

Tropidia effusa Rchb. f.

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 it has been collected only once with any location data (and twice without). Botanical surveys in foothill to montane forest on northeast Savai'i might come up with species, which is much more common in Fiji.

Indigenous to Samoa, also found in Fiji, where it is more common. In Samoa it occurs in foothill forest of Savai'i, reported from ca. 400 m elevation. No local uses or names have been reported.

Medium-sized terrestrial orchid 20–75 cm in height.

Leaves simple, alternate; blade lanceolate, 12–35 x 1.4–5.4 cm, very shortly petiolate above the tubular sheathing base, acuminate at the tip; surfaces glabrous; margins entire.

Inflorescence a many-flowered raceme up to 12 cm long, simple or with a few branches, the flowers produced one at a time on each branch, bearing distichous, conduplicate, broadly ovate to lanceolate, acute-tipped bracts 7–12 mm long; flowers glabrous, white or pale yellow, not opening widely; pedicel and ovary 7–8 mm long. Sepals similar, ovate or lanceolate, acuminate at the tip, 7–10 x 2–2.5 mm.

Petals oblong-lanceolate, acuminate at the tip, 6–8 x 1.5–2.5 mm. Lip oblong-ovate, acute and reflexed at the tip, 5–7 x 2.5–3.5 mm, saccate at the base; callus of two ridges on the lateral veins in the basal part near the tip; column 2.5–3 mm long. **Fruit** a cylindrical-fusiform capsule ca. 2.2 cm long. **Flowering** and fruiting occur throughout the year.

Distinguishable by its terrestrial orchid habit; lanceolate leaves up to 35 cm long; simple or branched racemes with conspicuous distichous bracts; and white to pale flowers developing one at a time.

SAVAII:

Vaupel 531—Specimen probably lost, no data published.

Whistler 39—Plantation forest at Vai'a'ata near Vailoa, south of Tuasivi at ca. 400 m elevation.

SINE LOC.

USEE s.n. (Fiji or Samoa)—Without further locality. (Probably Fiji, where it is more common.)

