

# Eritrea

November 2016 – January 2017

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Red Sea coast outbreak



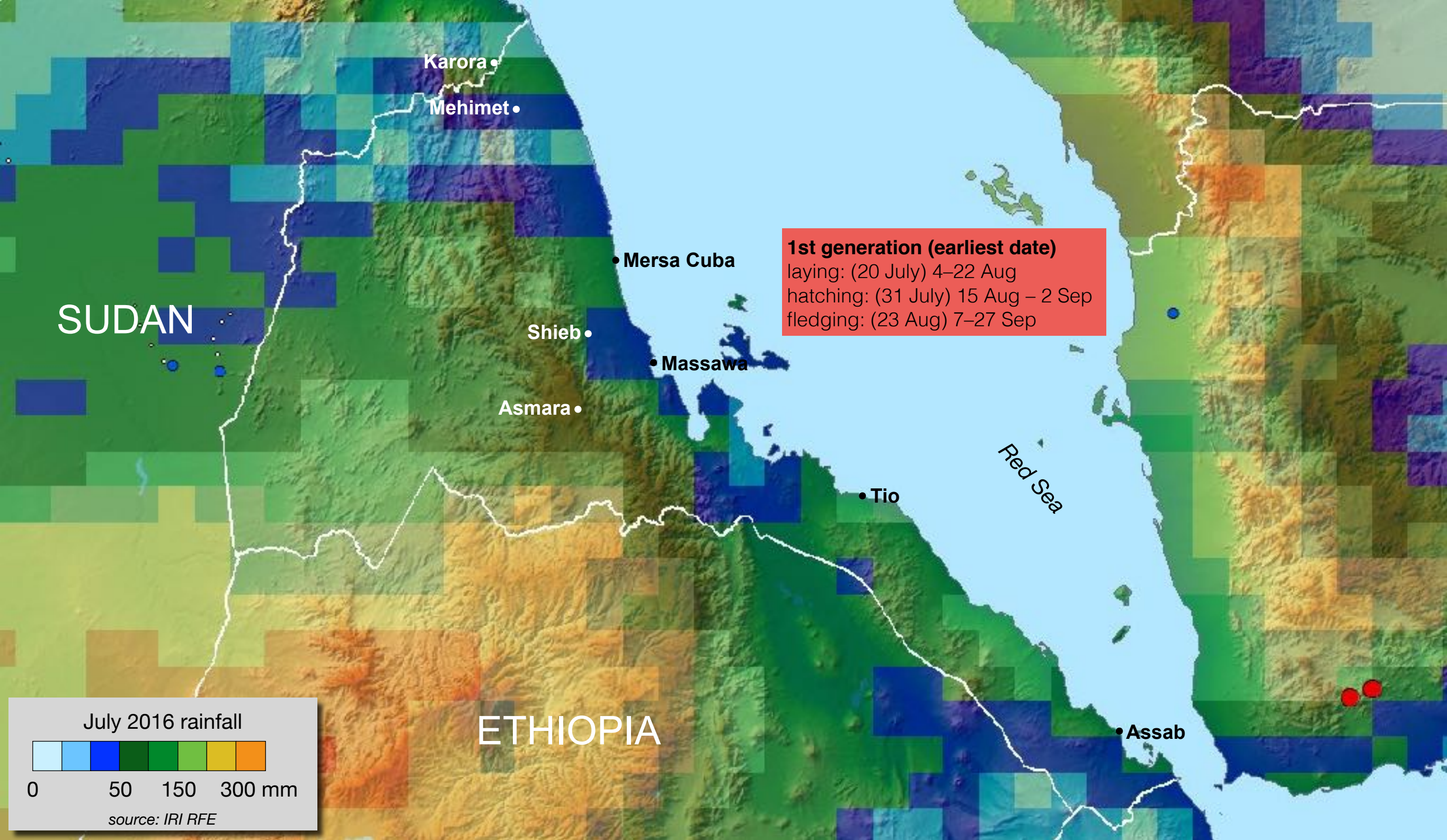
**Desert Locust Information Service**

FAO, Rome

[www.fao.org/ag/locusts](http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts)

Keith Cressman (Senior Locust Forecasting Officer)

