

# *Calycomyza lantanae*



*Calycomyza lantanae*, a leaf-mining fly, contributes to reducing the spread of lantana in tropical regions.

### Origin

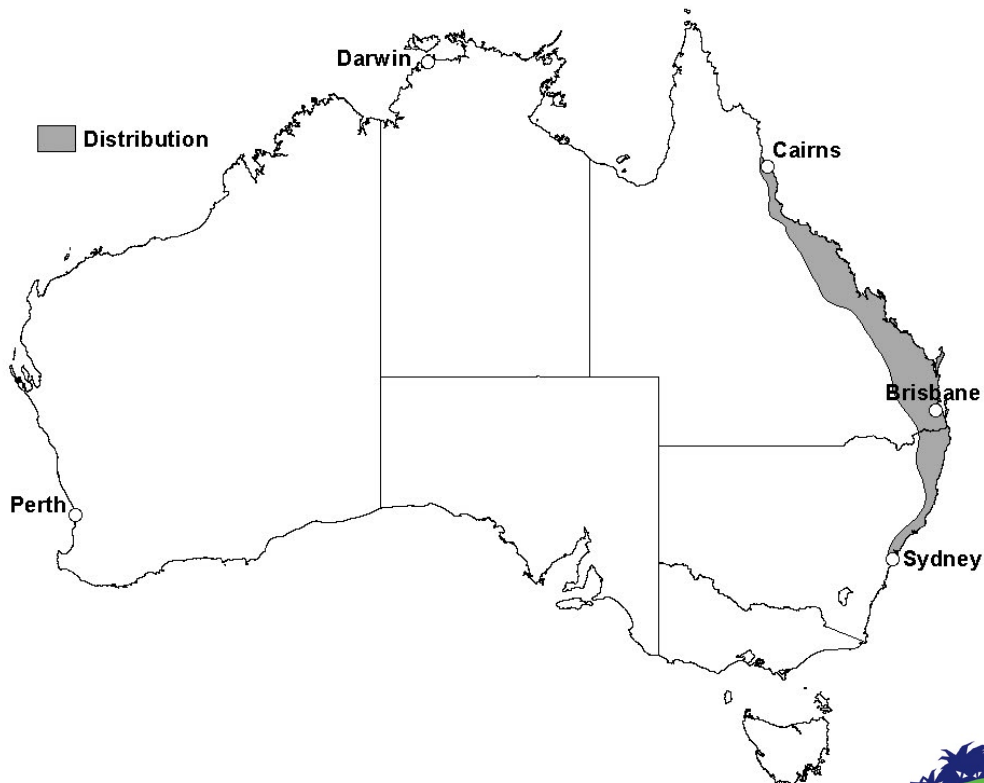
- *Calycomyza lantanae* occurs naturally in the United States of America, Central America and South America.
- Cultures of *Calycomyza lantanae* originated from Trinidad.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1974.

### Biology

- Adults feed on flowers, and lay eggs on leaves.
- Larvae form blotch mines in leaves, with each mine containing 1–3 larvae.
- Pupation occurs in leaves or leaf litter.
- Development time from egg to adult is approximately 25 days.
- Adults live for about two weeks.

### Australian distribution and impact on lantana

- *Calycomyza lantanae* is found from the Torres Strait islands to Sydney, and also around Darwin, Katherine and the Adelaide River in the Northern Territory.
- The fly is more common in tropical Queensland because it prefers warm, moist areas.
- Populations of *Calycomyza lantanae* are greatest in late summer and autumn.
- Damage to leaves causes premature abscission, resulting in stunted plants and reduced flowering and seed production.
- The fly is found on all varieties of *Lantana camara* and on *Lantana montevidensis*.



**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.

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.