

FAO DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN No 129

GENERAL SITUATION DURING MAY-EARLY JUNE 1989 FORECAST FOR JULY-AUGUST 1989

SUMMARY

There was a significant change in the Desert Locust situation during the period of May - early June. A substantial number of swarms were found in south-western Mali moving east to Burkina Faso and south-western Niger. Swarms have formed further north in Mali, Niger, and in central Mauritania. Second to fourth instar hopper bands were reported from Djibouti. Although these populations do not in themselves constitute a major threat to crops, it is stressed that the potential exists for a plague resurgence if conditions occur which allow successful breeding.

In West Africa numerous immature swarms moved quickly from Guinea Conakry into south-western Mali and into the Middle Niger flood plain. Small swarms continued east to Burkina Faso and south-western Niger. Locust populations were reported in central Mauritania, north-eastern Mali, and north-western Niger; these included some small immature swarms.

In North-West Africa very small-scale control operations against hoppers were undertaken south of Agadir in Morocco in late May. There were no other reports from the region.

In Eastern Africa second to fourth instar hopper bands were reported in Djibouti in late May. Some scattered adults were reported in western Sudan.

In the Near East scattered low density hoppers and fledglings were reported in the Western Desert of Egypt in mid May.

In South-West Asia scattered low density populations of adults were reported in Pakistan and India.

WEST AFRICA

Weather

Analysis of Meteosat imagery indicated a light cloud mass over southern areas of the Sahel during May. Localised heavy rain fell in north-eastern Chad at Oum Adjer and in southern Chad at Moundou in May. In Mali, insignificant rainfall of less than 3 mm was reported in the south-west in May. On 3 June, Bamako received 26 mm. In Niger, 40 mm of rain was reported near In-Abangharit in the Tamesna on 30 April. Light rains fell in southern Niger in late May.

The normal summer wind pattern of north-easterly wind flows on the northern side of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) and south-westerlies on the southern side was present during the period. The ITCZ oscillated between 14-16 degrees north, moving in a slight northerly direction in late May and early June.

Breeding Conditions

Analysis of NOAA imagery during the first two decades in May indicated areas of green vegetation in Guinea Conakry, southern Senegal, south-western Mali, and south-western Burkina Faso. Ground surveys during April and early May reported that vegetation was dry and unfavourable for breeding in central Mauritania.

Locusts

MAURITANIA

During April and early May, surveys were undertaken in central Mauritania in the Dakhlet Nouadhibou, Inchiri, Trarza, Adrar, Tagant and Hodh Chargi areas. Only locusts reported were isolated adults and a small population of fifth instar hoppers, at a density of 0.2-0.3 per sq m over an area of 40 ha, at Labheir (2000N/1240W).

In mid May, there were reports of desert locust in three locations near Ouadane (2056N/1137W) in the Adrar area. Fourth and fifth instar hoppers were reported at Gara Aguilal (2054N/1142W) at a population density of 20-30 per sq m. Hoppers were also reported at Guelb Richat (2107N/1124W) and adults at Lembediya but details were not available.

In late May, a mature swarm was reported by nomads near Oum Moghreyane (2120N/1156W). Mature swarms and hoppers were also reported north-east of Ouadane.

SENEGAL

A low density population of adults was reported in the Fleuve region (1600N/1430W) in the first decade of May. No further details were available.

GAMBIA

Gambia was reported to be clear of Desert Locusts on 10 May.

GUINEA BISSAU

Guinea Bissau was reported to be clear of Desert Locusts on 10 May.

GUINEA CONAKRY

In the first week of May, three swarms were reported north-east of Kankan. One high flying immature swarm, with a density of 100-150 per sq m, was estimated to cover an area of 75 sq km at Faralako (1043N/0848W) on 6 May. Damage to mango and orange trees was reported. Two other swarms were reported at Batenafaggi (1040N/0910W) and Kopieran Diaran (1032N/0850W). Densities and areas covered were not reported.

