

Aconophora compressa



Aconophora compressa, a stem-sucking bug, has a limited distribution, preferring dry, cool areas.

Origin

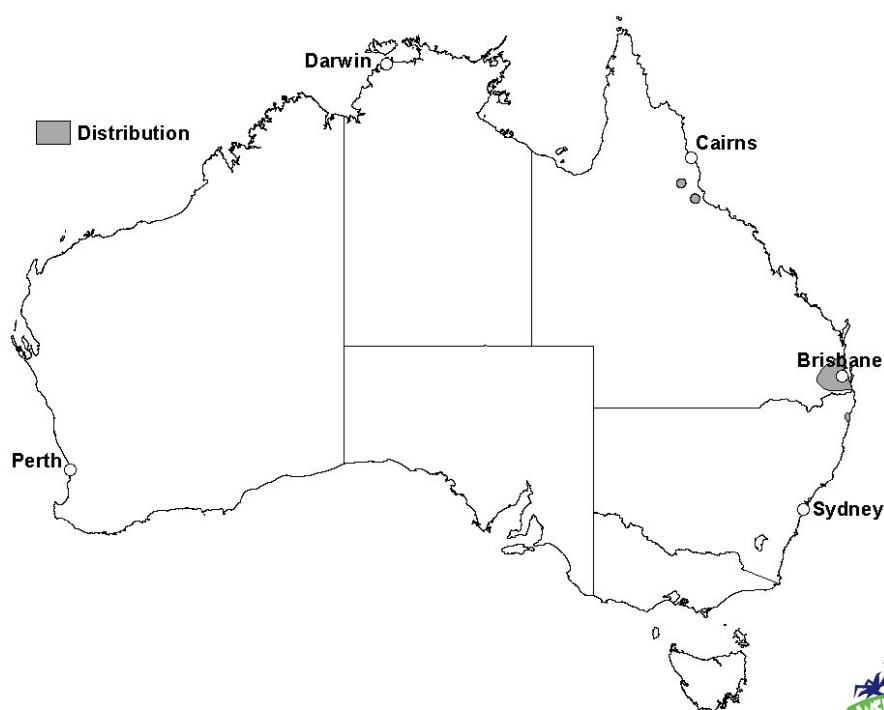
- *Aconophora compressa* occurs naturally from Mexico to Columbia.
- Cultures of *Aconophora compressa* originated from Mexico and Guatemala.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1995.

Biology

- Adults and nymphs suck the sap of woody stems.
- Eggs are laid along woody stems.
- Females show maternal behaviour, tending the nymphs until they reach adulthood.
- Development time from egg to adult is about 40 days.
- Adults live for about six months.

Australian distribution and impact on lantana

- *Aconophora compressa* is found mainly between Kempsey and the Capricorn Coast, as well as on the Atherton Tableland, around Mt Fox and Mackay in north Queensland, and the central coast and Sydney in New South Wales.
- The bug prefers open, cooler, drier conditions.
- Populations of *Aconophora compressa* build up in winter, subsiding during summer when temperatures are high.
- The bug can cause branches to die back, causing plants to become stunted and produce fewer flowers and seeds.
- *Aconophora compressa* is found on all flowering varieties of *Lantana camara* and on the exotic tree *Citharexylum spinosum* (fiddlewood). For a full list of other plant species on which *Aconophora compressa* has been occasionally found but not damaging, refer to 'Aconophora on fiddlewood trees fact sheet'.



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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