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Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 109 SEPTEMBER-EARLY OCTOBER 1987

SUMMARY

Swarms produced south of the Sahara invaded Algeria and Morocco on a broad front in the second half of October and at least some reached the Mediterranean littoral. Summer breeding has probably terminated in Western Sudan, Chad and Niger but continues in Mali where it may become more widespread, and is probably starting in Mauritania. There was rather widespread breeding in Central Sudan but rather restricted breeding in northern Ethiopia. Gregarious breeding continued in Yemen PDR. There was small scale breeding in Saudi Arabia. Small numbers of adults were present in Pakistan and India.

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

During the first decade of September, the position of the Intertropical Convergence Zone was normal for the time of year but in the second decade it was in a more northerly position West of 0° , reaching Bir Moghreim, and in more southerly position East of 0° . During the third decade it was relatively stable around 18° over Mauritania and 16° over Chad. In early October the position of the ITCZ was rather variable over Mauritania, Senegal and Mali but was relatively more stable over eastern Niger and Chad, where it was at about 14° N. By 12 October it had reached 11° N.

There were some good rains in Mauritania; Zouerati received 54.4 mm, Kiffa 49.8 mm, Atar 23.8 mm and Akjoujt 38.4 mm. In Mali there were scattered heavy showers in western and north-western Adrar des Iforas; Wadi In Beken (1833N/0049E) was in flood on 16-18 September. In Niger there was good rain in western Air on 14 September producing floods in several Wadis. In Chad there was little significant rainfall north of 16° N.

Breeding conditions

Conditions continued to be favourable for breeding in western Air, western Adrar des Iforas and were becoming favourable in several parts of Mauritania including Aouker north-east of Boutilimit, the Aftout south of Boutilimit, in Brakna and in south-eastern Mauritania.

Locusts

MAURITANIA

In September small numbers of isolated adults were found and low density breeding was in progress.

In late October immature adults were reported at densities of up to 9 per square metre at several localities in the Tidjijka and Atar areas.

MALI

Some isolated mature adults were seen in Wadi Tarlit (1936N/0048E) during September.

On 9 October several immature swarms were reported flying westwards in Tamesna, and on 14 October an immature swarm was seen in Oued Tin Essako. However, there had been mature swarms earlier since there were hatchlings and also second and third instar hopper bands present and further laying was seen on 21 October. Algerian teams had treated 1830

hectares up to 23 October. In late October young adults began to appear and Algerian teams had sprayed about 1000 hectares of adults.

NIGER

In early September 200 hectares of second and third instar hoppers were ground sprayed in north-eastern Air. In late September a further 100 hectares of late instar hoppers were ground sprayed south of Iferouane. In early October there was further ground control against fourth and fifth instar hoppers and fledglings in Air and a swarm of solitary adults was seen at night at Tegguidan Tessem (1757N/0612E).

From 7 October there were numerous reports of swarms from Air and Tamesna moving west and north-west. Many were small and immature and were probably formed from untreated hopper infestations in Air but others were larger and probably represented an invasion from Chad. Adults at high densities were reported from Bilma on 7 October. An immature swarm measuring 17 km X 7 km was reported at Arlit on 7 October and a mature swarm measuring 4.7 sq km was sprayed at Arlit on 9 October. Adults were seen at Termit at 1000 per hectare over hundreds of hectares. Between 10 and 14 October an aircraft sprayed 21,600 hectares of adults between Arlit and Agades.

CHAD

As reported in summary No. 108 ground control teams had treated 18,299 hectares of hopper infestations around Kalait up to 21 September. Control continued and by 14 October 41,949 hectares had been treated, including 13,000 hectares by helicopter but there were also reports of late instar hoppers and mature and immature swarms in the Fada and Iriba areas.

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Small numbers of yellow-brown locusts came on board a ship between 1058 and 1200 hours GMT on 3 October at 1530-1536 N., 1752 W. The wind was NNE 3 knots.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

Very heavy rain fell in Tassili-n-Ajjer in south-eastern Algeria in late September-early October and was stated to be the heaviest rain in the area since 1942.

Breeding conditions

Conditions will have become exceedingly favourable for breeding in Tassili-n-Ajjer.

Locusts

The region experienced a large scale invasion by swarms during October.

