

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

Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 - ROME

Cables: FOODAGRI ROME

Telex: 610181 FAO I

Telephone: 5797

AGP Division

Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

**DESERT LOCUST SITUATION
SUMMARY AND FORECAST**

No. 16 December 1979

SUMMARY

There was widespread slight to moderate rainfall in coastal areas of the Arabian peninsula bordering the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and ecological conditions are favourable for breeding.

The largest populations reported are those from the Qunfidah Tihama of Saudi Arabia but similar or larger populations could also be present in the northern Red Sea of Ethiopia. Second winter-spring generation breeding will start in the forecast period and may result in the formation of some groups.

Only small numbers of locusts have been reported from South-West Asia and West Africa, and none from North-West Africa.

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION - DECEMBER 1979

Owing to a malfunction in Meteosat in late November, the movement of the GOES Indian Ocean satellite to the Pacific and the separation of the WMO Consultant Synoptic Meteorologist weather data are less comprehensive than in recent months.

WEST AFRICA

Weather

No rainfall was reported north of 15°N and breeding conditions were reported to be unfavourable.

MAURITANIA

Low density adults and isolated hoppers were present in the Aftout area (1905N/1320W)

MALI

Isolated adults were present in oued Ibdeken (1845N/0130E) in the Adrar des Iforas.

NIGER was reported free. No report was received from CHAD.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Weather

Up to 25 December light to moderate rainfall was recorded along the north African coast, but none was recorded south of the Atlas mountains or the interior of Libya.

No locust reports have been received for December.

In November during a survey of the Sarir Agricultural Project (2826N/2220E) in Libya three solitarious adults were observed

EASTERN AFRICA

Weather

No reports of rain have been received from the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts during December.

SOMALIA

Only two adults were seen in the course of a ground survey of the coastal and sub-coastal plains between Loyada and Las Dureh from 27 November to 7 December. Rain had fallen on only one day in October and none had fallen in September and November and the vegetation was drying up.

No other reports from Eastern Africa have been received for December.

In November in Sudan adults were found in Pennisetum cultivations in 9 blocks of the Tokar delta, over an area of 953 hectares at densities of 180-1260 per hectare. Isolated second and third instar hoppers were seen over an area of 76 hectares in the Tokar delta in mid-November. Scattered adults were also seen in four wadis between the Tokar delta and Suakin over a total area of 970 hectares and at densities of 120-180 per hectare. All areas were favourable for breeding.

NEAR EAST

Weather

There were widespread light to moderate showers on the Qunfidah and Jizan Tihamas, the Hejaz and Asir mountains, and in the interior of Saudi Arabia, along the Tihama and the foothills of the Yemen Arab Republic and in coastal areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Ecological conditions were favourable for breeding in the coastal areas along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and in the south-eastern desert of Egypt.

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Small numbers of adults were found in Najran, north and north-east of Qunfidah, Abu Arish and south of Jizan up to 27 December. Later in the month adults were reported at 170-300 per hectare over an area of 100 square kilometres north-east of Qunfidah.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Small numbers of adults were observed in wadis Hayran and Habl at a density of 37 per hectare; 14 solitaricolor fourth and fifth instar hoppers were found in Pennisetum in wadi Hayran.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

A total of 10 maturing adults were seen in four localities west and east of Aden between Am Fajrah (1259N/4418E) and Marwan (1326N/4611E). The maximum density was 17 per hectare over an area of 50 square kilometres at Am-Fajrah.

EGYPT

A few adults were observed at Abraq in the south-eastern desert.

KUWAIT was reported clear. No reports were received from BAHRAIN, IRAQ, JORDAN, KUWAIT, SULTANATE OF OMAN or the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Weather

Light rain fell in Rajasthan, Jaisalmer recording 30.9 mm during the month. No data about rainfall in southern Iran or Baluchistan of Pakistan are yet available.

INDIA

A special border survey conducted on 6-15 December recorded maximum adult densities of 1050 per square kilometre at Lunar (2636N/7014E) and Dhanan (2642N/7012E) on 11 December. Elsewhere scattered adults were recorded from three localities in Barmer, Jodphur and Jaisalmer districts the maximum density being 60 per square kilometre.

AFGHANISTAN was reported clear. Reports from Iran and Pakistan for December have not yet been received. In the second week of November a few solitary adults were seen in green areas in the Jiroft area of IRAN.

FORECAST FOR FEBRUARY-MARCH 1980

The further rain reported from the Arabian peninsula will extend the period during which breeding is possible. It is not known whether similar conditions exist on the African side of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The largest populations reported are in the Qunfidah area of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia but significant populations probably exist in the southern sector of the Sudan Red Sea coast and on the northern coast of Ethiopia. Widespread but generally low density breeding will occur in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coastal areas, and possibly some groups may form. Breeding may also start in winter-spring breeding areas in south-eastern Iran and Baluchistan of Pakistan and in the United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman if there is adequate rainfall. Low density breeding may continue in Mauritania and start in southern and central Algeria if there is adequate rainfall.

In the Near East, there will be widespread breeding in coastal areas bordering the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. In most localities it will be at low density but in specially favourable habitats some hopper groups may form, particularly in the later instars. Any fledglings produced are likely to move either north-north-west along the Tihama or north-east into the interior, but their numbers are not likely to be large.

