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DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 80

APRIL - EARLY MAY 1985

SUMMARY

The overall Desert Locust situation remains calm. Spring breeding has only been reported from Saudi Arabia and adults from Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. However, there have been good rains in Ethiopia, Somalia, eastern Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and larger numbers of adults than have been reported recently are likely to move into summer breeding areas.

W/R 4513

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, APRIL - EARLY MAY 1985

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

The ITCZ continued to move north, with waves reaching 15°N in Mali during the first decade of May. North of the ITCZ sandstorms were reported from Mali on 4 April and from Mauritania on 12 April. During the third decade of April Atlantic disturbances resulted in rain over Mauritania, Nema receiving 7 mm on 24 April and there was further rain on 30 April. Their subsequent progression over the Sahara could be followed on Meteosat imagery and provided a good example of the interactions between tropical and temperate weather systems.

South of the ITCZ there were thundery showers over Ivory Coast, Togo and Benin during the first decade of April, giving daily rainfall totals of up to 40 mm. During the second and third decades of April rain extended up to 12°N in the form of thundery showers falling from cumulonimbus clouds readily visible in Meteosat imagery. Daily totals ranged up to 60 mm.

During the first decade of May the weather was dry north of the ITCZ and further sandstorms were reported from Mauritania and Mali. Thundery showers continued south of the ITCZ.

Midday temperatures were about 38°C north of the ITCZ and about 28°C to the south.

Breeding conditions

From Meteosat imagery it appears that there has been insufficient rain in the recession area to create favourable breeding conditions.

Locusts

No locusts have been reported.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

High pressure over the Maghreb during the first decade of April resulted in dry weather and only some weak Atlantic disturbances affected northern Morocco giving daily rainfall totals not exceeding 10 mm. By contrast during the second decade cyclogenesis accompanied by thundery rain and sandstorms developed south of the Atlas mountains in Algeria with a progressive extension towards Libya where the GTS reported 10 mm of rain at Nalut on 15 April, 16 mm at Tripoli on 17 April, 7 mm at Derna and 10 mm at Benina on 20 April. On 21 April Shahat reported 15 mm. These relatively low values nevertheless allowed extrapolation of the influence of the disturbances to the Sahara where the synoptic network is scattered but where Meteosat imagery showed frontogenesis.

From 26 April a further disturbance developed over the Canary Isles where Teneriffe recorded 29 mm. The rains later extended to Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia; Marrakech and Timimoun reported 14 mm on 27 April, Ghardaia reported 7 mm on 28 April and Tindouf 31 mm on 30 April compared with the long-term mean for April of 1 mm. On 1 May Ouarzazata reported 27 mm, while on 2 May Bechar received 7 mm and Tozeur received 22 mm on 6 May.

Maximum temperatures reached 36°C in the Sahara by mid-May but were generally between 20° and 25°C in coastal areas.

Breeding conditions

No NOAA/AVHRR imagery is available for the period but rains from Mediterranean disturbances are likely to have created suitable breeding conditions particularly in wadis draining upland areas south of the Atlas.

Locusts

MOROCCO was reported clear. ALGERIA, TUNISIA and LIBYA were also clear to Mid-April.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology

There were good long rains in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda in April, Dodoma for example recording 98 mm on 4 April. There were also frequent and extensive thermoconvective rains over the highlands of Ethiopia which also extended on occasions to Kassala Province of Sudan, the Red Sea coast of Ethiopia, Djibouti and north-western Somalia. Few station totals are available in the breeding areas but Djibouti reported 69 mm in the third decade of April compared with the monthly long-term mean for April of 11 mm.

There were also further good rains in Ethiopia and Somalia and East Africa during the first two decades of May and these also affected Kassala Province of Sudan on 3 and 4 May in particular. Midday temperatures ranged from 40° to 45°C in Khartoum, 30° to 33°C in coastal areas and from 15°C to 30°C in the Ethiopian highlands, depending on cloud and on rain.

Breeding conditions

No NOAA/AVHRR imagery for the period is available but from Meteosat imagery and reports from DLCO-EA it is certain that conditions were favourable for breeding in many areas of the Red Sea coasts of Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia.

