

Feathered thorn - *Colotois pennaria* L.

The wingspan of the large moth is 35 - 45 mm. The forewings are reddish yellow or reddish brown, with random gray scales. The two transversal bands are brownish, their line is slightly broken. Close to the sharp apex of the wing there is a white/black patch. The antennae of the males are conspicuously large, comb-like. There is a reddish-brown tuft of hair on the head, and a yellow one at the tip of the abdomen. The abdomen of the male is somewhat thicker than is otherwise usual with geometrids, that of the female is even more corpulent. The host plants of the larva include pears, and many other orchard trees. Its damage is more frequent in the vicinity of forests. Usually it causes damage jointly with other geometrid spp. Among forestry trees the caterpillars prefer oaks, birches, but it can survive on many other deciduous trees.

Damages: in the spring the young hatchlings chew on the buds from the outside, then they damage the bursting leaves and flowers. Later on they cause lobe-shaped feeding damage on the large leaves. In case of an outbreak, total foliage destruction can result!

The CSALOMON® pheromone trap should be placed at the height of 1.0 - 1.5 m near the trunks of trees. Usual starting date for trapping is beginning of October (Hungary).

Selectivity of the CSALOMON® trap (based on tests performed in Hungary): some specimens of the geometrid *Alsophila quadripunctaria* can be captured in the trap, due to common components in the respective pheromones of the two species.



The moth, which is captured in the trap



The larva - its damage should be averted



This is much smaller, the wings are more pointed, triangular and their colour is pale ochre yellow.

A CSALOMON® pheromone trap may start slowly to decrease its attractive activity after 6-8 weeks of field exposure (depending on actual weather conditions). This is usually enough to cover all the yearly flight period of the species.

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.

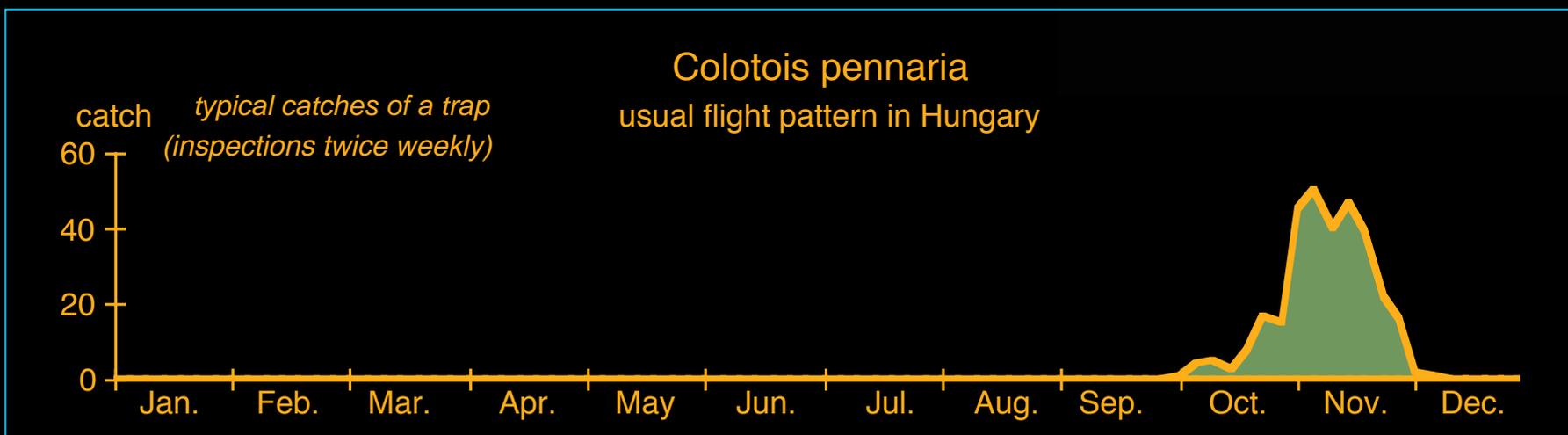
The sticky insert can become saturated with captured specimens within a relatively short period (1-2 days even) at high population densities, so frequent renewal of sticky inserts may become necessary.

For catching large numbers of moths and/or for quantitative monitoring the funnel (VARL) design can be recommended.

Pheromone traps can be used for detecting the occurrence and for monitoring the flight pattern of the pest. The pheromone of this pest has been recently characterized [1].



[1] Szócs G. et al., *J. Chem. Ecol.* 19: 2721-2735, 1993.



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Photo: Nagy Z. L.

So it looks when caught in the CSALOMON[®] RAG trap!