

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



No. 263
(4 Sept 2000)



General Situation during August 2000 Forecast until mid-October 2000

The Desert Locust situation continued to remain calm and no significant infestations were reported during August. Although conditions are favourable for breeding in many areas of the Sahel in West Africa and Sudan, only scattered adults and a few hoppers have been reported so far in southern Mauritania. Breeding is expected to continue in Mauritania during the forecast period and to be in progress in parts of northern Mali, Niger and the interior of Sudan. Small scale control operations were carried out against hoppers and fledglings in Morocco. Elsewhere, only a few scattered adults were reported in Somalia, Pakistan and India where small scale breeding may occur during the forecast period.

Western Region. Small scale breeding is in progress in southern and central Mauritania where locust numbers will increase, but remain at low levels, as breeding continues during the forecast period. There is possibility that small numbers of adults are present and breeding in the Adrar des Iforas, Mali and in Aïr, Niger where conditions are favourable but there is no indication that surveys are being carried out. On the southern side of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco, 225 ha of small hopper groups and fledglings were treated in early August.

Central Region. Although locusts were not seen during surveys in the summer breeding areas of Sudan, conditions are favourable and there is a possibility that low numbers are present and breeding in a few places in Northern Kordofan and Northern Darfur. Scattered adults were reported in northern Somalia. Good rains fell along the southern Red Sea coastal plains of Saudi Arabia and Yemen where low numbers of locusts may be present and could start to breed on a small scale in the coming weeks.

Eastern Region. Low numbers of adults were present in the eastern deserts of Pakistan and a late report indicated that they started to appear in Rajasthan, India at the end of July. Small scale breeding is expected to occur along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border where good rains have fallen but no significant developments are likely. No locusts were reported from south-eastern Iran.

The FAO Desert Bulletin is issued monthly, supplemented by Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity, and is distributed by fax, e-mail, FAO pouch and airmail by the Locusts and Other Migratory Pests Group, AGP Division, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy. It is also available on the Internet.

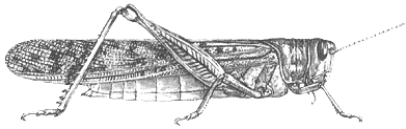
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Weather & Ecological Conditions in August 2000

Frequent and heavy rains fell in the northern part of the Sahel from Mauritania to Sudan where conditions are very favourable for breeding. Conditions are improving on the coastal plains of the southern Red Sea in Yemen and Saudi Arabia where heavy rains fell during the first half of the month. Conditions are suitable for breeding in some places along the Indo-Pakistan border.

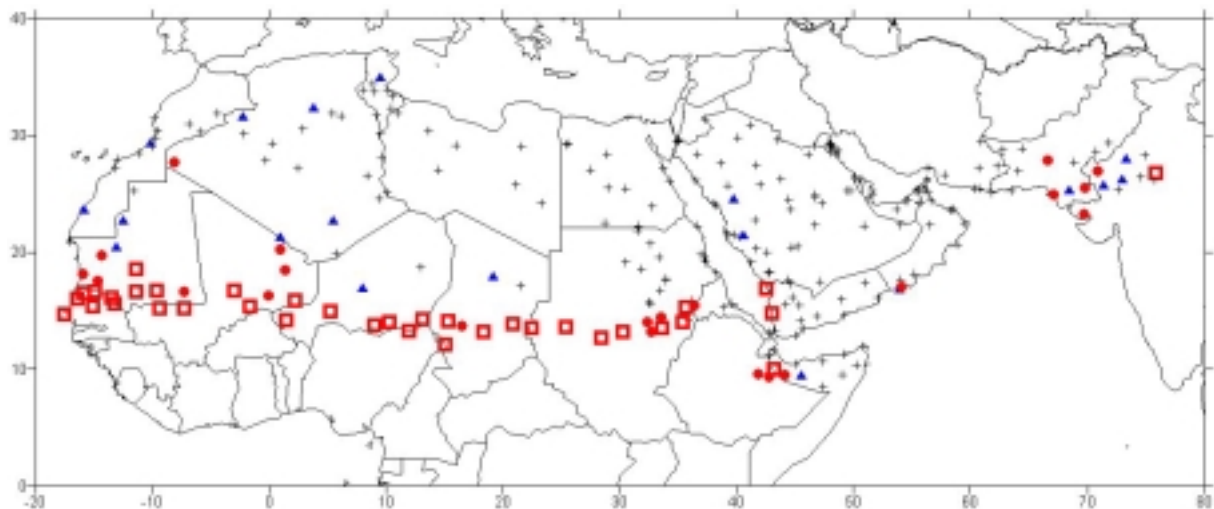
In **West Africa**, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) broadly fluctuated around 18°N during August. As a result, some moderate to very heavy rains fell in most parts of the northern Sahel (see map) which caused damaging floods along the Senegal-Mauritanian border and in the Adrar des Iforas, Mali. Consequently, most of the vegetation in the northern Sahel is green or becoming greening, and conditions are highly favourable for breeding.

