



FAO



LOCUST, OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS, & EMERGENCY OPERATIONS GROUP

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN No. 171



GENERAL SITUATION DURING NOVEMBER1992 FORECAST UNTIL MID JANUARY1993

An extremely serious outbreak occurred in Eastern Africa on the southern Red Sea coast and adjacent areas, from south of Port Sudan to Eritrea. Numerous laying groups and swarms were reported since mid-October and bands continue to appear during November at many places. Breeding is in progress and population will continue to build-up and move as conditions are highly favourable due to undetected rains during the summer and they will improve as good rains commenced since October. Some control operations have started. Three laying swarms were also reported from Saudi Arabia where control operations were carried out. There is a strong possibility of other migrating swarms northwards within the Region and across the Red Sea to Saudi Arabia and Yemen where they will find good conditions for breeding.

Conditions are also favourable in Southern Egypt nearby where scattered adults were reported. Swarms are likely to migrate from the south and start breeding in these areas during the forecast period. In Yemen, conditions are likely to be favourable but only scattered adults were reported in October.

Elsewhere, populations declined in Western Africa. Only scattered adults and very small bands were found and sprayed in Mauritania where no further major developments are expected for the next months. In Niger, small localized groups of immature adults may persist in Northern Tamesna; however, breeding is not likely to continue. No locusts were found in Chad.

No locusts were reported from north west Africa where the conditions are generally dry.

Conditions are dry also in Pakistan and India; only scattered adults remained at some places in the summer breeding areas, and no reports of locusts were received from the winter-spring breeding areas of Baluchistan.

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WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Based on field reports, METEOSAT and ARTEMIS satellite imagery, and Météo-France synoptic and rain data. Rainfall terms: light = less than 20 mm of rain; moderate = 20 - 50 mm; heavy = more than 50 mm.

During November, some seasonal depressions were moving eastwards mainly over the northern Mediterranean and light to moderate rainfall occurred only in northern Algeria and northern Tunisia during almost the entire month, and at times during the second decade over northern Libya and northern Egypt. Some isolated cold clouds were observed at times further south and Algeria received a few light rain, but conditions are likely to be dry in winter-spring breeding areas.

A widespread light rain fell in Mauritania on the 11th, extending from Aioun to Nouadhibou, and a front line moved across the Sahara over northern Niger and Algeria on the 18th (no rain reports were received). Otherwise, as the ITCZ continued its movement towards the south, reaching as far as 8°N over West Africa by the end of the month, no significant rain nor cold cloud activity were observed in the Sahel of West Africa and Sudan, and conditions are likely to be unfavourable in most areas, as for example central Mauritania where the vegetation was reported to dry out. However, Schouwia was reported to be greening up in northern Tamesna of Niger, as a result of earlier undetected rain, and could provide good conditions for the next months.

In Eastern Africa, some cold cloud activity was visible extending along the Red Sea and adjacent areas of the interior only during the first decade of November and survey teams in Southern Egypt recorded rainfall and green vegetation. However, as a result of undetected rain earlier, conditions were already highly favourable in October on the Red sea coast and towards the interior in southern Egypt, Sudan extending to Northern State and Eritrea. Vegetation was reported to be green and soils moist at all places; as winter rains have started on the Red Sea coast and may continue, breeding conditions will remain highly favourable for breeding probably during the entire winter.

Light rain were received at several places in southern Tihama and adjacent highlands of Saudi Arabia and Tihama of Yemen during October. During the first two decades of November, significant cold cloud activity was observed over the entire Tihama and Hijaz mountains of Saudi Arabia, primarily between Jeddah and Qunfudhah, and to a lesser extent to the adjacent highlands of Yemen; although only light rainfall were reported on the 2nd and the 11th, conditions are already favourable for breeding on large area. Elsewhere, a light rain occurred on the Batinah coast of Oman, where favourable conditions are likely to be localized .

No rainfall were reported from Pakistan and India during November.



AREA TREATED IN NOVEMBER 1992

Mauritania	12,375 ha	(October, instead of 9,370 reported in DL Bull. no 170)
	500 sq.m.	(November)
Sudan	6,000 ha	(October)
	1,225 ha	(November)



DESERT LOCUST SITUATION

WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

There was an unconfirmed report of a yellow swarm seen laying in north-eastern Trarza at 1820N/1334W on October 18th, and then of black hoppers at the same place on the 2 November; nomads reported also hopper bands in Aouker near Boutilimit early November.

