rachillae numerous, probably at least 100, c. 2–2.5 cm long, c. 1 mm diam., densely covered in pale brown shaggy hairs, triads c. 1–1.5 mm apart, rachilla bracts rounded, c. 0.5 mm high, obscured by hairs. Immature **STAMINATE FLOWER** buds c. 0.5 mm diam.; stamens 3, antepetalous. Other parts unknown.



Dypsis lanuginosa

NOTE. Although known from a single collection, this appears to be a distinctive species. The leaves are entire bifid or with two very small basal leaflets, and otherwise entire bifid, and there is no petiole. Drying of the specimen suggests that in the living state the leaf was probably beautifully undulate and bullate. The shaggy-hairy inflorescence is similar to that of *D. lantzeana* but instead of having three antesepalous stamens, the three stamens are antepetalous.

SPECIMEN SEEN. Mahanoro: lower basin of Mangoro, forest vestiges, Oct. 1922 (fl.), *Perrier* 18050 (Holotype P).

132. DYPISIS MOCQUERYSIANA

An attractive small solitary palm of the undergrowth of very humid rain forests in the lowlands surrounding the Bay of Antongil. *D. mocquersiana* has been grown at Kew since 1986, where it flowers regularly and once produced two fruits. It is a very neat palm with short stems, with tidy leaf scars, and, usually, entire bifid leaves, somewhat reminiscent of *D. louvelii*, but rather broader. The finely and highly branched inflorescence, however, is quite different



Dypsis mocquersiana, in forest undergrowth, Sahavary (*Dransfield et al.* JD6454).