

Prosopidium tuberculatum



Prospodium tuberculatum, a rust, is the first pathogen to be released as a biocontrol agent on lantana in Australia.

Origin

- *Prospodium tuberculatum* occurs naturally in Brazil.
- Cultures of *Prospodium tuberculatum* originated from Brazil.
- The rust was first released in Australia in 2001.

Biology

- The rust attacks the leaves, producing little pustules on the undersides.
- The rust performs best at temperatures of 20°C, with the leaves wet for 9–15 hours.
- *Prospodium tuberculatum* completes its life cycle in three weeks in summer.
- The rust can reproduce relatively quickly and is dispersed by wind.
- Populations of the rust are self-sustaining, as it produces spores that can survive dry winters.

Australian distribution and impact on lantana

- *Prospodium tuberculatum* is common from Fraser Island to Port Macquarie, central New South Wales, as well as on the Atherton Tableland and around Paluma and Mackay, north Queensland.
- The rust prefers moist sites where there is dew or light rain, and temperatures are mild.
- Establishment is greatest in wetter mountain regions of southern Queensland and northern New South Wales.
- Damage will be greatest in the summer months when rainfall is generally higher. Severe infections cause leaf necrosis, leading to premature defoliation.
- *Prospodium tuberculatum* affects only the common pink-flowering lantana variety.



Note: Landholders are advised not to consume their time collecting this insect for distribution. This insect has been widely released and is now found in all areas which are climatically suitable. Due to its own ability to disperse, this insect will be periodically/seasonally present in areas that are climatically suitable for it.

This fact sheet is developed with funding support from the Land Protection Fund.

Fact sheets are available from Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, DAFF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.