However, populations are more likely to have drastically decreased in western central Mauritania, as indicated by surveys carried out during the first two decades of November in northern Brakna and north-eastern Trarza. Only two bands of first and second instars, totalling less than 1 ha, were found (one was sprayed by hand) near Touiedeknanaten (1823N/1308W) on the 4th-5th; elsewhere in the same area, only isolated immature adults were seen at three locations and isolated hoppers at two other sites. No locusts were found and the vegetation was dry along the main road from Sangraffa to Aioun el Atrous.

NIGER

In late October, surveys carried out in Central Tamesna at five locations between Tahoua and Teggart (1825N/0550E) on the 22nd-26th suggested that hopper and adult numbers have decreased as a result of fledgling and seasonal movement. Fledglings and immature adults were mainly observed at densities of 10-100 per ha, whereas scattered hoppers remained at only two locations; however, densities were up to 1,000 per ha and a few copulating adults were also observed at Teggart where Schouwia was greening up over several hundreds of hectares, and nomads reported green vegetation and locusts from other locations in the same area.

CHAD

No locusts were reported during the last decade of October.

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 30 November.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

ALGERIA

No locust activity was reported for November.

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 30 November.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

It is certain that small scale undetected breeding was in progress during the summer as a result of good rains during August and early September. Conditions remained favourable over a large area and allowed breeding throughout October, as laying groups were reported over a total of 100 sq. km in Kassala Province near Derudeb (1702N/3605E) and on the Red Sea coast near Aitarba (1755N/3821E) during the first half of the month, and in Northern Province at Shendi (1642N/3326E) where control operations were conducted over 6,000 ha during the third week.

During November, bands of all instars, fledglings and numerous swarms of 1-15 sq. km, most of them maturing or already laying, were reported south of Port Sudan in Salum, Suakin and Tokar areas, and in the extreme south from the coast at Aqiq to the border at Karora up to 25th; these swarms may be the result of local breeding and also swarms entering from Eritrea. Ground control operations have started against hoppers. Later during the month, the infestation extended also to the north as mature adults were observed in Wadi Oko (2040N/3550E) and Wadi Diib on the 20th.

ETHIOPIA

Groups and bands of late instars hoppers were reported on the Red Sea coast of Eritrea near Shieb (1552N/3904E) and Marsa Cuba (1615N/3912E) during the first half of November and, in the same area again, late instar hoppers and a total of 120 sq. km of low density laying swarms were found on the 19-21 November. However, the extent of populations is not clear and more details are requested.

DJIBOUTI, KENYA, TANZANIA, UGANDA

No locust activity was reported.

SOMALIA

No locust reports have been received up to 30 November.

NEAR EAST

SAUDI ARABIA

Three mature swarms, each at density of 30-40 adults per sq. m. and covering 2 sq. km on average, were reported from south-east of Jeddah near Taffil (2030N/4000E) on the 14-16 November, coming for the south-west. Laying was in progress and control operations were carried out.

YEMEN

During October, isolated adults were reported at a few locations on the coastal plains east and west of Aden and at one site on the southern Tihamah.

EGYPT

During the first two decades of November, scattered adults were reported during surveys at two locations on the southern Red Sea coast and one location in the interior nearby at Jebel Abraq (2333N/3450E).

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 30 November.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

PAKISTAN

Populations have decreased in summer breeding areas as only 4 locations of Tharparkar and Khipro deserts reported insignificant number of solitary adults during November.

INDIA

During the second half of October, scattered adults were present in 62 locations of Rajasthan, primarily in Bikaner district at a maximum density of 7500 per ha at Medi-Ka-Magra (2730N/7218E) on the 29th, and also in Jaisalmer and Churu districts; isolated 3rd and 5th instar hoppers were also reported from two locations north and east of Bikaner.

During the first half of November, locust reports and numbers decreased in Rajasthan where 19 locations of Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Churu districts reported scattered adults, at densities of 75-1125 per sq. km. However, a small concentration of solitary adults was also reported over 6 sq. km in Jaisalmer district at Phaleri (2630N/7040E) on the 11th; further details are awaited.

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 30 November.



