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**Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group****DESERT LOCUST SITUATION  
SUMMARY AND FORECAST**

No. 7 March 1979

**SUMMARY**

The only confirmed gregarious populations reported during March were hopped bands in two areas of eastern Ethiopia. However, there was an unconfirmed report of a swarm in north-west Somalia and swarms could be present in the highlands of southern Ethiopia. Gregarious breeding could be in progress along the Red Sea coast of northern Ethiopia and in south-east Iran and swarms could be produced from both areas. These are likely to start to move towards the summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan and in Pakistan and India respectively in May.

There are widespread low density populations in the Mekran and Baluchistan of Pakistan, where breeding has started in coastal areas. Adults at low densities have been reported from India, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Yemen Arab Republic, Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

## DESERT LOCUST SITUATION - MARCH 1979

### WEST AFRICA

Weather (based on analysis of Meteosat imagery for 26 February - 20 March, see attached Map).

Widespread light and moderate rains fell in several countries of West Africa. During the first week of the period, eastern Niger and northern Chad received moderate-heavy rains after a prolonged dry period. In the third week extensive areas in Senegal, Mauritania and northern Mali received rainfall from an active weather system which developed over West and North-West Africa.

The report for March from OCLALAV has not yet been received. In February no locusts were reported.

### NORTH-WEST AFRICA

#### Weather

After the dry period during February, North-West Africa experienced considerable rainfall in March. Central and southern Algeria were observed to be affected by various weather systems, resulting in moderate and locally heavy rainfall on a number of days throughout the period from 5 - 20 March. Western Libya received light-moderate rainfall during the last week of the period. Western Algeria and southern Morocco were mostly dry throughout the month.

No report has been received from ALGERIA, LIBYA, MOROCCO or TUNISIA for March. In February 20 isolated adults were seen in six localities in western, central and southern ALGERIA.

### EASTERN AFRICA

#### Weather

Rainfall in eastern Africa was confined to central Ethiopia, northern Kenya, southern Somalia and southern Sudan. Eritrea, northern and central Somalia and the Ogaden were observed to be dry during this period. The coastal areas of Djibouti have received light-moderate rainfall during the third week of the period.

#### SUDAN.

Scattered adults at densities of 60-240 per hectare were found in an area of 30 hectares in the Tokar delta, and scattered second to fourth instar hoppers were also present in the Tokar delta.

## ETHIOPIA

In the Upper Awash valley control operations were concluded against dense second and third instar hopper bands by 10 March. A total of 25 litres of 1.5% Decis and 20 litres of 25% Propoxur were applied against 68 bands. Near Direedawa control operations continued against small-medium sized thin density bands at Scenele up to 20 March, when the bands were in the late instars. 53 litres of 20% dieldrin were applied.

## SOMALIA

A swarm was reported 10 kilometres north of Sillil on 17 March, but a subsequent ground survey of the north-west coastal plains of Somalia and to 30 kilometres east of Berbera failed to obtain any evidence of the presence of desert locusts. The area was dry and unsuitable for breeding.

No report was received from DJIBOUTI. KENYA, TANZANIA and UGANDA remained clear of Desert Locust swarms.

## NEAR EAST

### Weather

During March various parts of the region received good rains. Most of this fell during the period 17 - 18 March. The Red Sea coastal areas south of Jeddah, including parts of Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, as well as interior Saudi Arabia south of Riyadh, experienced moderate and locally heavy rainfall. The northern part of the region was observed to be mostly dry.

## SAUDI ARABIA

Vegetation along the southern Tihama has started to dry up but remained green in wadis. Much of the interior was reported to be dry. Intensive surveys were made of the Tihama and the interior but the only locusts found were a few scattered adults on the Tihama.

## YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Rain was reported in the foothills. There was no significant change in the locust situation from February, when a few green hoppers and adults were recorded on the Tihama.

## PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Moderate to heavy showers during the second and fourth weeks of March caused small floods in wadis Nisab, Markah and Hadramaut and resulted in slightly improved breeding conditions in parts of the interior. The coastal plains remained dry. A few scattered adults were observed at Em Riga.

A few scattered adults were reported during January and February from the south-eastern desert of EGYPT but conditions were not favourable for breeding. The SULTANATE OF OMAN was reported clear of locusts in February. KUWAIT was reported clear in February and March.

No reports were received from BAHRAIN, IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON, QATAR, SYRIA or UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

SOUTH WEST ASIA

PAKISTAN

Heavy and widespread rainfall was recorded from all the spring breeding areas in Mekran and Baluchistan, as well as in Cholistan and Tharparkar during the first half of March. Conditions were favourable for breeding along the coast. There was no rain in the second half of March. Scattered adults were found at seven localities in Uthal at densities of 500-1500 per square kilometre, two localities in Panjgur at a density of 300 per square kilometre and at 11 localities in Pasni at densities of 750-3000 per square kilometre in the first half of March. One fourth instar hopper band was found at Gwadar on 2 March.

INDIA

The only sighting of locusts was of scattered adults at a density of 100 per square kilometre from the Mohangarh area of Jaisalmer on 25 March.

No locusts were reported from AFGHANISTAN or IRAN. We have received information through the FAO Regional Locust Officer that no evidence of the presence of desert locusts was obtained when thorough surveys were undertaken following the reports of a swarmlet at Turbat in Pakistan on 13 December 1978 and of an immature swarm flying from Bandar Lingeh to Lar on 12 December 1978.

