

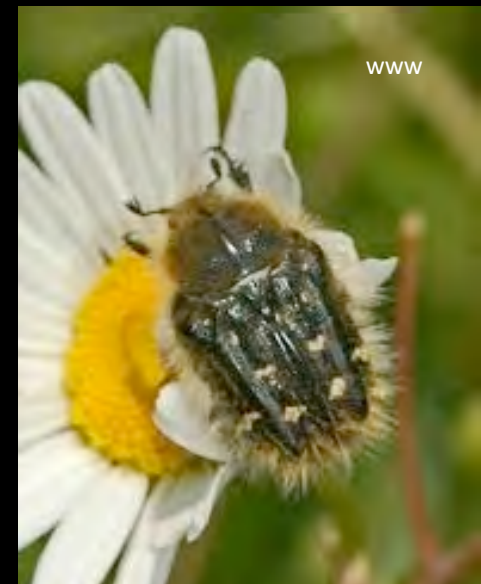
How to use? The [CSALOMON® VARb3k](#) trap with *Tropinota* lure



Foto: I. Sivcev



blossom feeder scarab
[*Epicometis*
(*Tropinota*) *hirta*]



hairy rose beetle (*Tropinota*
squalida)

Both scarabs can be captured with the same lure and trap!

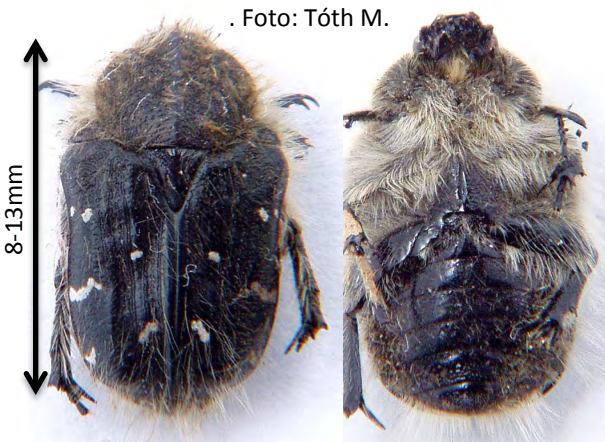
The lure is a food attractant, therefore it attracts both **females** and males.

The optimal visual cue is **bright blue**, its presence enhances attractancy of the lure resulting in larger catches!

The VARb3k trap can be applied to follow the spread into new areas, to detect beginning of flight and to follow seasonal occurrence, to time control measures (if necessary) and through mass trapping to **decrease the damage**.

Foto: Tóth M.

8-13mm

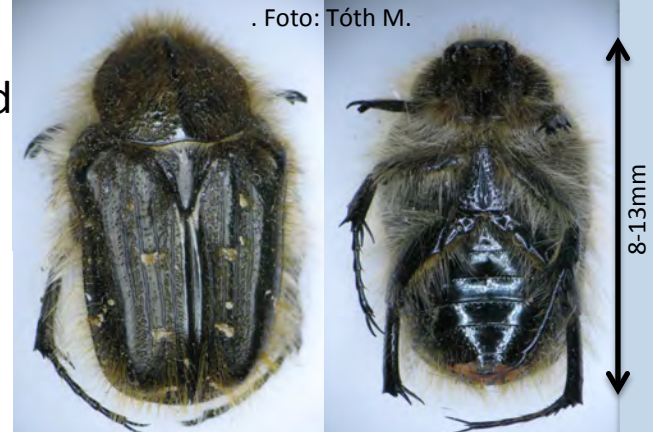


blossom feeder
(*Epicometis (Tropinota) hirta*)
(ventral side of male)

The blossom feeder scarab [*Epicometis (Tropinota) hirta*] and the hairy rose beetle (*Tropinota squalida*)

These two scarabs look very similar, only an expert can tell them apart. (The only clear difference is that there is a hollow at the ventral side of males of *T. squalida*). Their life habits, damages, etc. are also very similar.