The situation was reported calm by the end of May.

MALI

In north-eastern Mali, low density populations of fledglings and hoppers were reported in the Tilemsi area on 6 May. Populations of fledglings, at densities ranging from 1-10 per sq m, were reported at Wadi Tarlit (1935N/0050E), Wadi Irharhar (1950N/0052E) and Wadi Afara (1956N/0057E) and in total covered an area of approximately 1,300 ha. A small population of fifth instar hoppers was also reported at Wadi Afara at a density of 0.5-1 per sq m over an area of 500 ha.

In the north Adrar area, fifth instar hoppers (at a population density of 2-5 per sq m) and fledglings (at a population density of 4-5 per sq m) were reported at Wadi Bolrech (2043N/0109E) over an area of 600 ha in early May. In northern Timetrine, fourth and fifth instar hoppers and fledglings (at a population density of 1-10 per sq m) were reported at Wadi Tirhatimine (2023N/0047W) over an area of 90 ha. There was an unconfirmed report of swarms of locusts in the north-east of the Adrar area at Tin Zaouaten (1951N/0312E). No further details were available.

In late May, a total area of 2,200 ha was reported infested with locusts in the Adrar and Tamesna areas, primarily in Wadis Tarlit, Marat, and Afara near the Niger border. It is likely that these populations formed from locally produced fledglings reported in late April and early May.

During the first decade of May, swarms entered south-western Mali from the west. On the 7th, a swarm was seen at Yorobougoula (1054N/0800W) moving to Guelilinkoro (1109N/0831W) on the 8th, and to Folona (1230N/0730W) on the 12th. There was an unconfirmed report of locust activity at Yanfolila (1111N/0809W) on the 9th. Two swarms of unknown size were reported 45 km east of Bougouni (1125N/0729W) on 10 May. There was a report of minor damage to fruit trees but further details were not available.

During the last half of May, numerous small swarms were reported in the region of the Middle Niger flood plain from Bamako to Tenenkou (1427N/0455W). On the 18th, a swarm was seen at Molodo (1414N/0602W) over an area of 10,000 ha. These swarms were moving in an easterly direction along the ITCZ. On the 20th, swarms were reported at Goundam (1625N/0340W). A 3 km by 0.6 km swarm was reported at Boni (1504N/0214W) on the 21st moving south-east to the Burkina Faso border at Douna (1439N/0144W) on the following day.

BURKINA FASO

Swarms were reported in eight provinces in the north and central regions of the country from 19 to 31 May. Swarms were seen in Yatenga province on the 19th, moving east to Soum province on the 24th and to Seno province on the 29th. Swarms and adult populations were present west and east of Ouagadougou on the 30th and to the north at Pore (1353N/0145W) on the 31st. Reports indicate that most of the swarms were moving in an easterly direction. Damage was only reported on natural vegetation. On 25 May, 13 ha were treated at Sebba (1326N/0032E).

NIGER

In early May, populations of fledglings were reported in north-western Niger at Azinkad, 35 km north-west of In-Abangharit (1754N/0603E) at a density of 100-500 per ha; in the Aghlal-Abebou area, 40-90 km north-west of In-Abangharit at a density of 500-1000 per ha; and in the Iguidi area, 40-100 km south-west of In-Abangharit at a density of 600 per ha.

In late May, isolated groups of immature adults were seen in Tamesna at Nebougou. Some ground control against hoppers was carried out in the In-Abangharit area (1754N/0603E) late in May but details were not available.

From 26 to 31 May, immature swarms entered south-western Niger from Burkina Faso. A large swarm was reported 15 km south of Tillabery (1413N/0127E) on the 26th. Numerous low density swarms were reported from between 95 km north-west and 30 km south-east of Niamey. Aerial control operations treated 1800 ha on the 29th and 30th.

