

Saudi Arabia

July 2016 - present

Red Sea coast outbreak



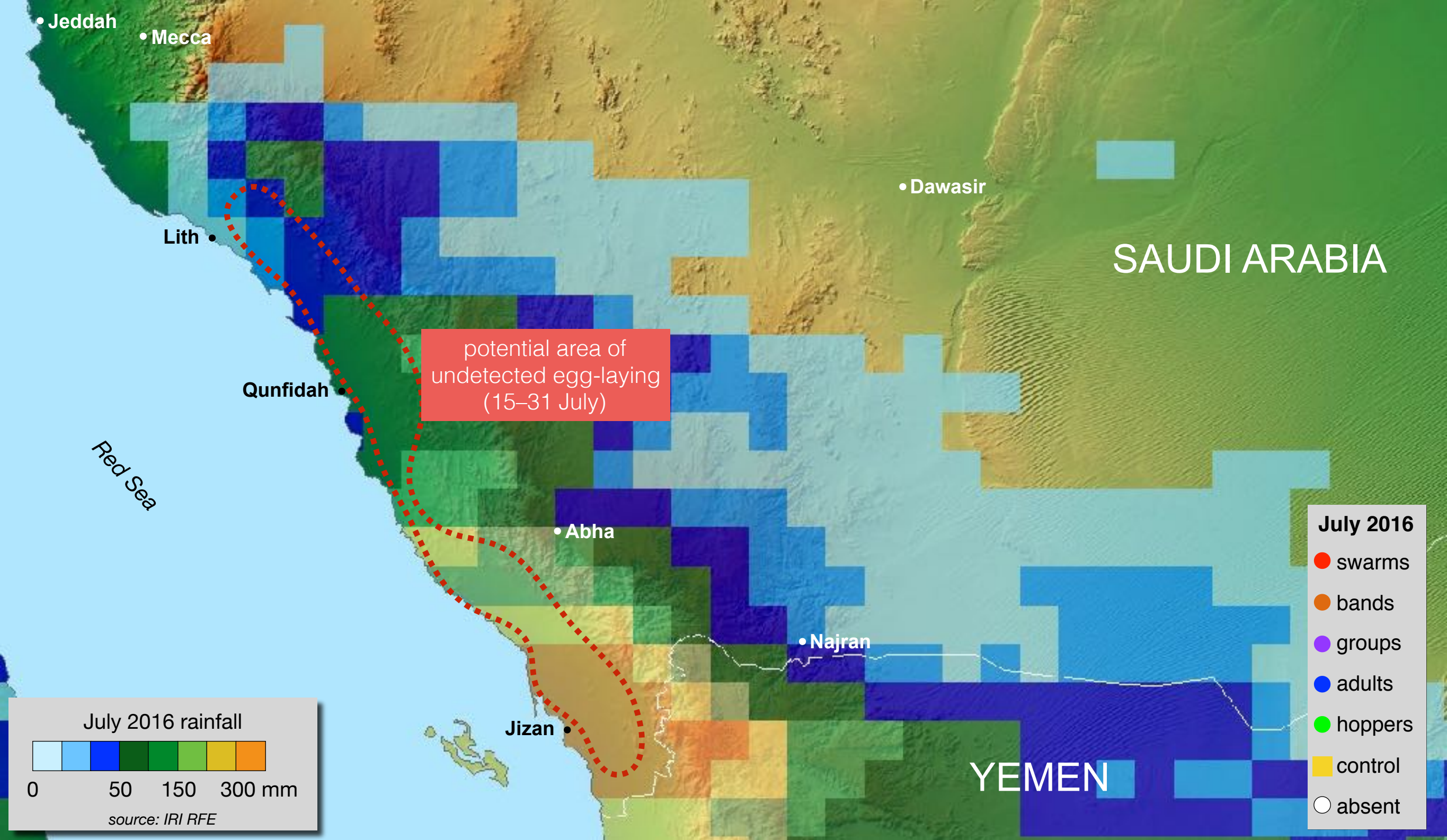
Desert Locust Information Service

FAO, Rome

