

## **FAO DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN No. 139**

### **GENERAL SITUATION DURING MARCH 1990 FORECAST UNTIL MID MAY 1990**

**The current recession continues with very few reports of Desert Locusts received during March and no significant infestations are likely to have been present. Scattered adults were present in Mali and late reports were received of adults in Mauritania and Morocco during February. Although these may breed and redistribution of adults to summer breeding areas may start late in the forecast period, there are almost certainly too few locusts to produce substantial populations. However, it is likely that small scale breeding is in progress in both Baluchistan and Rajasthan as a result of widespread and heavy rainfall during late February. Undetected breeding may also be in progress in the eastern Arabian Peninsula. Both of these situations need to be closely monitored. Elsewhere, scattered adults may be present along both sides of the Red Sea coast and along the north-western coast of Somalia.**

Scattered immature adults were reported from several locations in Adrar des Iforas and Tamesna of Mali in March and may be present in adjacent areas of southern Algeria where breeding may occur in areas of green vegetation. Late reports also indicated that scattered adults were present in Inchiri and Adrar of Mauritania during February. These may move further south into central and south-western Mauritania and breed on a small scale if early rains occur. Small numbers of adults are likely to be present in southern Morocco and central Algeria where breeding may occur in areas of recent rainfall. By the end of the forecast period, adults may start to move southwards towards summer breeding areas.

During the second half of February, unusually heavy rainfall occurred in Rajasthan of India and widespread rains fell on the coast of Makran and in the interior of Baluchistan of Pakistan. Scattered adults were reported in all of these areas and, as a result of the rains, breeding on a small scale is likely to be in progress.

In the eastern Arabian Peninsula, scattered locusts are likely to be present in north-western Oman where small scale breeding may be in progress in areas that received rainfall in late February. Small numbers of adults were reported on the northern Tihama of Yemen AR in February and a few adults are likely to be present on the southern Tihama of Saudi Arabia. These adults may breed on a small scale as a result of rainfall reported in these areas during mid March. METEOSAT imagery suggested rain may have fallen in the central Arabian Peninsula; however, there are unlikely to be many adults to take advantage of this rain.

Surveys on the Red Sea coast of Sudan did not find any locusts during March and very few are likely to be present. Scattered adults may be present and breed on the north-western coast of Somalia where METEOSAT imagery indicated that rainfall may have recently occurred.



## WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

During March, no significant rainfall was reported to have fallen in West Africa; only traces of rain were reported at Aguelhoc in Mali on 2 March. However, METEOSAT satellite imagery indicated substantial cloud masses over Hodh Charki of eastern Mauritania on 1 March, over south-western Mali on the 13th, and over a large area from Inchiri of Mauritania to the Atlas Mountains of Morocco on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Vegetation was reported to be dry except for a few green patches of perennial vegetation in Inchiri and Adrar of Mauritania and the Adrar des Iforas and Tamesna of Mali.

In North-West Africa, METEOSAT imagery suggested that rain may have fallen over the Atlas Mountains of Morocco and Algeria during the first decade of March, in central Algeria on the 2nd, and in central Tunisia and Al Hamra of western Libya on the 3rd. A late report was received from south-western Morocco of 28 mm of rainfall in Dakhla over a two day period during January.

No reports were received of rainfall in Eastern Africa. METEOSAT imagery suggested that rain may have fallen over the western coast of Somalia near Berbera on the 1 March and the 29-30th and Djibouti on the 23rd. In late February, vegetation was reported to be drying out on the southern Red Sea coast of Sudan.

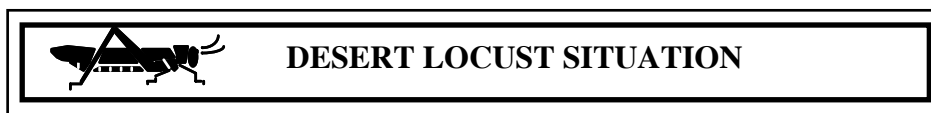
Widespread heavy rains were reported in Saudi Arabia on 12-14 March at Jizzan, Al Hijaz Mountains in the western region, and northern and north-eastern areas. METEOSAT imagery indicated substantial cloud masses over the Empty Quarter of Saudi Arabia on the 20th, Yemen AR on the 23rd, and over the central Arabian Peninsula on the 24, 26, and 30-31 March.

