

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL *in action*

The Weed - Mimosa

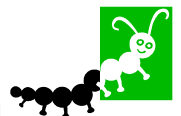
- *Mimosa pigra* is the scientific name for the weed we usually call mimosa.
- Mimosa is a branched prickly bush that can grow to about 6m high. It has woody stems, bipinnate leaves and pink flowers.
- Mimosa is found on floodplains in the Northern Territory. There are big infestations on the Daly, Finnis, Adelaide and Mary river systems and it is found from the Keep river on the Western Australian border to the Phelp river in the east.
- The plant is native to Central and South America. It was probably brought into Darwin via the botanic gardens in the late 1800's.



Why is it a problem?

- Mimosa forms large dense stands which
 - make it difficult for stock to access water
 - makes land hard to use for traditional and recreational purposes
- Mimosa changes the environment and out competes native plants.

www.nt.gov.au/nreta/naturalresources/weeds or email: weedinfo.nreta@nt.gov.au



For more information call: 8999 2266

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The moth – Carmenta

- *Carmenta mimosa* is the scientific name of the moth we usually call carmenta.
- It is native to Mexico and was introduced into the Northern Territory in 1989 after 2 years of quarantine testing.
- Carmenta adults look like wasps and have a black body with cream stripes. Their wings are clear with black veins and edges. Adults live for about 5 days.
- Each carmenta female can lay up to 300 eggs, which take about 11 days to hatch. The larvae tunnel into the stem and feed for 60 days. This weakens the stem and can cause it to break off and die. It can also stress the plant to such an extent that it produces very little seed. Once the larva has finished feeding, it pupates and emerges 11 days later as an adult. It takes about 9 weeks for carmenta to complete its life cycle.
- You can tell when there is carmenta inside a mimosa stem by the sawdust (frass) on the outside of the stem.
- Carmenta is the most successful insect we have in the fight against mimosa. It is now found on the Finnis, Mary, Daly, Adelaide and Reynolds rivers. This moth spreads very slowly so we still need to help redistribute it into new areas.



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