



Lantana biocontrol

Prospodium tuberculatum



PROSPODIUM TUBERCULATUM

Prospodium tuberculatum, a rust, is the first pathogen to be released as a biocontrol agent on lantana in Australia.

ORIGIN

- *P. tuberculatum* occurs naturally in Brazil.
 - Laboratory cultures of *P. tuberculatum* originate from Brazil.
 - The rust was first released in Australia in 2001.
-

BIOLOGY

- The rust attacks the leaves, producing little pustules on the undersides.
 - The rust performs best at temperatures of 20°C, with the leaves wet for 9–15 hours.
 - *P. tuberculatum* completes its life cycle in three weeks in Summer.
 - Severe infections cause leaf necrosis, leading to premature defoliation.
-

AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTION AND IMPACT ON LANTANA

- *P. tuberculatum* has been released at numerous sites throughout Queensland and New South Wales.
- Establishment has occurred in wetter mountain regions of southern Queensland and northern New South Wales.
- Establishment at other sites in both states has been affected by drought from 2001–2003.
- The rust prefers moist sites where there is dew or light rain, and temperatures are mild.
- Damage will be greatest in the summer months when rainfall is generally higher.
- Populations of the rust are self-sustaining, as it produces spores that can survive dry winters.
- The rust can reproduce relatively quickly and is dispersed by wind.
- *P. tuberculatum* affects only the common pink-flowering lantana variety.