

## Citrus flower moth - *Prays citri* Mill.

The body of the moth is 10-12 mm long, the wingspan is 12-15 mm. The antennae are relatively short, the forewings are of a greyish brown colour, the wrinkled pattern is darker along the back side and the apex. The hindwings are very narrow, and are of a uniform brownish grey with a "smoky" touch towards their end.

Host plants of the larva include citrus orchard trees, like lemon, oranges, tangerines etc., with a pronounced preference for *Citrus limonum* and *C. decumana*. The caterpillars feed on the flowers, young buds and small fruits, more rarely they can cause damage also to mature fruits. The freshly hatched larvae bore into the tissues of the bud, after finishing with a bud they can move over to another one. The damaged buds dry out and die. The small fruits are damaged in a similar way as the buds, and as a result the damaged fruits fall down.

The pheromone trap should be placed into the canopy of citrus trees at the height of 1.5 - 2.0 m. In the Mediterranean region *P. citri* has a more or less continuous development so all developmental stages are usually present throughout all the year[1]. Usual beginning of trapping should precede the mass blossoming of citrus (in Sicily is middle of May).

Selectivity of the CSALOMON® trap (based on tests performed in Italy): the trap did not catch any other moths apart from *P. citri*. In other regions in the vicinity of olive groves the capture of *Prays oleae* can be expected.

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.

Trap designs recommended: For detection our sticky trap design (RAG) is most suitable. It proved to be excellent and very sensitive for detection of occurrence of the moths.



*The moth, which is captured in the trap*



*The damage of the larva, which should be averted*

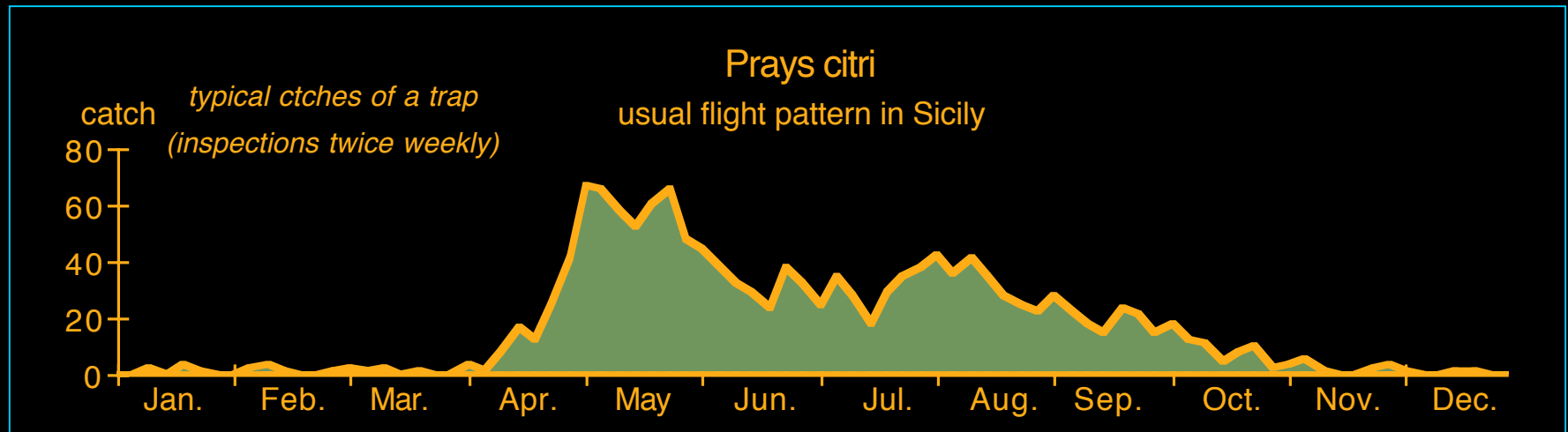
The sticky insert can become saturated with captured specimens within a relatively short period (1-2 days even) at high population densities, so frequent renewal of sticky inserts may become necessary.

For catching large numbers of moths and/or for quantitative monitoring (i.e. monitoring of flight dynamics) the funnel (VARL+) design can be recommended. When using the funnel design it is advisable to kill the moths captured by placing a killing agent (not provided with the trap) into the catch container.

The citrus flower moth is reported to cause damages in Europe mainly in Italy, Spain and France. In Africa it is present in Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libanon, Israel and South Africa. Damages have been reported also from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, Australia and some Pacific islands[1].

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 performed when the majority of the young larvae hatch from the eggs. Several papers in the literature deal with the pheromone trapping of *P. citri*[2].

[1] Balachowski A.S. (ed.), *Entomologie appliquée à l'agriculture*, vol. 2. Masson et Cie Éditeurs, Paris pp. 193-198. [2] Nesbitt B.F. et al., *Insect. Biochem.* 7:355-359, 1977; Sternlicht M. et al., *Phytoparasitica.* 6:101-113, 1978; *Bull. Ent. Res.* 71:267-274, 1981; *Ecol. Ent.* 7:207-216, 1982.



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Photo: V. Jurkó & S. Koczor

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