ALGERIA

Scattered locusts were reported by a survey team based on Timéaouine on 14 October. On 17 October swarms were reported by nomads at Tindouf. Subsequently swarms were reported at In Guezzam, Reggane, Adrar (where 600 hectares were sprayed) Timimoun and El Golea on 21 October. On 25 October a swarm was reported at Ain Safra. On 26 October swarms were reported from Sidi Bel Abbas north of the Atlas mountains, where heavy damage was reported on 28 October, and four swarms were reported from Djanet. On 29 October one swarm was reported flying west 170 km north of In Salah and another was reported flying west 170 km south of El Golea. 320 hectares of adults had been treated at Beni Abbas.

MOROCCO

Scattered locusts were reported from Mahbes (2724N/0905W) on 23 October and large number of adults were reported from Figuig (3207N-0113W) from 26 to 29 October. Control operations are in progress.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology

Meteosat imagery indicates that there was only light rain in the recession area in the interior of Sudan, and that there were scattered-moderate showers on the northern Red Sea coast of Sudan and Ethiopia and along the northern coast of Somalia.

Breeding conditions

Conditions were favourable for breeding in many part of the interior of Sudan in September but were drying up in October.

Locusts

SUDAN

NORTHERN DARFUR PROVINCE

Widespread breeding continued in the Karnoi, Musbat and El Fasher areas. By mid-september over 7,000 hectares of hopper infestations had been treated by ground teams. Fledglings started to appear in late September. During the period 22 September-1 October 11,580 hectares were treated by air and 3,530 hectares by ground teams but from early October immature swarms formed and initially moved south and south-west. Although these did not present good targets further aerial spraying was undertaken (see also Southern Darfur).

SOUTHERN DARFUR PROVINCE

An immature swarm measuring 60 sq. km settled at Abata (1310N/2338E) on 10 October and flew off west. Between 14 and 20 October, aircraft sprayed 2,580 litres of Fenitrothion and Diazinon against swarms totalling about 80 sq. km around Zalingei.

NORTHERN KORDOFAN PROVINCE

Second to fourth instar hopper bands were found at five localities totalling 435 hectares in the Sodiri district in mid-September. In late September aircraft and ground teams applied 18,400 kg of BHC bait and 40 litres of Diazinon.

First to third instar bands were found at four localities totalling 260 hectares in the Wadi Geddi area (1508N-3044E) also in mid-September. 68,000 kg of BHC bait were applied.

On 8-11 October aircraft applied 1,000 litres of Fenitrothion to settled adults in three localities in the Ban Gedid area, and on 15 October 100 litres were applied against settled adults north-west of El Obeid.

WHITE NILE PROVINCE

In Ed Dueim district over 700 hectares were found infested with small early instar hopper groups. 3,000 kg of BHC bait were applied. On 6 October an immature swarm measuring 0.5 km² flew over El-Mugeirinat, heading west.

KHARTOUM PROVINCE

Hopper bands and fledglings were present over 400 sq. km extending from Jebel El Merkhiyat (1542N/3223E) to the Goz Abu Dulu area west of Omdurman in mid-late September. Aircraft and ground teams applied 1,700 litres of Fenitrothion and Diazinon and 113,000 kg of BHC dust and bait.

Scattered late instar hoppers and adults were also found at several

localities east of Khartoum.

NILE PROVINCE

Small groups of hoppers and adults were controlled in the Umm Shadida (1635N/3515E), Sidon (1720N/3420E) El Hudi (1745N/3412E) and Baaluk (1635N/3515E) areas. Low density copulating adults were seen in Goz Abu Dulu at 1745N., 3250E in mid-September. In late September there were small groups of late instar hoppers at five localities in the Goz Abu Dulu area.

KASSALA PROVINCE

In late September scattered adults were found in Wadi Odi (1700N/3629E).

ETHIOPIA

There was an unconfirmed report of hoppers in the Karkabat area (1630N/3740E) of Eritrea on 9 September, and there were reports of fifth instar hopper bands in western Tigray in late September. Flying adults were reported in Barka in western Eritrea on 26 September.

There were no reports from other countries in the Region.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

A few light showers were reported from the Asir and Hijaz mountains and the southern Tihama of Saudi Arabia.

