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[April 05](#)

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Topic: Madagascar Expedition April 05, Sit Back And Hold On !!

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Post Number: 1

Jeff Searle

Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,13:31



IGNORE

"QUOTE"



Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006

In April 2005, Dr. Peter Balasky of South Florida, Bill Beattie of Austraila and myself teamed up for a month long trip to Madagascar. This trip took us from the Marojejy Mountains in the Northeast down to the Masoala Peninsula and then over to Isle Sainte Marie off the coast. During our trip, we saw over 50 palm species. Populations of certain species were seen for the first time. I will be posting several of the photos taken during our trip. The first one here is an awe-inspiring view of the Marojejy Mtns.

Attached Image



Searle Brothers Nursery &
The Rainforest Collection

Offline

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Post Number: 2

Jeff Searle 



Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006

 Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,13:39

[↑](#) [↓](#) [IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

1st day in Antananarivo (Tana), the capital of Madagascar.Up on a hill over looking the city.

Attached Image



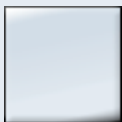
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Post Number: 3

Jeff Searle 



 Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,13:52

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Here in the coastal town of Sambava, we are buying our food for the week long climb up the Marojejy Mtns. We bought large quantities of rice, different types of beans, sardines, bread and water.In the photo, from left to right,is Guy our palm botanist/ guide along with Pete and Bill.

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



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Post Number: 4

Jeff Searle



Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,14:01

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Here I am posing with some local children in the village at the foot of the mountains. The villagers are quite curious about us coming through.

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



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Post Number: 5

Jeff Searle 

 **Posted on:** Jun. 10 2006,14:15

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Here is the first of two river crossings on our way up to the entrance of the Marojejy Park.

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



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Post Number: 6

Jeff Searle 



 **Posted on:** Jun. 10 2006,14:27

  [IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

Here we are at the park entrance after a two hour walk from the village at the base of the mountains. From left to right: Jackson, our park guide, Bill, Guy, and myself.

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



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Post Number: 7

Jeff Searle 

 **Posted on:** Jun. 10 2006,14:32

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One of the first palms we saw was *Dypsis catatiana*. It was quite abundant throughout the lower elevations.

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



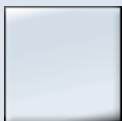
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Post Number: 8

Jeff Searle



Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,14:43

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This incredible palm was rare and low in numbers. Our best guess was *Dypsis pilulifera* or *D. tsaravoasira*. There were no large specimens with a flower.

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



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Post Number: 9

Jeff Searle



Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,14:53



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["QUOTE"](#)

Same palm as above, but a larger specimen.

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



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Post Number: 10

Jeff Searle

 Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,15:04

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This was Guy Rafamantanantsoa our guide in action identifying a palm by it`s flower spike. Guy formerly helped Dr. John Dransfield on previous trips.

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



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Post Number: 11

Jeff Searle 🔍

Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,15:11

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A *Ravenea* species we found but not quite sure which one. Probably *R. sambariensis* or *R. robustior*.

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



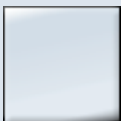
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Post Number: 12

Jeff Searle



Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,16:16



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"QUOTE"

Dypsis baronii over hanging a waterfall near camp #1. There is only one trail that leads up to the summit which is over 2100 meters in elevation. Along the trail, there are three camps that provide sleeping accomodations.

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



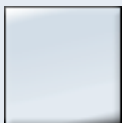
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Post Number: 13

Jeff Searle 



 **Posted on:** Jun. 10 2006,16:42

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Dypsis perrieri showing the crown with a large dark brown spathe on right side. These palms were in abundant numbers. Most seed after landing on the ground were infested with tiny weevils.

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



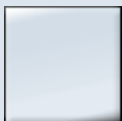
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Post Number: 14

Jeff Searle



Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,17:05

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Dypsis thiryana, a very rare palm to find on the trail. We saw only 8 mature plants with one bearing ripe fruit. Only a handful of seedlings were found after an extensive search of the area. This palm greatly resembles a small fern, making it very hard to distinguish. This palm is one of only two, known Dypsis species that have praemorse (jagged) leaflets. These palms only grow to about 1m. in height.

