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DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 70 JUNE - EARLY JULY 1984

Summary

Desert Locust numbers are probably at their lowest for 50 years following the abnormally dry winter-spring. Early monsoon rains in West Africa have been patchy but locally above average. The monsoon had reached parts of the summer breeding area of India and Pakistan by mid-July. Small numbers of adults were reported from India and Pakistan and there was an unconfirmed report of locusts from the Yemen Arab Republic.

W/Q9841

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, JUNE-EARLY JULY 1984

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

As recorded in Summary No. 69, the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) lay close to 20°N in Mali from 5 June, with rain in the region of Tombouctou, Gao and Tessalit. In Mauritania it was localised between 15° and 18°N between the Atlantic Ocean and 10°W. Apart from some waves the position of the ITCZ remained relatively unchanged during the remainder of June. There was light rain in Mauritania during the second decade, while during the third decade the GTS reported 4mm at Aioun El Atrouss on 23 June, 4mm at Nema on 24 June, while 13mm were recorded at Matam on 26 June, 44mm at Linguere on 27 June and 15 mm at Matam on 28 June.

In the remainder of the Sahel duststorms gave way to rain, sometimes reaching 30-50mm daily, as was the case on 14 June respectively at Bamako and Fada N'Gourma, whilst on 27 June Boko Dioulasso received 35mm.

There were further good rains in the Atar, Akjoujt, Benichab, Tijikja, Aioun El Atrouss and Tilemsi valley areas with wadis in flood in the last three areas in early July; Tahoua registered 28mm on 1 July, Tombouctou 66mm on 2 July, Gao 26mm on 3 July, Mopti 36mm on 4 July.

There were numerous sandstorms in Mauritania and Mali. Maximum temperatures varied between 35-45°C in inland areas and between 25-35°C in coastal areas.

Breeding Conditions

Conditions will have become favourable for breeding in parts of Mauritania and Mali which received good rains at the beginning of July.

Locusts

No locusts were reported.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

In general the Mahgreb experienced relatively dry weather in spite of the passage of several Atlantic depressions and thunderstorms. The heaviest rain reported by the GTS was 16mm at Fes-Sais on 18 June. Several sandstorms were reported in Libya. Maximum temperatures ranged from 33-43°C in interior areas and from 23-33°C in coastal areas.

Breeding Conditions

According to NOAA/AVHRR imagery for 1-10 June conditions were not favourable for breeding in the recession area.

Locusts

There were no reports of locusts.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology

Meteosat imagery showed that the ITCZ advanced from about 10°N at the beginning of June to about 18°N at the end of June over the Sudan. In Ethiopia showers due to thermoconvective instability were very variable in extent and intensity. The highest daily rainfall recorded by the GTS was 24mm on 11 June at Lekemti.

In spite of stormy tendencies Djibouti experienced generally dry and very hot weather as the maximum temperature was nearly as high as in Khartoum, i.e. 45°C, whereas in the highlands of Ethiopia it rarely attained 30°C.

In Somalia rains from the Indian Ocean were recorded by the GTS but until Insat imagery is available, a more precise diagnosis cannot be made; the origin of these rains seems to be associated with cloud development east of 70°E.

In Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania there were scattered thunderstorms; according to the GTS the most important rains were 75mm at Dar Es Salaam on 2 July and 31mm at Kitale on 17 June.

Breeding Conditions

According to NOAA/AVHRR imagery conditions were not favourable for breeding in the recession area.

Locusts

No locusts were reported in the course of aerial surveys over northern Somalia.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

Throughout June rainy disturbances originating in the Indian Ocean slightly affected the Sultanate of Oman. There was thunderstorm activity over North and South Yemen and on the southern Tihama of Saudi Arabia. The Red Sea Convergence Zone had a median position between 15-20°N. The interior of the Arabian peninsula experienced sandstorms associated with a heat low. Maximum temperatures ranged from around 35°C in coastal areas to 45°C in the interior.

Breeding Conditions

According to NOAA/AVHRR imagery for 1-10 June conditions were generally too dry for breeding.

Locusts

There was an unconfirmed report of a Desert Locust infestation in the Yemen Arab Republic according to a cable received on 26 June but no further details are available.

No other locust reports were received from the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

As reported in Summary No. 69 the monsoon moved northwards during the first half of June. By the end of the month and during early July it was affecting the whole of India and in early July had penetrated into the Cholistan desert of Pakistan. In early June upper air circulation gave rise to light to moderate rains over Pakistan, Rajasthan and Gujarat, Jaisalmer recording 26mm on 13 June, while there was a thunderstorm at Quetta on 3 June.

Breeding Conditions

Breeding conditions in the summer breeding area were generally unfavourable.

Locusts

PAKISTAN

No locusts were reported during the first half of June. In the second half scattered locusts were present at 13 localities in Mirpurkhas, Sukkur, Bahawalpur and Rahimyarkhan districts**, the maximum density being 900/sq km at Tharad in the Tharparkar desert. In the first half of July scattered adults were again present, the maximum density being 600/sq km at Bundry in the Cholistan desert.**

**Information received since the map was prepared

INDIA

Scattered locusts were reported from three localities in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan and two localities in Banaskanthe district of Gujarat, at a maximum density of 100/sq km.

