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# Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

## DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

NO. 39 NOVEMBER - EARLY DECEMBER 1981

### SUMMARY

Several swarms and gregarious hoppers were present in Mauritania and were being controlled. Some adults reached the Atlantic coast of the Western Saharan part of Morocco while others reached the Canary Islands for the first time since May 1964. Control operations were in progress against hoppers and adults on the Red Sea coast of Sudan. Scattered adults were reported from Niger, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Yemen Arab Republic, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Somalia, Pakistan and India. Small scale breeding was reported from Yemen PDR.

v/P5947

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, NOVEMBER - EARLY DECEMBER 1981

WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

Locusts

Following reports of hoppers and adults from nomads in October, aerial and ground surveys were undertaken in November and early December. These revealed the presence of several swarms and gregarious hoppers as follows:

- a settled red and yellow swarm 15 kilometres north-west of Moudjeria (1754N/1215W) on 13 November measuring 300 hectares;
- a swarm flying south-west over Ledfotar (1745N/1232W) during the night of 14-15 November;
- on 16 November a settled swarm at 1815N/1230W;
- on 18 November a swarm flying south-west between 1705 and 1735 hours at Rag Tamarat (1830N/1243W). When settled the swarm measured 300 hectares, its density was 50 per square metre; the swarm was controlled on 19 November;
- on 19 November two other swarms were seen in the Rag Tamarat area;
- on 28 November gregarious fifth instar hoppers were controlled over 30 hectares at El Melhes (1820N/1410W);
- on 28 November an immature swarm settled on the beach at Nouakchott and then flew off to the south and then east on 29 and 30 November. 240 hectares were sprayed over three days. Density 200 individuals per square metre;
- on 2-4 December an immature swarm settled at 1848N/1401W. 235 hectares were sprayed.

The survey teams also recorded the presence of immature stragglers at densities of 150-1000 per hectare between 18°N and 20°N to the west of 11°W.

In addition there were numerous reports of desert locusts from the following administrative areas: Tagant, Hodh, Timbedra (1615N/0810W), Nema, Aouker Tamchaket (1715N/1043W), Boundeit (1727N/1122W), Akjoujt, Atar and from north of Aioun-el-Atrouss. Details are awaited.

MALI

The situation was reported to be calm.

NIGER

In Aïr and Tamesna the annual vegetation was dry. A very few isolated adults were reported.

There were no reports from CHAD.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

MOROCCO

Day-flying adults were seen at El Aioun on 2 November and at Dakhla (ex Villa Cisneros) on 16 November.

CANARY ISLANDS

Scattered adults reached the islands in early November; about 100 were caught.

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Although there has been no further information about the yellow locust found on board a ship at position 3108N/1803W on 3 November, it is probable that it was a desert locust, in view of the reports from Western Sahara and the Canary Islands which indicate that there was a substantial movement into North-West Africa in early November.

There were no reports from ALGERIA, LIBYA or TUNISIA.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

Up to 8 November groups of mature adults at densities of up to 4080 per hectare were seen over a total area of 1840 hectares and solitary mature adults at densities of up to 360 per hectare were seen over a total of 1330 hectares in the Tokar delta. Groups of mature adults at densities of up to 1080 per hectare were seen over 800 hectares in Khor Balatat (1758N/3825E). Copulation and egg-laying were reported and control operations were in progress.

In the period 9 November to 10 December first to third instar hoppers were present in 520 hectares of the Tokar delta and mature adults at densities of up to 660 per hectare were present in 580 hectares. Baiting was in progress. In the northern sector mature adults at densities of up to 525 per hectare were present over 3880 hectares and isolated first instar hoppers were present over 1600 hectares.

SOMALIA

Scattered immature and mature adults were reported from several localities on the north-east coastal plains of Somalia and from Scusciuban. Conditions on the northern coastal and sub-coastal plains were not favourable for breeding.

No reports were received from DJIBOUTI, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, TANZANIA or UGANDA.

NEAR EAST

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Light showers were reported from Medina, Jeddah, Mecca and Lith. Ecological conditions were favourable for breeding on the Jizan Tihama although no rain fell at Jizan during November. Isolated adults were present at several localities on the Jizan Tihama over a total area of 50 kilometres x 50 kilometres.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

No rain was reported along the Tihama. In general conditions were unfavourable for breeding, except for a few small areas near the foothills.

A few adults were seen mixed with dense groups of hopper and adult Tree Locusts south of Beit al Faqih and south of Hays.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Although conditions were generally unfavourable for breeding, small numbers of solitaricolor fourth and fifth instar hoppers were found in scattered sorghum fields at Am-Qaws (1353N/4609E) on 10-11 November. Immature adults at densities of 57-120 per hectare were seen at five localities totalling 30 square kilometres in Wadi Wajr (1351N/4609E).

No other reports were received from the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

INDIA

Scattered showers were reported from Bikaner district in the second half of November.

In the course of a special border survey from 16 to 24 November immature and mature adults were found at 37 localities in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts. The maximum density was 6250 per square kilometre at Gunjangarh (2634N/7013E) on 20 November; elsewhere the densities ranged from 13 to 500 per square kilometre.

On routine surveys, adults were found at two localities in Bikaner district, at densities of 15-37.5 per square kilometre.

PAKISTAN

In the first half of November four adults were seen at one locality in Pasni and two were seen in the Tharparkar and Cholistan deserts.

There were no reports from AFGHANISTAN or IRAN.

FORECAST FOR JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1982

The occurrence of a number of swarms in Mauritania and the Western Saharan part of Morocco and the occurrence of gregarious hoppers in Mauritania indicates that there was unreported gregarious breeding on a considerable scale in Mauritania during the late summer. The swarms may move north during periods of warm southerly winds and start to breed. Breeding will become more widespread in coastal areas around the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and may be on a scale to produce groups of hoppers and even some hopper bands. Breeding may commence in coastal areas of Baluchistan of Pakistan.

In West Africa any swarms or groups surviving control are likely to move northwards during periods of warm southerly winds. Some may remain in Mauritania and may start to breed towards the end of the forecast period. Only small numbers of adults will persist in eastern Mauritania, Mali and Niger.

In North-West Africa the adults which have reached the Western Saharan part of Morocco may be augmented by swarms from the south during periods of warm southerly winds. Some adults may reach the foothills of the Anti-Atlas mountains. Breeding may commence towards the end of the forecast period in Western Sahara and southern Morocco. Some adults will persist in southern and central Algeria but breeding is unlikely to occur in the forecast period.

In Eastern Africa breeding will continue on the Red Sea coast of Sudan and is likely to occur on the Red Sea coast of Ethiopia. In both countries it may be on a scale sufficient to produce groups of hoppers, some hopper bands and even a few small swarms. Small scale breeding is likely to occur on the northern coastal and sub-coastal plains of Somalia.

In the Near East small scale breeding will occur on the Tihamas of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic and in coastal areas and interior wadis of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Breeding may also commence in the South-East Desert of Egypt adjacent to the Sudan border.

In South-West Asia small numbers of adults will persist in Rajasthan in India and in the Cholistan, Nara, Khipro and Tharparkar deserts of Pakistan. Small scale breeding is likely to commence in coastal areas of Baluchistan of Pakistan and perhaps also in south-eastern Iran.

Rome  
16 December 1981

