

## Banded apple pigmy - *Nepticula (Stigmella) malella* Stainton

The body of the moth is 2-3 mm, wingspan is 4-6 mm. The forewings are blackish brown, with a violet tinge and with a broad, white transversal band. The fringe is whitish grey. Its spear-shaped hindwings are grey. There is an orange tuft of scales on the head.

The host plants of the larva include apple, medlar.

**Damage:** the caterpillar bores mines in the leaf. The mine is meandering, snake-like, relatively short, not too winding. The mine becomes more and more wide as the larva develops, the faeces is deposited in the middle of the mine. The length of mines which were left for pupation is 3 - 5 cm.

The pheromone trap should be suspended from branches at a height of 1.0 - 1.5 m in the tree canopy. Usual beginning of trapping in Hungary is end of March.

**Selectivity of the CSALOMON® trap** (based on tests performed in Hungary): occasionally some other *Nepticula* spp. (i.e. *N. crataegella*, etc.) can be captured in lower numbers. No moth species belonging to other families

were recorded to be caught by the bait.

**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.

Renewal of sticky inserts in intervals of 7-10 days. In case of high catches this may become necessary more often. Outbreaks of leafminers are usually kept at bay by the miniature parasitoid wasps.

If however parasitoid wasps die off (i.e. by improperly timed insecticide treatments in the spring), leafminers can develop and outbreak within weeks.



[www.ziraat.selcuk.edu.t](http://www.ziraat.selcuk.edu.t)

*The moth, which is captured in the trap*



[www.chromos-agro.hr](http://www.chromos-agro.hr)



[www.inra.fr](http://www.inra.fr)

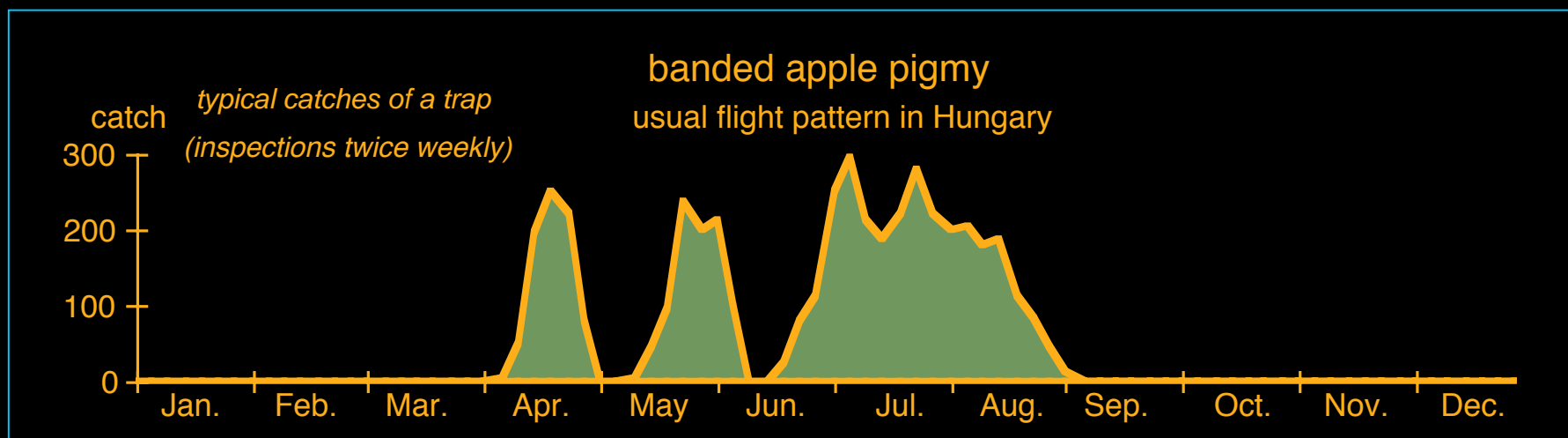
*The larva and its damage, which should be averted*

To forecast the phenomenon a CSALOMON® pheromone traps are the ideal tools. The pheromone composition of the banded apple pigmy has been defined relatively recently.[1]

[1] Tóth, J. *Chem. Ecol.* 19:13, 1995.




Photo: Nagy Z. L.



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**To order / to inquire:** MTA ATK Növényvédelmi Intézet (Plant Prot. Inst. MTA ATK) Budapest, Pf 102, H-1525, Hungary; phone. +(36-1)-391-8637, +(36)-30-9824999; fax +(36-1)-3918655; e-mail: <csalomon.orders@julia-nki.hu> or <h2371tot@ella.hu>; internet: <<http://www.julia-nki.hu/traps/>>.



almalev.törpemoly  
N. malella

Photo: Nagy Z. L.

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