

Ophiomyia lantanae



Ophiomyia lantanae, a seed-mining fly, is the most widely distributed biocontrol agent for lantana.

Origin

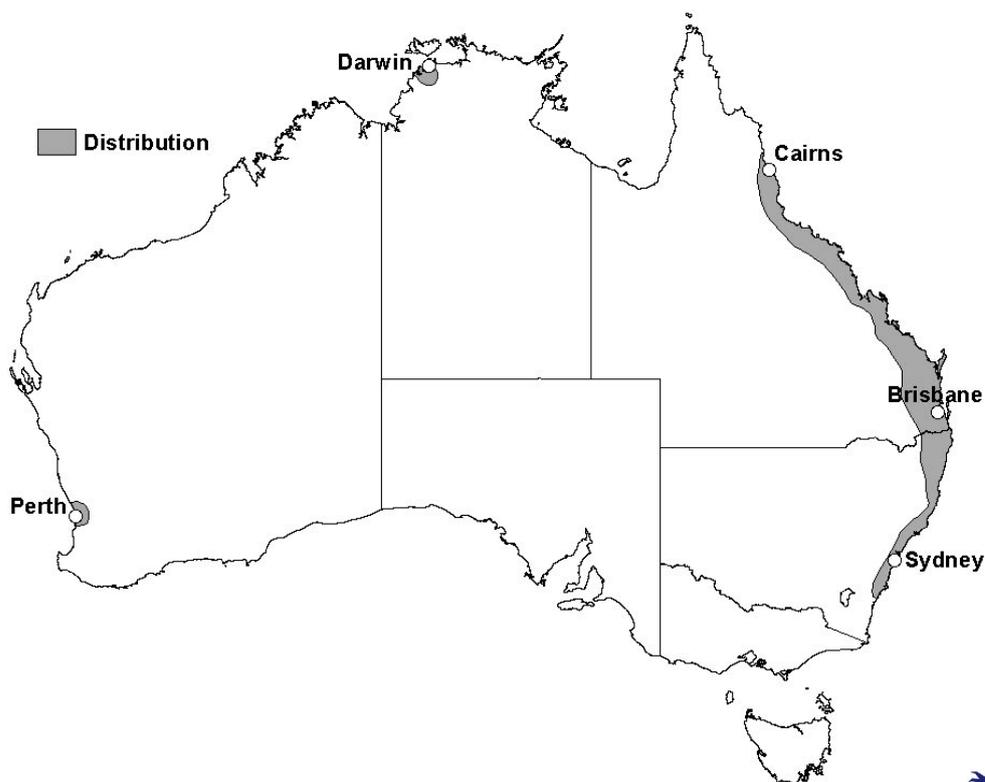
- *Ophiomyia lantanae* occurs naturally from southern United States of America to Brazil.
- Cultures of *Ophiomyia lantanae* originated from Mexico.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1914.

Biology

- Adults feed on nectar or drink water and lay eggs in immature green fruits—one egg per fruit.
- Larvae feed on the fleshy pulp of the seed, but leave the embryo undamaged.
- Development from egg to adult takes about 24 days.
- Adults live for about 12 days.

Australian distribution and impact on lantana

- *Ophiomyia lantanae* is found from the Torres Strait islands to southern New South Wales, and also around Darwin and Perth.
- The fly is common in the moist, warm areas where lantana flowers readily.
- The fly causes the greatest damage in late summer and autumn, when up to 80% of fruit can be infested. Damaged fruits are unattractive to birds (the main seed dispersers), so seed dispersal is reduced.
- *Ophiomyia lantanae* can be found on all varieties of *Lantana camara*.



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.

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