www.fao.org/ag/locusts

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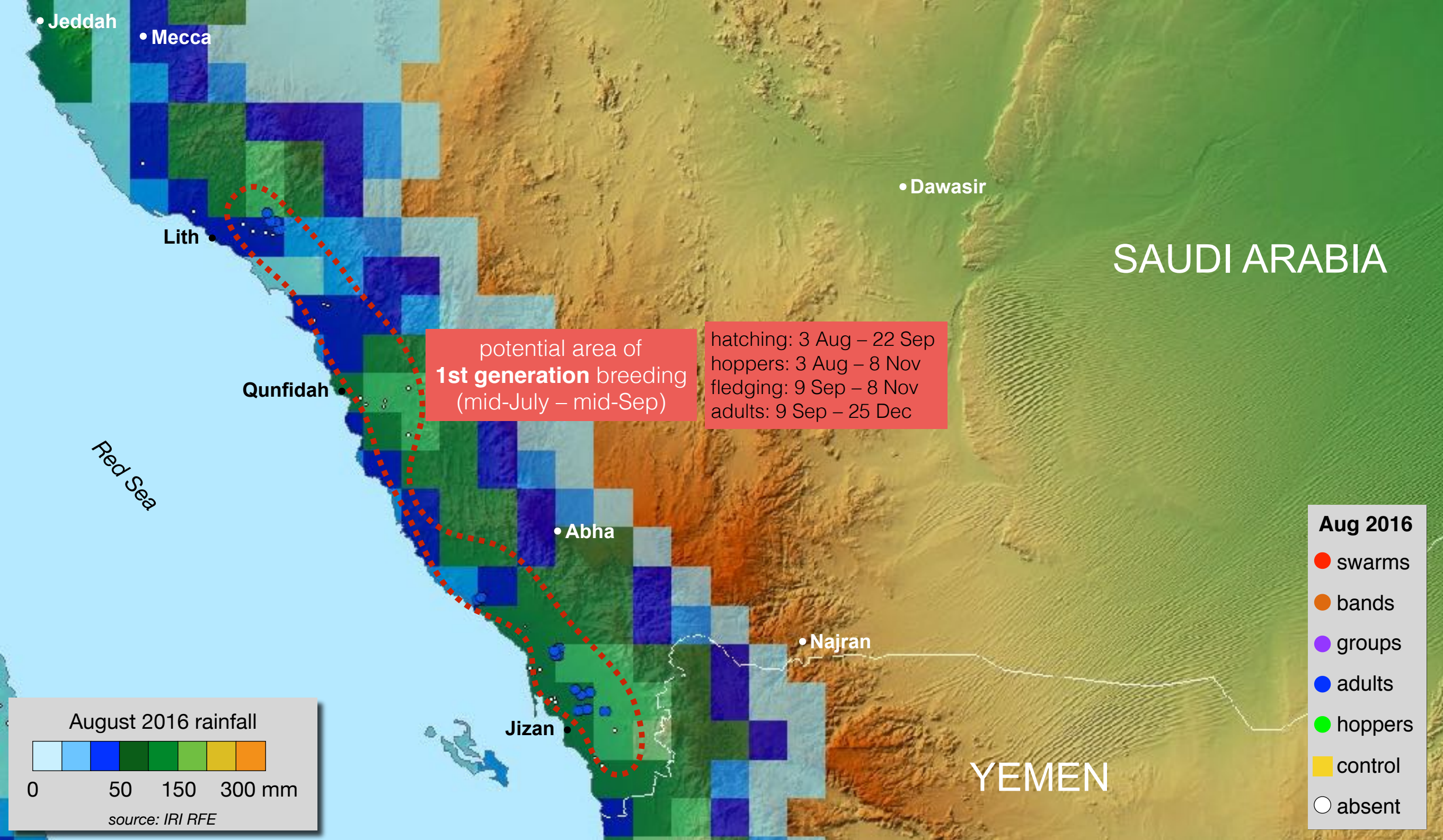
updated: 24 January 2017



