

Diamondback moth - *Plutella maculipennis* Curtis (= *P. xylostella*)

The body of the moth is 6-8 mm long, the wingspan is 12-15 mm. The forewings are narrow, the outer edge is slightly arched. The basic colour of the males is greyish brown, the females are brown usually with a metallic tinge. There is a characteristic zig-zag-like band along the lower edge of the forewings. Below this band the wing is much lighter, than above. When the moth is in a resting position the lighter parts on the wings lay side by side and they appear to be a light middle band. In this posture the light area goes over to the thorax and head, pretending to be a continuous stripe. In the resting position the antennae are held rigidly forward, which is also a characteristic posture for the species.

Host plant of the larva is **cabbage**, and its varieties, i.e. rape, mustard, lettuce, horseradish, etc.

Damage: the young caterpillars bore mines by entering into the leaf from the backside. The entering hole can be detected by the dark grains of faeces. Later the larvae feed on the back surface of the leaves, still remaining on the back side, and their feeding results in "window"-like holes, with the upper layer of epidermis remaining intact. In case of a mass outbreak, the leaves appear to be white from the many "windows".

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The damage of the larva, which should be averted



ukmoths.org.uk

The moth, which is captured in the trap

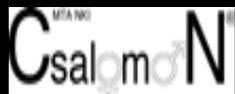
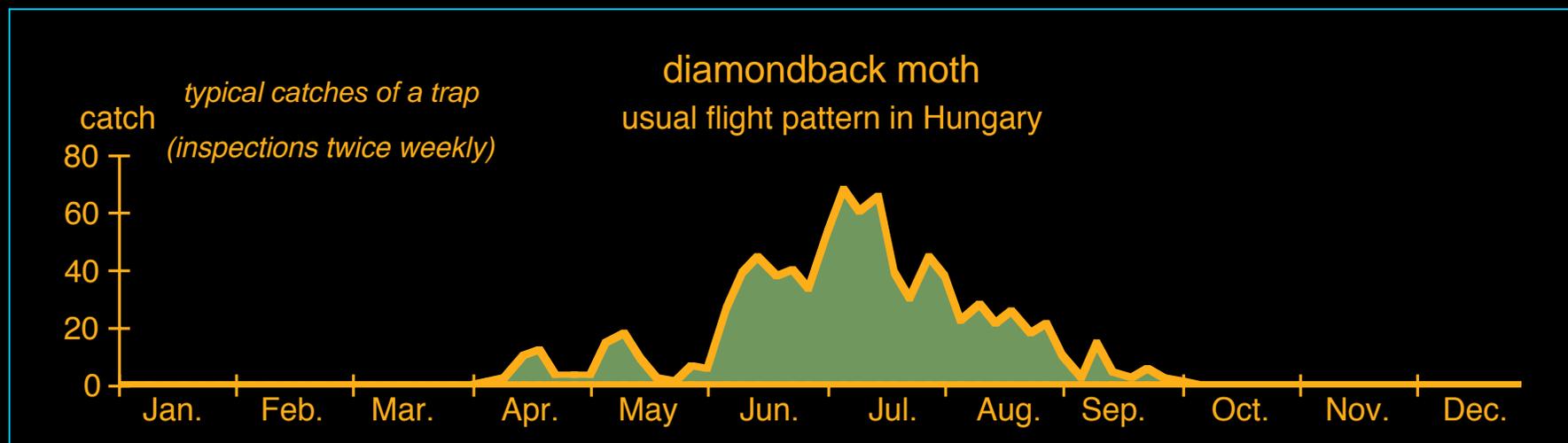
The older caterpillars can chew holes into the leaves. The **CSALOMON®** pheromone trap should be placed into the plant culture to be studied, at the **level** of the **top** of the vegetation. Usual beginning of trapping in Hungary is end of March.

Selectivity of the CSALOMON® trap (based on tests performed in Hungary): depending on the locality the trap can catch numbers of noctuids of the genera *Mamestra* or *Oligia*, which are all much bigger in size and can be told apart easily from the diamondback moth.

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.

Pheromone traps are suitable for the detection of occurrence and monitoring of the flight of the pest. Insecticide sprays are most effective when timed according to captures, and are performed when the majority of the young larvae hatch from the eggs. According to experience the most suitable period of treatment is 6-8 days after peak flight. The attractive range of the pheromone is relatively small (some metres), so each field should be evaluated and treated independently[1] In case of a season with favourable weather conditions for the pest several generations can develop more or less continually in the second part of the season.

[1] Baker P.,B. J. Econ. Ent. 75:1025-1028 1982.



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Photo: Nagy Z. L.

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