Locusts

No reports were reported from the Region during April or the first decade of May.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

Numerous Mediterranean depressions affected the Arabian peninsula during April. As a result the position of the Red Sea Conver Zone fluctuated considerably but its median position was about 20°N. Instability associated with the eastward displacement of the depressions gave rise to frequent widespread and heavy rain particularly over the Asir and Hijaz mountains and in northern Arabia. Among daily stations totals reported by the GTS were 31 mm at Bisha on 5 April and 20 mm at Bisha on 10 April. Later in April despite further thermoconvection activity, daily rainfall totals reported did not exceed 11 mm, at Sulaiyil on 28 April.

Scattered light to moderate rain was also reported from inland and coastal areas of PDR Yemen.

In the first half of May there was further widespread and heavy rain, particularly over western Arabia. Abha reported 28 mm on 10 May.

Maximum temperatures were frequently in the region of 40°C.

Breeding conditions

Due to the widespread rains of late March and April conditions were suitable for breeding over large parts of central and northern Arabia. The Tihama of Saudi Arabia south of Jeddah remained dry, as was the south-eastern desert of Egypt. Conditions were becoming favourable for breeding in PDR Yemen.

Locusts

SAUDI ARABIA

One adult male and a fourth instar hopper were found in late February at Al Muraykha (about 19°16'N/41°30'E) in the foothills east of Qunfidah in an area which had received rain and flooding. No locusts were seen in March or April.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

A scout reported small numbers of adults at Haynan (15°50'N/48°18'E) in the north of the Wadi Hadhramaut in April.

EGYPT was reported clear in March and early April; was clear in March.

There were no other reports from the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

The area of low pressure which developed over the breeding areas of

and north-west India during March extended to all Pakistan and India during the first decade of April. Numerous thunderstorms and heavy showers were reported from many parts of the spring breeding area including Quetta, which received 59 mm during the first half of April, Nushki 13 mm, Khuzdar 68 mm, Kharan, Uthal 43 mm, and Pasni 20 mm. There was also rain in the summer breeding area, where Bahawalpur received 14 mm, Barmer 28 mm, Jaisalmer 40 mm, Jodhpur 15 mm, Ganganagar 49 mm, and Bikaner 30 mm. No rain was reported in Kaskela and Bahawalpur in the first half of May.

Breeding conditions

Conditions are likely to have become favourable for breeding in many parts of the spring breeding area.

Locusts

PAKISTAN

Isolated adults were seen at four localities in Uthal, Panjgur and Khuzdar districts in the first half of April, the maximum density being 2-3 per hectare at Gadani (2507N/6644E) on 8 April. Isolated adults were also seen at six localities in the same districts during the second half of April at a maximum density of 4-5 per hectare at Kinkanda (2532N/6638E) on 24 April. Small numbers of locusts were also seen in the first half of May, at a maximum density of 2-3 per hectare at Mal (2918N/6547E).

INDIA was reported clear during the second half of March and throughout April.

IRAN was reported clear in February. AFGHANISTAN was reported clear in March and April.

FORECAST FOR JUNE-JULY 1985

The overall Desert Locust situation remains calm. Winter-spring breeding has only been recorded from Saudi Arabia but breeding conditions have been favourable over much of western and northern Arabia, although not on the Tihama, in Pakistan and coastal areas of Ethiopia and Somalia. Larger numbers of adults than have been reported recently are likely to move into the summer breeding areas during the forecast period.

In South-West Asia widely scattered small scale breeding has probably occurred in Baluchistan and Baluchistan-Seistan of south-east Iran. Small numbers of adults will move into the Tharparkar, Khipro, Nara and Cholistan deserts of Pakistan and Rajasthan in India, where rain adequate for breeding fell in April.