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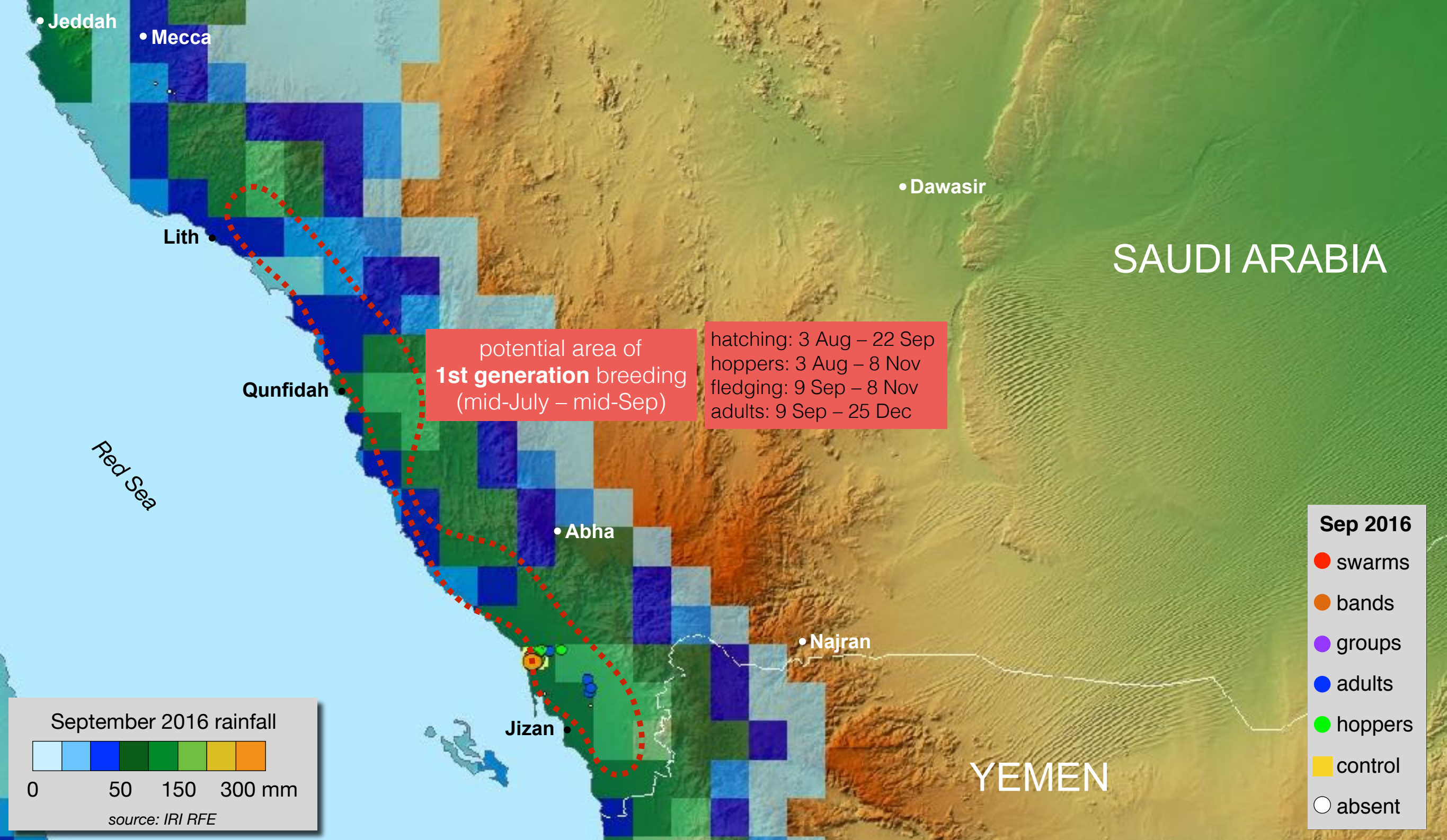
JUL 2016

