

lantana biocontrol

Epinotia lantana



EPINOTIA LANTANA

Epinotia lantana, a flower- and bud-feeding moth, has a wide distribution, but only a limited impact on lantana.

ORIGIN

- *E. lantana* occurs naturally in Mexico.
- Laboratory cultures of *E. lantana* originate from Mexico.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1914.

BIOLOGY

- Adults feed on and lay eggs in the flowers.
- Larvae feed on flowers and/or bore into shoot tips or flower heads.
- Pupation occurs in the flower heads.
- Development from egg to adult takes about 21 days.
- Adults live for about two weeks.

AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTION AND IMPACT ON LANTANA

- *E. lantana* is found from far north Queensland to central New South Wales.
- The moth is more abundant in warmer coastal areas, where flowering is more prolific.
- Damage caused by the moth is greatest in late summer or autumn, when plants produce fewer seeds.
- *E. lantana* is found on all varieties of *Lantana camara*.

