

Fall armyworm - *Spodoptera frugiperda* Smith

The body of the moth is greyish brown and it is 15-20 mm long, wingspan is 22-36 mm. The ground colour is variable from greyish brown to rust brown. Black dashes or bars are not present at the base of the wing. Reniform spot is indistinct, partially outlined in black, with a small, sideways v-shaped marking, row of small hour-glass shapes markings are present along apical margin of the wings.



The moth which is caught in the trap

Host plants: the host range of this polyphagous pest is wide, including maize, rice, sorghum, sugarcane, but apart from these it can damage many more plants as well. **Damage:** larvae hatching from the eggs start to feed voraciously at the **back side** of the leaves, chewing **window holes** in the leaves. Later they emit fine lines similar to spiderwebs by which the wing can transfer them to new leaves. Fresh leaves of the developing maize are more attractive to the larvae, they can enter into the inside of cobs where they **damage the seeds**. Due to the damage the maize plant can cease to grow new leaves or cobs.



The damage of the larvae which should be averted

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. In subtropical regions the moth can have several flights per season.

Selectivity of the CSALOMON® trap: according to experience in Hungary the lure in the trap may attract sizeable numbers of the related noctuid *Cucullia umbratica*, which is bigger, wings are more elongated and with different wing patterns. In other regions some other moths can come into the trap as well.

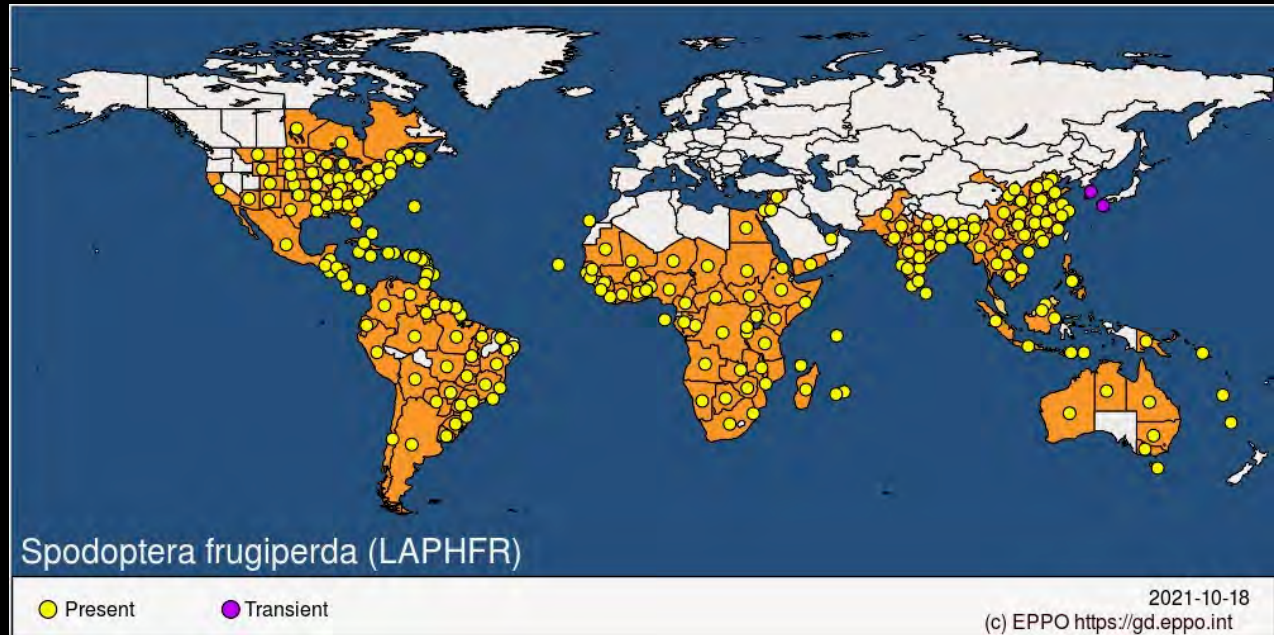
Longevity of the CSALOMON® trap in field conditions: the lure starts slowly to loose from its attractive activity after 4-6 weeks of field exposure (depending on actual weather conditions). After this period it is advisable to replace the bait for reliable detection and monitoring.

Geographical occurrence^[1]: the species was originally present in the Americas, but recently it was introduced into Africa and later to Asia including India and China. It is also present in Australia. At present in Europe it has established populations only in Spain (Canary Islands). *S. frugiperda* is on the A2 list of EPPO.

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] <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/LAPHFR>



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Foto: Imrei Z.

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



The VARL+ funnel traps can catch very large numbers
of moths and follow population changes reliably. For *S.
frugiperda* the sticky RAG traps were less suitable



This is NOT *S. frugiperda*!!! It is *Cucullia umbratica*!!!

According to experience in Hungary the lure in the trap may attract sizeable numbers of the related noctuid *Cucullia umbratica*, which is bigger, wings are more elongated and with different wing patterns. Other noctuids came in in negligible numbers.