



Lantana biocontrol

Hypena laceratalis



HYPENA LACERATALIS

Hypena laceratalis, a leaf-feeding moth, causes seasonal damage to lantana in Australia. An introduced African–Hawaiian strain shows no further impact.

ORIGIN

- *H. laceratalis* is native to, or naturalised in, Africa, Asia and Australia.
- Laboratory cultures of *H. laceratalis* originate from Kenya.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1965.

BIOLOGY

- Adults feed on flowers, and lay eggs on the undersides of leaves.
- Larvae feed on the undersides of leaves, forming clear windows and skeletonising the leaves.
- Pupation occurs in the soil.
- Development from egg to adult takes about 28 days.
- Adults live for about two weeks.

AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTION AND IMPACT ON LANTANA

- *H. laceratalis* is found from north Queensland to Kempsey in New South Wales.
- The moth is more common in tropical and subtropical regions of Queensland during late summer.
- Moth numbers are greatest in late summer. Together with other agents, *H. laceratalis* can cause seasonal defoliation.
- *H. laceratalis* occurs on most varieties of *Lantana camara*, although it has not been found on the orange-flowering variety.

