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

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AGP Division

Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 15 November 1979

SUMMARY

There were no heavy or widespread rains during November in the main winter breeding areas to follow-up those of October.

The groups of adults reported from the Tokar delta of Sudan are reported to have dispersed, but significant numbers of first generation of hoppers have been reported there. More widespread breeding in coastal areas bordering the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden is probably in progress but initially at low densities. The distribution, extent and density of a second generation of breeding will depend on the extent of areas favourable for breeding following the October rains and on the distribution and amount of rainfall between December and February.

In West Africa, North-West Africa and South-West Asia, only small numbers of adults have been reported, but breeding on a small scale could occur in all three Regions.

W/N4660

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION - OCTOBER 1979

The weather summaries are based on synoptic charts prepared by the Consultant Synoptic Meteorologist seconded by the World Meteorological Organization, Geneva. Extra information has been provided by the interpretation of Meteosat imagery supplied by the European Space Operation Centre, Darmstadt and of GOES - Indian Ocean imagery supplied by the Centre pour la Météorologie Spatiale, Lannion, and by information supplied by the national and regional locust organizations and commissions.

WEST AFRICA

Weather

The dry season was established throughout the Sahelian Zone, and the Intertropical Front (FIT) continued to move south. At the beginning of the month, it was situated between 10° and 12°N. Then a depression over Tunisia caused some perturbations over Upper Volta and resulted in some rain, Ouagadougou received 26mm and Boromo 43mm. The FIT then reached 10°N. Meanwhile, another disturbance on 11-13 November caused by the presence of a Mediterranean depression and the weakening of the Libyan anticyclone led to further rainfall in Upper Volta, 16mm in Bobo Dioulasso on the 12th. The warm, dry easterly wind (harmattan) extended over all of West Africa north of the FIT and by the end of the month reached 8°N.

In Mauritania, a trough at middle level was marked by clouds, but no rain was reported. By contrast, there were spectacular sand storms.

No significant populations were reported in November, and breeding conditions were not favourable.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Weather

In Algeria, Tunisia and Libya, anticyclonic regimes alternated with rain-bearing depressions. Rain, however, was mainly concentrated in coastal areas north of the Atlas and on the mountains. The Sahara remained under the influence of the Libyan anticyclone for most of the month and only light rains were reported; 2mm were recorded at Colomb Béchar and Ouargla and 0.4mm at Beni Abbas. Morocco was only lightly affected by the passage of depressions from the Atlantic which passed over the Iberian peninsula from north-west to south-east.

No locusts were reported in November.

In October, there were 10 reports of immature adults in the southern Sahara of Algeria. No locusts were reported from other countries of the Region.

EAST AFRICA ??

NEAR EAST

Weather

The northern part of the area was under the influence of Mediterranean depressions moving from north-west to south-east across Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Israel and northern Saudi Arabia. There were three main periods of rain; on the 2nd, the 15th and 16th and on the 28th and 29th. The last period resulted in very heavy rains. Amman recorded 196mm on the 29th, Tebuk 30mm. Light rains were reported from El Wejh and Medina, the Hijaz, Al Jawf and along the Jizan and Qunfidah Tihamas. No significant weather was reported from the southern part of the Region.

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Ground surveys revealed the presence of small numbers of adults along the Qunfidah and Jizan Tihamas. Although conditions were favourable for breeding, no hoppers were reported. Small numbers of adults were also reported from Baljoreishi and Najran.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Good rains in October created favourable breeding conditions. A total of three adults were reported from the Tihama, north of Hodeidah.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

A survey team observed 20 mature adults in sorghum cultivations over an area in Wadi Masadaiyah (1245 N/4415 E) on the western coast, equivalent to a density of 83 per hectare.

EGYPT

Small numbers of adults were reported from the south-eastern desert between Shalatein and Abraq, and along the shores of Lake Nasser.

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

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Weather

As forecast in the previous Summary, the monsoon had completely withdrawn from Pakistan and North-West India. Some light rains, associated with local convergence were reported from Lahore and Multan, but other rains were associated with Eastern waves moving from the east. One of these, on 17-18 November produced widespread rain, Phalodi receiving 31 mm, Kota 26 mm and Baroda 60 mm.

PAKISTAN

As a result of special surveys in November, two adults were found in the Cholistan and one in the Tharparkar deserts respectively.

INDIA

On a special survey along the Indian side of the border with Pakistan, concluded on 5 November, adults were found at densities of 25-2000 per square kilometres, the maximum density being recorded at Lunar (2636 N/7014 E) on 1 November. At Agnao in Bikaner district a population of 1350 per square kilometre was recorded. In the second half of the month, only small numbers of adults were found in Jaisalmer district, the maximum density being 135 per square kilometre at Chheh (2717 N/7116 E) on 20 November.

No reports for November have been received from AFGHANISTAN or IRAN. In October IRAN was reported clear.

FORECAST FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1980

The widespread and heavy rains in countries around the Red Sea in October were not followed up by substantial rains in November. Breeding must be in progress in many localities, but apparently at generally low densities since the o hoppers recorded were in the Tokar delta of Sudan. The occurrence of a second winter generation will depend on the depth of soil moisture either from the October rains or if there is further rainfall in the forecast period.

