



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. 9 May 1979

**SUMMARY**

For the second consecutive month no gregarious populations were reported. It is now almost certain that no swarms were produced as a result of winter-spring breeding. Small numbers of hoppers were present in Pakistan and adults at low density were reported from Sudan, Somalia, Yemen Arab Republic, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and Pakistan.

W/N0862

## DESERT LOCUST SITUATION - MAY 1979

### WEST AFRICA

Weather (based on analysis of Meteosat and GOES I/O satellite imagery for period 7 - 30 May; see attached table)

Significant moderate rain fell over large parts of Mali, Upper Volta and Niger during the first decade of the period as a result of early monsoon activity. Senegal and Mauritania were dry throughout the period. The Tibesti Mountain area in Chad received light to moderate localized rains during the second half of the month.

The locust situation was reported to be calm.

### NORTH-WEST AFRICA

#### Weather

Light to moderate rains were observed in Southern Algeria, south and southwest of the Ahaggar Mountains on 12,13 May. More rain fell in west central Algeria during the second half of the month. Morocco was observed to be dry during this period.

Tunisia experienced moderate rains over large parts of the country on 9 and 26 May. Both central and southern parts of Libya received rainfall on various days during the month.

#### ALGERIA

On 11 April adults at an estimated density of 1000 per hectare were found in the bed of Oued Tarat (2606N/0920 E). On 8 April one adult was seen in Oued Tinef (2202N/0442 E) and a female was captured in Oued Illizi (2629N/0825 E)

No locusts were reported in LIBYA during May but one was seen in Oued Megharghar (3003N/1033 E) in April. No locusts were reported from Morocco in April.

### EASTERN AFRICA

#### Weather

There were widespread thundery showers in many areas of Ethiopia, in Djibouti, northern and south-eastern Somalia on many days, but little rain fell in the Ogaden area of eastern Ethiopia or in central Somalia. In Sudan north of 14°N there was generally light rain in many parts of the summer breeding area in the first ten days of May, although Gedaref recorded 72 mm. The northern coastal area also received rain in the last days of the period.

## SUDAN

Solitarious adults at very low densities were reported in the White and Blue Nile Provinces in the first ten days of the month. None were reported in the second ten days and no report has been received for the last ten days.

## SOMALIA

Some solitarious adults at low density were reported from the northern coastal plains.

No locusts were reported from elsewhere in the Region.

## NEAR EAST

### Weather

Important thunderstorm activity was observed in the Red Sea coastal areas and in adjacent mountainous areas of Saudi Arabia, Yemen Arab Republic and in the interior of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Most of this rainfall is likely to have fallen on higher ground but the resulting run-off may have created suitable breeding conditions.

Rainfall, associated with a Mediterranean depression, was observed in upper Egypt and interior of northern Saudi Arabia during the period.

Toward the end of the month moderate to heavy showers were observed over large parts of eastern Oman.

## YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Small numbers of adults were observed in Wadi Hayran and at al Jarr on the northern Tihama.

## PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

No locusts were seen on a survey of coastal areas between Aden and Mukalla and of interior areas of the Hadhramaut between 8 and 15 May. A few isolated adults were seen in Wadi Al Fajra (1258/N4415 E) on 24 May.

No locusts were reported in SAUDI ARABIA or KUWAIT. No report has been received from BAHRAIN, EGYPT, IRAQ and JORDAN.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Weather

Satellite imagery coverage was limited for this region during May. During the period 7 - 16 May light to moderate scattered showers were observed in southern interior Iran, southern Pakistan and north-eastern Rajasthan in India. Scattered to fairly widespread rains occurred in Rajasthan from 26 - 29 May resulting in above average rainfall for the month.

PAKISTAN

Small numbers of first to third instar hoppers were collected in cultivations at Dalbandin (2809N/6405 E) and Chagai (2918N/6443 E) and were observed in cultivations at Sorawan (2835N/6532 E) in the first half of May. Two adults were collected from a Sorghum field at Thana Bulla Khan (2504N/6708 E) in the first week of May.

