

Middle-east flower scarab - *Oxythyrea cinctella* Poda

The species is very similar to the related *Oxythyrea funesta*, but is smaller (7-11 mm). The beetle is flat, rectangular-shaped, black in colour, without metallic shine. The surface of the body is sparsely covered with hairs. The most apparent difference from *O. funesta* is that in *O. cinctella* the edges of the thorax have a more or less continuous whitish margin. The elytrae are covered with whitish spots.

Host plants: The adult beetle causes damage to flowers of many orchard trees, like pear, cherry, European chestnut and other spring-blossoming fruit trees and ornamental plants (e.g. roses or peony). The beetle can feed also on many flowering weeds, i.e. different spp. of Compositae and Cruciferae. The beetle chews the petals, staminae and



The beetle, which is captured in the trap

The damage of the beetle which should be averted

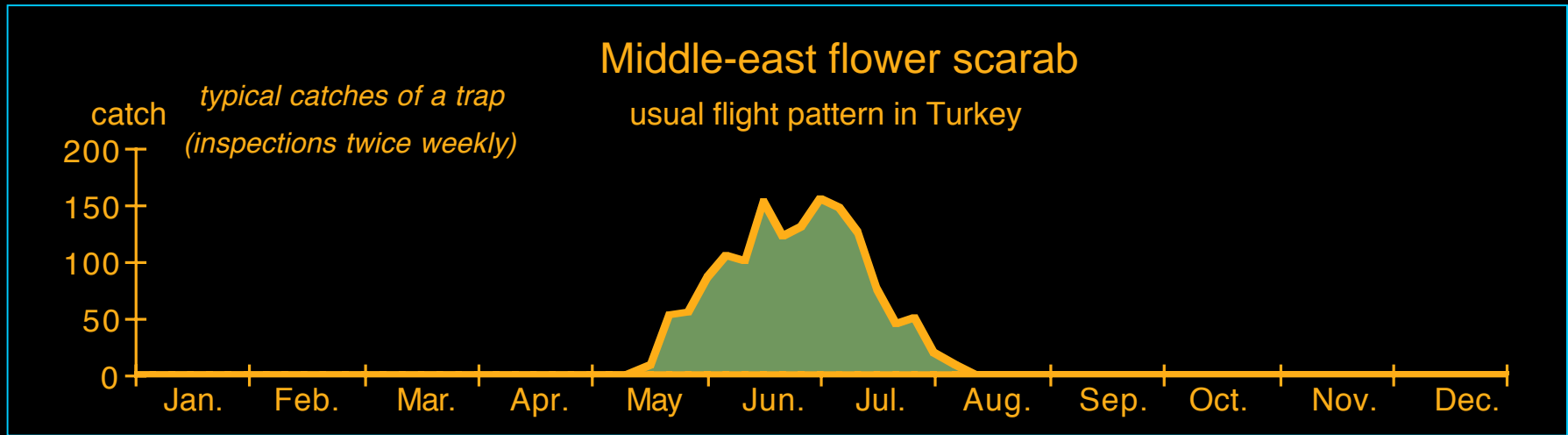
stigmas thus rendering the flower infertile. It can damage not only flowers in full blossom, but also in the bud stage. The grub (larva) lives in the soil, feeds on rotting plant material, it causes no damage.

The 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 Turkey 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 Turkey): the bait in the trap is a flower volatile, which increases attractancy of the colour of the fluorescent greenish-yellow upper funnel of the VARb3z trap. Besides *O. cinctella* the trap is equally efficient in catching *O. funesta*.

It can also catch substantial numbers of the closely related *Epicometis hirta*, which is similar in shape and size to *O. cinctella*, but much more hairy. Traps also can catch some *Cetonia a. aurata* and *Potosia cuprea* (Scarabaeidae, Cetoniinae), which are much larger than *O. cinctella* and their colour is different shades of bright metallic green. In vicinity of alfalfa, the longhorn beetle *Plagionotus floralis* can come into the trap also in substantial numbers. All of these beetles are pests, so catching them can be useful. However, pls note that specifically optimized baits and traps for catching *E. hirta*^[1], *Cetonia/Potosia*^[2], or *P. floralis*^[3] more efficiently are available in the CSALOMON® trap family (pls consult our List of Products)!



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.

O. cinctella occurs in the Middle East (see next slide), causing regular damages in Turkey, Syria, Iran and neighbouring countries. Timing of control measures against *O. cinctella* should be based on detection and monitoring. Our traps enable sensitive detection of the first occurrence of the pest in the given site, thus the direction of attack, centres of infection can be localized easily.

Our VARb3z 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. 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].



^[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., ^[5] Hurpin B.: *Super-Famille des Scaraboides*, in: Balachowsky A. S. (ed.) *Entomologie Appliquée A L'Agriculture, Tome I.*, Masson et Cie, 1962, pp. 24-204, ^[6] Smetana A.: *Subfamily Cetoniinae*, in: Lobl I. & Smetana A. (eds.) *Catalogue of Palearctic Coleoptera, Vol. 3*, Apollo Books, 2006, pp. 283-312



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Photo: V. Jurkó

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