



**Dypsis
saintelucei**

rachis, regular, stiff, pale waxy green abaxially, the proximal 116–134 (–188) × 2.2–3.5 cm (16 cm apart, the most proximal often pendulous), median 90–104 × 3–3.7 cm (interval 2.5–4 cm), distal 15–40 × 1–2.2 cm, main veins 1, only the midrib prominent on both surfaces with large distant brown ramenta, the other veins faint and with densely set small red-brown glands, apices attenuate, unequally bifid. **INFLORESCENCE** solitary, interfoliar at anthesis, erect within sheath, 175–225 cm, branched to 3 orders; peduncle 89–138 cm, proximally 6–10 × 2–2.5 cm and convex abaxially, concave adaxially, distally c. 7.5 × 4 cm diam., glabrous; prophyll 100–130 cm, borne at 30–56 cm above the base of the peduncle, c. 9 cm wide, glabrous; peduncular bract 68–73 cm, closed in the distal 6 cm, beaked for c. 2 cm, inserted at 61–97 cm, abaxially pale waxy green, adaxially chestnut-brown; rachis 70–87 cm, green, glabrous, with 17 branched and 11–20 unbranched first order branches; rachillae 16–27 cm, green, glabrous, c. 5 mm diam.; triads distant, superficial, with low, rounded bract. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** slightly scented; sepals 1.8–2.5 × 2.2–2.9 mm, keeled, gibbous, broadly ovate, concave, the broad margins membranous; petals yellow, connate for 1–1.6 mm to the receptacle, free lobes 2.9–3.5 × 3–3.2 mm, ovate, acute, with adaxially and proximally with 2 swellings on each side of the base of the antepetalous stamen; stamens 6, uniseriate, filaments 3.8–4.4 mm long, connate at the very base for c. 0.3 mm, anthers 2.4–2.5 × 1 mm; pistillode columnar, 1.8–2.3 × 1.4–1.6 mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** only known in bud, with sepals 2.6–2.8 × 3.3–3.4 mm, ciliolate; petals c. 2.2 × 2.5 mm; staminodes 6, 0.4–0.6 mm; ovary asymmetrical, c. 2.3 × 2.3 mm. **FRUIT** not known but for seed and endocarp found under *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4609; endocarp fibrous. **SEED** ellipsoid, 11.5–13 × 7 mm, rounded at one end, pointed at the other; endosperm deeply ruminant.

NOTE. In its group of large tristichous palms with regular leaflets and ruminant endosperm closest to *D. ampasindavae* but distinct in the closed leaf sheath and the interfoliar inflorescence, resulting in long peduncles and very long bracts.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Tolanaro: 5 km W of Manafiafy (Ste. Luce), March 1992 (ster.), *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4609 (K); idem, Dec. 1992 (fl.), *Beentje* 4760 (Holotype K; isotypes BH, MO, P, TAN).

19. DYPISIS OVOBONTSIRA

This is a beautiful palm of restricted distribution. The name is taken from the Betsimisaraka name for this species.

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from the Mananara Biosphere Reserve.

HABITAT. Moist forest, steep mid slope, ultramafic soils with deep humus layer; c. 265 m.

LOCAL NAMES. *Ovobontsira* (Betsimisaraka).

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Critical. Only known from a single site, where less than ten individuals are known.

