

Winter usher - *Alsophila quadripunctaria* Esp.

The wingspan of the male moths is 28 - 38 mm. The basic colour of the forewings is light ochre. The pattern is not rich; mostly it consists of a brownish stripe. The hindwings are whitish-yellow. There is a small, elongated dot on both pairs of wings - the latin name refers to this feature. The antennae are filiform. In this species only the males have wings, the females are totally wingless.

The **host plants** of the caterpillar include many **orchard** trees. Damages are most often observed in orchards near forests. Usually it causes damage together with other geometrids. In forests the larva feeds on **oaks**, maple, but also survives on many other forest trees and bushes.

Damages: The larvae hatching in the spring bore into the buds. Later on they feed on young leaves and flowerbuds. The mature larvae may chew the edge of the leaves in a lobate form.

The pheromone trap should be suspended near the trunk of trees at a height of 1.0-1.5 m. Usual beginning of trapping in Hungary is **end of October**.

Selectivity of the **CSALOMON®** trap (based on tests performed in Hungary): no other moth species has been found to be attracted to the bait. Occasional catches of other spp. are only chance captures. **Longevity** of the **CSALOMON®** trap in field conditions: depending on the warmth of the weather at least **6-8 weeks**. After this period we suggest to set up a new trap for most effective detection and monitoring. Renewal of sticky inserts is recommended in intervals of 7-10 days. In case of high catches this may become necessary more often.

The pheromone traps make possible an excellent **detection** of **appearance** and following of the **flight pattern**, which helps us in the preparations for the measures in order to avoid the damage in the next spring.



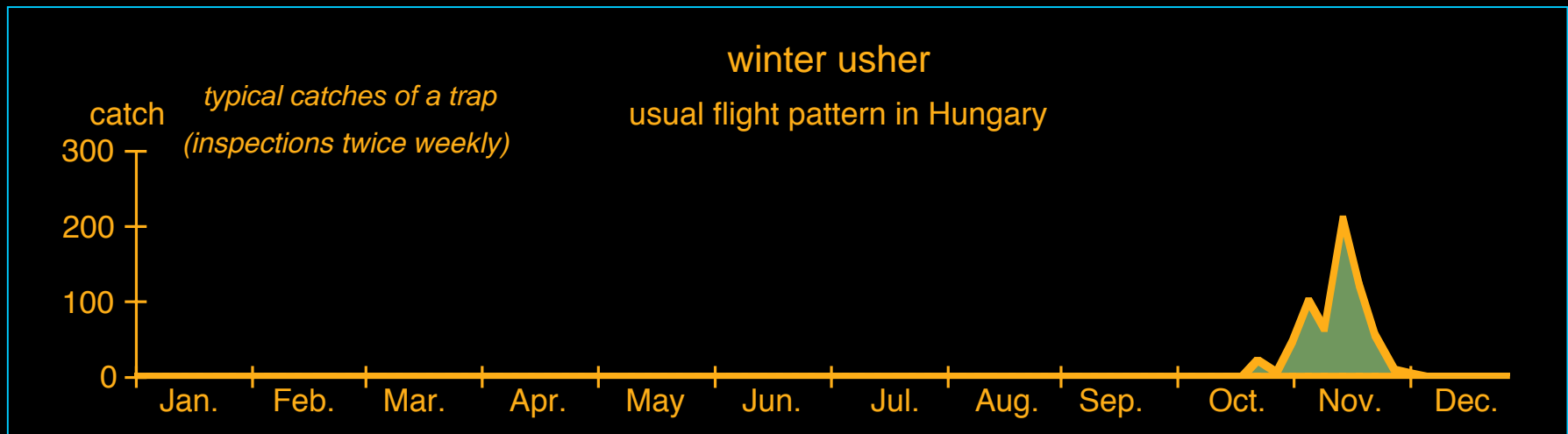
A wingless female



The moth, which is captured in the trap

One should take into consideration alternative control methods and use environmentally safe insecticides, which will not harm natural enemies [1,2].

[1] *Növényvédő szerek, termésnövelő anyagok. 1994 I., Factum BT, Budapest, 1994.* [2] *Biogazda 2., Biokultúra Egyesület, 1994.* One should take into consideration alternative control methods and use environmentally safe insecticides, which will not harm natural enemies [1,2].



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



10 mm

Photo: Tóth M.

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quadripunctaria