Clover cutworm - *Discestra trifolii* L.

The moth has a wingspan of 32-38 mm. The forewings are brownish grey, their pattern is uniform, the area between the cuneiform and reniform dots has the same colour as other parts of the wing. Hindwings are grayish, and the thorax and abdomen have the same colour.

The host plants of the caterpillar include sugarbeet, clover, alfalfa, onions, but it can live on many other cultivated plants or weeds. The larvae live on the surface of the plant and feed on green parts. The clover cutworm prefers weeds (i.e. *Chenopodium* or *Atriplex* spp.), so its damage on cultivated plants if mostly occasional.

The moth, which is captured in the trap

The pheromone trap should be placed in the vicinity of the plant culture to be studied, at the level of the top of the vegetation. It is advantageous to hang the traps from lower branches of nearby trees or bushes at a height of no more than 1 - 1.5 m above soil.

Moths usually congregate in hedges, or the weedy edges bordering a field, so this is where high captures can be expected. The first moth flight usually starts in Hungary in the beginning of May, and the second flight in the beginning of July.

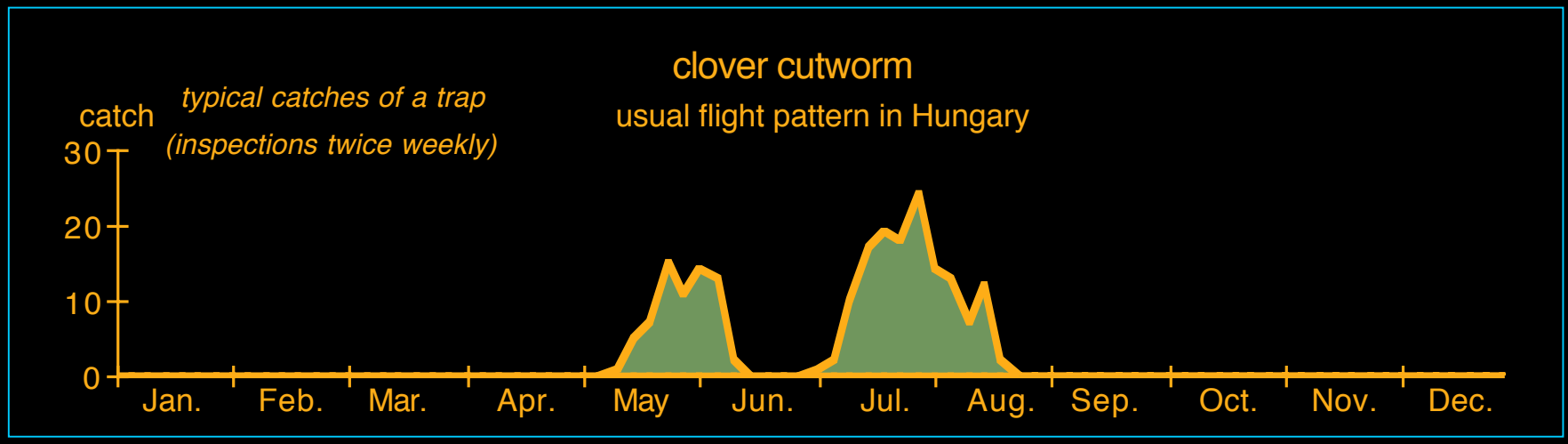
Selectivity of the CSALOMON® pheromone trap: in tests conducted at several sites in Hungary apart from *D. trifolii,* a few other moth species were sometimes also recorded. The noctuid, *Oligia furuncula,* is considerably smaller than *M. oleracea*. A few specimens of various *Mythimna* species, also noctuids, were sometimes caught. These species can be distinguished from *D. trifolii* by their much lighter, yellowish colour. Occasionally some specimens of *Mamestra oleracea* (reniform dots with orange scales) or other *Mamestra* spp. (bigger than *D. trifolii*) can be caught.

The larva causing the damage which should be averted

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 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 (VARL+) design can be recommended. In case of the funnel design it is advisable to kill the moths captured by placing a killing agent (not provided with the trap) into the catch container.

The clover cutworm is present in all Europe, North Africa, North America and a large part of Asia and Australia[1]. Some papers deal with characteristics of its pheromone[2].

[1]*Balachowski A.S. (ed.), Entomologie appliquée à l'agriculture, vol. 2. Masson et Cie Éditeurs, Paris pp. 1329-1330.* [2]*Ayre et al, Can. Entomol. 114:145-154, 1982, Underhill et al., Environ. Entomol. 5:307-310, 1976,*



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The funnel VARL+ traps can capture very large numbers without saturating.

So it looks when caught in the CSALOMON® RAG trap, which, although can be used for detection, can get saturated with the catch relatively fast.