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

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AGP Division

Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations grou

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

NO. 36 AUGUST - EARLY SEPTEMBER 1981

SUMMARY

In Mali there were groups of immature adults and hoppers in the Adrar des Iforas and control measures were undertaken. Scattered adults were reported from Mauritania, Somalia, Yemen Arab Republic, Pakistan and India. Small scale breeding was in progress in India. The locusts reported from a ship in the Gulf of Aden on 29 July were not desert locusts but there was no further information about the identity of the swarm reported from a ship on 5 August. The identity of locusts reported from the eastern People's Democratic Republic of Yemen may provide further evidence.

W/P4777

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION - AUGUST TO EARLY SEPTEMBER 1981

WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

Weather

Certain areas to the north of 17°N received good rains in August but over the country as a whole rainfall was below average. The following amounts were recorded: Aioun el Atrouss 88 (average 115), Atar 69 (32), F'Derik 15 (11), Kiffa 104 (123) and Nouakchott 36 (60). Good rain fell on 26 August in depressions west of the Adrar and in the region Boutilimit - Mederdra.

There were three to five good rains after the end of June in the area between Atar and Tidjikja. Vegetation is green and well developed and ecological conditions are very favourable in those areas, between 9°W and 12°W and also between Aioun el Atrouss and Nema.

Locusts

In the course of a ground survey in the Circles of Brakna and Trarza between 20 July and 15 August one immature female was captured at light on 3 August at Rag-Tamarat (1830N/1247W). At Aioun el Atrouss 9 maturing females and 17 males were captured on 26-28 August. Copulation was observed.

MALI

Weather

There were good rains in northern, central and south-eastern Adrar des Iforas, where some wadis were in flood for a week. Anefis recorded 38 mm of which 32 mm fell on 23 August, Kidal 74 mm, Aguelhoc 24 mm, Tin Essako 24 mm, Fanfi 9 mm, Abeibara 17 mm Tessalit 11 mm, Tadjedjoumet 63 mm, Bouressa 65 mm and Tin Zaouaten 32 mm. Timetrine and Tamesna were generally dry although light localised rain caused small floods in wadis In Atankarer (1803N/0358E) and Cheden (1810N/0004W).

Annual vegetation is well developed in northern Adrar des Iforas, particularly along the axis Tadjedjoumet - Bouressa. In spite of good rains, only small (5-50 hectares) patches of green vegetation were present in the beds of wadis in the Tilemsi valley. Malian Tamesna remained dry except for the depression of Areideidei (1715N/0312E).

Locusts

In the Bouressa basin there were immature adults at densities of 10-100 per hectare, with a maximum of 10,000-15,000 per hectare, and second to fifth instar green hoppers at densities of 500-5,000 per hectare mixed with hoppers and adults of Oedaleus senegalensis and O. johnstoni at densities of 2-3 per square metre in wadi Aguelhoc and its tributaries in patches of 10-400 hectares. In wadi Erharhar (2014N/0136E) there were adults at densities of 10-500 per hectare and green hoppers at densities of 500-2,500 per hectare in patches of green vegetation measuring 120-200 hectares. Adults were present at densities of 1-2 per hectare in south-eastern Adrar.

No locusts were seen in Timetrine, the Tilemsi valley, the central Adrar des Iforas or Tamesna. 300 hectares were treated in wadi Tadelok (1945N-1950N/0215E-0218E) on 23 August with 150 litres of 5% dieldrin.

NIGER

Weather

In spite of a considerable weakening of the monsoon, the Inter-Tropical Front remained at about 20°N. On 12-13 August there were widespread rains in western and central Afr causing large floods in the main valleys and there was also rain at In Abangharit (12 mm), In Afer, In Ariden and the Aloua valley. There were also rains in Tamesna during the first decade and in Afr at the end of the month. Agades recorded 31 mm. Annual and perennial vegetation is well developed in Afr where ecological conditions are very favourable for breeding. In Tamesna vegetation is moderate and very localised.

Locusts

The situation was calm during August.

There were no reports from CHAD.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

In central Algeria adults were found in 11 localities in north-western Ahaggar. In two of the localities they were present at densities of 5,000-20,000 per hectare and control measures were undertaken.

EASTERN AFRICA

SOMALIA

A ground survey along the northern coastal plains recorded small numbers of old mature and young immature adults at several localities between Garisa (1036N/4326E) and Durdureh (1116N/4836E) and in the Meleden valley (1025N/4950E). The coastal plain was dry, but light rain fell around Hargeisa on 16 August. On 24 August a report was received of locusts 60 kilometres east of Las Khoreh; the ground team operating in the area found that they were Tree Locusts.

ETHIOPIA

Heavy and widespread rains were reported from the Harar Highlands, the Railway Area and the northern Ethiopian Highlands. Asmara recorded 247 mm, Dire Dawa 116 mm. No locusts were reported.

