

pistillode c. 1×0.3 mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** white; sepals $0.6\text{--}1.2 \times 1\text{--}1.5$ mm, ciliate; petals $1.8\text{--}2.5 \times 1.5\text{--}1.8$ mm; staminodes $0.3\text{--}0.4$ mm; gynoecium on a 0.2 mm stalk, $1.7\text{--}2.3 \times 1.2\text{--}2$ mm. **FRUIT** when young $11\text{--}12 \times 2\text{--}3$ mm.

NOTE. Very similar to *D. coriacea* but differs in the pubescent leaf sheath, the curved (not erect) inflorescence and the less leathery leaf, at least when fresh.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Maroantsetra: Hiaraka, Oct. 1986 (bud), *Dransfield et al.* JD6371 (K, P, TAN); Antalavia, Feb. 1988 (y.fr.), *Dransfield et al.* JD6483 (K, TAN); Sahavary, Feb. 1988 (fl., y.fr.), *Dransfield et al.* JD6457 (Holotype K; isotypes P, TAN). No locality, collected before 1867, (fl.), *Lyll* 323 (K, syntype of *N. heterophylla* but not conspecific with the lectotype of that species, *Baron* 486).

90. DYPsis TENUISSIMA

This is one of the smallest palms in the world, with extremely slender stems. This is reflected in the species name, which is Latin for 'most slender'.

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from Andohahela.

HABITAT. Lowland rain forest, slight mid slope; 500–550 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Endangered. Only known



Dypsis tenuissima. **A** whole plant $\times 1/2$; **B** divided leaf $\times 1/2$. **A** from *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4592, **B** from *Beentje* 4601. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.

from a single site; numbers seen were less than a hundred. This area is outside the protected area.

Dypsis tenuissima *Beentje* sp. nov.

caulibus gracillimis folio minuto tenue multo lobato distincta. Typus: Madagascar, Ezoambo, *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4592 (Holotypus K; isotypi BH, MO, P, TAN).

Clustering palm in groups of 2–6. **STEMS** 25–50 cm high, 2–4 mm diam.; internodes 1–4 cm. **LEAVES** 4–11 in the crown, entire or pinnate; sheath 2.3–6 cm, closed, with sloping, slightly lacinate shoulders and with scattered scales; petiole 2–4.6 cm, 1–1.5 mm diam., with scattered scales; *entire* leaves 11–19 cm long, midrib 1.7–4.5 cm, the lobes 8–15 × 0.7–1.3 cm (lobed 75–85%), with 3–5 main veins, narrowly dentate apices, glabrous or with a few proximal scales; *pinnate* leaves with rachis 4.5–6 cm long, with scattered scales; leaflets 2–5 on each side of the rachis, the proximal 9–14 × 0.3–0.6 cm (main veins 1–2), median 9–13 × 0.3–4 cm (interval 0.8–1.2 cm, main vein 1), apices attenuate, distal 11–14 × 0.5–1 cm, connate for 3–4 cm, with 2–3 main veins and narrow dentate apices, glabrous. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, unbranched, 9–16 cm long; peduncle 6–11 cm long, c. 1 mm diam.; prophyll 6–9 cm long, borne at 2.5–4 cm above the base of the peduncle, with few scattered scales especially on the margins (resembling thin ramenta), open at the apex for 0.6–1 cm; peduncular bract inserted at 6–9 cm from the base of the peduncle, deciduous; non-tubular peduncular bract 1–2 mm; rachilla 3.2–4.3 cm long, 1–2 mm diam., with distant triads, glabrous. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with sepals 0.7–1 × 0.6–1.1 mm, only slightly keeled; petals 2.2–2.5 × 1.2–1.4 mm; stamens 6, uniseriate, filaments c. 0.8 mm and thin, anthers 1.1–1.3 × 0.3–0.5 mm, versatile and parallel; pistillode < 1 mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 0.8–1.2 × 1.2–1.4 mm; petals 1.8–2.3 × 1.7–2.2 mm; staminodes 0.3–0.7 mm; ovary 2.1–2.4 × 1.8–2 mm. **FRUIT** ellipsoid, 9.5–10 × 5–5.5 mm, rounded at the apex; endocarp with almost free fibres. **SEED** ellipsoid, 8–9 × 3.5 mm, obtuse at both ends; endosperm homogeneous.

NOTE. Distinct in the very slender stems and the tiny, thin, much-toothed leaf.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Tolanaro: 13 km N of Ezoambo, March 1992 (fl., y.fr.), *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4592 (Holotype K; isotypes BH, MO, P, TAN); idem, March 1992 (ster.), *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4601 (K).

91. DYP SIS LUCENS

Only known from the type, which consists of loose pieces of leaf and a few rachillae. These are nevertheless enough to distinguish it from other taxa. The name is Latin for 'shiny', and this presumably refers to the leaf when it is fresh.

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from the type: 'Antongil Bay area'.

HABITAT. Rain forest; c. 400 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Probably extinct; not seen since the type was collected over eighty years ago.

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

SYNONYM:

Neophloga lucens Jum., Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 4, 6 (3): 15 (1929); Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae: 21 (1938); Jum. & H. Perrier, Fl. Madagascar 30: 62 (1945). Type: Madagascar, Antongil Bay, *Perrier* 12032 (Holotype, P).

Palm up to 60 cm. **STEM** 0.7–1 cm diam. **LEAVES** c.10; sheath 6.5–7.5 cm long, 1–1.2 cm diam., partly open, red-brown, covered

