

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



No. 264
(4 October 2000)



General Situation during September 2000 Forecast until mid-November 2000

Despite good rainfall and favourable breeding conditions in some of the summer breeding areas, the Desert Locust situation continued to remain calm during September. Only low numbers of solitary adults and small scale breeding were reported in Mauritania. Isolated adults were present in northern Somalia and along the Indo-Pakistan border. During the forecast period, vegetation will start to dry up and, in a few places, adults could become concentrated as they start to shift from summer to winter breeding areas. This movement is expected to be on a very small scale this year.

Western Region. Small scale breeding is in progress in southern and central Mauritania where locust numbers are expected to increase slightly as breeding continues during October. Once vegetation starts to dry out, adults are likely to move on a small scale towards northern Mauritania. In north-western Algeria, late reports stated that 5 ha of hopper and adult groups were treated at the end of August. This may have been related to similar populations that were treated in adjacent areas of Morocco in early August (see Bulletin 263). Elsewhere, no significant developments are likely.

Central Region. Although no locusts were seen during surveys in the summer breeding areas of Sudan, conditions remained favourable over a large area and there is a possibility that low numbers are present and breeding in a few places. Adults are likely to start moving east towards the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coastal plains but the scale of this movement is estimated to be insignificant. Low numbers of adults were present in north-western Somalia. No locusts were reported from eastern Ethiopia. Good rains fell along the southern Red Sea coastal plains of Saudi Arabia and Yemen where low numbers of locusts may be present or could appear in the coming weeks and start to breed on a small scale. Ground control operations treated 3211 ha of mature adults and hopper groups in a few oases in southern Egypt but it is not clear what species was involved.

Eastern Region. Only low numbers of solitary adults were reported in the summer breeding areas of Pakistan along the border with India. Numbers declined by the end of September as a result of increasingly dry conditions. No locusts were reported in India. Very few locusts are expected to move towards the spring breeding areas of western Pakistan this year.

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.

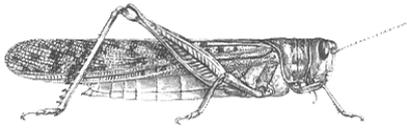
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Weather & Ecological Conditions in September 2000

Breeding conditions remained favourable in several parts of the Sahel in West Africa and Sudan as a result of good rainfall during the month. Conditions were improving on the Red Sea coastal plains of Yemen where moderate to heavy rains fell. Conditions were drying out along the Indo-Pakistan border.

In **West Africa**, the ITCZ fluctuated between 15-20N during the month. Good rains fell over most of southern, central and western Mauritania throughout the month (see map). Green vegetation was present and conditions were favourable for breeding in Brakna (north and west of Moudjeria), in south-western Tagant (south of Tidjikja), in Inchiri (south and west of Akjoujt). In Mali, light rains fell in the Adrar des Iforas and near Tombouctou where vegetation was green in most wadis but started to dry out during the second half of the month. Vegetation was dry or becoming dry and conditions were generally unfavourable for breeding in Tamesna and Air, Niger and in Chad.

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

In **Eastern Africa**, moderate to locally heavy rains were reported in the northern Sahelian belt of Sudan where seasonal vegetation was green and conditions were favourable for breeding over large areas of Northern Kordofan and Northern Darfur up to about 15N as well as along parts of the Atbara River and between Kassala and Derudeb. Green vegetation was also present in the western lowlands of Eritrea in Khor Baraka. On the Red Sea coast, vegetation was becoming green in a few areas near Sheib, Shelshela and Foro where rains fell. No rainfall was reported on the northern coastal plains of Somalia. Elsewhere, conditions were dry except for some localized green vegetation from Harer in eastern Ethiopia to Hargeisa in north-western Somalia where good rains had fallen.

