Flower scarab - *Oxythyrea funesta* Poda

The beetle is flat, rectangular-shaped (length 8-12 mm), metallescent black in colour with a reddish-greenish shine. The surface of the body is sparsely covered with yellowish-whitish hairs. The thorax and the elytrae are covered with whitish spots.

Host plants: The adult beetle causes damage to flowers of pear, cherry, European chestnut and other spring-blossoming fruit trees and ornamental plants (e.g. peony). It damages frequently also cereals, first of all ears of rye. The beetle can feed also on many flowering weeds, i.e. different spp. of Compositae and Cruciferae. 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. The grub (larva) lives in the soil, feeds on rotting plant material, it causes no damage.

The beetle, which is captured in the trap

The trap should be suspended in orchards from lower branches or placed on the soil, fastened to a pole. It is of utmost importance that the fluorescent greenish-yellow 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 Hungary is beginning of May, 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 Hungary): the bait in the trap is a flower volatile, which increases attractancy of the colour of the fluorescent greenish-yellow upper funnel of the trap.
Besides *O. funesta* the trap can catch substantial numbers of the closely related *Epicometis hirta*, which is similar in shape and size to *O. funesta*, but much more hairy. Traps also can catch *Cetonia a. aurata* and *Potosia cuprea* (Scarabaeidae, Cetoniinae), which are much larger than *O. funesta* with different shades of bright metallic green.
In vicinity of alfalfa the longhorn beetle *Plagionotus floralis* can come into the trap also. All of these spp. are pests, so catching them can help in their control. (Specifically optimized traps for catching *E. hirta* [1], *Cetonia/Potosia* [2] or *P. floralis* [3] are also available! Pls refer to our list of products!) Only occasional catches of other insects can be expected.
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 3-4 weeks. After this period we suggest to exchange the bait for most effective detection and monitoring.

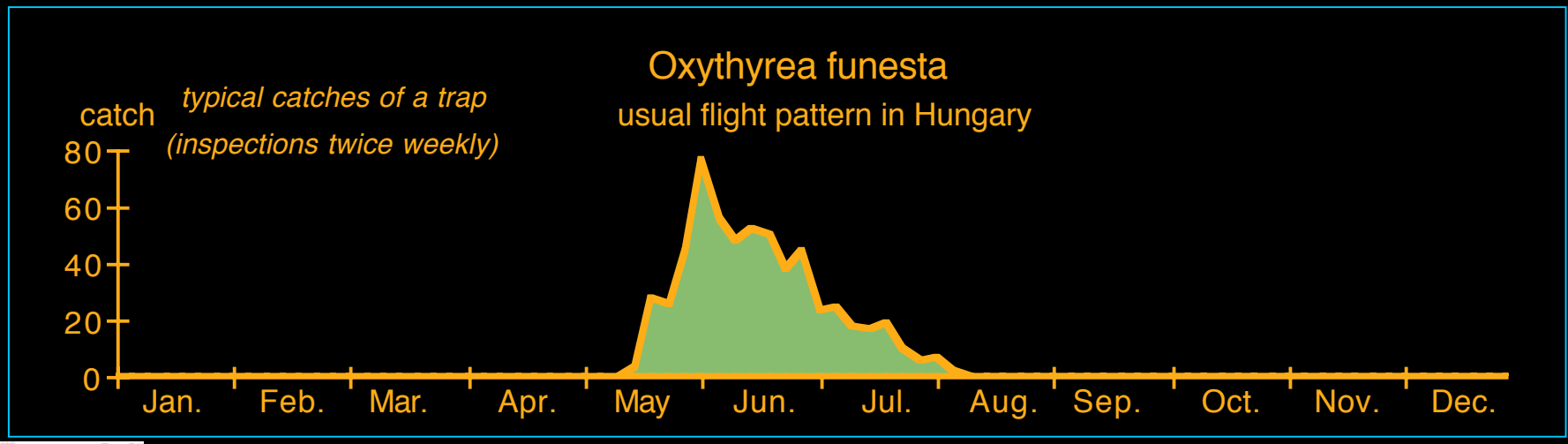
Timing of control measures against *O. funesta* should be based on detection and monitoring. Our traps enable sensitive detection of the first occurence of the pest in the given site, thus the direction of attack, centres of infection can be localized easily. Our VARb3 trap design has a very large catch 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.

The damage, which should be averted

Beetles captured in the trap definitely will not cause damage to any more flowers in our garden! 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 [4]. In backyard gardens it is possible to prepare suitable egg-laying sites for the beetles (soil dug up, mixed with hay, and covered by plant debris), and the hatching young larvae can easily be killed by a soil insecticide, in consequence the overwintering population will be decreased [4].

[1] *Vuts, J. and Tóth, M., Szép Kertek, 9(3): 30-31., 2007.* [2]*. Tóth, M. et al., Növényvédelem, 41(12): 581-588., 2005.* [3] *Kováts, Zs. et al., Poster. 52th Conference of Plant Protection, Budapest, 2006.* [4] *Balachowsky, A. S. Entomologie Appliquée À L'Agriculture Tome I. Coléoptères, pp. 193—195. Masson et Cie, Paris, 1962.*

The damage, which should be averted



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 <h2371tot@ella.hu>; internet: <www.julia-nki.hu/traps/>.

the VARb3z trap

sokpetty.virágb.
O. funesta

Photo: Nagy Z. L.

So it looks when caught in the CSALOMON® VARb3z trap!