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منظمة
الأغذية
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للأمم
المتحدة

Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy

Cables: FOODAGRI ROME

Telex: 610181 FAO I

Telephone: 57971

AGP Division

Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 79 MARCH - EARLY APRIL 1985

SUMMARY

The overall situation remains calm. Small numbers of adults were seen in Pakistan and one in Mauritania. No winter-spring breeding has been reported but may be in progress in Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Pakistan on a small scale.

W/R3896

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, MARCH EARLY APRIL 1985

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

The ITCZ moved north and by the end of March/beginning of April it had reached approximately 10°N, its mean position for that time of the year. During the first decade of March a rainy belt of oceanic origin traversed the region from south-west to north-east and resulted in some rain in northern breeding areas in Mauritania and Mali. Rain was also reported from Niger in late March. There were also sandstorms north of the ITCZ over Mauritania and Mali. To the south there were some violent thunderstorms over Ivory Coast in particular, and more generally over other Gulf of Guinea coastal areas. At the end of March the thunderstorms were extending to Niger and Chad. On several occasions during March some light rain of Atlantic origin was reported via the GTS and confirmed by Meteosat but does not appear to have exceeded 1mm over Senegal or Mauritania, where its occurrence is most frequent.

Midday temperatures were in the region of 40°C north of the ITCZ in the interior, whilst in coastal areas they were around 25°C.

Breeding conditions

In Mauritania a guide based in the depressions de Faye reported that the vegetation, mainly Schouwia was abundant and green in the depressions and Tiris Zemmour. No green vegetation could be detected, however, in NOAA/AVHRR imagery.

Locusts

MAURITANIA

One mature adult was captured near Haouasa (1858N/1350W).

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

Frequent Atlantic disturbances affected the Maghreb from west to east with frequent reactivation in the Mediterranean. Meteosat imagery showed the effects of cyclogenesis over the Ligurian Sea very well, in particular sandstorms on 29 March when a wave formed near Tamanrasset. Among Rainfall amounts reported by the GTS were: 37 mm on 6 March at Algiers, 67 mm on 7 March at Bejaia and 78 mm on 8 March at Constantine.

Associated with the situation on 29 March, 6 mm of rain were reported at In Salah and 11 mm at El Golea. This disturbance later reached Libya where 6 mm were recorded at Sebha.

Maximum temperatures were very variable due to the disturbances. In general they reached 30°C south of 30°N, while in coastal areas they were frequently less than 20°C.

Breeding conditions

According to NOAA/AVHRR imagery conditions were favourable for breeding in the Fezzan oases and Kufra in Libya.

Locusts

No locusts were reported in the region in March.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology

Despite the sometimes very fragmentary character of GTS data it is possible, due to Meteosat imagery and information from ICAO, to summarize the situation as follows:

Having oscillated around the equator, the ITCZ started to move north and there were some isolated thermoconvective phenomena over Ethiopia, coming from Kenya. Djibouti and Somalia were generally very dry. From 23 to 26 March a disturbance moved from the central Red Sea towards the Indian Ocean and gave rise to variable rainfall. Lekemti received 39 mm on 25 March, Asmara 26 mm on 26 March; there was almost certainly light rain in Sudan, Djibouti and northern Somalia but there are no other GTS data to support this conclusion. Sudan was characterized by clear skies and high temperatures. Elsewhere maximum temperatures generally varied between 25° and 35°C in March, depending on local effects (attitude, distance from coast, cloudiness, presence or absence of rain, etc.)

Between 4 and 6 April and again between 10 and 12 April there was further thermoconvective activity over north-eastern Africa; Manderla recording 34 mm on each of 10 and 11 April, Awassa 10 mm on 10 April, Goba 11 mm on 11 April and 13 mm on 12 April, while Neghelli, Jiggiga and Diredawa recorded 17, 15 and 18 mm respectively on 12 April.

Breeding conditions

According to NOAA/AVHRR imagery up to 20 March, favourable breeding conditions existed: along the Red Sea foothills inland from Karora in the Sudan between Arafali and Merea Gulbub along the central Red Sea coast of Ethiopia, the southern part of the north-western Somalia coastal plains and around Las Dureh.

