

99. DYP SIS REMOTIFLORA

Known only from a single collection, this small undergrowth palm has the general appearance of *D. forficifolia*. It can be immediately distinguished by the highly branched inflorescences with extremely slender thread-like branches which carry very few small and distant flowers. The sparse arrangement of the flowers is reflected in the species name.

DISTRIBUTION. East Coast.

HABITAT. Lowland rain forest.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Presumed extinct; not seen for forty years, and the type locality is now devoid of forest.

Dypsis remotiflora *J. Dransf., sp. nov.*

inter species floribus triandris staminibus antesepalis pistillodio carenti, rachillis gracillimis floribus paucis remotis distinctissima. Typus: Madagascar, East Coast, Ambadikala, *Vigreux* 15417 (Holotypus P).

Solitary (?) or clustered (?) palm. **STEM** to 1 m tall, at least 1 cm diam. (as suggested by diameter of leaf sheaths). Leaf sheaths of unknown length, c. 1 cm diam., striate, bearing abundant dark brown lacinate scales. **LEAF** to 40 cm long, including petiole c. 9 mm long, c. 4 mm wide, broadly triangular in cross section, bearing scattered dark brown scales; rachis 22–29 cm; leaflets 3–4 on each side of the rachis, subopposite or almost alternate (basal leaflets only); basal pair 5–7 × 0.3–0.7 cm, mid-leaf pair to 23 × 5.5 cm, apical pair widely divergent, to 13 × 4.5 cm, somewhat sigmoid; both lamina surfaces with very sparse, minute, brown,



**Dypsis
lantzeana**

NOTE. In the habit, leaf form and inflorescence branching, *D. lantzeana* is very similar to *D. forficifolia*. The rachillae of the present species are densely covered in trichomes, whereas in the latter they are usually glabrescent and only rarely with scattered trichomes. Furthermore, the rachilla bracts in the present species are usually so hairy that the bracts and the subtended flowers are partially obscured. In one remarkable collection, *Dransfield* JD6363, staminate flowers consistently (at least in the Kew duplicate) have only one stamen. This is a particularly tomentose form. It would be interesting to investigate further into this unistaminate condition. In another collection *Henderson et al.* 756, some staminate flowers have only two stamens.

We have pondered at length over the correct orthography of the specific epithet. Baillon originally published “*lantzeana*”; the type annotation and all subsequent authors have used “*lanceana*”. We suggest, however, that because Baillon used the spelling Lantze, the collector must have been Lantze rather than Lance (though it is not certain to us whether these are different collectors or the same), and thus favour the former rather than the latter spelling.

SPECIMEN SEEN. Maroantsetra: Bay of Antongil, Oct. 1871 (buds), *Lantze* s.n. (in part - leaf on second sheet = probably *D. fibrosa*) (holotype P); idem, Aug. 1912, *Perrier* 12048 (P); Maroa, 1897 (fl.), *Mocquerys* 332 (type of var. *simplicifrons*, FI); Nosy Mangabe, 1897 (fl.), *Mocquerys* 412 (FI); idem, *Mocquerys* 418 (FI); idem, Feb. 1988 (fl.), *Henderson et al.* 756 (K, MO, NY, P, TAN); idem, April 1988 (fl.), *Schatz & Gentry* 2097 (K, MO, TAN); Masoala, May 1974, *Morat* 4954 (P); Masoala, Hiaraka, Oct. 1986, *Dransfield et al.* JD6363 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN). Mananara Avaratra, 10 km west of Antanambe, Oct. 1991, *Beentje* 4465 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN); idem, April 1992, *Beentje et al.* 4619 (BH, K, MO, P, TAN); 2 km east of Andravolasoa, April 1992 (fr.), *Beentje et al.* 4641 (K, TAN).



**Dypsis
remotiflora**

punctiform scales. **INFLORESCENCE** only partially represented in type, branching to 4 orders; prophyll, peduncular bract and peduncle not represented; rachis at least 35 cm long, somewhat sinuous, it and all branches glabrescent; rachillae very numerous, very slender, sinuous, 1.5–4 cm long, c. 0.2 mm diam., each bearing about 3–4 triads only, c. 7 mm distant; rachilla bracts triangular, c. 0.5 mm long. **STAMINATE FLOWER** c. 1.0 × 0.8 mm; sepals ± rounded, imbricate, slightly keeled, 0.5 × 0.6 mm; petals ± elliptic in outline, valvate, 1.0 × 0.7 mm; stamens 3, antesealous, filaments very short, c. 0.2 × 0.1 mm, connective broad abaxially, anthers 0.3 × 0.1 mm, ± didymous; staminodes absent; pistillode absent. **PISTILLATE FLOWER** slightly smaller than the staminate; sepals imbricate, c. 0.5–0.6 mm; petals basally imbricate, distally valvate, c. 0.7 × 0.4 mm; staminodes 3, minute, dentiform; ovary c. 0.7 × 0.4 mm, ellipsoid, stigma terminal, slightly curved. Mature **FRUIT** ellipsoid, 9.5 × 4 mm. **SEED** ellipsoid, 6 × 3.5 mm; endosperm homogeneous, embryo lateral.

NOTE. This species is remarkable for its extremely slender rachillae with few remote triads of flowers. It is known only from the type. There are two entries for Ambadikala in the US Army Gazetteer for Madagascar, one at 23°19' S 47°24' E, the other at 18°15' S 48°56' E., of which only the former is recorded on the 1:500,000 Series maps of Madagascar. This lies in the vicinity of Farafangana.

SPECIMEN SEEN. Farafangana: Ambadikala, Sept. 1954, (fl., fr.) *Vigreux* 15417 (Holotype P).



Dypsis remotiflora. A leaf × 3/5; B inflorescence × 3/5; C detail of rachilla × 3; D staminate flower bud × 10; E opened staminate flower × 15; F fruit × 3. All from *Vigreux* 15417. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.