

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR
L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE



ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 - ROME

Cables: FOODAGRI ROME

Telex: 610181 FAO I

Telephone: 5797

AGP Division

Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 40 DECEMBER 1981 - EARLY JANUARY 1982

SUMMARY

The swarms present in November in Mauritania have either dispersed or moved northwards into Western Sahara and considerable numbers of adults are probably present in both countries. Elsewhere control operations were in progress against groups of hoppers and adults on the Red Sea coast of Sudan and there were small numbers of adults in Morocco, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Yemen Arab Republic, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and India.

W/P6666

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, DECEMBER 1981 - EARLY JANUARY 1982

WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

In addition to the locusts reported in Summary No. 39 the following additional populations were recorded in November 1981:

- on 7 November a mature swarm at Boundeit (1727N/1122W);
- on 7 November fourth and fifth instar hopper bands 40 km north-east of Tamchaket;
- on 9 November, hopper bands and small swarm 40 km north-east of Tidjikja, damaging Sorghum;
- on 10 November, small swarm 5 km north of Moudjeria (1756N/1220W);
- on 10 November, hopper bands 15 km north-west of Moudjeria;
- on 10 November, hopper bands between Tamassoumit (1836N/1239W) and Tourine (1822N/1251W);
- on 10 November, hopper bands 15 km north of Ledfotar (1742N/1230W);
- on 11 November, hoppers and adults at Bakhma;
- on 12 November, hoppers and adults at Ledfotar, 5 hectares of Sorghum and pasture damaged;
- on 13 November, hoppers and adults between Tanga (1904N/1214W) and Khatt (1905N/1148W);
- on 14 November, hoppers and adults at Khatt-el-Moinane (1915N/1227W);
- on 17 November, young adults at 1818N/1223W and 1815N/1230W, flying north;
- on 17 November, swarm at 1830N/1225W, flying south-west;
- on 17 November, swarm at 1834N/1219W;
- on 18 November, immature adults at 1825N/1241W and 1835N/1249W, density 100-200 per hectare;
- on 19 November, settled swarm at 1829N/1225W. The swarm seen at Rag Tamarat on 19 November was controlled with 200 l 5% dieldrin;

- on 21 November, swarm seen at El Agref (2013N/1317W);
- on 23 November, traces of hopper bands at Khatt (1230N/1220W) were reported by a nomad, who also reported seeing more than 40 small swarms during the period 1-12 October;
- on 23 November, isolated adults at 1905N/1146W;
- on 20-25 November, four swarms in the Tourine area (1821N/1250W);
- on 25 November, isolated adults between Agane (1745N/1255W) and Ouazane (1752N/1312W);
- on 26 November, a swarm was seen from 1400 hours to sunset at Iguerwritten (1820N/1325W);
- on 27 November, adults were seen at Bouraka (1753N/1212W);
- on 30 November, droppings were found at Aguilat Faye (1827N/1444W).

The swarm treated at Nouakchott on 28-30 November was sprayed with 336 litres of 50% fenitrothion.

In the first half of December further swarms were seen in the Aftout de Faye area between 1848N/1412W and 1858N/1342W. These were moving north. A total of 967 hectares were sprayed.

In the second half of December only two swarms were reported, one from the Bougé area on the Senegal River and one from between Nouakchott and Rosso. Adults were also present at densities ranging from 100 to 1000 per hectare in the Aftout, Akjoujt and Atar areas.

MALI

Small numbers of adults persisted.

NIGER

Small numbers of adults persisted.

There were no reports from CHAD.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

MOROCCO

In addition to the day-flying adults seen near El Aioun on 2 November, now described as a thin swarm, and Dakhla on 17 November, reported in Summary No. 39, small numbers of adults were seen at many localities in south-west Morocco between

Oueds Sous and Dra between 8 October and 15 November. These included day-flying adults at Ifrane Anti-Atlas (2913N/0930W) on 24 October. Subsequently there have been no further reports but it is probable that considerable numbers of adults have reached southern and central Western Sahara from the south.

ALGERIA

Small numbers of adults were seen in wadis around the Ahaggar massif between 4 November and 10 December. No rains were reported from central or southern Algeria and the vegetation was dry.

LIBYA

Frequent surveys were undertaken in November and December, particularly in the Hamada-el-Hamra, Ghat and Kufra areas. In November some pockets of Desert Locusts mixed with African Migratory Locusts at high densities were found at the Sarir agricultural project (2826N/2220E). Arrangements were being made to spray the infestations by air and ground teams.

WESTERN SAHARA

No reports of locusts were received but considerable numbers, possibly including some small swarms, are probably present.

No locusts were reported from TUNISIA.

CANARY ISLANDS

One grey adults was found on board a ship at 2811N/1604W, between Tenerife and Gran Canaria at 1430 hours GMT on 6 December. The surface wind was NNE 17 knots. No specimen has been received but in view of reports of desert locusts from the Canary Islands in early November it is quite possible that this was also a Desert Locust.