In **North-West Africa**, only light rains were reported from a few places south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and Algeria as well as in the southern Hoggar Mountains of southern Algeria. Vegetation remained dry and conditions were unfavourable for breeding.

In **Eastern Africa**, moderate to locally heavy rains were reported in the northern Sahelian belt of Sudan where seasonal vegetation is green or greening up and conditions are favourable for breeding over large parts of Northern Darfur and Northern Kordofan. On the Red Sea coast, vegetation is drying out due to a lack of rainfall. Nevertheless, some wadis have been flooded in Sudan and Eritrea which could give rise to patches of vegetation. No rainfall was reported on the northern coastal plains of Somalia where vegetation remained dry.

In the **Near East**, frequent light to moderate rains as well as few very heavy rains fell in several places along the Red Sea coastal plain from Jizan, Saudi Arabia to Zabid, Yemen where patches of vegetation are becoming green. Dry conditions prevailed on the coastal plains of the Gulf of Aden and in the adjacent interior due to a lack of significant rainfall over the past four months.

In **South-West Asia**, light to moderate rains were reported from a few places of the summer breeding areas along the Indo-Pakistan border, mainly in southern Tharparkar, Pakistan and near Jaisalmer, India. Vegetation is green from southern Tharparkar to Bikaner, India and along the Indo-Pakistan border north-east of Jaisalmer. Conditions appear to be drier in Khipro and southern Cholistan deserts of Pakistan. Dry conditions prevailed in Baluchistan of western Pakistan and south-eastern Iran.



August 2000 rainfall

- + Unsignificant - Nulle (< 1 mm)
- ▲ Light - Faible (1-20 mm)

Pluie mensuelle: Août 2000

- Moderate - Moyenne (20-50 mm)
- Heavy - Forte (> 50 mm)



Area Treated

Morocco 225 ha (1-6 August)



Desert Locust Situation and Forecast

(see also the summary on the first page)

WEST AFRICA

Mauritania

• SITUATION

Low numbers of mature adults were present during August in four areas: in southern Trarza near Rkiz (1700N/1530W and 1700N/1450W), in Brakna west of Moudjera (1750N/1250W), in Hodh el Gharbi north of Aioun el Atrous (1700N/0940W), and in Hodh Ech Chargui near Oualata (1715N/0700W). Limited breeding started in mid-July as indicated by the presence of a few second and third instar hoppers near Aioun el Atrous during the first decade of the month. Small scale breeding is in progress near Moudjera where females were seen laying during the first fortnight and a few hoppers started to appear by the end of the month.

• FORECAST

As a result of the widespread rainfall last month, small scale breeding will continue in the above areas and may extend north towards Tidjikja. Consequently, locust numbers will increase with additional hatching expected during September and new adults appearing from mid-month onwards. There may be a slight shift of populations towards the west at the end of the forecast period when vegetation starts to become dry.

Mali

• SITUATION

No report received.

• FORECAST

Low numbers of locusts may be present and breeding on a small scale in the Adrar des Iforas. This situation is expected to continue during the forecast period.

Niger

• SITUATION

Scattered adults were seen in the eastern Air in Oued Tagora (1758N/0909E).

