

## FAO DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN No 128

### GENERAL SITUATION DURING APRIL-EARLY MAY 1989 FORECAST FOR JUNE-JULY 1989

#### SUMMARY

**There was no major change in the Desert Locust situation during the summary period of April - early May. The only significant reported infestations were of late instar hoppers and fledglings in Niger and Mali. No substantial locust populations were reported elsewhere in the invasion area.**

In West Africa small populations of fledglings and late instar hoppers were reported in Mali and Niger and small scale control was carried out in Niger during April. Locust damage to fruit trees was reported in Guinea Conakry. There were unconfirmed reports of low levels of locust activity in Mauritania and Senegal.

In North-West Africa no new information regarding locusts has been received and no substantial populations are likely to be present.

In Eastern Africa a very small population of hoppers was treated in Sudan in early April. In other countries in the Eastern Africa region no locusts have been reported and no substantial populations are likely to be present.

In the Near East no locusts have been reported and no substantial populations are likely to exist.

In South-West Asia low density populations were reported in Pakistan and India. In other countries in the South-West Asia region no locusts have been reported and no substantial populations are likely to be present.

#### WEST AFRICA

##### Weather

Analysis of Meteosat imagery for the second decade of April indicated a band of cloud along the south-eastern border of Mali and some localised rain may have fallen in parts of this area. In the same period a fall of 7mm in 24 hours was recorded at Moundou in south-west Chad. This rain was probably associated with the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ); no other cloud mass could be identified in areas of West Africa to the north of the ITCZ.

##### Breeding Conditions

Analysis of low resolution NOAA imagery for early April indicated areas of green vegetation in Guinea Conakry. Other regions of the infestation area in West Africa appeared to be dry with no areas of green vegetation identified from the imagery. Areas of drying vegetation were present in the southern parts of Senegal, Mali and Chad.

##### Locusts

#### MAURITANIA

In the second decade of April there was an unconfirmed report of hopper bands at Charaniya (1918N/1140W) between the Adrar and Tagant areas. An additional unconfirmed report was received of hoppers at Lebheir (2008N/1226W) and isolated adults at Aguila Faye (1827N/1444W) in the Inchuri area. No further details were available.

**SENEGAL**

There was an unconfirmed report of Desert Locusts at Ngayenne (1344N/1527W) in the second decade of April. No further details were available.

**GAMBIA**

Gambia was reported to be clear of locusts on 23 April.

**MALI**

A report was received of three swarms of immature locusts in western Mali in late March. The only details available were the locations: Balabougou, Assani and Dioumera.

Hopper bands were reported at Wadi Tarlit (1926N/0046E) in the Tilemsi area of north-eastern Mali on 7 April. No further information was then available but ground teams were being sent to survey the area. Fledgling populations at densities ranging from 1 per sq m to 25 per sq m were observed in the same area on 21-24 April. Populations were reported at Wadi Tarlit (1936N/0048E), Wadi Irharrhar (1950N/0059E), Wadi Afara (1955N/0056E) and Marat (1932N/0047E) and in total covered an area of approximately 1000 ha. Fourth and fifth instar hoppers at a population density of 2-5 per sq m, over an area of 260 ha, were reported in the same area at Wadi Borrhach (1942N/0056E).

**NIGER**

In the first decade of April, fifth instar hopper bands and fledglings were reported at Iguidi (1744N/0549E), south-west of In-Abangharit in the Tamesna area. It was reported that some swarms were beginning to form. By 24 April, 925 ha had been treated in the Tamesna area and it was reported that the locust population had decreased significantly and that the vegetation was drying out. A total of 4500 ha has been treated in the Tamesna area since January 1989.

Scattered low density populations were reported in patches of green vegetation in the Air Ou Azbine area during April.

**GUINEA CONAKRY**

Desert Locusts were reported in the centre of Guinea Conakry at Dabola (1050N/1110W). There was some evidence of damage to fruit trees but no further details were available.

**NORTH-WEST AFRICA****Weather**

Analysis of Meteosat imagery for the second decade of April indicated a cloud mass over northern areas of Algeria, Tunisia and Libya. Meteorological stations in the region recorded heavy rain in these coastal areas in the first two decades of April. Some light rain was recorded in parts of southern Algeria during the first week of April.

**Breeding Conditions**

Analysis of low resolution NOAA imagery for mid April indicated that areas of green vegetation are mainly confined to the coastal areas of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. High resolution imagery for early April suggested small isolated areas of green vegetation south of the Anti-Atlas Mountains in Morocco.

**Locusts****ALGERIA**

There was an unconfirmed report of young adults at Djoudene (2057N/0118E) in the south-western Tamanrasset area. No further details were available.

No information regarding locusts had been received from other countries in the North-West Africa region up to 5 May.