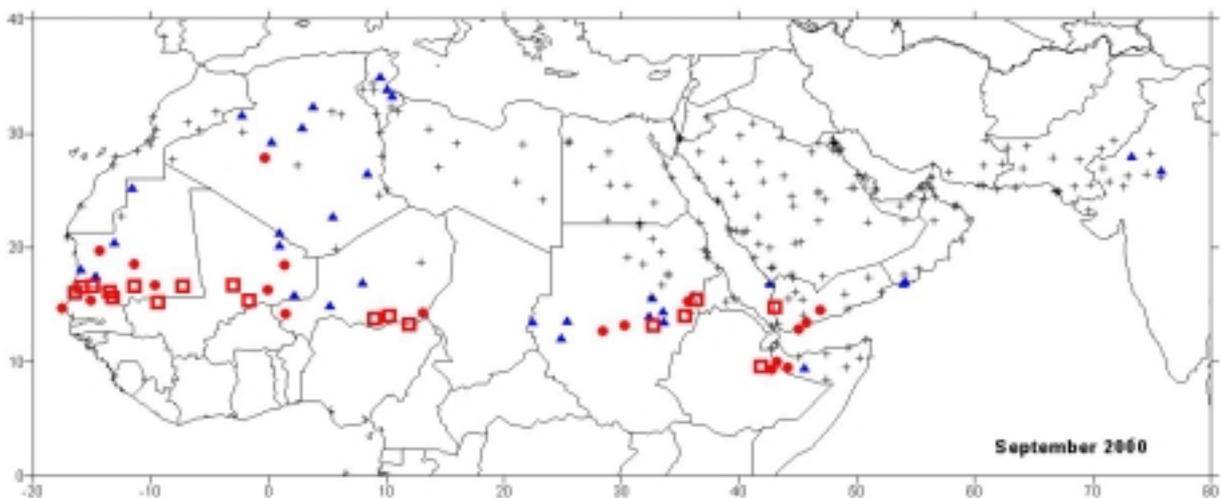
In the **Near East**, moderate rains fell on several different days during the month on the southern Red Sea coastal plains from Jizan, Saudi Arabia to Zabid, Yemen. Vegetation is greening in the Jizan area and in most of the major wadis along the Yemeni plains. Showers were also reported on the coastal plains near Aden and in the interior near Shabwa. Conditions are expected to be favourable for breeding in most of these areas.

In **South-West Asia**, conditions were dry in the summer breeding areas of Pakistan and India where no rain was reported and most vegetation was dry or drying out. Breeding conditions were unfavourable.



Area Treated

Egypt	3211 ha	(24 September)
Algeria	5 ha	(End of August)



September 2000 rainfall		Pluie mensuelle: Septembre 2000	
+	Unsignificant - Nulle (< 1 mm)	●	Moderate - Moyenne (20-50 mm)
▲	Light - Faible (1-20 mm)	■	Heavy - Forte (> 50 mm)



Desert Locust Situation and Forecast

(see also the summary on the first page)

WEST AFRICA

Mauritania

- **SITUATION**

Low numbers of immature and mature adults were present during September in parts of Trarza, Brakna, Tagant, and the two Hodhs. During the first dekad of the month, solitary locusts were mostly found near Nema (1636N/0715W), Aioun el Atrous (1700N/0940W), and between Moudjeria (1750N/1250W) and Akjoujt (1945N/1421W). During the second and third dekads, adults were more dispersed and scattered over a large area between Aioun, Tidjikja and Akjoujt. Small scale breeding was in progress north of Moudjeria where laying was seen and a few first to fourth instar hoppers were reported during the month.

- **FORECAST**

Additional hatching on a small scale is expected to occur during October in those areas that recently received good rainfall. As a result, locust numbers will increase slightly and new adults could start to appear from November onwards. Once vegetation starts to dry out, adults are likely to concentrate and move on a small scale north towards Inchiri and Adrar.

Mali

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

Low numbers of locusts are likely to be present in parts of the Adrar des Iforas and breeding on a small scale is likely in areas of recent rainfall. Breeding will probably persist as long as conditions remain favourable.

Niger

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported during the first two dekads of September.

- **FORECAST**

Low numbers of adults may be present in parts of central Tamesna and on the western side of the Air but breeding is likely to be limited due to the prevailing dry and unfavourable conditions.

