

Zeuxine vieillardii (Rchb. f.) Schltr.

Zeuxine samoensis Schltr.

SAMOAN NAME: none

ENGLISH NAME: none

STATUS: rare indigenous

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.

Indigenous to Samoa, ranging westward to New Caledonia. In Samoa it occurs in foothill to montane forest on Savai'i and 'Upolu, reported from 500 to ca. 600 m elevation. No Samoan names or uses have been reported for it.

Small terrestrial orchid 30–40 cm in height. **Leaves** simple, alternate; blade ovate, 2.2–4.5 cm long, oblique at the base, acute at the tip; surfaces glabrous; margins entire; petiole 0.5–1 cm long. **Inflorescence** a many flowered raceme 15–21 cm long, peduncle and rachis sparsely pilose on dorsal sepal; stalk and ovary 3–6 mm long, sparsely villose, the perianth more or less at right angles to the ovary, white with a yellow throat. Sepals unequal, dorsal sepal ovate, blunt, 3–4 x 2 mm, forming a hood over the column; lateral sepals obliquely ovate, obtuse, 3–4 x 2 mm, spreading at anthesis. **Petals** linear-lanceolate, obtuse, 3–3.5 x 1–1.5 mm. Lip 3–3.5 mm long and wide; base saccate, bearing two sessile glands within; tip transversely oblong, 1.5–2 x 3.5 mm, the lobules more or less erect; column 1.5 mm long. **Fruit** a fusiform capsule ca. 8–10 mm long. **Flowering** reported in August and September, fruiting in July, but both probably occur throughout the year.

Distinguishable by small terrestrial orchid habit; ovate leaves less than 5 cm long; long narrow raceme with a hairy rachis; small white perianth with a yellow throat borne somewhat at right angles to the hairy ovary; the lateral sepals spreading at anthesis and the dorsal sepal forming a hood over the column; and a fusiform capsule up to 1 cm long.

SAVAII:

Vaupel 656—Specimen lost, no data recorded.

Rechinger 1884 p.p.—Lowland forest between Ā'opo and Āsau.

Whistler 592—Montane forest near Le Aisa plantation at 500 to 600 m elevation.

UPOLU:

Betche 48—Without further locality.

Whistler 349—Montane forest on Mt. Sina'ele at ca. 650 m elevation.

Whistler 738—Montane forest between Le Pu'e and Tiāvi at 700 m elevation.

