Spiranthes sinensis (Pers.) Ames

SAMOAN NAME: none

ENGLISH NAME: none

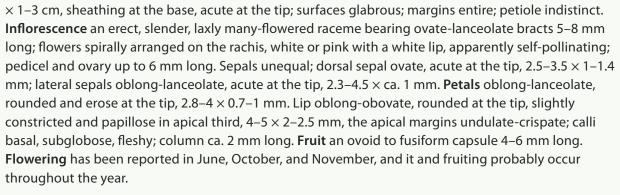
STATUS: rare indigenous

REASON FOR LISTING: rarity of collections

SUGGESTED ACTION: This wide-ranging species likes volcanic substrates, and it should be looked for during any surveys of the upper half of the Matavanu lava flow, and on the Mataoleafi volcanic area. A survey of the ash plain there could produce a frequency at that site.

Indigenous to Samoa, ranging from India to Niue. In Samoa it occurs only on lava flows of Savai'i, reported from 370 to 1600 m elevation. It is unusual that all four collections from Samoa have occurred since 1975, but this perhaps is because of its tiny inconspicuous appearance. No Samoan names or uses have been reported.

Terrestrial herb 8–20 cm or more in height. **Leaves** simple, alternate, mostly basal, grass-like; blade linear-lanceolate, 2–10



Distinguishable by its small, narrow, terrestrial herb habit; linear leaves up to 10 cm long; and tiny pink flowers spiraling conspicuously around the stem.

SAVAII:

Whistler 2584—Cinder plain at Matāvanu at 1550 m elevation.

Whistler 9387—Lava flow scrub below Matāvanu.

Whistler 9618—Ash plain at Mataoleafi at ca. 1550 m elevation.

Whistler 11721—Middle of the unpaved road leading to Matāvanu at 370 m elevation.

