

Lantana biocontrol

Ophiomyia camarae



Ophiomyia camarae

...a leaf-mining fly approved for release in Australia

Origin

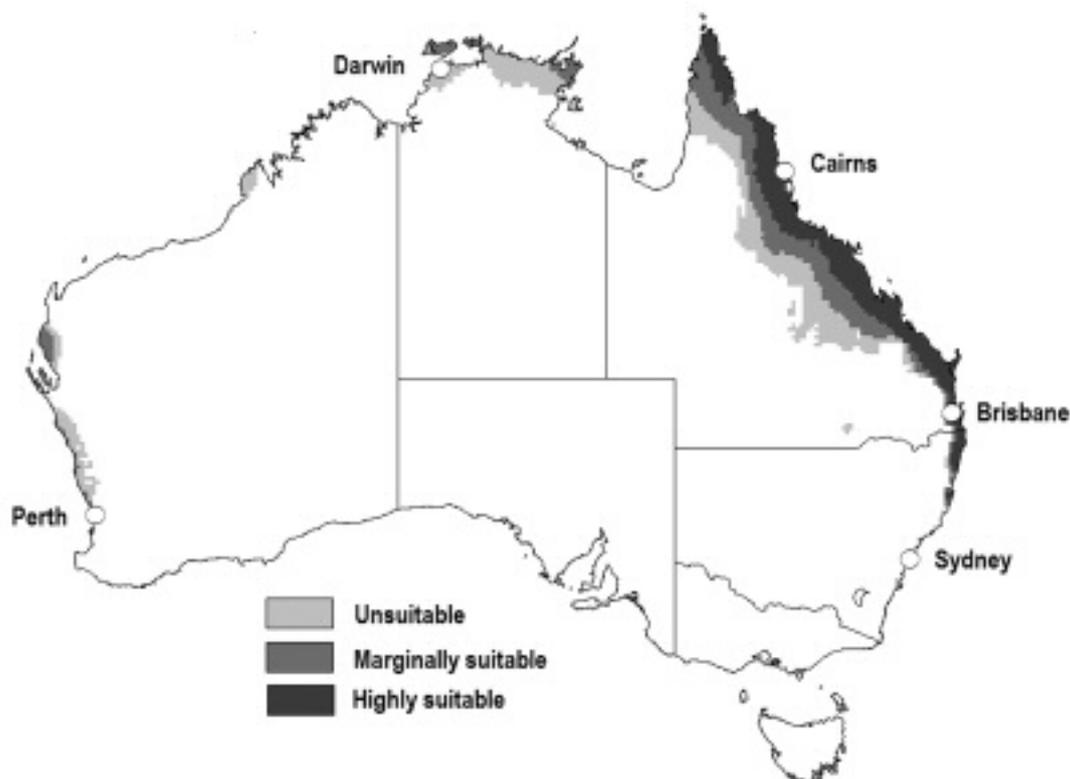
- *O. camarae* is native to the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America and Florida.
- Laboratory cultures of this species were introduced to Australia from Florida.
- The fly was first released in Australia in 2007 following extensive host testing.

Biology

- Adults feed on nectar.
- Females lay many individual eggs on the underside of leaves.
- Larvae feed within the mesophyll (internal structure) of the leaf, and form herringbone-shaped 'mines'.
- Development from egg to adult takes 25–36 days.
- Adults can survive up to three weeks.
- Populations can increase rapidly.

Australian distribution and impact on lantana

- *O. camarae* favours lantana growing in sheltered areas where humidity levels are high.
- Flies are expected to adopt a wide geographic range along the east coast—from northern New South Wales to Cairns in Queensland.
- Affected plants prematurely defoliate—this reduces flowering and seeding ability, and stunts the plants.
- Large infestations of *O. camarae* are expected to reduce the rate of spread of lantana in areas where the fly has established.



The potential distribution of *Ophiomyia camarae*, predicted using CLIMEX modelling.