

Bulbophyllum trachyanthum Kraenzl.

SAMOAN NAME: none

ENGLISH NAME: none

REASON FOR LISTING: rarity of collections

STATUS: rare indigenous

SUGGESTED ACTION: Not much can be done for this orchid, since epiphytic orchids are hard to locate because they are often high up in the forest canopy. Its infrequency of collection may be a result of this rather than actual rarity.

Indigenous to Samoa, ranging westward to New Guinea. In Samoa it occurs in foothill to montane forest of Savai'i, reported from 400 to 1030 m elevation. No Samoan names or uses are reported.

Medium-sized epiphytic orchid with clustered pseudobulbs on a short rhizome ca. 3 mm in diameter, these 3–10 mm apart, narrowly conical to conical-ovoid, weakly 4-angled, 1.8–3 x 0.7–1.3 cm. **Leaves** simple, alternate, blade oblong-lanceolate to oblong-elliptic, 7.5–13 x 1.2–2.2 cm, slenderly petiolate at the base, acute or subacute at the tip; surfaces glabrous; margins entire; petiole 0.5–1.5 cm long. **Inflorescence** of a solitary flower on a peduncle up to 20 cm long; bearing 4 or 5 clasping, ovate, acuminate-tipped bracts much shorter than the ovary; flower large, the sepals green to greenish brown with numerous purple blotches, the petals yellow-green with purple tips, the lip greenish yellow; pedicel and ovary up to 4 cm long. Sepals unequal, dorsal sepal lanceolate, linear-acuminate at the tip, 28–35 x ca. 5 mm; lateral sepals falcate, lanceolate, acuminate at the tip, 25–30 x 4–4.5 mm. **Petals** ovate at the base, linear-clavate at the tip, 12–14 x 3 x ca. 4 mm. Lip fleshy, arcuate, oblong-ligulate, obtuse, ca. 5 x 3 mm, weakly sulcate at the base; column 3–4 mm long, with weakly quadrate stelidia; foot ca. 3 mm long. **Fruit** a ribbed, fusiform capsule ca. 3.3 cm long. **Flowering** and fruiting probably anytime of the year.

Distinguishable by its medium-sized epiphytic orchid habit; creeping rhizome with pseudobulbs bearing leaves singly; leaf blade up to 13 cm long; and showy purple and yellow flowers over 2.5 cm long.

SAVAII:

Christophersen 2188—"Wet forest" above Matāvanu Crater at 1030 m elevation.

Christophersen 3177—Foothill forest above Sili at 400 m elevation.

