

Erythrodes purpurascens Schltr.

Cheirostylis sp. of Yuncker

Erythrodes parvula sensu Kores (1991), pro parte

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 appears to have a wide distribution and wide elevation range. It is much more common in American Samoa, so is relatively not too vulnerable in the archipelago.

Indigenous to Samoa, ranging westward to New Guinea. In Samoa it occurs in lowland to foothill forests of 'Upolu, and in American Samoa on Tutuila and Ta'ū, reported from 300–450 m. No Samoan names or uses have been reported.

Small terrestrial herb up to 32 cm in height. **Leaves** simple, alternate; blade obliquely ovate, 3–5.5 × 1.5–2.2 cm, rounded to acute at the base, acute at the tip; surfaces glabrous; margins entire; petiole 1.2–2.5 cm long including the sheathing base. **Inflorescence** a several-flowered raceme up to 28 cm long, bearing lanceolate, acuminate-tipped bracts 5–8 mm long; flowers white within, brown on outside and with brown marks on lip, pedicel and ovary 6–8 mm long, pubescent. Sepals similar, elliptic-lanceolate, 2.5–4 × ca. 1 mm, glabrous or very sparsely pubescent on outer surface. **Petals** obliquely oblanceolate, acute at the tip, 2.5–3.5 × 0.7–0.8 mm. Lip subpandurate, 2.5–4.5 mm long, the apical lamina ovate, obtuse; spur 1.5–2.5 mm long, bilobed, usually with 2 small calli within; column 2.5–3.5 mm long. **Fruit** a sparsely pubescent, fusiform capsule 8–11 mm long. **Flowering** and fruiting probably occur throughout the year.

Distinguishable by small terrestrial habit; ovate leaves less than 6 cm long; several-flowered raceme up to 28 cm long; flowers brown on the outside and white within; a short spur up to 2.5 mm long; and pubescent ovary.

UPOLU:

Whistler 4388—Montane forest on the rim of Mt. Fiamoe at 910 m elevation.

Whistler 10139—Lowland forest behind Sauniatu at 300 m elevation.

OTHER SAMOAN COLLECTIONS: Tutuila (4), Ta'ū (5).

