

Mountain-ash bentwing - *Leucoptera scitella* Costa

The body of the moth is 2-3 mm long, the wingspan is 5-7 mm. The forewings are metallic, with white and orange stripes at the gently curling apex. The hindwings are grey and elongated. The general appearance of the moth is still somewhat robust, because of the relatively broad forewings.

The host plant of the larva includes apple, cherry, sour cherry, pear, quince, plum, almond, medlar, and peach. The larvae bore round-shaped mines inside the green leaves. The size of the mines reaches the diameter of 10-18 mm. In the middle of the mine the faeces of the larva is visible as a dark spiral line. The edge of the mine looks like a blister. While the larva lives inside the mine the epidermis of the leaf remains green. After the larva had left the mine the epidermis turns to brown.

Strong infestation can destroy a considerable part of the foliage of the trees. The CSALOMON® pheromone trap should be suspended from branches at a height of 1 - 1.5 m in the tree canopy. Usual beginning of trapping in Hungary is beginning of April.

Selectivity of the CSALOMON® trap (based on tests performed in Hungary): stray specimens of other leaf miners may be captured only incidentally.

Longevity of the CSALOMON® trap in field conditions: depending on the warmth of the weather at least 4-6 weeks. After this period we suggest to set up a new trap for most effective detection and monitoring.



The moth, which is captured in the trap



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Renewal of sticky inserts in intervals of 7-10 days recommended. In case of high catches this may become necessary more often. Outbreaks of leafminers are usually kept in check by their enemies, the even smaller parasitoid Hymenoptera. If in the spring however, by some reason these parasitoids are killed off (i.e. by insecticide treatment applied at the wrong time), an outbreak of the pest can develop very fast within some weeks.

The damage of the larva, which should be averted

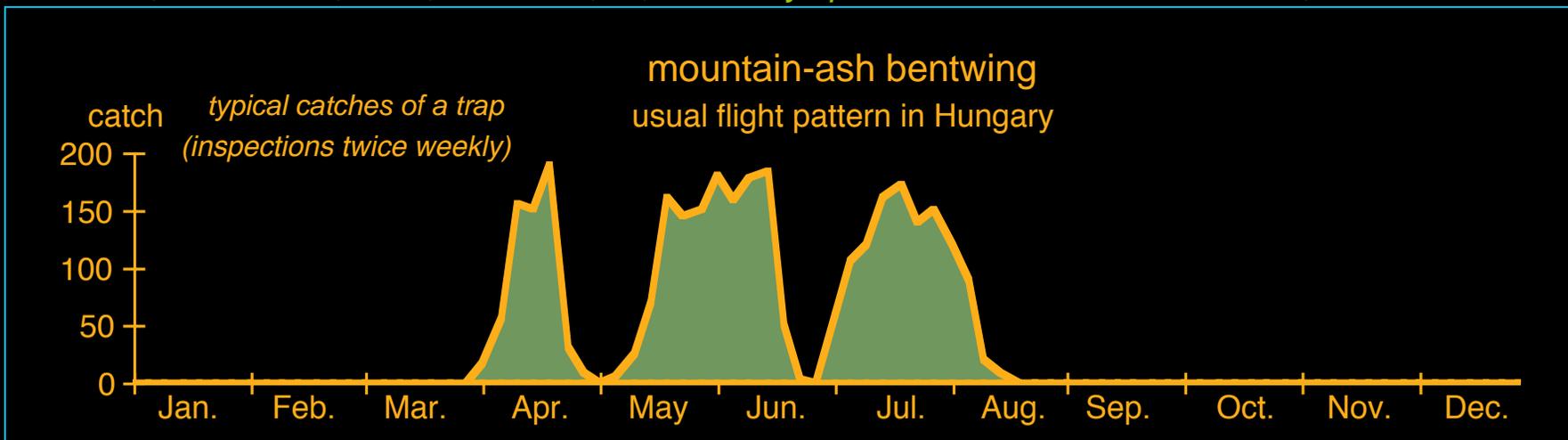
Pheromone traps are ideal for the timely detection of such an outbreak.

There are two critical trapping periods in Hungary: in April and May to follow the flight of the first moth generation, and from the end of July to detect immigration from surroundings.^[1]

If catches do not exceed one hundred per trap per 3-4 days, usually it is not necessary to apply an insecticide^[1]. Please note that this value may change according to geographical area, crop type, etc. In case of larger catches one should use an environmentally safe insecticide which will not harm the parasitoid wasps.

References in the international literature connected with the pheromone of the mountain-ash bentwing are of mainly chemical nature.^[2]

^[1]Sziráki Gy.: *Növényvédelem feromonos rovarcsapdákkal. Biofüzetek 28, Mezőgazd. Kiadó, Planétás Gmk, Budapest, 1989.* ^[2]Mori K. *Liebigs Annalen Der Chemie* 1991:439-443, 1991; Poppe L. *Tetrahedron Letters* 32:2643-2646, 1991; Kovalev B.G. *Khimiya Prirodnykh Soedinienii* 1991, 844-847, 1991; Francke W. *Naturwissenschaften* 74:143-144 1987; Rama F. *Synthetic Communications* 19:1051-1055, 1989; Toth M. J. *Chem. Ecol.* 15:1535-1543, 1989; Riba M. J. *Chem. Ecol.* 16:1471-1483, 1990; Ciocantarta I *Revue Roumaine De Chimie*, 43:215-219, 1998; Kutinkova, H., *Acta Phytopath. Ent. Acad. Sci.* 34:327-331, 1999.



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Photo: Nagy Z. L.

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