

*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 × 1–3 cm, sheathing at the base, acute at the tip; surfaces glabrous; margins entire; petiole indistinct. **Inflorescence** an erect, slender, laxly many-flowered raceme bearing ovate-lanceolate bracts 5–8 mm long; flowers spirally arranged on the rachis, white or pink with a white lip, apparently self-pollinating; pedicel and ovary up to 6 mm long. **Sepals** unequal; dorsal sepal ovate, acute at the tip, 2.5–3.5 × 1–1.4 mm; lateral sepals oblong-lanceolate, acute at the tip, 2.3–4.5 × ca. 1 mm. **Petals** oblong-lanceolate, rounded and erose at the tip, 2.8–4 × 0.7–1 mm. **Lip** oblong-obovate, rounded at the tip, slightly constricted and papillose in apical third, 4–5 × 2–2.5 mm, the apical margins undulate-crispate; calli basal, subglobose, fleshy; column ca. 2 mm long. **Fruit** an ovoid to fusiform capsule 4–6 mm long. **Flowering** has been reported in June, October, and November, and it and fruiting probably occur throughout the year.

**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.