Light showers commenced on the Red Sea coastal plains in late June between Qunfidah and Jizan. This was followed by heavier showers at times between 10–31 July, mainly in the Jizan area, extending north to Qunfidah and, to a lesser further north towards Lith. Rains were particularly heavy between Qunfidah and Lith on 28 July to 3 August, causing floods in some places. No surveys were carried out on the Red Sea coastal plains in June and July. However, scattered mature solitarious adults were likely present and laid eggs from mid-July onwards in some areas that received rainfall. They may also have been supplemented by adult groups that arrived from adjacent areas in Yemen and laid eggs.

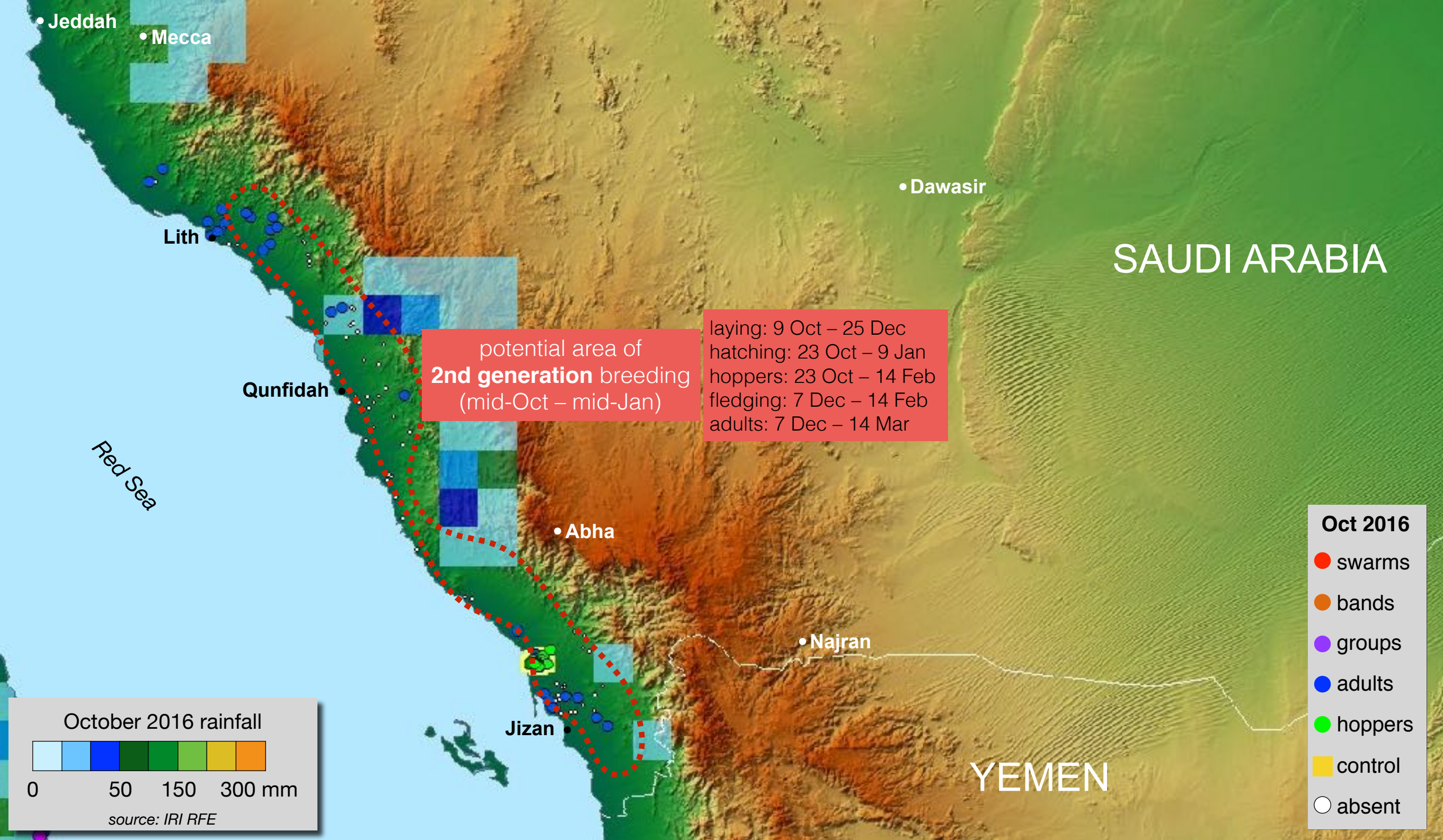


