



lantana biocontrol

Neogalea sunia



NEOGALEA SUNIA

Neogalea sunia, a leaf-feeding moth, is common and widespread in Queensland and northern NSW.

ORIGIN

- *N. sunia* occurs naturally from southern USA to Argentina.
- Laboratory cultures of *N. sunia* originate from USA.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1957.

BIOLOGY

- Adults feed on flowers and lay eggs on the undersides of leaves.
- Larvae feed on the undersides of leaves.
- Pupation occurs in cocoons on stems.
- Development from egg to adult takes about 48 days.
- Adults live for about 12 days.

AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTION AND IMPACT ON LANTANA

- *N. sunia* is found from north Queensland to Sydney.
- The moth is most abundant in northern New South Wales and subcoastal regions of southern Queensland.
- The damage caused by *N. sunia* is greatest in late summer and autumn. Together with other biocontrol agents, it can cause seasonal defoliation.
- *N. sunia* is found on most varieties of *Lantana camara*.

