

FAO DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN No. 141

GENERAL SITUATION DURING MAY 1990 FORECAST UNTIL MID JULY 1990

The upsurge of Desert Locusts continues in Oman with a number of small immature low density swarms, adult groups, and scattered adults present over extensive areas of the Sharqiya during May. Residual populations of scattered and groups of immature adults were also present along the southern Batinah coast and in several other locations. Despite substantial control measures in Oman, it is virtually certain that migration will occur towards summer monsoon breeding areas of Pakistan and India unless substantial widespread rain occurs in Oman allowing further breeding in situ. Migration into Pakistan and India is likely to be augmented by adult populations from the Mekran and Baluchistan of Pakistan and south-eastern Iran. Migration from Oman may already be in progress and is likely to continue during the forecast period on a moderate scale, consisting of some small swarms. Invading swarms and adults will lay with the onset of the monsoon rains. The current Desert Locust situation needs to be closely monitored.

Elsewhere, scattered adults are present on the coastal plains west of Aden in Yemen PDR. Small numbers of adults are present in Djibouti and are likely to be present in western areas of the northern coast of Somalia where they may lay if rainfall occurs.

No other important developments have been reported from other countries in the recession area. However, a few scattered adults are likely to occur in the Sahel of West Africa and Sudan during the forecast period and will lay after the start of the seasonal rains. Breeding in these areas will be on a very small scale only.



WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

FAO/ECLO is now receiving daily charts of surface, 850 mb, and 500 mb pressure and wind speed/direction estimates plus 24 hr rainfall forecasts from the United Kingdom Meteorological Office at Bracknell. Information is produced by a global model of the atmosphere. This will be referred to as the "Bracknell model".

Moderate to heavy rains were reported in Yemen PDR on the coastal plains west of Aden, in Sabatayn, and Wadi Hadhramaut between 25 March to 25 April. As a result, Wadis Markhah, Beihan, and Masilah were flooded. Heavy rains also fell in northern Saudi Arabia where floods were reported from Dammam in late April. During the first week of May, heavy rain fell in the Hijaz and Asir mountains. METEOSAT satellite imagery and the Bracknell model suggested that rain may have fallen on the western coastal plains of Yemen PDR on 7, 9-10, and 12 May.

In Oman, heavy rainfall was reported in Sharqiya and Dhahira near Ibra, Nizwa, Izki, Bahla, and Manaf on 6-7 May. Scattered showers fell in the Sharqiya area on 26-27 May. Although vegetation was reported to be drying up in Sharqiya, areas of green vegetation persist from Ibra to Kamil and in the Jaalan. Vegetation is generally dry on the Batinah coast.

Seasonal rains associated with the northern movement of the ITCZ (to approximately 13°N) have begun in the Sahel of West Africa and Sudan. Moderate to heavy rain fell in southern and south-western Mali during the first two decades of May. On the 7th, Bamako received 52 mm, Sikasso 32 mm, Koutiala 15 mm, and Kita 11 mm. On the 9th, Bamako received 46 mm. The Bracknell model suggests that light rainfall may have occurred in Mali from the Adrar des Iforas and Tamesna to Air of Niger during the second half of the month. Up to 50 mm was reported to have fallen in southern Chad during the second decade of April. In early May, the first rains were reported from central regions of Chad and western and central regions of Sudan which coincided with the Bracknell model predictions. Further rainfall may have occurred in Kanem of Chad and western Sudan during the second half of May. Vegetation was reported green in central Sudan.

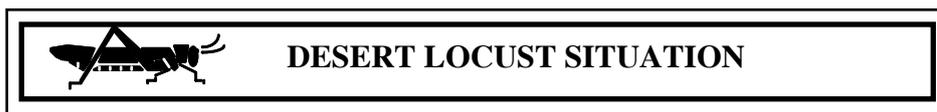
During the second half of April, moderate to heavy rainfall was reported from Djibouti and northern Somalia. Djibouti received 25 mm on the 16th and Somalia reported 56 mm. METEOSAT imagery suggested that rain may have fallen in western areas of the northern coast of Somalia on 7 and 12 May. Vegetation was reported to be green in Djibouti and eastern Ethiopia; however, conditions were dry in northern Ethiopia and no rainfall was reported during the first half of May.

Light to moderate rain was reported in Quetta and Kalat of Baluchistan and in Mekran of Pakistan during the first half of May.



AREA TREATED IN MAY 1990

Iran (Feb-May)	ca. 15,000 ha
Oman	ca. 25,000 ha
Pakistan	area details not available



WEST AFRICA

MALI

No locusts were reported from mid April to early May. Surveys from 11-16 May found isolated adults in the Gourma region at Danga-Tement (1630N/0307W).

NIGER

A late reported indicated the locust situation was "calm" up to 10 April.

CHAD

No locusts were found during surveys carried out in Batha, Lac, Kanem, BET, and Ouaddai-Biltine regions from 8 April to 16 May.

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 31 May.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

No locust information had been received from countries in the region up to 31 May.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

No locusts were found during ground surveys in the Esh Shugeig (1428N/3153E) and Abu Hamra (1350N/3207E) areas of the White Nile Province on 13 and 16 May, respectively.

SOMALIA

A late report was received indicating that no locusts were found during aerial surveys of northern coastal and northern interior areas during 10-17 April.

DJIBOUTI

A late report stated that locusts were present near the Somali border at Kabah-Kabah, Guestir, and Ali-Adde during the second half of April. No further details are available.

ETHIOPIA, KENYA, and TANZANIA

The locust situation was reported "calm" up to 15 April.

NEAR EAST

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

No locusts were found during surveys in south-western areas up to 15 May.

