

Alfalfa longhorn beetle - *Plagionotus floralis* Pallas

The beetles are 8 – 16 mm long. Their body is slim, narrow, the end of the elytrae are rounded. The basic colour is black, with conspicuous strips of yellow hairs across the elytrae. The dorsal part of the thorax is also with yellow/black stripes, the ventral part of the body is covered with dense, yellow hairs.

Host plant of the larvae include: alfalfa. The larva damages the roots.

Damage: The larva lives only in the main root, where it bores tunnels in the middle. The tunnel is filled with faeces and debris. As a result on the weakened alfalfa plant yellow leaves and shoots can be observed. At the end of the winter the upper part of the main root often splits. The damages are more severe by dry weather. Its damage can be confounded with that of the weevil *Otiorrhynchus ligustici*, but in the latter case the faeces and debris in the tunnel turns brown, while in the case of *P. floralis* it remains whitish. The alfalfa longhorn beetle damages predominantly old (3-4 years old or more) alfalfa fields. A 70-90% plant mortality caused by its damages have already been reported from the European part of Russia.[1]

The attractant-baited trap should be placed at soil level, held in place by a pole. Usual beginning of trapping in Hungary is middle of May.

Selectivity of the CSALOMON® trap (based on tests performed in Hungary): the special fluorescent greenish yellow hue of the VARb3z funnel trap is strongly attractive for the alfalfa longhorn beetle. Other beetles which could be confounded with the target pest are not caught in the trap. Some catches of cetoniin scarabs (i.e. *Cetonia a. aurata*, *Potosia cuprea*, *Epicometis hirta*, *Oxythyrea funesta* etc.) can be observed, as some components of the attractant are active for these spp also. Pls note however, that for these latter scarabs specifically targeted and designed, optimized trap products are available! Pls refer to our product list for information!



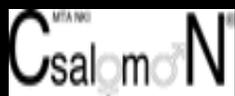
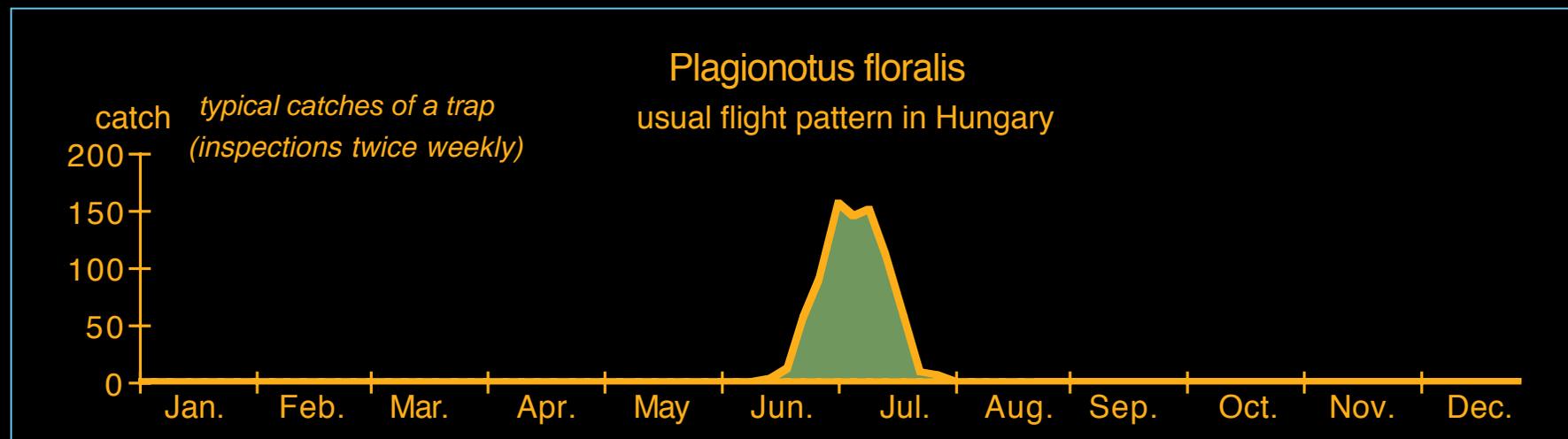
The beetle, which is captured in the trap



Longevity of the CSALOMON® trap in field conditions: Depending on the warmth of the weather at least 6-8 weeks, which is usually enough to cover the full span of yearly flight of the alfalfa longhorn beetle. After this period we suggest to exchange the bait to a new one for most effective detection and monitoring. The fluorescent greenish yellow VARb3z funnel trap is suitable for sensitive detection and for monitoring. It has a very high capture capacity (>1000 beetles).

Using the traps one can establish whether the alfalfa field in question is already infested with the pest or not. If yes, the time of occurrence of the adults can be pinpointed, and population changes during the flight can reliably be followed. Simplest control measure is to stop alfalfa production after 3-4 years on the same spot, before the pest can become very numerous. After ploughing the field larvae can survive for a long time in root pieces in the soil, but disk-harrowing can eliminate many larvae. Alfalfa cultivars with thin, branching roots are not attacked by the pest in the first year, only later when roots develop to be thicker.[1]

[1] Jermy T, Balázs K. (eds.) *Handbook of Plant Protection Zoology (in Hung.)*. Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, 1990.



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So it looks when caught in the
CSALOMON® VARb3z trap!

