

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR
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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. 12 August 1979

SUMMARY

No gregarious populations have been reported for the fifth consecutive month and numbers remain low in all regions. Monsoon rainfall was generally deficient and although breeding is likely to have been widespread in the summer-breeding area, swarm formation is most unlikely to occur.

During the next few weeks locusts are likely to move westward from India and adjacent areas of Pakistan into Mekran, Baluchistan and Iran, and perhaps into the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates. In the Central Region adults are likely to reach the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts and in the Western Region small numbers of adults may reach Algeria and Libya from south of the Sahara.

W/N2719

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION - AUGUST 1979

WEST AFRICA

Weather

The main feature was the unusually weak St. Helena anticyclone which resulted in the absence of so called monsoon rain over much of the area. Consequently, rainfall was only 50-60% of normal in most areas, in some as little as 10% of normal. Tidjikja recorded only 6mm against a long term mean of 53 mm. On the other hand some stations recorded above average rainfall. Rosso registered 156 mm compared with a long term mean of 119 mm. Most rain which did fall was associated with thunderstorms and with squall lines sweeping the region from the east.

Desert Locust population levels were reported to be insignificant but no details are yet available.

In July adults at densities of 4-20 per hectare were reported during the second decade over 5 hectares in Wadi Bouressa (1959N/0216E) and Wadi Ouzein (1920N/0147E). Five adults were seen or captured at three other localities in the Adrar des Iforas. In Niger a few isolated adults were seen at In-Tarhaouine (1935N/0619E).

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Weather

Over the Sahara the heat low was well established but the air remained very dry because the monsoon failed to reach even Tamanrasset. On the other hand the rear of cold fronts brought occasional light rains to some areas north of the Atlas mountains but on the whole most areas were under the influence of anticyclone systems.

No reports for August have yet been received.

In Libya in mid-July a few scattered Desert Locusts were found in the Sarir Agricultural Project (2627N/2154E)

EASTERN AFRICA

Weather

In Sudan the position of the ITCZ at the surface oscillated between 18 and 21°N. The monsoon was not very active, probably due to insufficient moist

air being directed to the area by the subtropical anticyclone in the southern hemisphere. Rainfall was below average over most of the country, only a few stations recording above average rain, including Khartoum 62 mm, Sennar 235 mm, El Obeid 176 mm and Kassala 137 mm.

Over the Ethiopian highlands the ITCZ extended further north so that most of the country was under the influence of the monsoon and about average rain fell in many areas. The Red Sea coast, however, remained dry.

Thundery showers were observed over northern Somalia on several days.

No locust reports have been received from DLCO-EA or from any countries in the region for August.

In July in Sudan scattered immature adults were found at densities of 3,000 per hectare over an area of about 9,000 hectares at Hamashkoreib and mature adults were found at densities of 120-600 per hectare over an area of approximately 1,260 hectares in the Sinkat area of the Red Sea Province.

NEAR EAST

Weather

The ITCZ generally lay along the line Zabid - Seeb and resulted in generally cloudy weather in coastal areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Moderate rain was reported from Em Riga (1305N/4435E) and Radfan (1335N/4450E) on 9 August. Heavy showers were reported from Al Fajarah (1305N/4420E) on 16 August. Further showers leading to flooding were reported from around Seiyun in Wadi Hadramaut and Radfan on 25 August. Scattered showers have also been reported from areas adjoining the Sultanate of Oman. Coastal plains remained dry. In the Yemen Arab Republic heavy rains were reported from the highlands and northern Tihama on 19 August. Further rain may have fallen on the Jiddat al Harasis in eastern Oman on 11 August. Rainfall was also reported from the Asir and Hijaz mountains in Saudi Arabia.

