Queensland Government
Natural Resources and Mines

# lantana biocontrol

## *Octotoma scabripennis*

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**QNRM03110**

# *OCTOTOMA SCABRIPENNIS*

***Octotoma scabripennis,* a leaf-mining beetle, is one of the most widely distributed and seasonally damaging lantana insects.**

## ORIGIN

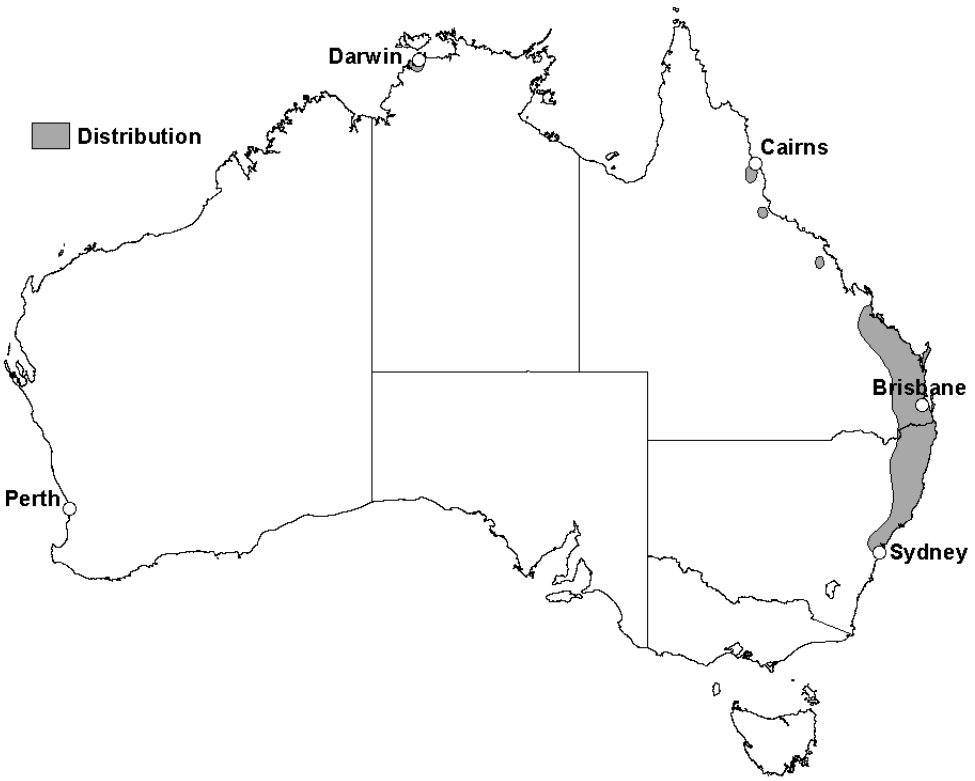
- *O. scabripennis* occurs naturally from Mexico to Nicaragua.
- Laboratory cultures of *O. scabripennis* originate from Mexico.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1966.

## BIOLOGY

- Adults feed on the upper surfaces of leaves, leaving small scarification marks.
- Eggs are laid on the edge of adult feeding scars.
- Larvae feed in middle leaf layers, causing dark blotches.
- Pupation occurs in the leaves.
- Damaged leaves can be shed, causing plants to become stunted and produce fewer flowers and seeds.
- Development from egg to adult takes 34–45 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

- *O. scabripennis* is found from far north Queensland to Sydney, and also around Darwin.
- The beetle is most abundant in subtropical, shady, wet, coastal areas—such as the region from Kempsey in New South Wales to Bundaberg in Queensland.
- The beetle causes the greatest damage in late summer and autumn, when plants can become defoliated.
- *O. scabripennis* is found on all varieties of *Lantana camara*, and is often present with *Uroplata girardi* (see LB2).

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