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Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

NO. 86 OCTOBER - EARLY NOVEMBER 1985

SUMMARY

The overall Desert Locust situation remains calm. Adult control was carried out in Mauritania and small numbers of adults have been seen in Mali, Niger, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Pakistan and India.

W/R7185

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, OCTOBER - EARLY NOVEMBER 1985

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

As reported in Summary No. 85 there was light rain at the beginning of October: Kiffa recorded 4 mm on 1 October, while Nema and Gao received 4 mm and 7 mm respectively on 4 October. Other rains of the same order were reported from other areas to the north of 15°N while to the south the rains were heavier. Nioro recorded 12 mm and Kayes 18 mm on 5 October while Ziguinchor received 71 mm on 6 October, which was a particularly thundery day, as confirmed by the GTS and Meteosat imagery. This significant local rainfall is attributable to a temporary reactivation of the ITCZ and to air - sea - land interactions, while the light rains to the north of 15°N were due to a vast Atlantic disturbance associated with a Mediterranean depression. This disturbance progressed from Mauritania across the Sahara to Libya according to Meteosat imagery. Unfortunately gaps in the station network do not allow quantification of the associated rainfall. Some sandstorms were associated with the passage of the depression.

During the second half of October the ITCZ moved south and gave rise to several important thunderstorms; Mopti received 30 mm of rain on 16 October.

From 1 November waves developed in the ITCZ at around 12°N and Korhogo received 54 mm in 24 hours at the end of important thundery activity, accompanied by a complex fragmentation of the thermoconvective zone into a western and eastern cluster over the Greenwich meridian.

Daily maximum temperatures fluctuated between 30° and 40°C in the interior, but were around 30°C in coastal areas.

Breeding conditions

The good breeding conditions observed in July, August and September due to the good rains continued for most of October in the areas which received rain during the month. Nevertheless, towards the end of the month the annual vegetation started to desiccate due to the termination of the rains.

Locusts

MAURITANIA

A weak concentration of mature adults (100-2.000 per hectare) was observed in the Senegal river valley in the region of Lake R'Kiz (1650N/1525E). This population was controlled by Exhaust Nozzle Sprayers.

MALI

Mature adults were present at densities of up to 200 per hectare, as in September in wadis in south-east Tamesna and the Bouressa basin.

NIGER

No important locust activity was reported. Densities of adults varied between 10 and 100 per hectare.

ATLANTIC OCEAN

A ship reported isolated flying yellow locusts between 1109N, 2556N and 1050N, 2605W from 16:00 to 18:00 hours GMT on 11 October, when the surface wind was north-easterly. No specimens have been received but it is unlikely that they were Desert Locusts.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

Numerous, sometimes thundery, disturbances from the Atlantic crossed the Maghreb from the west. Some extended as far south as 17°N and affected the whole recession area during their displacement. According to the GTS, significant rains fell at Nalut which received 14 mm on 8.October, Adrar received 14 mm and Timimoun 20 mm on 12 October, Beni Abbes reported 13 mm and Derna 11 mm on 17 October.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology

In Sudan it was hot and dry north of 15°N with maximum daily temperatures frequently exceeding 40°C during October but averaged around 35°C in early November. By contrast Meteosat infra-red imagery indicated the presence of thermoconvective rain to the south of 15°N, particularly during the first decade of October. In Ethiopia thundery rains continued over the highlands but, according to GTS data, daily totals were generally less than 20 mm, except at Gode, where 32 mm fell on 16 October. Meteosat imagery showed the presence of cumulo-nimbus clouds over the Red Sea coastal areas of Sudan and Ethiopia during October and November, Massawa recorded 9.8 mm of rain on 16 October. Meteosat imagery also indicated some thermo-convective rain over the northern coastal plains of Somalia during the first fort-night of October. There was light rain in Djibouti.

Breeding conditions

Conditions were good for breeding in the Tokar delta during October and are likely to be moderate-good in other Red Sea coastal areas of the southern sector of the Sudan and northern Ethiopia. In Somalia annual vegetation was reported to be drying out rapidly in late October.

Locusts

ETHIOPIA

On 26 September control measures were undertaken against second to fifth instar hoppers and fledglings at Cam Ceua (1628N/3845E) over 140 hectares using 81 litres of fenitrothion 95%. No further infestations were found and the ground team returned to Asmara on 3 October.

