

Liparis gibbosa Finet

Liparis disticha auct. non Lindl.

Liparis sp. of Christoph. (in part)

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 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. It might turn up in an orchid survey of the upper part of the Matavanu lava flow, which might give an indication of its frequency (on the lava flow at least).

Indigenous to Samoa, ranging westward to Southeast Asia. It occurs in Samoa as an epiphyte in lava flow scrub on Savai'i, and in American Samoa in montane scrub on Tutuila, reported from 500 to 620 m elevation. No Samoan names or uses have been reported.

Small epiphytic orchid with well-spaced, ovoid, pseudobulbs 1–2 x 1–1.5 cm, each bearing a single leaf. Leaf simple, erect; blade linear, 9–23 x 0.8–1.2 cm, broadly tapering at the base, acute at the tip; surfaces glabrous; margins entire; petiole sheathing at the base. **Inflorescence** an erect, several-flowered raceme 5–16 cm long, borne on a slender, somewhat flattened (winged above) peduncle, bearing distichous, imbricate, conduplicate, ovate, acuminate-tipped bracts; flowers successive, yellow-green to pale orange with a darker orange-brown lip, ovary ca. 6 mm long. Sepals similar, reflexed, oblong-elliptic to ovate, 5–6 x 2.2–2.4 mm, abruptly acuminate at the tip. **Petals** erect, oblanceolate, 4.5–6 x 1–1.5 mm, subacute at the tip. Lip strongly recurved, more or less orbicular-ovate, 4–4.5 x 3.5–4 mm, acute at the tip; callus basal, obscure, bilobed; column dilated at base, winged at the tip, 2–2.5 mm long. **Fruit** a weakly 6-ribbed, obovoid capsule 0.6–1.2 mm long. **Flowering** reported from October to December, fruiting at the same time, but both probably occur throughout the year.

Distinguishable by its small epiphytic orchid habit; spaced pseudobulbs each bearing a linear leaf 9–23 cm long; and a long-stalked raceme of small orange and green flowers clustered at the tip among small bracts.

SAVAII:

Whistler 9365—Lava flow scrub on the rim of Matavanu Crater at 600 m elevation.

OTHER SAMOAN COLLECTIONS: Tutuila (6).

