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منظمة
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Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 105 MAY - EARLY JUNE 1987

SUMMARY

Considerable numbers of swarms which were produced on the Red Sea coastal plains of northern Ethiopia moved west and some reached the interior of Sudan. Following widespread and heavy rain in late May and early June widespread and unusually early breeding has commenced in the interior of Sudan and northern Ethiopia. Unless all the infestations are detected and controlled larger numbers of swarms are likely to be produced during July and August and a larger second generation of summer breeding is likely to occur.

Considerable number of adults may have survived the dry season in West Africa and some swarms may be present in Chad.

Small number of adults were reported in Morocco and India and small scale breeding was reported in Pakistan.

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

In early May the Intertropical Front moved north, reaching 16 degrees north on 7-8 May during a pull of the front. Later in the month it oscillated between 13 and 17-18 degrees north in the west and mostly between 13 and 15 degrees north over Chad. However, it reached 20 degrees north over Chad between 31 May and 3 June. It continued to lie between 13 and 18 degrees in the first two weeks of June but in the third week the front varied between 16 and 21 degrees. The northward movement of the front brought variable rains to the main summer breeding areas. In Mali rain was reported north of Tessalit, along the axis Timeaouine-Aguelhoc, at Kidal and around Almoustarat (1722N/0005E) during May and in Niger good rains and floods were reported from Air and the Talah plain. In Chad there was widespread rain extending over much of the country northwards to east of Tibesti on 31 May and there was further widespread rain in the first decade of June. Mauritania received little rain in May and the first fortnight of June but Nema recorded 40 mm on 21 June.

Breeding conditions

Conditions will have become favourable for breeding locally in parts of northern and eastern Chad, north-west Niger (Air and the plain of Talak), north-eastern Mali (Adrar des Iforas) and southern and central Mauritania which have received more than 20 mm of rain or run-off.

Locusts

MALI

One female was caught at light at Gao on 24 May.

NIGER

The over-wintering population was reported as being larger than in 1986 but no details are available.

ATLANTIC OCEAN

One grey locust was reported by the M.V. Sorenlarsen at 1415N 2516W at 12.30 hours GMT on 22 June.

No locusts were reported from MAURITANIA or CHAD.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

Meteosat imagery indicates there may have been light rain in southern Morocco in mid-May and there was rain in central and northern Tripolitania in Libya during the same period. Meteosat imagery also suggests there was light rain in central and south-western Algeria in early June, and moderate-heavy rain over the Grand Erg Oriental on 24 June.

Breeding conditions

The April report from Morocco states that vegetation is drying and NOAA/AVHRR imagery for May and early June shows further dessication.

Locusts

MOROCCO

In mid-April small numbers of solitarious adults were found at three localities in south-east Morocco. On 2 May 15 adults were seen at Teniet Ez Zoubia (3238N/0132W).

No locusts were reported from ALGERIA, LIBYA or TUNISIA.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology

There was frequent and moderate to heavy rain over northern Ethiopia and Eastern and Central Sudan during the last two decades of May and in early June. Asmara recorded 61.8 mm and Massawa 57.1 mm of rain on 18-20 May; Kassala reported 33 mm up to 20 May. Heavy rain was also reported from the Hassaniya on 22 May. There was also heavy rain in northern Darfur from 28 May - 2 June, in Nile and Khartoum provinces on 1 June and around Ed Dueim in White Nile Province in early June.

Breeding conditions

As a result of the widespread heavy rain in May and early June breeding conditions have become favourable throughout the traditional breeding areas in northern Ethiopia and Sudan.

