Queensland Government
Natural Resources and Mines

lantana biocontrol

Uroplata girardi

LB2 August 2003 **Produced by:** Alan Fletcher Research Station

QNRM03109

UROPLATA GIRARDI

***Uroplata girardi*, a leaf-mining beetle, is widespread and seasonally damaging.**

ORIGIN

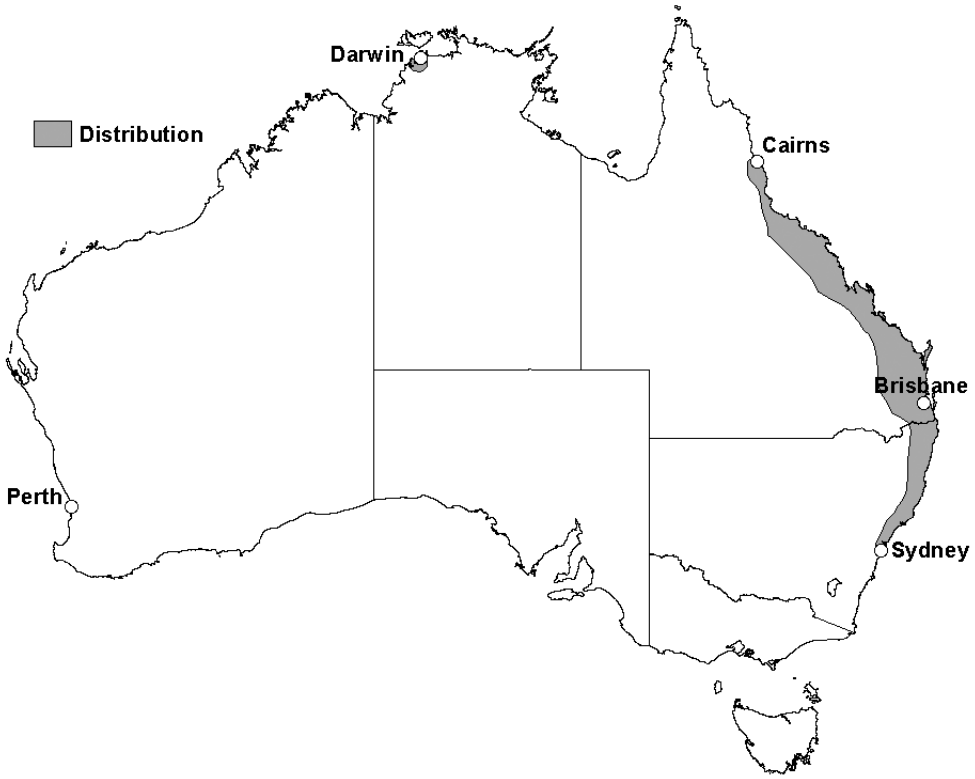
- *U. girardi* occurs naturally in Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina.
- Laboratory cultures of *U. girardi* originate from Brazil.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1966.

BIOLOGY

- Adults feed on the upper surfaces of leaves, leaving small scarification marks.
- Feeding can cause leaf tips to curl, providing shelter for the adults.
- Eggs are laid at the edge of adult feeding scars.
- Larvae feed through middle leaf layers, forming mines—usually two per leaf, each containing a single larva.
- Pupation occurs in the leaves.
- Damaged leaves can be shed, causing the plant to become stunted.
- Development from egg to adult takes 31–52 days.
- Adults live for 6–9 months, but may enter a period of inactivity during winter when conditions are unfavourable.

AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTION AND IMPACT ON LANTANA

- *U. girardi* is found from far north Queensland to Sydney, and also around Darwin.
- The beetle is most abundant in warm, humid areas of the tropics, and subcoastal regions of southern and central Queensland.
- The beetle causes the greatest damage in late summer and autumn, when plants can become defoliated.
- *U. girardi* is found on all varieties of *Lantana camara*, and is often present with *Octotoma scabripennis* (see LB3).



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