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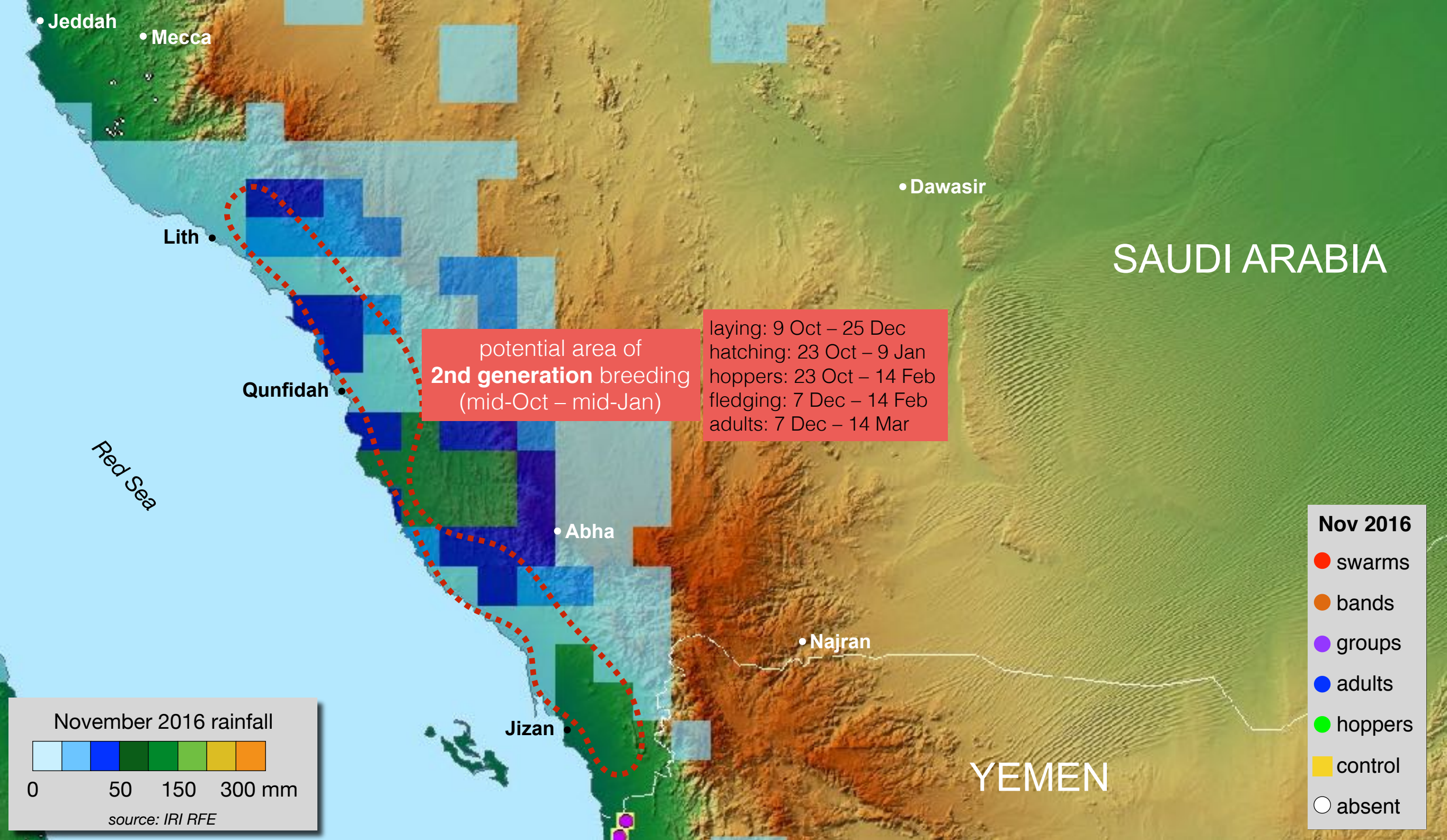
AUG 2016 Good rains continued to fall throughout the month on the Red Sea coastal plains between Lith and Jizan in many areas that had received heavy rain in July. Surveys were carried out on 14–18 and 27–28 August. Scattered immature solitarious adults were seen on the coast near Lith while scattered mature solitarious adults were present near Jizan including one report of adults laying eggs on 16 August. It is also possible that adult groups may have arrived from adjacent areas in Yemen and laid eggs during August. Undetected first generation hatching probably commenced on 1 August and continued throughout the month. As a result, hoppers were likely present during August but they were not seen or reported.