• FORECAST

Small scale breeding may be in progress in the western and southern parts of the Air mountains and southern Tamesna where ecological conditions are favourable.

Chad

• SITUATION

No reports received.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Senegal

• SITUATION

No locusts were reported during August.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, and Guinea Conakry

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Algeria

• SITUATION

No reports received.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Morocco

• SITUATION

During the first week of August, small groups of solitary fourth and fifth instar hoppers mixed with fledglings at densities of 1 to 2 individuals per sq. m. were treated south of Errachidia at Khamlia El Khraoua (3100N/0410W), Laktit Rhiate (3045N/0425W) and Oued Tafraout (3150N/0440W).

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

• SITUATION

No locusts were reported during August.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

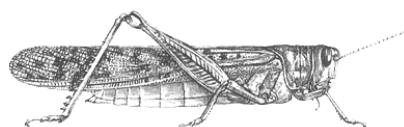
Tunisia

• SITUATION

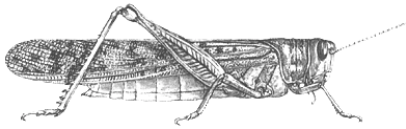
No reports received.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.



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EASTERN AFRICA

Sudan

• **SITUATION**

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in Northern Kordofan between Sodiri (1425N/2905E) and Saiyala (1425N/3105E) on 8-23 August.

• **FORECAST**

Low numbers of adults are likely to be present and breeding on a small scale in those areas of Northern Kordofan and Northern Darfur, and perhaps north of Kassala, where recent rains have fallen and ecological conditions are favourable. Low numbers of hoppers are expected to appear during the forecast period, but these may be difficult to detect.

Eritrea

• **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported along the Red Sea coast during August.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely although breeding conditions may start to become favourable in a few places along the Red Sea coastal plains.

Somalia

• **SITUATION**

During surveys carried out from 31 July to 27 August, scattered immature adults were seen in northern coastal areas east of Mait in Wadi Durdure (1109N/4843E) and in Wadi Hidid (1103N/4724E). Isolated immature adults were seen on the nearby escarpment north of Erigavo (1039N/4722E) and in the north-west, in the Dobo Valley (1021N/4322E).

• **FORECAST**

Low numbers of adults may persist and mature in a few coastal and subcoastal areas. No significant developments are likely.

Ethiopia

• **SITUATION**

No locusts were seen during a survey carried out from 27 July to 4 August in the Harar Region.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Djibouti

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

NEAR EAST

Saudi Arabia

• **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported along the Red Sea coastal plains or in the interior during August.

• **FORECAST**

Low numbers of adults could appear and breed on a small scale may occur on the coastal plains near Jizan.

Yemen

• **SITUATION**

The situation is reported to be calm and no surveys were conducted during August.

• **FORECAST**

Low numbers of locusts may be present and breeding on a small scale may occur in areas of recent heavy rainfall on the Red Sea coastal plains between Zabid and Midi.

Egypt

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Kuwait

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Oman

• **SITUATION**

No surveys were conducted during August.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

United Arab Emirates

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Syria Arab Republic and Turkey

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Iran

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out on 29-30 July and on 25-26 August in Hormozgan and Kerman provinces.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Pakistan

• SITUATION

During the second fortnight of July and the month of August, low numbers of solitarious maturing adults, up to 7 per ha, were present at 37 locations in Cholistan and Tharparkar deserts as well as in Lasbela, west of Karachi.

• FORECAST

Small scale breeding is likely to be in progress, but difficult to detect, in parts of Cholistan and Tharparkar. Locust numbers will increase slightly during the forecast period in these areas.

India

• SITUATION

A late report indicated that a few locusts were seen at Birloka (2658N/7303E) on 28 July during surveys carried out in Rajasthan. No locusts were reported during the first fortnight of August.

• FORECAST

Small scale breeding may be in progress in areas of recent rainfall in Rajasthan. No significant developments are likely.

Afghanistan

• SITUATION

No reports received.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.



Other Locust species

Kazakhstan. Large-scale control operations against Italian Locust infestations were completed by 10 August. Egg pod surveys are currently in progress to estimate the potential size of next year's populations.



