



## **Dalotia** (*Dalotia (Atheta) coriaria*) - Fungus gnat, Shorefly and thrips predator

*Dalotia coriara* is a soil dwelling beetle. It is a generalist predator that feeds on a wide range of small insects and mites but is primarily an egg predator. It is harmless to plants and humans. *Dalotia* gives excellent control of fungus gnats and shoreflies.

### **Description and Life Cycle:**

Adult *Dalotia* are 3-4mm long, glossy blackish, brown slender beetles. Larvae are creamy white when small and pale brown when larger. All stages move rapidly in the soil when disturbed. A characteristic of this beetle group is that the adult curves its abdomen upwards like a scorpion when running or disturbed. Optimum temperature for development is 27°C. At this temperature the lifecycle is about 13 days. Adults live 21 days, laying 8 eggs per day during peak egg laying period.

### **Target Pests:**

The main targets for *Dalotia* are fungus gnat and shorefly larvae. They also will feed on western flower thrip larvae and on other fly and beetle eggs e.g. house fly and *Carpophilus* beetle.

### **Suitable Crops:**

*Dalotia* are suitable for greenhouse vegetables, potted plants, bedding plants, propagation areas and hydroponic crops. They can adapt to a variety of media as long as it is moist and food is available. A warm, humid environment is preferred.

### **When to release:**

The use of *Dalotia* is most successful when incorporated into an IPM program. Early introduction at low pest numbers is the most effective option. Ideally *Dalotia* should be released soon after

planting at a rate of 1 / sqm applied in several batches.

### **How to release:**

*Dalotia* will be shipped in a cocopeat and vermiculite mix and will contain all life stages. As beetles fly actively, do not open container until in the greenhouse. For best results apply immediately on receipt unless temperatures are extreme.

### **Pesticides:**

Avoid the use of ground-applied pesticides. Refer to the Good Bug book, or contact us for more information on chemical and other bio-control compatibilities.

### **Ordering & Accounts:**

Orders are sent via Express Post on Monday or Tuesday of each week, and usually arrive within a couple of days. Orders received after noon on Tuesday are sent the following Monday. Prices are on a sliding scale i.e. the more that is purchased over a monthly period the less their price will be per litre. Postage is charged at Australia Post rates.

Accounts are sent at the end of each month, and can be paid by cheque, BPay, or postal order.

For further enquiries please telephone our office between 8am and 4-30pm, Mon - Fri.