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



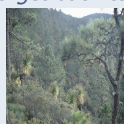
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Post Number: 15

Zac Z7b Trinity,NC
Living to get back to Mexico



Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,17:12

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Quote (Jeff Searle @ June 10 2006,16:16)

Dypsis baronii over hanging a waterfall near camp #1. There is only one trail that leads up to the summit which is over 2100 meters in elevation. Along the trail, there are three camps that provide sleeping accomodations.

Group: Members
Posts: 632
Joined: Jan. 2003

Spectacular picture. Can I save a copy of it?

Zac

Zac
a member of the group of Palm-o-philis in the Southeast.

Living to get back to Mexico

Trinity, N.C. USA
Humid summer, wet winters.

Offline

[Profile](#) [Contact](#) [wWw.](#)

Post Number: 16

Jeff Searle

Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,17:15

[↑](#) [↓](#) [IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)



Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006

Dypsis thiryana showing green immature fruit. This species holds very few fruit at any given time.

Attached Image



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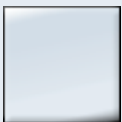
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Post Number: 17

Jeff Searle

Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,17:21

[↑](#) [↓](#) [IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)



Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006

Zac,

Sure, you may copy.

Jeff

[Searle Brothers Nursery &](#)

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Post Number: 18

Jeff Searle



Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006

Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,17:28

[Profile](#) [Down Arrow](#) [IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

Dypsis thiryana (the only one found) with ripe fruit. And we searched our You-know-what off !!!

Attached Image



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Post Number: 19

Jeff Searle



Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,17:46

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Looking up at Marojejya insignis. These palms were growing in between Camp 1 and Camp 2. They were fruiting at this time of the year. A large colony of these stunning palms were amazing to look at!

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



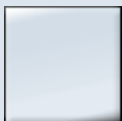
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Post Number: 20

Jeff Searle



Group: Members
Posts: 120

Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,18:14

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A view of Camp 2. We hiked to here for the day, and had our lunch of Sardines on bread and warm coke. We poked around for several hours in this area , then returned back to Camp 1. The following morning Pete, Guy, Jackson our park guide, and myself left Camp 1 and hiked for five hours straight up to Camp level 3. This was extremely difficult because of the steep terrain. You were constantly reaching for roots and branches to pull yourself up. When we finally made it to Camp 3, we were both exhausted and elated !

Attached Image

Joined: Jun. 2006



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Post Number: 21

waldon 

Seabreeze Palms



Group: Members
Posts: 1825
Joined: Apr. 2003

 **Posted on:** Jun. 10 2006,18:59

  [IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

Fascinating Jeff, I'm hanging out for more.

Wal

Brisbane
Queensland
Australia
author of the unwritten book "In the palm of my land"

Offline

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Post Number: 22

Jeff Searle 



 **Posted on:** Jun. 10 2006,19:08

  [IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

Camp 1. Just hanging around with the cook and some of the porters. All, and I mean all supplies have to be carried up by porters that live in the village outside the park entrance. And for supper....beans and rice.

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



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Post Number: 23

Jeff Searle 



Group: Members
Posts: 120

 **Posted on:** Jun. 10 2006,19:19

[Up](#) [Down](#) [IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

Un-identified Dypsis sp. Beautiful ! We were all pretty sure that this palm was not *D. mananjarensis*. In the POM book, it is not recored growing in this region. Also the white markings or scales were not raised. Never the less, gorgeous.

Edited by Jeff Searle on Jun. 10 2006,19:35

Attached Image

Joined: Jun. 2006



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Post Number: 24

Jeff Searle 



Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,19:32



IGNORE

"QUOTE"

Taking a break on the trail.

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



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Post Number: 25

Jeff Searle 🔍

Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,19:42

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A beautiful red emerging leaf on *Dypsis catatiana* "Entire Leaf Form" we think, just not sure.

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



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Post Number: 26

gtlevine

Avatar



Group: Members
Posts: 556
Joined: Jan. 2003

Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,22:01

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Fantastic Jeff. I am going on my first expedition to Madagascar next March/April for a month and can't wait. Did you get to see Dypsis Pumilla at the Marojeja Masif?

