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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. 78 FEBRUARY -- EARLY MARCH 1985

SUMMARY

The overall situation remains calm. Small numbers of adults were reported from Sudan, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and Pakistan. No winter-spring breeding has been reported but it may be in progress in Ethiopia, Somalia, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan on a small scale.

W/R 3611

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, FEBRUARY-EARLY MARCH 1985

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

The ITCZ moved slowly northwards towards 10°N, which it virtually reached by 12 March. Thundery convective activity was essentially confined to the Gulf of Guinea coastal regions.

North of the ITCZ sandstorms were reported via the GTS from Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and in particular from Mauritania, where they were frequent. Less normal were the effects of Atlantic depressions which brought rain from the Canaries towards Mauritania and Senegambia, and which affected the Cape Verde Islands on 23 February. The interactions between meteorological conditions over the Maghreb and the Sahel in the zone between 30° and 15°N had already been observed on Meteosat imagery last month (see Summary No. 77), but their persistence in February-March needs to be underlined. Maximum daily rainfall according to the GTS did not exceed 1mm.

Maximum daily temperatures ranged from 40°C in Chad to 20-25°C in Atlantic coastal regions under the influence of northerly winds.

Breeding conditions

No NOAA/AVHRR imagery is available for February or early March but conditions were almost certainly suitable for breeding in north-eastern Mauritania (and probably in Western Sahara).

Locusts

No locusts were reported; no surveys were undertaken

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

On 1 February easterly winds brought unseasonable rains to Tindouf, and by 2 February they reached Agadir. Later, typical Atlantic depressions affected the Maghreb from west to east, with unusual frontogenesis from 20 February which gave the following rains: 16mm at Essaouria and 23mm at Larache; 22mm at Tetuan and 31 mm at Kenitra on 21 February; 19 mm at As Asnam on 22 February while on 23 February a maximum of 20mm was recorded at Jendouba. On 24 February the disturbances reached Libya and gave 13mm at Nalut. Meanwhile a new frontogenesis from the Atlantic gave rise to further rain: 23mm at Errachidia, 20mm at Ouarzazate, 16 mm at Tetuan and 15 mm at El Jadida on 25 February. After a lull until 5 March further rains fell on the Maghreb, this time particularly affecting Algeria and Tunisia. On 6 March Algiers recorded 37mm while on 7 March Bejaia registered 67 mm, Skikda 27mm and Jendouba 15mm.

This case of classical cyclogenesis in the Western Mediterranean also gave 48mm at Constantine on 8 March and 32 mm at Algiers on 9 March. After a relative calm on 10 March when 10mm were recorded at Algiers, the GTS reported 20mm on 11 March at Algiers, while on 12 March Monastir reported 12mm, Gabes 15mm and Djelfa 3mm.

Regarding maximum daily temperatures associated with all these variations, they were generally between 15° and 25°C in the northern Maghreb, whilst in the south they exceeded 30°C.

Breeding conditions

Although no NOAA/AVHRR imagery is available it is probable that northern parts of the recession area are favourable for breeding.

Locusts

No locusts were reported in the Region during February.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology

In Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia there was some thermoconvective instability associated on the one hand with the Rift and on the other with depressions over the Indian Ocean as shown by Meteosat imagery. These local effects were difficult to detect from GTS data, which did not report more than 5mm of rain. DLCO-EA, however, reported 7.4mm at Massawa on 15 February and good rains along the Ethiopian coast north of 13°N during the first fortnight of February. After a lull, there was further thundery weather during the first decade of March along the axis Asmara-Gore, which received 17mm on 5 March.

In Sudan Meteosat confirmed there was a little thermoconvective activity in the south; elsewhere the weather was dry with sandstorms.

During February the ITCZ lay to the south of the equator and was well shown on Meteosat imagery.

Maximum temperatures in the Sudan were generally between 20° and 35°C, along the Red Sea coast 25-30°C, in the Ethiopian highlands 15-25°C but reached 38°C in northern Kenya.

