

# lantana biocontrol

## *Calycomyza lantanae*



# CALYCOMYZA LANTANAE

*Calycomyza lantanae*, a leaf-mining fly, contributes to reducing the spread of lantana in tropical regions.

## ORIGIN

- *C. lantanae* occurs naturally in USA, Central America and South America.
- Laboratory cultures of *C. lantanae* originate from Trinidad.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1974.

## BIOLOGY

- Adults feed on flowers, and lay eggs on leaves.
- Larvae form blotch mines in leaves, with each mine containing 1–3 larvae.
- Pupation occurs in leaves or leaf litter.
- Development time from egg to adult is approximately 25 days.
- Adults live for about two weeks.

## AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTION AND IMPACT ON LANTANA

- *C. lantanae* is found from Cairns to Sydney, and also around Darwin.
- The fly is more common in tropical Queensland because it prefers warm, moist areas.
- Populations of *C. lantanae* are greatest in late summer and autumn.
- The fly attacks growing shoots, resulting in stunted plants and reduced flowering and seed production.
- The fly is found on all varieties of *Lantana camara* and on *Lantana montevidensis*.