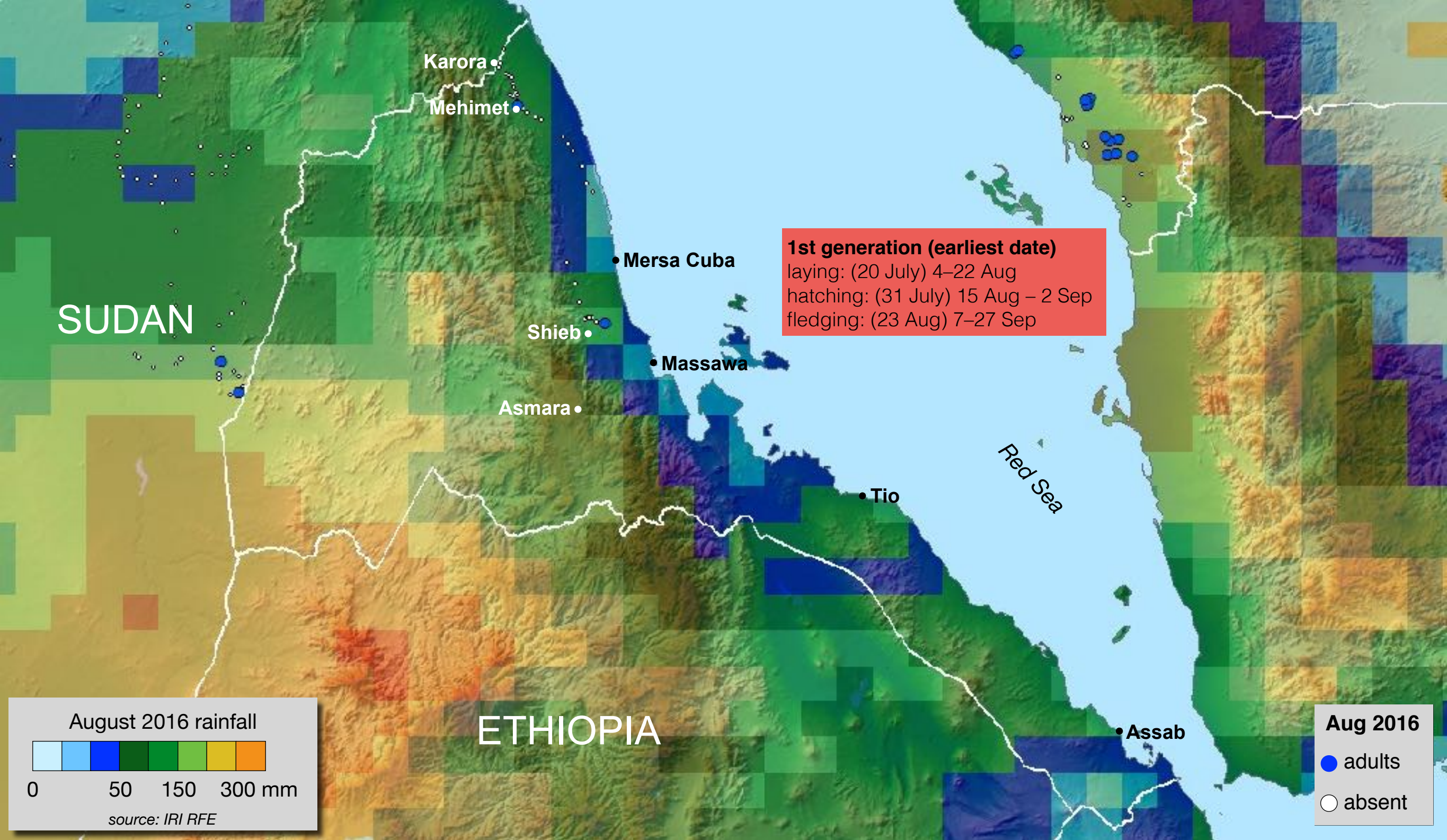
updated: 13 February 2017



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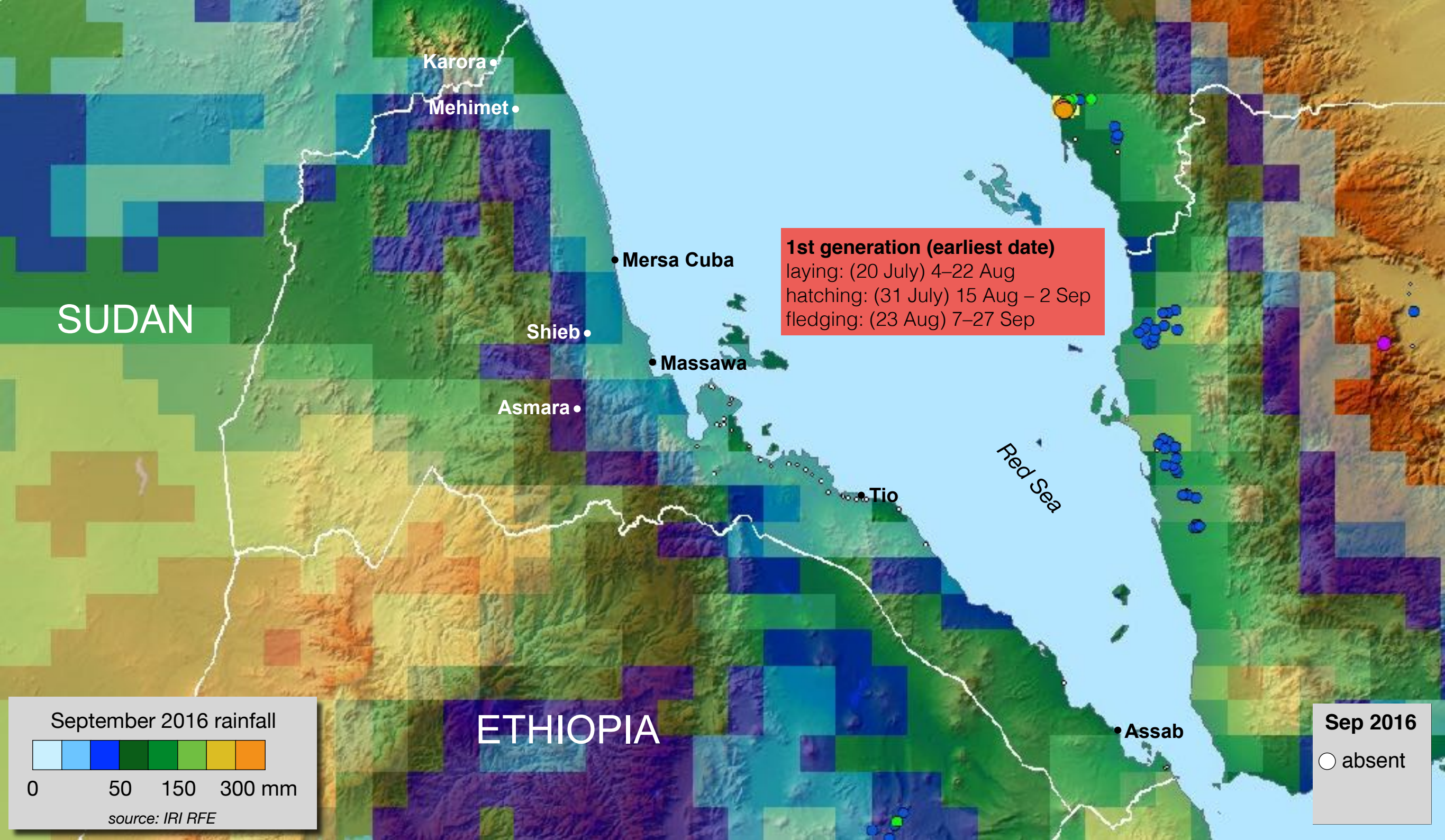
**JUL 2016** Early summer rains fell on the Red Sea coast during the first decade of May and again in the second decade of June. Low-density scattered mature solitary adults were present in late June on the northern coast between Mehimet and Karora. More importantly, heavier and more widespread rains fell between 24 July and 20 August that caused ecological conditions to become favourable for breeding by the end of the month. No surveys were undertaken during in July.





