

XS22 - USING ELOCUST

Introduction

Rather than completing a form, the field officer can enter data directly into a handheld data logger while at the survey location and then send it via satellite before moving to the next stop. This system is called eLocust and the latest version is eLocust2.

Exercise

Each group should go outside away from buildings to the vehicle and practice:

1. eLocust set-up –
 - a. connect the cable to the antenna and position the antenna on the vehicle roof
 - b. put the eLocust2 unit inside the vehicle and connect the antenna cable to the unit
 - c. plug the power cable into the vehicle's cigarette lighter plug
 - d. start the vehicle's engine

2. entering data –

Imagine that you are making a survey and have stopped in some green vegetation in which you have found locusts. Enter the following observations in eLocust2:

100 ha surveyed in a wadi with dense green vegetation. Moderate rains two weeks ago. Wet soil. Locust present on 50 ha but control not required. 25 scattered 1st, 3rd and 4th instar solitarious hoppers seen at the site. Immature and mature solitarious isolated adults at densities of 28 / 200x5 m foot transect.

3. transmitting data via satellite –

Check the data, GPS coordinates, date and time. If correct, press the **SEND** button.

Remember not to interrupt the power to eLocust2 during transmission
(keep the engine running, do not turn it on or off)

4. enter and transmit data from another nearby location –

Move a very short distance (100 m) to another location, enter and send the following observations. You can do this while eLocust2 is sending the data from the first location. There is no need to wait for that data to be completely transmitted.

150 ha surveyed in green dense crops with moist soil. Last rain on 7 June 2008: low. 100 ha infested with groups of L1 transiens hoppers, density 10/m²; three L5 bands and fledglings at density 50/m² and size 100 m²; medium density scattered and groups of mature transiens and gregarious adults copulating; two immature low density swarms 1 ha in size flying from NE to SW at low height. 50 ha treated with Malathion 1L/ha by vehicle, full cover, about 80% locusts killed, medium crop damage.

5. review the data that you entered and sent –

Press the **HISTORY** key and select each item from the list to review the details of the data that you sent. eLocust2 stores data from about the last 70 survey stops or control locations. After that, it writes over the old data with data from the new locations.

Questions (to think about for the discussion that follows this exercise)

1. Was eLocust easier and faster than entering data on the forms?
2. Did you get any errors when sending the data? If so, why?
3. What difficulties did you have?