

MALVACEAE

Abutilon whistleri Fosb.

SAMOAN NAME: none

ENGLISH NAME: none

STATUS: rare Samoa endemic

REASON FOR LISTING: rarity of collections

SUGGESTED ACTION: Botanical survey of the montane region of Savai'i, especially the north-central slope of the island, to determine its frequency.

Endemic to Samoa, where it is restricted to montane and cloud forest on Savai'i, reported from ca. 800 to 1400 m elevation. No Samoan names or uses have been reported, since this plant is inconspicuous and found only at high elevations. It is most closely related to three species in eastern Polynesia. Recommended for the Red List of Samoan plants.

Medium-size to large tree up to 18 m in height, with stellate-pubescent stems. **Leaves** simple, alternate; blade ovate to cordate, 8–18 cm long, cordate at the base, acuminate at the tip; surfaces stellate-pubescent, particularly the lower side; margins irregularly denticulate; petiole 5–6 cm long, stellate-pubescent. **Inflorescence** an axillary, few-flowered raceme up to 10 cm long, with a stellate-pubescent rachis. **Calyx** campanulate, up to 1 cm long, divided about halfway into 5 oblong-ovate, blunt-tipped lobes, velvety-pubescent on the outside, on a pedicel 1–2 cm long. **Corolla** of 5 obovate, white petals ca. 2 cm long. **Ovary** superior, 5-celled, with a 5-lobed stigma. **Stamens** many, monadelphous. **Fruit** a green, depressed-globose capsule 1.2–1.4 cm across, truncate at the top, divided into 19 or 20 segments, stellate-pubescent. **Flowering** reported in June, fruiting in September, but both probably of longer duration.

Distinguishable by its tree habit; alternate, heart-shaped leaves; stellate-pubescence covering most of the surfaces; white flowers with monadelphous stamens; and a many-segmented capsule.

SAVAII:

Christophersen 2677—Montane forest behind Sala'ilua at 1300–1400 m elevation.

Whistler 2476—Montane forest above Ā'opo at ca. 1140 m elevation.

Whistler 10243—Montane forest above Ā'opo at ca. 1120 to 1320 m elevation.