## EASTERN AFRICA

### Weather

Analysis of Meteosat imagery for the second decade of April indicated a substantial cloud mass over Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia and the Red Sea coastal areas of Sudan. During the first two weeks of April heavy rain was recorded in Djibouti where there was widespread flooding; heavy rain was also reported on the Ethiopian Red Sea coastal plain, in northern Ethiopia and at Port Sudan.

### Breeding Conditions

Analysis of low resolution NOAA imagery for mid April indicated that breeding conditions in the Eastern Africa region were generally unfavourable except for areas of green vegetation in central Ethiopia. Analysis of high resolution imagery for early April suggested small areas of green vegetation in some of the wadis in north-eastern Sudan; notably Wadi Oko and wadis south of the Tokar Delta.

### Locusts

#### **SUDAN**

A very small scale infestation of hoppers, in an area of less than 80 ha, was treated near Shendi (1660N/3320E) in the first decade of April. Sudan was reported to be clear of Desert Locusts on 24 April and breeding conditions were described as generally unfavourable.

#### **ETHIOPIA**

Ethiopia was reported to be clear of Desert Locusts on 20 April.

#### **DJIBOUTI**

Djibouti was reported to be clear of Desert Locusts on 20 April.

#### **SOMALIA**

Somalia was reported to be clear of Desert Locusts on 20 April.

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

Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania were reported to be clear of Desert Locusts on 20 April.

## NEAR EAST

### Weather

Analysis of Meteosat imagery for the second decade of April indicated a substantial cloud mass over the Arabian Peninsula extending northward to Iraq and Iran. During the first and second decade of April heavy rain was recorded in south-western Saudi Arabia; a fall of 80mm was recorded at Mecca and 50mm at Taif on 9 April and widespread rain was recorded in the Asir Mountains and Tebuk over the period 9-12 April. Heavy rain was also reported around Sana'a in the Yemen Arab Republic and in other areas in the south-western region of the Arabian Peninsula.

### Breeding Conditions

Analysis of low resolution NOAA imagery for mid April indicated that areas of green vegetation were restricted to Wadi Dawasir and the central cropping areas of Saudi Arabia. However, recent rain in Saudi Arabia and the Hadramaut area of the Arabian Peninsula could result in a substantial improvement in breeding conditions.

### Locusts

#### **KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

Saudi Arabia was reported to be clear of Desert Locusts on 13 April.

**EGYPT**

Egypt was reported to be clear of Desert Locusts on April 13.

No information regarding locusts had been received from other countries in the Near East region up to 5 May.

**SOUTH-WEST ASIA****Weather**

Analysis of Meteosat imagery for the second decade of April indicated a substantial cloud mass over western Iran and a fall of 21mm in 24 hours was recorded at Tabriz in north-western Iran during this period. Light rainfall was recorded in the Baluchistan area of Pakistan during the first two weeks of April.

**Breeding Conditions**

NOAA imagery was not available for the South-West Asia region. It was reported that recent rainfall has created favourable breeding conditions for Desert Locusts throughout the Baluchistan area of Pakistan. No rain was recorded in the Rajasthan area of India during the fortnight ending 14 April.

**Locusts****PAKISTAN**

Scattered low density populations of adult locusts were reported during the first two weeks of April in the winter/spring breeding areas of Baluchistan with a maximum density of 600 per sq km reported at Sarwan Kalat (2648N/6350E). Light to medium rainfall was recorded in some localities of Baluchistan during the report period.

**INDIA**

Scattered low density populations of adult locusts were reported during the first two weeks of April in nine localities in Rajasthan with a maximum density of 750 per sq km reported at Sanawra (2651N/7135E) on 12 April.

**FORECAST FOR JUNE - JULY**

The forecast period is typically one of major redistributions of Desert Locust populations with the possibility of invasions of the normal summer breeding areas. Migrations can occur from areas in the Near East both eastward toward the monsoon breeding areas of South-West Asia, and south-westward toward Sudan and northern Ethiopia. Migrations can also occur from North-West Africa to the Sahel. However, owing to the low numbers of Desert Locust any migrations will involve small populations only.

In West Africa the few small swarms currently present in the Tilemsi area of Mali and in the Tamesna area of Niger could possibly migrate to central and southern Mauritania.

In North-West Africa no substantial population changes are expected to occur during the forecast period.