YEMEN PDR

Some solitary adults were reported on the coastal plains west of Aden in Wadis Markhah (1243N/4415E), Am-Fagarah (1258N/4414E), and Dar (1245N/4415E) during April and early May.

OMAN

In Sharqiya, a small swarm was reported at Sur (ca. 2230N/5940E) on 12 May and at Ad Dagiz (ca. 2256N/5840E) on the 23rd. Recently fledged adult groups and low density immature swarms of 1-2 sq. km. in size were seen over a wide area from Ibra to the edge of the Wahiba Sands on 26-27 May.

From 24-28 May, low densities of adults were reported at several locations from west of Ibra to Adam (2223N/5730E) and also close to the UAE border near Buraymi.

In South Batinah, substantial control operations were successfully carried out against hoppers and adults in mid-May and by 24 May, only residual populations of scattered immature adults and small low density groups were seen near Birka.

Ground control is in progress in Sharqiya and South Batinah. By mid May, an estimated 25,000 ha had been treated.

KUWAIT

No locusts were reported during March and early April.

IRAQ

No locusts were reported up to 28 March.

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 31 May.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

PAKISTAN

During the second half of April, solitary adults were seen at four locations in coastal areas of Mekran and Panjur with a maximum density of 4,500 per sq. km. reported from Selari (2650N/6438E) on the 21st.

During the first half of May, several areas of high concentrations of mature solitary adults and hoppers were reported within a total estimated area of 300-400 sq. km. in Turbat and Gwader districts of Mekran. Control operations were in progress; but, no further details are available.

INDIA

No locusts were reported during the second half of April.

During the first half of May, solitary adults, at a maximum density of 38 per sq. km., were reported from Rajasthan near Bikaner at Inderpura (2730N/7439E), Hasera (2808N/7318E), and Kanasar.

IRAN

Late reports stated that locusts were seen copulating during February in coastal areas near Chahbahar (2517N/6038E) and in the interior of Baluchistan province near Iran Shahr (2713N/6041E) with hatching occurring late in the month. In March, solitary adults and first to fifth instar hoppers were present within a 10 ha area on Veshnam Plain (2525N/6046E) near Chahbahar. By the end of April, further hatching occurred with gregarizing first instar hoppers reported near Chahbahar. Scattered populations continue to be present in coastal areas west and east of Chahbahar and interior areas of Baluchistan near Iran Shahr and Zaboli (2707N/6140E). Control operations are in progress.

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 31 May.

NEW ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

No requests for assistance against Desert Locusts had been received up to 31 May.

NEW ASSISTANCE PLEDGED

No information regarding assistance against Desert Locusts had been received up to 31 May.



FORECAST UNTIL MID JULY 1990

WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

Small numbers of adults may be present in Inchiri, Adrar, Tagant, and Trarza regions where they will lay if rainfall occurs.

MALI

Small numbers of adults may be present in the Adrar des Iforas, Tamesna, and central areas where they will lay if rainfall occurs.

NIGER

Small numbers of adults may be present in Tamesna and Air where they will lay if rainfall occurs.

CHAD

Small numbers of adults may be present in Batha, Lac, Kanem, BET, and Ouaddai-Biltine regions where they will lay if rainfall occurs.

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

No significant developments are likely and no invasions are expected.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

MOROCCO, ALGERIA, TUNISIA, and LIBYA

No significant developments are likely and no invasions are expected.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

Small numbers of adults may be present in the western and central regions where they will lay if rainfall occurs.

SOMALIA

Small numbers of adults are likely to be present in western areas of the northern coast where they may lay if rainfall occurs.

DJIBOUTI

Small scale breeding is likely to be in progress in eastern areas near the Somali border where recent rain has been reported.

ETHIOPIA, KENYA, UGANDA, and TANZANIA

No significant developments are likely and no invasions are expected.

NEAR EAST

OMAN

Numbers are likely to decrease in areas of drying vegetation such as the Batinah coast, Dhahira, and parts of Sharqiya with adults migrating to the summer monsoon breeding areas of Pakistan and India. Conditions are still suitable for breeding in some areas of Sharqiya so a portion of the population is likely to persist and breed again.

UAE

Small numbers of locusts may be present in the south-eastern desert areas adjoining Oman near Al Ayn; however, breeding is unlikely.

YEMEN PDR

Small numbers of adults are likely to remain on the coastal plains west of Aden and may also be present in areas that have received recent rains such as Wadis Nisib, Bayhan, Hadhramawt, and Masilah where they are likely to lay.

BAHRAIN, EGYPT, IRAQ, ISRAEL, JORDAN, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, LEBANON, QATAR, SYRIA, TURKEY, and YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

No significant developments are likely and no invasions are expected.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

PAKISTAN

Numerous adults and small swarms will almost certainly occur in Sind and Tharparkar as a result of movement to summer monsoon breeding areas from the Eastern Arabian Peninsula, Mekran, Baluchistan, and Iran. The invading populations may include one or two medium-size swarms. These locusts will begin to lay with the onset of the monsoon rains. Small numbers of adults may remain in Mekran where they are likely to lay early in the forecast period since conditions remain suitable for breeding in some areas.

INDIA

Numerous adults and small swarms will almost certainly occur in Rajasthan as a result of movement to summer monsoon breeding areas from the Eastern Arabian Peninsula, Mekran, Baluchistan, and Iran. The invading populations may include one or two medium-size swarms. These locusts will begin to lay with the onset of the monsoon rains.

IRAN

Numbers will decrease in coastal and interior areas as adults move east toward the summer monsoon breeding areas of India and Pakistan.

AFGHANISTAN

No significant developments are likely and no invasions are expected.

1 June 1990



Desert Locust: summary Criquet Pèlerin: situation résumée

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