SUDAN and DJIBOUTI were reported clear and no locusts were reported from KENYA, TANZANIA and UGANDA.

The Region was reported to be clear in the first decade of September.

NEAR EAST

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

The number of adults near Zohraa declined to about three per kilometre of vehicle traverse.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Scattered locusts were seen by a scout in Wadi Duan (1530N/4020E) on 30 July. These were thought to have migrated from the Al-Lajafah area. Locusts were reported from Raydaah (1508N/4935E) on 22 August. Light to moderate rains were recorded in a number of localities during August but conditions were generally unfavourable for breeding.

GULF OF ADEN

Specimens of the "grey and yellow locusts" collected by the ship's crew on 29 July proved to be Locusta migratoria, Anacridium melanorhodon, Cyrtacanthacris tatarica and Catantops axillaris. There has been no further information concerning the identity of the locusts seen on 5 August.

No locusts were reported in the KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA or KUWAIT in August. EGYPT was reported clear in July.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

PAKISTAN

In the first half of July scattered adults were seen at three localities in Sukkur district and at one locality in Cholistan, at a maximum density of 450 per square kilometre. In the second half of July scattered adults at a maximum density of 1,500 per square kilometre were reported from two localities in the Tharparkar desert and two in the Nara desert.

In the first half of August there were widespread heavy rains in the Cholistan and Tharparkar deserts, and in Las Bela district. Scattered adults were found in seven localities in Las Bela, Mirpurkhas and Rahimyar Khan districts, at a maximum density of 3,000 per square kilometre. In the second half of August adults were found at 15 localities in the Tharparkar, Nara and Cholistan deserts, and in Las Bela district **at a maximum density of 750 per square kilometre.**

INDIA

Widespread showers occurred in Western Rajasthan and Gujarat and conditions were favourable for breeding.

In the first half of August, maturing and mature adults were found at densities of 25-2,625 per square kilometre at seven localities in Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts of Rajasthan and Banaskantha district of Gujarat. The maximum density was recorded at Dhanana (2642N/7012E) on 7 August, where pairing was observed. In the second half of August scattered maturing and mature adults were found at 11 localities in Jaisalmer district and 8 localities in Bikaner district, the maximum density being 900 per square kilometre. A total of 14 first to fifth instar hoppers were found at five localities in Jaisalmer and Bikaner districts.

AFGHANISTAN was reported clear in August, IRAN was reported clear in July.

FORECAST FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1981

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. Summer breeding is likely to continue in areas which have received heavy rains or run-off, and some hopper bands and swarmlets may form if control is not undertaken. Escapes from breeding in the Adrar des Iforas of Mali are likely to move north and north-west to central and western Algeria, southern Morocco and perhaps to northern Mauritania and the Western Sahara. Increasing numbers of adults will reach the Red Sea coast of Sudan, northern Ethiopia and perhaps the south-eastern desert of Egypt and some may cross the Red Sea to reach the Tihama of Saudi Arabia. Breeding is likely to start in areas receiving late summer floods and early winter rains. Small scale breeding is likely to start in northern Somalia. Breeding will finish in the summer breeding areas of India and Pakistan and small numbers of adults will reach Baluchistan and perhaps south-eastern Iran.

In West Africa breeding will continue in the northern, central and south-eastern Adrar des Iforas in Mali and some hopper bands may form in these areas and lead to the formation of swarmlets unless controlled. Most survivors are likely to move north and north-west into North-West Africa. Good breeding conditions exist in western Air in Niger and it is possible that Tamesna and Air may be invaded by adults from the west, as in 1980, and that breeding will commence. Low density breeding is probably in progress in the Atar - Tidjikja areas of Mauritania and possibly in the Aioun el Atrouss and Nema areas. Adults could reach northern Mauritania and Western Sahara from the east.