I still have great memories of your garden and nursery when I visited last November, just after the hurricane. How is your Voanioala doing? I remember it to be the largest one in cultivation in the United States, maybe you can post a photo of it.

Gary Le Vine

Gary Le Vine
Escondido, Ca (San Diego County)
Zone 10b, 20 miles from the beach.

Offline

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Post Number: 27

Jeff Searle

Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,23:00

[Up](#) [Down](#) [IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)



Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006

Hello Gary,
Hey good to hear your going next year! You have plenty of time to plan and prepare. Going with any other palm junkies ? I loved to know where your going and what species your looking for. You got alittle ahead of my pic`s. , were still climbing to Camp 3. But to answer your question, no, we did not see D. pumila, because it is about 3-4 hrs. hike up(very steep) to the summit from Camp 3. Pete, our guide and I walked approx. 2 hrs. and then decided to turn around and come back to Camp 3. Just not much to look at and only two species grow up there! I got goose bumps just thinking about it.

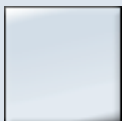
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Post Number: 28

Jeff Searle



Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006

Posted on: Jun. 10 2006,23:10

[IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

Gary, forgot to answer about Voanioala. My largest one is in my yard, pushing two feet. With the extra light now brought on from Hurricane Wilma, it is doing much better and seems to enjoy the extra sunlight. This summer I expect it to really grow. I also have seedlings in the nursery now.

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Post Number: 29

MattyB

"I eat palms like you for lunch!"



Group: Members
Posts: 1077
Joined: Apr. 2005

Posted on: Jun. 11 2006,00:29

[IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

Wow, this is fun. Thanks Jeff.

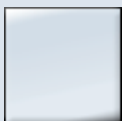
Matt Bradford
Lemon Grove, CA (San Diego)
8.91 miles to Pacific Ocean (Google Earth'd it)
Some past winter lows:
2004: 33, 34
2005: 31, 31
2006: 34, 34, 34 (3 nights in a row)

Offline

[Profile](#) [Contact](#)

Post Number: 30

bruno



Group: Members
Posts: 149
Joined: Nov. 2005

Posted on: Jun. 11 2006,02:43

[IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

dear Jeff, fantastic exploration! I am amazed how americans love to come here to see palms. I hope you will post more photos. I am off to sainte marie tomorrow.

Did you see the "darianii" up in the marojejy?

Thanks for sharin. bruno

bruno
antananarivo
madagascar.

altitude 1 200 m

Offline

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Post Number: 31

Jeff Searle



Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006

Posted on: Jun. 11 2006,09:29

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Bruno,

We did travel to Sahavary while on the Masaola Peninsula. But because of boot difficulties, I could not make the six hour hike. It turned out to be my only "mission incomplete" of the trip. If I do return,I want to go back up there. This is where three of the "BIG" boys grow.Dypsis bejofo, Marojejya darianii and Lemurophonix halleuxii.We did get some small amounts of seed of two of these. Malaria is running rampant in this area we found out, while on this past trip earlier this year.Many villagers have died including three village chiefs in the last several months.

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Post Number: 32

Jeff Searle



Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006

Posted on: Jun. 11 2006,09:35

[Up](#) [Down](#) [IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

This could be Dypsis catatiana. There were hundreds of these plants growing all along the trail. Many were fruiting this time of the year.

Attached Image



Offline

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Post Number: 33

Jeff Searle



Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006

[Profile](#) Posted on: Jun. 11 2006,10:04

[Profile](#) [Down Arrow](#) [IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

This is *Dypsis marojejyi* growing in between Camps 2 and 3. There were very few of these palms that we could find and are known only to come from this mountain region. This is an extremely rare find and even more so in cultivation. It has grouped leaflets, which separates it from *D. perreri*, a close litter trapping cousin.

