



***** MONTHLY BULLETIN *****

The Monthly Bulletin is compiled from information retrieved from monthly Migrant Pest Reports received from SADC member countries and IRLCO-CSA.

MIGRANT PEST REPORTS AND MAPS FOR APRIL 2003

Migrant pest reports for April 2003 were received from: *Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, and IRLCO-CSA.* No reports were received from: *Angola, DRC, Mozambique, Tanzania or Zambia*

SADC Collaborators are kindly requested to read the "General Notices" section.

SUMMARY (Fig.1)

A widespread outbreak of the African armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*) was reported from four Provinces in South Africa. The Masvingo and Manicaland districts of Zimbabwe reported damage by larvae to pastures, maize, and sorghum crops. Botswana found 'traces' of armyworm in grasslands near the border of South Africa. No further reports of armyworm were received from the remaining countries.

No reports of locust outbreaks or activity were received from the region.

Quelea control operations were carried out in South Africa (21 control operations) against roosts and breeding colonies. Quelea birds continued to be a problem to small grain growers in central and north-west Tanzania, and one colony was controlled in Botswana.

ARMYWORM

South Africa. The first reports of armyworm were received during the last week of March from the Kwazulu/Natal Province, but within a week reports were being received from three additional provinces (North West, Gauteng, and Mpumalanga) (Fig.1). This was the first major outbreak reported in the country since 1981. As the African armyworm is not considered a national pest in South Africa, the Government is not responsible for controlling outbreaks or providing financial assistance to farmers. For the same reason there is no central office that manages reports about this pest or provides control information. ICOSAMP was able, via radio talks and contact with entomologists in South Africa, to obtain 32 reports from various parts of the country. No estimate of the total size of the infestation could be obtained as many reports were sent in from the general public. However, the most damage caused by this pest appeared to be to pastures, with predominantly Kikuyu grass and teff (planted for winter grazing). A warning to farmers of possible Kikuyu poisoning in cattle was posted on the ICOSAMP website, and emergency ICOSAMP reports were sent to Swaziland, Lesotho and Botswana. Due to the fact that the night

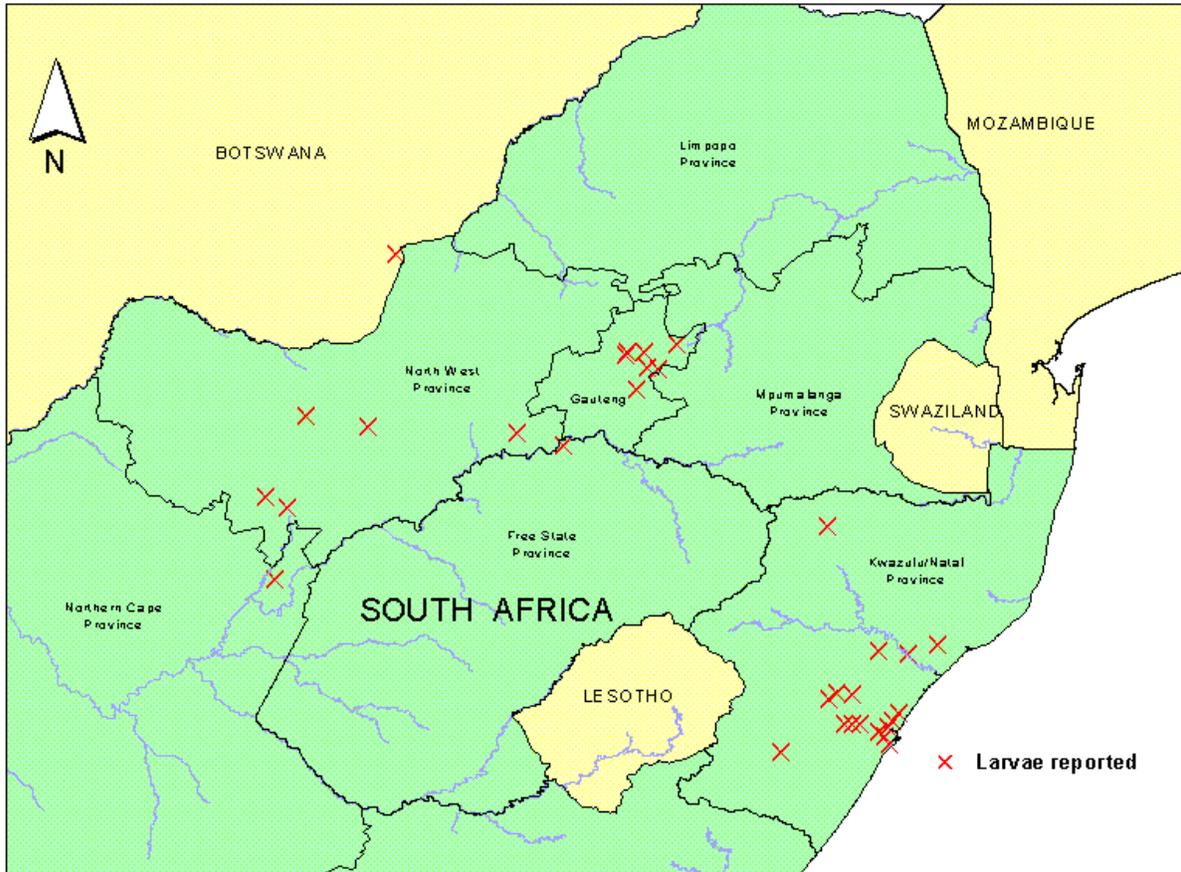


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temperatures were already dropping for the start of winter, making conditions unsuitable for the survival of the armyworm, farmers were advised not to carry out control operations.

