

Uroplata girardi



Uroplata girardi, a leaf-mining beetle, is widespread and seasonally damaging.

Origin

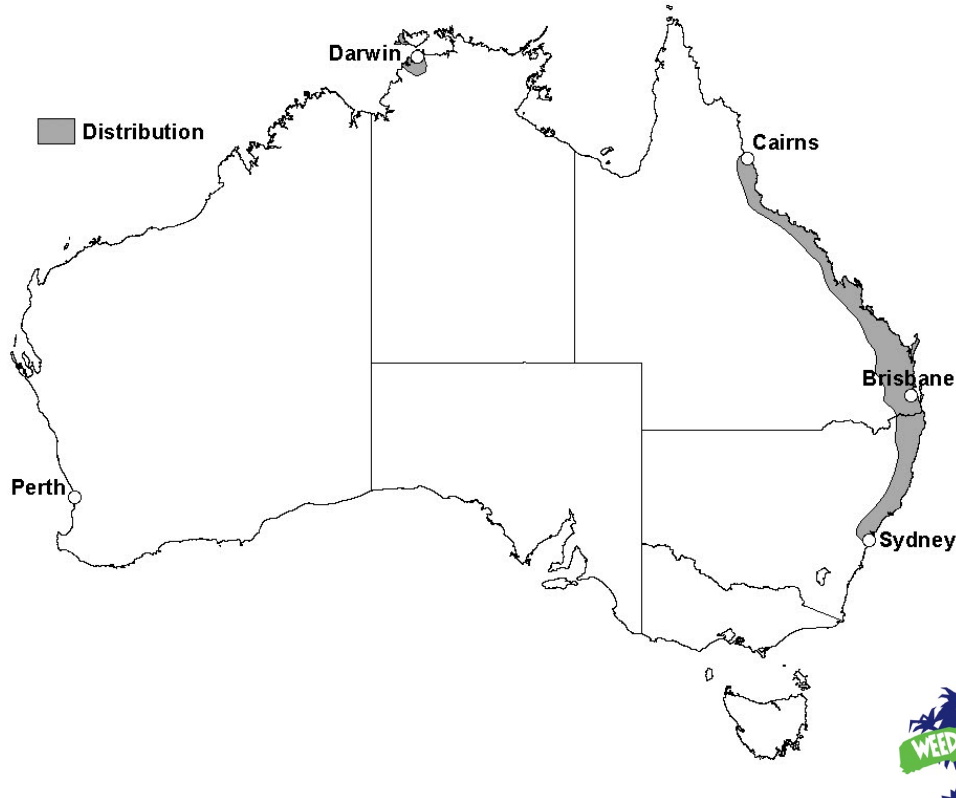
- *Uroplata girardi* occurs naturally in Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina.
- Cultures of *Uroplata girardi* originated from Brazil.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1966.

Biology

- Adults feed on the upper surfaces of leaves, leaving small scarification marks.
- Feeding can cause leaf tips to curl, providing shelter for the adults.
- Eggs are laid at the edge of adult feeding scars.
- Larvae feed through middle leaf layers, forming mines—usually two per leaf, each containing a single larva.
- Pupation occurs in the leaves.
- Development from egg to adult takes 31–52 days.
- Adults live for 6–9 months, but may enter a period of inactivity during winter when conditions are unfavourable.

Australian distribution and impact on lantana

- *Uroplata girardi* is found from far north Queensland to Sydney, and also around Darwin.
- The beetle is most abundant in warm, humid areas of the tropics, and subcoastal regions of southern and central Queensland.
- The beetle causes the greatest damage in late summer and autumn, when plants can become defoliated.
- *Uroplata girardi* is found on all varieties of *Lantana camara*, and is often present with *Octotoma scabripennis*.



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.

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