

*Zeuxine plantaginea* Schltr.

*Zeuxine androcardium* Schltr.

*Monochilus plantagineus* Rchb. f.

**SAMOAN NAME:** none

**ENGLISH NAME:** none

**STATUS:** rare archipelago endemic

**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 range. It should be looked for in future botanical surveys in the foothill and montane forest of the two main islands. Recommended for the Red List of Samoan plants.

Endemic to Samoa, where it occurs in foothill to montane forest on Savai'i and 'Upolu, as well as on Olosega in American Samoa, reported from 300 to 800 m elevation. No Samoan names or uses have been reported. This orchid should have been put on the American Samoan list of rare plants, but wasn't.

**Small terrestrial orchid** 25–35 cm in height. **Leaves** simple, alternate; blade elliptic-ovate or obliquely elliptic-ovate, 5.5–8.5 x 2.5–3.5 cm, articulated at the base to the indistinct sheath, acute at the tip; surfaces glabrous; margins entire; petiole indistinct. **Inflorescence** a 10–15-flowered raceme 15–20 cm long, peduncle and rachis pubescent, bearing lanceolate, acuminate-tipped bracts 6–12 mm long; flowers small, white, stalk and ovary 5–8 mm long, glandular-pubescent, the perianth more or less at right angles to the ovary. Sepals unequal, dorsal sepal deeply cucullate, ovate, obtuse, 5–5.5 x 3–3.5 mm, forming a hood over the column;

lateral sepals obliquely ovate, obtuse, 5–6 x ca. 3 mm. **Petals** obliquely ovate, subacute at the tip, 5–5.5 x 3–3.5 mm. Lip ca. 5 x 3 mm, saccate at the base, transversely oblong at the tip; callus comprises 2 digitate flanges in the saccate part of the lip. Column short, 3–3.5 mm long. **Fruit** a narrowly fusiform capsule ca. 1.2–1.4 cm long. **Flowering** reported from May to September, fruiting in August and November, but both probably occur throughout the year.

**Distinguishable** by its small terrestrial orchid habit; pubescent, erect, 10–15-flowered racemes; small white flowers with the perianth almost parallel to the ovary; and the dorsal sepal forming a hood over the column.

#### **SAVAII:**

Vaupel 287—Specimen lost, no data recorded.

Christophersen 875—Montane forest near Lake Mata'ulanu above Patamea.

Christophersen 2295—Montane forest east of Olo at 700 to 800 m elevation.

Christophersen 2740—Foothill forest above Sala'ilua at 500 m elevation.

Whistler 593—Forest above Safune at Le Aisa plantation at 500 to 600 m elevation.

#### **UPOLU:**

Christophersen 38—Montane forest west of Lake Lanoto'o at 700 m elevation.

Whistler 4006—Lowland forest near Āfulilo waterfall at 300 m elevation.

**OTHER SAMOAN COLLECTIONS:** Olosega (1).

