



lantana biocontrol

Leptobyrssa decora



LEPTOBYRSA DECORA

Leptobyrssa decora, a sap-sucking bug is a damaging agent found only in high altitude tropical areas.

ORIGIN

- *L. decora* occurs naturally in Peru, Columbia and Ecuador.
- Laboratory cultures of *L. decora* originate from Peru.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1969.

BIOLOGY

- Adults and nymphs form colonies on the undersides of leaves where they suck out cell contents, causing light spots to appear on the upper leaf surface.
- Damaged leaves can be shed, causing plants to become stunted and produce flowers and seeds.
- Development from egg to adult takes 31 days (summer) to 44 days (winter).
- Adults can live for 2–3 months.

AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTION AND IMPACT ON LANTANA

- *L. decora* is found only in the drier regions of the Atherton Tablelands, north Queensland.
- The bug causes the greatest damage in late summer and autumn in sunny, open areas. Heavy infestations of *L. decora* can result in severe defoliation.
- *L. decora* is found both on pink and pink-edged red-flowering varieties of *Lantana camara*.