Chad

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Senegal

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **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**

A late report indicated that 5 ha were treated in the end of August against groups of adults and hoppers south of Bechar at Abadla (3101N/0244W). These may have been related to similar populations reported in adjacent areas of Morocco in early August (see Bulletin 263). There was an unconfirmed report from nomads of adults mixed with hoppers in Oued Tamanrasset (ca. 2200N/0100E) during the second half of August which suggests that isolated summer breeding may have occurred in parts of the south. No locusts were reported during September.

- **FORECAST**

Low numbers of adults may persist and mature in areas of recent rainfall near Tamanrasset. No significant developments are likely.

Morocco

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported in the South and South-East of the country during September.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported during September.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

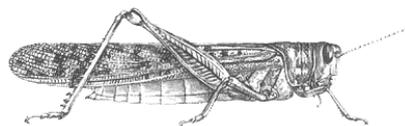
Tunisia

- **SITUATION**

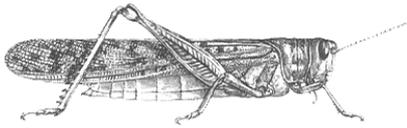
No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.



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EASTERN AFRICA

Sudan

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were seen during surveys in Northern Kordofan during September.

- **FORECAST**

Low numbers of solitary adults may be present in areas of green vegetation and recent rains in Northern Darfur, Northern Kordofan, near the Atbara River, and between Kassala and Derudeb. Small scale breeding may be in progress in these areas but at such a low level that it could be difficult to detect. Isolated adults may start to appear on the western side of the Red Sea Hills and on the coastal plains south of Suakin by the end of the forecast period.

Eritrea

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were seen during surveys along the Red Sea Coast and its hinterlands during September.

- **FORECAST**

Low numbers of locusts may be present and perhaps breeding on a small scale in Khor Baraka in the western lowlands. Isolated adults could start to appear in a few places along the coastal plains north of Massawa and near Foro during the forecast period. No significant developments are likely.

Somalia

- **SITUATION**

A few immature adults were seen north-east of Hargeisa at Bildhaley (1007N/4412E) and Faruur (1007N/4427E) during surveys carried out from 29 August to 2 September on the northwest plateau.

- **FORECAST**

Low numbers of adults may persist and mature in a few areas where ecological conditions are favourable. No significant developments are likely.

Ethiopia

- **SITUATION**

Although ecological conditions were found to be favourable, no locusts were seen east of Dire Dawa on 16-20 September.

- **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 reports received.

- **FORECAST**

Isolated adults may be present near Jizan where numbers could gradually increase as a result of breeding in areas of recent rainfall.

Yemen

- **SITUATION**

No surveys were conducted on the Red Sea coastal plains in September due to an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever.

- **FORECAST**

Low numbers of locusts may be present and breeding may be taking place on a small scale where rains have recently fallen on the Red Sea coastal plains between Zabid and the Saudi Arabian border, the coastal plains west of Aden, and in the interior of Shabwa.

Egypt

- **SITUATION**

On 24 September, transiens adults and dense first to fifth instar hopper groups were treated by ground-spraying in cultivated areas of a few oases in the Western Desert in the extreme south: 3169 ha at Sh. Oweinat (2240N/2845E) and 42 ha at Tushka (2228N/3158E to 2230N/3140E). It is unclear what species was involved. Confirmation is awaited.

- **FORECAST**

Isolated adults may persist in a few oases in the Western Desert. No significant developments are likely.

Kuwait

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Oman

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **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 in coastal areas of Hormozgan Province near Jask (2540N/5746E) on 30 September.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Pakistan

- SITUATION

During the month of September, isolated mature adults at densities of up to six locusts per ha were reported at 36 places in Cholistan and Tharparkar deserts near the border with India. Lower numbers were present in Lasbela, west of Karachi.

- FORECAST

Locust numbers will decline further in summer breeding areas and no significant developments are likely.

India

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported during the first fortnight of September.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Afghanistan

- SITUATION

No reports received.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

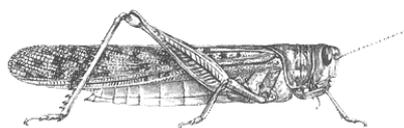


Announcements

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.

