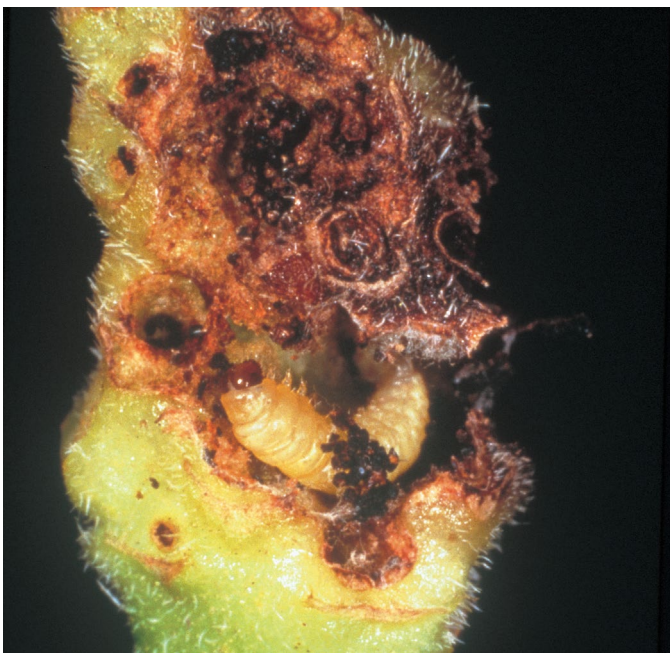


# *Lantanophaga pusillidactyla*



*Lantanophaga pusillidactyla*, a flower-feeding moth, is widespread and common, but has limited impact on the control of lantana.

### Origin

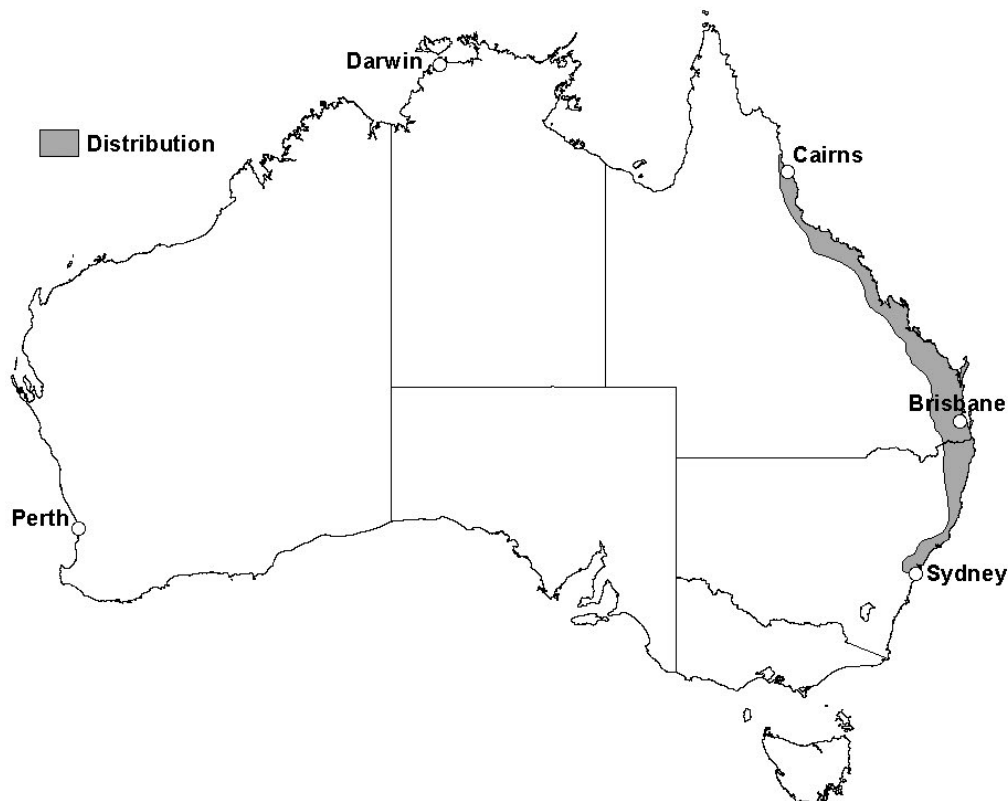
- *Lantanophaga pusillidactyla* is found naturally throughout Mexico and the Caribbean.
- The insect was probably first introduced into Australia accidentally in 1936, on imported lantana plants.

### Biology

- Adults feed on flowers, and lay eggs in flower heads.
- Larvae feed inside flowers or tunnel around the base of the flower.
- Larvae feed for 7–10 days and pupate in the flower clusters.
- Development time from egg to adult is about 14 days.

### Australian distribution and impact on lantana

- *Lantanophaga pusillidactyla* is found from farm north Queensland to Sydney.
- The moth tolerates a wide range of climatic conditions, but is more common in warmer coastal regions.
- Populations of *Lantanophaga pusillidactyla* are the greatest in late summer, when over 50% of flower heads can be damaged, resulting in fewer seeds being produced.
- The moth is found on all varieties of *Lantana camara* and on *Lantana montevidensis*.



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

Fact sheets are available from Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au) to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, DAFF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.