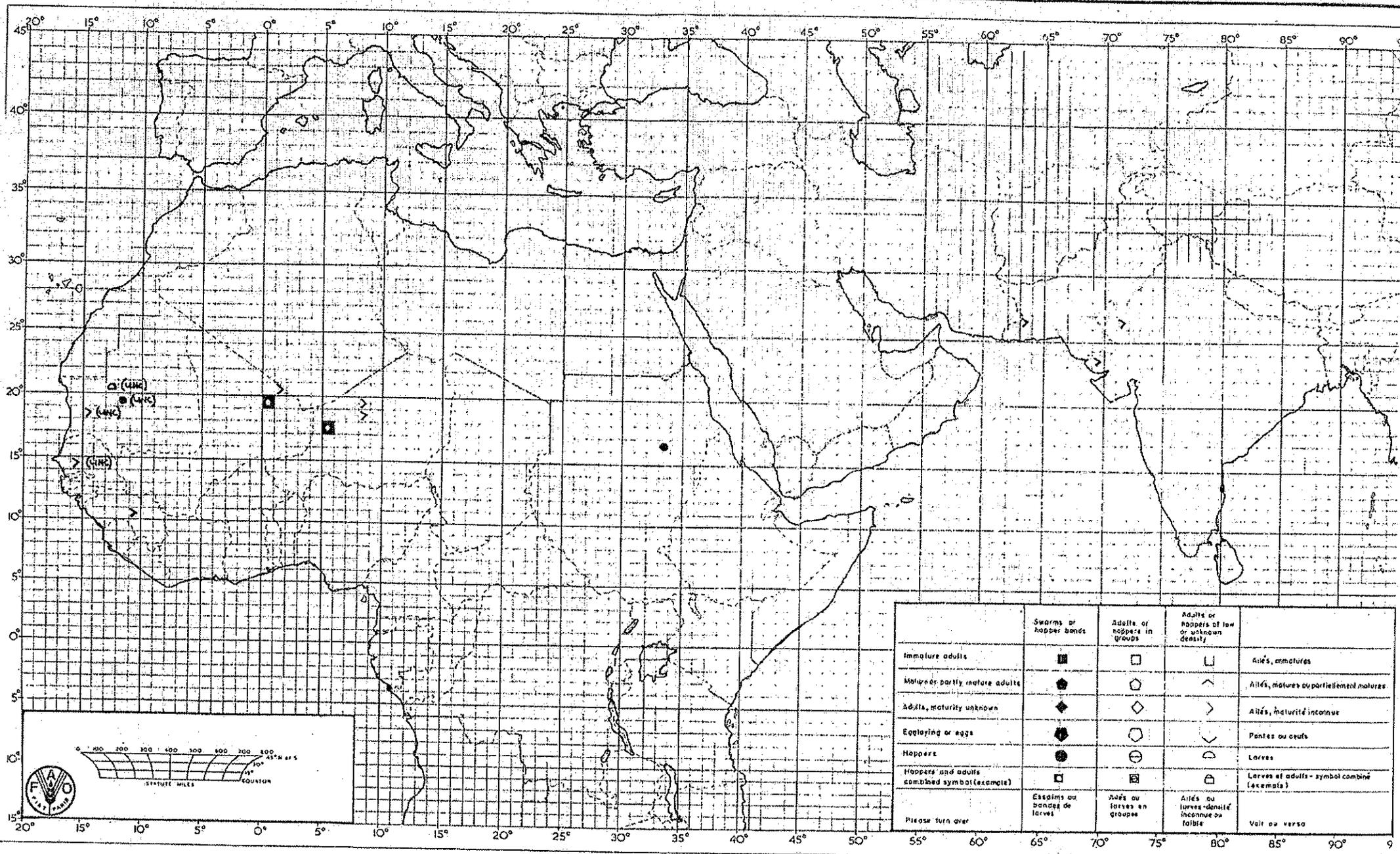
In Eastern Africa no substantial population changes are expected to occur during the forecast period. There is however, a possibility of small scale immigration of low density populations from the Near East region to Sudan and northern Ethiopia.

In the Near East it is possible that small scale breeding may be in progress where recent rainfall has been recorded: south-western Saudi Arabia, the Yemen Arab Republic and in other areas in the south-western region of the Arabian Peninsula. The young adults from such breeding might migrate westwards and southwards toward the end of the forecast period to reach central Sudan and possibly the coastal plain of northern Somalia.

In South-West Asia there is a chance of small scale immigration to the monsoon breeding areas of eastern Pakistan and north-western India.

*Rome, 5 May 1989.*

# Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 128 APRIL - EARLY MAY / AVRIL - DEBUT MAI 1989



	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults of hopper in groups	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density	
Immature adults	■	□	◻	Aiés, immatures
Maturing partly mature adults	●	○	>	Aiés, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown	◆	◇	>	Aiés, maturité inconnue
Eggs/young or eggs	◼	◻	<	Pentes ou oeufs
Hoppers	●	○	∩	Larves
Hoppers and adults combined symbol (example)	◼	◻	◻	Larves et adults - symbol combiné (exemple)
Please turn over	Exemples ou bandes de larves	Aiés ou larves en groupes	Aiés ou larves - densité inconnue ou faible	Voir au verso

