

# Lantana biocontrol

## *Uroplata fulvopustulata*



# UROPLATA FULVOPUSTULATA

*Uroplata fulvopustulata*, a leaf-mining beetle, has established only in far north Queensland.

## ORIGIN

- *U. fulvopustulata* occurs naturally from Colombia to Mexico, and in Costa Rica.
- Laboratory cultures of *U. fulvopustulata* originate from Costa Rica.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1976.

## BIOLOGY

- Adults prefer to feed on, and lay eggs in, young leaves.
- Larvae feed in the leaves forming mines, with up to four developing in a large leaf.
- Development time from egg to adult is about 56 days.
- Adults live for several months and may become inactive during winter when conditions are unfavourable.

## AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTION AND IMPACT ON LANTANA

- *U. fulvopustulata* is found only in far north Queensland.
- Damage caused by *U. fulvopustulata* is greatest in late summer and autumn when leaves can be shed prematurely.
- The beetle is found on the pink and pink-edged red-flowering varieties of *Lantana camara*.

