



\*\*\*\*\* MONTHLY BULLETIN \*\*\*\*\*

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

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## MIGRANT PEST REPORTS AND MAP FOR MAY 2004

Migrant pest reports for May 2004 were received from: *Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and IRLCO-CSA.* No reports were received from: *Angola, Congo, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, or Tanzania.* [A late report was received from Angola stating no migrant pest problems.](#)

**NB. SADC Collaborators are kindly requested to read the “General Notices” section.**

### SUMMARY (Fig.1)

No outbreaks of the African armyworm were reported from the SADC Region.

Botswana controlled two African migratory locust swarms, and South Africa continued its campaigns against brown locust outbreaks. Red locust swarms were reported from Tanzania. No further reports of locusts were received from the Region.

Quelea activity was reported from Botswana, South Africa, and Tanzania. The remainder of the region remained calm.

### ARMYWORM

The SADC Region remained free of armyworm infestations.

### LOCUSTS

Botswana (T Moruti). 42 swarms of fledging African Migratory locusts (*Locustana migratoria*), attacking maize, millet, and pasture fields at Mopipi and Zoroga, were controlled with vehicle mounted sprayers. An area of 2494ha was treated, using Alphamethrin 10%EC, and an estimated 70% kill was achieved.

South Africa (D Steenkamp/G Plaatjies). During May, 39 bands (small to medium) of V<sup>th</sup> instar gregarious brown locust hoppers (*Locustana pardalina*), and 30 adult swarms (medium to large) were controlled in the Prieska districts of the Northern Cape Province. All bands and swarms were controlled with deltamethrin. This campaign is now coming to an end.

Further reports were received from the public about the presence of large swarms of Green Bush locusts (*Phymateus viridipes*) near Johannesburg. A local newspaper (The Citizen 20.5.2004) commented that:



*“Chewing sounds fill the air as the vegetation in and around the area is gradually consumed. There are so many locusts they could easily be mistaken for leaves”.*

Tanzania (IRLCO-CSA). Reports of red locust (*Nomadacris septemfasciata*) swarms in the Iku-Katavi plains were received from Katavi Game Rangers. Low concentrations to scattered red locust were flushed during ground surveys in the Susijanda and Loya plains of Wembere and in Isimba plains in the Rukwa Valley.

The remainder of the SADC Region remained calm.

## RED-BILLED QUELEA

Botswana (T Moruti). 10 Quelea breeding colonies (containing nestlings with recently sprouted wings) were controlled in the east of the Central region in savanna habitat, near millet and sorghum crops. Two sites were identified as traditional Quelea sites. Seven (7) of the sites were controlled with fenthion, and three (3) were exploded by the Ministry of Agriculture. Sites varied in size from 3 to 100ha, and the total area treated was about 174ha. The percentage success rate ranged from 65 – 85%.

ICOSAMP Note: Due to obsolete GPS units in Botswana, and the low availability of latitude/longitude co-ordinates, only 7 of the 10 sites could be plotted on the ICOSAMP map.

*For ICOSAMP to continue providing vital regional migrant pest information, country collaborators need the necessary ‘tools’ to assist them in this task, and GPS units are crucial to obtaining spatial field data. On behalf of all ICOSAMP collaborators, the Co-ordinator therefore puts out an urgent plea to international donors who are willing to assist in this matter. Please contact the ICOSAMP Co-ordinator at [icosamp@ecoport.org](mailto:icosamp@ecoport.org) for further details.*

South Africa (L Geertsema). Fourteen (14) breeding colonies were controlled in the Limpopo and Free State Provinces, and nine (9) roosts were controlled in the Northern Cape, Limpopo, and Free State Provinces. Seven sites were identified as traditional Quelea sites. Most of the sites were located in tree habitat (thorn, eucalyptus, poplar), four in wetlands (reeds), and two in cotton fields. Crops at risk were sorghum and wheat, and estimated damage ranged from 0 to 20%. Sites varied in size from 0.1 to 8ha, and the total area treated was 81.3ha with an estimated number of 9,1m birds present. Aerial control was undertaken by the National Department of Agriculture on six sites using Falcolan® (active ingredient cyanophos 520g/l) at application rates of 8 -10 l/ha. Five sites were sprayed with Queletox diluted with diesel (10 litres Queletox : 20 litres diesel) as a high volume application, because the micronair ulv sprayers were unavailable. Explosions were undertaken with either paraffin, or a paraffin/petrol mix. The percentage success rate ranged from 50 – 100%. Six sites were identified as environmentally sensitive and non-target mortality was recorded at 2 of these sites (2 x Francolin, 3 x Wattled Starling).

