Smicronyx lutulentus

Adult Smicronyx weevils on buds

Mating pair of weevils

Larva in flower
**Smicronyx lutulentus**, a seed-feeding weevil

**Origin**
- Occurs naturally in Mexico and Texas (USA).
- Imported into quarantine in Queensland, from Mexico, in 1979 for host testing.
- The weevil was field released between 1981 and 1983.

**Biology**
- Adult weevils feed on leaves and flower buds causing small perforations.
- Females lay eggs singly into flower buds.
- Hatched larvae feed on the developing seed (1 larva/seed).
- From egg to mature larva takes about 20 days at 25°C.
- Empty seed falls to ground and mature larva enter the soil to pupate.
- Adult emergence is triggered by rainfall (10–14 days post rainfall).

**Australian distribution**
- Widespread in central and north Queensland (grey shading).
- Recently established in south and southeast Queensland (blue shading).

**Potential impact**
- Adult feeding causes damage to flowers and leaves (albeit minor).
- Larval feeding causes destruction of seed.

**Collection and redistribution**
- Best collected as adults from young-flowering parthenium plants.
- Collect into a plastic container lined with moistened paper towel.
- Release onto young growing parthenium.