

N Somalia outbreak

November 2013 - June 2014

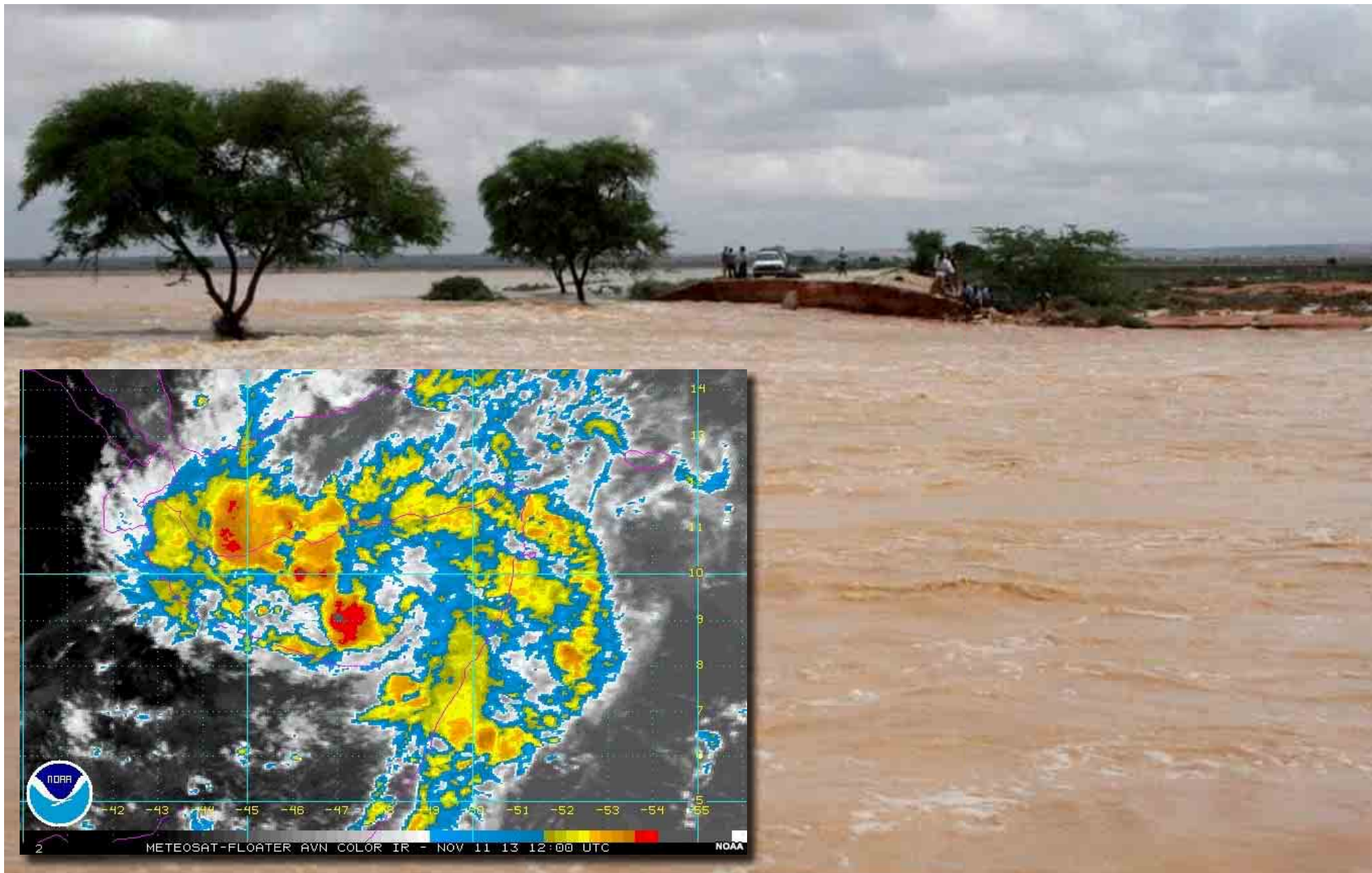


Desert Locust Information Service

FAO, Rome

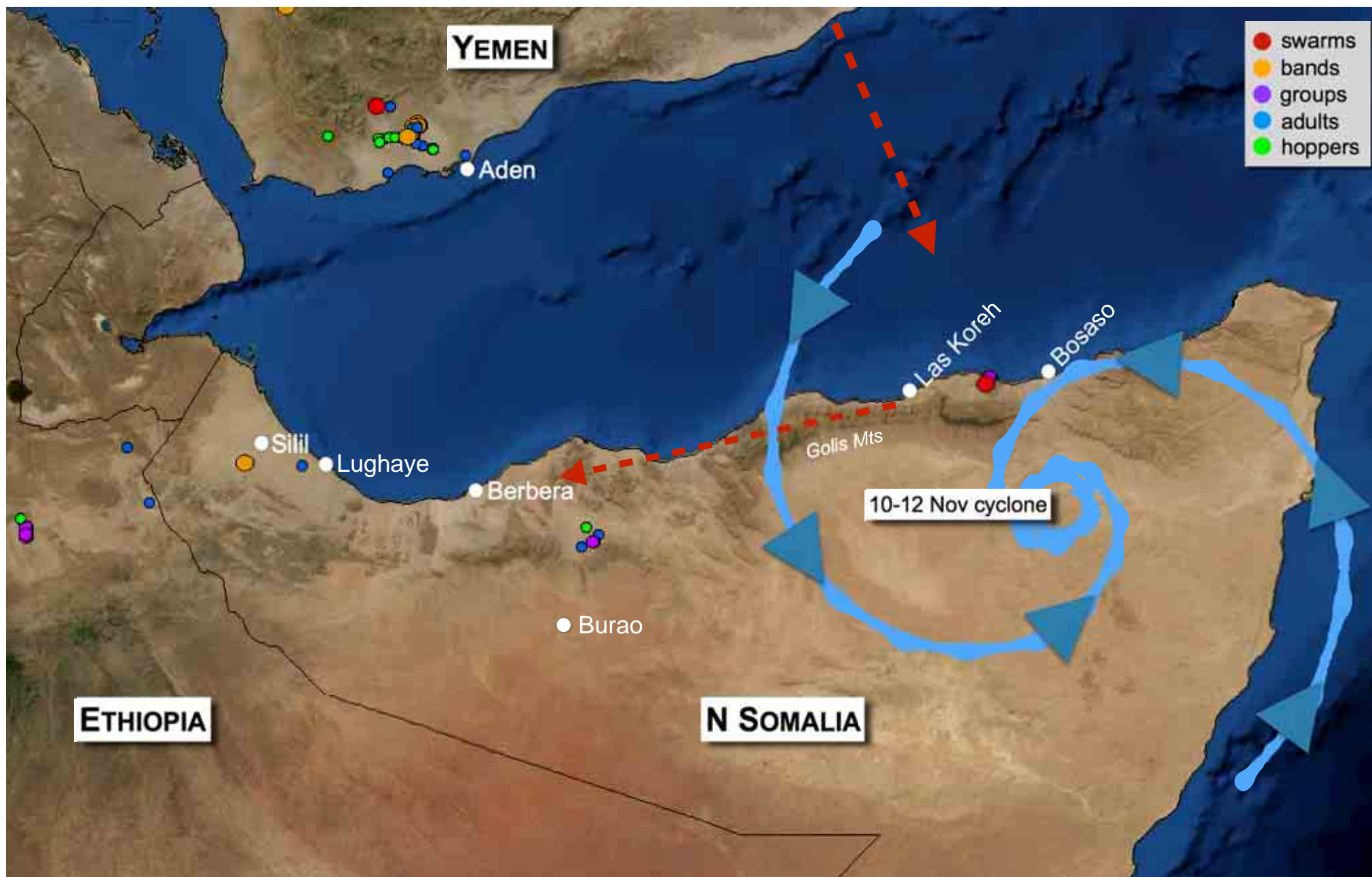
www.fao.org/ag/locusts

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NOV 2013 Heavy rains of up to 75-300mm associated with Tropical Cyclone 03A fell on the coast, escarpment and plateau of northern Somalia on 11-12 