Breeding conditions

According to DLCO-EA conditions were very favourable for breeding on the Red Sea coast of Ethiopia between 15°30'N and 16°00'N. In late January they were also very favourable on the coastal plains of northern Somalia between Loyada and Bulhar, around Las Dureh, between Karin and Anchor, between Heis and Kilma and around Bosaso.

Locusts

SUDAN

Small numbers of scattered locusts were seen in the southern sector of the Red Sea coast of Sudan near the Ethiopian border.

There were no other reports from the Region.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

Frequent Mediterranean depressions travelling from west to east at about 30°N affected northern Arabia. According to GTS data, however, daily rainfall totals did not exceed 5mm. Sandstorms were reported frequently. Some light rain was also reported along the northern Tihama from 20° to 27°N. The Red Sea Convergence Zone generally lay between 15° and 20°N but reached the vicinity of 13°N in 5, 6 and 16 February while on 24 February there was a surge of southerly winds which extended to 30°N and resulted in widespread sandstorms.

Maximum daily temperatures were generally around 20°C in northern Arabia but 30°C in the south of the peninsula.

Breeding conditions

Conditions were generally unfavourable for breeding along the southern Tihama of Saudi Arabia and the Tihama of the Yemen Arab Republic and in coastal and interior areas of Yemen PDR.

Locusts

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Two adults were found in the Wadi Hadhramaut.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

Continental high pressure persisted centred on 40°N, whilst there were areas of localised low pressure south of 20°N. As a result dry north easterly winds persisted over Pakistan and north-west India. Meteosat imagery showed the passage of rainy depression moving from Iraq, over Iran to Afghanistan. According to GTS data daily rainfall totals did not exceed 6mm. No rainfall was reported in the winter-spring breeding areas of Pakistan during February or the first half of March, and no rain was reported from Rajasthan or Gujarat in India during the first fortnight in February.

Maximum daily temperatures ranged from about 15°C in coastal areas of the winter-spring breeding areas in early February to 27-30°C in mid-March.

Breeding conditions

Due to the rains in January conditions will have become favourable for breeding particularly in the Panjgur valley.

Locusts

PAKISTAN

As reported in Summary No. 77, adults were found at densities of 1-2 per hectare at Jiwani (2503N/6147E) on 12 February and at three other localities during the first half of February. No locusts were reported in the second half

of February but isolated adults were found at Hurmagai (2817N/6427E) at 2-3 per hectare on 12 March.

IRAN

Low density adults were reported from Chahbahar coastal areas in Iran in December.

No locusts were reported from INDIA in February.

AFGHANISTAN was reported clear in December and January.

FORECAST FOR APRIL-MAY 1985

The overall Desert Locust situation remains calm. Although there are favourable breeding conditions in coastal areas of Ethiopia and northern Somalia, rainfall in the main winter-spring breeding areas has been generally poor and no breeding has been reported. Only small numbers of adults are likely, therefore, to start to move to summer breeding areas towards the end of the forecast period.

In South-West Asia small scale breeding is likely to be in progress in Baluchistan of Pakistan and Baluchistan-Seistan of south-east Iran and could be on a scale to warrant limited control operations. Small numbers of adults will move towards the summer breeding areas in the Tharparkar, Khipro, Nara and Cholistan deserts of Pakistan and Rajasthan in India.

In the Near East very small scale breeding may be in progress on the Tihama of Saudi Arabia and perhaps in some restricted inland localities in western Saudi Arabia. There may also be small scale breeding in the United Arab Emirates and northern Oman, and in coastal and inland areas of Yemen PDR. Small numbers of adults may move into interior areas of Saudi Arabia east of the Hejaz mountains.

In Eastern Africa breeding is probably in progress on the Ethiopian and northern Somalia coasts but is probably small in scale. Nevertheless some adults may be produced which will move into the interior of Sudan and/or the western lowlands of Eritrea.