Announcements

Locust reporting. Affected countries are kindly reminded to make sure that locust situation reports are sent to FAO HQ by the 25th day of the month so the information can be included in the FAO bulletin for the current month; otherwise, it will not appear until the following month. Reports should be sent even if no locusts were found or if no surveys were conducted.

Reporting by email. Affected countries are encouraged to send completed FAO Locust Survey Forms with a brief interpretation of the results by email to eclo@fao.org.

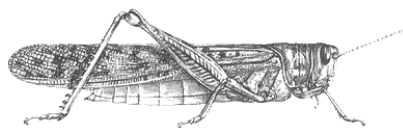
FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Eastern Region of its Distribution Area in South West Asia. The 13th session of the Executive Committee and the 22nd session of the Commission will be held in Tehran, I.R. Iran, on 17-21 September.

Monthly rainfall maps. Maps of monthly rainfall for 2000 (January - August) are available on the locust webpages at: <http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/archiv00.htm>.

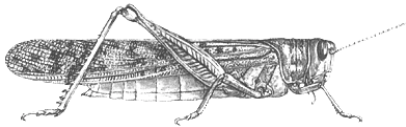
Pictures from the recent national training course on Desert Locust survey and control in Pakistan are available on the locust webpages at: <http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/paktrain/pakmain.htm>.

The 1999 Report of the Pesticide Referee Group is available for downloading on the locust webpages at: <http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/reports1.htm>.

Central Asia. Representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan signed a resolution at a Round Table meeting, organized by the Government of Kazakhstan and FAO in Almaty on 23-24 August, requesting FAO to study the possible creation of a Regional Locust Commission for Central Asia.



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Glossary of terms

The following special terms are used in the Desert Locust Bulletin when reporting locusts:

NON-GREGARIOUS ADULTS AND HOPPERS

ISOLATED (FEW)

- very few present and no mutual reaction occurring;
- 0 - 1 adult/400 m foot transect (or less than 25/ha).

SCATTERED (SOME, LOW NUMBERS)

- enough present for mutual reaction to be possible but no ground or basking groups seen;
- 1 - 20 adults/400 m foot transect (or 25 - 500/ha).

GROUP

- forming ground or basking groups;
- 20+ adults/400 m foot transect (or 500+/ha).

ADULT SWARM AND HOPPER BAND SIZES

VERY SMALL

- swarm: less than 1 km² • band: 1 - 25 m²

SMALL

- swarm: 1 - 10 km² • band: 25 - 2,500 m²

MEDIUM

- swarm: 10 - 100 km² • band: 2,500 m² - 10 ha

LARGE

- swarm: 100 - 500 km² • band: 10 - 50 ha

VERY LARGE

- swarm: 500+ km² • band: 50+ ha

RAINFALL

LIGHT

- 1 - 20 mm of rainfall.

MODERATE

- 21 - 50 mm of rainfall.

HEAVY

- more than 50 mm of rainfall.

OTHER REPORTING TERMS

BREEDING

- the process of reproduction from copulation to fledging.

SUMMER RAINS AND BREEDING

- July - September/October

WINTER RAINS AND BREEDING

- October - January/February

SPRING RAINS AND BREEDING

- February - June/July

DECLINE

- a period characterised by breeding failure and/or successful control leading to the dissociation of swarming populations and the onset of recessions; can be regional or major.

OUTBREAK

- a marked increase in locust numbers due to concentration, multiplication and gregarisation which, unless checked, can lead to the formation of hopper bands and swarms.

UPSURGE

- a period following a recession marked initially by a very large increase in locust numbers and contemporaneous outbreaks followed by the production of two or more successive seasons of transient-to-gregarious breeding in complimentary seasonal breeding areas in the same or neighbouring Desert Locust regions.

PLAGUE

- a period of one or more years of widespread and heavy infestations, the majority of which occur as bands or swarms. A major plague exists when two or more regions are affected simultaneously.

RECESSION

- period without widespread and heavy infestations by swarms.

