

Falconia intermedia



Falconia intermedia, a leaf-sucking bug has a seasonal impact on lantana but limited distribution.

Origin

- *Falconia intermedia* occurs naturally in Mexico, Florida and the Caribbean.
- Cultures of *Falconia intermedia* originated from Jamaica via South Africa.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 2000.

Biology

- Adults and nymphs suck the cell contents from the undersides of leaves, causing them to brown and wither.
- Development time from egg to adult is about three weeks.
- Adults live for about two months.

Australian distribution and impact on lantana

- *Falconia intermedia* is found only on the Atherton Tableland in north Queensland.
- The insect prefers warm, humid areas where plants are in leaf all year round.
- Populations can increase quickly over the warmer months.
- The bug causes the greatest damage from late summer to autumn, when plants can become defoliated, resulting in fewer flowers and seeds produced.
- *Falconia intermedia* performs well on all lantana varieties except the common pink-flowering variety.



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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