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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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AGP Division

Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations grou

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 33 MAY - EARLY JUNE 1981

SUMMARY

Unconfirmed reports of swarms and groups of adults in north-central Algeria suggest there may have been considerable escapes from spring breeding. There is already some evidence that some adults have reached Mali and considerably larger populations are expected to cross the Sahara. Groups of hoppers and adults were controlled in north-west Saudi Arabia and adults at high densities were present in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Low density adults were recorded in Sudan and Pakistan.

W/P3779

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION - MAY AND EARLY JUNE 1981

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

WEATHER

Only light rain was reported from winter-spring breeding areas during May. From 18 to 25 May moderate to heavy rain was reported from central and southern Algeria; Tamanrassat recorded 50 mm and Laghouat 20 mm.

ALGERIA

Control operations continued until 7 May against hopper bands in four localities totalling 283 hectares in the central and northern central Sahara, the largest infestation being in oued In Souki(2932N/0352E - 2935N/0346E) where 270 hectares of first to third instar bands at densities of 2 000 - 2 500 per square metre were treated.

In mid-June there were unconfirmed reports of swarms in the Timimoun area (1915N/0018E) and it was later stated that there were unconfirmed groups of adults between Timimoun and Bechar between 15 and 20 June.

Ground teams were due to start surveys in southern Algeria on 25 June.

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

WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

In early May monsoon rains were reported in eastern Hodd from Nema to the Malian border; Nema recorded 40 mm on the 4th and Aioun el Atrouss 16 mm on the 1st. There was also rain between Tidjikja and Atar during the first week of May. Following rain in February there has been good development of vegetation in northern Mauritania and in northern western Sahara.

No locusts were reported by a guide at Atar and no locusts came to light from 26 to 31 May on the route Nouakchott - Atar.

MALI

Thunderstorms accurred during the third decade of May and particularly on 27 May in north-central and south-western Adrar des Iforas which caused wadis to flow. From satellite imagery it is probable that these rains extended to the frontier of Niger. No reports of rain north of 17°N have been received for June.

A ground survey in northern Adrar and Timetrine was undertaken along the route Tinkar-Aguelhoc-Tessalit-Tadjedjoumet-Bouressa-Abeibara in late May. Small patches of green vegetation were present in wadis affected by rains in late 1980. Soil was moist in areas which had received recent rain.

Isolated immature adults were present in ouads Askan-Ntarchat (1916N/0130E), Interchat (1914N/0017E) and Inbaguen (1938N/0002W) at densities of less than one per hectare in patches of 10 - 60 hectares. No locusts were seen in the Bouressa basin.

On 10 June a scout saw adults settled on trees in oued Edjeden, west of Tin Zaouaten.

NIGER

Satellite imagery on 28 May indicated that wadis were in flood in western Tamesna so it seems probable that there was widespread rainfall extending from the Adrar des Iforas across north-west Niger to Tahoua, which received 34 mm on 27 May, Maradi and Zinder. There have been no reports of rain north of 15°N in June.

No survey were undertaken in May and no locusts were reported in May and June.

No reports were received from CHAD.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

The Red Sea coastal area was reported to be free from locusts during the first half of May.

During the second decade of June low density adults were reported from the western bank of the river Atbara.

ETHIOPIA

Widespread rain fell in Eastern Ethiopia and the Danakil depression in late April and the first half of May. No locusts were reported.

SOMALIA

Widespread rain fell in northern Somalia during the first half of May and conditions were favourable for breeding.

No reports were received from Djibouti.

NEAR EAST

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Scattered thunderstorms occurred over the Hejaz mountains and scattered light rain fell in some interior areas. Vegetation was dry along the Tihama and drying up in the interior.

On 20 May adults at a density of 4 000 per hectare and solitaricolor hoppers were found in cultivations over an area of 25 square kilometres at Judeida (2620N/3725E). They were controlled by the application of 96 % malathion through exhaust nozzle sprayers.

On 3 June adults at a density of 600 per hectare were found in cultivations over an area of 10 kilometres x 10 kilometres at Shamli (2650N/4010E). Fifth instar hoppers and fledgings were also found over 4 square kilometres in the same area at a density of 3 hoppers per plant. Control operations were undertaken using dieldrin, malathion and BHC dust.

In the control operations in the Um Lejj area in April a total of 4867 bands of all instars were controlled, and no locusts were reported from the area in May.

Scattered adults were reported from Taima, Jenbo, Dhahaban, Bal Jureishi and Jizan areas in May.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Ground Surveys of the Tihama failed to obtain any further information about the presence of swarms of desert locusts in the Hodeidah area, which were reported in Summary 32. However they did find Tree Locusts at densities of 50 per square metre over 4 square kilometres at Al-Zuhra (1544N/4300E) and Genawis (1530N/4308E) in Wadi Mawr. Control operations commenced on 27 May. Later instar hoppers and adults of Tree Locusts and grasshoppers were also found at Bajil (1503N/4317E) and in Wadi Siham (1443N/4305E). These were also controlled.

No desert locusts were reported.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Light to moderate rainfall was reported in interior areas adjacent to the Yemen Arab Republic during the second week of May and there was good rainfall in western coastal areas on 29 May.

Extensive ground survey were undertaken in western coastal areas and in summer breeding areas around Nisab, in Wadis Markhah and Wadi Beihan.

A high density population of adults was observed on 28 May at Al Wahood agricultural farm in the Al Lajafah area (1450N/4630E) in Wadi Markhah. Farm workers observed oviposition.

EGYPT, IRAQ and KUWAIT were reported clear in May.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

PAKISTAN

Four adults were seen in the Gichk (2657N/6501E) and Keelkaur (2655N/6515E) areas of Baluchistan in the second half of April. In the second half of May 24 adults were seen in four localities in Baluchistan but no adults were seen in the first fortnight of June.

