

African cotton leaf worm - *Spodoptera littoralis* Boisduval

The moth has a 15-20 mm long, grey-brown body and a 30-38 mm wingspan. The forewings are grey to reddish brown with paler lines along the veins. The male (which are caught in the trap) often have bluish areas occurring on the base and tip of the wing. The ocellus is marked by two or three oblique whitish stripes. Hindwings are greyish white, iridescent with grey margins and usually lack darker veins.

Host plants of the larvae: the caterpillar has a wide host range, feeding on cotton plants of the cabbage group, citruses, tomato, pepper, potato, legumes, ornamentals and several other plant species. **Damage:** on fruits the frass and the exit hole is visible with internal feeding and premature drop. There are external caterpillar feedings on the leaves with shreadings.

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.



The moth which is caught in the trap

Usual beginning of flight in South-eastern Turkey is late April, but this may differ in other regions.

Selectivity of the CSALOMON® trap: according to experience the lure in the trap does not attract any other moth species in significant numbers.

Longevity of the CSALOMON® trap in field conditions: the lure starts slowly to lose 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.

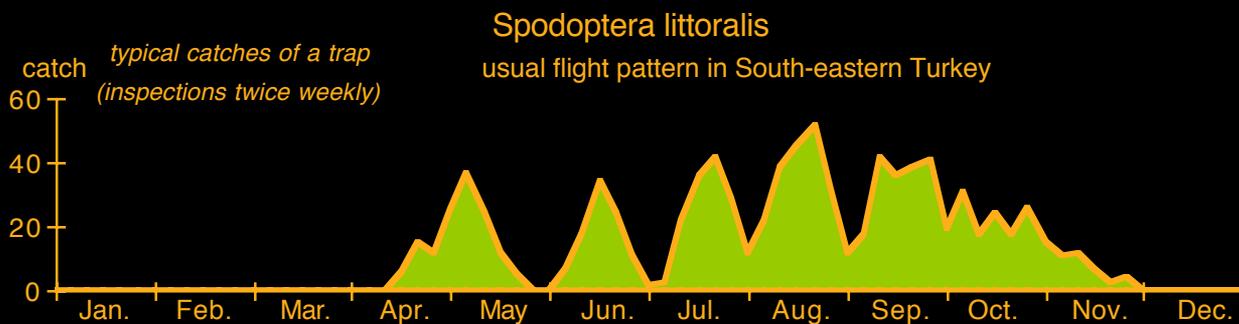


The damage of the larva which should be averted

Geographical occurrence: the species is present in Asia Minor and Africa. Within Europe there are sporadic populations in France, Portugal, Spain and Italy, while it is well spread in Cyprus, Crete and Malta.

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.

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



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Foto: A. Kurtulus



Foto: Tóth M.



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

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

