

20. DYPsis TANALENSIS

INSUFFICIENTLY KNOWN SPECIES

DISTRIBUTION. Known from a single collection from the Vohipeno area, south of Manakara. It was named for the people living in this area, the Tanala.

HABITAT. Lowland rain forest; 100 m.

LOCAL NAMES. *Matitanana*, *Matitana* (Tanala, meaning dead hand, supposedly after the dead inflorescences when fallen on the ground).

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Possibly extinct. Not seen for over eighty years; HB visited the area, which now seems devoid of tree palms.

Dypsis tanalensis (Jum. & H. Perrier) Beentje & J. Dransf. **comb. nov.**

SYNONYM:

Neodypsis tanalensis Jum. & H. Perrier, Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 3, 1 (1): 18 (1913); Jum., Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 4, 2 (2): 29 (1924); Jum., Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae: 19 (1938); Jum. & H. Perrier, Fl. Madagascar 30: 155, fig. 44 (1945). Type: Madagascar, Matitanana basin, *Perrier* 12072 (Holotype P; not mentioned in protologue, but the only specimen mentioned in Jumelle 1924).

LEAVES with the sheath with sloping shoulders without any sign of auricles, tomentose with peltate scales with white-laciniate edges; petiole 12 cm long (cut lengthwise in the type), densely tomentose; rachis in mid-leaf white-tomentose, distally keeled; leaflets regular or grouped?, in mid-leaf the interval 1–2 cm; proximal leaflets c. 115 × 1.2 cm, median 129 × 2.4–2.6 cm, near-distal 63 × 2.4 cm, main vein 1, abaxial midrib with a few basal reddish ramenta to 6



mm, with scattered minute reddish glands on the minor veins, apices bifid, unequally attenuate. **INFLORESCENCE** branched to 1 order or more?; rachillae 26–33 cm long, 2.5 mm diam. in flower, 4 mm diam. in fruit, with minute bundles of bristles but glabrescent, the triads distant, slightly sunken, with small acute rachilla bracts. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1.8–2 × 1.6–2.5 mm; petals 3.8–4.4 × 2.1–2.5 mm; stamens 6, ?slightly 2-seriate, filaments 1.4–1.8 mm in bud, to 2.6 mm at anthesis, anthers 1.8–2.5 × 0.6–0.8 mm, versatile; pistillode 2–2.8 × 0.4–0.5 mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** not seen at anthesis, in fruit with sepals 2–2.8 × 3–3.6 mm; petals 3–3.4 × 3.8–4.5 mm; staminodes 0.7–0.8 mm. **FRUIT** ellipsoid, 9–14 × 5.5–7 mm. **SEED** 8–13 × 4.5–6 mm; endosperm ruminant, with quite dense ruminations, 1–2 mm deep.

NOTE. Data given in the protologue, but not apparent from the type or its label: **TRUNK** 15–20 m high, diam. 20–50 cm, internodes greyish, nodal scars very evident. **LEAVES** (incl. sheath) 4–6 m long; sheath 1–1.5 by 0.4–0.5 m (but then the authors go on and say it is channelled adaxially—so it is uncertain whether they refer to the petiole or the rachis), smooth, green, distally with a thin whitish puberulous indument; rachis 3–5 m; leaflets regular, median 130 × 3 cm. Every trunk with 3–4 interfoliar to infrafoliar **INFLORESCENCES**; these pendulous, branched to 3 or 4 orders, 1.5–2 by 1.2–1.6 m; prophyll 50 × 15 cm, opening near the apex only; peduncular bract 80 × 13 cm.

The specimen looks like *D. pilulifera*, but the ruminant endosperm separates it from that taxon. Among ruminant endosperm taxa it resembles *D. hovomantsina* and *D. tsaravoasira* - but in every case the material of *D. tanalensis* does not have quite the same look or feel to it.

According to the protologue, the epiphytic orchid *Oeonia* often grows on this palm.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Vohipeno: Matatana (Matitana) basin, no date (fl., fr.), *Perrier* 12072 (P, type).

21. DYPsis ANKAIZINENSIS

Yet another species of which various specimens were housed in different genera. It is still somewhat of a mystery, and it combines characters from several other species, without being quite the same as any of them. The name derives from Ankaizina, the southern foothills of Mt. Tsaratanana.

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from Mt Tsaratanana.

HABITAT. Montane forest, in moist depressions or on ridge crests; 1400–2000 m. Said to be very common.

LOCAL NAMES. *Laboka*, *Hovatra*, *Lavaboka*.

USES. Palm-heart slightly bitter, but edible.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Unknown. Not seen for over seventy years, but the Tsaratanana area has not been visited by botanists for a long time.

Dypsis ankaizinensis (Jum.) Beentje & J. Dransf. **comb. nov.**

SYNONYM:

Chrysalidocarpus ankaizinensis Jum., Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Marseille sér. 10, 3: 23 (1922); Jum., Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae: 8