

Hairy rose beetle - *Tropinota squalida* Scop.

The beetle is very similar to the related *Epicometis (Tropinota) hirta*. The body is flat, rectangular-shaped (length 8-13 mm), grayish black in colour. All surfaces of the body are covered with yellowish-hairs. The elytrae are black, with small yellowish flecks. In male beetles, on the abdominal side there is a longitudinal hollow - this is a clear morphological difference from *E. hirta*, which has no hollow. Other differences in morphology between *T. squalida* and *E. hirta* are not easily visible and telling apart of female specimens require taxonomic knowledge.

Host plants: The adult beetle causes damage to flowers of citrus, apple, strawberries and many other spring-blossoming plants. The beetle chews the petals, staminae and stigmae thus rendering the flower infertile. It can damage not only flowers in full blossom, but also in the bud stage. Its damage is similar to that of the closely related scarabs *E. hirta* and *Oxythyrea funesta*. The grub (larva) lives in the soil, feeds on rotting plant material, it causes no damage.

The trap should be suspended in orchards from lower branches or placed on the soil by the trunks of trees. In strawberry fields the trap should be set on the soil, fastened to a pole. It is of utmost importance that the blue coloured upper funnel of the trap be in contact with sunshine as long as possible during the day; beetles do not like to come into traps in the shade.

Usual beginning of trapping in Sicily is middle of March, in any case it is advisable to set up traps several days before blossoming starts.

Selectivity of the CSALOMON® trap (based on tests performed in Central and Southern Europe): the bait in the trap is a floral lure, which adds to the attractancy of the light blue colour of the upper funnel of the trap. Besides *T. squalida* the trap catches equally well *E. hirta*. Since both species cause similar damages, from the practical point of view it is not necessary to separate catches. Some numbers of the scarab *O. funesta* can also come into the traps. Occasional catches of other closely related cetoniiin spp. can also be expected, i.e. *Cetonia a. aurata* and *Potosia cuprea*, which are much larger than *T. squalida* and are of different shades of bright metallic green. For *O. funesta*, *C. aurata* and *P. cuprea* more effective traps especially targeted for the respective scarab are available from CSALOMON®. In some localities low numbers of the scarab *Valgus hemipterus* can also be caught, which is smaller than *T. squalida* and its body is without hairs



The beetle, which is caught in the trap



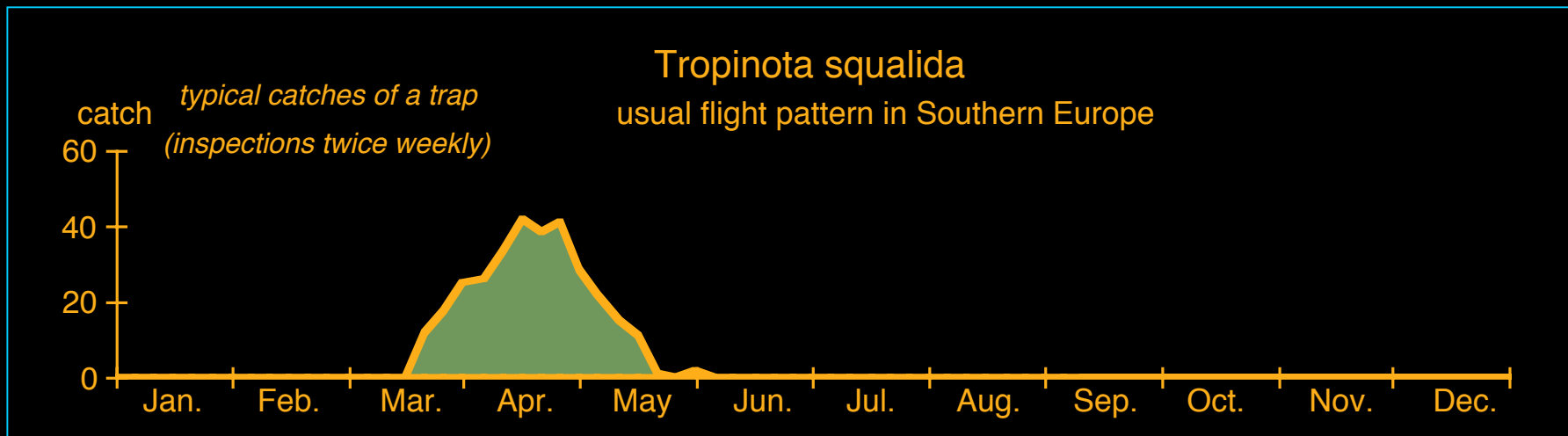
*VARb3k trap
catching *T.
squalida**

Longevity of the CSALOMON® trap in field conditions: depending on the warmth of the weather effectiveness of the attractant bait can start to diminish after 2-3 weeks.

After this period we suggest to exchange the bait for most effective detection and monitoring.

The traps enable sensitive detection of the first occurrence of the pest in the given site, thus the direction of attack, centres of infection can be localized easily, and the flight can be monitored during the season. Our VARb3k funnel trap design has very large catch capacity, so that it can be used apart from monitoring also for mass trapping of the pest, thus directly diminishing damage levels. From this viewpoint it is of further benefit that our trap catches both females and males of the pest. Beetles captured in the trap definitely will not cause damage to any more flowers or fruits in your orchard! In case of mass outbreaks it may be necessary to take supplementary control measures. Such measures should be "bee-friendly", as at the time of attack of the pest pollination by bees is also very intense. There are some publications concerning the attractant trapping of *T. squalida* and *E. hirta* [1].

[1] *T. squalida*: Ortu, IOBC WPRS Bull. 24:113-116 2001, Ortu, IOBC WPRS Bull. 26:163-166 2003;
E. hirta: Tóth, Z. Naturforsch. 59c:288-292 2004. Schmera, Crop Prot. 23:939-944 2004, Mircheva, A. Ann. Univ. Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski" 96:201-204 2004, Sivcev, Abst. V. Congr. Plant Prot., 22-26 November, 2004, Zlatibor, pp. 54-55 2004, Tóth, Növényvédelem 41:581-588 2005, Sivcev, Poljoprivedni Kalendar 2006:138-140 2006.



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Epicometis (Tropinota) hirta



Foto: Koczor S.

Tropinota squalida



Foto: Koczor S.



Foto: Koczor S.



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So it looks when caught in the CSALOMON® VARb3k trap. The trap catches equally well both *T. squalida* and *E. hirta* depending on geographical region.