Locusts

ETHIOPIA

Numerous swarms were produced as a result of breeding on the northern Red Sea coastal plains. The following were confirmed sightings:

- 5 May : Wadi Shal Shal (1548N/3912E); 4 ha, thin density
Ghinda (1527N/3906E); large swarm settled.
- 6 May : Wadi Wachiro (1548N/3906E); 6 ha, 125 l Diazinon applied
Wadi Wachiro (1546N/3917E); 50 ha, 110 l Diazinon applied.
- 12 May: east of Mai Aini (1448N/3906E); 1 sq km, 105 l Fenitrothion applied.
- 13 May: Dambae (1508N/3857E); 1 sq km, immature, 100 l Fenitrothion applied.
- 29 May: Wadi Wachiro, Wadi Adilo (1544N/3924E); thin density adults.
- 3 June: Ala Plan (1512N/3905E) 46 l 96% Fenitrothion applied.
- 7 June: El Abaret (1542N/3828E) 15 sq km mature swarm. 325 l Fenitrothion ULV applied

- 9 June: Teramni (1502N/3842E) 4 sq km dense mature swarm. 190 l Fenitrothion ULV applied.
- 11 June: Abrascico (1532N/3845E)
- 15 June: Durko (1444N/3850 E) 6 sw km, thin-medium density mature. 300 l Fenitrothion applied
- 16 June: Locality not given. 1 sq km swarm sprayed with 100 l Fenitrothion ULV.

A report from the Ministry of Agriculture dated 19 June states that egg laying swarms were present in Seraye, Akaleguzay, Gash and Setit, Keren and Hamasen Awrajas (districts), i.e. in most highland and western districts of Eritrea. Third and fourth instar hopper were reported from Hamasen and fourth instar hopper bands were confirmed at Wadi Wachiro and at Shieb (1535N/3912E). There have also been reports of hoppers, immature and mature adults from the Baraka and Senhit areas.

In addition to these reports there have been numerous unconfirmed reports from west and south-west of Asmara (21-27 May), Agordat Late May and 5 June, Areza (1450N/3805E) on 26 May and Barentu (5 June),

22-23 June: Asmara, several dense swarms prevented landing and departure of civil aircraft

24 June: adults reached Mekele (1332N/3927E).

SUDAN

RED SEA PROVINCE

A dense immature settled over 15 square kilometres at Aiterba (1753N/3820E) on 5 May. Control operations using poisoned bait were undertaken. Between 6 and 12 May ground control was carried out against small groups of fifth instar hoppers over 40 hectares in the Tokar delta.

KASSALA PROVINCE

On 20 May a medium sized swarm flew over Kassala from the east and settled in fruit gardens to the west. In early and mid-June copulating and laying adults were found at several localities around Kassala. Also on 20 May an immature 6 sq kmswarm flew over New Halfa Agricultural Scheme from north-east to south-west.

On 10 June medium density groups of adults were found at Wadi Odi (1655N/3634E) over an area of 10 sq. km and at Um Adam (1705N/3555E) over an area of 3 sq. km. Copulating pairs were observed.

In mid-June scattered adults were found in Wadi Musran (1520N/3520E).

GEZIRA PROVINCE

Scattered adults were reported from several places around Abu Quta (1456N/3244E) in early June.

WHITE NILE PROVINCE

Scattered adults were reported from several places around El Guteina (1452N/3222E) and west of Ed Dueim.

NILE PROVINCE

On 22 May groups of flying adults were seen between Wadi Abu Harez (1753N/3336E) and Jebel Merwa (1754N/3309E) in the Hassaniyah.

On 26 May flying adults were seen crossing the Nile at El Tragma (1645N/3330E) and El Goz (1637N/3317E).

On 30 May an immature swarm was seen flying from east to west over Ed Damer.

On 4 June an 2 sq km immature swarm was seen flying from north to south at Hager Eltair (1633N/3255E). Copulating groups of adults were reported at El Ngac (1655N/3315E) on 8 June.

In mid-June mature groups were found in the Wadi Umm Arda and Wadi Abu Hamad (1605N/3302E) areas over 2 sq km and control operations commenced in the Wadi Abu Hashiem and Wadi Shilekha areas (1605N/3326E).

