ICOSAMP News
Information Core for Southern African Migrant Pests

No 23 (Sept. 2003)

********** **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 MAP FOR SEPTEMBER 2003

Migrant pest reports for September 2003 were received from:
Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa (Quelea), Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and IRLCO-CSA.
No reports were received from: *Angola, Congo, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa (locusts), or Swaziland.*

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

SUMMARY (Fig.1)
No reports of outbreaks of the African armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*) were received from the region.

Metarhizium trials against red locusts which began in August in Tanzania, ended in September. No further reports of locust outbreaks or activity were received from other countries in the region.

Quelea control operations were carried out in South Africa (4 roosts), Tanzania (3 roosts), and Zimbabwe (16 roosts). Thirteen (13) additional roosts were observed in Zimbabwe but not controlled. No further reports of Quelea activity were received.

ARMYWORM
The region remained free of armyworm infestations.

Botswana (T Moruti). Pheromone traps were set up to monitor moth activity.

LOCUSTS
No locust outbreaks were reported from the region.

Tanzania (IRLCO-CSA). Aerial trials of *Metarhizium* (Green Muscle ®) were completed against concentrations of red locust adults (*Nomadacris septemfasciata*) in the Iku-Katavi and Wembere plains.

In the Iku area, four blocks with varying densities of adult red locust were sprayed, one of 600ha

ARC • LNR nr international
This Bulletin is an output from a SADC endorsed, collaborative research project funded by DFID, UK. The views expressed are not necessarily those of DFID or the ARC.
DFID Department for International Development

with Fenitrothion 96% ULV, one of 1,400ha with Green Muscle at 50g/ha, and two of 800 and 400ha respectively with Green Muscle 25g/ha, at an application rate of 1 litre/ha. An area of 400ha was used as an untreated control. The blocks were monitored over a period ranging from two days to four weeks. The locust numbers in the Fenitrothion treated block declined rapidly following treatment. Significant mortality was observed three weeks post treatment in the Green Muscle blocks.
In the Wembere plains, a total of 3,470 litres of Fenitrothion 96% ULV was used to spray over 7,070ha of infested area.

Malawi (T Maulana). Although no surveys were undertaken, low density red locust populations are expected to be present at Lake Chilwa.

RED-BILLED QUELEA

South Africa (L Geertsema). Three chemical control operations - using Falcolan® (active ingredient cyanophos 520g/l) at application rates ranging from 10-15 l/ha - were undertaken against roosts in savanna habitat in the Limpopo, Free State, and Mpumalanga Provinces near sorghum crops. One site is a traditional Quelea site. The total area of the roosts is 11ha with an estimated number of 1,03m birds. Kill achieved ranged from 25 – 92%. None of the sites were classified as environmentally sensitive, and no non-target mortality was recorded.

One roost (1 ha, 0.3m birds) was controlled with explosives in the Northern Cape Province in wetland habitat (reeds in a river) near sorghum crops. This is a traditional site and is not classified as environmentally sensitive. The fuels used were paraffin and petrol at an application rates of 2600 l/ha. The estimated kill achieved was 60%. No non-target mortality was recorded.

Tanzania (R Magoma). Three roosts were controlled near irrigated rice fields in the Kilimanjaro Region. The total area sprayed was 85ha(?) with about 185 litres of avicide (no details provided). About 3,8m birds were killed. Control was undertaken by the Plant Health Services of the Ministry ofAgriculture and Food Security, in collaboration with the DLCO-EA who provided the spray aircraft.

Zimbabwe (W Sithole). Twenty-nine (29) reports of Quelea roosts were received from the Mashonaland, Midlands, and Matabeleland North Provinces, of which 16 sites were controlled. Some of the roosts visited were not sprayed because bird numbers were too low, roosts were already abandoned, or were destroyed by farm workers. Crops at risk were wheat and barley. The total area of the controlled roosts was 160ha, with an estimated number of 15,5m birds. The avicide used was Queletox, and the average percentage success was 87%. The problem Bird Control Unit is still experiencing difficulties with lack of fuel to undertake surveys and control operations, and neighbouring countries should bear this in mind with regards to Quelea migrations from the country.

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

GENERAL NOTICES

1. It is with sadness that we say goodbye to **Tracey Couto** (Zimbabwe – Quelea) who has resigned from her job at the National Parks. We will miss her as she has been with us since

ARC • LNR nr international
This Bulletin is an output from a SADC endorsed, collaborative research project funded by DFID, UK. The views expressed are not necessarily those of DFID or the ARC.
DFID Department for International Development

the birth of ICOSAMP and – even under difficult situations – has managed to provide us with migrant pest information from her country. Tracey also made sure that her work with us is continued and has introduced our new collaborator – **Ms Wendy Sithole** – and trained her on the completion of the ICOSAMP forms. Wendy – we welcome you to our team, and may your stay be fruitful for you and our network!

2. I am reminded of another benefit we as migrant pest information officers can provide to researchers in our SADC region – **information of ringed birds**. Please forward ANY information you may obtain while recording control operations, of birds that have been **ringed**. Wendy Sithole (Zimbabwe) sent information of a ringed Quelea bird that was caught at one of the roosts, and this information was forwarded 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.*
3. Samples of armyworm larvae are still needed for research purposes. Please contact the ICOSAMP Co-ordinator for further details.
4. Collaborators are reminded that the ICOSAMP migrant pest monthly reporting forms are to be 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 should be faxed or emailed to:
M Kieser
Fax: +27 12 356 9818 Email: icosamp@ecoport.org

ON THE WEB
This month's highlighted websites are:

Early Warning
http://www-web.gre.ac.uk/directory/NRI/guel/index.htm - Quelea breeding forecasting
http://www-web.gre.ac.uk/directory/NRI/pcs/MetCCD0.htm - Armyworm forecasting
http://www.fews.net - Famine Early Warning System Network

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

Agriculture
http://www.sadc.int - SADC website.

