

Hypena laceratalis



Hypena laceratalis, a leaf-feeding moth, causes seasonal damage to lantana in Australia.

Origin

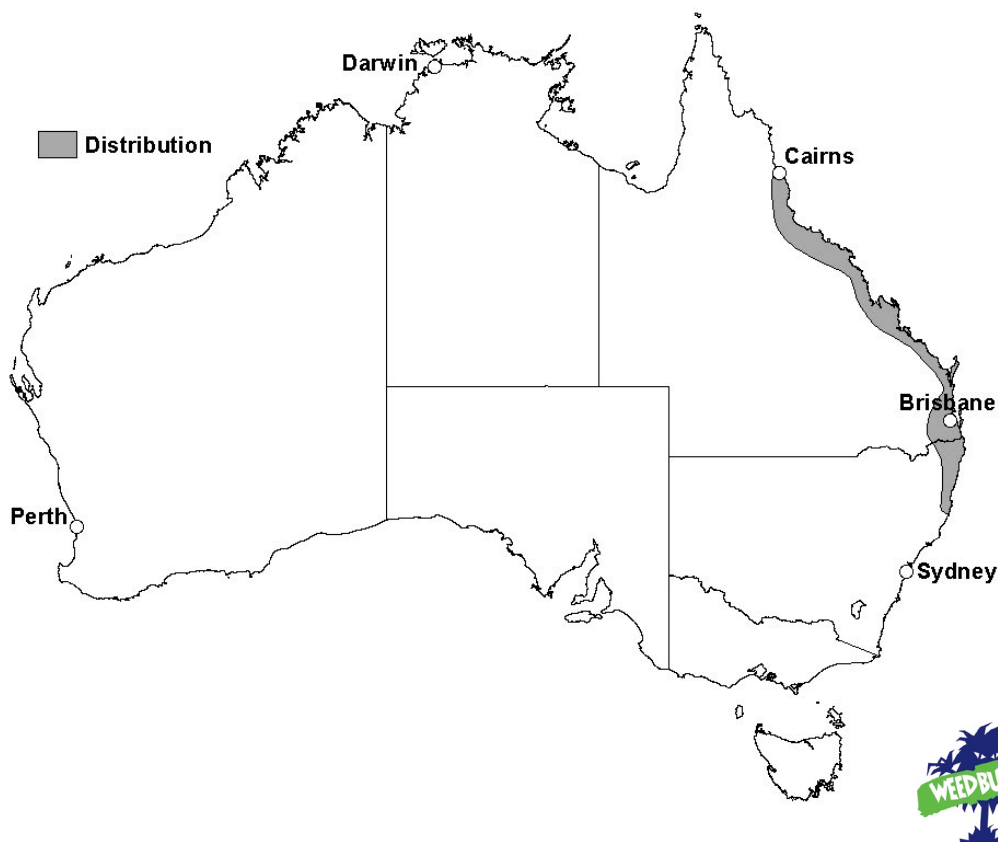
- *Hypena laceratalis* is native to, or naturalised in Africa and Asia.
- Cultures of *Hypena laceratalis* originated from Kenya.
- The insect was first released in Australia in 1965.

Biology

- Adults feed on flowers and lay eggs on the undersides of leaves.
- Larvae feed on the undersides of leaves.
- Pupation occurs in the soil.
- Development from egg to adult takes about 28 days.
- Adults live for about two weeks.

Australian distribution and impact on lantana

- *Hypena laceratalis* is found from the Torres Strait islands to Kempsey in New South Wales.
- The moth is more common in tropical and subtropical regions of Queensland during late summer.
- Moth numbers are greatest in late summer. Larvae skeletonise leaves and together with other agents, *Hypena laceratalis* can cause seasonal defoliation of plants.
- *Hypena laceratalis* occurs on most varieties of *Lantana camara*, although it has not been found on the orange 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 its own ability to disperse, this insect will be periodically/seasonally present in areas that are climatically suitable for it.

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