Locusts

No locusts were reported in the Region during the first decade of April. The reports for March are awaited.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

During the first week of March some weak Mediterranean disturbances affected northern and eastern Arabia but gave only light rain according to the GTS. By contrast, from the end of the second decade the disturbances were more active. There was widespread, frequent and heavy rain: in northern Arabia from 18-21 March, Tebuk receiving 97 mm on 18 March, Riyadh 28 mm on 21 March. In the third decade there were thundery disturbances accompanied by sandstorms, clearly showing on Meteosat imagery.

During the first week of April there was extensive rain extending from the Qassim to the Asir; Bisha recorded 31 mm on 5 April, Najran 22mm on 6 April and Abha 14 mm on 7 April. There were again heavy rains in south-west Arabia in the second week of April, Bisha recording 20 mm on 10 April and 97 mm on 11 April.

The Red Sea convergence zone generally lay between 15° and 20°N.

Maximum temperatures ranged from around 25°C in the north to about 35°C in the south of the peninsula.

Breeding conditions

According to NOAA/AVHRR imagery conditions were favourable for breeding only in the wadi Dawasir around Sulaiyil in the first decade but by the second decade they had become favourable around El Kharj, in the Qassim and around Tebuk. On the Tihamas of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic they were generally unfavourable, as they were also in Yemen PDR.

Locusts

No locusts were found in the Region during March. It is now known that the report of two locusts in the Hadhramaut in February was erroneous.

OMAN

A single mature female was found at Al Muedan (2339 N/5627 E) during January.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

The area of continental high pressure retreated to the north of 40°N and low pressure moved into the breeding areas, bringing very variable wind fields. In the first half of March there was no rain in the winter-spring breeding areas but in the last week there was generally light and localized rainfall in Baluchistan, which became heavier and more widespread from 31 March and resulted in 20 mm in Karachi on 1 April, 11 mm, 30 mm and 38 mm respectively at Jodhpur, Hyderabad and Jaisalmer on 2 April.

Maximum temperatures were generally around 30°C in coastal areas and 40°C in their interior.

Breeding conditions

Conditions were reported to be unfavourable for breeding in Baluchistan in early March despite earlier widespread rainfall.

Locusts

PAKISTAN

A total of 9 locusts were seen in some localities of Khuzdar, Kharan and Nushki during the first half of March, at a maximum density of 2.25/ha at Hurmagai (2812N/6427 E) on 12 March. Isolated adults were also seen in the second half of March, but details are awaited.

INDIA was reported clear during the first fortnight of March.

AFGHANISTAN was reported clear in February.

IRAN was reported clear in January.

There were no other reports from the Region.

FORECAST FOR MAY-JUNE 1985

The overall Desert Locust situation remains calm. No breeding has been recorded in the winter-spring breeding areas although conditions have been favourable in parts of Mauritania, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Pakistan. Only small numbers of adults are likely, therefore, to be available to move to summer breeding areas during the forecast period.

In South-West Asia small scale breeding is likely to be in progress in Baluchistan of Pakistan and Baluchistan-Seistan of Iran. Small numbers of adults will move into the Summer breeding areas in the Tharparkar, Khipro, Nara and Cholistan deserts of Pakistan and Rajasthan in India.

