



Cryptolaemus montrouzieri

Target pests

- Mealybugs (e.g., genera Planococcus and Pseudococcus)

Target crops

- Citrus
- Indoor plants
- Ornamental plants

Cryptolaemus montrouzieri, also known as the mealybug destroyer, is a natural predator used in biological control against mealybugs (Pseudococcidae) and other harmful insects.

Native to Australia, this ladybug is widely used in organic farming and greenhouse cultivation for its effectiveness in controlling mealybug populations.

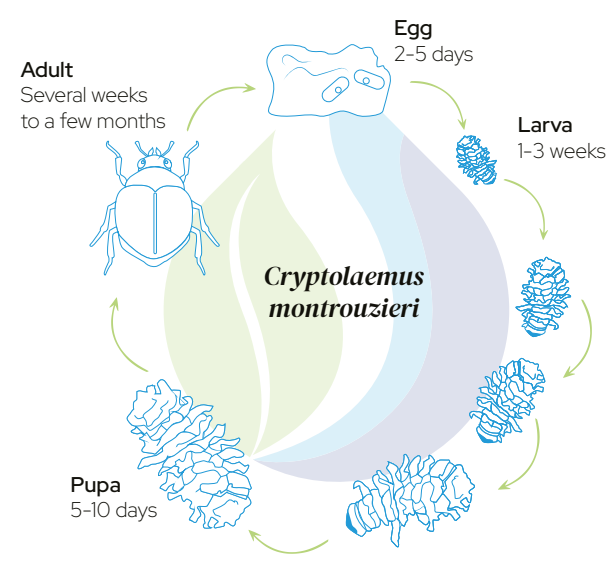
Adults measure about 4 to 6 mm in length. The adults are black with reddish-brown highlights, while the larvae are covered in a white waxy substance, resembling mealybugs. Both larvae and adults primarily feed on mealybugs but can also consume other soft-bodied insects.

Life cycle

- **Life cycle:** typically lasts 3 to 6 weeks, depending on conditions.
- **Optimal condition:** 20–28°C, Humidity from 50–70%.
- **Quiescence:** More active above 16°C.
- **Reproduction:** Eggs are laid in clusters near prey colonies (like aphids or mealybugs). Larva actively feed on prey (aphids, mealybugs, etc.). Duration depends on food availability and environmental conditions.

Introduction rate



Introduction	Quantity	Frequency	Duration
Preventive	2-5 individuals/m ²	3 weeks	Until control
Curative (light infestation)	5-10 individuals/m ²	2 weeks	Until control
Hotspots (severe infestation)	10-20 individuals/m ²	1-2 week	Until control



Application

Lightly water and introduce them in the evening.
Providing flowers can help sustain their populations longer.
Adults can easily escape greenhouses, so installing nets is recommended.

Storage

-  Use **C. montrouzieri** upon receipt.
-  Do not refrigerate or freeze.