INDIA

Isolated maturing and mature adults were reported at a maximum density of 15 per square kilometre from Mohangar area of Jaisalmer on 8 May. Isolated maturing and mature adults were reported from four localities in Jaisalmer district in the second half of May, the maximum density being 250 per square kilometre at Nachna on 27 May.

No locusts were reported from AFGHANISTAN, and no report has been received from IRAN.

FORECAST FOR LATE JUNE - JULY 1979

In Eastern Africa it now appears that only low density adults will reach the summer breeding area of Sudan and the northern coastal escarpment of Somalia. Breeding will commence in the summer breeding area of Sudan, probably also in the western lowlands of Eritrea Province of Ethiopia and possibly along the Dessie escarpment, in Dankalia and in the Railway Area. Breeding could also take place in coastal and subcoastal areas of northern Somalia and in the Mijertein. In all areas the breeding is likely to be at low density initially but could be widespread in Sudan.

In the Near East the number of adults reported is very low but breeding on a small scale is likely to occur in coastal and interior areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic. Breeding could also occur in areas of the Sultanate of Oman which received rain in late May and which are traversed by adults from the West.

In South West Asia breeding will come to an end in the spring breeding areas and resulting adults will move eastwards to the summer breeding areas of Pakistan and India. They are unlikely to include swarms. Breeding will commence in the summer breeding area but is unlikely to result in the formation of hopper bands in the forecast period.

In West Africa small numbers of adults are likely to reach Niger, Mali and possibly Mauritania and Chad from north-west Africa and breeding will commence in the Sahelian zone and in sandy areas in and around the Adrar des Iforas, Air, Tibesti Massifs and possibly in southern and central Mauritania. Invasion from the east is now most unlikely in the forecast period.

In North-West Africa breeding will come to an end in western, central and eastern Algeria but only small numbers of adults are likely to be produced. Breeding could commence in southern Algeria if these adults encounter suitable breeding conditions.

Rome  
18 June 1979

RAINFALL ANALYSIS BASED ON METEOSAT AND GOES INDIAN OCEAN  
SATELLITE IMAGERY (7 - 30 May 1979)

WEST AFRICA

Period (1979)	<u>Country</u>																	
	Senegal			Mauritania			Mali			Niger			Chad			Upper Volta		
	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H
7 - 16/5							x	x	o		x			o	x			x
							o	x			x							x
										x								
17 - 26/5							x				x			o	o			
														o				
27 - 30/5									o					x	o			

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

	Algeria			Morocco			Tunisia			Libya					
	Central		South	South			South			Central		South			
	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H
7 - 16/5						o					x				o
															o
															o
17 - 26/5	x	x				o					x				o
	o														x
															x
27 - 30/5		x							o					x	
															x

Key: L = Light rainfall  
M = Medium "  
H = Heavy "

x = widespread  
o = local

~~7~~ 6  
EAST AFRICA

Period  
(1979)

Country

	Ethiopia			Somalia			Djibouti			Kenya			Tanzania			Sudan		
	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H
7 - 16/5	o	o		o	o					o	o					x		
	o	o		o	o	x												
	o	o		o														
17 - 26/5	o	o	x	o	o					o	x					o		
		o	x	o	o											x		
				o														
				o														
27 - 30/5																	x	o
																		x

NEAR EAST

Period  
(1979)

Country

	Egypt			Saudi Arabia						Yemen A.R.			Yemen PDR			Oman			U.A.E.		
	L	M	H	L	<u>1/</u> M	H	L	<u>2/</u> M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H
7 - 16/5		o								o	o	x		o							
		x								o	o			o							
17 - 26/5				o	o		o	x			o			o							
				o	x		x	x			o										
				o																	
27 - 30/5				o	o		o			o	o								x	x	
				o			x			o	o										
				o			x			x											x