FORECAST FOR LATE APRIL - MAY 1979

In Eastern Africa some of the swarms which may have been immobilized in the highlands of southern Ethiopia since January are likely to reappear in lower lying areas of Hararge and Bale Provinces in eastern Ethiopia and start to breed. Others may move north to the Railway Area, Dankalia and the Dessie escarpment and also start to breed. Any escapes from undetected recent breeding in the Railway Area and Danakil are likely to move north-west to the highlands of northern Ethiopia and could reach Kassala Province in Sudan. The interior of Sudan could also receive locusts, possibly including swarms, from any uncontrolled breeding along the northern Red Sea coast of Ethiopia, and scattered adults from northern Red Sea coastal areas.

In the Near East breeding and band formation may occur in the eastern lowlands of the Yemen Arab Republic, in some interior wadis in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, in northern Oman and eastern United Arab Emirates.

In South West Asia breeding will continue in coastal areas of Pakistan and commence in interior valleys of Pakistan. The breeding is likely to be wide-spread but at low density, at least initially. Although there have been no unconfirmed reports of locusts in Iran since November, some are probably present. These will have started to breed in coastal and interior areas of the south-east. Fledging is likely to occur and the new generation adults, possibly including a few small swarms, will move eastwards into Pakistan and India.

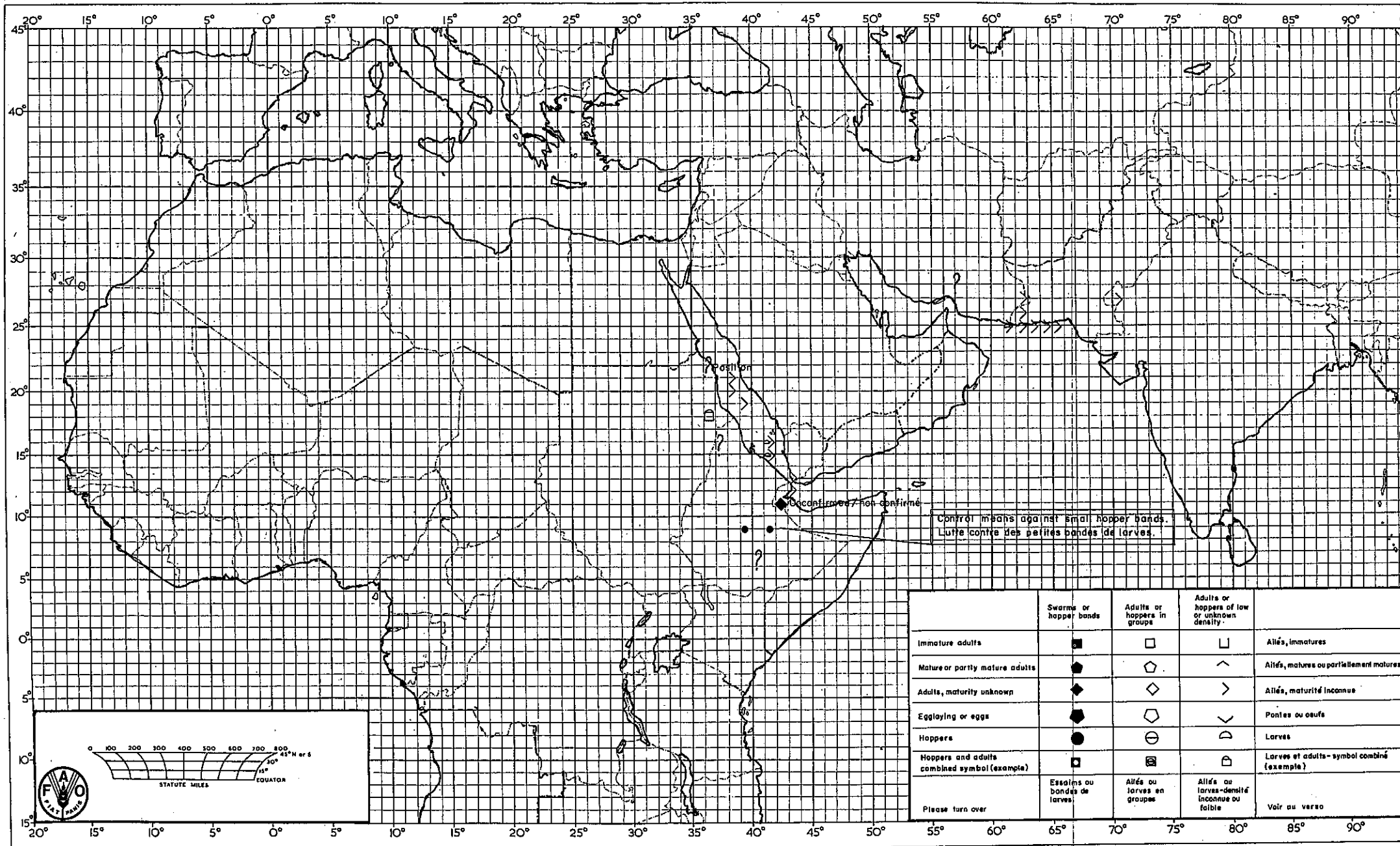
In North West Africa breeding by adults at low densities will occur in areas of western, central, eastern and southern Algeria and Tripolitania in Libya in areas which have recently received rain.

Only small numbers of adults are likely to be present in West Africa and no invasion from the east is expected in the forecast period.

Rome  
19 April 1979

# Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 7

MARCH / MARS 1979



	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density.	
Immature adults	■	□	□	Allés, immatures
Mature or partly mature adults	●	◊	∧	Allés, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown	◆	◇	>	Allés, maturité inconnue
Egg laying or eggs	●	◊	∨	Ponies ou oeufs
Hoppers	●	⊖	∩	Larves
Hoppers and adults combined symbol (example)	⊠	⊞	⊡	Larves et adults - symbol combiné (exemple)
Please turn over	Essaims ou bandes de larves	Allés ou torves en groupes	Allés ou larves - densité inconnue ou faible	Voir au verso

