

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. 11 July 1979

SUMMARY

No gregarious populations have been reported since March and numbers remain low in all regions. Monsoon rains reached the main summer breeding areas in Mauritania, Mali and India and it is virtually certain that conditions are favourable for breeding in parts of Oman.

Breeding is likely to be widespread between Mauritania and North-West India and could give rise to hopper and/or adult groups in India, Pakistan, Oman, Northern Ethiopia, Sudan and possibly in Niger, Mali and Mauritania.

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION - JULY 1979

WEST AFRICA

Weather

The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) generally oscillated between 16° and 18° N in eastern Mauritania, Mali and Niger but between 12° and 20° N in the western part of the Region. The southerly pushes brought normal or even above average rainfall to some areas of Mauritania e.g. Atar, Nouakchott Rosso, Nema and Kiffa but it was reported that over most of the country there was a rainfall deficit. In Mali abundant rains resulted in wadis flowing in central Adrar des Iforas, Timetrine and parts of the Tilemsi during the second decade. In southern Niger rainfall was above average. There was no rainfall data from Chad.

Only isolated locusts were reported but localities are not yet available.

A few isolated adults were seen in Wadi Atchou in Niger on 15 June.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Weather

Pressure remained high with little variation. Rainfall was confined to a few local thunderstorms in the Algerian Atlas. Libya remained very dry.

No locust reports have been received for July. ALGERIA was reported clear in June.

EASTERN AFRICA

Weather

In the Sudan the ITCZ at the surface lay generally between 16° and 18° N. As a result most rain fell 100-300 kilometres to the south of these latitudes and areas to the north were generally dry. In Ethiopia the ITCZ extended further north, resulting in widespread, moderate-heavy rainfall in the central and northern highlands, Asmara recorded 324 mm. The coastal areas of Ethiopia and northern Somalia were dry.

SUDAN

Immature adults were found at a density of 300 per hectare over a total area of 1000 square kilometres at Hamashkoreib (1711N/3644E) on 15 July

ETHIOPIA

A ground survey team sent to follow up the report of adult Desert Locusts between Assab and Raheita failed to find any and reported that the area was dry.

SOMALIA

A ground survey team found immature adults at a density of 1,000-3,000 per square kilometre in Panicum over an area of about 6 square kilometres at Aurkaris (1020N/4530E) on 10 July. One locust was seen near El Dur Flan (1010N/4631E) and three were seen at Offein (1045N/4930E). A further ground survey failed to find any locusts on the northern Somali coastal plain between Berbera and Loyada.

No locusts were reported in DJIBOUTI up to 15 July and KENYA, TANZANIA and UGANDA remained clear.

NEAR EAST

Weather

The only rainfall reported was of light showers in Turbah Valley (1308N/4415E) on 11 July, and around Seiyun in the Wadi Hadhramaut on 28-29 July, which caused small floods.

The Meteorological Office, Muscat, report that their raingauge network did not record the main areas of rainfall associated with the Tropical Storm of mid-June as the storm centre passed between Masirah and Salalah stations. However, verbal reports from the interior by reliable sources state that considerable rain fell and accumulated in large areas throughout the area north of Salalah and west of Ras al Hadd.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

The adult was seen in Wadi Surrab (1350N/4555E) on 17 July and a few adults were reported in the Rusaykhah area (1301N/4430E) near Em Riga.

No locusts were reported from SAUDI ARABIA or the YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC. No reports were received from BAHREIN, EGYPT, IRAQ, JORDAN, KUWAIT, QATAR, SULTANATE OF OMAN or the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

SOUTH WEST ASIA

Weather

A well-defined low pressure area which lay over western Uttar Pradesh and adjoining eastern Rajasthan on 15 July moved west over western Rajasthan and caused heavy to very heavy rainfall in the third week of the month. The worst affected areas were Barmer, Jalore, Pali, Jodhpur (which received 317 mm), Nagaur, Ajmer and Bhilwara. Ajmer received 290 mm on 16 July. No rain was reported from the summer breeding area in Pakistan during the first fortnight.

PAKISTAN

During the first half of the month the only locusts reported were a population at an estimated density of 350 per square kilometre found over an area of 20 square kilometres at Naka Khari Beach (2543N/6615E). During the second half of June adults were found at four localities in Bhag district at densities of 2,000-3,500 per square kilometre, at one locality in Bahawalpur and at one locality in Tharparkar.

INDIA

In the first half of the month adults were found at two localities in Bikaner district at a maximum density of 300 per square kilometre and were also reported from Jodhpur and Sri Ganganagar districts. In the second half, however, mature adults were found at densities of 3600 per square kilometre in Bhaluri (2808N/7228E), 2000 in Surjara (2804N/7249E) and Agnao (2806N/7247E) areas of Bikaner district, 750 in the Khidrat (2730N/7230E) area of Jodhpur district, 600 in Jaisindar (2546N/7022E) area of Barmer, 500-550 in Jaisalmer district and 450 in the Rashanpura area of Sri Ganganagar district.

One fourth and one fifth instar green hoppers were found in the Agnao area on 26 July.

No locusts were reported from AFGHANISTAN. No report was received from IRAN.

FORECAST FOR LATE AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1979

The forecast period normally marks the height of the summer breeding season, when breeding can be expected to be in progress from the Atlantic coast of Mauritania to north-west India. Known population levels continue to be low in all regions but summer rains adequate for breeding have occurred in West Africa and South-West Asia.