November, causing flooding and damage. On the 11th, the cyclone made landfall on the Indian Ocean coast in northeast Somalia (Puntland) with sustained winds of 65 kph bringing rain of up to 30 mm per hour. It moved inland in a westerly direction at about 15 kph. On the 12th, the cyclone dissipated over eastern Ethiopia. The heaviest rain fell in Puntland while good rains also fell over parts of northwest Somalia (Somaliland). Many of the normally dry wadis were flowing and causing floods in some areas.



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NOV-DEC 2013

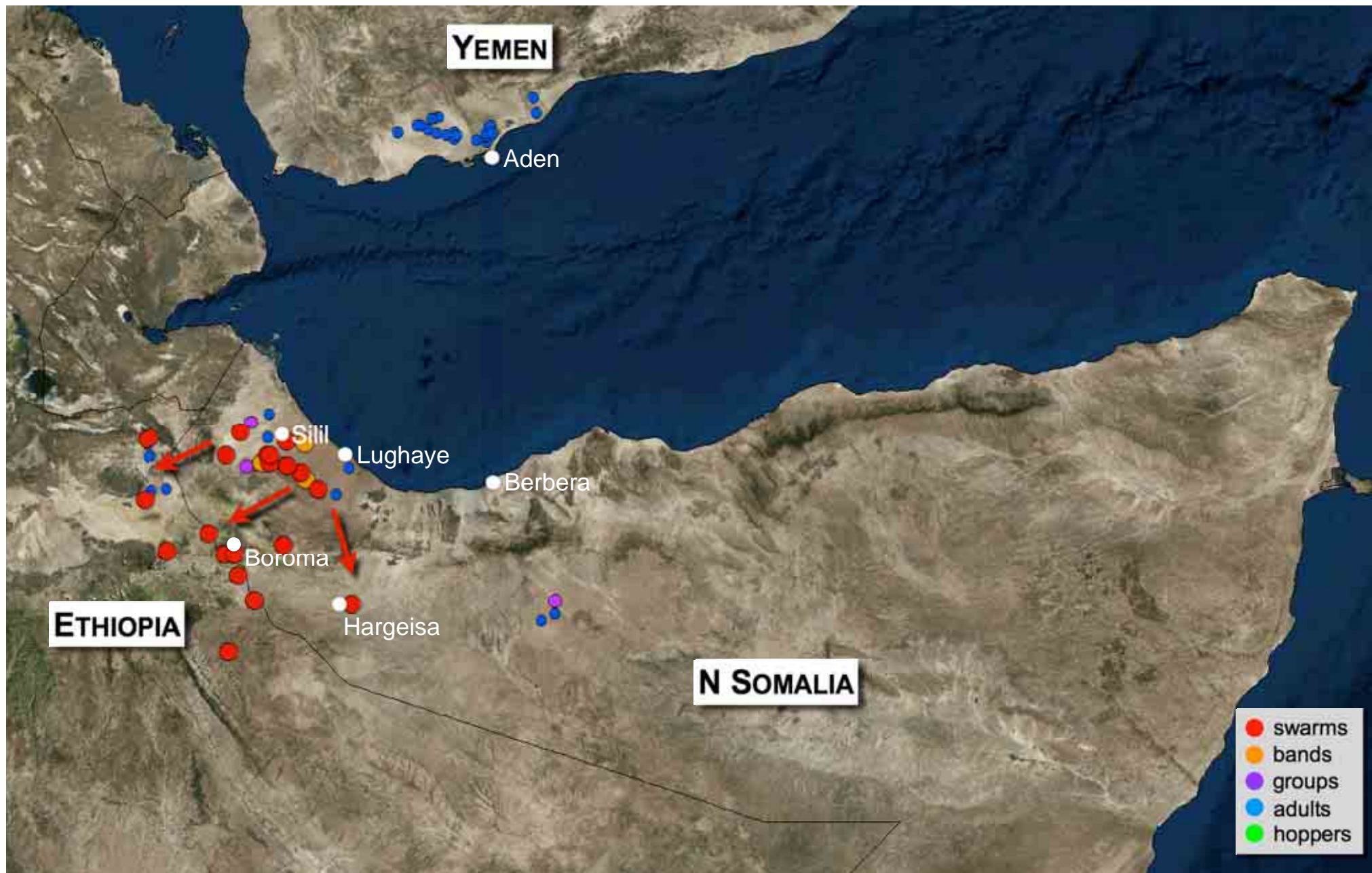
A few small locust swarmlets arrived on the northern coast near Bosaso in the Las Khoreh area from southern Yemen carried by northerly winds to the west of the cyclone in early November. The mature gregarious adults matured and laid eggs within a limited sandy area along the coast in early December. There were unconfirmed reports of two mature swarms moving southwest towards the Golis Mountains and the northwest coast where unconfirmed hopper bands were reported by only isolated mature adults were seen by surveys. Small-scale breeding was in progress on the escarpment northeast of Burao.