This Bulletin is an output from a SADC endorsed, collaborative research project funded by DFID, UK. The views expressed are not necessarily those of DFID or the ARC.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Information is gratefully acknowledged from collaborators in SADC member countries, and the International Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) in Zambia. Thanks to EcoPort for hosting our website.

ICOSAMP COLLABORATORS - 2003

SADC

Angola:	Mr S Mateus
Botswana:	Mr T Moruti
DR of Congo:	Mr M Mafutamingi
Lesotho:	Mr E Tjelele / Mr P Masupha
Malawi:	Mr T Maulana
Mozambique:	Mr J Varimelo/Mr A Comes/A Ngazero
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:	Mrs ISaunyama (locusts/armyworm) Ms W Sithole (quelea)

Co-ordinator

Mrs Margaret Kieser, South Africa

Additional Collaborators

SADC-FANR:	Mr S de Keyser
IRLCO-CSA:	Mr J Katheru
NRI (UK):	Prof B Cheke
Armyworm (RSA):	Dr R Bell

GIS development

Mrs J 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.

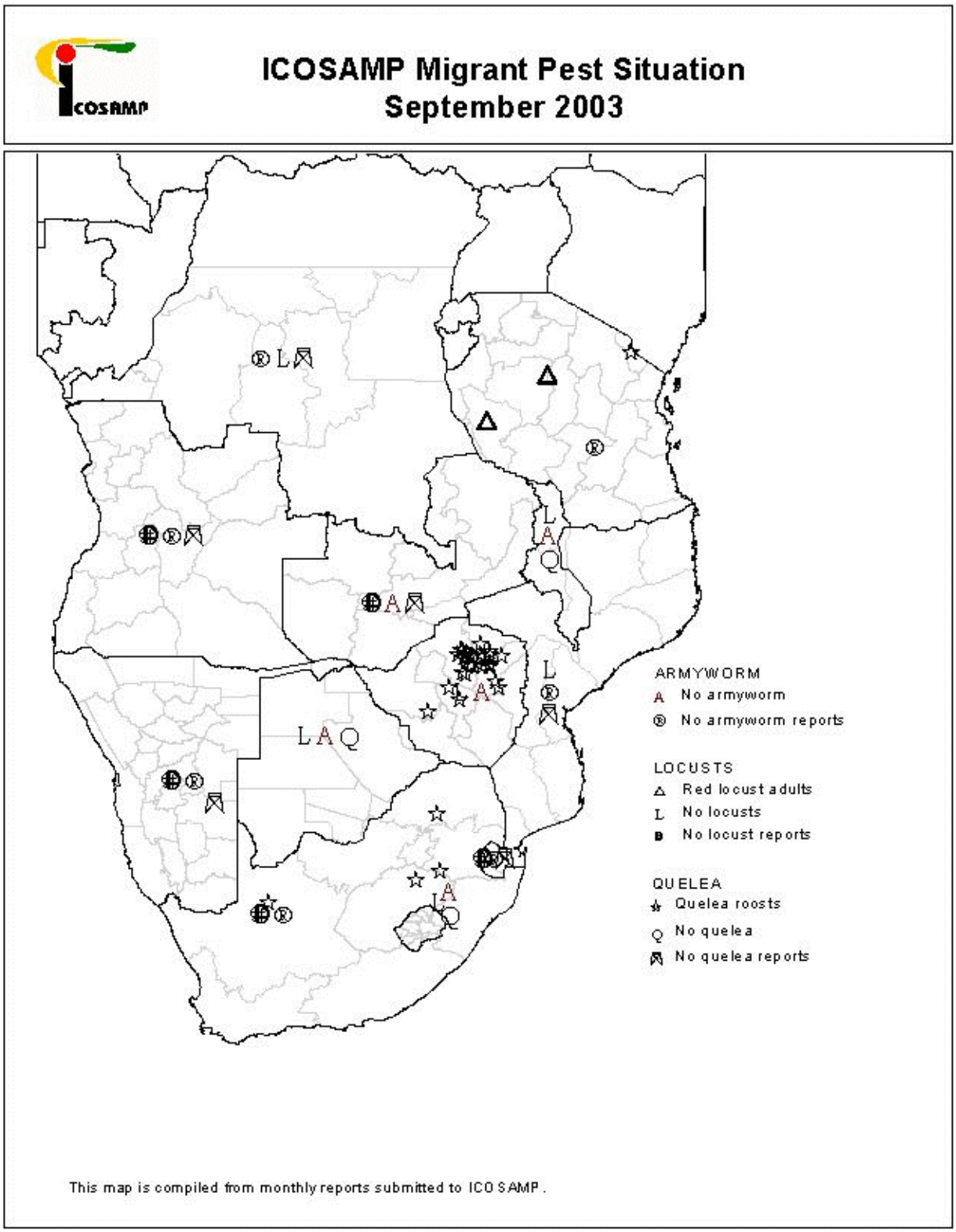
Enquiries in connection with the Bulletin can be directed to:
Margaret Kieser
ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute
P/Bag X134, Pretoria 0001, South Africa

Tel: +27 12 356 9818
Fax: +27 12 329 3278
Email: icosamp@ecoport.org or rietmek@plant2.agric.za

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

This Bulletin is an output from a SADC endorsed, collaborative research project funded by DFID, UK. The views expressed are not necessarily those of DFID or the ARC.

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



This Bulletin is an output from a SADC endorsed, collaborative research project funded by DFID, UK. The views expressed are not necessarily those of DFID or the ARC.