REMISSION

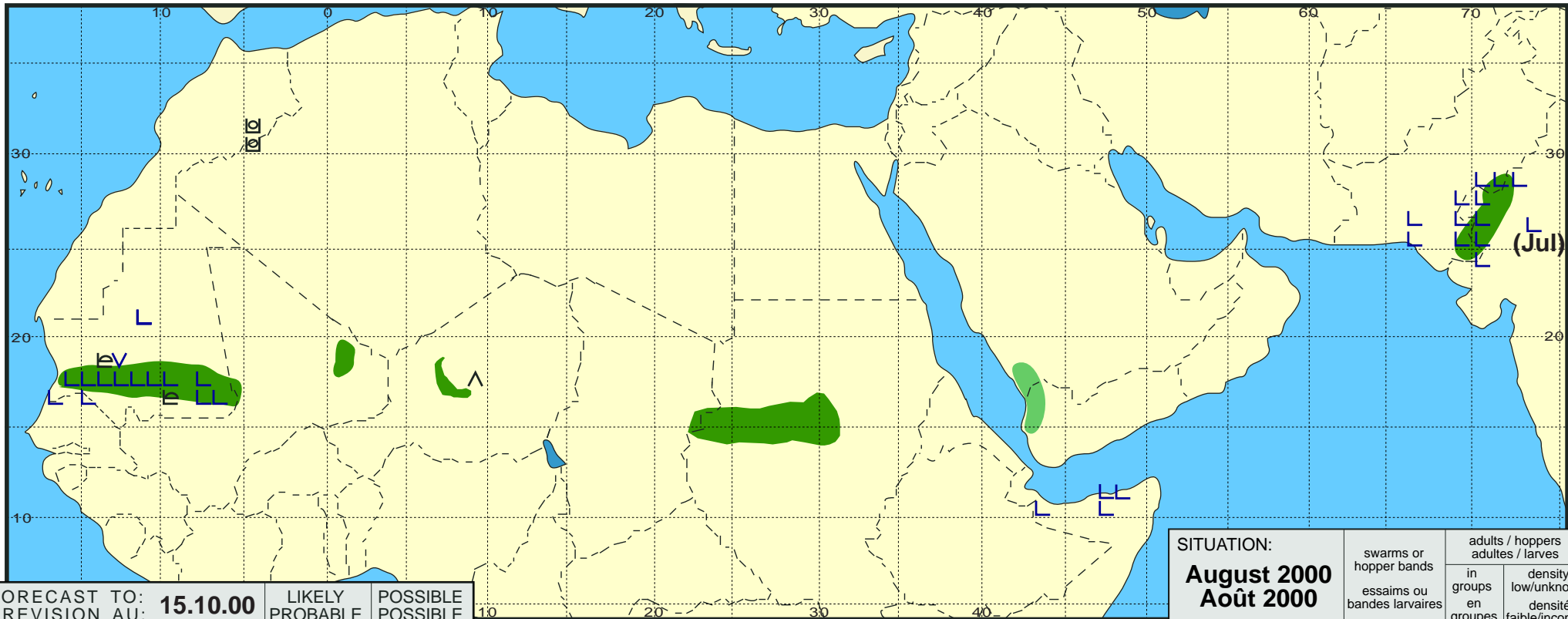
- period of deep recession marked by the complete absence of gregarious populations.



Desert Locust Summary

Criquet pèlerin - Situation résumée

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FORECAST TO: PREVISION AU: 15.10.00	LIKELY PROBABLE	POSSIBLE POSSIBLE
favourable breeding conditions conditions favorables à la reproduction		
major swarm(s) essaim(s) important(s)		
minor swarm(s) essaim(s) limité(s)		
non swarming adults adultes non essaimant		

SITUATION: August 2000 Août 2000	swarms or hopper bands essaims ou bandes larvaires	adults / hoppers adultes / larves	
		in groups en groupes	density low/unknown densité faible/inconnue

immature adults adultes immatures			
mature or partly mature adults adultes matures ou partiellement matures			
adults, maturity unknown adultes, maturité inconnue			
egg laying or eggs pontes ou œufs			
hoppers larves			
hoppers & adults (combined symbol example) larves et adultes (exemple symboles combinés)			