

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



ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

NO. 37 SEPTEMBER - EARLY OCTOBER 1981

SUMMARY

In Mali there were groups of hoppers and adults in the Adrar des Iforas and Timetrine and control measures were applied. There were unconfirmed reports of swarms in west-central Mauritania and Tagant. Solitaricolor hopper bands were controlled in South-Central Algeria. Scattered adults were reported from Saudi Arabia, the Yemen Arab Republic, Pakistan and India. Small scale breeding was reported in Saudi Arabia and India.

W/P5203

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, SEPTEMBER - EARLY OCTOBER 1981

WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

Environment

Good rains fell in the Adrar, Tagant and Aftout areas on 6-7 and 12 September. Conditions were favourable for breeding.

Locusts

Ground surveys received reports of swarms in west-central Mauritania and Tagant but had not been able to establish which species was concerned.

MALI

Environment

Tamesna was reported to be dry and the southern Adrar des Iforas to be drying.

Locusts

In Timetrine copulating and laying adults were present at densities of 600 per hectare and hoppers of all stage were present at densities of 2 to 10 per square metre over an area of 500 hectares. In the Bouressa basin there were young adults at densities of 5 000-100 000 per hectare and hoppers at 2 000-5 000 per hectare over a total of 1430 hectares. 730 hectares were treated with 770 litres of 5% dieldrin.

NIGER

Environment

Conditions were favourable for breeding in Tamesna and Air. The last good rain fell on 2 September.

Locusts

Adults were present at densities of less than one per hectare.

There were no reports from CHAD.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

ALGERIA

Following the good rains of June breeding commenced in September in numerous localities in the south-eastern Ahaggar, Ahnet and Mouydir. At first the hoppers were solitaricolor but later they started to gregarise and form bands. A total of 686 hectares were treated.

EASTERN AFRICA

No locusts were reported from the Region.

NEAR EAST

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Environment

Heavy rain had fallen on the Jizan Tihama, and rain was reported from the Hijaz mountains, Taif and Medina.

At the end of September breeding has been reported on the Jizan Tihama.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Environment

Heavy rain was reported from the northern Tihama.

Locusts

Scattered locusts were present on the northern Tihama.

No locusts were reported from the PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN. No other reports were received.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

PAKISTAN

Scattered adults were found in 11 localities in the Cholistan, Nara and Tharparkar deserts, at a maximum density of 1 200 per square kilometre.

INDIA

Environment

The monsoon withdrew from Western Rajasthan on 3 September.

Locusts

Scattered adults were reported from 42 localities in Barmer, Bikamer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts in the first fortnight of September, the maximum density being 4 540 per square kilometre. A total of 18 second to fifth instar hoppers were found at four localities in Jaisalmer district.

IRAN was reported clear in August and September.

FORECAST FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Rainfall has been generally above average in the summer breeding areas of India and Pakistan, and in parts of the Sudan, Niger, Mali and Mauritania.

The densities of adults reported to have reached the summer breeding areas were low and breeding has only been reported from Mali, Niger, Algeria and India. It is probable, however, that breeding has occurred in other areas. The most important populations have been in Tamesna in Niger and in the Adrar des Iforas in Mali where control was undertaken in July and August respectively. Some hopper bands and swarmlets may form in these areas ; any escapes are likely to move north and north-west in the second half of October and first half of November and reach western Libya, eastern, central and western Algeria, southern Morocco and perhaps northern Mauritania and the Western Sahara. Breeding also commenced in the south-eastern Ahaggar, Ahmet and Mouydir areas of south-central Algeria in September. Breeding is almost certainly in progress in the interior of the Sudan and possibly the western lowlands of northern Ethiopia, and increasing numbers of adults will reach the Red Sea coast in October and start to breed. Some may cross the Red Sea and reach the Tihamas of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic. Emigrants from the Indo-Pakistan breeding areas will reach Baluchistan of Pakistan and perhaps south-eastern Iran.

In West Africa breeding will continue in the Adrar des Iforas in Mali and may have extended to the Tilemsi valley and Tamesna during September and early October. Some hopper bands may form in these areas and lead to the formation of swarmlets unless controlled. Most survivors of control operations are likely to move north and north-west into North-West Africa but some are likely to remain in Mali. In Niger good breeding conditions exist in Western Aïr and, although the latest information indicates there are no locusts in Aïr and Tamesna, the possibility of immigration from the west, as in 1980, and successful breeding, cannot be ruled out. Breeding has almost certainly occurred in central Mauritania and may have resulted in the formation of some groups and even bands and some small swarms. Adults may also reach northern Mauritania and the Western Sahara during November.

In North-West Africa breeding has commenced in South-Central Algeria. Adults produced as a result of this breeding and that in adjacent areas of Mali and Niger will move into western Libya, eastern, central and western Algeria and perhaps southern Morocco in late October and the first half of November, mainly at night. The scale of this invasion will be less than in 1980.

In Eastern Africa breeding has almost certainly occurred in the interior of the Sudan and possibly in the western lowlands of northern Ethiopia. Adults produced by this breeding will move to the Red Sea coastal plains of Sudan and northern Ethiopia and some may reach Arabia and will concentrate in areas such as the Tokar delta which have received floods from summer rains over the mountains or early winter rains. These will breed and may produce hopper groups and even some small bands. Breeding on a small scale may occur on the coastal and sub-coastal plains of northern Somalia as far south as the Nogal valley. It is just possible that considerable numbers of adults may reach the coastal plains from southern Arabia in November.

In the Near East numbers of adults are likely to increase on the Tihama of Saudi Arabia due to immigration from the interior of Arabia and possibly from Sudan. They will tend to concentrate in areas which have received floods from summer rains over the mountains or early winter rains. Breeding has already started but is likely to be on a small scale.

Small numbers of adults will persist on the Tihama of the Yemen Arab Republic and small scale breeding is likely to occur in areas recently flooded or which receive winter rains. If the ship report of a swarm on 5 August refers to desert locusts, breeding may have occurred in eastern People's Democratic Republic of Yemen or southern Oman, perhaps on a scale sufficient to produce a few small swarms. These are likely to move south-west to western coastal areas of PDR Yemen in November where breeding may commence. Small numbers of adults may reach Oman and the United Arab Emirates in late October or early November from the east, and small numbers of adults may reach the South-Eastern Desert of Egypt in November.

In South-West Asia there has been low density breeding in the summer breeding areas in India and possibly also in Pakistan. In some areas a second generation may occur which could lead to the formation of some hopper groups in early November. Most adults are likely to move west to coastal areas of Baluchistan in November and some may reach south-eastern Iran although their number is unlikely to be large.

Rome,
16 October 1981

