

Leptobyrsa decora



Leptobyrsa decora, a sap-sucking bug is a damaging agent found only in high altitude tropical areas.

Origin

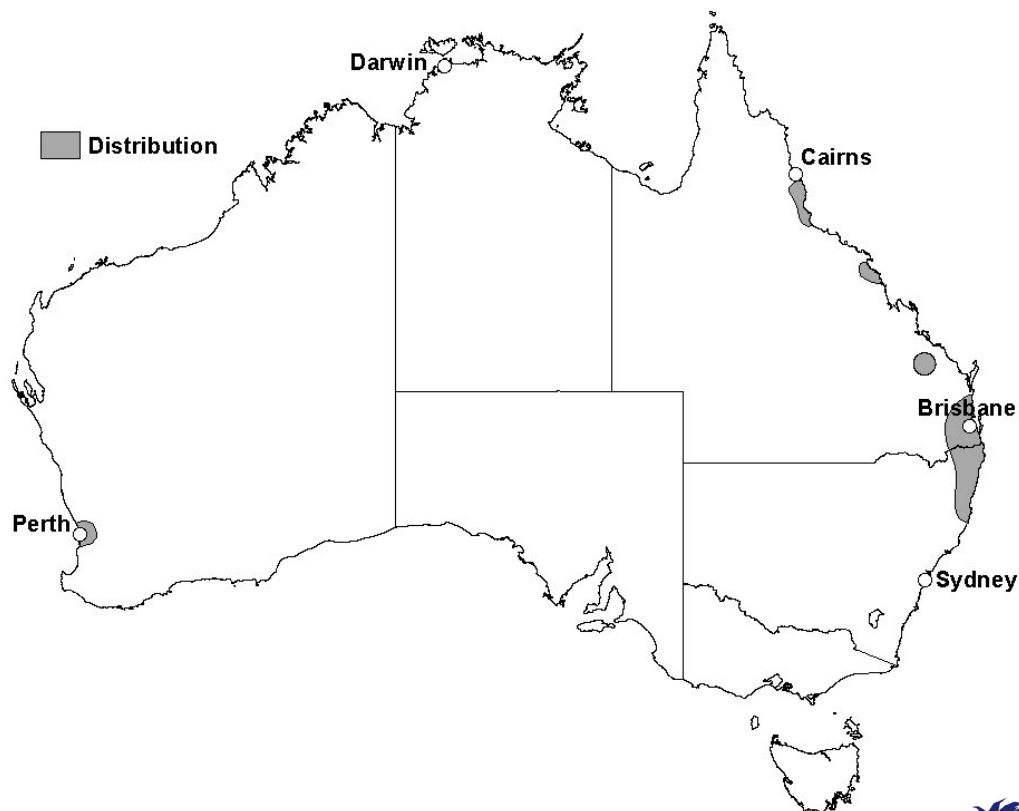
- *Leptobyrsa decora* occurs naturally in Peru, Columbia and Ecuador.
- Cultures of *Leptobyrsa decora* originated from Peru.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1969.

Biology

- Adults and nymphs form colonies on the undersides of leaves where they suck out cell contents, causing light spots to appear on the upper leaf surface.
- Development from egg to adult takes 31 days (summer) to 44 days (winter).
- Adults can live for 2–3 months.

Australian distribution and impact on lantana

- *Leptobyrsa decora* is found only in the drier regions of the Atherton Tablelands, north Queensland.
- The bug is more common in late summer and autumn in sunny, open areas.
- Damaged leaves can be shed, causing plants to become stunted and produce flowers and seeds. Heavy infestations of *Leptobyrsa decora* can result in severe defoliation.
- *Leptobyrsa decora* is found both on pink and pink-edged red-flowering 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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