Apple-leaf midget - *Lithocolletis (Phyllonorycter) blancardella* F.

The body of the moth is 4-5 mm long, the wingspan is 8-10 mm. The forewings are golden brown, with a metallic tinge, and with white, cuneiform marks. The wings are elongated, narrow. It can reliably be told apart from other *Lithocolletis* spp. only by genitalia analysis.
The host plant of the larva includes apples, pears, plums, medlars. The larvae bore mines inside the green leaves, the mine first becomes visible on the back side. The mine is ellipsoid, 1.5 - 2.5 cm long and 5 - 8 mm wide, it is bordered a reticulum of veins. The droppings of the larva can clearly be seen as a dark spot at the end of the mine. Strong infestation can defoliate the trees.

The damage of the larva, which should be averted

The moth, which is captured in the trap

The CSALOMON® pheromone trap should be suspended from branches at a height of 1.0-1.5 m in the tree canopy. Usual beginning of trapping in Hungary is end of March.

Selectivity of the CSALOMON® trap (based on tests performed in Hungary): Depending on the locality the trap can capture other *Lithocolletis* spp., but their amount is usually not disturbing. In the east of the country *L. gerasimovi* was reported to be captured in larger numbers.

This species can also cause the same sort of damage as the target species. In the vicinity of forests the trap can catch *Grapholita* and *Cydia* spp., these are much bigger, than *L. blancardella*.
Longevity of the CSALOMON® trap in field conditions: depending on the warmth of the weather at least 4-6 weeks. After this period we suggest to set up a new trap for most effective detection and monitoring. Renewal of sticky inserts in intervals of 7-10 days.

In case of high catches this may become necessary more often.
Outbreaks of leafminers are usually kept in check by their enemies, the even smaller parasitoid Hymenoptera.

If in the spring however, by some reason these parasitoids are killed off (i.e. by insecticide treatment applied at the wrong time), an outbreak can develop very suddenly within some weeks. The CSALOMON® pheromone traps are ideal for the timely detection of such an outbreak. If catches do not exceed one hundred per trap per 3-4 days, usually it is not necessary to apply an insecticide. In case of larger catches one should use an environmentally safe insecticide which will not harm the parasitoid wasps[1,2].

[1] *Növényvédőszerek, termésnövelő anyagok. Évente megjelenő kiadvány, beszerezhető: megyei Növényvédő (NTSZ) Állomások.* [2] *Biogazda 2., Biokultúra Egyesület, 1994.*

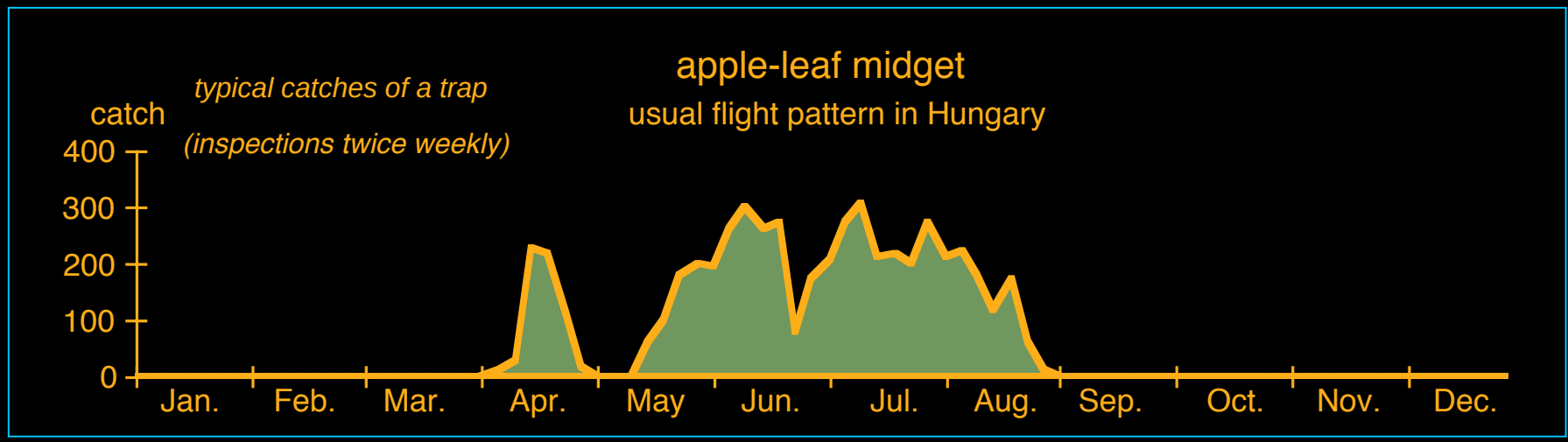

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Photo: Nagy Z. L.

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