

Honeylocust gall midge - *Dasineura gleditchiae* Osten Sacken

Honeylocust gall midge is a serious pest of the honeylocust tree (*Gleditsia triacanthos* L.). The tiny, slender cecidomyiid midges are approximately 2-3 mm long. The hairy antennae of the males are as long as the body size. Adults have a sexual dimorphism: females have a red abdomen whereas the males have a grey abdomen.

Damage: Newly hatched larvae prefer to feed on young unexpanded leaflets. This induces the development of pod like galls, instead of leaflets. Larvae develop and pupate inside the galls. After the adult midges emerge, the galls drop. Remains only the bare leaf-stalk, which renders the tree a defoliated appearance, losing the aesthetic value drastically.

Hostplant: All cultivars of honeylocust tree, especially on 'Sunburst', one of the preferred ornamental tree in cities.



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Male midges which are caught in the trap



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Placing out traps: at the canopy on stretching-out branches, if tree-shaped, at 2,0 - 2,5 m.
Starting time of monitoring the 1st flight: beginning of May (Budapest, Hungary)

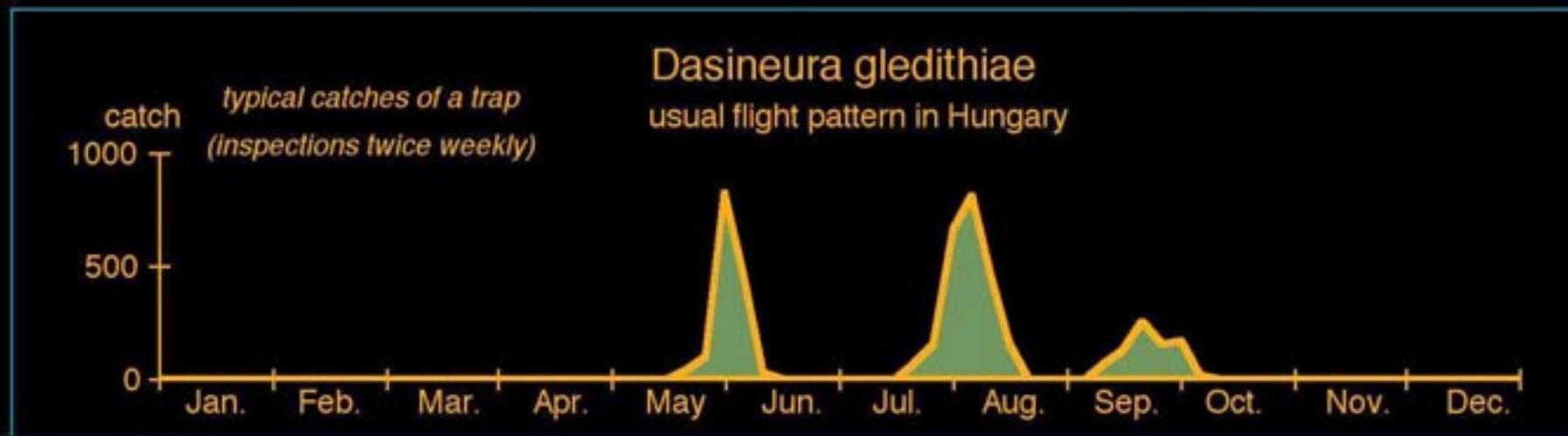
Spread of *D. gledithiae*: The honeylocust gall midge is native in North-America. In the 1970s it was incidentally introduced to the Netherlands. Later it was found in several places, and even recently it has been spreading across Europe. In 2008, the EPPO put this pest on the list of invasive species in Europe [1]. Among others, it has reported as an urban pest from Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Greece, France, Turkey, Germany, Denmark [1], Sweden [2].

Specificity of the trap: In course of field trapping tests conducted in various alleys of Budapest city, no other gall midge was detected in the traps. Identification of the pheromone was performed in cooperation with NRI (UK) [3].

[1] Eppo Reporting Service No.11. Paris 2008.11.01. www.eppo.org

[2] B. Molnár, T. Boddum, G. Szőcs, Y. Hillbur (2009) *Ent. Tidskrift* (130:113-120)

[3] B. Molnár, Zs. Kárpáti, G. Szőcs, D. R. Hall (2009) *Journal of Chemical Ecology* (35:706-714)



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Effectiveness of the pheromone trap

A typical daily catch of male honeylocust gall midges at peak flight, in a 10 x 16 cm sticky layer of a delta-shaped pheromone trap (Csalomon® RAG, Plant Protection Institute, HAS, Budapest, Hungary) [3].

