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DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

N. 101-102 JANUARY - EARLY MARCH 1987

SUMMARY

Gregarious breeding continued on the Red Sea coastal plains of Ethiopia and Sudan up to early March but was completely controlled in Saudi Arabia by mid-January. Some gregarious breeding was reported from south-eastern Egypt and breeding also occurred on the Yemen Tihama. Breeding also continued in cultivations along the Atbara river in Sudan. A swarmlet was reported from Western Sahara and small numbers of adults are probably present in Niger, Mali and Mauritania.

Late information: a mature swarm measuring 8 km x 8 km was reported from Maldi on the Yemen Tihama on 15 March.

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

No rain was reported during January but Meteosat imagery suggested that light rain may have fallen on a number of days during the third decade of January and the first decade of February. Haze was reported from Mali and from Mauritania during the third decade of January. Winds from the south-west quarter were reported from Mauritania.

Breeding conditions

Conditions were generally unfavourable for breeding but green vegetation persisted in inter-dune depressions in south western Adrar and northern Trarza in Mauritania.

Locusts

MAURITANIA

A large dispersed population of adults was present in Trarza, Tagant, the Grarats of Adrar and southern Inchiri.

No surveys were conducted in MALI or NIGER and no reports of locusts were received.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

During the second and third decades of January there were light rains south of the Anti-Atlas in Morocco, Ouarzazate recording 12mm in 3 days. Sidi Ifni 10 mm in 8 days and Tan-Tar 15 mm in 7 days.

Breeding conditions

Rainfall resulted in vegetation remaining green in flood plains in south-eastern and south-western Morocco.

Locusts

MOROCCO

On 29 January one immature female was caught at Tan-Tar (2828N/1103W). On 20 January a group of flying adults was reported 30 km east of Bir Anzarane (2308N/1311W) but a ground survey team which later visited the area failed to find any locusts.

No locusts were reported from ALGERIA, LIBYA or TUNISIA.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology

There were several periods of light to heavy rain along the Red Sea coastal plains of northern Ethiopia and Sudan south of the Tokar delta. No rain was reported from the northern coastal plains of Somalia or Djibouti.

Breeding conditions

As a result of the good winter rains, breeding conditions were very favourable along the Red Sea coastal plains of Sudan and Ethiopia between Port Sudan and Tokar.

Locusts

SUDAN

RED SEA PROVINCE

Numerous maturing copulating and laying swarms were seen in the Tokar delta and south to the Ethiopian border during January and early February. These were controlled by aircraft. Ground control continued against groups of adults throughout February particularly in the Karora area. In early February dense groups of adults were also found north-west of Port Sudan over an area of 1700 square kilometres in Khore-Gabitat (2019N/3550 E) and were controlled by baiting and dusting. Small groups of adults were also reported from Wadi Oko in late February.

In late January groups of first instar hoppers appeared in the Tokar delta and in early February groups of hoppers were found in the border area. On 18 February dense fifth instar bands were found over an area of 180 square kilometres around Karora. All these infestations were controlled by baiting and spraying and by the end of February all cultivated areas and surrounding grasslands in the Tokar delta and Khor Baraka areas were reported clear.

During January the following pesticides were used. HCH bait 106040 kg., Propoxur 75% WP 25 kg., Diazinon 60% 1590 litres, Fenitrothion 50% 1550 litres and Dursban 24% 190 litres.

NORTHERN REGION

Ground control operations continued against hoppers and adults infesting winter crops along the Atbara river until early March.

ETHIOPIA

According to a late report a mature swarmlet found at Afabet in mid/December moved south and scattered. In the first week of January mature adults were reported from Emit (1625N/3845E), ALgena (1715N/3835E), Galeb Tsagla (1700N/3850E) and Akbanazuf (1550N/3911E).

Wadi Cuba (1615N/3912E) and Wadi Gulbub (1624N/3905E) and north-west of Sheb (1550N/3850E), while on 14 January there were reports of a swarm and of locust infestations from four localities in the Sheb area. From 12 to 17 January all these infestations were target and barrier sprayed from the air and ground using 420 litres Dieldrin, 220 litres of Fenitrothion 95% and 75 litres of Diazinon.

In late January 500 litres of Fenitrothion and 240 litres of Dieldrin were sprayed against hopper bands and groups in the Awhet (1736N/3832E) and Teclai (1736N/3835E) areas.

On 2 February an aerial survey revealed hopper bands east of Karora which were sprayed. On 10 February a small swarm was sprayed at Wadi Adilo (1550N/3824E) using 100 litres of Fenitrothion 95% and 10 medium and large hopper bands and adults were sprayed with 200 litres of Dieldrin. There was further aerial spraying at Adilo on 12 February.