SAUDI ARABIA

A total of 10 locusts were seen at three localities, in Baha, Jizan and Dawadomi areas.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN was reported clear. There was no change in the situation in the YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC. No report for August has been received from BAHRAIN, EGYPT, IRAQ, JORDAN, KUWAIT, QATAR, SULTANATE OF OMAN or the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

A very few solitary adults were observed from the Najran area of Saudi Arabia in July and at a density of 3-4 per square kilometre at Baha.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Weather

It is convenient to distinguish two periods very clearly. During the first fortnight a thermal low was well established over India while, on the other hand a deep depression formed in the centre of this low pressure area. The depression was centred over Rajasthan and gave rise to heavy rain in parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat. Jodhpur recorded 226 mm in the first fortnight, Barmer 156 mm, Jaisalmer 132 mm, but to the north Bikaner reported only 23 mm, Sikar 64 mm and Sri Ganganagar 35 mm. But at the beginning of the second fortnight the depression filled progressively and moved north-west and was replaced by a ridge of high pressure over western India, which brought clear skies. Very little rain was recorded and drought conditions were reported in some areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat. In the summer breeding areas of Pakistan there was widespread but generally light rain at the beginning of the month

PAKISTAN

In the first half of August small numbers of adults were seen in four localities in Cholistan, but none were reported from the Nara or Tharparkar deserts. In the second fortnight the situation was reported to be calm.

INDIA

In the first half of August small numbers of mature adults were reported at five localities in Jaisalmer, Nagaur and Jaisalmer districts at a maximum density of 525 per square kilometre.

In the second half of August small numbers of mature adults were reported from three localities in Jaisalmer district between 20 and 30 August at densities ranging from 20 to 150 per square kilometre, and from one locality in Barmer on 22 August at a density of 150 per square kilometre. In addition a population of hoppers of all instars at average densities of about 0.1-0.3 per square metre, with a maximum of two per square metre, was found over an area of about four square kilometres, four kilometres south of Sarm on 29-31 August. Fledglings were also present, at densities of about 10-20 per hectare.

AFGHANISTAN was reported clear.

Late reports received from IRAN referred to scattered locusts in the Jiroft area in June, against which control measures were mounted over an area of 180 hectares, and to low density breeding in the same area in July.

FORECAST FOR LATE SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1979

The forecast period often marks the end of the summer breeding season and is often a period of extensive migration. Recorded population levels continue to be very low in all regions but because many reports have not yet been received,

both breeding populations and adult redistributions are likely to be on a larger scale than might be considered probable on the basis of the locust situation summarised in this report. However, it is most unlikely that swarm formation will occur during the forecast period.

In South-West Asia breeding, which has been on a smaller scale than in any year since 1971, will be confined to small, localised green areas in Rajasthan, adjacent areas of Pakistan and Las Bela district. Westward emigration by night will lead to increasing, but still small, numbers of adults reaching the Mekran and Baluchistan of Pakistan, and possibly some adults may reach south-eastern Iran.

