

Nervilia grandiflora Schltr.

SAMOAN NAME: none

ENGLISH NAME: none

STATUS: rare Samoa endemic

REASON FOR LISTING: rarity of collections

SUGGESTED ACTION: Not much can be done for this orchid, since it has been collected only once without further locality on Savai'i. Recommended for the Red List of Samoan plants.

Endemic to Samoa, where it is restricted to Savai'i. No ecological or elevational information were recorded on the one known specimen, which is now lost. No Samoan names or uses have been reported.

Small terrestrial orchid up to 35 cm in height, bearing a single leaf. **Leaves** simple, alternate; blade subreniform-cordate, 7–8 x 10–11 cm, shortly apiculate at the tip; surfaces, glabrous; margins entire; petiole ca. 12 cm long. **Inflorescence** a 2-flowered raceme; flowers greenish-yellow (?), erect-spreading; pedicel and ovary ca. 13 mm long. Sepals similar, the dorsal sepal lanceolate, acuminate at the tip, ca. 30 x 4.5 mm; the laterals slightly oblique. **Petals** obtuse at the tip, 18 x 8 mm, slightly thickened longitudinally in the center; column ca. 10 mm long, glabrous. **Flowering** and fruiting times not recorded. (Description is abbreviated because the only specimen has been lost.)

Distinguishable by its small terrestrial orchid habit; mostly single, basal, heart-shaped leaf; flowering appearing after the leaf dies back; and raceme bearing 2, probably greenish-white flowers.

SAVAII:

Vaupel 590—(Apparently lost).

NOTE: No photograph is available, since the only known collection of it, in ca. 1906, has disappeared, probably destroyed in Berlin during World War II.