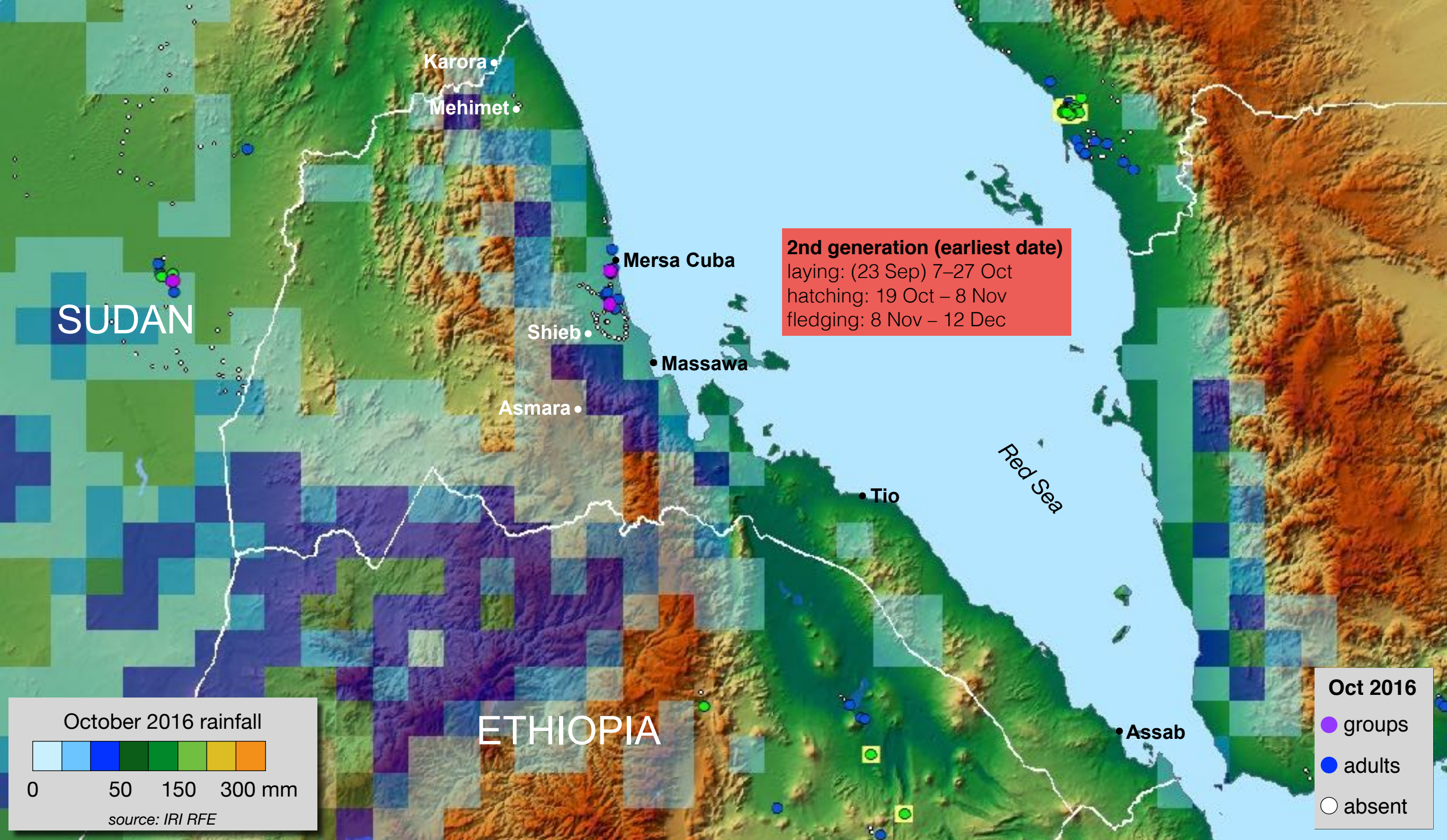
**AUG 2016** Good rains continued to fall on the Red Sea coastal plains until about 20 August. Consequently, ecological conditions were extremely favourable for breeding after nearly six weeks of rain. A survey was conducted at mid-month and found a few isolated immature solitarious adults on the northern coast near Mehimet and isolated mature solitarious adults on the central coast near Shieb. It is likely that first-generation breeding was already in progress as adults probably laid eggs shortly after the rains that started to hatched in the last half of August.



