



***** 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 FEBRUARY 2003

Migrant pest reports for February 2003 were received from:

Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa (locusts + Quelea), Swaziland, and Zimbabwe (Quelea).

No reports were received from: *Lesotho, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe (armyworm, locusts) or IRLCO-CSA.*

SADC Collaborators are kindly requested to read the "General Notices" section for any recent information relating to ICOSAMP.

SUMMARY

Four control operations were carried out against armyworm in Mozambique. No further reports of armyworm were received from the remaining reporting countries.

No reports of locust activity were received and the situation in the region remained calm.

Quelea activity was reported from Botswana (one colony), Mozambique (one roost - not controlled), Namibia (one roost – not controlled), and South Africa (19 control operations).

ARMYWORM

Mozambique. Four control operations were carried out during the first two weeks of February against I and II stage armyworm larvae in the Sofala Province (Govero, Buzi, Machanga, and Sussendenga). The total area infested was 76ha and the main crops at risk were maize and sorghum, with armyworm larvae also found in pastures. 10% maize crop damage was reported from Govero. Sumicidin was sprayed with knapsack sprayers at Govero, while Baythroid was applied with hand held ULV sprayers at the three other sites (no information on application rates supplied).

LOCUSTS

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



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RED-BILLED QUELEA

Botswana:

Following a warning from the *Quelea forecasting model*, the suggested area was surveyed, and a large colony of breeding *Quelea* was identified and controlled at Gathwane, in SW Botswana near the border of South Africa. It was also reported that the birds re-colonised the area during February (T Moruti). The size of the colony was estimated at 21ha and was situated 200m from the nearest source of water. Habitat was identified as savannah with thorn tree vegetation. The nearest agricultural crop to the *Quelea* site was sorghum (15km). Control was undertaken with a 7 l/ha application of Fenthion 24% ULV, and a 45% percentage kill was achieved.

Mozambique:

One *Quelea* roost was observed at Chokwe but was not controlled due to the fact that the birds abandoned the site.

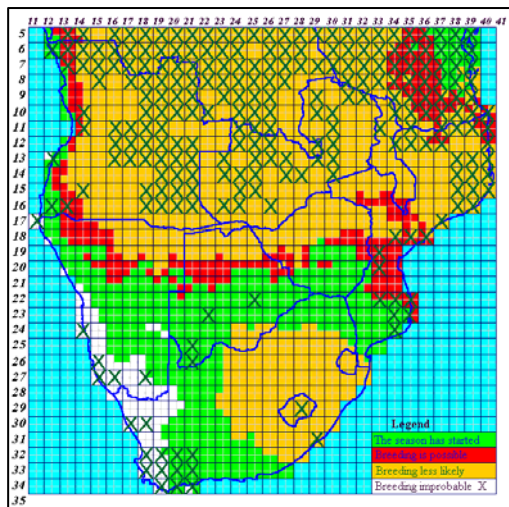
Namibia:

One roost was observed at Tsumkwe (NW Namibia) near millet crops. No control operation was undertaken. *Quelea* numbers are expected to increase as crops ripen (P Shiyelekeni).

South Africa:

Nineteen control operations (1 explosion, 18 chemical) were undertaken against breeding *Quelea* colonies in the NW, Free State, and Limpopo Provinces near millet, sorghum, manna and sunflower crops. Nine of these sites were identified as 'traditional' *Quelea* sites. Except for one site (wetland - thorns), the remaining sites were in a savannah habitat with thorn tree vegetation. The majority of the colonies varied in size from 1,5ha to 18ha, with one 30ha colony at Warmbad, and a very large colony of 60ha at Roedtan. Nine of the colonies had either nestlings or fledglings in the nests, while at Roedtan many of the adults had already left the site (L Geertsema). The total area invaded was approximately 233ha with an estimated number of 14 million birds (6m at Roedtan). The avicides applied were Queletox (10 l/ha) and Falcolan (active ingredient cyanophos) at an application rate of 6-10 l/ha. The estimated kill achieved ranged from 55 – 99%. The total non-target bird mortality was 2 x Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*), 8 x Steppe Buzzards (*Buteo buteo*), and 1 x Marsh Owl (*Asio capensis*).

No further reports of *Quelea* birds in the SADC region were received, and no surveys were undertaken in Zimbabwe.



This image was saved from the *Quelea forecasting model* website. Meteosat cold cloud duration (CCD) data is used as an estimate of rainfall and combined with the knowledge of *Quelea quelea lathamii* breeding biology to produce a forecast for the week ending 9th March 2003. (See point 2 under General Notices).

NB. The map has been revamped and the new images on the website will change slightly eg. the green "X" will be replaced by a darker resolution of the underlying colour.

- White = Season not yet started
- Green = season started
- Red = Breeding possible
- Orange = Breeding less likely
- X = Breeding improbable



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GENERAL NOTICES

1. All SADC collaborators have been registered for the ESSA Congress in July 2003.
2. Will all SADC collaborators **please** indicate via a brief email to the Co-ordinator whether (or not) they have been using the Quelea forecasting model designed by NRI, and the rate of accuracy obtained from the model. This model is regularly updated on the internet at www-web.gre.ac.uk/directory/NRI/quel
3. Collaborators are kindly 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**, so that the information can be included in the Monthly Bulletins. Reports should be sent even if **NO** migrant pests were found, or **NO** surveys were conducted.

Information and Reports may be faxed or emailed to:

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Entomological Society of Southern Africa (ESSA) - 14th Entomological Congress, 6-9 July 2003, Pretoria, South Africa. Details can be obtained from their website at <http://journals.sabinet.co.za/essa> or by contacting Dr Gerhard Prinsloo, ARC-PPRI, Tel:+27 12 323 8540 or Fax: +27 12 325 6998 or Email: vrehgjp@plant5.agric.za . Deadline for registration is 31 March 2003.

ON THE WEB

This month's highlighted websites are:

Agriculture

<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.

Scientific Search Engine

<http://www.scirus.com> - An EXCELLENT search engine for any scientific related matter. Try typing in "African armyworm" !!

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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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ICOSAMP COLLABORATORS - 2003			
SADC		Additional Collaborators	
Angola:	Mr S Mateus	SADC-FANR:	Mr S de Keyser
Botswana:	Mr T Moruti	IRLCO-CSA:	Mr J Katheru
Lesotho:	Mr E Tjelele	NRI (UK):	Prof B Cheke
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)		
Swaziland:	Mr M Mbuli		
Tanzania:	Mr R Magoma		
Zambia:	Mr M Kanyemba		
Zimbabwe:	Dr G Chikwenhere (locusts/armyworm)		
	Ms T Couto (quelea)		
Co-ordinator		GIS development	
Ms Margaret Kieser, South Africa		Mrs J Pender, UK	

This bulletin has been sent to you by the ICOSAMP co-ordinator in South Africa, **Margaret Powell**.

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<http://icosamp.ecoport.org>



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Figure 1. Migrant Pest Situation Map for SADC Region: February 2003