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JAN-FEB 2014

Locust numbers increased on the northwest coast as a result of favourable breeding conditions from the heavy rains associated with the tropical cyclone in November. During January, locals continued to report hopper bands and groups of immature and mature adults primarily in a 40x60 km area of green vegetation between Lughaye and Silil. Several mature adult groups and small swarmlets formed and moved to Djibouti where they dispersed during the last week. Surveys in early February confirmed additional hatching and band formation on the northwest coast of Somalia and ground teams eventually treated 76 ha with Green Muscle.



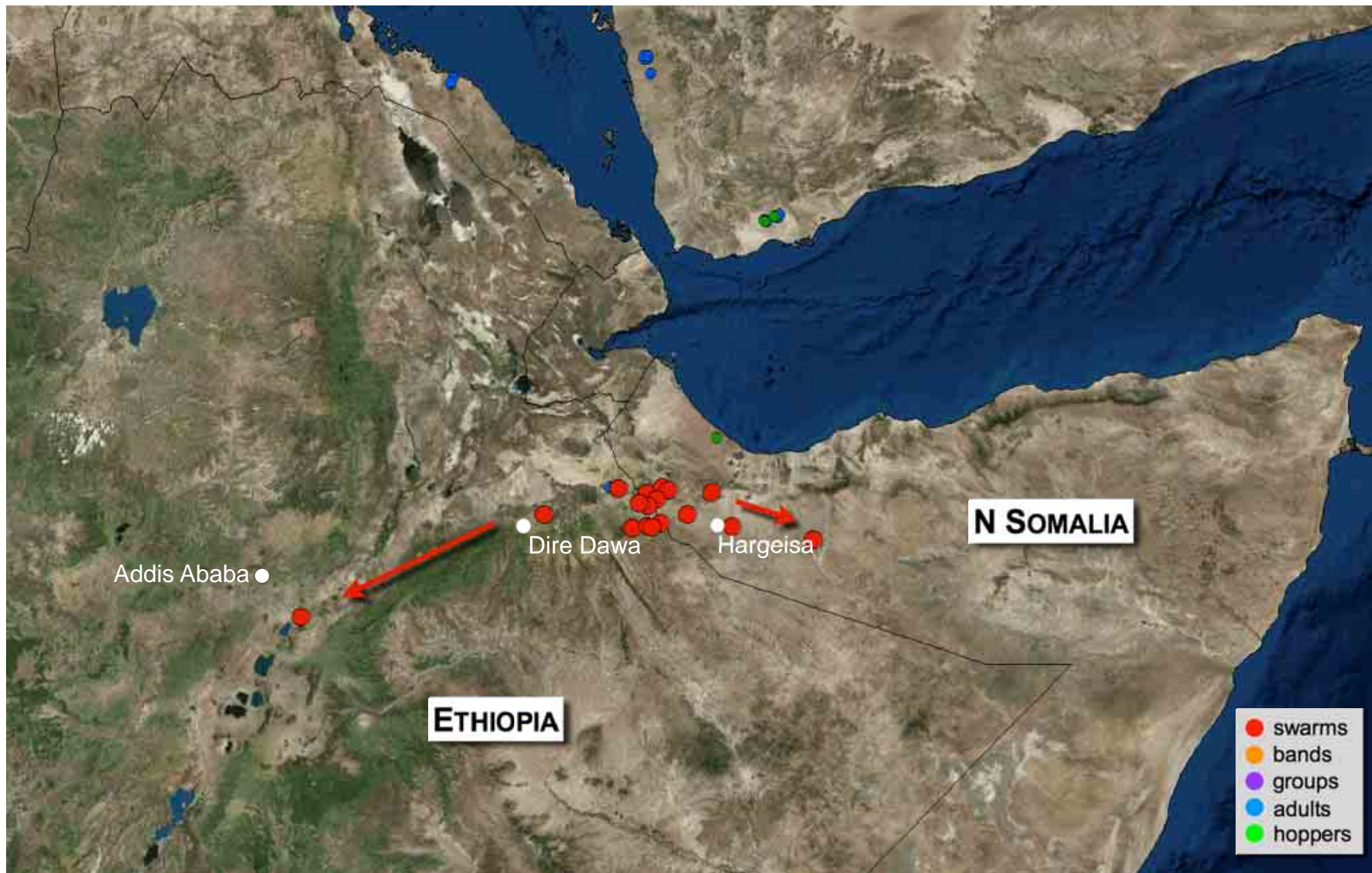
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MAR 2014 Hopper bands and groups of immature adults continued to persist on the northwest coast. Reliable surveys were not undertaken on a regular basis, which caused some confusion about the dynamic situation. As vegetation began to dry out, an increasing number of swarms formed and moved up the escarpment onto the plateau near Boroma and Hargeisa, and into eastern Ethiopia from the 11th onwards. Ground and aerial control operations were immediately launched in Ethiopia and treated 190 ha.