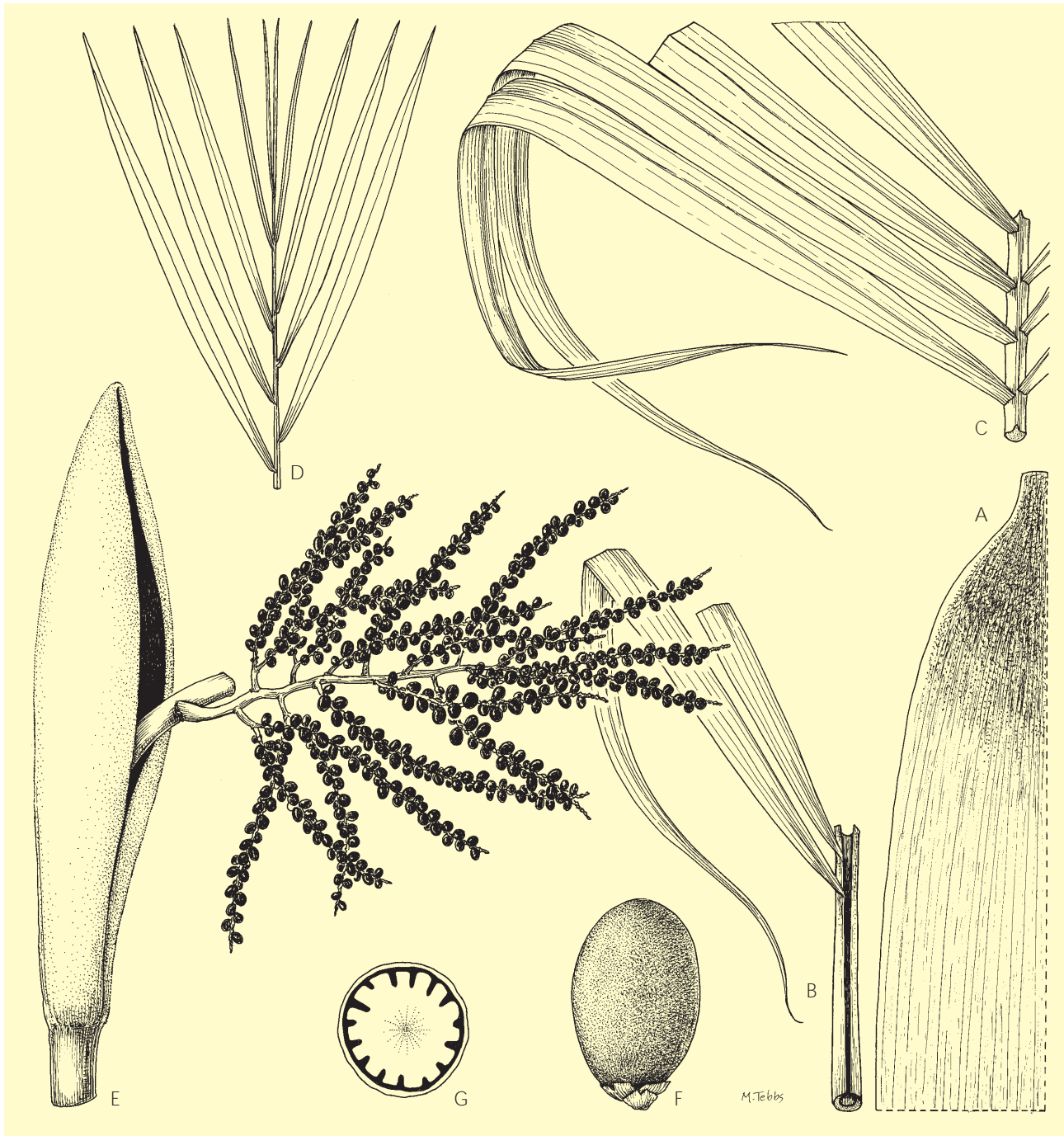
Dypsis ovobontsira *Beentje* sp. nov.

inter species arborescentes foliolis regulariter dispositis endospermio ruminato inflorescentia interfoliacea pedunculo longo foliis spiraliter dispositis vagina folii hirsutissima distincta. Typus: Madagascar, Antananambe, *Beentje et al.* 4645 (Holotypus K; isotypi BH, MO, P, TAN)

Solitary palm. **TRUNK** to 8–10 m, 13 cm diam., near crown 9 cm diam.; internodes 14 cm, near crown 2–2.5 cm; wood pink, with dense fibre-layer below bark. **LEAVES** spiral, 6, arching; sheath c. 62 cm, at crown 14 cm diam., green with dense brown and white scales; petiole c. 47 cm, green with dense white scales, proximally 6 × 5 cm, distally 5 × 4.5 cm, channelled with sharp edges; rachis 2.5–2.6 m, in midleaf 2.5 × 2.3 cm, green, waxy with sparse scattered scales; leaflets 68–69 on each side of the rachis, very regular, stiff, in 1 plane, the proximal 68–71 × 3.3–4.2 cm (sometimes with long pendulous reins), median 86–90 × 4.6–5.2 cm, dark green, glabrous. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, arching



**Dypsis
ovobontsira**



Dypsis ovobontsira. **A** leaf sheath $\times 1/4$; **B** distal part of petiole with lowermost leaflets $\times 1/4$; **C** mid section of leaf $\times 1/4$; **D** leaf tip $\times 1/4$; **E** part of infructescence $\times 1/4$; **F** fruit $\times 3$; **G** fruit in cross section $\times 3$. All from *Beentje et al.* 4645.
Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.

with spreading rachillae, 170 \times 90 cm, branched to 3 orders; peduncle 79 \times 7 \times 2 cm proximally, distally 7 \times 4 cm; prophyll borne at 34 cm above the base of the peduncle, 56 cm \times 14 cm, split very much on 1 side; peduncular bract deciduous, borne at 53 cm above the base of the peduncle; rachis with 22 branched and 19 unbranched first order branches, these proximally flattened, 4 \times 1.7 cm; rachillae 10–18.5 cm, c. 6 mm across. **FLOWERS** unknown. **FRUIT** green, 15–17 \times 13–15 mm when fresh, 10 \times 7 mm when dried. **SEED** 13–15 \times 11–13 mm, rounded at the apex, pointed at the base, broader than wide, with sub-basal depression; endosperm slightly ruminant.

NOTE. In its group of large palms with regular leaflets and ruminant endosperm distinct by the interfoliar

inflorescence with its long peduncle and bracts, the very hairy leaf sheath, and the spirally inserted leaves. It does not really resemble any other species closely.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Mananara Avaratra: 10 km W of Antanambe, April 1992 (fr.), *Beentje et al.* 4645 (type; BH, K, MO, P, TAN).