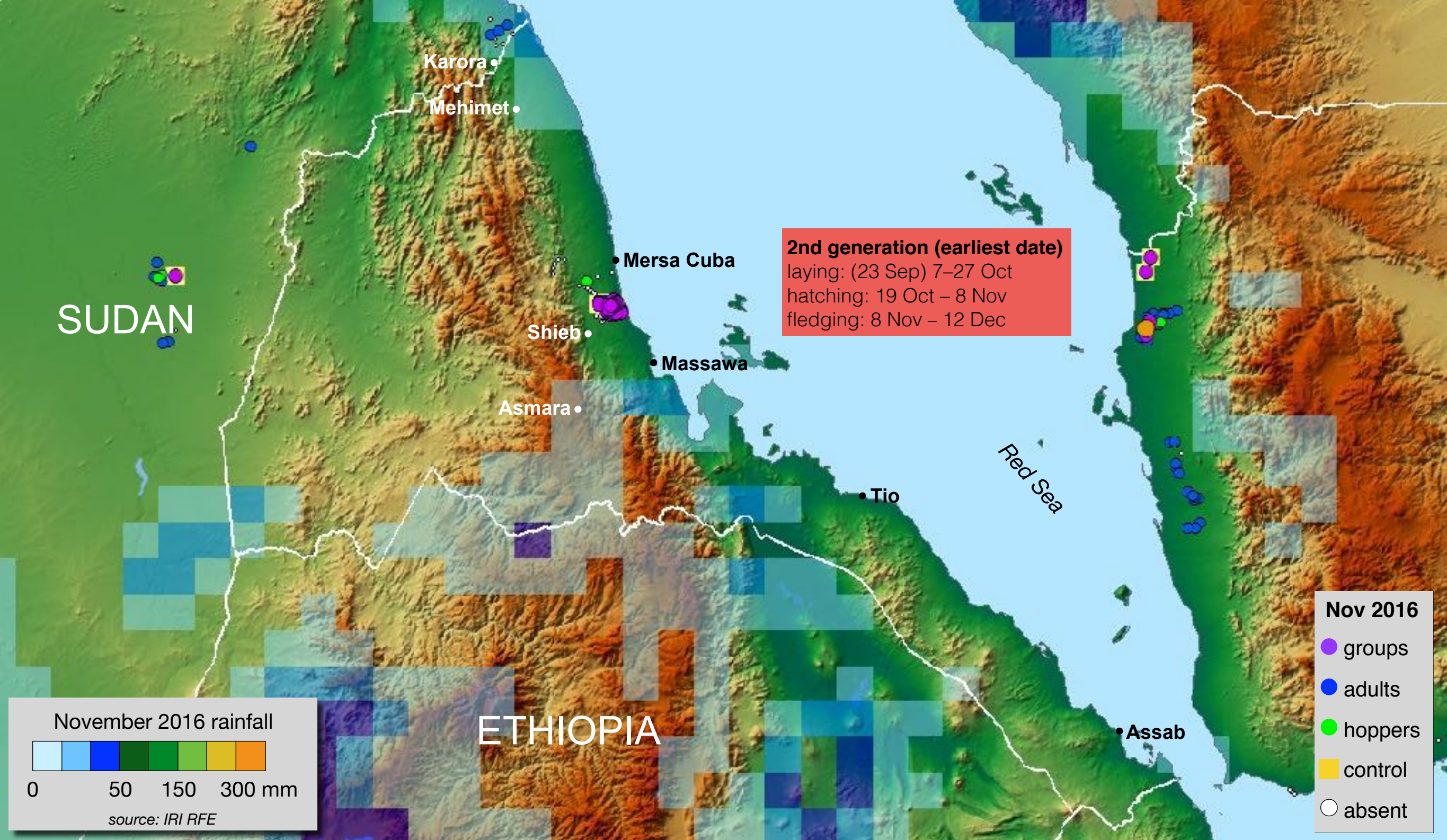


**SEP 2016** Light rain fell during the first decade of September in some areas. First-generation fledging most probably occurred in September on the central coast but this was not detected because the only surveys carried out during this month were on the southern coast.