On 14 February aerial control commenced against fifth instar bands in Wadi Karora (see also Sudan). Fifth instar bands were sprayed at Medid (1715N/3835E) on 16 February using 200 litres of Fenitrothion and on 18-20 February 690 litres of Fenitrothion were sprayed against medium sized bands at Teclar. On 23-24 February 730 litres of fenitrothion were applied against fifth instar bands at Amaber (1640N/3845E), 100 litres of Fenitrothion were applied at Karora and 100 litres at Galeb Tsagla. On 28 February 950 hectares of fifth instars were treated with 400 litres of Fenitrothion between Emberemix and Wachiro.

On 3 March a thin swarm measuring 8 km by 2 km was sprayed with 200 litres of Fenitrothion north of Cavet (1712N/3852E).

SOMALIA

On a ground survey of the northern coastal plains and the Meladen area isolated and scattered adults were found 15 kilometres west of Elayu, Durdureh and at Las Sukud.

There were no other reports from the Region.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

Mediterranean depressions gave rise to showers over northern Arabia and the Red Sea Convergence Zone resulted in some light-moderate showers on the southern Tihama and the Hijaz mountains during January. In late February there were heavy rains in the United Arab Emirates and Oman and on 2-3 March there was heavy rain throughout Saudi Arabia.

Breeding conditions

Conditions were favourable for breeding in parts of the Lith and Qunfidah and Jizan Tihamas in January. The northern Tihama was dry.

Locusts

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

As reported in Summary No.100, five helicopters and 10 ground units completely controlled the hopper infestations arising from swarm laying on the Lith and Qunfidah Tihamas by 14 January. A total of 17420 litres of Malathion and 16330 litres of Ensodil were applied over 50.000 hectares. By the end of January only isolated adults were reported.

During February hoppers at densities of 5-10 per square metre and adults were found over an area of 200 square kilometres at Hakameia south of Abu Arish. Complete control was affected by two helicopters using Malathion and Fenitrothion.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Hatching was reported on 15 January in Wadi Habil and by mid-February hoppers were present over an area 18 kilometres x 7 kilometres at densities of 1500-2500 per square kilometre. There were also unconfirmed reports of locusts from Marib and Al-Jawf.

EGYPT

Late instar hoppers were reported in the South-Eastern Desert in late January which were controlled.

In early February some medium dense groups of mature adults were found over an area of 8 km² at Adendan east of Abu Simbel. Control operations were mounted.

On 15 February a small swarm of mixed maturity arrived from the south-east and settled over 10 square kilometres at South Baris oases (2440N/3040E) and was controlled. On 17 February some dense groups of mature adults settled over an area of 3 square kilometres at North Baris.

IRAQ was reported clear in December 1986 and January 1987.
KUWAIT was cleared in December.

There were no other reports from the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

There were light to moderate rains in many parts of the spring breeding area on 3-4 January, Nushki recording 16 mm, Quetta 18 mm, Khuzdar 3.5 mm and Bahawalpur 6 mm. There was further light rain throughout Baluchistan during the third week of February.

Breeding conditions

Conditions were unfavourable for breeding.

Locusts

PAKISTAN

No locusts were reported in January or the first fortnight of February. On 24 February scattered adults were seen at Gadani (2507N/6604E) at a maximum density of 150 per square kilometre.

No locusts were reported from **INDIA** during January and the first fortnight of February.

IRAN was clear from October to January. **AFGHANISTAN** was clear from September-November.

FORECAST FOR APRIL-MAY 1987

Good rains in Red Sea coastal areas and the interior of Arabia are likely to result in continuation of winter-spring breeding in coastal areas and the commencement of spring breeding in the interior. The scale of the breeding will depend upon the effectiveness of control operations in Ethiopia and Sudan.

In West Africa residual over-wintering populations may start to breed in western and north-western Mauritania in areas receiving rainfall. Adults in Mali and Niger may start to breed in the southern Saharan massifs if they receive pre-monsoon rains.

In North-West Africa breeding is likely to occur in Western Sahara, south-western and south-eastern Morocco and western and central Algeria in areas receiving rainfall but it will be on a small scale. The progeny of breeding in Western Sahara may move northward and reach southern Morocco and western Algeria.