During the second half of February, widespread rainfall was reported in Pakistan in coastal areas of Makran, Lasbela, and Karachi and the interior of Baluchistan at Khuzdar and Nushki. Widespread heavy rains fell in Rajasthan of India on the 18th and from the 23rd to the 28th. Jodhpur reported 17 mm, Jaisalmer 21 mm, Ganganagar 24 mm, and Bikaner 41 mm (the monthly average is 7 mm). Daytime maximum temperatures were 2-3°C higher than normal. In March, METEOSAT imagery suggested that rain may have fallen in Baluchistan of Pakistan on 19-21 March and in south-eastern Iran on the 24-25th.



## AREA TREATED IN MARCH 1990

During March, there were no reports of control operations.



## WEST AFRICA

### MAURITANIA

A late report indicated that scattered adults were present in Inchiri at El Mzeiref (1912N/1445W) on 11 February. A few adults, at a density of 5-6 per ha, were reported in Adrar from Amazmaz (1940N/1328W) and Ijibitene (1917N/1325W) on the 19th. In Inchiri, scattered mature adults were seen, at densities up to 20 per sq. m., at Aoule (1954N/1350W) on the 20th.

On 16 March, there was an unconfirmed report of scattered locusts in south-eastern Mauritania 5 km south-east and 80 km north-west of Bassikounou (1552N/0557W). However, these are likely to be Tree Locusts.

### MALI

During the first two decades of March, scattered immature adults, at densities of 8-50 per ha, were reported in Tamesna over 300 ha at Oued Tin Essako (1748N/0254E) and 20 ha at Tegorast (1742N/0253E). Scattered immature adults were also seen at Acha-N'Gris (1716N/0308E), Tanghouli (1720N/0302E), and Tayaout (1753N/0228E). There were reports of immature adults in the Adrar des Iforas north of Tessalit at Abdrach (2046N/0106E) and in Wadis Zakak (1943N/0241E), Tidjoukal (1951N/0242E), Amechecheg (2020N/0110E), Tin-Tedjelech (1939N/0240E), and Anfazzoua (2018N/0057E).

### SENEGAL

There was an unconfirmed report of locusts in the Fleuve region of northern Senegal on 22 March. However, these are likely to be Tree Locusts.

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

## NORTH-WEST AFRICA

### MOROCCO

A late report indicated that immature locusts were present in the south-west at Abtih (2750N/1125W) on 29 January and near Er-Rachidia at Rissani (3102N/0434W) on 24 February. No further details were available.

### ALGERIA

No reports were received; however, helicopter surveys were in progress in the central Sahara.

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

## EASTERN AFRICA

### SUDAN

No locusts were found by ground surveys from late February to 27 March along the Red Sea coast from Port Sudan to Karora and inland in Khor Balatat.

**SOMALIA**

No reports of locusts were received in January and February.

**ETHIOPIA, DJIBOUTI, KENYA, and TANZANIA**

No reports of locusts were received up to 15 February.

## NEAR EAST

**KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

Surveys were believed to be in progress; however, no reports were received during March.

**YEMEN AR**

A few adults were reported north of Hodeidah during February. No further details were available.

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

## SOUTH-WEST ASIA

**PAKISTAN**

During the second half of February, low densities of solitary adults were observed in coastal areas of Makran and Lasbela, with a maximum density of 900 per sq. km. reported at Zamuran (2625N/6230E) near the Iran border on the 24th.

No locusts were reported during the first half of March.

**INDIA**

Isolated adults, at a density of 30-60 per sq. km, were reported at Pugal (2831N/7248E) in Rajasthan during the second half of February.

No locusts were reported during the first half of March.

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

**NEW ASSISTANCE REQUESTED**

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

**NEW ASSISTANCE PLEDGED**

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The new March 1990 edition of the FAO Desert Locust Research and Development Register is now complete. The register gives details of current research in fields relevant to Desert Locusts and incorporates a register of research institutes in countries affected by the Desert Locust. The register will be distributed in April to contributing researchers, research institutes, and other organizations involved in Desert Locust research.