In Eastern Africa, first generation adults will occur along the Red Sea coasts of Sudan, and probably northern Ethiopia and possibly in south-eastern Egypt. The distribution and extent of a further generation of hoppers will depend on whether there are still favourable ecological conditions for breeding as a result of the October rains or if there is further rainfall during the forecast period. It is probable that first generation breeding is in progress on the northern coast of Somalia and possibly in coastal areas of Djibouti, but its extent is unknown. Further breeding could occur if there is further rainfall during the forecast period.

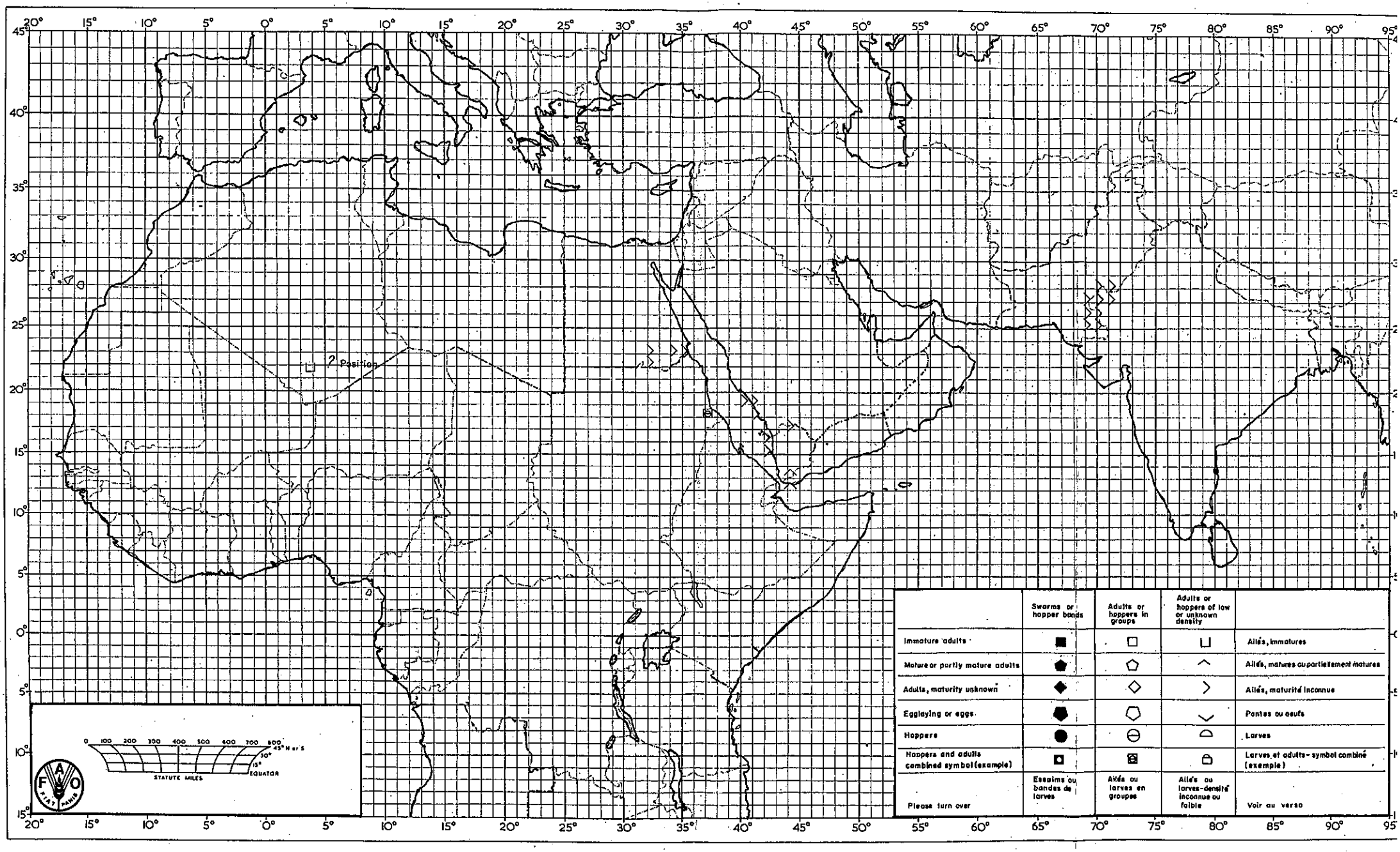
In the Near East, small scale breeding has almost certainly commenced along the Tihamas of the Kindgom of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic, but the occurrence and scale of a second winter generation will depend on whether there are still favourable ecological conditions as a result of the October rains or if there is further rain during the forecast period. It is possible there would be immigration from across the Red Sea, but this is unlikely to be on a large scale. Small scale breeding has probably started in the south-eastern Deser of Egypt and some fledglings are likely to be produced towards the end of the forecast period. Breeding on a small scale may occur in coastal areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and in areas of the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates which receive rainfall or run-off.

In West Africa, only small numbers of adults are likely to overwinter in Niger and Mali. In Mauritania the onset of drier conditions will restrict breeding, but there is liekly to be a northerly movement of small numbers of adults into northern Mauritania and Western Sahara.

In North-West Africa, small numbers of adults will occur in southern, central, eastern and western Algeria, and the Fezzan of Libya and small scale breeding is likely to commence.

Rome

20 December 1979.



	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 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	Ailés ou larves en groupes	Ailés ou larves-densité inconnue ou faible	Voir au verso