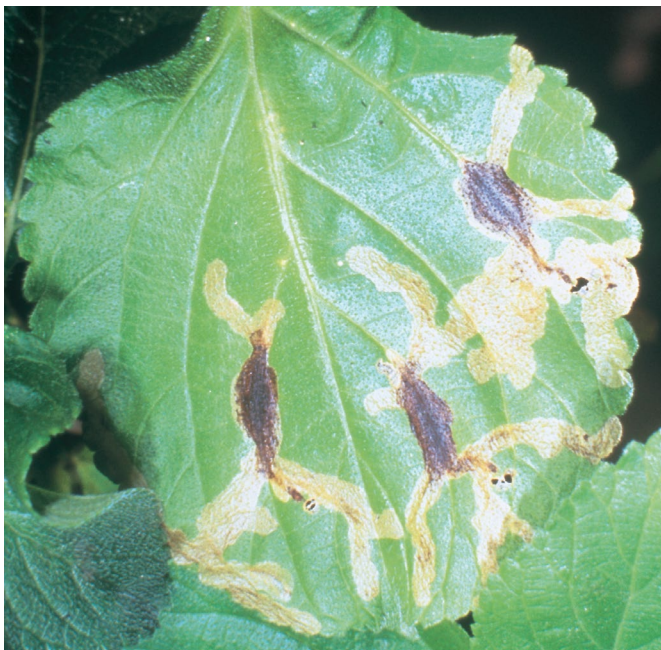


Octotoma championi



Octotoma championi, a leaf-mining beetle, has only a limited distribution.

Origin

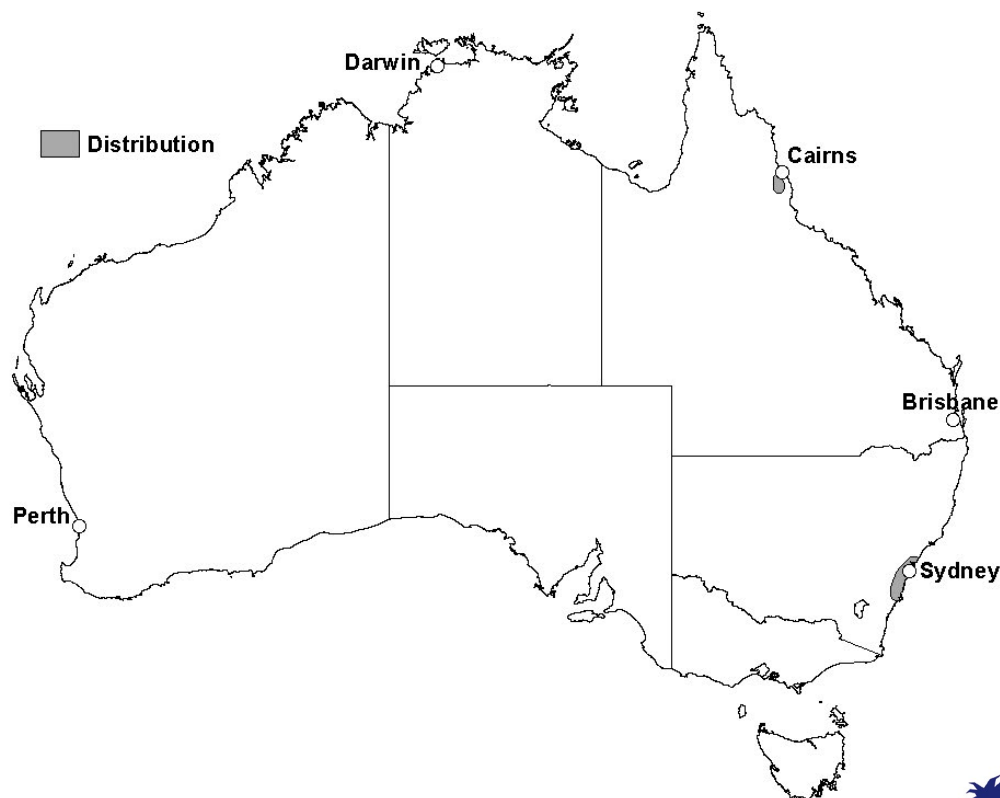
- *Octotoma championi* occurs naturally in Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala and USA.
- Cultures of *Octotoma championi* originated from Costa Rica.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1975.

Biology

- Adults feed on upper leaf surfaces and lay individual eggs through the upper leaf surface at the edge of adult-feeding scars.
- Larvae feed between the upper and lower epidermis, forming mines.
- Development time from egg to adult is about 40 days.
- Adults live for several months and may become inactive during winter when conditions are unfavourable.

Australian distribution and impact on lantana

- *Octotoma championi* is found only in a few regions in Australia, mainly on the Atherton Tableland, Queensland and in central and southern New South Wales.
- The beetle is more abundant in cool, shady conditions.
- The beetle causes the greatest damage in late summer or autumn.
- *Octotoma championi* has been found only on the pink and pink-edged red-flowering 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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