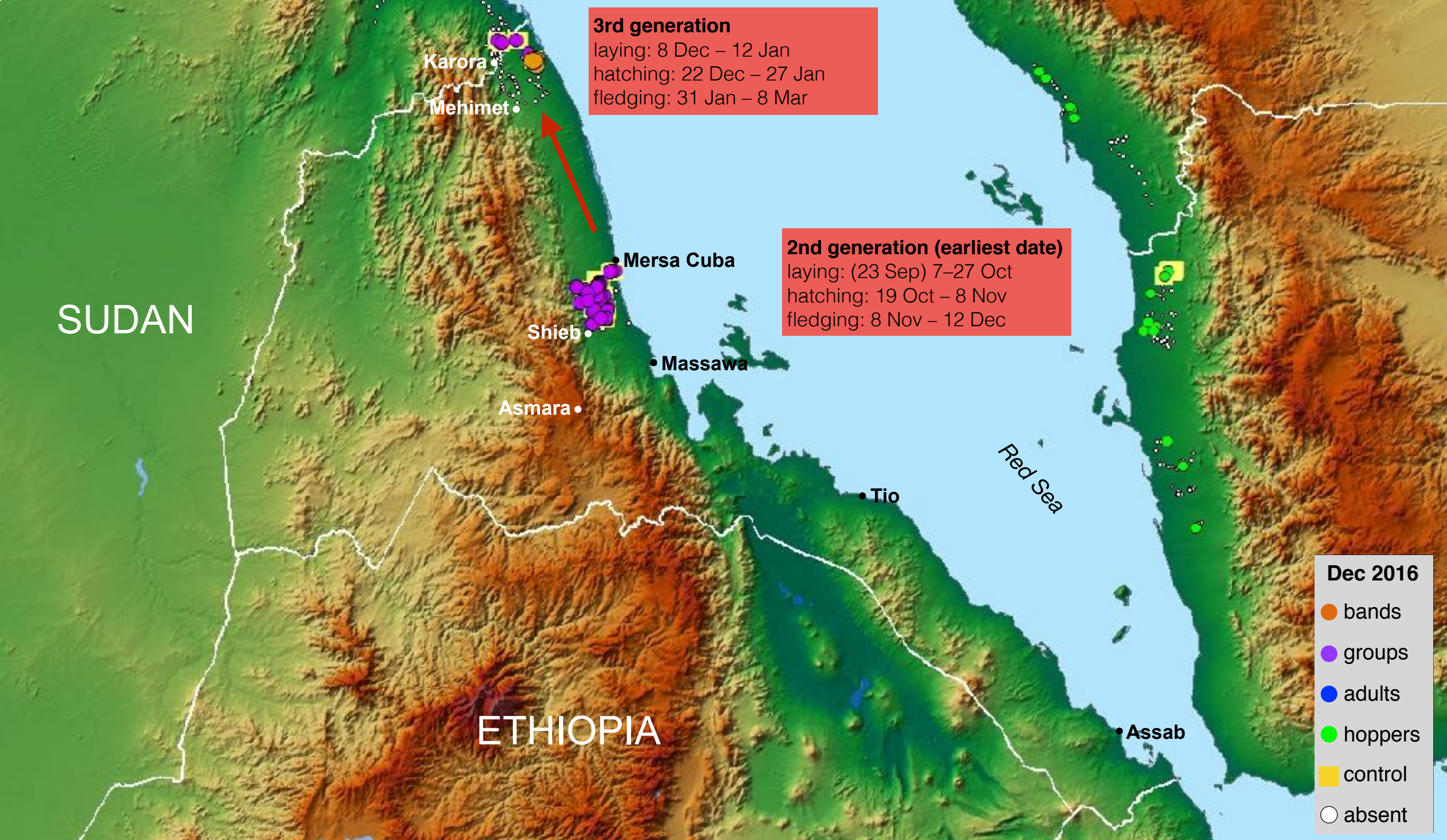






**NOV 2016** Sit became clear that an outbreak had developed on the central Red Sea coast where small groups of second-generation hoppers of all stages formed on the Akbanazouf Plain between Shieb and Mersa Cuba. Hatching continued throughout the month. Second-generation fledging commenced by mid-November and immature adults formed groups during the last decade of the month. Control operations were launched and ground teams treated 2,390 ha.





**DEC 2016** Groups of hoppers and maturing adults were present on the central coast during the first half of the month between Shieb and Mersa Cuba. Thereafter, infestations declined and only a few immature adult groups remained due to control operations (7,818 ha), drying conditions and a movement north along the coast towards Karora and adjacent coastal areas in Sudan. The control operations also prevented serious crop damage. On the Eritrean side, hatching and band formation started in the last week of December, which was a third generation of breeding for Eritrea. Delays in reporting to FAO DLIS occurred due to a shortage of personnel in Asmara and a chronic lack of Internet connectivity.



