Teleonemia scrupulosa

Great state. Great opportunity.

Queensland
Government

Teleonemia scrupulosa, a leaf-sucking bug, is one of the most widespread and seasonally damaging biocontrol agents for lantana.
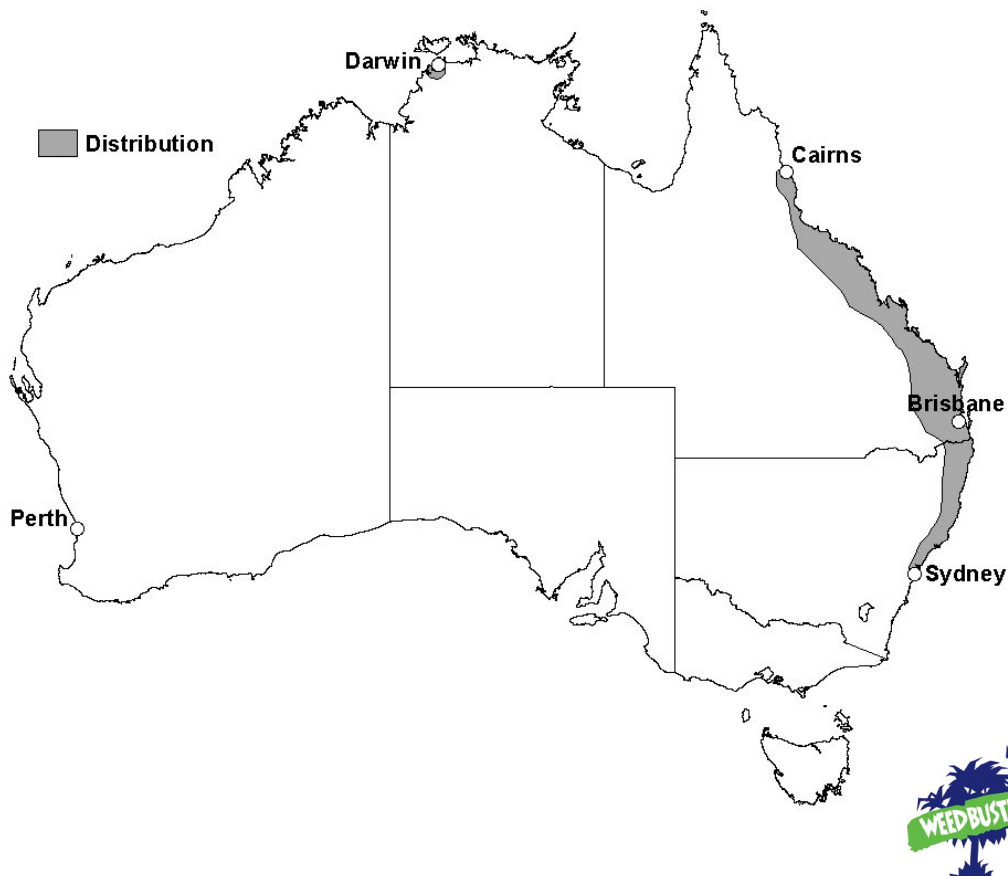
Origin
- *Teleonemia scrupulosa* occurs naturally in Mexico, Central America and South America.
- Cultures of *Teleonemia scrupulosa* originated from Mexico.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1936.

Biology
- Adults and nymphs suck the cell contents from the undersides of leaves, causing them to brown and wither.
- Development time from egg to adult is about four weeks.
- Adults live for about three months.

Australian distribution and impact on lantana
- *Teleonemia scrupulosa* is found from far north Queensland to Sydney, as well as around Darwin.
- The bug is most abundant and damaging in warm, dry areas such as central and southern Queensland and central New South Wales.
- The bug causes the most damage from late summer to autumn, when plants can become defoliated resulting in fewer flowers and seeds produced.
- *Teleonemia scrupulosa* is found in greater numbers on the white, red, and pink-edged red-flowering varieties of *Lantana camara* than on the common pink-flowering variety.

Note: Landholders are advised not to consume their time collecting this insect for distribution. This insect has been widely released and is now found in all areas which are climatically suitable. Due to it's own ability to disperse, this insect will be periodically/seasonally present in areas that are climatically suitable for it.

This fact sheet is developed with funding support from the Land Protection Fund.

Fact sheets are available from Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, DAFF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

© The State of Queensland, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 2013.