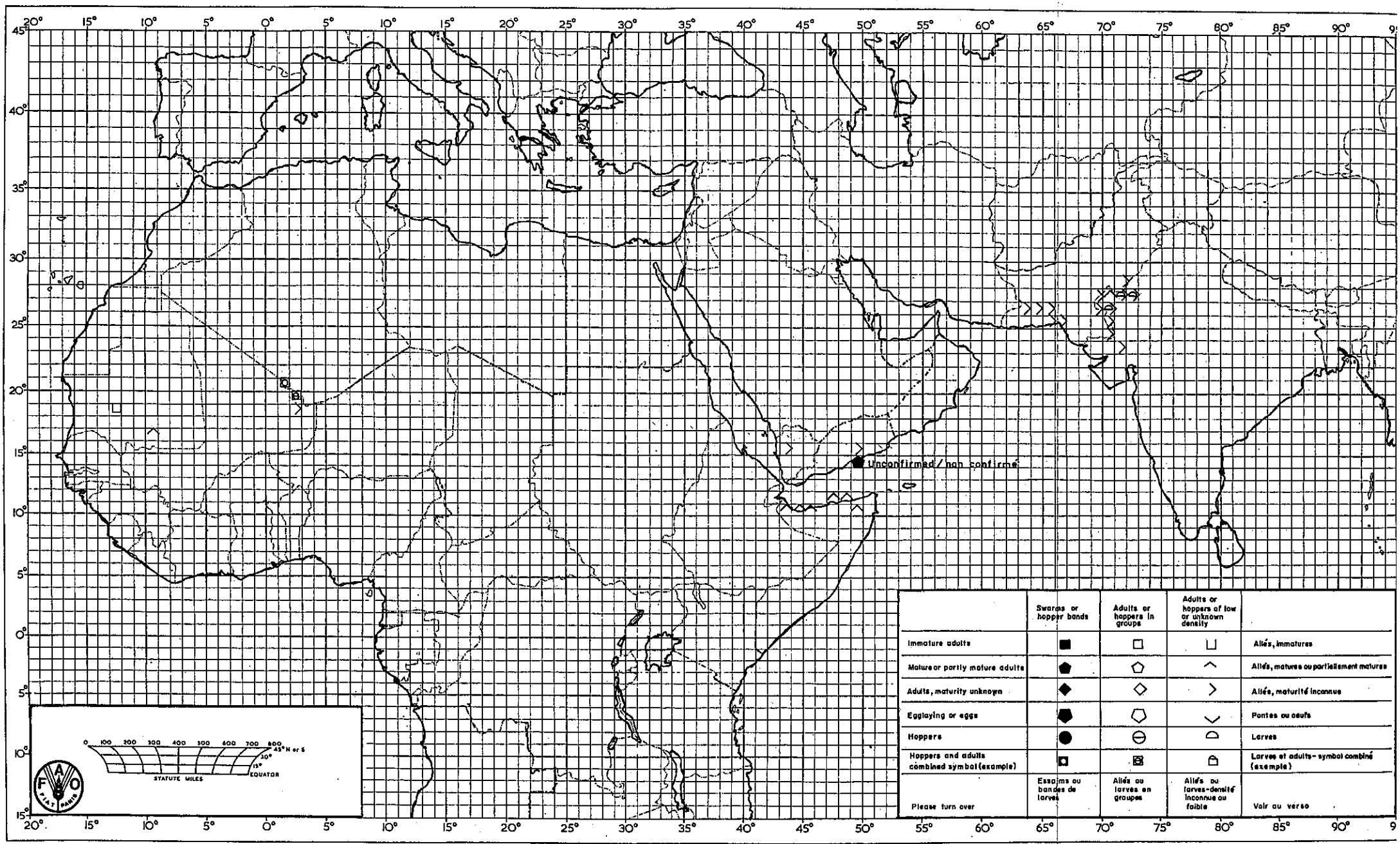
In North-West Africa it is likely that some breeding will occur in the extreme south of Algeria in areas which have received good summer rains. Survivors of this breeding and that in adjacent areas of Mali and Niger will move at night north and north-west to reach central and western Algeria, and perhaps southern Morocco and western Libya.

In Eastern Africa scattered adults will persist on the coastal and sub-coastal plains of northern Somalia where they may start to breed. Breeding may also occur in some inland valleys as far south as the Nogal. There may also be small scale breeding in the Awash Valley and the Danakil Depression. Increasing numbers of adults will reach the Red Sea coast of Sudan and northern Ethiopia and perhaps the south-eastern desert of Egypt from the interior of Sudan and perhaps the western lowlands of northern Ethiopia. Breeding is likely to commence in areas which have received late summer floods or early winter rain.

In the Near East numbers of adults are likely to increase in the Tihama of Saudi Arabia and possibly the Yemen Arab Republic. Low density breeding is likely to start in areas which received late summer floods or early winter rains. Small scale breeding may occur in interior wadis and coastal plains of the People's Democrati Republic of Yemen but could be on a larger scale in eastern coastal areas if the swarm seen on 5 August and the locusts reported at Raydaah on 22 August were desert locusts. Small numbers of adults may reach Oman and the United Arab Emirates from the east.

In South-West Asia a second generation of breeding is likely to occur in Rajasthan in India and the Cholistan, Nara, Khipro and Tharparkar deserts in Pakistan in areas which received especially good summer rains and some groups may form. Breeding is also likely in Las Bela district. In late October and November adults will migrate mainly at night to coastal and sub-coastal plains in Baluchistan and some may reach south-eastern Iran.

Rome
22 September 1981



	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
Egglaying or eggs	⬢	⬡	˅	Pontes ou oeufs
Hoppers	●	⊖	⌓	Larves
Hoppers and adults combined symbol (example)	◘	⊠	⌂	Larves et adultes - 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