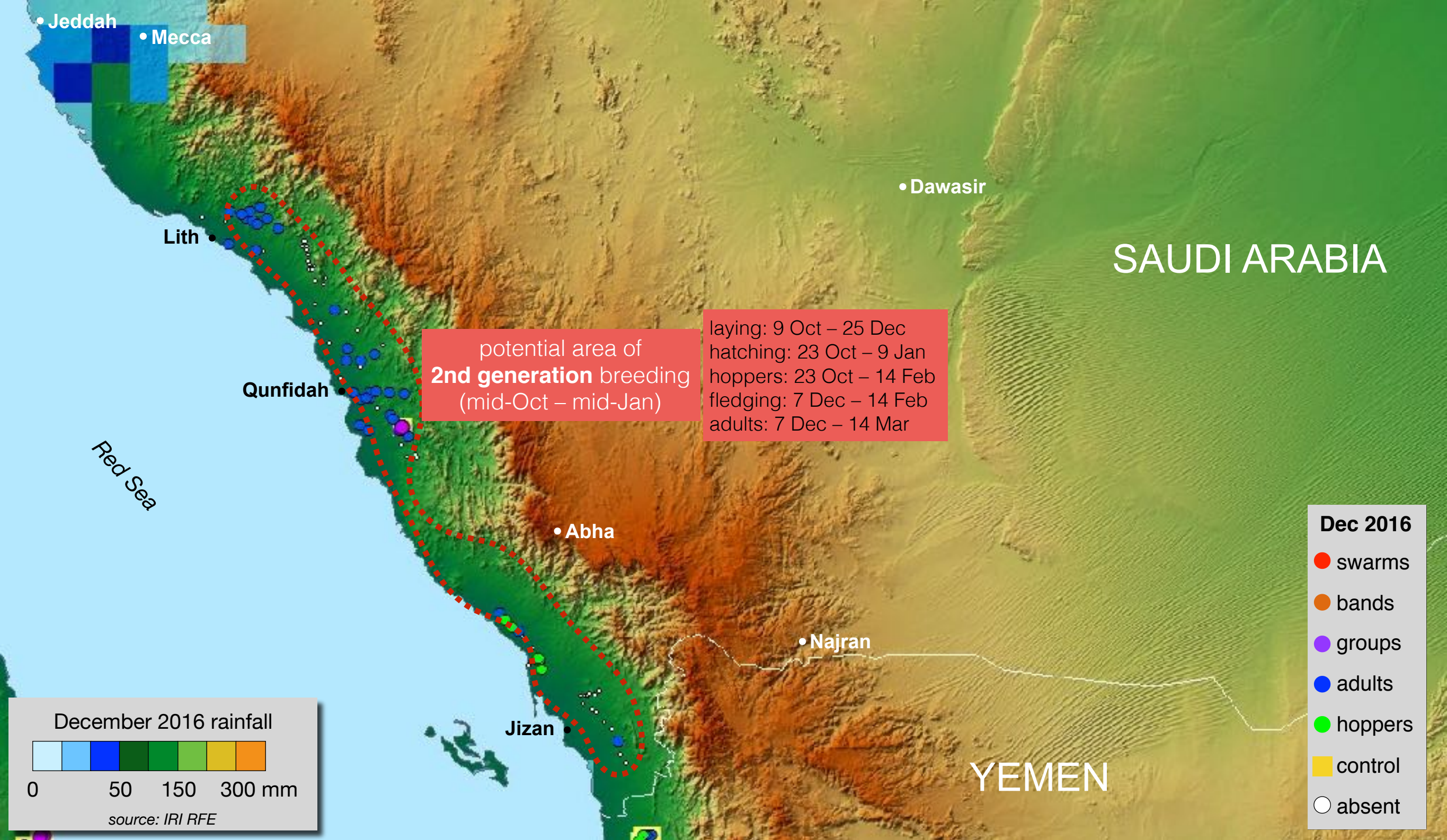
SEP 2016 Good rains continued to fall for the third consecutive month between Lith and Jizan mainly during the first half of September. As a result of continued breeding, hoppers concentrated and formed a few groups and small bands near Jizan. Fledging commenced during the second week and a few small adult groups formed shortly thereafter. Control operations near Jizan treated 3,000 ha of which 400 ha were by air. As surveys were only conducted near Jizan, the locust situation elsewhere was not known or reported but it is nearly certain that breeding was underway near Qunfidah and Lith as well.