NORTHERN DARFUR

On 8 May a large settled swarm was reported at Turba (1510N/2406E). On 28 May a small swarm flew over Wadi Kurba (1505N/2406E) from south-west to north-east.

On 29 May a settled 5 sq km swarm was seen west of Umm Barn (1430N/2345E) and on 31 May it flew north-east. Large groups of adults were also seen in the El Malha area (1430N/2610E).

There were no reports from DJIBOUTI or SOMALIA.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

There was widespread rainfall over western Arabia on 10-11 May and further light rain in western Arabia during the last decade of May.

A tropical storm developed over the Arabian Sea with its centre at 16°N 58°E at 00:33 hours GMT on 9 June. It subsequently moved north-west and may have given rain between Masirah and Salalah and up to 200 kilometres inland.

Breeding conditions

Conditions continued to be suitable for breeding locally on the southern Tihama of Saudi Arabia.

Locusts

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Four pink adults were captured in Jeddah on 11 May during a period of southerly winds. On 19 May groups of mature adults were found at high densities over an area of 500 sq. km at Haffer (1946N/4053E) north of Wadi Doga, and other mature groups were found at 2025N, 4110E. Later egg-laying was reported over 400 sq. km between Shaqqah Yamaniyah and Wadi Doga. In late May two sarms were reported in this area and another at Wadi Ayyar east of Lith. In early June hopper bands of different instars were found in the same area over 600 sq. km. They were being controlled using two aircraft.

There were no other reports from the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

There was widespread light to moderate rain in the summer breeding area during May. Barmer recorded 52.1 mm, Jaisalmer 41.9 mm, Jodhpur 40.6 mm, Ganganagar 49.6 mm, Sikar 83.7 mm and Bikaner 40.6 mm. There was light to moderate rain in the first half of June.

Breeding conditions

The widespread premonsoon rain will have created favourable conditions for breeding.

Locusts

PAKISTAN

In the first half of May scattered adults were found at 15 localities in Uthal, Turbat, Panjgur and Kharan districts the maximum density being 1,500 per square kilometre at Tagazai on 5 May. Small scale breeding was reported at Nukkur (2651N/6328E), Kalat Sorwan (2648N/6330E) in Panjgur district and at Shooli and Jiwani in Gwadar district.

In the second half of May adults were found at a maximum density of 1,200 per square kilometre at Jiwani.

In the first fortnight of June adults were found at a maximum density of 1,500 per square kilometre at Chenwala (2947N/7225E) and Kahrira (2970N/6535E).

INDIA

In the second half of April adults were seen at one locality, Doad (2806N/7550E), at a maximum density of 15 per square kilometre. In the first half of May adults were seen at two localities, at a maximum density of 30 per square kilometre and in the second half of May they were seen at 8 localities, the maximum density being 113 per square kilometre at Sujia (2706N/7125E) in Jaisalmer district.

IRAN was reported clear in April. There were no reports from AFGHANISTAN.

FORECAST FOR JULY-AUGUST

There have been considerable escapes from the winter-spring breeding area in northern Ethiopia, and swarms have appeared in western Sudan.

In West Africa considerable number of adults have probably survived the dry season and will start to breed. Breeding is likely to be widespread and may be at high density in Mauritania, Mali, Niger and particularly in Chad if swarms reached there from Sudan.

In North-West Africa breeding may occur in the extreme south of Algeria.

In Eastern Africa there will be widespread breeding in the summer rainfall belt in Sudan and northern Ethiopia and numerous hopper bands will be present. First generation adults will start to appear and form swarms from early July. These are likely to mature rapidly and give rise to a second generation of breeding in much the same areas as the first generation. The origin of the swarms seen in northern Darfur is problematic.

In the Near East breeding on the Tihama of Saudi Arabia will terminate and the situation in the Region should become calm.

In South-West Asia breeding will commence in the summer breeding area of Rajasthan and adjacent areas of Pakistan. Initially it will be at low density but may become increasingly gregarious if rainfall is patchy.

Rome
26 June 1987

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