ATLANTIC OCEAN

A yellow locust was found alive on a ship at 0939N/2546W at 0400 hours GMT on 24 January. The surface wind was ENE 16 knots. No specimen has been received. The sighting is unusually far south for a Desert Locust.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

From 1-10 December groups of first to third instar hoppers were present in 520 hectares of the Tokar delta and mature solitarious adults at densities of up to 660 per hectare were present in 580 hectares. Baiting was in progress. In the northern sector mature solitarious adults at densities of up to 525 per hectare were present over an area of 3 880 hectares and isolated first instar hoppers over a total area of 1 600 hectares.

From 21 to 31 December groups of immature and mature adults at densities of up to 1 320 per hectare and first to fourth instar solitarious hoppers were located over a total area of 120 hectares in the Tokar delta. ~~In the northern~~ sector adults at a density of up to 1 080 per hectare and hoppers were found over an area of 3 880 hectares and control operations were in progress. There were no further reports of infestations in the Sudan during the period 1-10 January 1982.

There were no reports from DJIBOUTI, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, SOMALIA, UGANDA or TANZANIA.

NEAR EAST

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Weather

Heavy rains were reported during December from Baha, Baljoreishi, Shahm, Mendak, Yenbo, Badr, Um Lejj and Jeddah. The southern Tihama from Lith to Jizan was dry and unsuitable for breeding in December but heavy rains were reported along southern Tihama in early January.

Locusts

Scattered adults were reported from the Jizan and Qunfidah Tihamas and from Tuffail, south of Jeddah.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Weather

No rain was reported along the Tihama in December but heavy rains were reported in January.

Locusts

A very few solitarious adults were seen on the northern Tihama.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Some light rain was reported in coastal areas in December but conditions generally were not favourable for breeding. In mid-January, however, good rains were reported from coastal areas. Low density adults were observed in Sorghum cultivations at Am-Surrah (1339N/4551E) on 19 December. In January only three adults were seen.

See A1
at Khay Bahat
rur North

EGYPT

Weather

Heavy rains were reported from the Abraq, El Di-ib and Abu Ramad areas on 10-12 October and 30 October. Rain also fell on 1-2 November in wadi El Di-ib and over Jebel Elba (2210N/3615E). There was further heavy rain on 11 December resulting in floods in the Abu Ramad, Halaib and Jebel Elba areas. Many wadis in the South-Eastern Desert became suitable for breeding.

Locusts

Large numbers of adults were found in wadi El Di-ib in November, and in December scattered hoppers of different instars were found.

No reports have been received from other countries in the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

IRAN

Light rains were reported in southern Iran during December, but no locusts were reported in either November or December.

PAKISTAN

No locusts were reported during December or the first half of January. Light to moderate rains were reported in winter-spring breeding areas of Baluchistan on 2 and 3 January.

INDIA

On 2 December immature and maturing adults were found at Nachna (2731N/7145E) in Jaisalmer district at a density of 75 per square kilometre. There were no other reports during December but a few adults were found at Jaswantgarh (2735N/7425E) on 11 January.

AFGHANISTAN

No locusts were reported in November or December.

FORECAST FOR FEBRUARY - MARCH 1982

As temperatures rise adults are likely to become more conspicuous and breeding is likely to become more widespread. The largest populations probably exist in Mauritania and the Western Sahara.

In North-West Africa considerable numbers of adults, possibly including some small swarms, are likely to have reached the southern part of Western Sahara. If rain falls, breeding could become widespread and lead to the formation of hopper bands. The small numbers of adults which have reached south-west Morocco will start to breed but this will not be on a scale sufficient to produce bands. No further incursion of adults into southern Morocco is likely in the forecast period. Small scale breeding is likely to commence in wadis in central and southern Algeria if rain falls. Small scale breeding is also likely to occur in irrigated areas in central and southern Libya.

In West Africa breeding could commence in Mauritania if there are winter-spring rains and could be on a scale sufficient to produce some hopper bands. Small numbers of adults will persist in north-east Mali and north-west Niger.

In Eastern Africa breeding will continue on the Red Sea coast of Sudan and may be in progress on the Red Sea coast of Ethiopia. The latter area could give rise to swarms which could move into Sudan to breed again, in which case hopper bands could be produced. Low density breeding is probably in progress and likely to continue on the northern coastal and sub-coastal plains of Somalia.

In the Near East small scale breeding will probably occur along the southern Tihama of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along the Yemen Tihama and in coastal areas of Yemen PDR. Breeding, perhaps on a scale sufficient to produce hopper bands, is likely to occur in Egyptian-Sudanese border areas along the coast and around Abraq.

In South-West Asia small scale breeding will commence in coastal areas of Baluchistan in Pakistan and perhaps also in south-eastern Iran. Small numbers of adults will persist in summer breeding areas.

Rome
3 February 1982

