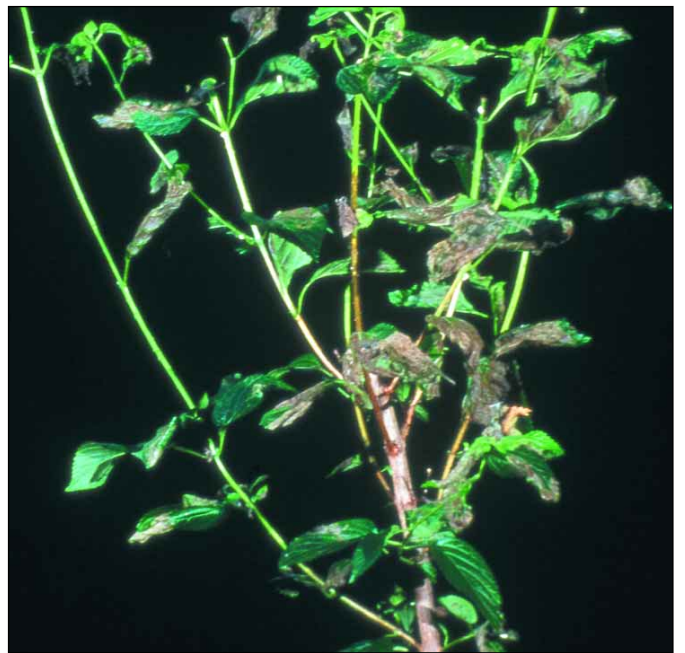


# Lantana biocontrol

## *Salbia haemorrhoidalis*



# SALBIA HAEMORRHOIDALIS

*Salbia haemorrhoidalis*, a leaf-feeding moth, is most abundant in tropical areas.

## ORIGIN

- *S. haemorrhoidalis* occurs naturally in the Caribbean, Florida (USA) and Central America.
- Laboratory cultures of *S. haemorrhoidalis* originate from Cuba and USA.
- The insect was first released into Australia in 1958.

## BIOLOGY

- Adults feed on flowers and lay eggs on the undersides of leaves.
- Larvae feed within folded leaves, which they fasten together with silk.
- Pupation occurs in cocoons spun in leaf litter under the plant.
- Development from egg to adult takes 5–6 weeks.
- Adults live for about two weeks.

## AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTION AND IMPACT ON LANTANA

- *S. haemorrhoidalis* is found from far north Queensland to northern New South Wales.
- The moth is most abundant in the warm, moist regions of the tropics. It is not found in the drier subcoastal regions of southern and central Queensland.
- The moth causes the greatest damage in late summer and autumn.
- *S. haemorrhoidalis* is found on most varieties of *Lantana camara*.