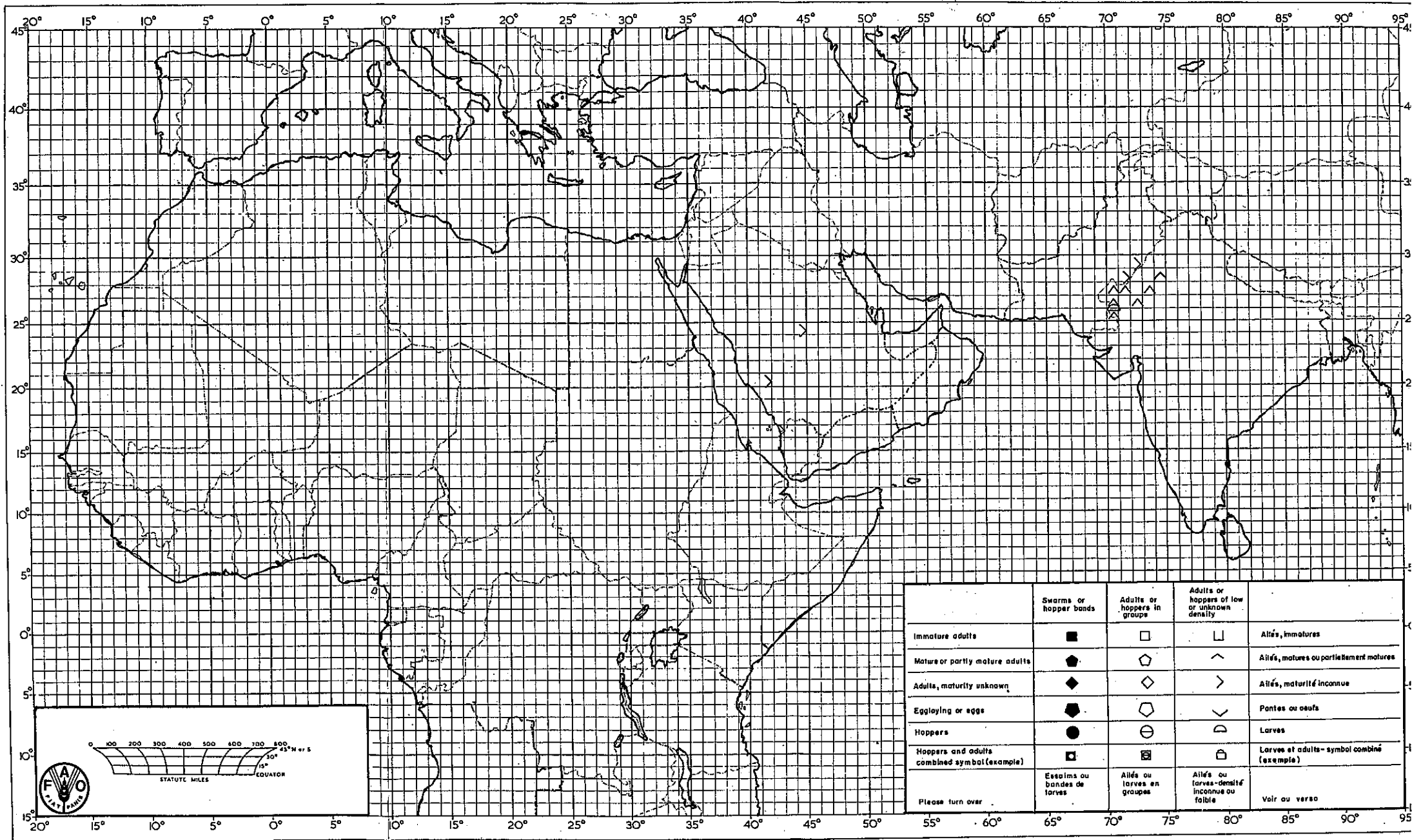
In the Near East, there could be a second generation of breeding in the Sultanate of Oman if adults reached the area wetted by the tropical storm of mid-June in view of the possibility that further rain fell in August. It is possible that small numbers of adults could reach the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates from the east. Only small numbers of adults appear to be present in the two Yemens and Saudi Arabia. There could be breeding in areas receiving run-off from rains in adjacent highland areas. The Tihamas of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic could be invaded by adults from across the Red Sea but the scale of such an invasion is likely to be small.

In Eastern Africa breeding could continue in green areas in the interior of the Sudan and occur on both sides of the coastal range and also in northern Ethiopia. In Sudan the breeding could be widely scattered but in northern Ethiopia it could give rise to hopper bands. Adult numbers are likely to build up along the Red Sea coastal plains. Breeding could also occur in parts of Dankalia and in the Railway Area of Ethiopia, and coastal and subcoastal areas of northern Somalia and in the Nogal, but is likely to be on a small scale.

In West Africa breeding will almost certainly occur in parts of the Adrar des Iforas and adjacent areas in north-eastern Mali, in Tamesna and Aïr of north-western Niger and in southern and central Mauritania which receive rain or run-off, but is likely to be on a small scale. There is no threat of significant numbers of adults invading the area from the east.

In North-West Africa small scale breeding may occur in the Tassili des Ahaggar and some adults may start to move into western, central, southern and eastern Algeria and Libya from south of the Sahara, but no major invasion is anticipated.

Rome
18 September 1979



	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density	
Immature adults	■	□	◻	Adults, immatures
Mature or partly mature adults	◆	◇	◊	Adults, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown	◆	◇	◊	Adults, maturité inconnue
Egglaying or eggs	●	○	◌	Pontes ou oeufs
Hoppers	●	○	◌	Larves
Hoppers and adults combined symbol (exemple)	◼	◻	◊	Larves et adults - symbol combiné (exemple)
Please turn over	Essaims ou bandes de larves	Adults ou larves en groupes	Adults ou larves - densité inconnue ou faible	Voir ou verso

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800
STATUTE MILES
EQUATOR
15° 30° 45° N or S