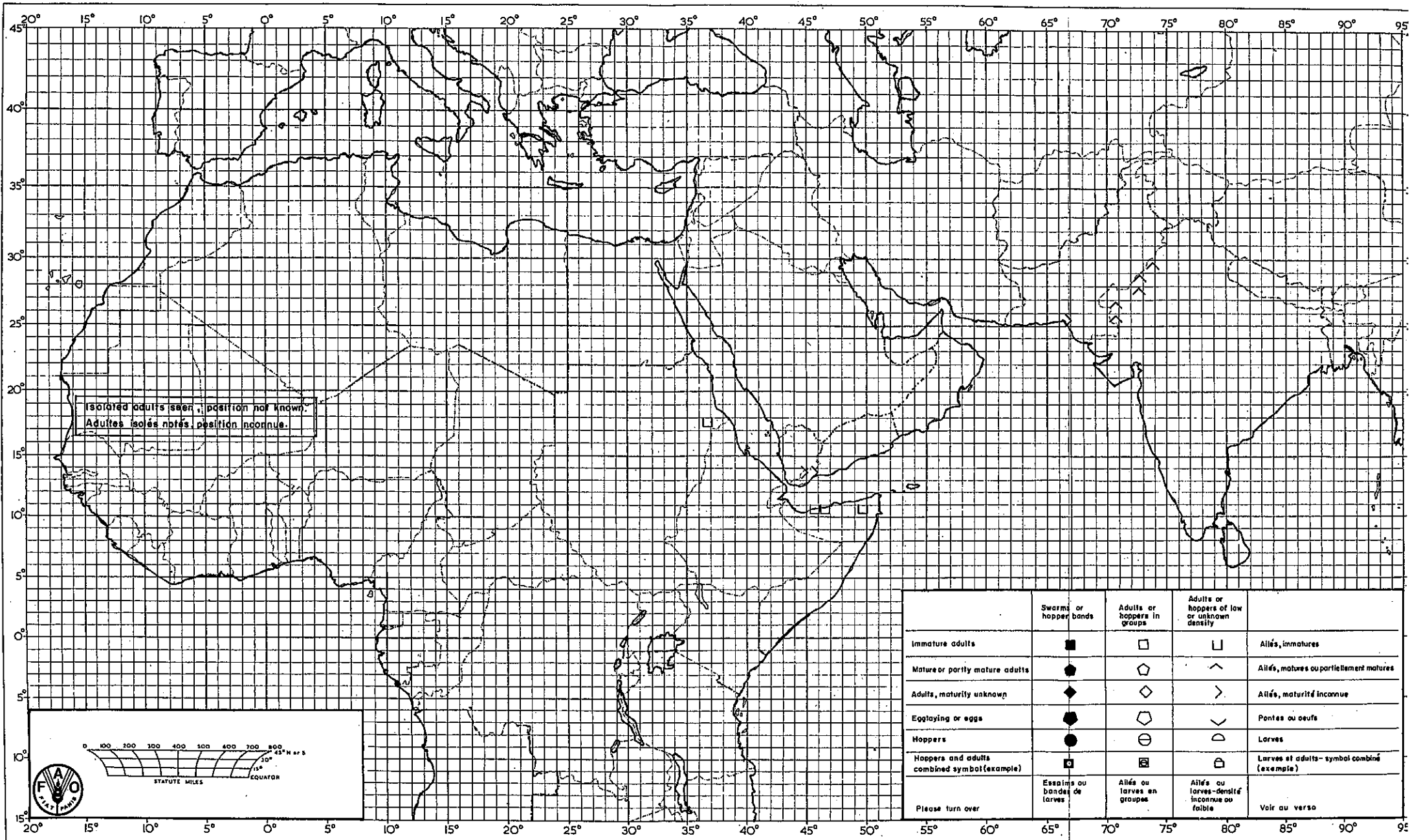
In South-West Asia breeding will become widespread and could result in formation of some groups of hoppers and adults in Rajasthan and adjacent areas of Pakistan and a second generation will commence in some areas of Rajasthan.

In the Near East young adults could be present in Oman if breeding occurred following the Tropical Storm of mid-June. If conditions remain favourable for breeding these adults could mature and start to breed, if not they are likely to start to move towards South-West Arabia. Only small numbers of indigenous locusts appear to be already present in the two Yemens and South-West Saudi Arabia but these could breed in Wadis receiving floods from rains in adjacent highland areas.

In Eastern Africa breeding will occur in the interior of Sudan and adjacent areas of northern Ethiopia, and could result in the formation of hopper groups or even bands of hoppers. Fledging could occur towards the end of the Forecast period and some groups could be produced. Breeding could also occur in parts of Dankalia and in the Railway Area of Ethiopia and in parts of Bosaso district in northern Somalia but is likely to be on a small scale.

In West Africa breeding will almost certainly occur in the Adrar des Iforas and adjacent areas of north-eastern Mali, in Tamesna and Air of north-west Niger and in southern and central Mauritania which receive rain or run-off. Densities of adults and hoppers are likely to be low initially but are likely to increase as more adults locate suitable breeding sites.

In North-West Africa small scale breeding may occur in the Tassali des Ahaggar in southern Algeria if summer rains penetrate sufficiently far north.



	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density	
Immature adults	■	□	◻	Alés, immatures
Mature or partly mature adults	●	◐	◑	Alés, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown	◆	◊	◈	Alés, 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	Alés ou larves en groupes	Alés ou larves - densité inconnue ou faible	Voir au verso