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

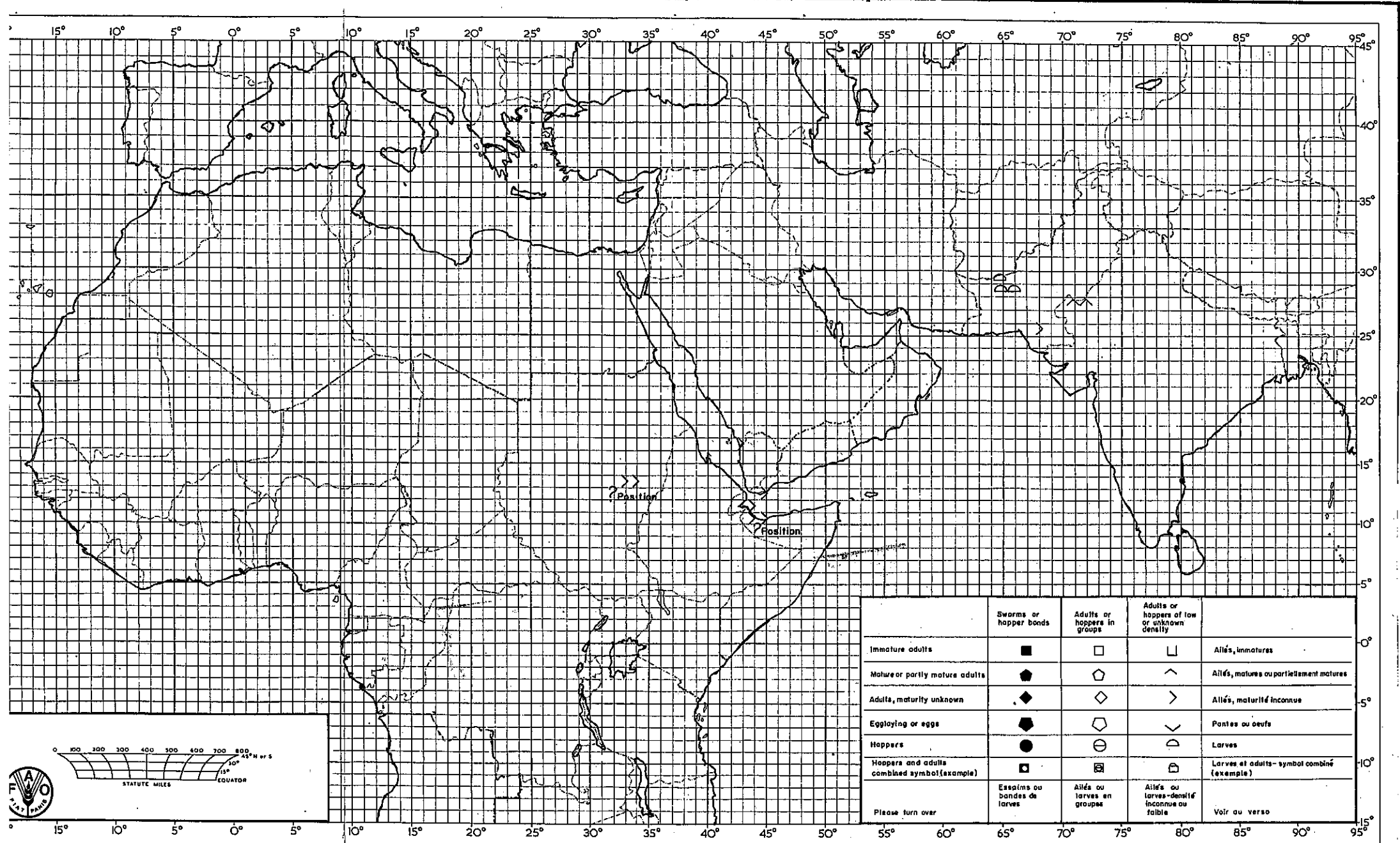
Period

Country

	S. Iran			S. Afghanistan			S. Pakistan			N.W. India		
	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H
7 - 16/5		o										
17 - 26/5												
27 - 30/5												

NOTE: GOES - Indian Ocean Satellite imagery was only available for:  
9, 10, 13, 16, 17 and 19 May 1979

1/ Red Sea Coastal Areas  
2/ Interior



	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 adults - 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