## FORECAST UNTIL MID MAY 1990

### WEST AFRICA

#### **MAURITANIA**

Small numbers of adults, reported earlier in February, are likely to be present in areas of green vegetation in Inchiri and Adrar. Some of these may move southwards to Trarza and Tagant and start to lay if early rains occur during the forecast period.

#### **MALI**

Scattered adults will continue to be present in areas of green vegetation in Adrar des Iforas and Tamesna where they may lay if good rains occur.

#### **NIGER**

Scattered adults may be present in areas of green vegetation in Tamesna where they may lay by the end of the forecast period if early rains occur.

#### **CHAD**

A few scattered locusts are likely only to be present in areas that have received recent rains such as Kanem and Tibesti.

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

No significant developments are likely and no invasions are expected.

### NORTH-WEST AFRICA

#### **MOROCCO**

A few scattered locusts may be present in the extreme south-west and in Oued Draa where small scale breeding may occur in areas of green vegetation.

#### **ALGERIA**

A few scattered locusts may be present in the central and southern Sahara where small scale breeding may occur in areas of green vegetation.

#### **TUNISIA and LIBYA**

No significant developments are likely and no invasions are expected.

## EASTERN AFRICA

### **SUDAN**

A few scattered locusts may be present on the Red Sea coast; however, numbers will decline and no significant developments are expected. A few scattered adults may occur in Darfur and Kordofan by the end of the forecast period; however, these are not likely to be present in significant numbers.

### **ETHIOPIA**

A few scattered locusts may be present on the Red Sea coast of Eritrea.

### **SOMALIA**

Small numbers of locusts may be present on the north-western coastal plains from Berbera to Djibouti where small scale breeding may occur in areas of green vegetation and recent rainfall.

### **DJIBOUTI, KENYA, UGANDA, and TANZANIA**

No significant developments are likely and no invasions are expected.

## NEAR EAST

### **KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

A few scattered locusts may be present on the southern Tihama from Qunfudhah to the Yemen AR border where they may breed on a small scale in areas of recent rainfall. However, numbers will decline by the end of the forecast period.

### **YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC**

A few scattered locusts may be present on the northern Tihama where they may breed on a small scale in areas of recent rainfall. However, numbers will decline by end of the forecast period.

### **YEMEN PDR**

A few scattered adults may be present in areas of Wadi Hadhramaut that received moderate rainfall in mid February. Surveys are recommended to detect any breeding that may be in progress.

### **EGYPT**

A few scattered locusts may be present in the south-eastern desert; however, no significant developments are expected.

### **OMAN**

Scattered adults are likely to be present and small scale breeding may be in progress in wadis in Gharbiya and Dhahira. Surveys are recommended to detect any breeding that may have occurred.

### **UAE**

A few scattered adults may be present on the north-eastern coast and in the interior.

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

No significant developments are likely and no invasions are expected.

## SOUTH-WEST ASIA

### **PAKISTAN**

Small scale breeding is likely to be in progress in Makran and the interior of Baluchistan.

### **INDIA**

Small scale breeding is likely to occur in areas of western Rajasthan that received heavy rainfall during late February.

### **IRAN**

Scattered adults are likely to be present in areas of green vegetation in the south-east near Char Bahar where small scale breeding may occur.

