

Ophiomyia camarae



Ophiomyia camarae, a leaf-mining fly, contributes to reducing the spread of lantana in tropical regions.

Origin

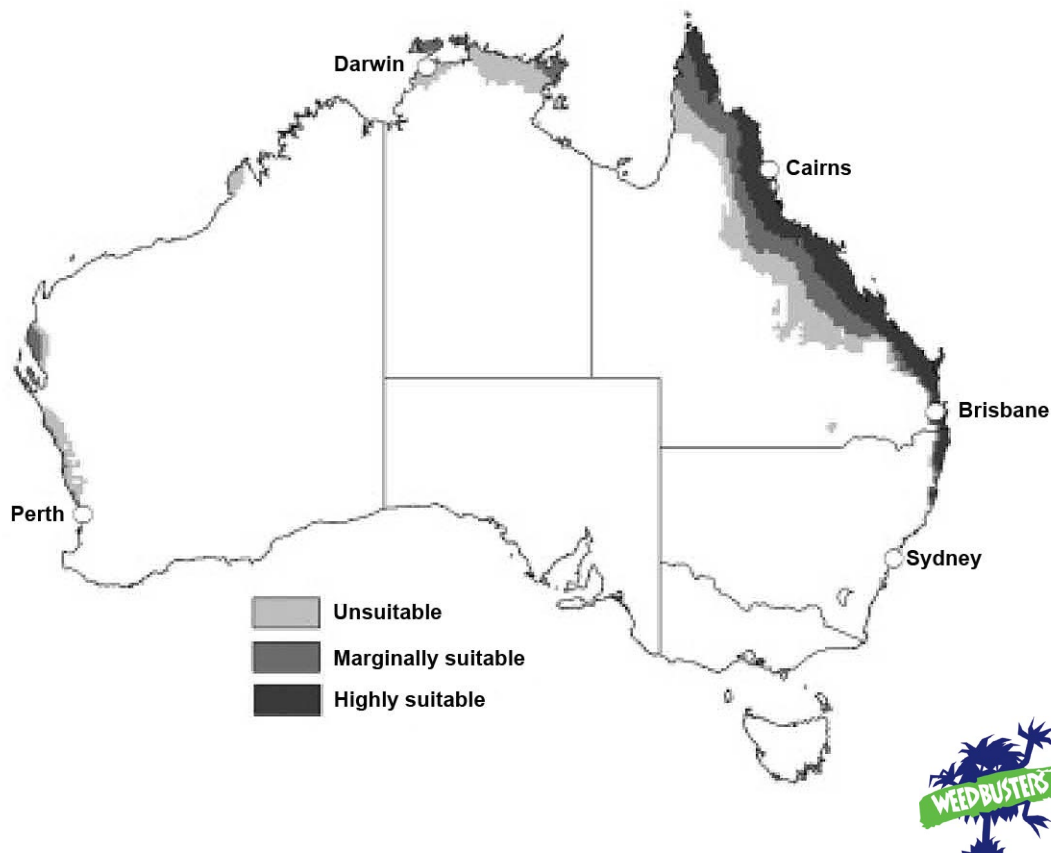
- *Ophiomyia camarae* is native to the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America and Florida.
- Cultures of this species originated in Florida.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 2007.

Biology

- Adults feed on nectar or just drink water.
- Females lay many individual eggs on the underside of leaves.
- Larvae feed within the mesophyll (internal structure) of the leaf, and form herring-bone shaped mines.
- Development from egg to adult takes 25–36 days.
- Adults can survive up to three weeks.
- Populations can increase rapidly.

Australian distribution and impact on lantana

- *Ophiomyia camarae* has been released widely but is common from north Queensland to Rockhampton.
- *Ophiomyia camarae* favours lantana growing in sheltered areas where humidity levels are high.
- Damaged plants can become defoliated, causing plants to become stunted and produce fewer flowers and seeds.
- *Ophiomyia camarae* is found on all varieties of *Lantana camara*.
- The potential distribution of *Ophiomyia camarae*, predicted using CLIMEX modelling.



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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