

WHAT IS *SPODOPTERA LITTORALIS*?

It is a highly polyphagous species that mainly affects horticultural and ornamental crops, especially in the Mediterranean coastal areas and southern Spain. The first adults usually begin to appear in spring, although they are difficult to see because they are nocturnal and remain hidden during the day.

Affected crops: aubergine, courgette, green bean, melon, cucumber, pepper, watermelon, tomato, etc.

MORPHOLOGY AND BIOLOGY

Egg: They are laid in masses or plates of 400 or 700 units (under favourable conditions), covered with a cottony mass of anal scales from the female. They measure approximately 0,5 mm.

Larva: It has a dark brown or black head. The body is blackish in colour and has a velvety appearance. Each segment has a black semilunar spot on the side and the first segment also has four collar-like spots. The first segments of the thorax are more blackish colouring and has a velvety appearance. Each segment has a black crescent-shaped mark on the side and the first segment also has four dots forming a collar. The first segments of the thorax are darker than the rest of the body. The thoracic legs (3 pairs) are black, while the false abdominal legs (5 pairs) are dark brown on the inside. In its final larval stage, it can reach a size of 3,5 cm.

Pupa: : It is reddish brown in colour. It has the shape of a fusiform and has two hooks on the lower part in a U-shape curved inwards. They measure 2 cm.

Adults: They have a wingspan of 3 to 4,5 cm and are light brown coloured but covered with multiple spots, with poorly defined patterns based on grey, black and white as predominant colours. Their wing spots are narrow and poorly defined. In the middle of the wing there is a light brown oblique line that starts at the front edge and fades into the median veins. The hind wings are white, translucent except for the front and outer edges, which are tinged with brown. The caterpillars can appear as pests in late summer early autumn, coinciding with the butterfly flights, although there is a continuous succession of generations in warmer regions of south-eastern Spain. Eggs are laid on the underside of leaves, although they have also been observed on buds, shoots or even a few centimetres above the ground, and even on structures (sticks, plastic, etc.) of greenhouses. The larvae in their early larval stages are found on the tender parts of the plants. Adults avoid light and heat, taking refuge on the underside of the leaves.



Spodoptera littoralis's larva



Spodoptera littoralis's adults

Source: Andalusia Regional Ministry of Agriculture

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Spodoptera littoralis



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CODE	TRADE NAME	IMAGE
UIPHOVA020	ECONEX SPODOPTERA LITTORALIS 2 MG 40 DAYS. Pheromone diffuser with an in-field duration of 40 days.	
UIPFETA001	ECONEX POLILLERO	
UIPFETA242	ECONEX DISPOSABLE WHITE TRIANGULAR	
UIPFETA273	ECONEX FOLDING WHITE TRIANGULAR WITHOUT SHEETS	



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ECONEX SPODOPTERA LITTORALIS 2 MG 40 DAYS

BIOCONTROL
Mediterranean brocade



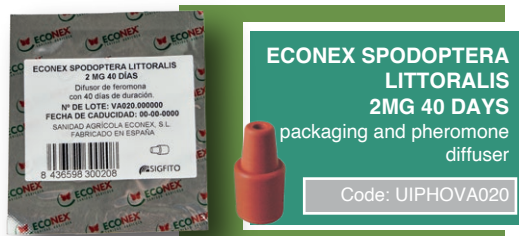


DESCRIPTION

CODE	TRADE NAME
UIPHOVA020	ECONEX SPODOPTERA LITTORALIS 2 MG 40 DAYS Sexual pheromone diffuser to attract males of <i>Spodoptera littoralis</i>, with an in-field duration of 40 days. OMDF registration number (Spanish Ministry of Agriculture): 080/2013

Natural rubber capsule-shaped diffuser, individually packaged in an aluminium envelope with specification label.

Once removed from the packaging, the diffuser does not require any activation. It just needs to be placed correctly in the trap.



DETECTION AND MONITORING

1 to 3 per hectare should be used, placed at height crop. They can be installed on a support for such a purpose. Traps can be placed in spring.



EXHAUSTIVE MONITORING

For exhaustive monitoring, the number of traps need to be increased per surface, depending on the situation and homogeneity of crops. A trap controls a surface between 500 and 1.000 m².



REQUIRED MATERIAL

A trap **ECONEX POLILLERO**, **ECONEX DISPOSABLE WHITE TRIANGULAR** or **ECONEX FOLDING WHITE TRIANGULAR WITHOUT SHEETS** and a pheromone diffuser **ECONEX SPODOPTERA LITTORALIS 2 MG 40 DAYS**.



PERIOD OF USE

In spring, 1 to 3 traps per hectare can be set up to detect the pest and observe its population levels. Using tolerance thresholds established in each area, the moment to adopt biocontrol measures is defined. The tolerance threshold for *Spodoptera littoralis* is very low and varies depending on the area. Broadly speaking, it can be said to be around 3 catches per trap per week.



DAMAGES

Direct damage: In their early stages, larvae are gregarious, gnawing on the parenchyma of the underside of leaves and leaving the epidermis intact. In later stages, they separate and isolate themselves, devouring entire leaves and causing severe defoliation. They can also gnaw on stems, perforating them. In severe attacks, damage to fruits can be observed.

Indirects damage The wounds caused by this pest facilitate the entry of other pathogens (fungi, bacteria, viruses) ...

PLANT STATE	AFFECTED ORGAN	SYMPTOM
Adult plant	Fruit	Holes
Adult plant	Leaf	Bites
Adult plant	Leaf	Bites in the underside (epidermis left)
Adult plant	Leaf	Defoliation



Squash cultivated field



FACTORS

The number of traps needed depends on the pest population, neighbouring crops, the level of control desired, etc. An important factor is the size of the crop. Small, irregular crops require more traps than larger, more uniform plots.

Another important factor is the distance between plots affected by *Spodoptera littoralis*. In these cases, the boundaries of the plots need to be reinforced.



STORAGE

Diffusers should be stored in their packaging of origin, in the refrigerator at 4°C, or in the freezer at -18°C, in which case they will remain effective for 2 and 4 years respectively. Keep away from food and drink.