Foto: Tóth M.



hairy rose beetle
(*Tropinota squalida*)
(ventral side of male)

Both scarabs damage buds and flowers of orchard trees (apple, pear, citrus fruits, etc.), berries (strawberry) and grapes – (i.e.. *T. squalida* in Sardinia). From the damaged flower no fruit develops, or the resulting **fruit is deformed**, non-marketable. Damages can occur more rarely on the fruits. The beetles can destroy flowers of ornamentals as well.



Foto: I. Sivcev

Scarabs feeding on apple blossoms (*E. hirta*)



Foto: I. Sivcev

Damage on a strawberry
flower (*E. hirta*),

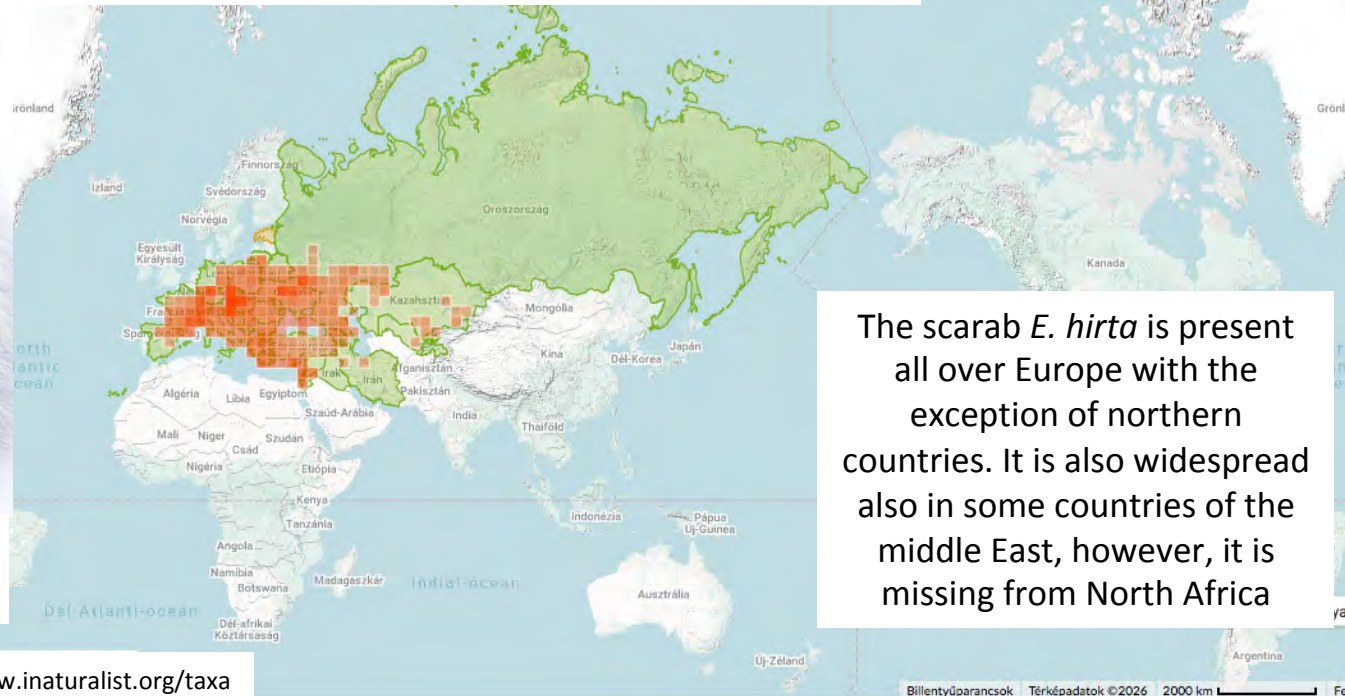
and deformed strawberries developed from the damaged flowers.