SUDAN

Scattered grey adults were found in 5 blocks in the Tokar delta on 21 October, at densities of 120-240 per hectare over a total area of 780 hectares.

No other locusts were reported from the Region.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

At the beginning of October the Red Sea Convergence Zone was situated around 15°N but moved to around 20°N at the end of October and the beginning of November. Over Arabia low pressure predominated. Several ridges developed, associated with the continental high pressure. The weather was generally hot and dry, with maximum temperatures frequently over 40°C at the beginning of October. There were sand-storms over northern and central Arabia.

In south-western Arabia thundery showers were visible on Meteosat imagery and according to GTS data Taiz received 38 mm on 8 October and 11 mm on 9 October, as reported in Summary No. 85.

Following three weeks of calm weather there were further rains on 30-31 October on the Tihama which later extended inland, Hail recording 11 mm on 3 November, Medina 10 mm on 5 November, Khamis Mushait 11 mm on 7 November, Hail and Qassim recording 15 and 12 mm on 10 November. The origin of these rains was a rapid decrease in pressure over the Red Sea associated with Mediterranean depressions. These were clearly seen on Meteosat imagery which showed series of disturbances reactivated by contact with hot air over the peninsula. During the next decade a quasi-stationary trough maintained instability over the Red Sea and western Arabia which resulted in thundery showers. Mecca reported 13 mm on 17 November.

Breeding conditions

Breeding conditions were favourable in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen on the western coast and on the eastern coast between Aden and Ahwar. Due to the good rains of October and early November it is probable that conditions are suitable for breeding along the Tihama of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic.

Locusts

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Isolated adults were observed in Najran mixed with Locusta adults in September and early October.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

On 1 September small numbers of adults were seen at Al-Jabalain (1258N/4425E) and Al Rusykhah (1300N/4430E).

On 30 October small numbers of adults were seen in Wadi Em Riga (1259N/4438E).

IRAQ was reported clear in September.

There were no other reports from the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

As reported in Summary No. 85 there was cyclogenesis close to Bombay from 4 to 9 October, with pressure falling below 1000 mb, which corresponded to a reactivation of the monsoon and resulted in heavy rains as far north as Jaipur and Ahmadabad. At the same time continental high pressure exceeding 1025 mb developed to the north of the Himalayas. At the end of October and beginning of November the high pressure became predominant with ridges of 1015 mb extending to central Pakistan and Punjab. By the beginning of November rainfall was confined to areas south of 15°N. Maximum temperatures over the summer breeding area were in the region of 35°C.

Breeding conditions

In Pakistan and Rajasthan in India the annual vegetation had dried up by early October.

Locusts

PAKISTAN

In the second half of September a total of 27 adults was seen at 11 localities in Mirpurkhas, Sukkur and Bahawalpur districts, the maximum density being 5-6 per hectare at Lundi (2825N/7120E) on 22 September.

In the first half of October a total of 11 adults was seen at 5 localities in Bahawalpur district, the maximum density being 2-3 per hectare at Mirzawala (2806N/7030E).

In the second half of October a total of 12 adults was seen at 7 localities in Sukkur and Bahawalpur districts, the maximum solitary population observed was 2-3 adults per hectare at Chaha (2700N/6955E).

INDIA

According to a late report adults were seen at further six localities in Jaisalmer district between 18 and 23 September, the maximum density being 750 per square kilometre at Sadrao (2725N/7104E) on 21 September. In addition some solitaricolor fifth instar hoppers were also observed in the Sadrao area on 22 September.

In the first half of October isolated and scattered adults were seen at 8 localities in Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Barmer districts, the maximum density being 450 per square kilometre at Bhuttewala (2740N/7048E) on 3 October.

There were no reports from AFGHANISTAN or IRAN.

FORECAST FOR DECEMBER 1985-JANUARY 1986

Generally small numbers of adults will start to breed in the winter breeding areas around the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

In South-West Asia small numbers of adults will have reached coastal areas of Baluchistan, but others will remain in the summer breeding areas of Rajasthan and adjacent areas of Pakistan.

In the Near East small scale breeding is likely to occur in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coastal areas.

