

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. 31 MARCH - EARLY APRIL 1981

SUMMARY

Control is in progress against hoppers and adults which are present over an area of some 200,000 square kilometres in central Algeria. Groups of adults were reported from Libya. Control also continued against hopper bands and adults in Red Sea coastal areas of Sudan and Saudi Arabia. Heavy and widespread rains were reported from Djibouti, Yemen Arab Republic and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Small numbers of adults were reported from India.

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION - MARCH AND EARLY APRIL 1981

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

ALGERIA

By early March breeding conditions had become very favourable around the Tademaït plateau and adults which arrived in central Algeria in November 1980 started to breed. The main infestations of adults were located by ground survey teams within an area of some 200,000 square kilometres extending from 25° N to 29° N and 0° E to 5° E. Densities reached 15,000 per hectare. Laying commenced in mid-March and by 14 April first and second instar hoppers were present. An aerial survey on 26 March located areas of green vegetation east and north-east of El Golea (3034N/0253E). In April further infestations were found to extend to the Libyan border.

From 3 to 14 March 746 hectares of maturing and copulating adults were treated, and over 1,000 hectares were treated from 14 to 18 March. Altogether 2,000 hectares were treated during March, mainly in eastern Tademaït and northern Mouydir. Control operations continued in April.

LIBYA

Groups of adults were found in several localities around Nalut (3152N/1059E) on 4 March.

No reports were received from MOROCCO or TUNISIA.

WEST AFRICA

WESTERN SAHARA

Very favourable breeding conditions exist in the Adrar Soutouf.

No reports were received from CHAD, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER or SENEGAL.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

A settled immature swarm measuring 8 square kilometres was seen in Khor Agilhok (2207N/3637E, not 2107N as recorded in Summary No. 30) on 1 March. Immature adults were also located at 11 other sites totalling 1,915 hectares on the northern Red Sea coastal plains at densities ranging from 340 to 4,800 per hectare. Small bands of third and fourth instar hoppers were found over an area of 200 hectares in the first decade of March when conditions were still favourable for breeding. By the end of the month, however, vegetation was reported to be drying out. Control operations continued.

Very heavy rain and flooding were reported from DJIBOUTI.

No locusts were reported from other countries in the Region.

NEAR EAST

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Rain was reported from many parts of the Kingdom. Ecological conditions were suitable for breeding in coastal and interior areas which had received recent rain. The vegetation in the Um Lejj area, however, started to dry up.

There were four reports of copulating and laying swarms, each of 3 square kilometres, from the Um Lejj area during March. Hatching commenced on 19 March and by the end of the month the infested area was estimated to be 900 square kilometres. Control operations using 20% dieldrin, 96% malathion and BHC dust continued and a total of 1,200 small bands were controlled.

Small numbers of adults were observed in Jizan, Yenbo and Asir areas.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Very heavy rains fell in the highlands causing flooding along the Tihama. No locusts were seen on a ground survey from Hodeidah to Wadi Hayran.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Widespread heavy rains fell in all areas during the third week of March. No locusts were reported up to 22 March.

No other reports were received from the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Weather

Widespread heavy rain fell throughout Baluchistan on 12-14 March and light rain fell in Rajasthan at the same time.

INDIA

The only report was of mature adults at a density of 50 per square kilometre at Agnao (2806N/7247E) on 10 March.

PAKISTAN

In the second half of February adults at densities of 50-75 per square kilometre were reported from three localities in Uthal tehsil and small numbers of adults were also found at two localities in Pasni tehsil. Ecological conditions were favourable for breeding in the winter-spring breeding areas.

IRAN

Moderate rains were reported in the winter-spring breeding area during February. Vegetation in coastal areas was reported to be semi-green. No locusts were reported.

No locusts were reported from AFGHANISTAN.

FORECAST FOR MAY - JUNE 1981

Widespread breeding will continue in Algeria and may extend into Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia and Libya. Fledging will commence in early May and some swarms may form. Escapes may initially move north but the main emigration is likely to be southwards across the Sahara to Niger, Mali and Mauritania, where breeding may start. Some adults may move eastwards to Egypt, Sudan and Chad, and adults are likely to reach the interior of Sudan from Red Sea coastal areas. Small-scale breeding is likely in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and eastern Yemen Arab Republic. Small-scale breeding is likely in southern Iran and Baluchistan of Pakistan. Small numbers of adults will reach the summer breeding areas of Pakistan and India.

In North-West Africa breeding will be very widespread and mainly concentrated in central and eastern Algeria, though there may also be breeding in Western Sahara, southern Morocco, southern Tunisia and western Libya. Despite control measures some escapes are likely and fledging will probably commence on about 10 May. In areas which are difficult of access swarms are likely to be produced and there may be large areas where adults at lower densities are produced. Initially displacements may be northward to crop growing areas but the main emigration will be southwards across the Sahara. Some adults, possibly including swarms, may move eastwards, as in May 1958, to Egypt, Sudan and Chad.

In West Africa breeding will probably occur in northern Mauritania and may be on a scale sufficient to produce hopper bands and swarms. The swarms are likely to move south. During June large numbers of adults, possibly including swarms, are likely to reach the Sahel in Mauritania; Mali and Niger from across the Sahara, while others may settle and start to breed in Timetrine, the Adrar des Iforas, Tamesna and Air if these areas receive rainfall. Breeding by adults which over-wintered in these areas may also occur. Some adults may reach Tibesti and others the Sahel zone in Chad.

In Eastern Africa adults will leave Red Sea coastal areas and move into the interior of Sudan. There may also be an invasion of Sudan from the north-west, which could include some swarms. Small numbers of adults may reach Dankalia and the Railway Area in eastern Ethiopia, Djibouti and northern Somalia.

In the Near East small numbers of adults may persist along the Tihama and in the interior of Saudi Arabia. Although recorded numbers of adults have been low in the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen ecological conditions are likely to be very favourable for breeding and some breeding must be expected although it is likely to be on a small scale initially.

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In South-West Asia small-scale breeding in southern Iran and Baluchistan of Pakistan will come to an end and adults will move into the summer breeding areas of Pakistan and India. Their numbers will be low.

Rome
24 April 1981

