ARECACEAE

Balaka samoensis Becc.

Balaka siliensis Christoph.

SAMOAN NAME: *māniuniu* (a generic name)

ENGLISH NAME: none

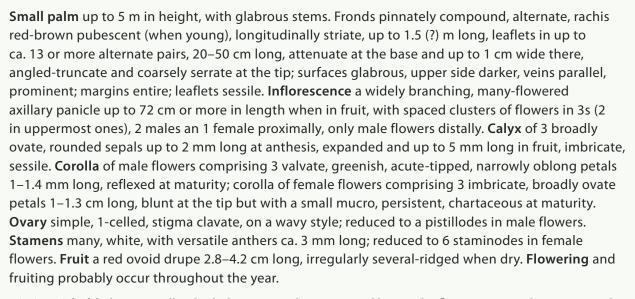
STATUS: rare Samoa endemic

REASON FOR LISTING: rarity of collections

SUGGESTED ACTION: Not much can be done for this palm, which is vulnerable because it has been reported only from the lowlands. It should be looked for in any midelevation forests on Savai'i in any surveys done there. Recommended for the Red List of Samoan plants.

Endemic to Samoa, where it occurs in foothill forest on Savai'i, reported from 300 to 450 m elevation. It is called *māniuniu*, which is a generic name for species of *Balaka*. No local uses have been reported. It is very similar to *Balaka brachyclamys*, which apparently occurs on 'Upolu

and Savai'i, and the two may be conspecific. Further collecting and study is needed.



Distinguishable by its small palm habit; pinnately compound leaves; leaflets serrate and truncate at the tip; sepals of fruit less than 7 mm long and wide; and fruits 3–4.2 cm long with several irregular ridges when dry. It differs from the similar *Balaka brachyclamys*, which has shorter fruits. It differs from *Balaka taitensis* and *Balaka tuasivica*, which have much smaller fruits, petals, and sepals.



SAVAII:

Christophersen 3260—Foothill forest above Sili at 300 m elevation.

Christophersen 3266—Foothill forest

above Sili at 300 m elevation.

Bristol 2291—Foothill forest above

Gātaivae at 350-450 m elevation.

Bristol 2293—Foothill forest above Gātaivae

at 350-450 m elevation.

SINE LOC:

Whitmee 4 (7?)—Without further locality.