In Eastern Africa small scale breeding is likely to occur in coastal areas along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

In North-West Africa the situation will remain calm.

In West Africa small residual populations will persist.

Rome
19 November 1985

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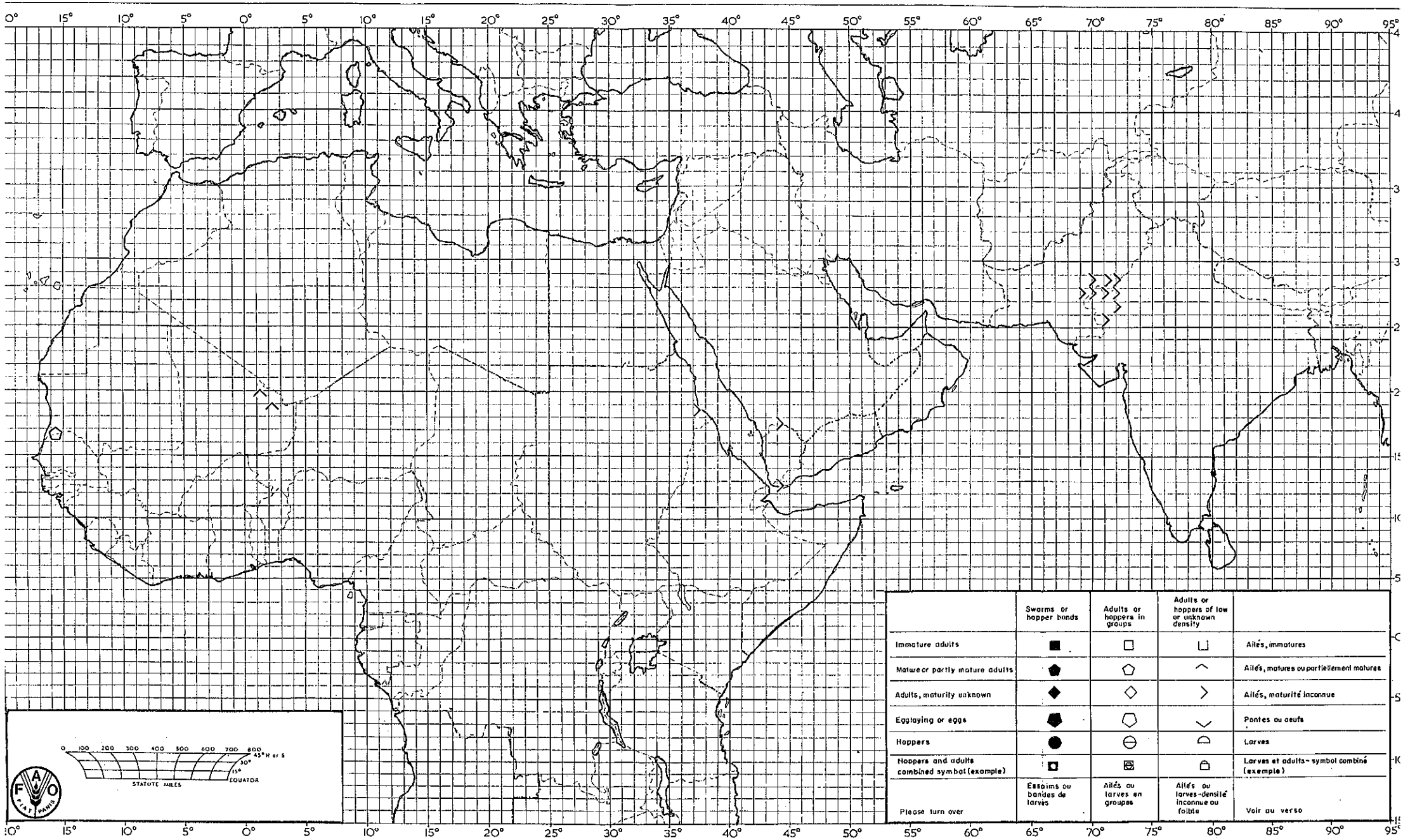

	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density	
Immature adults	■	□	⊔	Ailés, immatures
Mature or partly mature adults	⬟	⬠	^	Ailés, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown	◆	◇	>	Ailés, maturité inconnue
Egglaying or eggs	⬢	⬡	v	Pontes ou 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