

Cryptostylis arachnites (Bl.) Hassk.

Cryptostylis alismifolia F. Muell.

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 (500 to 1200 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 foothill to montane forest of Savai'i and 'Upolu, and in American Samoa from Ta'ū (two collections in 1976), reported from 500 to 1200 m elevation. No uses or names have been reported.



Medium-sized terrestrial orchid up to 40 cm in height, 1- or 2-leaved, with glabrous stems and short erect rhizomes. **Leaves** simple, alternate; blade elliptic to elliptic-ovate, 10–19 cm long, acute to subround at the base, acuminate at the tip; surfaces glabrous, upper side often marked with darker green longitudinal and transverse venation; margins entire; petiole 6–16 cm long, attached to the top of the sheath. **Inflorescence** a laxly 7–15-flowered raceme up to 35 cm long, ovary ca. 2 cm long. Sepals similar, green, free, spreading, linear-lanceolate, 14–18 x 2.5–2.8 mm. **Petals** similar to sepals, but 10–13 x 1.5–1.7 mm. Lip erect, much larger than the sepals and petals, broadly lanceolate, acuminate at the tip, 15–20 x 5.5–7 mm, reddish and marked with darker red spots, the disk densely puberulent; column ca. 2 mm long. **Fruit** a narrowly ovoid capsule ca. 1.5–2.5 cm long. **Flowering** reported in Samoa from July to October, but both flowering and fruiting probably occur throughout the year.

Distinguishable by its medium-sized ground orchid habit; elliptic leaves often marked with darker venation; 7–15-flowered racemes; and greenish, linear-lanceolate petals and sepals 1–1.8 cm long with the lip marked with red spots.

SAVAII:

Christophersen 2185—Swampy ground above Matāvanu Crater at 1200 m elevation.

UPOLU:

Horne 44—Without further locality.

Betche s.n.—Without further locality.

OTHER SAMOAN COLLECTIONS: Ta'ū (2).