

Crocidosema lantana



Crociosema lantana, a flower- and bud-feeding moth, has a wide distribution, but only a limited impact on lantana.

Origin

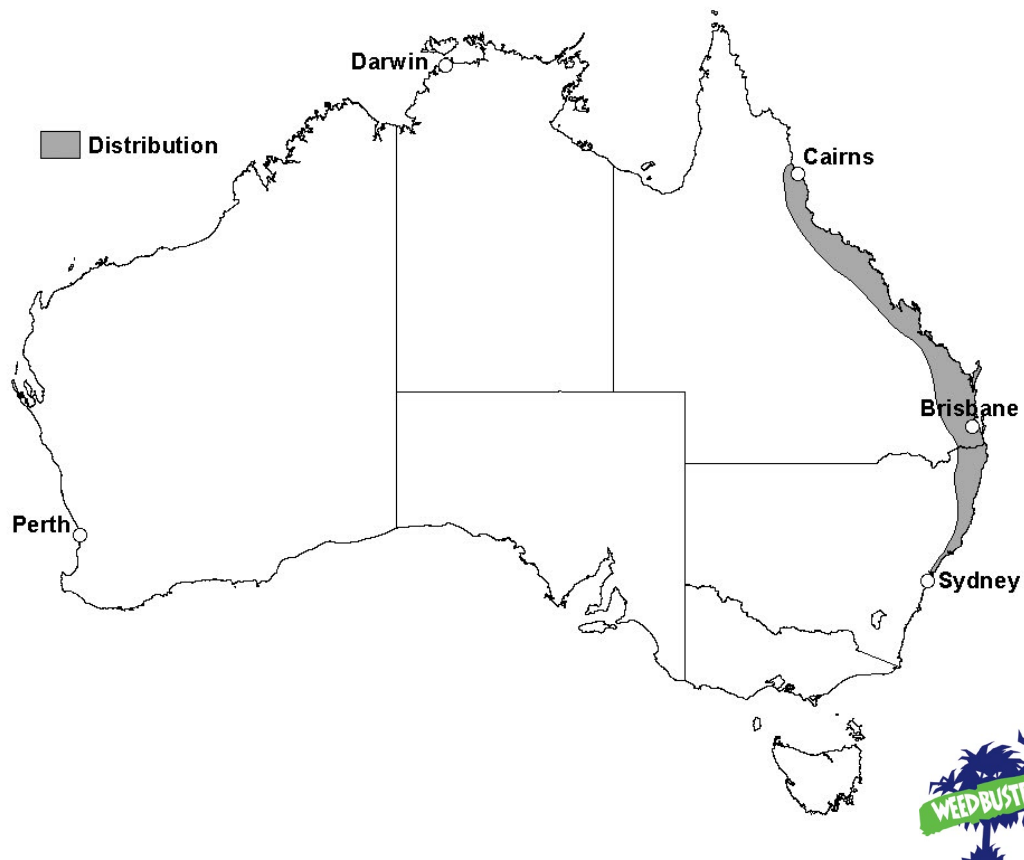
- *Crociosema lantana* occurs naturally in Mexico.
- Cultures of *Crociosema lantana* originated from Mexico.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1914.

Biology

- Adults feed on and lay eggs in the flowers.
- Larvae feed on flowers and/or bore into shoot tips or flower heads.
- Pupation occurs in the flower heads.
- Development from egg to adult takes about 21 days.
- Adults live for about two weeks.

Australian distribution and impact on lantana

- *Crociosema lantana* is found from Cooktown, Queensland to Ulladulla, New South Wales.
- The moth is more abundant in warmer coastal areas, where flowering is more prolific.
- Populations of *Crociosema lantana* are greatest in late summer or autumn
- Damage to shoot tips and flower heads results in reduced flowering and seed production.
- *Crociosema lantana* is found on all 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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