

43. DYP SIS AMBANJAE

One of the mysteries of the genus, only known from the type, and not seen for over eighty years. The species name comes from the town of Ambanja.

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from the type, from the upper Sambirano River.

HABITAT. Rain forest; c. 500 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. ?Extinct. Not collected for over 80 years.

Dypsis ambanjae Beentje nomen nov.

SYNONYM:

Phloga sambiranensis Jum., Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 5, 1 (3): 18 (1933); Jum., Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae: 23 (1938); **synon. nov.** Type: Madagascar, Sambirano, *Perrier* 12070 (Holotype P).

The epithet *sambiranensis* is predated in *Chrysalidocarpus* in the same publication (Jumelle, 1933), but in an earlier fascicle (later combined as *Dypsis sambiranensis*, a synonym of *D. pinnatifrons*). The new epithet derives from the nearest large town and administrative unit in which the type was found.

Clustering palm. Stems 4–5 m tall, 5–6 cm diam.; internodes distally 2.5–3.5 cm long, nodal scars c. 0.2 cm, distal diameter of stems c. 2.3 cm. **LEAVES** pinnate; sheath c. 32 cm, proximally glabrous and waxy, distally with scattered scales, with rounded opening, auri-



Dypsis ambanjae. **A** portion of stem $\times 1/3$; **B** sheath, petiole and basal leaflets $\times 1/3$; **C** mid section of leaf $\times 1/3$; **D** leaf tip $\times 1/3$; **E** infructescence $\times 1/3$; **F** fruit $\times 2.5$; **G** seed $\times 2.5$; **H** seed in cross section $\times 2.5$. All from *Perrier* 12070. Drawn by Margaret Tebbs.



**Dypsis
ambanjae**

cles absent; petiole 13–27 cm long, proximally (in a young leaf) 8 × 7 mm, distally 4 × 6 mm, channelled adaxially; rachis slender, in a young leaf 1 m long, in mid-leaf 3–5 mm wide, slightly keeled, almost glabrous; leaflets c. 47 on each side of the rachis, in groups of 2–6, the group interval 4–5 cm, rather stiff, linear, in a young leaf the proximal 38–40 × 0.3–0.5 cm, median 34–36 × 0.6–0.8 cm, distal 8–23 × 0.3–0.6 cm, main vein 1, ramenta few, 1–3 mm long, or absent, rest of leaf glabrous, apices unequally bifid, attenuate. **INFLORESCENCE** branched to 2 orders; peduncle c. 42.5 cm long, distally curved, proximally c. 8 × 3 mm diam., distally c. 7 × 4 mm diam.; prophyll c. 52 cm long, 3 cm wide, borne at c. 23 cm above the base of the peduncle, waxy, glabrous, open in its upper 20 cm; peduncular bract inserted at c. 35 cm from the base of the peduncle, 29–40 cm long, opening over its length except for the beak of 5 mm; rachis c. 18 cm long, glabrous with c. 8 branched and 13 unbranched first order branches, the proximal of these with a secondary rachis up to 2.5 cm long and proximally 4 × 2 mm diam., with up to 4 rachillae; rachillae 4–11 cm long, c. 1.5 mm diam., glabrous, sinuous, with distant superficial triads; rachilla bracts c. 1 mm, acute. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** unknown. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with sepals 1.8–2.2 × 2.8–3 mm; petals 3–3.3 × 3.3–3.6 mm; staminodes 0.6–0.7 mm; ovary 2.5–3.3 × 1.8–2 mm. **FRUIT** ellipsoid or slightly obovoid, 11–14 × 8–11 mm, the apex rounded; endocarp very fibrous, with interwoven fibres. **SEED** ellipsoid, 11.5–12.5 × 9.5–10 mm, pointed at the base with a sub-basal depression, rounded at the apex; endosperm ruminant, the ruminations distant and c. 1 mm deep.

NOTE. According to the Flore de Madagascar, this is synonymous with *P. gracilis* (now *D. oreophila*), and the description is a hotchpotch – the small fruit of *D. oreophila* is not mentioned, nor is the type of *D. sambiranensis*. The look of the plant is different, and the inflorescence is much larger; we believe this is a taxon in its own right.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Ambanja: upper Sambirano, Dec. 1912 (fl., fr.), *Perrier* 12070 (P, type).

44. DYPISIS COURSI

A curious montane species, with a short, wide trunk. The name refers to one of the collectors, G. Cours, who made many good palm collections between 1939 and 1952.

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from the Marojejy area.

HABITAT. Moist montane forest or dense sclerophyll forest on ridges; on gneiss and quartzite, (400–) 900–1850 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Vulnerable. Distribution area small, but protected. Numbers unknown, but thought to be low.

Dypsis coursii *Beentje* sp. nov.

Palma distinctissima caule breve lato foliolis in greges distantes dense aggregatis fructo grande profunde ruminato. Typus: Madagascar, Marojejy W, near Doanyanala col, *Humbert* 23159 (Holotypus P; isotypus K).

Solitary palm. **STEM** 2–8 m, 8–18 cm diam., near the apex c. 2.2 cm diam. **LEAVES** c. 4 in the crown; sheath 18–36 × 9 cm, with dense reddish tomentum and wax, and with triangular auricles to 5 × 3 cm; petiole 4–27 cm long, 1.1–1.3 × 0.3–0.7 cm diam., with few scattered scales; rachis 0.4–1 m long (*Humbert* 23159: leaves 2 m long), in mid-leaf 0.6–1 × 0.4 cm diam., with scattered scales; leaflets 35–39 on each side of the rachis, in groups of pairs proximally, in 2–7 medially (group interval 2.2–7 cm), the proximal 10–29 × 0.2–1.2 cm, median 12–34 × 1.6–3.5 cm (interval 0.7–1.2 cm), distal 6–17 × 0.4–2.2 cm, main veins 1–5, and thickened margins, ramenta few or none, plus red scattered scales on midrib and veins, apex acute, unequally bifid. **INFLORESCENCE** infrafoliar, pendulous,



**Dypsis
coursii**