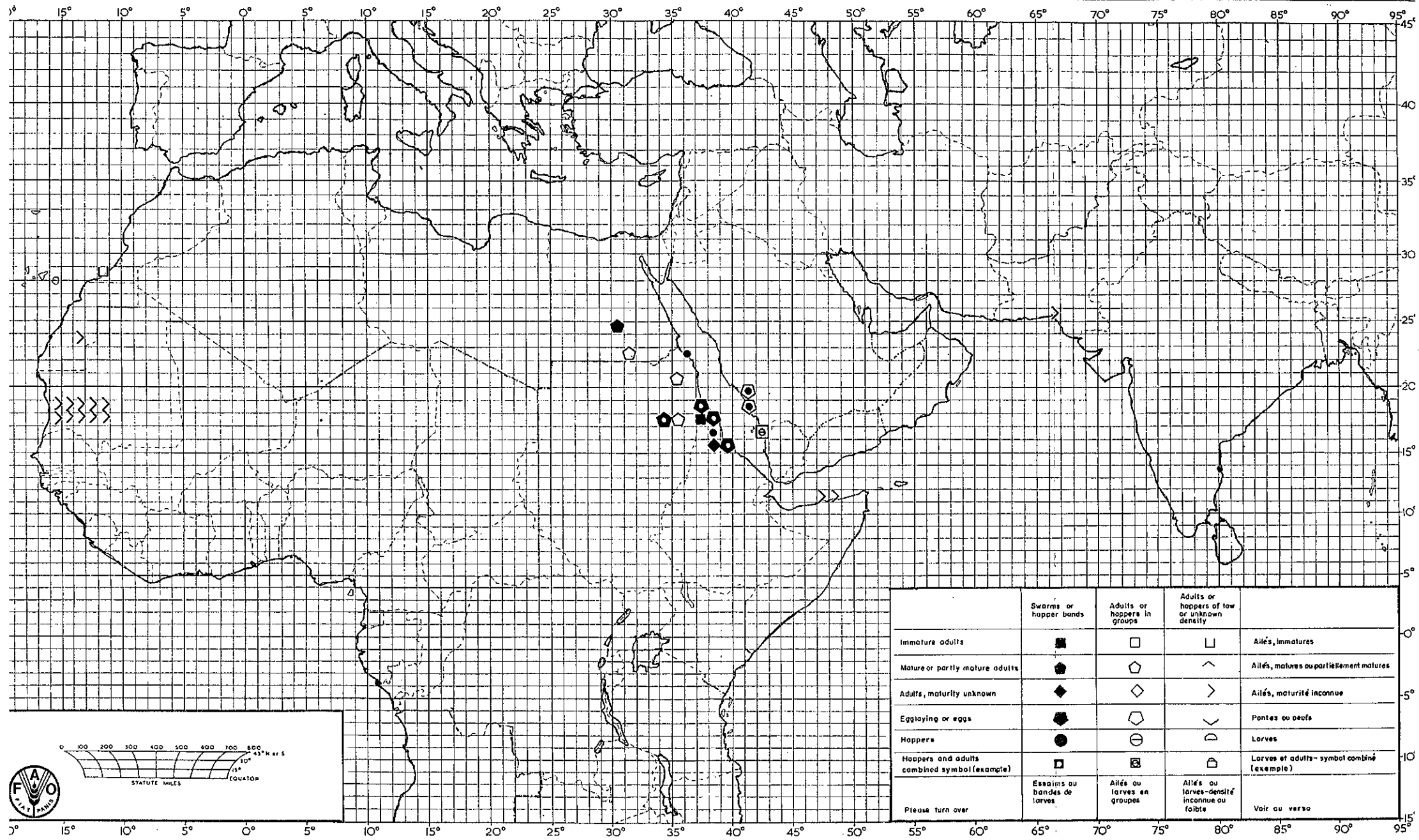
In Eastern Africa gregarious breeding is likely to continue on the Red Sea coastal plains of Ethiopia and Sudan unless control operations are completely effective. Some adults will start to move towards the interior of Sudan towards the end of the forecast period. Small numbers of adults will occur on coastal and sub-coastal plains of northern Somalia.

In the Near East further gregarious breeding may occur on the southern Tihama of Saudi Arabia and start on the northern Tihama if adults cross the Red Sea. Small scale breeding may continue on the Yemen Tihama. Generally scattered breeding may occur in the interior of western Saudi Arabia but there could be some gregarious breeding if swarms reach the area. In Egypt there may be further gregarious breeding in the South-Eastern Desert and small pockets of breeding in southern oases or areas receiving rain.

In South-West Asia there will be small scale scattered breeding in Baluchistan small number of adults will reach the summer breeding areas.

Rome
13 March 1986.

Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 101-102 JANUARY-EARLY MARCH / JANVIER-DEBUT DE MARS 1987



	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density	
Immature adults	■	□	□	Ailés, immatures
Mature or partly mature adults	●	◐	◑	Ailés, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown	◆	◇	>	Ailés, maturité inconnue
Egglaying or eggs	●	◐	◑	Pontes ou oeufs
Hoppers	●	◐	◑	Larves
Hoppers and adults combined symbol (example)	◐	◑	◑	Larves et adultes - symbol combiné (exemple)
Please turn over	Essaims ou bandes de larves	Ailés ou larves en groupes	Ailés ou larves - densité inconnue ou faible	Voir au verso

