

Peristylus tradescantifolius (Rchb. f.) Kores
Habenaria cyrtostigma Schltr.
Habenaria tradescantifolia Rchb. f.
Habenaria tradescantifolia var. *pinquior*
Fleischm. & Rechinger

SAMOAN NAME: none

ENGLISH NAME: none

STATUS: rare indigenous (but not rare in American Samoa)

REASON FOR LISTING: rarity of modern collections

SUGGESTED ACTION: Not much can be done for this orchid, since it has been collected over a wide geographic and elevation range. It should be looked for in future botanical surveys, particularly in intact forest. It is more common in American Samoa.

Indigenous to Samoa, also found in Fiji and Tonga. In Samoa it occurs in lowland to montane forest on all the main islands, reported from 200 to 1000 m elevation, and is much more common in American Samoa than in independent Samoa. No Samoan names or uses have been reported.

Terrestrial herb 30–65 cm in height. **Leaves** 7 or 8, scattered in upper half of stem; blade lanceolate, 8–20 × 1–2.8 cm, subtended by 5 or 6 sheathing cataphylls, acute to acuminate at the base, long-acuminate at the tip; surfaces glabrous; margins entire; petiole indistinct, sheathing at the base. **Inflorescence** a laxly many-flowered raceme 19–55 cm long, bearing lanceolate bracts 5–14 mm long; flowers pale green or greenish white, pedicel and ovary 10–13 mm long. Sepals unequal, dorsal sepal ovate, obtuse, 2.3–3.2 × 1.2–2 mm; lateral sepals obliquely oblong-elliptic, obtuse, 2.5–3 × 1–1.5 mm. **Petals** obliquely ovate, obtuse, 2.5–3.3 × 1.5–2 mm. Lip 3-lobed, obscurely 3-ridged at base; side lobes linear-tapering, recurving towards tip, 4.2–5.5 mm long; midlobe triangular-ligulate, fleshy, 1.5–2 mm long; spur cylindrical-fusiform, slightly incurved, 5–7.5 mm long; column ca. 1 mm long. **Fruit** a fusiform capsule 1–1.3 cm long. **Flowering** and fruiting recorded from May to September, but both probably occur throughout the year.

Distinguishable by its medium-sized terrestrial fern habit; lanceolate leaves 1–2.5 cm wide; raceme up to 55 cm long bearing white flowers less than 6 mm long; and a narrow spur up to 7.5 mm long.

SAVAII:

Vaupel 584—(Apparently lost).

Rechinger 1146—Lowland forest near Patamea at 200 m elevation.

Christophersen 2093—Montane forest above Matāvanu Crater at 900 m elevation.

UPOLU:

Graeffe 1286—In lowland forest on Mt. Vaea, no elevation recorded.

Rechinger 732—Montane forest at Lake Lanoto'o at 700 m elevation.

Rechinger 1802—Montane forest at Lake Lanoto'o at 700 m elevation.

Whistler 3989—Montane forest south of Mt. Fito at ca. 700 m elevation.



SINE LOC:

USEE s.n.—Without further locality.

OTHER SAMOAN COLLECTIONS: Tutuila (2), Ofu (1), Olosega (2), and Ta'ū (4).

NOTE: Cribb and Whistler (1996) included four other specimens in this species, as shown below. These appear to be instead *Habenaria samoensis*, since they have larger flowers, longer leaves, and a thicker fruit. In any case, the orchid has not been collected in independent Samoa since 1931.

Christophersen 649—Montane forest above Matāvanu Crater, Savai'i, at 800 m elevation.

Christophersen 838—Montane forest above Matāvanu Crater Savai'i, at 1000 m elevation.

Christophersen 2284—Montane forest above Matāvanu Crater Savai'i, at 850 m elevation.

Christophersen 368—Montane forest near Lake Lanoto'o, 'Upolu, at 700 m elevation.