

*Nervilia aragoana* Gaudich.

*Gastrodia* sp. of Reinecke

*Pongonia flabelliformis* Lindl.

**SAMOAN NAME:** none

**ENGLISH NAME:** none

**STATUS:** rare indigenous

**REASON FOR LISTING:** rarity of modern collections

**SUGGESTED ACTION:** Not much can be done for this orchid, since it has been so widely collected in the lowlands, but infrequently in recent times. It is not easy to find since it usually somewhat solitary and during part of the year it loses its only leaf. It should be looked for in future lowland surveys on the two main islands.

Indigenous to Samoa, ranging from India to eastern Polynesia. In Samoa it occurs in lowland to montane forest on Savai'i and 'Upolu, as well as on Tutuila, Ofu, and Ta'u in American Samoa, reported from 10 to 500 m elevation. It is sometimes difficult to recognize since it loses its leaves during flowering. No Samoan names or uses have been reported.

**Small terrestrial orchid** arising from a jointed subterranean tuber, bearing a single leaf. Leaf simple, erect; blade plicate, cordate, 12–15 x 14–18 cm, cordate at the base, acute at the tip; surfaces glabrous, upper side often marked with dark maroon; margins entire; petiole 15–30 cm long. **Inflorescence** a laxly 5–15-flowered raceme up to 45 cm in height, bearing linear to linear-lanceolate bracts 1.5–2.5 cm long; flowers pendent or nodding, probably self-pollinating, greenish yellow with a white lip marked with rose or violet veins, ovary ca. 8–10 mm long. Sepals similar, linear-lanceolate, 2–2.5 cm long, acute at the tip. **Petals** similar to sepals. Lip 3-lobed near the tip, 2–2.4 x ca. 0.7 cm; side lobes small, erect, triangular; midlobe subovate, acute to obtuse at the tip, with undulate margins; callus puberulent in middle; column clavate, ca. 7 mm long. **Fruit** an ovoid capsule 0.9–1.2 cm long, with the persistent perianth on top. **Flowering** reported from August to November, fruiting in October and November, but both probably occur for a longer duration.

**Distinguishable** by its small terrestrial orchid habit; mostly single, basal, heart-shaped leaf; flowering appearing after the leaf dies back; and raceme with 5 or more greenish yellow flowers marked with white and red.

**SAVAII:**

Reinecke s.n. (lost?)—Common in coastal forest (“coastal bush”).

Vaupel 508—(Specimen not at Bishop Museum—lost?).

Rechinger 1948—Secondary forest near Āsau.

Rechinger 5271—Foothill forest near Ā'opo at 500 m elevation.

Christophersen 2878—Coastal or littoral forest between Sala'ilua and Lata'itai at 5 m elevation.

Christophersen 3406—Coastal forest between Papa and Fagalele at 10 m elevation.



**UPOLU:**

Reinecke 140 ("lost")—Native forest at Mulifanua.

Reinecke 601 ("lost")—Le Pua [Le Pu'e?].

Whistler 7008—Lowland forest near Sa'agatuai east of Si'umu at ca. 3 m elevation.

Whistler 8084—Lowland forest on inner slope of Lalomanu Crater at 220 m elevation.

**OTHER SAMOAN COLLECTIONS:** Tutuila (1), Ofu (2), Ta'ū (1).