Rose chafers - *Cetonia a. aurata* L. and *Potosia cuprea* F.

Potosia cuprea

Cetonia aurata

The beetles, which are captured in the trap

The chafer *C. a. aurata* is flat, rectangular-shaped (length 14-23 mm), metallic golden green to purple in colour, with many colour variations. There are some white strips on the elytrae. There are no white patches of short hairs on the legs. *P. cuprea* is similar in shape and size, but it is mostly of oily colour, the ventral side is lilac. This species has white patches of short hairs on the legs. The most obvious morphological difference between the two species is the tip of the sternal outgrowth, which is round button-shaped in *C. a. aurata*, while flat in *P. cuprea*.

Host plants: the adult beetle causes damage to flowers of rose, iris, and many other ornamentals. In recent years several reports emerged in Hungary on its damage to ripening peaches and apricots. The beetles chew holes and feed on the flesh under the skin of the fruit, so that the damage is not obvious for a superficial observer. Chafers can feed in groups of half-a-dozen to a dozen on damaged fruits, making them totally non- marketable. The grub (larva) lives in the soil, feeds on rotting plant material, it causes no damage.


Photo: Vuts J.

VARb3k trap with rose chafer catch

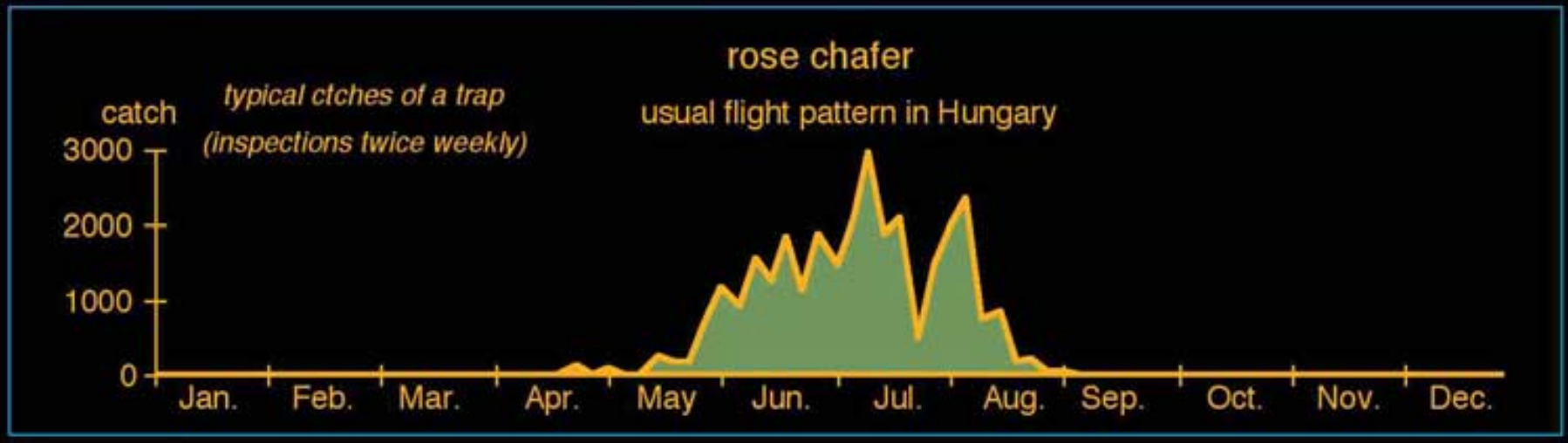
The trap should be suspended in orchards from lower branches or placed at the level of flowers in ornamentals, fastened to a pole. It is of utmost importance that the blue coloured upper funnel of the trap be in contact with sunshine as long as possiblеduring the day; beetles do not like to come into traps in the shade. Usual beginning of trapping in Hungary is end of April, in any case it is advisable to set up traps several days before ripening starts.

The beetle and its damage, which should be averted

Selectivity of the CSALOMON® trap (based on tests performed in Hungary): the bait in the trap is a flower volatile, its attractancy is increased by the light blue colour of the upper funnel of the trap. Besides *C. a. aurata* and *P. cuprea* the trap can catch substantial numbers of *Oxythyrea funesta* (Scarabaeidae, Cetoniinae). This beetle is much smaller in size, and is metallic black in colour (with white specks all over its body). *O. funesta* can also cause damage by feeding on flowers or fruits, so catching it can help in control. Depending on site the trap can capture sizeable numbers of *Epicometis (Tropinota) hirta* (Scarabaeidae, Cetoniinae), which is of similar size as *O. funesta*, is black and is covered

by long hairs (a trap&bait combination optimized specifically for *E. hirta* has also been developed and is available!) Longevity of the CSALOMON® trap in field conditions:depending on the warmth of the weather effectiveness of the attractant bait can start to diminish after 2-3 weeks. After this period we suggest to exchange the bait for most effective detection and monitoring. The traps enable sensitive detection of the first occurence of the pest in the given site, thus the direction of attack, centres of infection can be localized easily. Our VARb3k funnel trap design has a very large catch capacity, so that it can be used apart from monitoring also for mass trapping of the pest, thus directly diminishing damage levels. Results appear to be best when traps set up at a 10 x 15 m grid in a peach orchard are moved always to the area of the orchard where the ripening cultivars are.[1] Beetles captured in the trap definitely will not cause damage to any more flowers or fruits in our garden! In case of mass outbreaks it may be necessary to take supplementary control measures. In backyard gardens it is possible to prepare suitable egg-laying sites for the beetles (soil dug up, mixed with hay, and covered by plant debris), and the hatching young larvae can easily be killed by a soil insecticide, in consequence the overwintering population will be decreased[2].

[1] *Voigt E. és mtsi, Agrofórum, 16:63-64, 2005(2).* [2]*Jermy T, Balázs K. (eds.) A növényvédelmi állattan kézikönyve IIIA. Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, 1990.*



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Damage on peaches in an outbreak year

Fotó: Nikl F..

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Photo: Nagy Z. L.

So it looks when caught in the CSALOMON® VARb3k trap!

Photo: Nagy Z. L.