FORECAST UNTIL MID JANUARY 1993

WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

Scattered or small numbers of adults are likely to persist in western and northern regions as western Trarza, Inchiri, Adrar and Tiris Zemour and breeding is not likely unless unusually warm temperatures and rainfall occur. Elsewhere, low numbers of immature adults may persist at a few places of northern Brakna and north-eastern Trarza; however, as a result of unfavourable conditions, these will continue to decrease.

MALI

Scattered adults may persist in southern Adrar des Iforas and perhaps in eastern Tamesna. However, the situation remains unclear as no surveys were possible in 1992.

NIGER

Scattered adults are likely to persist in Tamesna and some may concentrate as the vegetation will dry out; however, locusts numbers are likely to be low and continue to decrease although a few hoppers will continue to appear during the forecast period in northern Tamesna.

CHAD

A few adults may be present and persist in northern Tibesti.

BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, GAMBIA, GUINEA BISSAU, GUINEA CONAKRY and SENEGAL

No significant developments are likely.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

ALGERIA

Scattered adults may be present in winter-spring breeding areas of western Central Sahara.

MOROCCO

Scattered adults will persist along the southern side of Atlas and extreme south-west.

LIBYA

A few adults may appear in Hammada al Hamra by the end of the forecast period.

TUNISIA

A few adults may appear in the south by the end of the forecast period.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

The upsurge will continue on the Red Sea coast where bands will continue to appear and fledge during the entire period; these numbers will also increase as additional numerous adults are likely to migrate from northern Ethiopia and from the interior of Sudan. These swarms will continue to move north and breed along the coast and adjacent areas. Some swarms can also migrate at any time across the Red Sea as a result of the fluctuations of the Red Sea Convergence Zone, and, by the middle of the forecast period, these populations are likely to move generally towards north into southern Egypt.

As it is the time of the year for the winter rains in the winter-spring breeding areas of the Red Sea coast and as conditions are already highly favourable, large scale breeding will continue during the entire forecast period. Surveys and early control operations are strongly recommended.

ETHIOPIA

Large scale breeding is certainly in progress and will continue during the entire forecast period primarily in Eritrea and northern Ethiopia. Swarms will continue to move along the coast, although some can also migrate at any time across the Red Sea as a result of the fluctuations of the Red Sea Convergence Zone. Any survey to clarify the situation and early control measures are strongly recommended.

DJIBOUTI

Although no significant developments are likely, surveys should be carried out on the northern coast.

SOMALIA

Scattered adults may be present on the northern coastal plains.

KENYA, TANZANIA and UGANDA

No significant developments are likely.

NEAR EAST

SAUDI ARABIA

Swarms are likely to migrate from Eastern Africa into the southern Tihama at any time during the forecast period and start laying immediately. Surveys and early control operations are strongly recommended to monitor the situation. Otherwise, scattered adults are likely to be present on the southern Tihama and to a lesser extent in some wadis on the eastern side of the Asir mountains; small scale breeding may occur in areas of recent rains.

YEMEN

Swarms are likely to migrate from Eastern Africa primarily into the northern Tihama at any time during the forecast period and start laying immediately. As few information were received from Ethiopia, surveys are strongly recommended along the entire Tihama, with early control operations to monitor the situation. Otherwise, scattered adults present on the northern Tihama and coastal plains west of Aden may breed on a small scale.

EGYPT

Incoming swarms from Sudan are likely to appear on the southern Red Sea coast and adjacent areas from the middle of the forecast period. As breeding conditions will remain favourable as a result of recent rains in November, surveys are strongly recommended.

OMAN

Scattered adults may be present on the Batinah coast.

UAE

Scattered adults may be present in the Fujayrah area.

BAHRAIN, IRAQ, ISRAEL, JORDAN, KUWAIT, LEBANON, QATAR, SYRIA and TURKEY

No significant developments are likely.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

PAKISTAN

Scattered adults are likely to be present on the Makran coast and Lasbella as adults have moved from summer breeding areas. Elsewhere in Cholistan and Tharparkar desert, a few isolated adults may persist.

INDIA

As a result of seasonal movement towards west into winter-spring breeding areas and dry vegetation, only a few isolated adults may persist in Rajasthan.

IRAN

A few adults may appear in Baluchistan on the coastal area near Chah Bahar.

AFGHANISTAN

No significant developments are likely.



FAO provided US\$ 50,000 to assist Sudan, Eritrea and DLCEO-EA in control operations.



Desert Locust: summary Criquet pèlerin: situation résumée

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