14 MARCH 2014

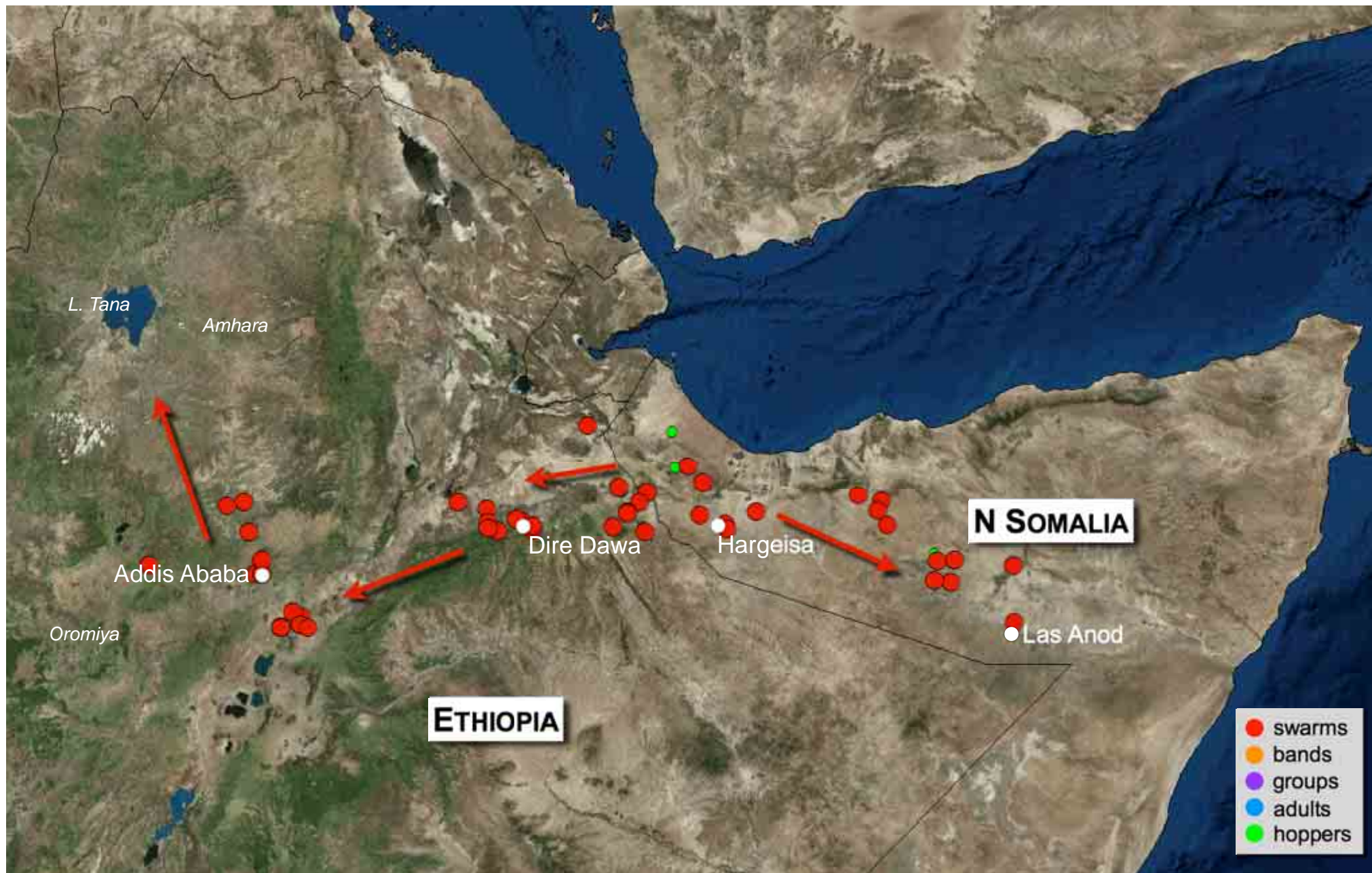
An immature swarm flew over Hargeisa as it moved from the coastal plains, up the escarpment and across the plateau to eastern Ethiopia





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APR 2014 Immature swarms continued to be seen on the plateau near Boroma and Hargeisa and there were new sightings further east towards Burao. By the last week, no further infestations were seen on the northwest coastal plains except for one area of gregarious hoppers. In the meantime, numerous immature swarms, varying in size from 1-20 km², continued to arrive in eastern Ethiopia near Jijiga. A few swarms moved to Dire Dawa and southwest into the Rift Valley. Some of the swarms were maturing and starting to copulate. Control operations in Ethiopia treated 2,370 ha of which 2,190 ha were by air.