No locusts were reported from AFGHANISTAN or IRAN

FORECAST FOR AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1984

Desert Locust numbers are probably at their lowest for 50 years following the abnormally dry winter-spring. Population increases due to summer breeding will however undoubtedly occur in areas affected by the monsoon in West Africa, Sudan and Indo-Pakistan.

In South-West Asia there will be generally low density breeding in Rajasthan in India, the Cholistan, Nara and Tharparkar deserts of Pakistan but some hopper and adult groups may form if the monsoon rains are localised.

In the Near East the situation will remain calm. Small numbers of adults will persist in Yemen PDR, Yemen AR and probably in the interior of Saudi Arabia and limited breeding may occur in interior and coastal areas.

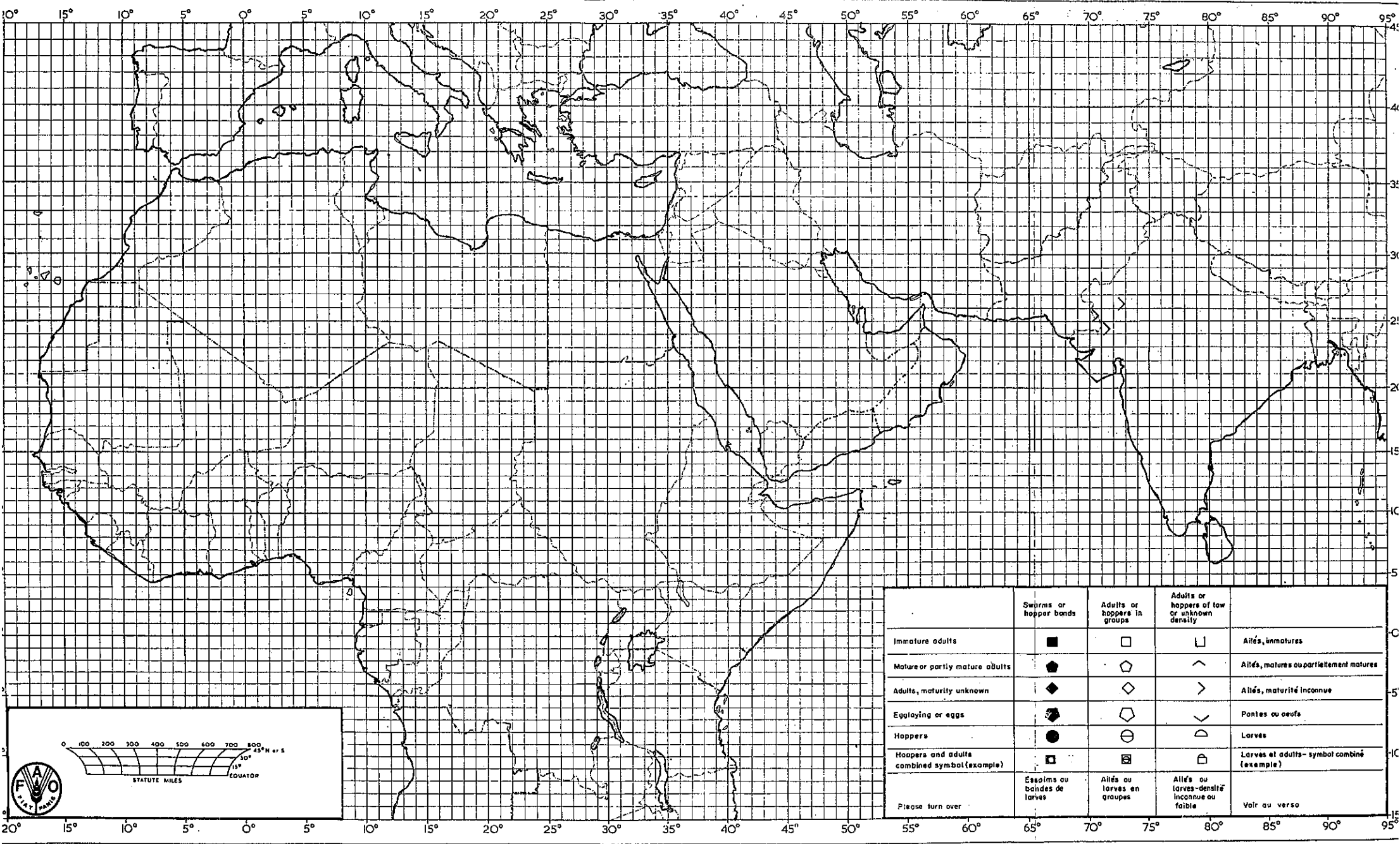
In Eastern Africa low density breeding will occur in the interior of Sudan and may be widespread. Small numbers of adults are likely to be present on the northern coastal and subcoastal plains of Somalia and small scale breeding may occur in areas receiving summer floods.

In Western Africa numbers of adults are low but they could be concentrated into a few relatively small areas by north-south oscillations of the ITCZ and if monsoon rains are restricted in extent. Breeding will commence; most will be at low density but some groups may form in areas where adults have been concentrated.

In North-West Africa the situation will remain generally calm although some breeding may occur in Libyan oases.

Rome, 17 July 1984

Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 70 JUNE - EARLY JULY/JUIN - DEBUT DE JUILLET 1984



	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density	
Immature adults	■	□	▭	Aliés, immatures
Mature or partly mature adults	●	◐	∧	Aliés, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown	◆	◇	>	Aliés, 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	Aliés ou larves en groupes	Aliés ou larves - densité inconnue ou faible	Voir au verso