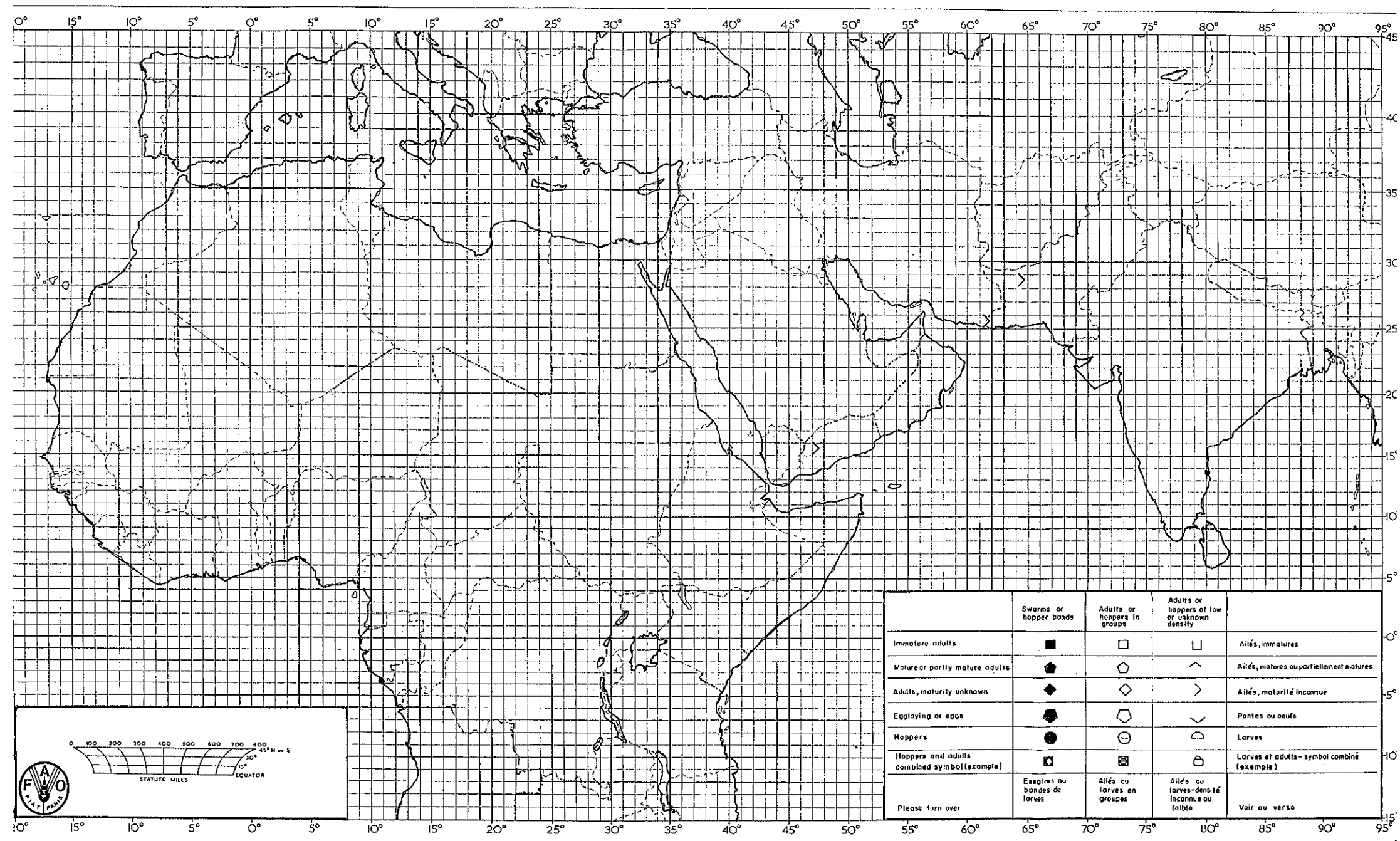
In North-West Africa small scale breeding may be in progress in areas of the central Sahara which have received winter rain or run-off.

In West Africa small scale breeding may be in progress in northern Mauritania and Western Sahara. Any adults produced are likely to move southwards towards the ITCZ.

Rome

19 March 1985

Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 78 FEBRUARY - EARLY MARCH / FEVRIER DEBUT DE MARS 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
Egg laying 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

