

Chrysoglossum ornatum Bl.

Chrysoglossum gibbsiae Rolfe

Chrysophyllum gibbsiae sensu Whistler
(1979)

SAMOAN NAME: none

ENGLISH NAME: none

STATUS: rare indigenous

REASON FOR LISTING: rarity of collections

SUGGESTED ACTION: Not much can be done for this orchid, since it is widely dispersed in elevation (600 to 1600 m) on two of the islands, and is probably in no immediate danger.

Indigenous to Samoa, ranging westward to India. In Samoa it occurs in montane to cloud forest on Savai'i and 'Upolu, reported from 600 to 1600 m elevation. No Samoan names or uses are reported.



Medium-sized terrestrial orchid 30–65 cm in height, with a rhizome bearing erect, narrowly conical, laxly spaced pseudobulbs 2.5–4 x 0.5–0.9 cm. **Leaves** simple, alternate, erect; blade elliptic to oblong-elliptic, 20–30 x 5.5–9.5 cm, long-attenuate at the base, acute or acuminate at the tip; surfaces glabrous; margins entire; petiole 5–11 cm long. **Inflorescence** an erect, laxly several-flowered raceme 30–65 cm long, bearing bracts 5–6 mm long; flowers yellow or greenish yellow with red markings on the lip; ovary 10–15 mm long. Sepals unequal; dorsal sepal oblong-lanceolate, acute-tipped, 12–17 x 3–4 mm; lateral sepals falcate, lanceolate-oblong, acute at the tip, 10–15 x 2.5–3.5 mm; mentum obtuse, 1.5–2 mm long. **Petals** falcate, lanceolate, acute at the tip, 13–18 x 2.5–3 mm. Lip 3-lobed in the middle, 9–11 x 5–6, acute at the base, with the basal margins undulate; side lobes erect, falcate-rounded; midlobe ovate, with upturned sides, obtuse; callus 3-ridged, the outer ridges reaching the middle of the midlobe, the central one much shorter; column slender, 7–8 mm long, with an auricle halfway along the lower margin on each side. **Fruit** a narrow, ribbed capsule ca. 3 cm long. **Flowering** has been reported in Samoa in May and November, and in Fiji from October to February, so both probably occur throughout the year.

Distinguishable by its medium-sized terrestrial herb habit; narrowly conical pseudobulbs; strongly veined leaves 20–30 cm long; several-flowered raceme 30–65 cm long; and yellow flowers marked with red on the lip.

SAVAII:

Whistler 10088a—Terrestrial on a crater rim near Mataoleafi at 1600 m elevation.

UPOLU:

Whistler 1107—Epiphyte in montane forest on Mt. Taito'elau at ca. 600 m elevation.