True armyworm (white-speck wainscot) - *Mythimna (Pseudaletia) unipuncta* Haw.

The moth, which is captured in the trap

The wingspan of the moth is 30-35 mm. The adults are reddish or grey moths with a central pale spot in each forewing.

The host plants of the larva include rice, other cereals, sugarcane, tobacco, grasses and forage crops. Leaves are sceletonized by the young larvae, and later the older caterpillars become gregarious and voracious, eating entire leaves and the whole plant, usually during the night. The large caterpillars often cut off rice panicles from the peduncle, and are often called "ear-cutting caterpillars".

The pheromone trap should be placed in the vicinity of the plant culture to be studied, at the level of the top of the vegetation. It is advantageous to hang the traps from lower branches of nearby trees or bushes at a height of no more than 1 - 1.5 m above soil. Moths usually congregate in hedges, or the weedy edges bordering a field, so this is where high captures can be expected.

The larva, which causes the damage

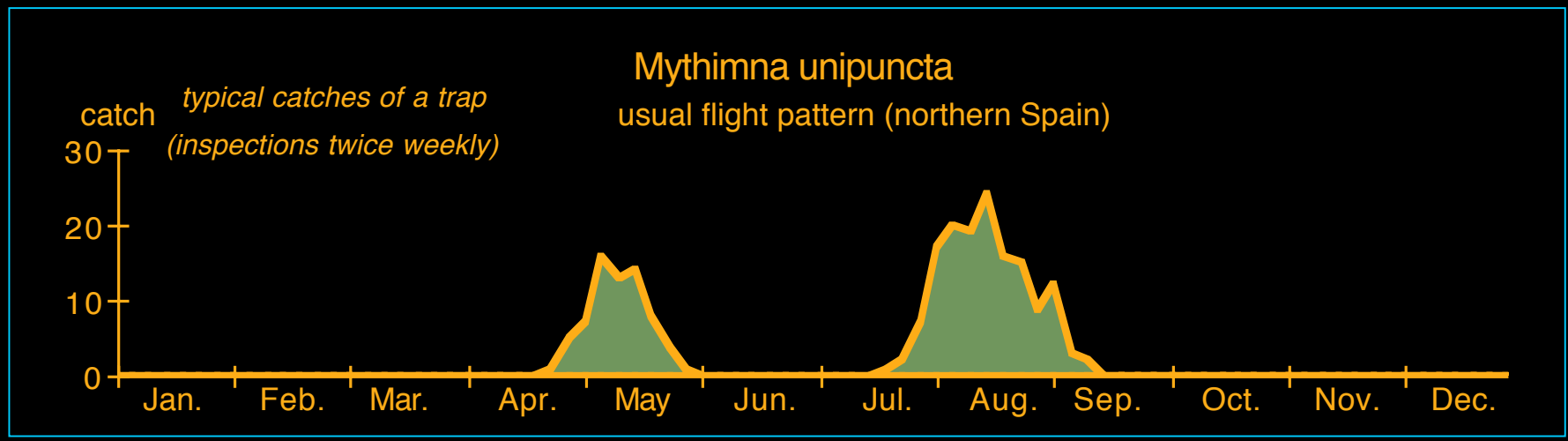
The first moth flight usually starts (Northern Spain) in the beginning of May, and the second flight in the beginning of July. In more tropical regions up to 5 generations per year are possible.

Selectivity of the CSALOMON® pheromone trap: the trap proved to be selective (tested in Northern Spain). In other regions traps can catch other *Mythimna* or *Mamestra* spp. or other noctuids which can be told apart by their differing wing pattern and colouring from *M. unipuncta*.

The bait in 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 replace the bait for reliable detection and monitoring. From the range of our trap designs the VARL+ funnel trap is best suited for catching the true armyworm. This trap type proved to be excellent and very sensitive for detection of occurrence, and since it has virtually unlimited catch capacity, it is also good for quantitative monitoring of flight dynamics.

M. unipuncta occurs in South Europe, Mediterranean Region, West Africa, Somalia, Iran, Israel, Central Asia, North, Central and South America and Hawaii.[1]. Pheromone traps are ideal for the timing of inseticide sprays, which are most effective if performed when the freshly hatched larvae still feed at the surface of the plants. Cultural methods of control such as ploughing, stubble burning, flooding infested fields, removal of grass and alternative hosts from around the fields, all help to reduce the pest populations[1]. Several papers in the literature deal with the pheromone trapping of *M. unipuncta*.[2]

[1] *Hill D. (ed.) Agricultural Insect Pests of the Tropics and their control. Cambridge Uiv. Press, CAmbridge, pp. 296-298, 1975.* [2] *Hill A.S. Roelofs W.L. Environ. Entomol., 9:408-411, 1980; McDonough L.M. et al., J. Chem. Ecol. 6:565-572, 1980; Steck W. et al., Environ. Entomol. 9:583-585, 1980; Kamm J et al., Environ. Entomol. 11:917-919, 1982; Steck W. et al., Entomol. Exp. Appl. 32:302-304, 1982; Turgeon J.J. et al., Physiol. Entomol. 8:339-344, 1983; Environ. Entomol. 12:891-894, 1983; Weber, D.C. & Ferro, D.N. J Econ Entomol. 84:1364-1369, 1991.*



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Mythimna unipuncta

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So the insect looks, which is caught in the CSALOMON® VARL+ trap!