

# Beet armyworm - *Spodoptera exigua* Hbn.

<http://www.lepiforum.de>

The moths are typically drab brown to grey with a 26–32 mm wingspan. The forewings are mottled gray and brown with an irregular banding pattern and a light colored bean-shaped spot. The hindwings are a more uniform gray or white color, and trimmed with a dark line at the margin.

**Host plants:** the wide host range of the beet armyworm includes asparagus, beans and peas, sugar and table beets, celery, cole crops, lettuce, potato, tomato, cotton, cereals, oilseeds, tobacco, many flowers, and a multitude of weed species.

**Damage:** the caterpillars can completely defoliate smaller leaves. Younger larvae often leave the remains of the thin epidermis and veins and strands of silk behind, netting the leaves with a silvery film. Larger larvae tend to burrow holes through thick areas of plants. They attack buds and new growth on plants, preventing flowers from opening, new leaves from sprouting, and vegetables from developing.

**Trap design recommended:** for the capture of the species the **VARL+** funnel trap should be used. It can catch very large numbers of moths and follows population changes reliably. The trap should be suspended at the height of 1.0 – 1.5 m on branches of trees or bushes. Usual beginning of flight in South-eastern Turkey is late April, but this may differ in other regions.



**The moth which is caught in the trap**



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



<http://cropwatch.unl.edu>

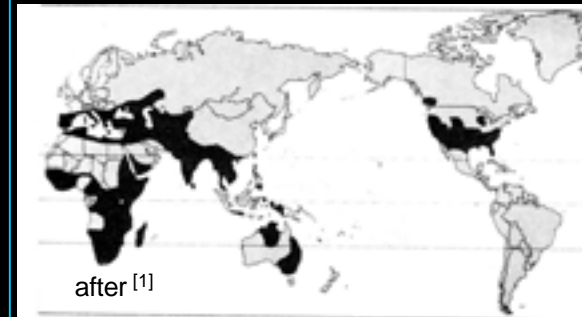
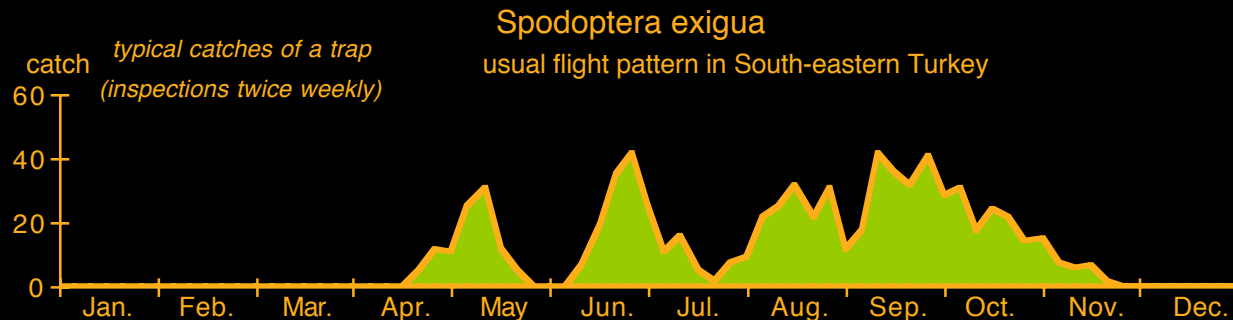
**Selectivity** of the CSALOMON® trap: according to experience the lure in the trap does not attract any other noctuid moth in significant numbers. Occasionally the trap can catch *Ephestia*, *Cadra* and *Plodia* moths, which are considerably smaller.

**Longevity** of the CSALOMON® trap in field conditions: the lure starts slowly to loose from 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

**Geographical occurrence:** it is present in Southern Europe and other continents, and is a world wide invasive species. <sup>[1]</sup>

All control measures should be based on **signalization** of the pest. Pheromone traps can form a sound basis for the timing of insecticide applications against the young larvae or the moth itself. The sensitivity of the trap and the inspections (advisably at least at 2-day intervals or more often) ensure that the infestation areas will be identified and the pest numbers will be reduced effectively.

<sup>[1]</sup> Hill, D. (ed) *Agricultural Insect Pests of the Tropics and their Control*. Cambridge Univ. Press, 1975, 516 p.



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<http://www.lepinet.fr>



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

The CSALOMON® VARL+ funnel traps can catch very large numbers without danger of saturating.