Fig.1 SOUTH AFRICA: African armyworm situation - April 2003



Botswana. (T Moruti) Traces of armyworm were spotted in the Gaborone region at Ramotswa (Fig.1). No crop damage was reported.

Zimbabwe. (Ivy Saunyama) Control operations were undertaken against III-VI stage larvae at Makonis, Masvingo, Zaka, Chiredzi, Bikita and Mwenenzi, where more than 8000ha were infested. The damage caused by the pest on pasture grass (>6000 ha) was very high and in some cases reached 85%, and the armyworm were subsequently invading nearby maize fields (25% damage) for further resources. Carbaryl 85% WP was supplied to provinces and applied with knapsack sprayers at a rate of 625g/100 l/ha. The total area treated was 470ha.

No further reports of armyworm were received from the region.

LOCUSTS

No locust outbreaks were recorded in any of the recognised outbreak areas were received.

RED-BILLED QUELEA

Botswana (T Moruti) One colony of 14ha was controlled at Etsha 1. Millet and sorghum crops were at risk. No further details available.

South Africa. (L Geertsema) Twenty-one control operations (9 explosion, 13 chemical) were undertaken against roosts and breeding Quelea colonies in the Free State, Mpumalanga, North West, and Limpopo Provinces near sorghum (20 sites), millet, and manna crops. Twelve of these sites were identified as 'traditional' Quelea sites. Five of the sites were situated in wetland habitat, while the remaining sites were situated in savannah with thorn and eucalyptus vegetation. The breeding colonies varied in size from 0,4ha to 9ha, and two of the colonies had nestlings. The roosts varied in size from 0.2ha to 15ha (Tuinplaas). Only four of the colonies had eggs, nestlings or fledglings in the nests. The total area invaded was approximately 80ha with an estimated number of 7.7 million birds (1,8m at Lichtenburg). The avicide applied was Queletox at application rates between 10-15 l/ha. The estimated kill achieved ranged from 70 – 100%. Non-target bird mortality was recorded at 2 sites: Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) and Scops Owl (*Otus scops*).

Tanzania. (IRLCO-CSA report) Quelea birds continued being a problem to small grain cereal growers in Singida, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, and Manyara regions. Crops attacked included rice, sorghum and millet. Control using Fenthion 60% was undertaken against 46 roosts and 6 colonies by the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Security in collaboration with the DLCI-EA who provided two spray aircraft. The total area invaded was 1098ha.

No further reports of Quelea birds in the SADC region were received, and no surveys could be undertaken in Zimbabwe due to fuel shortages.

GENERAL NOTICES

1. Collaborators are reminded to ensure that the ICOSAMP migrant pest monthly reporting forms are sent to the Co-Ordinator by the **end of the 1st week of the following month**. Reports should be sent even if there were **NO** migrant pest outbreaks, or **NO** surveys were conducted.

Information and Reports may be faxed or emailed to:

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ON THE WEB

This month's highlighted websites are:

Agriculture

<http://www.sadc.int> - SADC website.

<http://www.agis.agric.za> - Agricultural Geo-referenced Information System for South Africa.

Research

www-web.gre.ac.uk/directory/NRI/pcs/ - The ARMYWORM forecasting and CCD website for Tanzania.

www-web.gre.ac.uk/directory/NRI/quel - QUELEA rainfall/breeding forecast model that generates a forecast for breeding patterns of *Quelea quelea lathamii* over the whole of Southern Africa.



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Scientific Search Engine

<http://www.scirus.com> - An EXCELLENT search engine for any scientific related matter.

Climate

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/african_desk/rain_guidance/safr.html - Rainfall outlook over southern Africa Feb – April 2003

Forthcoming

<http://journals.sabinet.co.za/essa> ESSA 14th Congress

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Malawi:	Mr T Maulana		
Mozambique:	Mr J Varimelo/Mr A Comes		
Namibia:	Ms P Shiyelekeni		
South Africa:	Mr K Viljoen (locusts)		
	Mr L Geertsema (quelea)		
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Tanzania:	Mr R Magoma		
Zambia:	Mr M Kanyemba		
Zimbabwe:	Dr G Chikwenhere & Ivy Saunyama (locusts/armyworm)		
	Ms T Couto (quelea)		
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This bulletin has been sent to you by the ICOSAMP co-ordinator in South Africa, **Margaret Powell**.

If you think that your colleagues would be interested in receiving this news, please feel free to forward this Bulletin to them. Subscription to the ICOSAMP email list is FREE and you will not receive unwanted emails.

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Figure 2. Migrant Pest Situation Map for SADC Region: April 2003

