

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR
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**DESERT LOCUST SITUATION
SUMMARY AND FORECAST**

No. 29 JANUARY - EARLY FEBRUARY 1981

SUMMARY

There have been four reports of swarms from the northern Red Sea coast of Sudan and hopper bands were present north and south of Port Sudan. Small numbers of adults were reported from Mauritania and Mali while larger numbers were probably present in Algeria and Morocco. A few adults and hoppers were present in Saudi Arabia and a few adults in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

W/P1678

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION - JANUARY AND EARLY FEBRUARY 1981

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

ALGERIA

There have been no recent reports of desert locusts but it is probable that there is a widespread dispersed population south of the Atlas mountains.

MOROCCO

There have been no reports since mid-December when increasing numbers of adults in southern Morocco were reported.

No reports were received from LIBYA or TUNISIA.

WEST AFRICA

Weather

Cold polar air reached the area west of 5°W to the Atlantic during January but only traces of rain were recorded. Temperatures remained very low.

MAURITANIA

Ground surveys of the Adrafer sector in the first decade of January revealed the presence of large areas of green vegetation and moist soil at depths of 5-10 cm. Young adults at densities of less than 100 per hectare were encountered north of Tidjikja (1832N/1125W).

MALI

Ground surveys of eastern Timetrine and the Tilemsi valley were undertaken in the second half of January. Some green vegetation persisted. A small population of pausogenetic (immature) adults was located at Tin Tafarat (1917N/0003E) at a density of 50 per hectare over 20 hectares.

There were no reports of desert locusts from NIGER or CHAD.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

During January second to fifth instar hopper bands were found at several localities south of Halaib in the northern sector of the Red Sea and in the Tokar delta. Heavy infestations of immature adults were recorded in the Jebel Hardarb area (2203N/3647E). On 18 January two immature swarms and on 22 January an immature swarm measuring 160 hectares were reported from the same area. Groups of mature adults were present over 1 020 hectares in the Tokar delta.

On 9 February an immature swarm measuring 600 hectares was reported from Khor Mekrik (2155N/3637E). Aerial and ground control were in progress.

According to a late report 116 600 kg of BHC bait and 1 125 kg of BHC dust were used in control operations during December.

No locusts were reported from DJIBOUTI, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, SOMALIA, TANZANIA or UGANDA.

NEAR EAST

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

There was widespread rainfall during January and ecological conditions were favourable for breeding on both northern and southern Tihamas.

Small numbers of adults were reported south of Qunfidah and small numbers of hoppers were seen in cultivations near Yenbo during January and small numbers of adults were seen in the Qunfidah and Yenbo areas in early February.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

No rain fell on the Tihama during December or January and conditions were not favourable for breeding. No locusts were seen on a ground survey from Hodeidah to Wadi Hayran in the last week of January.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Light rain was reported along the western coastal plains in mid-January. Small numbers of adults were seen on a ground survey of western coastal areas in mid-January at Am-Surayh (1253N/4413E) and Wadi Al-Fajarah (1259N/4418E).

EGYPT

Although no rain fell during January in the Eastern and South-Eastern Deserts, ecological conditions there are suitable for breeding. Small numbers of adults were reported from the Abraq and Shalatein areas.

KUWAIT was reported clear in January. IRAQ was reported clear in December. No reports were received from other countries of the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

PAKISTAN

During December there was widespread heavy rain in many areas and Karachi recorded 55 mm and Bahawalpur 42 mm on 21 December. There were further rains on 29 and 30 December, when Khuzdar received 17 mm, Panjgur 29 mm and Pasni 11 mm. No locusts were reported in December.

In January the weather remained cold and light to moderate rainfall was reported from Nushki, Kharan and Quetta. Nos locusts were observed.

INDIA

There was light to moderate widespread rainfall in Rajasthan during January, Bikaner recorded 34 mm. No locusts were observed.

IRAN

Light rains were reported from Zahedan, Shiraz and Kerman areas during December. In coastal areas ecological conditions were favourable for breeding. No locusts were reported in December.

AFGHANISTAN was reported free from locusts in December.

FORECAST FOR MARCH-APRIL 1981

As temperatures rise breeding is likely to become widespread in Algeria, southern Morocco, Western Sahara and Mauritania. It may also start in north-east Mali and north-west Niger. Further breeding is likely to occur on the Red Sea coastal and sub-coastal plains of Sudan and may extend into the South-Eastern Desert of Egypt. Further hopper bands and swarms may be produced in Sudan and possibly also in the northern Red Sea coast of Ethiopia. These are likely to move north and could result in some reaching western Saudi Arabia. Small-scale breeding may take place on the northern coastal plains of Somalia, in coastal areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, the Tihama of Saudi Arabia and in southern Iran and Baluchistan of Pakistan.

In North-West Africa breeding is likely to be widespread in western, central and eastern Algeria but will be mainly concentrated in areas receiving run-off. In such areas hopper groups and even bands may form in the early instars. In Morocco breeding is also likely to start but it will be on a smaller scale and confined to areas south of the Atlas mountains. Small-scale breeding is also possible in western Libya and southern Tunisia.

In West Africa there may be rather widespread breeding, generally at low density, in Western Sahara and northern Mauritania although some groups and hopper bands could form. Breeding may also start in north-east Mali and north-west Niger if these areas receive pre-monsoon rains.

In Eastern Africa further breeding is likely to occur on the Red Sea coastal and sub-coastal plains of Sudan and may extend into the South-Eastern Desert of Egypt. Further hopper bands and swarms may be produced in Sudan. There have been no reports of locusts or rains from the Red Sea coast of Ethiopia and it is possible that successful breeding could have been in progress for some months. Escapes are likely to move northwards and could include swarms. Some of these may cross the Red Sea and reach western Saudi Arabia. Small-scale breeding may occur on the northern coastal and sub-coastal plains of Somalia.

In the Near East initially small-scale breeding is likely to occur on the northern and southern Tihamas of Saudi Arabia but could increase in scale if there is an invasion from the west. It is possible that if the invasion includes swarms, some of these could reach interior areas and start to breed. It is unlikely that swarms will reach countries to the north of Saudi Arabia. Small-scale breeding may occur in coastal areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

In South-West Asia small-scale breeding is likely to start in Baluchistan of Pakistan and may occur in south-eastern Iran.

Rome
19 February 1981