Geographical distribution of the two scarabs:

. Foto: Tóth M.



blossom feeder (ventral side of male)
[*Epicometis (Tropinota) hirta*]



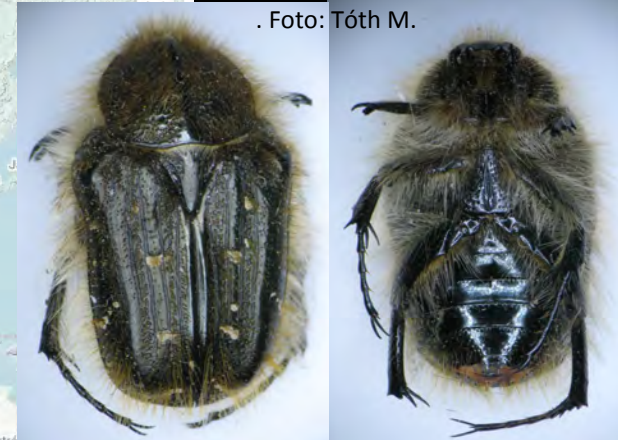
The scarab *E. hirta* is present all over Europe with the exception of northern countries. It is also widespread also in some countries of the middle East, however, it is missing from North Africa

www.inaturalist.org/taxa

T. squalida occurs and causes damage in southern European countries. It swarms in masses and therefore is economically important also in Mediterranean North Africa (i.e. Egypt).



. Foto: Tóth M.



hairy rose beetle (ventral side of male)
(*Tropinota squalida*)

(Foto: Voigt. E.)



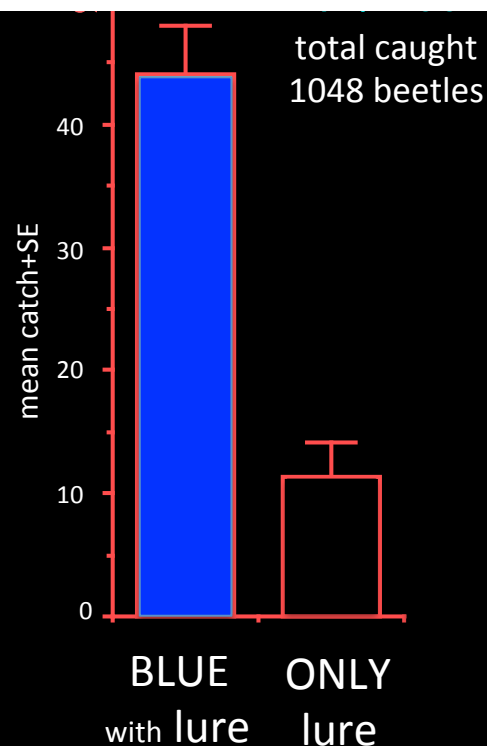
(*E. hirta* scarab on a peach blossom.

Importance of the blue visual cue:

Both scarabs fly in daylight, especially in sunny hours, and they are extremely sensitive to some bright colours. **Bright blue** colour increased to the largest extent the activity of the chemical lure (*E. hirta*),

