

# Olive moth - *Prays oleae* Bern.

The body of the moth is 6-8 mm long, the wingspan is 13-15 mm. The forewings are greyish with a tinge of silver metallic colour, usually with several black spots, which in some specimens may be missing. A black area at the base of the front edge is always present. The hindwings are of a uniform grey.

Host plants of the larva include the olive tree, but it can develop also on *Jasminum*, *Ligustrum*, *Phillyrea* (Oleaceae) and *Anemone* (Ranunculaceae). There are usually 3 larval generations of the olive moth in the Mediterranean, and each causes damage to a separate part of the olive tree. Larvae of the 1st generation attack the flowers (April - June), in some cases causing up to 90-95% damage. The second generation feeds on the fruits being formed. This damage can also be very serious. The third generation feeds on the leaves boring mines like a leafminer during the first larval instars.

The pheromone trap should be placed into the canopy of olive trees at the height of 1.5 - 2.0 m. Usual starting date of trapping is beginning of May (Croatia or middle part of Italy), in regions more to the south may be necessary to set up traps earlier (i.e. in Tunisia first

moths emerge end of March, etc.).  
Selectivity of the CSALOMON® trap (based on tests performed in Italy): the trap did not catch any other moths apart from *P. oleae*. In other regions in the vicinity of citrus plantations the capture of *Prays citri* can be expected.  
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.

Trap designs recommended: For detection our sticky trap design (RAG) is most suitable. It proved to be excellent and very sensitive for detection of occurrence of the moths.



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*The moth, which is captured in the trap*



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*The larva and its damage, which should be averted*



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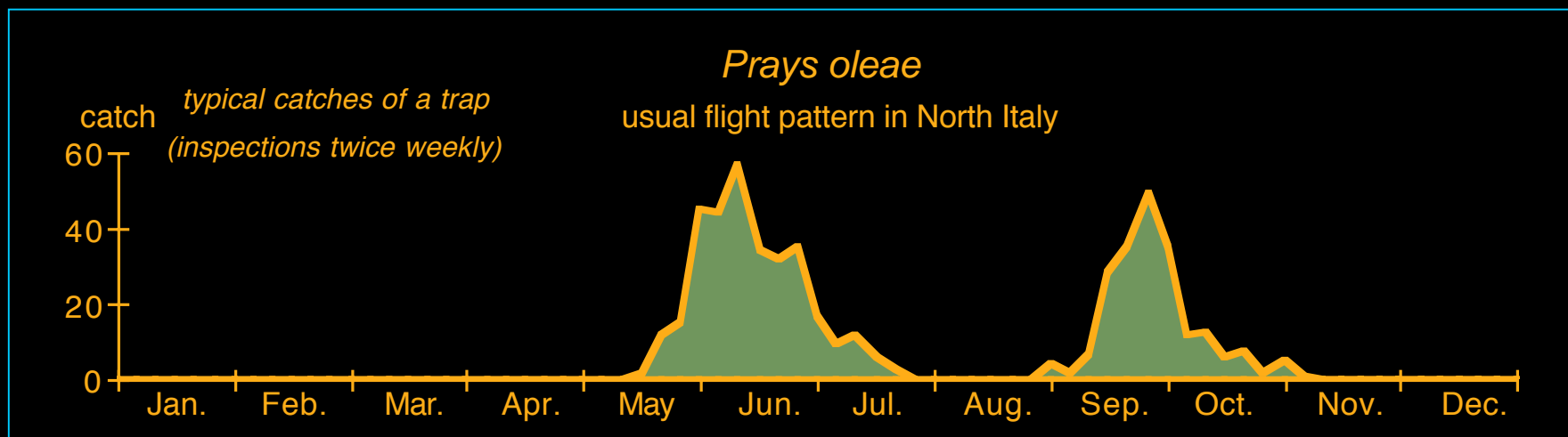
The sticky insert can become saturated with captured specimens within a relatively short period (1-2 days even) at high population densities, so frequent renewal of sticky inserts may become necessary.

For catching large numbers of moths and/or for quantitative monitoring (i.e. monitoring of flight dynamics) the funnel (VARL+) design can be recommended. When using 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 olive moth is reported to cause damages in the area where olive is grown in the Mediterranean. Its presence has been signalled also in the Crimea and in the north of Iran.[1].

Pheromone traps are suitable for the detection of occurrence and monitoring of the flight of the pest. Insecticide sprays are most effective when timed according to captures, and performed when the majority of the young larvae hatch from the eggs. Several papers in the literature deal with the pheromone trapping of *P. oleae*[2].

[1]Balachowski A.S. (ed.), *Entomologie appliquée à l'agriculture*, vol. 2. Masson et Cie Éditeurs, Paris pp. 181-193. [2]Campion D.G. et al., *Experientia*, 35:1146-1147, 1979; Renou M. et al., *C. R. Acad. Sci. Ser. D. Sci. Nat.* 288:1559-1562, 1979; Niccoli A. & Tiberi R. *Redia. G. Zool.*, 64:337-348. 1981; Ramos P. et al., *Experientia*, 37:1282-1283, 1981; Niccoli A. & Tiberi R., *Redia. G. Zool.*, 65:407-423, 1982; Mazomenos B.E. et al., *Z. angew. Ent.*, 123:247-254, 1999.



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*Prays oleae*



Photo: V. Jurkó

So the insect looks, which  
is caught in the  
CSALOMON® VARL+  
trap!

