

## 2. MASOALA KONA

A new species with a leaf resembling that of *Marojejya insignis*, but in the inflorescence clearly congeneric with *Masoala madagascariensis*, though it is much smaller than that species. The name derives from the local name for this plant.

**DISTRIBUTION.** Ifanadiana area.

**HABITAT.** Mid-altitude low-canopy rain forest; steep to slight mid slopes or near ridge crests, on sandy/quartz soils; 450–550m.

**LOCAL NAMES.** *Kona, kogne* (Tanala)

**USES.** A leaf of this taxon, when stuck in a bamboo pole is thought by some to ward off thunder-clouds.

**CONSERVATION STATUS.** Endangered. The species is confined to a small area; populations are small, and the forest in this area is disappearing steadily, due to shifting cultivation.

***Masoala kona* Beentje sp. nov.**

A *M. madagascariensis* statura minore foliis irregulariter pinnatis segmentis proximalibus latis, inflorescentia paucis rachillis floribus pistillatis semper proximalibus et floribus staminatis semper distalibus differt. Typus: Madagascar, Ifanadiana: 3 hrs walk E of Tsaratanana, March 1991, *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4437 (Holotypus K; isotypi BH, MO, P, TAN).



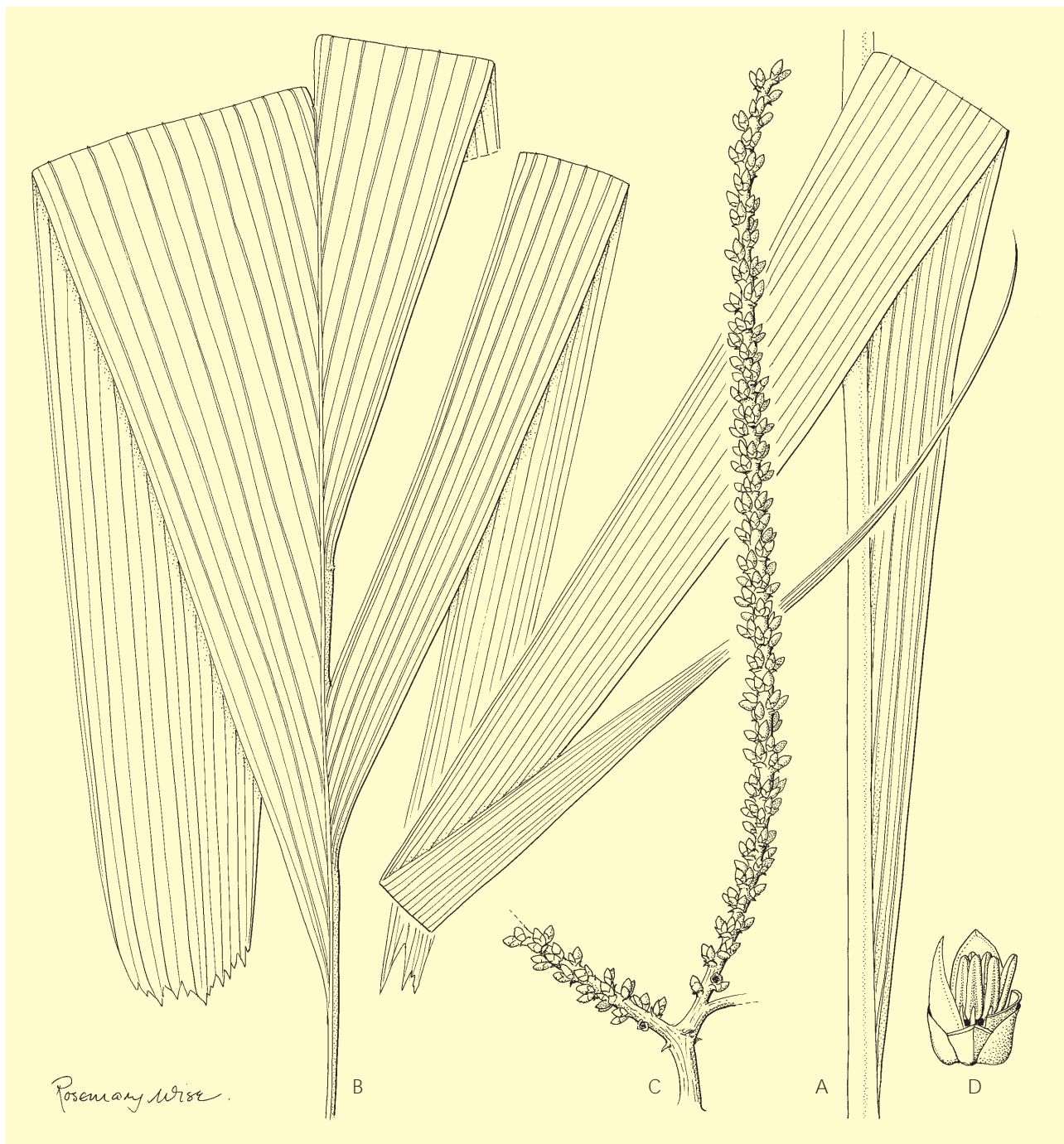
**Masoala  
kona**



**Masoala kona**, growing near Ifanadiana (*Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4437).



**Masoala kona**. Inflorescence (*Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4524).

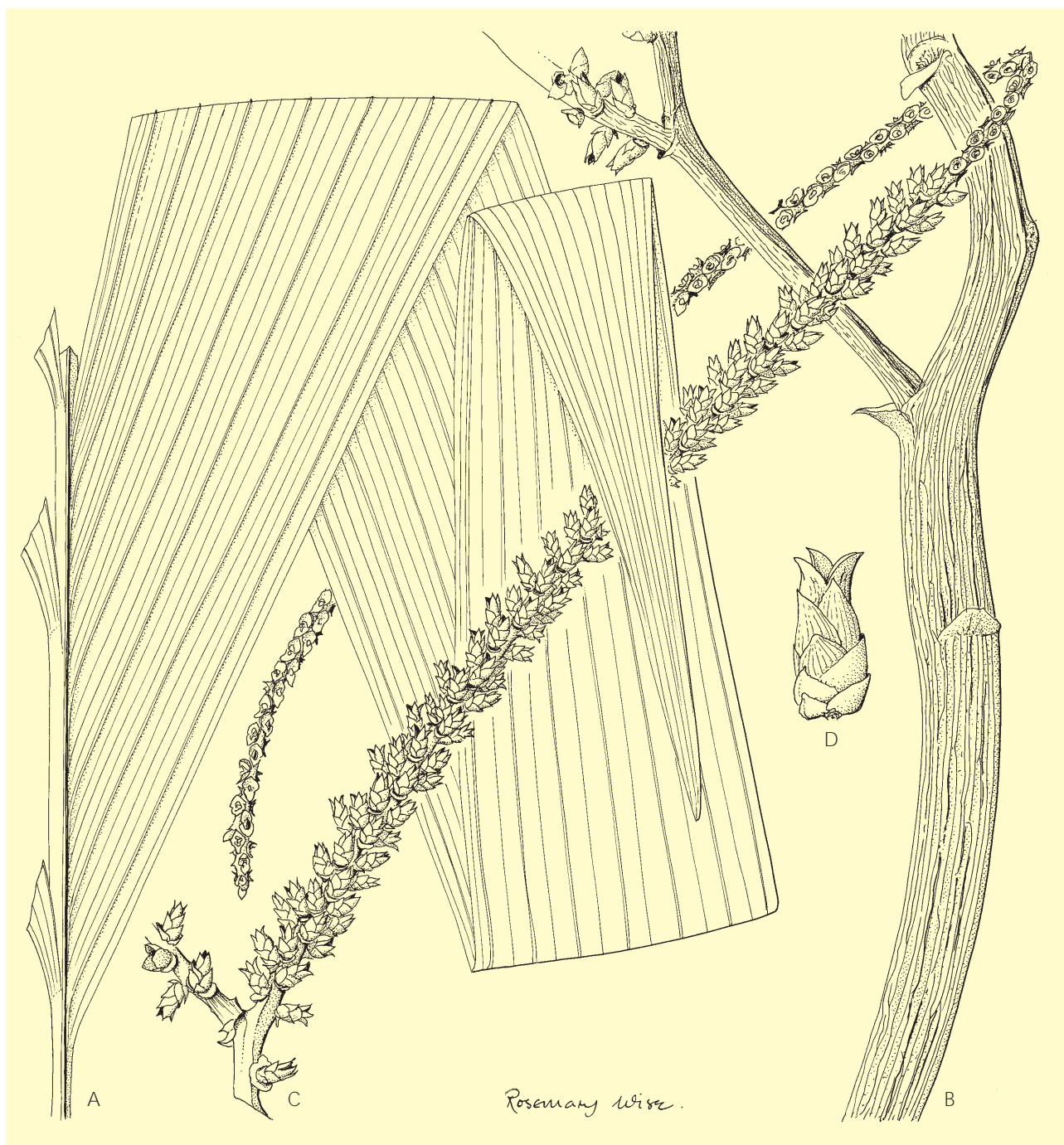


**Masoala kona.** **A** basal leaflets  $\times 3/5$ ; **B** leaf tip  $\times 3/5$ ; **C** part of inflorescence with staminate flower buds  $\times 3/5$ ; **D** staminate flower, one petal removed  $\times 4$ . **A, B** from *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4437, **C, D** from *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4525. Drawn by Rosemary Wise.