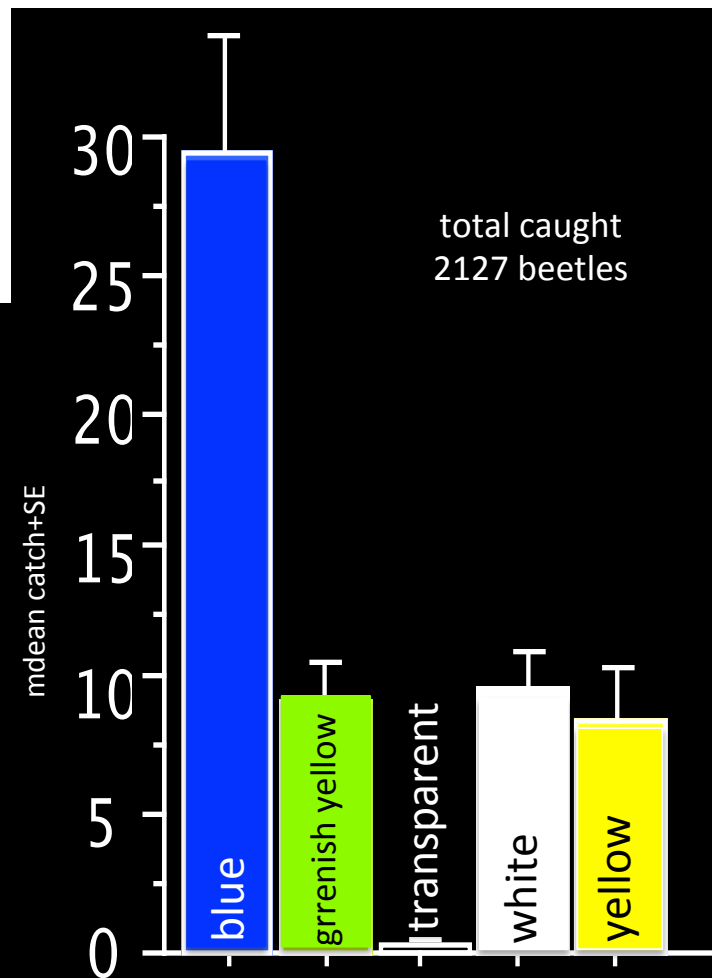
therefore the collection funnels of VARb3k traps are blue. Blue traps with lure proved to be excellent also for trapping of *T. squalida*.

[IOBC/WPRS Conference, Bursa, Turkey 2012.](#)



Catches of scarabs (*E. hirta*) in blue or transparent traps with lure. Backyard garden, Agárd, Hungary, 1998. After a presentation at [IOBC/WPRS Conference, Bursa, Turkey 2012.](#)