### **AFGHANISTAN**

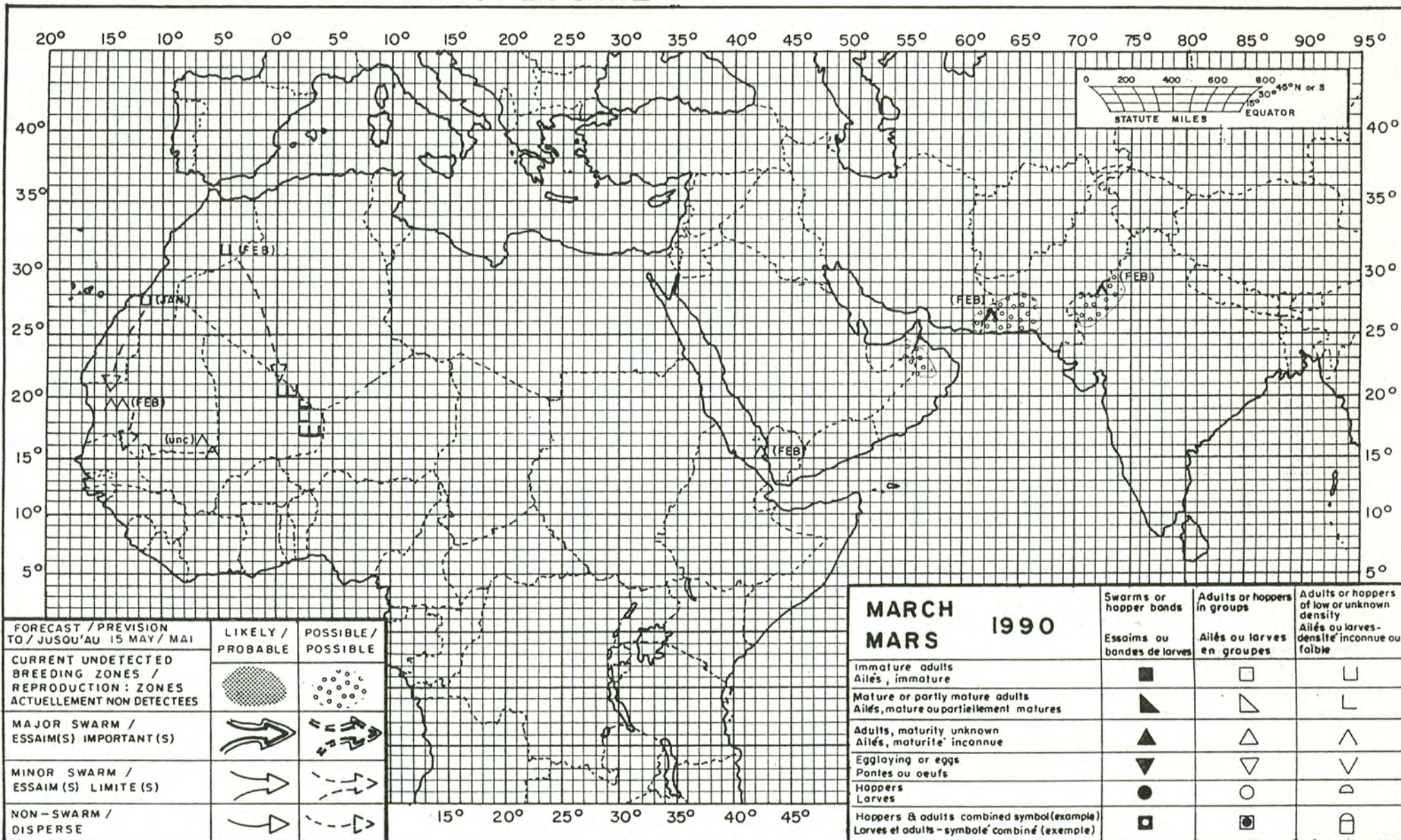
No significant developments are likely and no invasions are expected.

*2 April 1990*



# DESERT LOCUST SUMMARY NO. 139

## CRIQUET PELERIN : RESUME



FORECAST / PREVISION TO / JUSQU'AU 15 MAY / MAI	LIKELY / PROBABLE	POSSIBLE / POSSIBLE
CURRENT UNDETECTED BREEDING ZONES / REPRODUCTION : ZONES ACTUELLEMENT NON DETECTEES		
MAJOR SWARM / ESSAIM(S) IMPORTANT(S)		
MINOR SWARM / ESSAIM(S) LIMITE(S)		
NON-SWARM / DISPERSE		

MARCH 1990 MARS 1990	Swarms or hopper bands Essaims ou bandes de larves	Adults or hoppers in groups Ailés ou larves en groupes	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density Ailés ou larves - densité inconnue ou faible
Immature adults Ailés, immature			
Mature or partly mature adults Ailés, mature ou partiellement matures			
Adults, maturity unknown Ailés, maturité inconnue			
Egg laying or eggs Pontes ou oeufs			
Hoppers Larves			
Hoppers & adults combined symbol (example) Larves et adults - symbole combiné (exemple)			