Solitary palm. **TRUNK** 1.2–9 m, the whole or in older trees the upper part with persistent leaf bases, c. 35 cm diam. when covered in old leaf bases, 13–20 cm diam. when bare; internodes 1–2 cm long, dark brown, nodal scars 1–2 cm high; wood hard. **LEAVES** spirally arranged, marcescent, 13–17 living ones in the crown, erect, plus 5–15 dead ones; sheath litter-accumulating, c. 28  $\times$  24 cm, abaxially yellow-brown to red-brown with dense red-brown tomentum, adaxially yellow-brown; auricles and petiole absent, though an apparent petiole of up to 30 cm may be present; proximal part of leaf litter-accumulating; rachis 2.8–4.5 m long, proximally 3–4.6  $\times$  1–3 cm diam. and channelled with a central ridge, in mid-leaf c. 1.5 cm wide and keeled, with scattered scales abaxially; leaflets 6–15 on each side of the rachis, the proximal large and multi-fold, 165–250  $\times$  13–24 cm and attached to the rachis for up to 1.5 m, the more distal ones irregularly alternating between thin single-fold and

wide multi-fold leaflets, 73–130  $\times$  2.5–16 cm (interval 6–12 cm), distal pair 55–88  $\times$  4–16 cm, connate for 8–18 cm, main veins 3–5 in single-fold leaflets, with scattered scales on minor veins, apices in distal pair long-dentate over 1.5–4 cm, in others acute. **INFLORESCENCE** interfoliar, erect, 0.7–1.2 m long, branching to 1 or 2 order(s), possibly occasionally multiple (personal observation under difficult circumstances, HB 4437), protogynous (HB 4525); peduncle 22–56 cm long, 2.2–3  $\times$  1.3–2.2 cm diam., with dense red-brown scales; prophyll c. 32 cm long, c. 9 cm wide, with scattered scales; peduncular bracts 3 (always?) 20–62 cm long, 7–8 cm wide, with dense red-brown scales and a beak of up to 2 cm, the most proximal inserted only a few mm from the base of the peduncle and sub-woody; rachis 27–30 cm long, with 0–3 branched and c. 10 unbranched first order branches; rachillae dark brown, 22–60 cm long, with pistillate flowers occupying the proximal half





**Masoala kona.** **A** mid section of leaf  $\times 3/5$ ; **B** part of peduncle, rachis and first order inflorescence branch  $\times 3/5$ ; **C** rachilla with pistillate flowers  $\times 3/5$ ; **D** pistillate flower  $\times 2$ . **A** from *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4437, **B** from *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4525, **C**, **D** from *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4437. Drawn by Rosemary Wise.

to two-thirds of its length and single or paired staminate flowers the distal part; the interface between the two sexes mixed, not sharp, and occasionally with some triads here; also most pistillate buds at an early stage appearing to be flanked by staminate buds which later abort. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** yellow, the sepals 4.5–5.5  $\times$  2.8–3.8 mm, keeled, acute, with ragged edges; petals connate for 2–3.3 mm, free parts 5–6  $\times$  3.2–4.6 mm, with fleshy and thickened proximal margins; stamens and pistil connate for the proximal 2–3 mm with the petals; stamens equal, the filaments 2.2–3  $\times$  1.2–1.3 mm, fleshy with wider base, angular, anthers 3–3.7  $\times$  1.2–1.4 mm, dorsifixed, latrorse, slightly versatile, the locules slightly divergent; pistillode 4.5–5  $\times$  1.5–1.6 mm. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** with 4 bracts, 2.8–6  $\times$  3–6 mm; between innermost bracts and sepals there is a ring of up to 2 mm high, thin, ?glandular hairs; sepals 7–10  $\times$  5.5–7.5 mm,

not keeled; petals 11–18  $\times$  6–14 mm, with lacinate margins; staminodes 6, connate for the proximal 0.1–0.3 mm, triangular and flat, 0.6–1 mm high; ovary 12–15  $\times$  5–6 mm, trifold for c. 3 mm, the inner surfaces papillose. **FRUIT** only seen empty, ellipsoid, 25–40  $\times$  12–14 mm, topped by the persistent style/stigma mass. **EOPHYLL** deeply bifid; scale leaves two.

**SPECIMENS SEEN.** Ifanadiana: 3 hrs walk E of Tsaratanana, March 1991 (bud), *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4437 (Holotype K; isotypes BH, MO, P, TAN); idem, Nov. 1991 (fl.), *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4524 (K, MO, TAN); idem, Nov. 1991 (fl.), *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4525 (K, MO, P, TAN); Ambinanindrano, Jan. 1993 (old infl.), *Beentje & Andriampaniry* 4799 (K, MO, P, TAN); idem, Nov. 1994 (old infl.), *Beentje & Dransfield* 4839 (K, TAN).