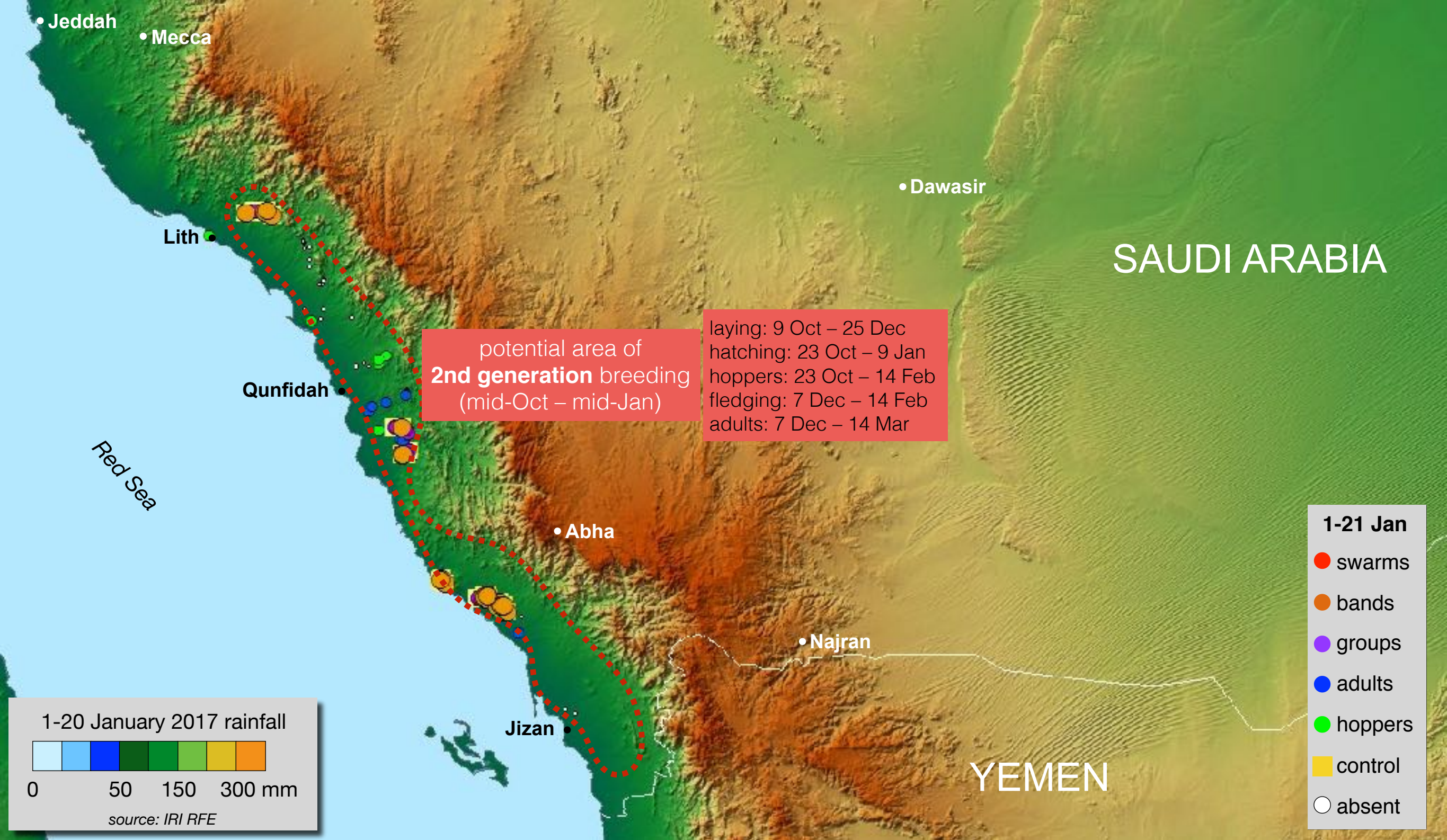
OCT 2016 Breeding continued on the Red Sea coast near Jizan, Qunfidah and Lith where solitarious hoppers of all instars were present. Fledging continued and the new adults were maturing. It is likely that a second generation of egg-laying started during the second week but was not detected. Control operations near Jizan treated 3,420 ha. Although more surveys were undertaken in October than September, many areas were not monitored where breeding was most likely in progress. As a result, second-generation hatching commenced during the last week of October but was not detected.