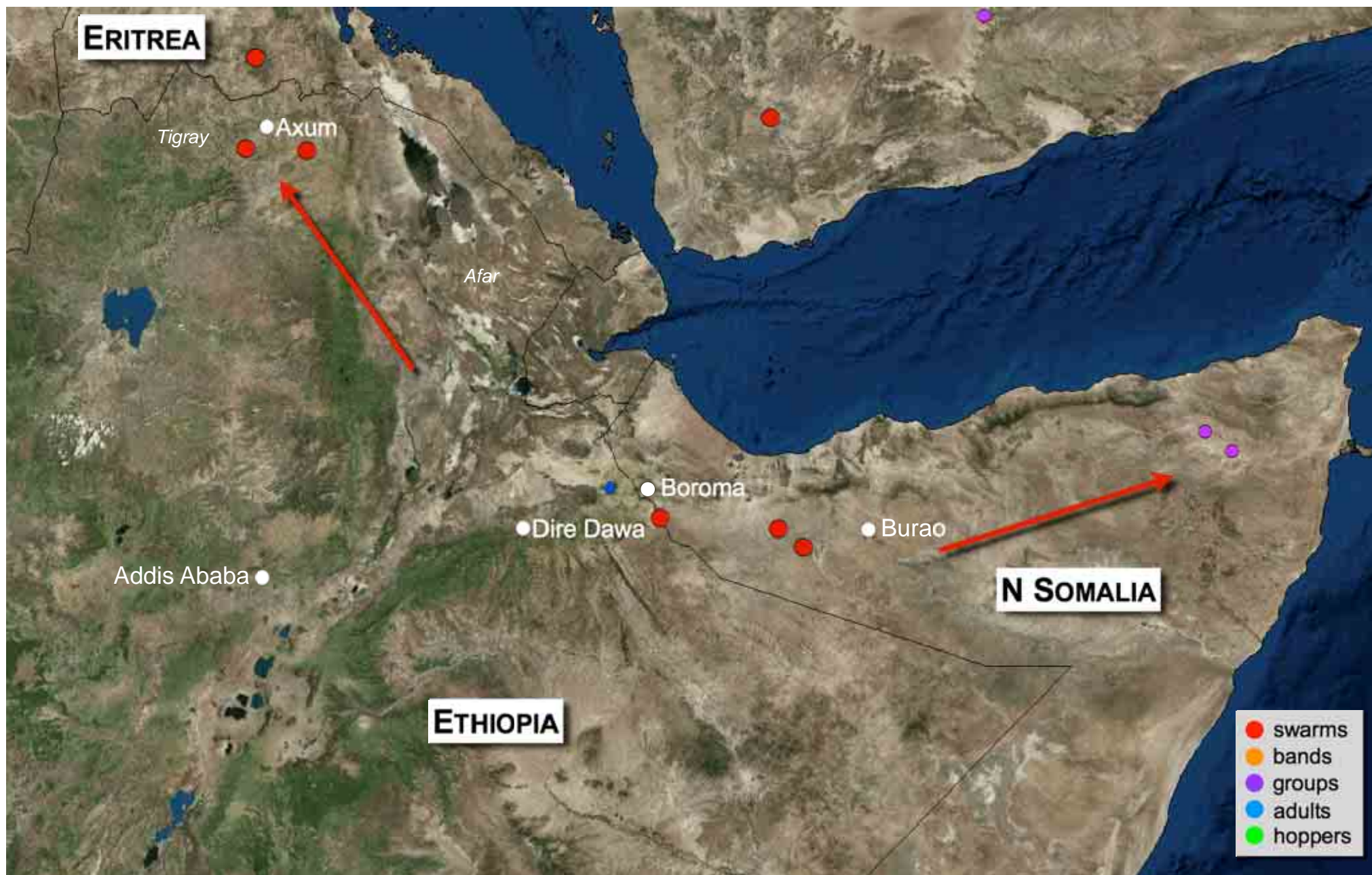
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MAY 2014 Immature swarms continued to be reported on the plateau in northwest Somalia. Some of the swarms traversed east across the plateau towards Las Anod while about a dozen small to medium-sized swarms moved into eastern Ethiopia. Some of these swarms moved to Oromiya, Addis Ababa and Amhara regions. A large swarm flew over the capital on the 14th. One swarm nearly reached Lake Tana. Control operations in Ethiopia treated 2,372 ha of which 2,150 ha were by air.



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14 MAY 2014 A large immature swarm flew over Addis Ababa. The swarm was one of many that formed as a result of breeding earlier in the year on the northwest coast of Somalia. The swarm continued north from Addis into the adjacent highlands.



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JUN 2014 A few immature and mature swarms were seen early in the month on the plateau between Boroma and Burao, and moved back and forth into Ethiopia. A few adult groups were seen in northeast Somalia. No locusts were reported after 10 June in northern Somalia and eastern Ethiopia. However, at least one swarm reached the Afar region in northeastern Ethiopia and continued to Tigray and crossed into Eritrea. Aerial control operations treated 1,180 ha during June in Ethiopia. In all, Ethiopia treated 6,112 ha from March to June.