

**NOTE.** The didymous stamens are very rare in entire-leaved *Dypsis* species, and only *D. catatiana*, *D. fanjana* and *D. singularis* are similar in this respect.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Toamasina: Betampona, Dec. 1925 (bud), *Perrier* 17469 (Holotype P).

## 79. DYPISIS MAHIA

This is a very small species with pencil-thin stems. The small, entire leaves with long lobes are very distinct. *Mahia* is Malagasy for 'slender' and refers to the very slender lobes of the lamina which, curiously and most unusually in the genus, are acuminate rather than dentate.

**DISTRIBUTION.** Manombo, only known from the type.

**HABITAT.** Lowland rain forest on thin humus layer over rocky soil; c. 60 m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** Not recorded.

**USES.** Not recorded.

**CONSERVATION STATUS.** Critical. Known from a single site, which is slowly being destroyed by fire, shifting cultivation and logging.

***Dypsis mahia* Beentje sp. nov.**

palma minima lobis folii integri longis acutis distincta. Typus: Madagascar, Manombo, *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4792 (Holotypus K; isotypus TAN).

Solitary or with paired stems. **STEMS** to 60 cm, c. 6 mm diam; internodes 3–6 mm, glabrous; nodal scars 1–2 mm. **LEAVES** 8–10 in the crown, entire; sheath 5–5.5 cm long, the outer open, the inner closed, pale brown with scattered reddish scales distally, with lacinate edges, without auricles; petiole 5.5–7 cm long, 2–2.5 mm wide, with scattered scales; lamina entire, 34–38 cm long, connate for 5–7 cm, lobed for 80–85 %, the lobes 1.1–1.8 cm wide; main veins 5, with few small reddish scales; apices long-acuminate, not dentate. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, erect, branched to 1 order; peduncle 15–16 cm long, 1.5–2 mm diam., glabrous; prophyll 11–11.5 cm long, open in the distal 1 cm, with few scattered scales; peduncular bract inserted at c. 8 cm from the base of the peduncle, c. 10.5 cm long, open in the distal 4.5 cm, with few scattered scales; rachis c. 6 cm long, glabrous, with 12 rachillae; rachillae porrect, 3–5 cm long, 0.6 mm diam., glabrous. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** yellow in bud, with sepals 0.5–0.6 × 0.5–0.7 mm; petals 0.7–0.9 × 0.8 mm; stamens 6, uniseriate?, the filaments connate at the base, 0.4 mm long and thin, anthers 0.4 × 0.3 mm,



***Dypsis mahia*.** **A** crown × 1/4; **B** detail of rachilla × 3. All from *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4792. Drawn by Margaret Tebbis.



**Dypsis  
mahia**

dorsifixed, slightly sagittate. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** not seen. **FRUIT** not seen.

**NOTE.** *D. mahia* has stems and sheaths reminiscent of *D. bernierana*, but is otherwise very different and does not really resemble any other species.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Farafangana: Manombo, Jan. 1993 (bud), *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4792 (Holotype K; isotype TAN).

**SIMILAR SPECIMEN:** Antalaha: across Onive R. from Ambatobe, April 1971 (fr.), *Moore* 9916 (P) is a clustering palm to 5 m high, from low rain forest; it is called *Sinkara*, and the stems are used for blowpipes. **LEAVES** entire; petiole 11–13 cm; blade 41–43 cm, lobed for 37–39 cm, the lobes 2.3–2.7 cm wide, with scattered scales in bands, apices slightly dentate. **INFLORESCENCE** branched to 2 orders; rachis c. 10 cm, with 7 branched and 11 unbranched first order branches, the proximal of these with a rachis of 2 cm and up to 4 rachillae; rachillae 3.5–5 cm, 1.5 mm diam., with scattered scales or almost glabrous; triads distant. **FRUIT** orange-pink, ellipsoid, 10–11 mm, 4–6 mm diam; seed 3.5 mm diam., with homogeneous endosperm.

## 80. DYP S I S P U L C H E L L A

An attractive undergrowth palmlet with very much the appearance of *D. louvelii*, but with shorter inflorescences and staminate flowers with six rather than three stamens. The species name refers to the pretty appearance of the three known specimens.

**DISTRIBUTION.** E Madagascar, Andasibe and lower Mangoro.

**HABITAT.** Rain forest; 300–1000 m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** Not recorded.

**USES.** Not recorded

**CONSERVATION STATUS.** Presumed extinct. Not seen for sixty-eight years.

### **Dypsis pulchella** *J. Dransf. sp. nov.*

*D. louvelii* foliis et inflorescentiis superficialiter similis, sed pedunculo breviori floribus staminatis 6 staminibus biseriatis bene distincta. Typus: Madagascar, Mahanoro, lower Mangoro, *Perrier* 18046 (Holotypus P).

Slender ?clustering palm of the forest undergrowth. **STEMS** probably not exceeding 1 m tall, 4–7 mm diam., internodes 8–13 mm, with sparse scattered dark brown scales. **LEAVES** 5–8 in crown; sheath 3–6 cm long, c. 1 cm diam., covered with scattered dark brown scales, auricles triangular, to 15 × 5 mm, membranous, soon disintegrating; petiole absent or to 2 cm long, c. 2 mm wide, with scattered dark brown scales; blade entire, bifid, plicate, 20–23 cm long, 8–10 cm wide, divided to just under to over half the length, costa 6–11 cm long, the two lobes 12–15 × 2.5–3 cm, adaxially with scattered brown punctiform scales, abaxially densely covered with brown punctiform scales and larger lacinate scales in bands, leaf tips shallowly lobed. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, shorter than the leaves, branched to 1 order; peduncle 13–17 cm long, 1–1.5 mm diam., with scattered dark brown scales; prophyll inserted c. 2.5 cm above the base of the peduncle, 5–12 cm long, c. 7 mm wide, membranous, with scattered dark brown scales; peduncular bract inserted 3–8 cm above the prophyll insertion, 6–9 cm long, c. 7 mm wide; rachis 2.5–4 cm long, straight or somewhat zigzag, bearing scattered dark brown scales; rachillae 6–9, 2.5–3.5 cm long, c. 1 mm diam., dark brown scaly, triads c. 1–3.5 mm distant, rachilla surface with scattered dark lacinate scales and minutely papillose. **STAMINATE FLOWER** c. 2.5 × 1.5 mm; sepals rounded, 1.1 × 1.1 mm, irregularly keeled; petals triangular, 1.6 × 1.3 mm, striate; stamens 6, biseriate, antepetalous filaments 0.8 × 0.2 mm, antesepalous filaments 0.5 × 0.2 mm, anthers didymous, the antesepalous c. 0.4 × 0.4 mm, the antepetalous smaller; pistillode scarcely evident. **PISTILLATE FLOWER** bud immature, c. 1 mm diam. **FRUIT**, only immature known, fusiform, 6–7 × 2–3 mm.

**NOTES.** This taxon was included in the folders of *D. louvelii* in the Paris Herbarium. However, the inflorescence has a relatively shorter peduncle and the



**Dypsis  
pulchella**