NOV 2016 Second-generation egg-laying and hatching continued along the Red Sea coastal plains between Lith and Jizan and early instar hoppers were present during the month. However the locust situation could not be confirmed due to a complete absence of surveys undertaken in November. Light rain fell in some areas at the end of the month, allowing ecological conditions to remain suitable for breeding and locusts to increase in number. This may have been supplemented by small adult groups appearing from adjacent areas of the northern Red Sea coast in Yemen.



DEC 2016 It became clear that an outbreak was developing on the Red Sea coast because of good rains from July to mid-September that allowed two generations of breeding to occur so far. The situation was further complicated by irregular and incomplete monitoring during the period. The outbreak appears to have originated near Jizan and then subsequently extended to Qunfidah and Lith areas. Breeding continued during December and first-generation adults were forming groups and laying eggs in some areas near Qunfidah while solitarious adults were seen laying eggs near Lith. Ground teams treated 10 ha.



JAN 2017 Second-generation hoppers of all instars began forming groups and bands from the second week of January onwards near Lith, Qunfidah and Jizan. Hatching and the formation of third-generation hopper groups and bands is expected to take place from late January onwards while second-generation adults are likely to form an increasing number of immature groups and perhaps a few small swarms. Ground teams treated 1,416 ha on 1–18 January.



second-generation hopper bands on the Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia (January 2017)

