Gamma moth - *Autographa gamma* L.

The wingspan of the moth is 36-40 mm. The basic colour of the forewings is violet grey, in the middle of the wings a "γ"-shaped silvery dot is conspicuous. The inner half of the hindwings is bronzed greyish brown, the outer part is brownish black, the veins are blackish. The hairs on the thorax form an erected tuft, whose colour corresponds with the colour of the forewings.

The moth, which is captured in the trap

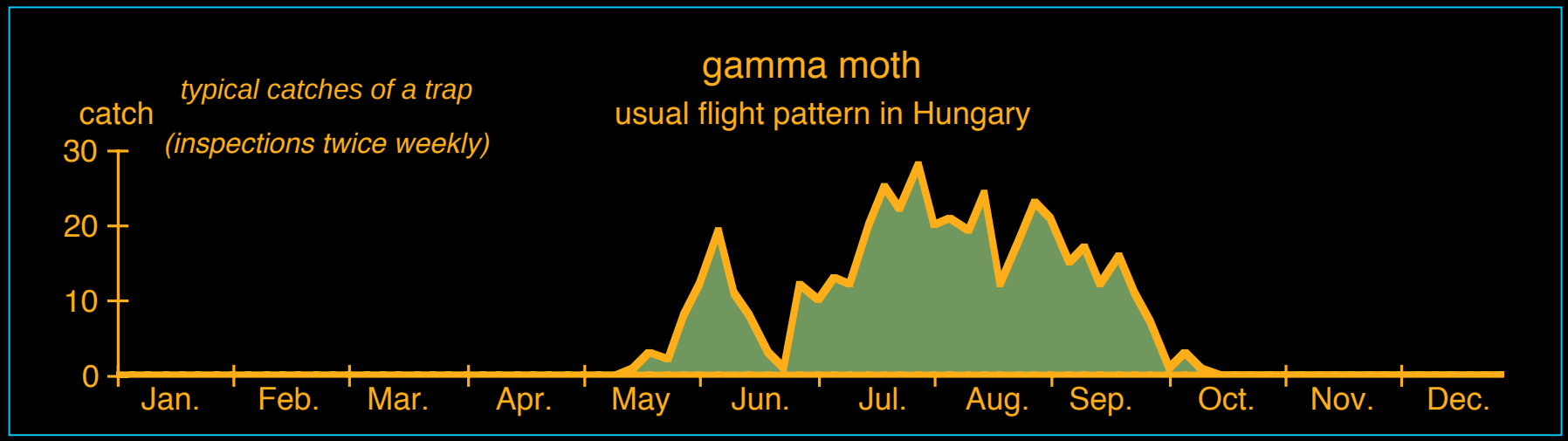
The host plants of the larvae include: sugarbeet, clover, alfalfa, green peas, beans, linum, tobacco, potatoes, brassicaceous crops, paprika and other field and vegetable crops. It is known as the pest of very many dicotyledonous agricultural plants. Its damages in general corespond to the damage of other leaf-feeding noctuids. The damage of the small larvae is not conspicuous at the beginning, they feed on the reverse side of leaves. The larvae do not shy from light, they can be found on the plants also during the day. The older caterpillars chew smaller or larger holes on the leaves, in case of a mass outbreak, only the main veins remain intact.

The pheromone trap should be placed at the level of the top of the vegetation. Male moths prefer to aggregate in hedges along the edge of open fields, so it is advisable to set up traps on the branches of bushes or trees near fields. Usual starting date for trapping is end of May (Hungary).

The larva and its damage, which should be averted

Selectivity of the CSALOMON® trap (based on tests performed in Hungary): some specimens can be captured of the similar-looking noctuid *MacDunnoughia confusa* especially towards the end of summer. This species is somewhat smaller than the gamma moth, the basic colour of the forewings turns to reddish brown, and the " γ "- shaped dot is thick, more pronounced.

Occasionally some specimens of *Hoplodrina* spp. can also come into the trap; the colouring and size of these are strikingly different from those of the gamma moth.
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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<h2371tot@ella.hu>; internet: <http://www.julia-nki.hu/traps/>.

Photo: Nagy Z. L.

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.