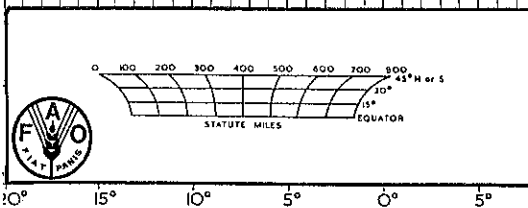
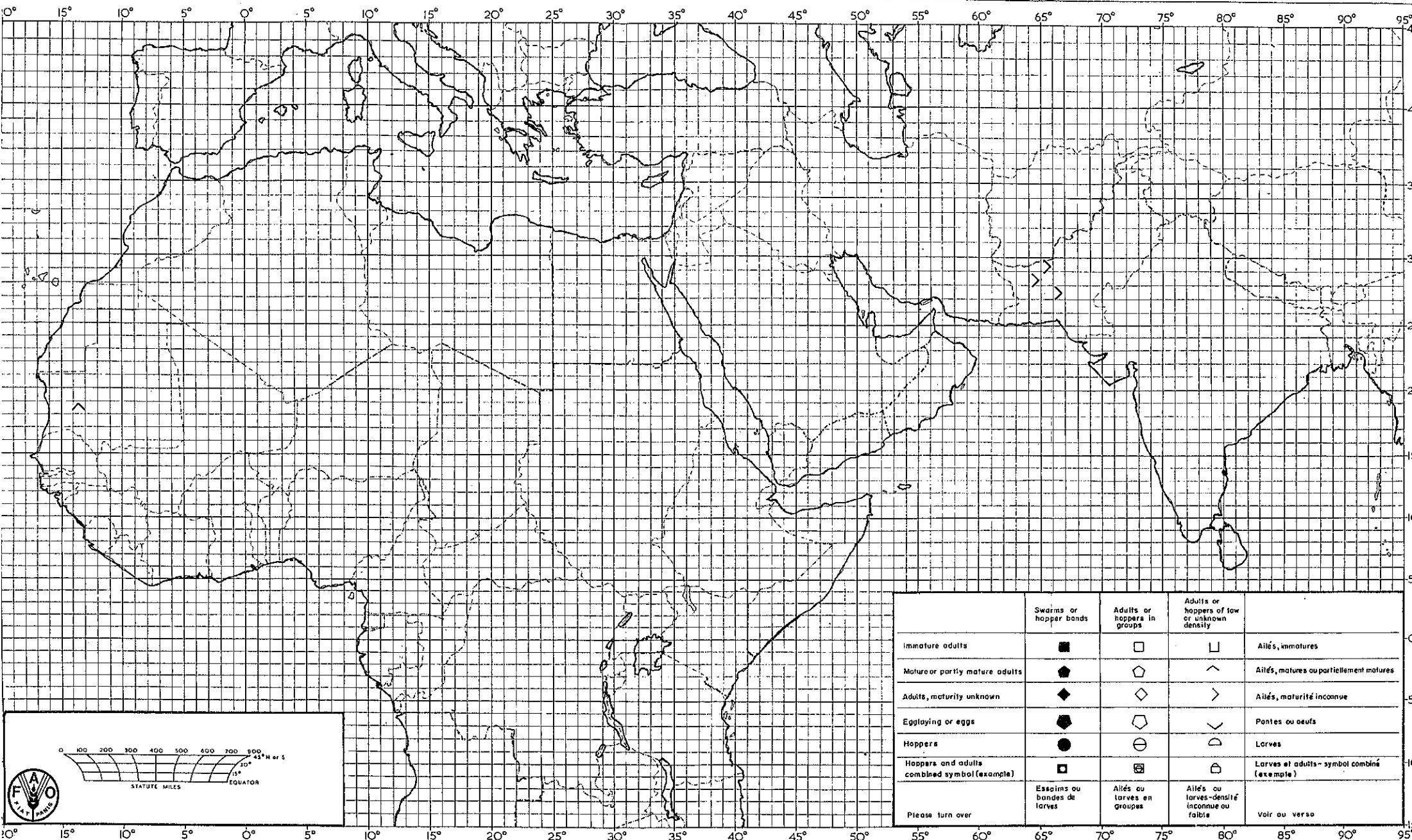
In the Near East small numbers of adults may reach western interior areas in the Arabian peninsula and small scale breeding may occur in view of the good rain of early April.

In Eastern Africa small scale breeding has probably occurred on the Ethiopian and northern Somali coastal plains. Small numbers of adults will move into the interior of Sudan and perhaps northern Ethiopia,

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

In West Africa some breeding may have occurred in northern Mauritania and Western Sahara. Any adults produced will move southwards towards the ITCZ.

Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 79 MARCH - EARLY APRIL / MARS - DEBUT D'AVRIL 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 (example)	◻	◻	◻	Larves et adultes - 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