



***** 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 MARCH 2003

Migrant pest reports for March 2003 were received from: *Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and IRLCO-CSA.*

No reports were received from: *Angola, Malawi, Mozambique or Zambia*

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

SUMMARY

An infestation of the African armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*) was reported in the NW and central parts of Swaziland, but no control operations were carried out. A large and widespread outbreak of armyworm was reported from four Provinces in Zimbabwe during March, and control operations were undertaken. No further reports of armyworm were received from the remaining reporting countries.

Field trials were undertaken against red locust hoppers in Tanzania. No reports of locust activity were received from the other SADC countries and the situation in the region remained calm.

Quelea control operations were carried out in Tanzania against 2 colonies and 7 roosts, in South Africa (39 control operations), and against 1 colony and 5 roosts in Botswana.

ARMYWORM

Swaziland. (M Mbuli) Predictions of armyworm outbreak were registered at the Simunye trap station. Reports of outbreaks (5th stage larvae) were received from the NW and central parts of the country. No control operations were undertaken as the infestations occurred in grasslands and harvested maize fields. The total area infested was approximately 100ha.

Zimbabwe. (G Chikwenhere) Outbreaks of the African armyworm were reported from the Manicaland, Mashonaland East, Masvingo and Matabeleland Provinces. The larvae (no stage reported) were found mostly on pasture grasses with densities ranging from 10-300 larvae per square metre, while in maize fields densities of 10-30 per plant were recorded. The damage caused by the pest on pasture grass was very high and in some cases reached 80%, and the armyworm were subsequently invading nearby maize fields for further resources. Spraying equipment and Carbaryl 85% WP was supplied to Provinces.



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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.

IRLCO-CSA reports that a large-scale field trial of *Metarhizium anisopliae* var. *acridum* (Green Muscle™) was undertaken (February-March 2003) against red locust hoppers in the Wembere outbreak area of Tanzania. This was a collaborative project between CABI African Region Centre (CABI-ARC, Kenya), CABI Bioscience (UK), and National Plant Health Services (Tanzania), and was funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), UK. Two doses of the product were tested.

RED-BILLED QUELEA

Botswana (T Moruti) Due to the current drought conditions in the country Quelea outbreaks were not widespread. During March one colony of 14ha was resprayed in the Etsha 1 area, and 5 roosts were controlled (4 explosion, 1 chemical) in Mmalore and Gathwane. Millet and sorghum crops were at risk from these Quelea birds. The control operations were mainly in the southern and north-western areas of the country. 35ha of breeding colonies and 12,5ha of roosts were controlled.

South Africa. (L Geertsema) Thirty-nine control operations (9 explosion, 30 chemical) were undertaken against roosts and breeding Quelea colonies in the Northern Cape, Free State, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo Provinces near millet, sorghum, manna, wheat, maize, and sunflower crops. Sixteen of these sites were identified as 'traditional' Quelea sites. Four of the breeding colonies were situated in wetland habitat, while the remaining sites were in savannah habitat with thorn, eucalyptus, wattle, and poplar vegetation. The colonies varied in size from 0,5ha to 5ha, with two additional larger colonies of 10 and 13ha where fledglings were present. The roosts varied in size from 0.5ha to 16ha (Koppies). Thirteen of the colonies had either eggs, nestlings or fledglings in the nests. The total area invaded was approximately 156ha with an estimated number of 13 million birds (2,4m at Koppies). The avicide applied was Queletox at application rates between 10-16 l/ha. The estimated kill achieved ranged from 30 – 100%. Non-target bird mortality was recorded at 8 sites: Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Steppe Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), Guinea Fowl (*Numida meleagris*), Grass owl (*Tyto capensis*), Wattled Starling (*Creatophora cinerea*), and a few terrestrial bird species.

Tanzania. (R Magoma) Seven roosts and two colonies were controlled in Singida and Dodoma. The area invaded was about 61ha, and 35 litres of Fenthion were used to control the birds. (R Magoma).

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. Three queries were received about the avicide Falcolan recently used in South Africa. The South Africa collaborator sent this reply. "Falcolan® was recently registered in South Africa as an avicide. The active ingredient is cyanophos at 520g/litre organophosphate. Preliminary results indicate that the efficacy is slightly better in terms of knock-down effect



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compared to other avicides. However we (RSA) are continuing a comparative research project to evaluate Falcolan ® against other chemicals, but the results are still pending.” Falcolan is distributed by Philagro SA, and Mr John Mansfield can be contacted at philagrosaho@icon.co.za for further information.

2. Please note that new symbols have been added to the map. These indicate counties where **no** monthly report was received, or where surveys were not undertaken.
3. 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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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 . The registration deadline has now closed.

ON THE WEB

This month's highlighted websites are:

Agriculture

<http://www.sadc.int> - The SADC website has been redesigned. Take a look!

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

Research

<http://ictupdate.cta.int/index.php/article/frontpage/9> - Information and Communication Technology (ICT) website. A bimonthly bulletin on ICT developments in ACP agriculture. The May/June 2003 issue covers all major fields of integrated pest management. Details of “Awhere-ACT” a user-friendly geographical information systems (GIS) tool to help farmers and scientists in Africa to combat pests such as stem borers and the cassava green mite.

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.



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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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ICOSAMP COLLABORATORS - 2003			
<u>SADC</u>		<u>Additional Collaborators</u>	
Angola:	Mr S Mateus	SADC-FANR:	Mr S de Keyser
Botswana:	Mr T Moruti	IRLCO-CSA:	Mr J Katheru
DR of Congo:	Mr Mula Mufatamingi	NRI (UK):	Prof B Cheke
Lesotho:	Mr E Tjelele		
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 & Ivy Saunyama (locusts/armyworm)		
	Ms T Couto (quelea)		
<u>Co-ordinator</u>		<u>GIS development</u>	
Ms Margaret Powell, South Africa		Mrs J Pender, UK	

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. If you are not already subscribed to the ICOSAMP email list please consider subscribing. There is no cost involved and you will not receive unwanted emails.

Enquiries in connection with the Bulletin can be directed to:

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<http://icosamp.ecoport.org>



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

