

## European goat moth - *Cossus cossus* L.

The body of the moth is stocky, robust. The wingspan is 60-95 mm. The basic colour of the forewings is brown, with a mixing of white scales. The three zig-zagging crossbands are dark brown. The hindwings are light gray, with an oblique dark pattern.

The host plants of the larvae include apple, willows and poplars, but the caterpillar can survive in almost any orchard trees. It attacks first of all the damaged, old, or sick trees. The caterpillar bores inside the wood of the trunk or thick branches. Its presence is signalled by reddish, sawdust-like faeces collecting under its galleries on the ground.

Branches weakened by its damage can easily be broken down by wind.

The caterpillar develops during two years in Hungary, and it overwinters in both years inside the tree trunk. As the female moth is sessile, usually does not take to the wing easily, if the presence of the pest is observed in an orchard in the long run increasing damages can be anticipated.



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**The moth, which is captured in the trap**



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**The larva and its damage, which should be averted**

The CSALOMON® pheromone trap should be placed at the height of 1.5 - 2.0 m on branches. The moths usually start to fly in Hungary in the middle of May.

Selectivity of the CSALOMON® pheromone trap: in tests conducted at several sites in Hungary the capture of larger numbers of coleophorids (Microlepidoptera) was observed, especially in the vicinity of forests. These are very small (8-10mm) moths. It was not uncommon that some specimens of the noctuid *Amathes triangulum* were also captured. The goat moth is much larger than any of these side captures and can be told apart from them easily. A CSALOMON® pheromone trap starts slowly to decrease its attractive activity after 4-6 weeks of field exposure (depending on actual weather conditions).

After this period it is advisable to set up a new trap (trap type RAG) or renew the bait (trap type VARb3) for reliable detection and monitoring.

Trap design recommended: for detection our sticky trap design (RAG) is most suitable.

It proved to be excellent and very sensitive for detection of occurrence and monitoring of flight dynamics of the species.

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 the funnel (VARb3) design can be recommended. Pheromone traps can be used for the **detection** of occurrence and the **monitoring** of the flight pattern of the goat moth. Insecticide sprayings are most effective if performed at the period when most young larvae hatch from the eggs. Control of older caterpillars is very difficult due to their hidden manner of living. In backyard gardens or biological farms a viable alternative could be if petrol or carbondisulfide is injected into the galleries of older caterpillars, and the opening is closed by wax[1]. As an alternative certain insecticides can also be used for this purpose[2]. In Italian orchards funnel traps were used successfully for decreasing the population through mass trapping of the pest at 5 - 10 trap/ha densities[3].

[1] Balás, G. *Kertészeti növények állati kártevői. 2. kiad. Mezőgazd. Kiadó, Budapest, 1966.* [2] Bodor, J. *Növényvédelem*, 8:478-480, 1972. [3] Pasqualini E. et al., *Abstracts of Symposium on Plant and Insect Semiochemicals from Orchard Environments, IOBC, Dachau, September 21-24, 1998, pp.12.*



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**To order / to inquire:** MTA ATK Növényvédelmi Intézet (Plant Prot. Inst. MTA ATK) Budapest, Pf 102, H-1525, Hungary; phone. +(36-1)-391-8637, +(36)-30-9824999; fax +(36-1)-3918655; e-mail: <csalomon.orders@julia-nki.hu> or <h2371tot@ella.hu>; internet: <<http://www.julia-nki.hu/traps/>>.



So it looks when caught in the  
CSALOMON® VARb3 trap!

