## Spotted cutworm - Amathes c-nigrum L.

The moth is elongated, its wingspan is 35-40 mm. The basic colour of the forewings is dark brown with a lilac tinge, old specimens look gray. The big, reddish reniform dot is conspicous. It is even more characteristic that there is a large light area which starts from the round dot and broadens towards both the base and the tip of the wing. The other side of the round dot is bordered by a black spot resembling a "C" letter. At the front edge of the wing there is a dark, triangular spot near the tip.



The hindwings are light gray. The antennae of the male are comb-like, those of the female are filiform.



The moth, which is captured in the trap



The host plants of the caterpillar include many field crops and vegetables like hop, grapewine, sugarbeet, sunflower, fabaceous plants, ornamental plants, medicinal plants.



Especially overwintered, well-developed larvae cause serious damages in spring, when they eat up all green parts of the plants. In grapewine these larvae destroy the buds. Larvae often cause damages together with similarly looking larvae of other noctuid species.

The CSALOMON<sup>®</sup> 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 at the beginning of May, and the second flight in the middle of July.



Selectivity of the CSALOMON<sup>®</sup> pheromone trap: In tests conducted at several sites in Hungary apart from *A. c-nigrum* other moth species were only recorded as chance captures.

A CSALOMON<sup>®</sup> 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.

From the range of our trap designs so far only the sticky trap (RAG) was tested for this species. 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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So it looks when captured in the CSALOMON<sup>®</sup> VARL+ trap

Foto: Koczor S.

The CSALOMON<sup>®</sup> VARL+ funnel traps can capture very large numbers of the spotted cutworm without saturating.

VARL+

