

Neogalea sunia



Neogalea sunia, a leaf-feeding moth, is common and widespread in Queensland and northern New South Wales.

Origin

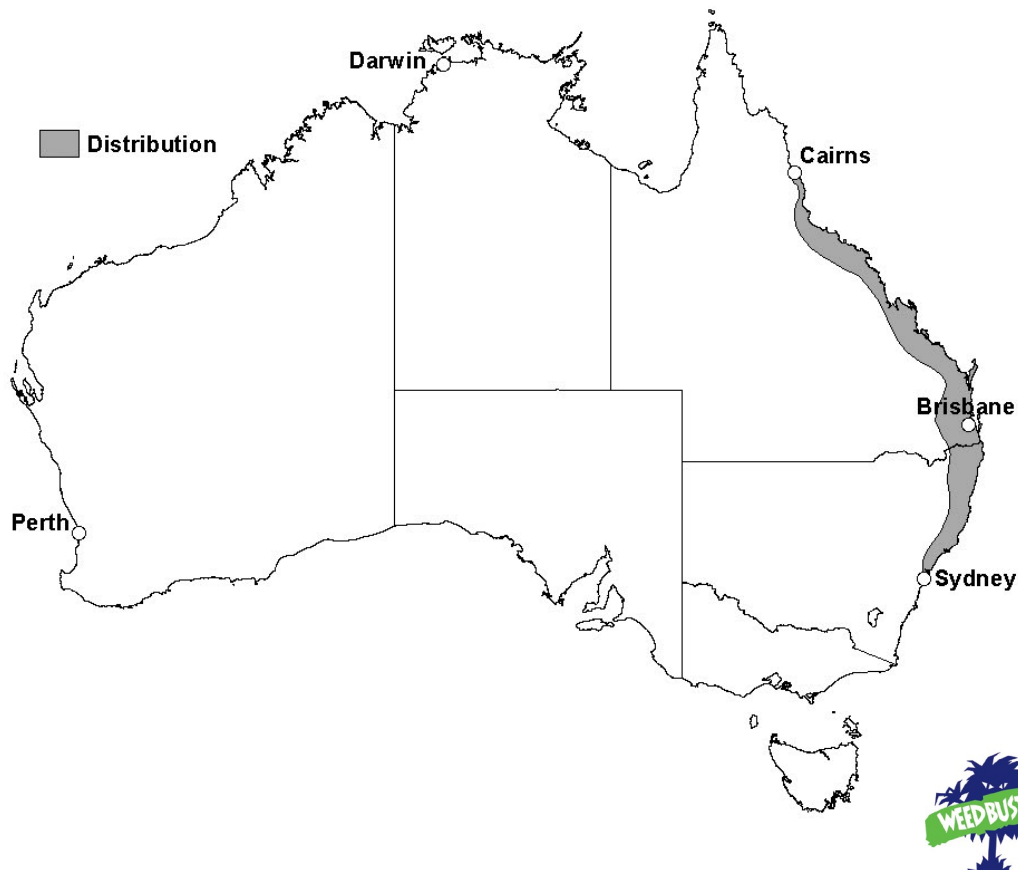
- *Neogalea sunia* occurs naturally from southern United States of America to Argentina.
- Cultures of *Neogalea sunia* originated from United States of America.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1957.

Biology

- Adults feed on flowers and lay eggs on the undersides of leaves.
- Larvae feed on the undersides of leaves.
- Pupation occurs in cocoons on stems.
- Development from egg to adult takes about 48 days.
- Adults live for about 12 days.

Australian distribution and impact on lantana

- *Neogalea sunia* is found from north Queensland to southern New South Wales.
- The moth is most abundant in northern New South Wales and subcoastal regions of southern Queensland.
- The damage caused by *Neogalea sunia* is greatest in late summer and autumn. Together with other biocontrol agents, it can cause seasonal defoliation.
- *Neogalea sunia* is found on most 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.

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

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