CHAD

A survey of eastern and northern Chad in the Borkou, Ennedi, Tibesti, Kanem, Ouaddai and Biltine areas was undertaken during the last two weeks of April. No locusts were reported.

There was an unconfirmed report of swarms of locusts north-west of Adre (1222N/1535E), near the border with Sudan, on 10 May. Details were not available.

CAMEROON

Cameroon was reported to be clear of Desert Locusts on 10 May.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Weather

Analysis of Meteosat imagery for May indicated a substantial cloud mass over eastern Morocco, northern Algeria, Tunisia, and northern Libya during the last decade of the month. Meteorological stations recorded rainfall, heavy at times, in coastal and sub-coastal areas.

Breeding Conditions

Analysis of NOAA imagery indicated green vegetation confined to coastal areas of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.

Locusts**MOROCCO**

Small-scale control operations were mounted against hoppers south of Agadir in late May.

No information regarding locusts had been received from other countries in the North-West Africa region up to 9 June.

EASTERN AFRICA**Weather**

Analysis of Meteosat imagery indicated a substantial cloud mass over central Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Somalia during May. Above average rainfall was recorded in parts of central Sudan with 25 mm reported at En Nahud. Heavy rain fell in late May and early June in central Sudan and Ethiopia. A fall of 35 mm was reported from Nakamti in western Ethiopia during the period. Previously in late April, heavy rain fell in northern and coastal areas of Ethiopia.

Breeding Conditions

Analysis of NOAA imagery for mid May indicate that breeding conditions were improving and becoming favourable in some of the summer breeding areas of central and western Sudan and in the Ethiopian Highlands. Ground surveys in late May reported that ecological conditions were very favourable for breeding in eastern and south-eastern Ethiopia, Djibouti, and northern and central Somalia.

Locusts**SUDAN**

In the first decade of May, very low density populations of adult locusts were reported north of El Fasher at Wadi Magrur (1603N/2638E), Wadi Qelti Bardi (1549N/2536E) and Wadi Giterait (1535N/2550E). Population densities ranged from 15 per sq km to 20 per sq km, but the area covered by the populations was not reported.

Surveys in late May indicated that areas north of El Fasher, north of El Obeid, En Nahud, Shendi, and in the Central region were free of locusts up to the 29th.

In early June, there was an unconfirmed report of locusts in Geneina near the border with Chad.

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia was reported clear up to 6 June.

DJIBOUTI

Second to fourth instar hopper bands were reported in the Obock area (1210N/4320E) on 29 May. No further details available.

SOMALIA

In northern Somalia, ground surveys reported no locusts in the Gardo (0930N/4902E) and Garoe (0828N/4825E) areas in late May.

KENYA, UGANDA and TANZANIA

Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania were reported clear of locusts on 10 May.

NEAR EAST

Weather

Analysis of Meteosat imagery in May indicated substantial cloud mass over the Tihama, throughout Yemen AR and along the southern coast of Yemen PDR during the last two decades in May. Good rainfall, heavy at times, was reported in southern areas of the Arabian Peninsula near the borders of Yemen PDR and Oman. Thamud received 46 mm on 26 May.

Breeding Conditions

The NOAA satellite derived greenness index maps indicate substantial areas of green vegetation during Mid May in the following parts of the Arabian Peninsula: Hadhramaut, Rub Al Khali, the south-western highlands, and the escarpment north to Taif.

Locusts

EGYPT

Scattered low density populations of fledglings and mixed instar hoppers were reported at Abu Mounkar Oasis (2630N/2740E) in mid May.

No information regarding locusts had been received from other countries in the Near East region up to 9 June.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Weather

Meteosat imagery was not available for South-West Asia. Light rainfall was recorded in the Panjur area of Pakistan on 30 April. In India, traces of rain fell in northwest Rajasthan and adjoining areas during the first half of May.

