

does not exceed 6–7 m. Pale brown to brown tomentum is always present on sheath and petiole.

We observed several male inflorescences just after they had opened (Fig. 5) and the remains of female inflorescences from the previous year. We found just one female individual with open flowers. The inflorescence emerges between the sheaths. The young male flowers have a strong scent reminiscent of that of ylang-ylang (*Cananga odorata*) and turpentine. We observed bees visiting the flowers.

Three sets of herbarium collections (male and female flowers) were made for confirmation and have been sent to Muséum Nationale d'Histoire

Naturelle in Paris and Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. On the day of our visit we saw eight other indigenous or naturalized palms: *Areca catechu*, *Bismarckia nobilis*, *Borassus sambiranensis*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Dypsis lanceolata*, *D. cabadae*, *Hyphaene coriacea* and *Phoenix reclinata*.

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LITERATURE CITED

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PALM BRIEF



Dypsis hovomantsina

When this beautiful palm was first described and named in 1995 in Palms of Madagascar, we knew it from but four collections, two from Mananara Avaratra and two from the Masoala Peninsula. During fieldwork in November 1999, we found several populations of the palm, some so easily accessible that we wondered how we had missed them during the Palms of Madagascar project. The photograph shows a single palm left in a cleared area south of Soanierana-Ivongo. Here the palm was called 'tsaravoasira' – and this is potentially confusing as *Dypsis tsaravoasira* is a completely different palm. IPS members who buy seed of this latter species may find it useful to know that some seed exporters who rely on local names for identification rather than actually checking the identity properly may be exporting seed of *D. hovomantsina* masquerading as *D. tsaravoasira*. *Dypsis hovomantsina* is immediately distinguished by the patch of thick reddish-orange hairs near the mouth of the leaf sheath.

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