In Eastern Africa, there is likely to be a second generation of hoppers on the Red Sea of Sudan, possibly extending to the northern coast of Ethiopia. Groups of hoppers and fledglings could be produced in particularly favourable habitats and even some small swarms if substantial numbers of adults reached the northern coast of Ethiopia in October. Very low density breeding could also take place in coastal areas of northern Somalia if there have been recent rains.

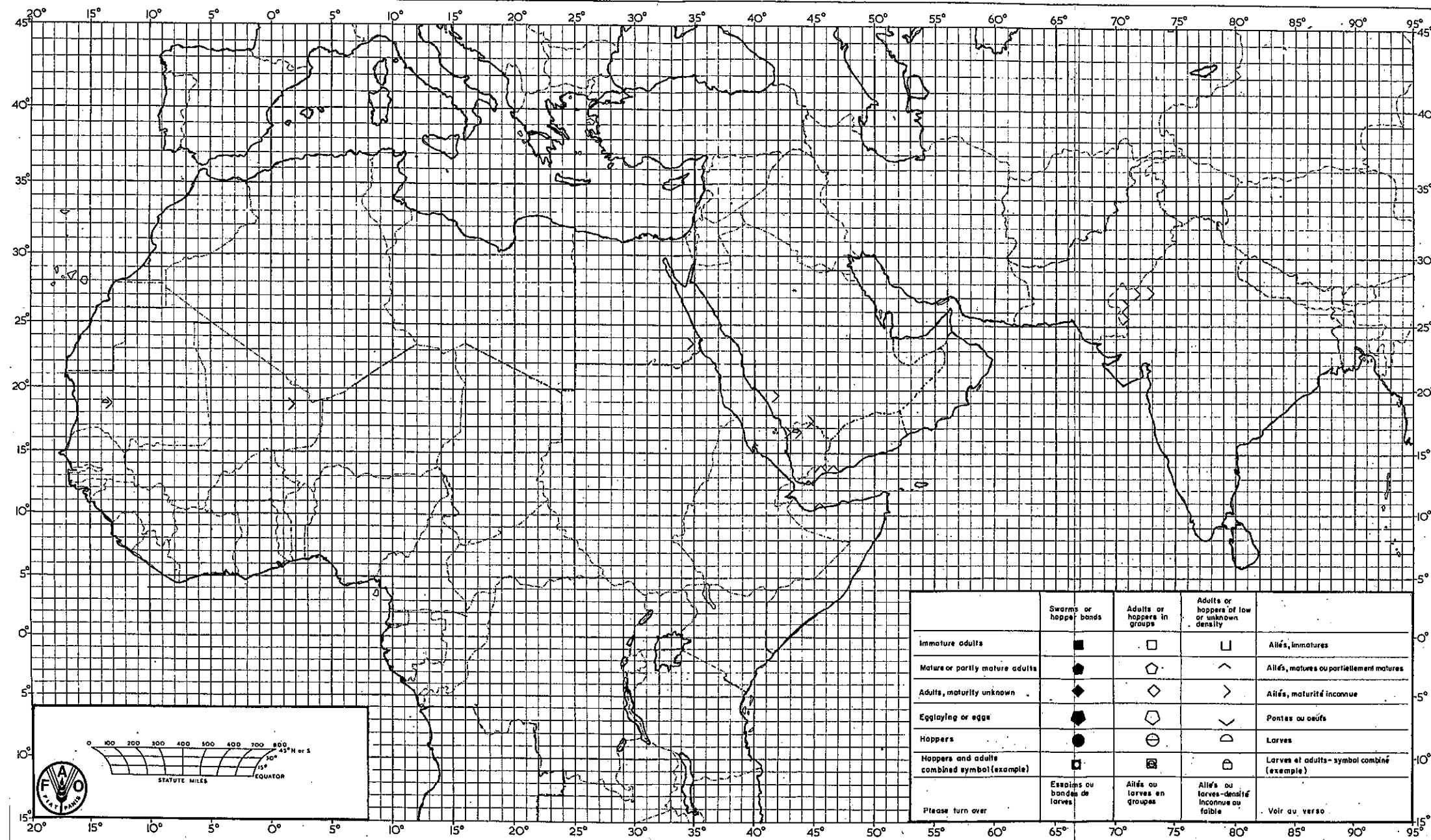
In South-West Asia low density breeding is likely to commence in south-eastern Iran and in coastal areas of Baluchistan in Pakistan and small numbers of adults are likely to migrate northwards into the interior valleys and are likely to start to breed towards the end of the forecast period.

In West Africa only small numbers of adults are likely to overwinter in Mali and Niger. In Mauritania low density breeding may continue if adequate rain falls and small numbers of adults are likely to move north into northern Mauritania and Western Sahara.

In North-West Africa only small numbers of adults are likely to be present in southern, central, western and eastern Algeria, and the Fezzan of Libya and small scale breeding is likely to occur in areas providing suitable ecological conditions.

Rome

22 January 1980



	Swarms or hoppers in bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density	
Immature adults	■	□	▭	Alliés, immatures
Mature or partly mature adults	●	◐	∧	Alliés, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown	◆	◇	>	Alliés, maturité inconnue
Egg-laying 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	Alliés ou larves en groupes	Alliés ou larves - densité inconnue ou faible	Voir au verso