Breeding Conditions

NOAA imagery indicated that most areas were dry during the first decade of May. Reports indicate that vegetation in winter/spring breeding areas was dry and unsuitable for breeding in the first half of May.

Locusts

PAKISTAN

In late April, scattered low density populations of adult locusts were reported in the winter/spring breeding areas with a maximum density of 525 per sq km at Kaliri (2512N/6341E).

During the first half of May, scattered low density populations of adult locusts were reported in some localities of Baluchistan with a maximum density of 450 per sq km reported at Tinkanda (2533N/6635E) in the Lasbela District. On the 16th and 18th, additional low density populations, with a maximum density of 450 per sq km at Kaliri, were reported in Panjur and Uthalo districts of Baluchistan.

INDIA

Scattered low density populations of adult locusts were reported during the last two weeks of April in seven localities of the Barmer and Bikaner Districts of Rajasthan with a maximum density of 375 per sq km at Magra (2552N/7045E) on 17 April.

During the first half of May, isolated locust adults were seen in four localities in Rajasthan, with a maximum density of 150 per sq km at Purabsar (2902N/7418E).

FORECAST FOR JULY - AUGUST

Swarms will continue to move eastwards through the Sahel on the south side of the ITCZ. Swarms will invade eastern Niger and western Chad and a few may reach eastern Chad and Darfur in western Sudan. Swarms are not likely to breed before mid July. Small-scale breeding is likely to occur in the summer breeding areas of Sudan. Breeding is likely to be in progress in southern areas of the Arabian Peninsula and a few small forms may form and persist in the area or move to the summer breeding areas of Pakistan and India.

In West Africa the number of swarms in Mali, western Niger, and Burkina Faso will decline as they move out of the area toward the east. The swarms are likely to encounter conditions suitable for breeding but will not lay before mid July. In addition, a few small swarms together with scattered adults are likely to invade the Sahel of Mauritania, Mali, and Niger from the north. These females can be expected to lay soon after arrival but the breeding may be dispersed and the resulting hoppers difficult to find. Nevertheless, bands are likely to form by early August.

In North-West Africa no substantial population changes are expected to occur during the forecast period.

