

# *Salbia haemorrhoidalis*



*Salbia haemorrhoidalis*, a leaf-feeding moth, is most abundant in tropical areas.

### Origin

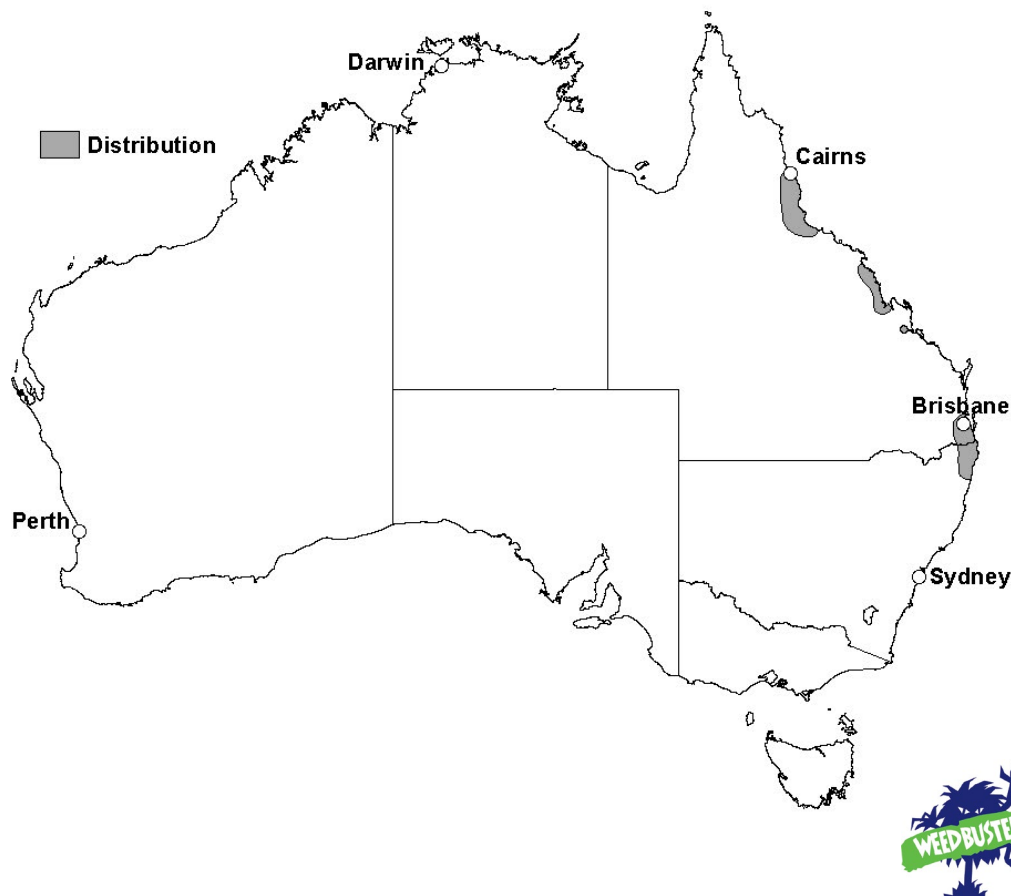
- *Salbia haemorrhoidalis* occurs naturally in the Caribbean, Florida and Central America.
- Cultures of *Salbia haemorrhoidalis* originated from Cuba and United States of America.
- The insect was first released into Australia in 1958.

### Biology

- Adults feed on flowers and lay eggs on the undersides of leaves.
- Larvae feed within folded leaves, which they fasten together with silk.
- Pupation occurs in cocoons spun in leaf litter under the plant.
- Development from egg to adult takes 5–6 weeks.
- Adults live for about two weeks.

### Australian distribution and impact on lantana

- *Salbia haemorrhoidalis* is found from far north Queensland to northern New South Wales.
- The moth is most abundant in the warm, moist regions of the tropics. It is not found in the drier subcoastal regions of southern and central Queensland.
- The moth causes the greatest damage in late summer and autumn and together with other agents can cause defoliation.
- *Salbia haemorrhoidalis* 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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