INDIA

Isolated showers occurred in Rajasthan during May and the first fortnight of June. No locusts were observed.

No locusts were reported from AFGHANISTAN or IRAN.

FORECAST FOR JULY - AUGUST 1981

Breeding will commence in the summer breeding area extending 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 Mauritania, Mali and possibly southern Algeria and Niger. Widespread but low density breeding will occur in Sudan and local breeding is likely in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Summer breeding in India and Pakistan will be light.

In West Africa there is evidence that adults from spring breeding in North-West Africa have already reached north-east Mali and considerably larger populations are likely to reach Timetrine, the Adrar des Iforas, Tamesna and Aïr areas of Mali and Niger. These will start to breed and may give rise to hopper bands. The situation in Mauritania is not clear but breeding, possibly producing hopper bands, is likely in Trarza, Brakna, Tagant and Hodd and may occur further north in Inchiri and Adrar.

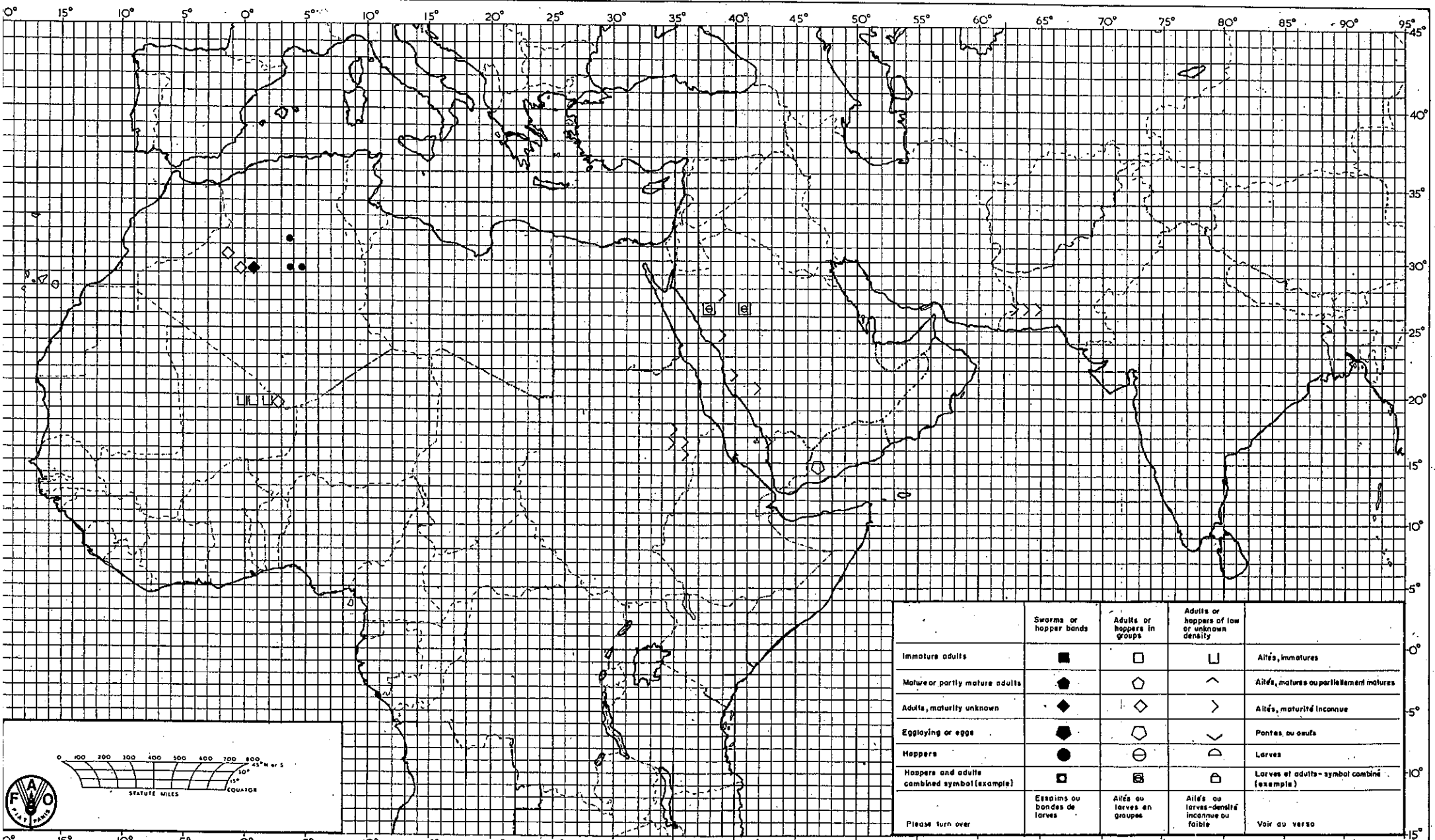
In North-West Africa adult numbers will decline in north-central and central Algeria and increase in the south. Breeding is possible in Tassili Ou-a-n Ahaggar and Tamesna if summer rains penetrate there.

In Eastern Africa it is likely there will be widespread low density breeding in the interior of Sudan and possibly in the western lowlands of northern Ethiopia and the Awash valley and Danakil depression of eastern Ethiopia. No invasion from North-West Africa is now expected. Small number of adults may reach Djibouti and northern Somalia from Arabia.

In the Near East breeding is likely to occur in interior wadis and perhaps in coastal areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and may extend to the eastern lowlands of the Yemen Arab Republic.

In South-West Asia only very small number of adults have been reported in winter-spring breeding areas and summer breeding will only occur at low densities.

Rome
1 July 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 egg	⬢	⬡	v	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

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 STATUTE MILES

45° N or S 30° 15° EQUATOR