

Turnip moth - *Agrotis segetum* Den. & Schiff.

The wingspan of the moth is 30-40 mm. The pattern of the forewings is highly variable, the prime colour is lighter or darker grey. The hindwings are greyish white, with a light violet tinge.

The host plants of the caterpillar include tobacco, sugarbeet, maize, sunflower, cereals (sown in autumn), peppers, tomatoes, other field and vegetable crops.

The stalks of seedlings and young plants can be totally bored through at soil level or 1-2 cm higher and the plants can be completely destroyed. The larvae chew rings around the stems of pepper and tomato plants, and they can bore holes in the underground parts of carrots, sugarbeet and similar vegetables.

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 flight usually starts in Hungary in the middle of May, and the second flight in the middle of July. In outbreak years captures can still be observed until the middle of October. Selectivity of the CSALOMON® pheromone trap: in Hungary especially during the first flight



The moth, which is captured in the trap



the traps can catch the noctuid *Meristis trigrammica* which has three thin dark lines on its forewings. Some specimens of *Hoplodrina superstes* can also be expected mostly during the second flight. This moth is smaller than the turnip moth and the pattern on its wings is not so sharp. Specimens of the noctuid *Erastria trabealis* can also be captured. This is much smaller and its wings are decorated by white/black stripes.

The larva and its damage, which should be averted

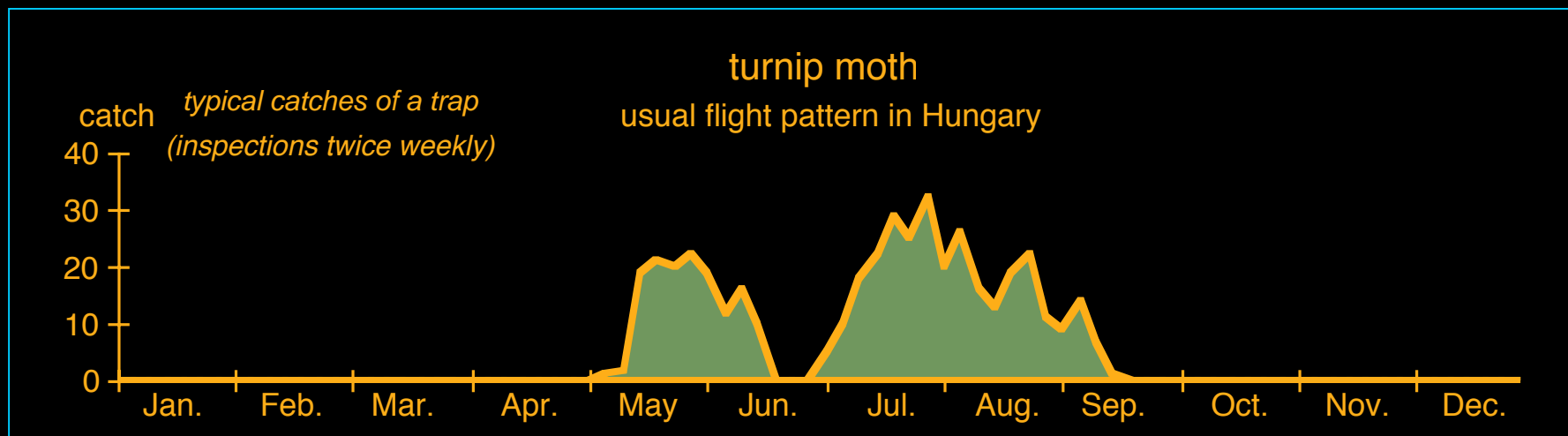
Occasionally at some sites catches of *Cucullia umbratica* were also observed, which is much larger and on its thorax the characteristic "cloak" like hair structure is readily visible.

Please refer also to the colour photo of *A. segetum* (captured in sticky traps) as shown in the supplementary advisory material included.

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.

For catching large numbers of moths and/or for quantitative monitoring the funnel (VARL+) design can be recommended. In case of the funnel design it is advisable to kill the moths captured by placing a killing agent (not provided with the trap) into the catch container.



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The funnel VARL+ traps can capture very large numbers without saturating.

So it looks when caught in the CSALOMON® RAG trap, which, although can be used for detection, can get saturated with the catch relatively fast.