Breeding conditions

Breeding conditions were generally unfavourable except for the Saudi Arabian Tihama between Lith and Qunfidah and in some interior and coastal areas in Yemen PDR:

Locusts

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

As reported in Summary No. 108 large numbers of hopper bands of different instar were present in the Nisab and Wasit and in wadis Markhah, Batarif, Sa'd, Dhalim and Jifa in mid-September. Wadis to the north were also infested with hoppers. By mid-October the total infested

area was estimated to be 500 square kilometres; 1,400 litres of Fenitrothion 96% and 2,600 litres of Dieldrin 20% had been applied. A few second and third instar bands were seen at Ash-Shubaykah. Ground control was in progress in late September.

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

On 15 September low density adults and hoppers were reported in Wadi Sheia (1908N/4107E) north of Qunfidah. An area of 1,750 hectares was controlled. Subsequently one adult was seen in Jeddah.

GULF OF ADEN

On 27 of September two yellow locusts were found on board a ship at 1230N., 4515E at 15.00 hours GMT. Surface wind ENE 8 knots.

IRAQ and KUWAIT were free in August and September. There were no other reports from the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

The only rain reported fell at Fort Abas in Bahawalpur district on 21 September.

Breeding conditions

As a result of the drought, conditions were unfavourable for breeding.

Locusts

PAKISTAN

In the first half of September scattered locusts were seen at 24 localities in Uthal, Mirpur Khas, Bahawalpur and Rahimyar Khan districts, the maximum density being 600 per square kilometre at Jiatar (2555N/6958E) on 13 September. In the second half of the month scattered locusts were seen at 15 localities, the maximum density being 750 per square kilometre at Chotal (2450N/6855E) on 24 September.

During the first half of October scattered locusts were seen at a maximum density of 300 per square kilometre at two localities.

INDIA

In the first half of September scattered adults were found at 7 localities in Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Jodhpur districts, the maximum density being 300 per square kilometre at Chayan (2715N/7150E) on 2 September. In the second half of the month scattered adults were seen at two localities in Nagaur district, the maximum density being 150 per square kilometre.

There were no reports from AFGHANISTAN and IRAN:

FORECAST FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1987

Summer breeding will terminate south of the Sahara and winter breeding will commence in countries bordering the Red Sea. In the first half of the forecast period further swarms are likely to reach northern Algeria and Morocco, and others are likely to reach Tunisia and north-west Libya. Some may reach Tripolitania and western Egypt.

In West Africa breeding will continue in north-eastern Mali and will probably spread westwards to Timetrine and to Mauritania. Some small swarms may form and some of them may emigrate but most are likely to remain within or close to the breeding areas. There may be considerable numbers of adults at low densities in Niger and Chad.

In North-West Africa further swarms are likely to reach the southern foothills of the Anti-Atlas mountains in Morocco, the Atlas Saharian in Algeria, Tunisia and north-west Libya in early November. Within the mountainous areas displacement will be reduced by lower temperatures but some movement to the north and east is likely to occur. Southern and eastern Libya could be traversed by swarms from the south during November. Breeding could occur in areas of south-east Algeria which received heavy rains in late September-early October.

