

Schoenorchis micrantha Reinw. ex Bl.

Schoenorchis densiflora Schltr.

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.

Indigenous to Samoa, ranging from Southeast Asia to Samoa. In Samoa it occurs as an epiphyte in lowland to cloud forest on Savai'i and 'Upolu, reported from 50 to 1600 m elevation. No Samoan names or uses have been reported.

Small epiphytic orchid with clustered branching stems up to 15 cm long. **Leaves** simple, alternate; blade fleshy, recurved-cylindrical, 3–6 x ca. 0.2 cm, articulated to 0.3–0.5 cm long sheath, acute at the tip; surfaces glabrous, dorsal surface slightly channeled; margins entire; sessile. **Inflorescence** a densely many-flowered raceme 2–5 cm long, peduncle short, bearing bracts ca. 1 mm long; flowers tiny, white flushed with pink, turning yellow with age; ovary 2–3 mm long. Sepals similar, oblong to oblong-ovate, subacute at the tip, 1.5–2 x 0.6–0.8 mm. **Petals** oblique, oblong-obovate, subacute or retuse at the tip, 1.3–1.8 x 0.3–0.5 mm. Lip closely appressed to the column, 1.3–1.5 mm long, with a low callus in the mouth of the spur; side lobes erect, fleshy, broader than long; midlobe porrect, fleshy, laterally compressed; spur saccate, 0.8–1 mm long; column ca. 0.6 mm long. **Fruit** a fusiform capsule 0.8–1.2 cm long. **Flowering** in Fiji has been noted in July and August, fruiting between February and August in Fiji and in October in Samoa, but both probably occurring throughout the year.

Distinguishable by its small epiphytic orchid habit; cylindrical leaves up to 6 cm long curved back; short racemes of tiny white flowers up to 2 mm long, and turning yellow after anthesis.

SAVAII:

Cox 286—Specimen not seen during the present study; it is not at Bishop, but may be at the Gray Herbarium).

Whistler 926—Epiphyte in lowland forest east of the old Potlatch timber mill at Āsau at ca. 50 m elevation.

UPOLU:

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

