

REARING OF THE *ECHIUM* LEAF MINER, *DIALECTICA SCALARIELLA*

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Abstract. The leaf mining moth, *Dialectica scalariella*, has been reared at the Keith Turnbull Research Institute for release and assessment as a biological control agent for *Echium plantagineum* in Victoria. Moths were reared on 15cm to 30cm diameter *E. plantagineum* rosettes at 25^o C under natural or artificial lighting and under these conditions the life cycle of the moth took about four weeks. Moths were reared in single-plant cages, cages containing up to 12 plants and in a room containing up to 100 plants. The productivity of each method is compared and the optimal use of time and space is discussed.