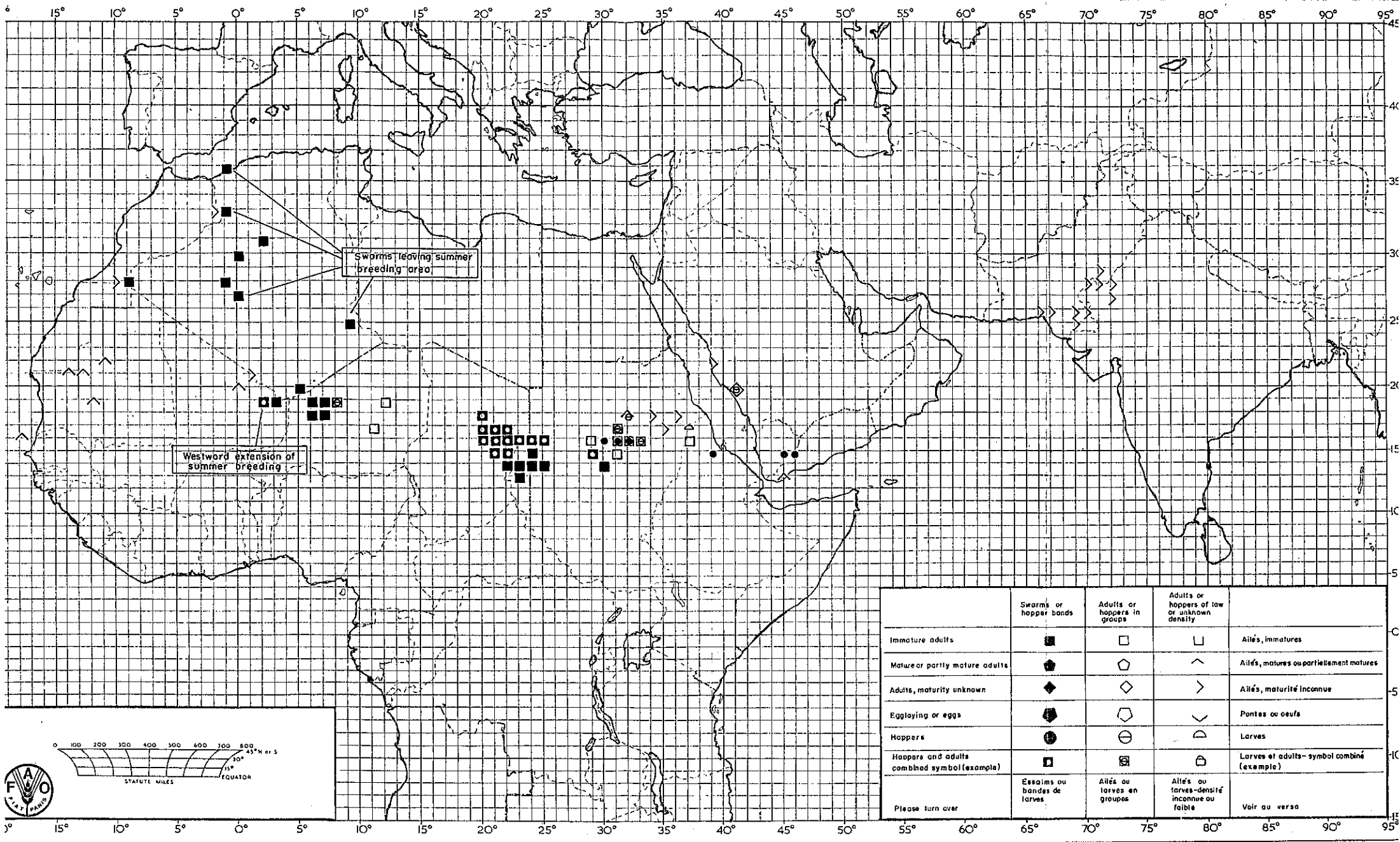
In Eastern Africa most adults produced as a result of summer breeding in western Sudan have probably already emigrated westwards but some may persist in areas of green vegetation. Adults, possibly in considerable numbers will accumulate in areas with green vegetation on the Red Sea coastal plains of Sudan and northern Ethiopia and will start to breed. Small number of adults may occur in the northern coastal plains of Somalia and may start to breed.

In the Near East breeding will probably continue in Yemen PDR but will probably be on a reduced scale. Breeding is also likely to occur on the southern Tihama of Saudi Arabia but it will be on a small scale. Western Egypt may be invaded by swarms from the south or west.

In South-West Asia adults will occur in small numbers in Baluchistan of Pakistan.

Rome
29 October 1987

Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 109 SEPTEMBER - EARLY OCTOBER / SEPTEMBRE - DEBUT OCTOBRE 1987



	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density	
Immature adults	■	□	◻	Ailés, immatures
Mature or partly mature adults	◼	◐	∧	Ailés, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown	◆	◇	>	Ailés, maturité inconnue
Egglaying or eggs	◼	◐	∨	Pontes ou oeufs
Hoppers	●	○	∩	Larves
Hoppers and adults combined symbol (example)	◼	◐	◻	Larves et adults - symbol combiné (exemple)
Please turn over	Essaims ou bandes de larves	Ailés ou larves en groupes	Ailés ou larves - densité inconnue ou faible	Voir au verso