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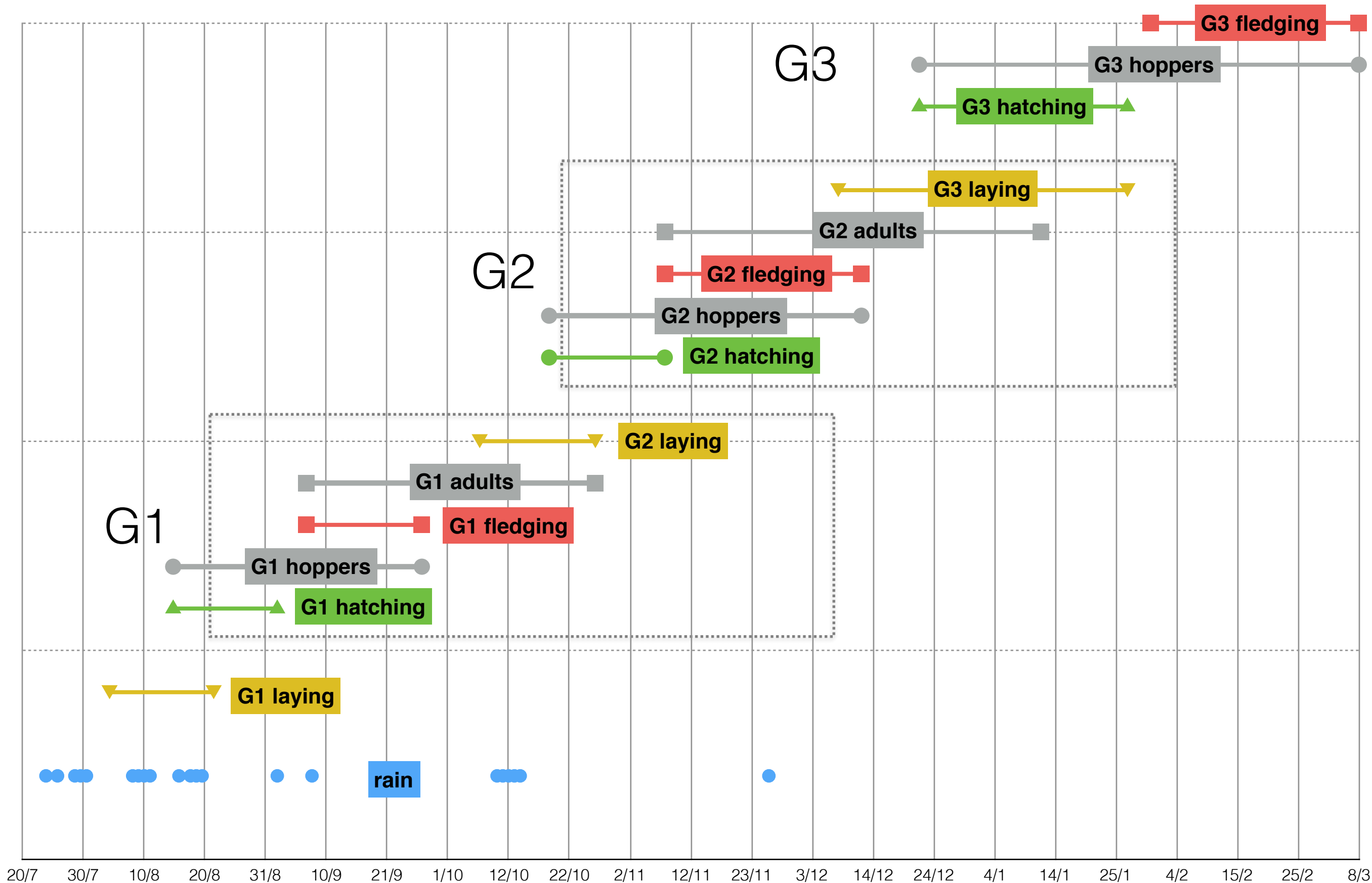




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**JAN 2017** Breeding continued on the northern coast north of Mehimet to the Sudanese border where early instar hoppers, groups and at least one band were present. Adults were still copulating in the early days of the month. Ground teams treated 106 ha. No locusts were seen further south on the Akbanazouf Plain where breeding conditions had deteriorated because significant rains had not fallen for more than four months, except for a few days in early September and one day in mid-October.





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## BREEDING

Estimates of egg, hopper and adult development rates based on rainfall, field data and the Egg & Hopper Development Model suggest that first generation (G1) breeding started in late July, second generation (G2) commenced in early October and a third generation started at the end of the year. Good rains between 24 July and 20 August, supplemented by a few additional showers caused ecological conditions to be come suitable for breeding on the central Red Sea coast near Shieb.