Attached Image



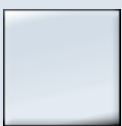
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Post Number: 34

John Dransfield



Group: Members

[Profile](#) Posted on: Jun. 11 2006,10:06

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Great pics that have made me really nostalgic. I wonder if the picture you posted is perhaps *D. spicata* rather than *D. catatiana*. *D. spicata* is incredibly abundant on Marojejy and one really has to look at the stamens to distinguish it from *D. catatiana* (see POM). I know you cannot be sure when the palm is in fruit.

John

Posts: 24
Joined: Jan. 2003

Offline

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Post Number: 35

Gileno Machado 



Group: Members
Posts: 1237
Joined: Nov. 2004

 **Posted on:** Jun. 11 2006,11:05

  [IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

Quote (Jeff Searle @ June 10 2006,13:32)

One of the first palms we saw was Dypsis catatiana. It was quite abundant throughout the lower elevations.

A shining Beauty...!

Gileno Machado

Sirinhaém beach, 80 km south of Recife - Brazil

latitude 8 S

tropical weather. Ocean breezes. temp extremes: 25C to 31C

2000 mm average rainfall, dry summers

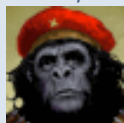
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Post Number: 36

palmazon 

Banana Republican



Group: Members
Posts: 1155
Joined: Apr. 2003

 **Posted on:** Jun. 11 2006,11:08

  [IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

brilliant - thanks

life springs eternal from the dirt

we will sell no palm before its time...

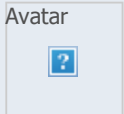
Offline

 [Profile](#) [Contact](#)

Post Number: 37

gtlevine 

Avatar



Group: Members
Posts: 556
Joined: Jan. 2003

 **Posted on:** Jun. 11 2006,11:23

  [IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

Quote (Jeff Searle @ June 10 2006,22:00)

Hello Gary,
Hey good to hear your going next year! You have plenty of time to plan and prepare. Going with any other palm junkies ? I loved to know where your going and what species your looking for. You got alittle ahead of my pic`s. , were still climbing to Camp 3. But to answer your question, no, we did not see D. pumila, because it is about 3-4 hrs. hike up(very steep) to the summit from Camp 3. Pete, our guide and I walked approx. 2 hrs. and then decided to turn around and come back to Camp 3. Just not much to look at and only two species grow up there! I got goose bumps just thinking about it.

What a great post to see all these pictures. I am not going for anythin specific, more of a survey. I will be spending 10 days around Marojeja and Maosoala, a week in central and a week in southern Madagascar. I will be looking for Xerophytic plants as well as palms. As far as palms go, I would love to get Pumila, this should be a great palm for cooler Southern California. I would also love to get seed from Dypsis Marojejya. Did any of the Marojejya you saw

have seed? Keep posting the pics,

Gary

Gary Le Vine

Escondido, Ca (San Diego County)

Zone 10b, 20 miles from the beach.

 Offline



[Profile](#)

[Contact](#)

Post Number: 38

Jeff Searle 



Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006

 Offline



Posted on: Jun. 11 2006,12:59



[IGNORE](#)

["QUOTE"](#)

JOHN,

After looking back at my notes, I had noted that the gang(Pete, Bill, Guy, and myself) was very much confused on these two species. Guy, whose help was tremendous in all our travels was stumped on this. The different leaf forms can play havoc.

Also, can you please shed some light on the Dypsis sp. with the brilliant orange coloring that is found in Marojejy ? Many thanks.....

Searle Brothers Nursery &

The Rainforest Collection



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Post Number: 39

Jeff Searle 



Posted on: Jun. 11 2006,13:08



[IGNORE](#)

["QUOTE"](#)

A staghorn species growing at high elevations near Camp 3. Plat. madagascariensis  Does anyone know ?

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



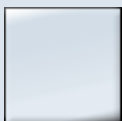
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Post Number: 40

Jeff Searle



Posted on: Jun. 11 2006,13:27

[↑](#) [IGNORE](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

We believe this beautiful palm is *Dypsis andrianatonga*. Another very unusual palm found growing up at high elevations. Our guide told us it was approx. 1200 m.
Does anyone know of one growing in cultivation ?

Attached Image

Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006



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117 replies since Jun. 10 2006,13:31

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April 05

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