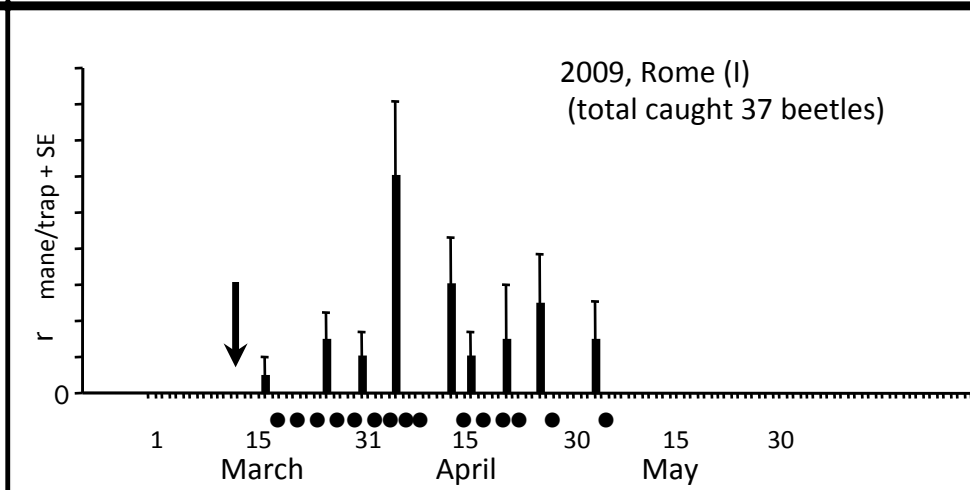
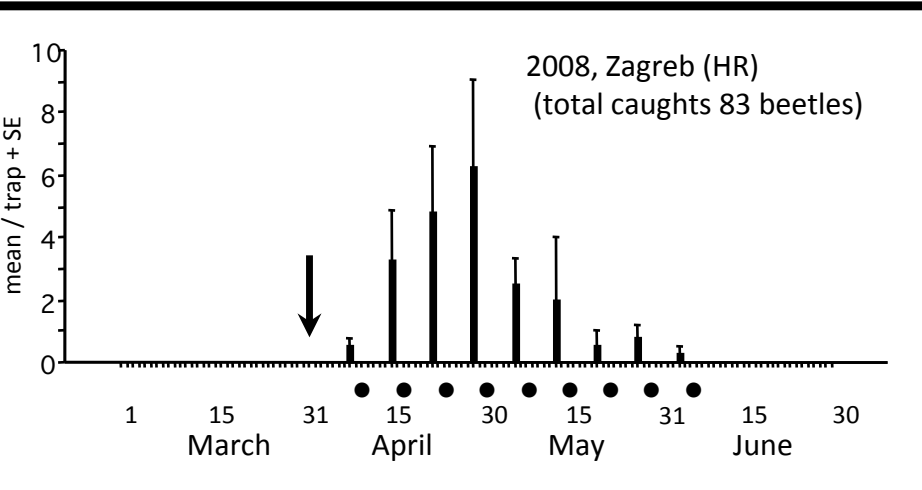
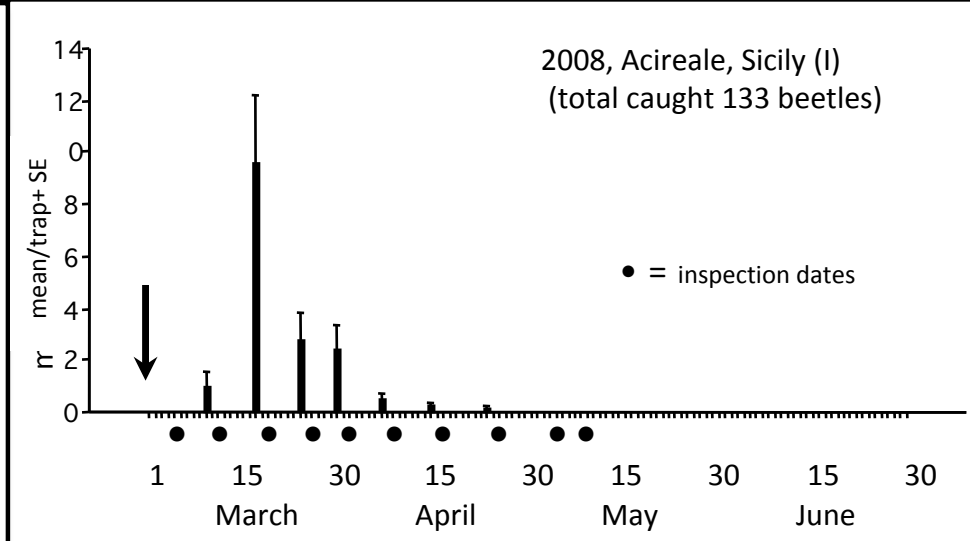
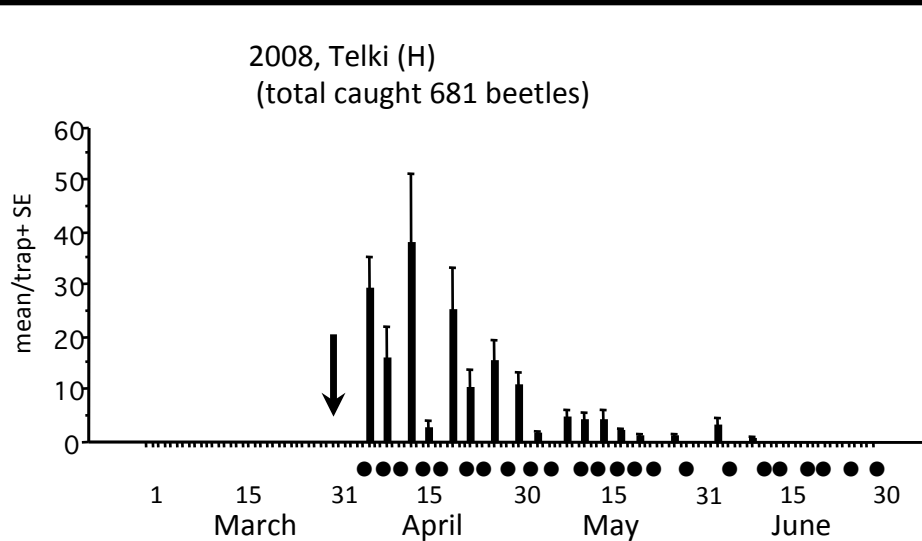
Colours tested:



