

Great dart - *Agrotis crassa* Hbn.

The moth has a wingspan of 40-45 mm. It is bigger and its general appearance is more robust than that of *A. segetum*.

The antennae of the males are pectinated. The forewings are grayish-brown, the pattern (stigmae, crosslines) are much darker than the background color of the wings and therefore are well visible. The claviform stigma is short and very wide.



The moth, which is captured in the trap



The host plants of the caterpillar include various plants: potato, asparagus, cereals, and also grapevine. Larvae live in the soil and attack the tubers and roots. Usually the pest is of secondary importance. *A. crassa* occurs in Central Europe and the Mediterranean, spreading to the Middle East as far as Turkestan.

The pheromone trap should be placed in the vicinity of the plant culture to be studied, at the level of the top of the vegetation. It is advantageous to hang the traps from lower branches of nearby trees or bushes at a height of no more than 1.0 - 1.5 m above soil. Moths usually congregate in hedges, or the weedy edges bordering a field, so this is where high captures can be expected. The first moth flight usually starts in Hungary in the middle of May, and the second flight in the end of July. Usually larger moth numbers can be trapped during the second moth flight.

Selectivity of the CSALOMON® pheromone trap: in tests conducted at several sites in Hungary apart from *A. crassa* occasionally some specimens of *Autographa gamma* and *A. segetum* were also captured. The colour of the wings of *A gamma* is much darker, and the conspicuous "Y" sign is well visible. *A. segetum* specimens are not as robust as *A. crassa*, and the claviform stigma is not so conspicuous. (In our product range there are optimized and highly active sex attractant combinations available for both *A. gamma* and *A. segetum* for the detection of these pests!) Other moth species were only recorded as chance captures. These can be easily told apart from *A. crassa* as they are either much smaller or their wing pattern is clearly different.

A CSALOMON® pheromone trap starts slowly to decrease its attractive activity after 4-6 weeks of field exposure (depending on actual weather conditions). After this period it is advisable to set up a new trap for reliable detection and monitoring.

Trap design recommended: for detection our sticky trap design (RAG) is most suitable. It proved to be excellent and very sensitive for detection of occurrence and monitoring of flight dynamics of the species. The sticky insert can become saturated with captured specimens within a relatively short period (1-2 days even) at high population densities, so frequent renewal of sticky inserts may become necessary.



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Photo: Nagy Z. L.

So it looks when caught in the CSALOMON® RAG trap!

