

*Microstylis samoensis* Schltr.

*Liparis* sp. of Yuncker

*Malaxis samoensis* (Schltr.) Whistler

*Malaxis schlechteri* (Rolfe) L.O. Williams

**SAMOAN NAME:** none

**ENGLISH NAME:** none

**STATUS:** rare archipelago endemic (in independent Samoa)

**REASON FOR LISTING:** rarity of collections

**SUGGESTED ACTION:** Not much can be done for this orchid, which in independent Samoa appears to be restricted to the eastern end of 'Upolu. It is much more common in American Samoa, so is relatively not too vulnerable in the archipelago as a whole.

Endemic to Samoa, restricted to 'Upolu (based on one old record), where it is rare, and in American Samoa on Tutuila, Olosega, and Ta'ū, where it is more common. It occurs in lowland to cloud forest, reported from 300 to 800 m elevation. No Samoan names or uses have been reported.

**Small terrestrial orchid** with short cylindrical stems up to 3.5 cm long. **Leaves** simple, alternate, 3–4; blade suberect, lanceolate or narrowly lanceolate, 5–11.5 x 0.8–1.6 cm, attenuate at the base, acuminate-tipped; surfaces glabrous; margins entire; slenderly petiolate at the base. **Inflorescence** an erect, laxly few-flowered raceme 12–15 cm long, bearing reflexed, lanceolate, acuminate-tipped bracts 4–9 mm long; flowers white or pale greenish; pedicle and ovary 4–5 mm but elongating to ca. 1.5 cm long after fertilization. Sepals unequal; dorsal sepal oblong, obtuse,

ca. 3 x 1.5 mm; lateral sepals obliquely oblong, obtuse, ca. 3 x 1.3 mm. **Petals** linear, obtuse, 2.5–3 x ca. 0.5 mm. Lip erect, broadly subcircular, obscurely 3-lobed, ca. 4 x 4 mm; side lobes rounded, 3- or 4-toothed in front; midlobe oblong, deeply emarginated, each lobule acuminate at the tip; callus obscurely horseshoe-shaped; column short. **Fruit** a broadly fusiform capsule 8–11 mm long. **Flowering** and fruiting probably occur throughout the year.

**Distinguishable** by its small terrestrial orchid habit; subfalcate leaves less than 12 x 1.6 cm; racemes up to 15 cm long bearing white to pale green flowers subtended by small, reflexed, acuminate-tipped bracts; and a shield shaped labellum with toothed margins.

**UPOLU:**

Betche s.n.? ("lost")—Without further locality.

Whistler 3250—Montane forest on ridge southeast of Mt. Fao.

Whistler 4701—Ridge north of Olomaga on the old Richardson Track at ca. 350 m elevation.

**OTHER SAMOAN COLLECTIONS:** Tutuila (7), Olosega (3), Ta'ū (5).

