

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



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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. 34 JUNE - EARLY JULY 1981

SUMMARY

Summer breeding has already started in Mali and is likely to extend to Niger and southern Algeria which received unusually heavy rains in mid-late June. Groups of adults persisted in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and small numbers of adults were present in Mauritania, Sudan, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and India.

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION - JUNE TO EARLY JULY

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Weather

Moderate to heavy rain was reported from central and southern Algeria between 18 and 25 June (not May as stated in Summary No. 33). Tamanrasset recorded 50 mm and Laghouat 20 mm.

ALGERIA

In mid-June there were unconfirmed reports of swarms in the Timimoun area (2915N/0018E) and it was later stated that there were unconfirmed groups of adults between Timimoun and Bechar between 15 and 20 June.

There were no reports of desert locusts from LIBYA, MOROCCO or TUNISIA.

WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

The Intertropical Front (FIT) reached 23°N in mid-June and brought moderate falls of rain to the Adrar d'Atar and Tagant regions. Nema recorded 30 mm and Tidjikja 22 mm.

No locusts appeared at lights along the route Aleg-Nouakchott from 1 to 11 June, and no locusts were seen by day. The vegetation was dry along the route. One immature female was captured at Aïoun el Atrouss on 22 June.

MALI

During strong northward pushes of the FIT, it reached 20°N during the second decade of June. There were moderate falls of rain over the south-eastern Adrar des Iforas. Tin Essako recorded 17 mm, Fanfi (1711N/0404E) 18 mm and Aguelhoc 12 mm. There were locally heavy falls in wadis Eleoudj (1928N/0057E), Irharhar (1943N/0037E) and Edjedem (2040N/0025E) on 25-26 June. Floods in wadis were generally weak to moderate.

The soil was moist to depths of 30 cm in wadis which have flowed and conditions were good for breeding.

Mature adults were found at densities of 10-50 per hectare over areas of 50-100 hectares in the south-eastern Adrar des Iforas within the area 1825-1850N/0200-0205E. In western and northern Adrar densities ranged from less than 1 per hectare to 5 per hectare over 10 hectares. Copulating adults and second and third instar hoppers were seen on 10 June at Ifaghalat (1832N/0026E) and Aguelal (1845N/0225E). Maturing adults were captured at four localities in the Adrar during the month.

A former OCLALAV surveyor reported having seen desert locusts settled on scattered trees in wadi Edjedem on 10 June at densities of 400 per hectare.

NIGER

On 14 and 15 June a strong surge of the FIT on the Kano-Agades axis produced cyclonic circulation in the Agades area and stormy weather. After 15 June the general strengthening of the monsoon continued with exceptional surges up to 21°N, to the south of Tamanrasset and to Bilma. The Agades and Ifrouane areas registered more than 40 mm of rain in the second decade, the highest for over 30 years. Agades recorded 56 mm, compared with the long term mean of 7 mm, Ifrouane 40 mm and Bilma 5 mm.

No surveys were undertaken in June and no locusts were reported.

There were no reports from CHAD.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

Isolated adults were observed along the west bank of the river Atbara during the second decade.

ETHIOPIA

One adult was caught at Asmara on 25 June.

There were no reports of desert locusts from DJIBOUTI or SOMALIA.

NEAR EAST

SAUDI ARABIA

On 3 June solitariform adults at a density of 600 per hectare were reported over an area of 10 kilometres x 10 kilometres at Shamli (2650N/4010E). Fifth instar hoppers and fledglings were also found over 4 square kilometres in the same area at a density of 3 hoppers per bush. Control operations were undertaken using dieldrin, malathion and BHC dust. A few scattered adults were reported from Jizan.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Ground surveys were undertaken to the wadi Nisab and wadi Markhah areas in the second half of June. The population found at Al-Lajafah in wadi Markhah in late May persisted. Ecological conditions were becoming unfavourable for breeding and only isolated light showers were reported.

The SULTANATE OF OMAN was reported clear in June.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

INDIA

Isolated showers fell over west Rajasthan in late June but very heavy rain fell in Rajasthan during the third week of July.

One mature female was found at Magra (2607N/7303E) in Jodhpur districts on 26 June.

No locusts were reported from PAKISTAN.

No report was received from AFGHANISTAN or IRAN.

FORECAST FOR AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1981

Breeding will occur within the summer breeding area, which extends from Mauritania to India. The most important populations will occur in West Africa where breeding on a scale sufficient to give rise to hopper bands may occur in Mali, Niger and southern Algeria and possibly in Mauritania. Low density breeding will occur in Sudan, Pakistan and India.

In West Africa considerable numbers of adults are likely to have reached Timetrine, Adrar des Iforas, Tamesna and Aïr areas of Mali and Niger. In view of the widespread and heavy rain of late May and June conditions are likely to be very favourable for breeding and hopper bands may be produced in some or all of these areas. It is also possible that breeding on a similar scale may occur in Mauritania.

In North-West Africa it is likely that breeding will occur in Tassili Adrar, Tassili Ou-a-n Ahaggar and Tamesna of southern Algeria and that hopper bands will form. Adult numbers will decline in north-central Algeria.

In Eastern Africa there will be widespread low density breeding in the interior of Sudan and possibly in the western lowlands of northern Ethiopia, the Awash Valley and Danakil depression of Eastern Ethiopia. Small numbers of adults may reach Djibouti and northern Somalia from Arabia.

In the Near East there may be very restricted breeding in interior wadis and coastal areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and in the eastern lowlands of the Yemen Arab Republic.

In South-West Asia low density breeding will occur in Rajasthan in India and in the Cholistan, Nara, Khipro and Tharparkar deserts of Pakistan.

Rome
22 July 1981