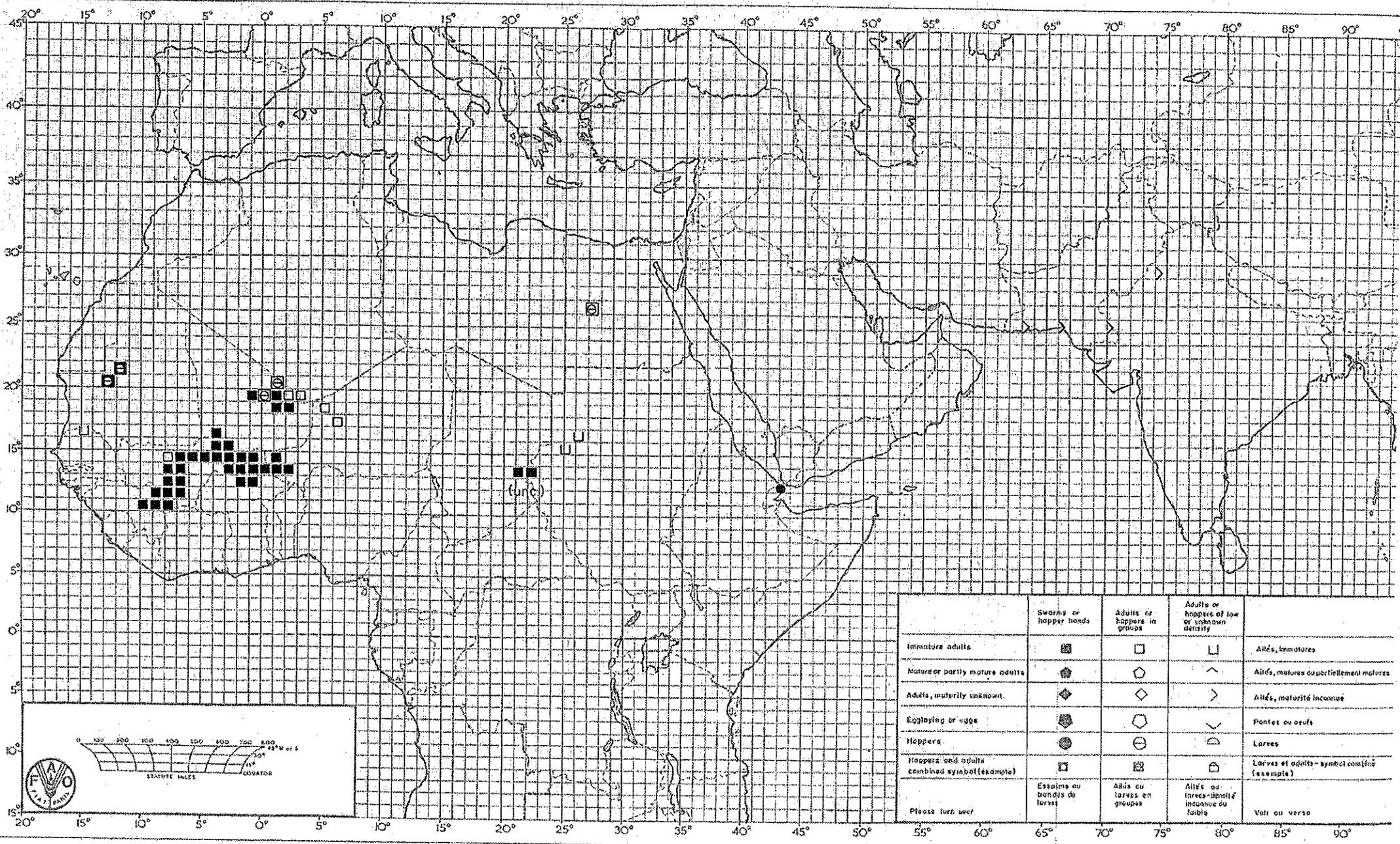
In Eastern Africa there is a possibility of a few swarms moving into western Sudan. Small-scale breeding is likely to occur in the summer breeding areas of Sudan. Breeding is almost certainly in progress in Djibouti and nearby areas and in the western part of the northern Somali coastal plain. The scale of breeding is difficult to predict. A few small swarms are likely to form and persist in the area, breeding again if conditions remain favourable.

In the Near East breeding is almost certainly in progress in the south-west of the Arabian Peninsula and in the Hadhramaut. The scale of breeding is difficult to predict but at most a few small swarms will form. The adults are likely to persist within the area and breed again if conditions remain favourable. Breeding is also likely to be in progress in the Rub Al Khali. Scattered adults and possibly a few small swarms may occur and migrate to the summer breeding areas of Pakistan and India.

In South-West Asia there is a possibility of small scale immigration to the monsoon breeding areas of south-eastern and eastern Pakistan and north-western India. Numbers will increase in these areas through the eastward migration of scattered adults from Baluchistan. Breeding will start with the onset of the monsoon rains which can be expected to occur in late June or July.

Rome, 12 June 1989.

Desert Locust Situation Summary No.129 MAY-EARLY JUNE / MAI-DEBUT JUIN, 1989



	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density	
Immature adults	■	□	◻	Adults, immatures
Maturing or partly mature adults	◐	◑	◒	Adults, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown	◔	◕	◖	Adults, maturité inconnue
Egglaying or eggs	◗	◘	◙	Pontes ou oeufs
Hoppers	◚	◛	◜	Larves
Hoppers and adults combined symbol (exemple)	◝	◞	◟	Larves et adultes - symbol combiné (exemple)
Please turn over	Essaims ou bandes de larves	Adults ou larves en groupes	Adults ou larves de faible densité ou faibles	Voir au verso