Catches of scarabs (*E. hirta*) in traps of different colours (without lure). Edge of forest with bushes (*Rosa*, *Crataegus*, etc.) Telki, Hungary 2003. After a presentation: [at the IOBC/WPRS Conference, Bursa, Turkey 2012.](#)

Seasonal occurrence, flight pattern:

E. hirta flies in Middle Europe from early spring, mainly in **April and May** (note that this may be different in other regions). *T. squalida* appears and causes damage earlier, in **March and April**.



Flight pattern of *E. hirta* in Middle Europe (after:
[Acta Phytopath. Entomol. Hung. 44:337-344, 2009.](#))

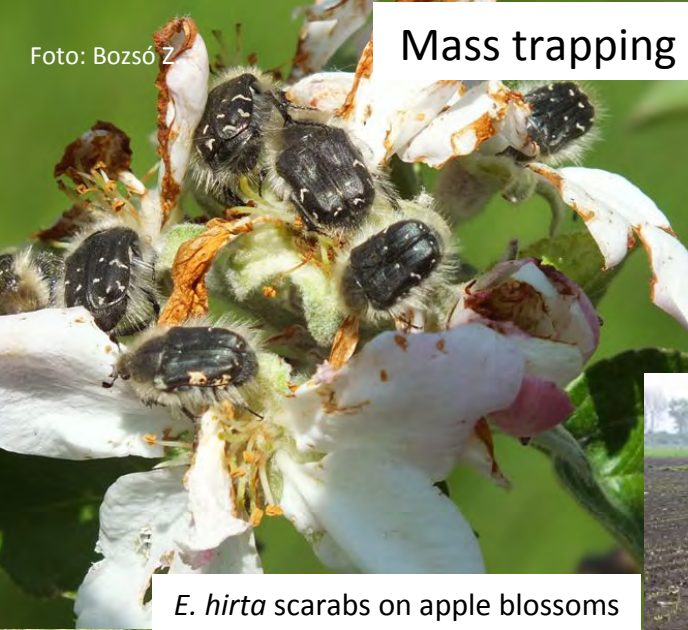
Flight pattern of *T. squalida* in South Europe (after:
[Acta Phytopath. Entomol. Hung. 44:337-344, 2009.](#))

Foto: Bozsó Z

Mass trapping of scarabs with the aim to decrease damage:

In contrast to the widespread sex pheromone traps of moths (codling moth, plum moth, etc.) which are suitable only for detection and monitoring, these 2 scarab pests can be **mass trapped** with the VARb3k trap containing lure, and the **damage** can be **decreased**, since in this case we trap the adults, immediately the damage-causing life stage.

(Presentation at the IOBC Meeting – Lund, 2007, poster at IOBC Workshop Vigalzano, 2014.)



E. hirta scarabs on apple blossoms



Foto: I. Sivcev

Mass trapping in industrial...



.....and backyard strawberries.



Foto: Bozsó Z.

Catch of four traps within one week!



Scarabs in the trap

To inquire: CSALOMON Ltd., H-1116 Budapest, Kondorfa u. 1. Hungary, tel. +36-30-982-4999, order@csalomon.hu webpage: www.csalomontraps.com

Assistance in preparing this advisory leaflet is deeply acknowledged to M. Tóth and E. Voigt.