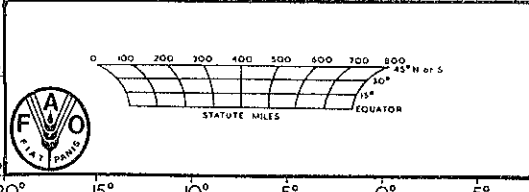
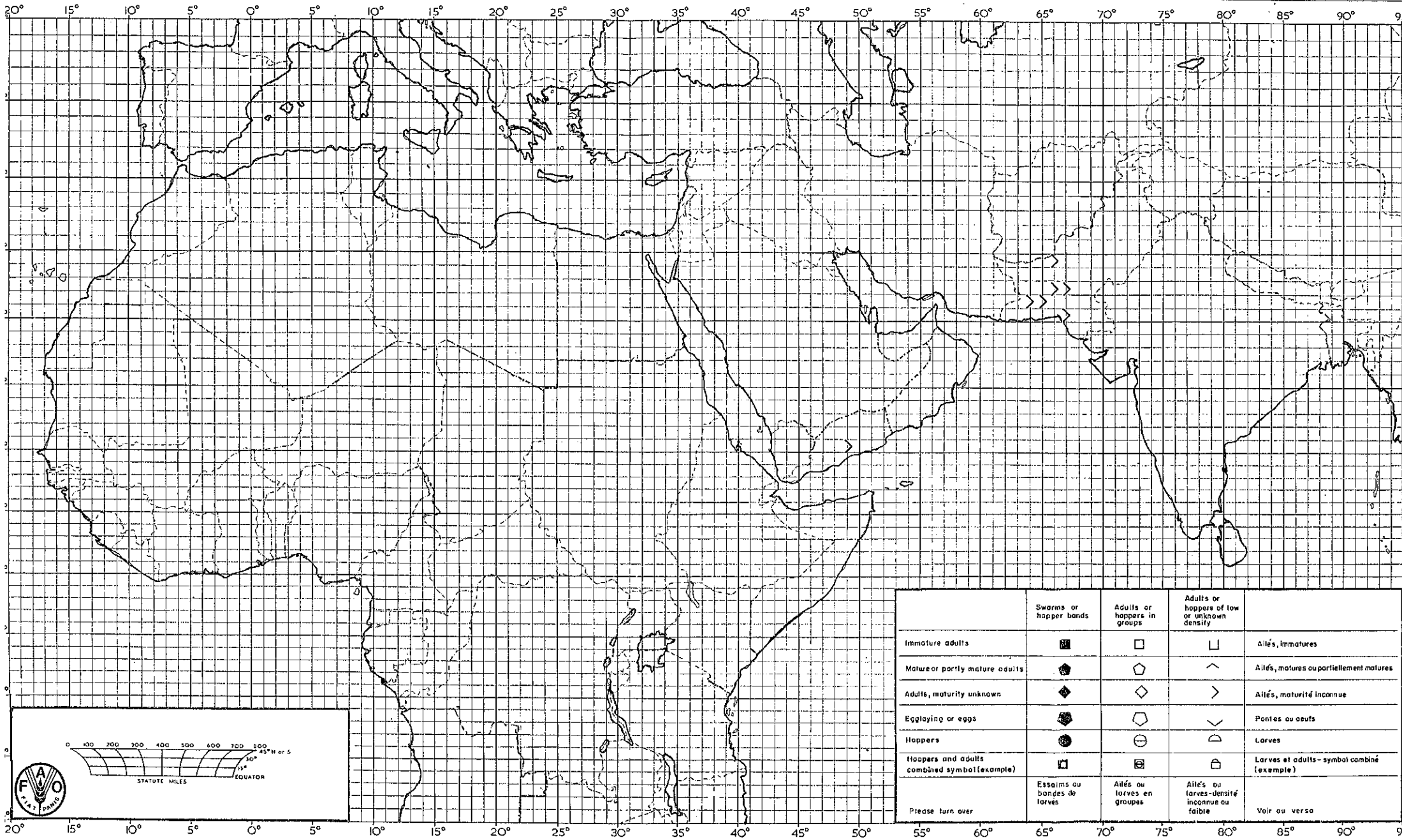
In the Near East ^{to Eastern Africa} small scale breeding may have occurred in coastal areas of Sudan, Ethiopia and northern Somalia. Any adults produced in the first two countries will move into the interior of Sudan and perhaps western Eritrea and small scale breeding may commence towards the end of the forecast period. Adults from breeding in coastal areas of northern Somalia will move slowly east towards the Mijertein.

In North-West Africa no spring breeding has been reported and the situation will remain calm.

In West-Africa adults will be concentrated in areas of green vegetation associated with north-south oscillations of the ITCZ and initially small scale breeding may occur, particularly in areas of marked relief, between the Aftouts de Faye in Mauritania and Air in Niger.

Rome
23 May 1985

Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 80 APRIL-EARLY MAY / AVRIL - DEBUT DE MAI 1985



	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 (exemple)	■	◐	◐	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