Tanzania (IRLCO-CSA). Control operations were carried out by Plant Health Services in collaboration with DLCO-EA in several regions of Tanzania. No details provided, therefore not mapped.

No further reports of Quelea birds in the SADC region were received.

## GENERAL NOTICES

1. The reporting rate for May was *unacceptably* low at 57% (8 out of 14 reports received). Country collaborators are reminded that reports should reach the coordinator by the **end of the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the following month** so that they can be included in the Bulletin. Reports should be sent even if there were **NO** migrant pest outbreaks, or **NO** surveys were conducted.
2. The mandate for Quelea monitoring and control in Zimbabwe has been transferred from the National Parks to the Plant Protection Research Institute, and this Institute will therefore in future provide information to ICOSAMP on all three migrant pests in Zimbabwe. We welcome Dr Peter Chinwada who is standing in for Ivy Saunyama (maternity leave).
3. The ICOSAMP **internet mapper** can be viewed at <http://icosamp.ecoport.org>. Click on "Interactive Mapper" in the left navigation panel.
4. Please forward ANY information you may obtain while recording control operations, of birds that have been **ringed** as this will be sent to the Avian Demography Unit in South Africa who are tracing the migration movements of Quelea. Information needed is: *Locality, date of recovery, control method, and Ring number.*

Information and Reports should be faxed or emailed to:

M Kieser

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## ON THE WEB

This month's highlighted websites are:

### *General News in Africa*

<http://www.allafrica.com/agriculture> - Agricultural news

<http://www.allafrica.com/sustainable> - Sustainability news

<http://www.allafrica.com/environment> - Environmental news

### *Early Warning*

<http://www-web.gre.ac.uk/directory/NRI/pcs/MetCCD0.htm> - Armyworm forecasting

<http://www.fews.net/south> - Famine Early Warning System Network for southern Africa

### *Research*

<http://www.cpp.uk.com> - DFID's Crop Protection Programme

### *SADC*

<http://www.sadc.int> - SADC website (recently revamped and updated)

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Information is gratefully acknowledged from collaborators in SADC member countries, the International Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) in Zambia, and the Armyworm Forecasting and Control Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in Tanzania. Thanks to EcoPort <http://www.ecoport.org> for hosting our website and maintaining the internet mapper.

<b>ICOSAMP COLLABORATORS - 2004</b>	
<b>SADC</b>	<b>Additional Collaborators</b>
<b>Angola:</b> Mr S Mateus	SADC-FANR: Mr S de Keyser
<b>Botswana:</b> Mr T Moruti	IRLCO-CSA: Mr John Katheru
<b>DR of Congo:</b> Mr M Mafutamingi	NRI (UK): Prof Bob Cheke
<b>Lesotho:</b> Mr E Tjelele / Mr P Masupha	Armyworm (RSA): Dr Richard Bell
<b>Malawi:</b> Mr T Maulana	Armyworm Forecasting W Mushobozi (Tanzania Min.Agric. & Food Security)
<b>Mozambique:</b> Mr J Varimelo/Mr A Comes/A Ngazero	
<b>Namibia:</b> Ms P Shiyelekeni	
<b>South Africa:</b> Mr K Viljoen (locusts) Mr L Geertsema (quelea)	
<b>Swaziland:</b> Mr M Mbuli	
<b>Tanzania:</b> Mr R Magoma	
<b>Zambia:</b> Mr M Kanyemba	
<b>Zimbabwe:</b> Mrs Isaunyama / Dr Peter Chinwada	
<b>Co-ordinator</b> Mrs Margaret Kieser, South Africa	<b>GIS development</b> Mrs Judith Pender, UK

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

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.

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**This Bulletin, as well as archived Bulletins, are also available on the website at**  
**<http://icosamp.ecoport.org>**

Figure 1. Migrant Pest Situation Map for SADC Region: May 2004