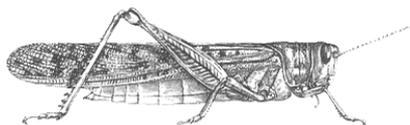
Reporting by email. Affected countries are encouraged to send completed *FAO Desert Locust Survey and Control Forms* with a brief interpretation of the results by email to eclo@fao.org.

EMPRES (Desert Locust) Central Region Programme. Three events have been arranged in next few months. The 8th EMPRES Liaison Officers meeting will be held in Muscat, Oman from 22-26 October. A Research Workshop will be held in Cairo, Egypt from 6-8 November. The 3rd EMPRES Consultative Committee will be held in Rome from 4-5 December.



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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

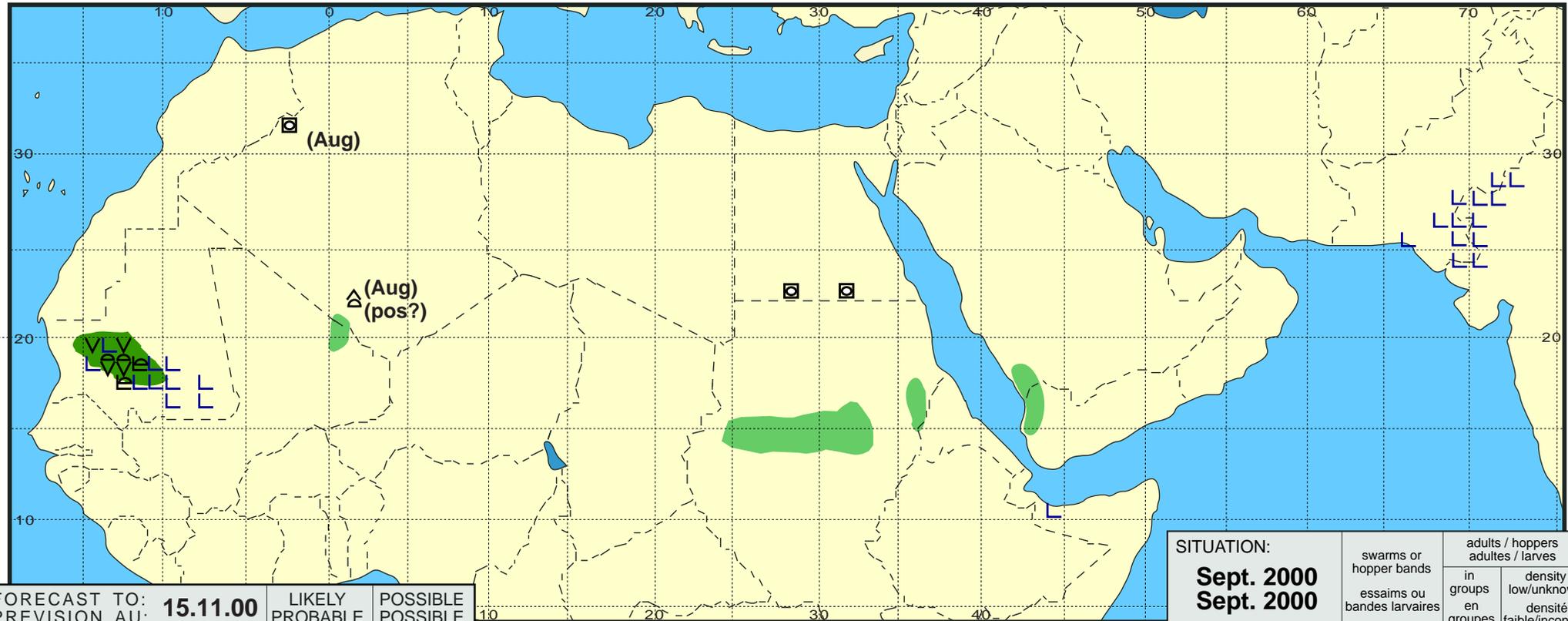
- period of deep recession marked by the complete absence of gregarious populations.



Desert Locust Summary

Criquet pèlerin - Situation résumée

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FORECAST TO: PREVISION AU: 15.11.00	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: Sept. 2000 Sept. 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)			