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## Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

# DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

NO. 93 MAY-EARLY JUNE 1986

### SUMMARY

Gregarious breeding terminated in north-western Saudi Arabia but control continued in central-western Saudi Arabia. Some scattered adults reached the highlands of the Yemen Arab Republic. Groups of adults were present in south-western Algeria and eastern Morocco. Small numbers of adults were present in northern Somalia. There were small numbers of adults in Pakistan and India, and small scale breeding in Pakistan.

W/S0323

## WEST AFRICA

### Meteorology

As reported in Summary No. 92 there were monsoon rains over western Mali associated with a pull of the FIT, which reached 16°N, and very strong thermoconvective activity. Meteosat imagery showed the very rapid development of the instability and its decline within 72 hours. The median position of the FIT lay between 15° and 18°N, the latter position only being reached during pulls of the FIT by Mediterranean depressions. Some dust storms accompanied the instability. According to the GTS there was apparently no important rain in the summer breeding areas but the gaps in the meteorological network mean that local rains may not have been observed.

Maximum temperatures were generally around 43°C in the interior and 25°C in coastal areas.

### Breeding conditions

Conditions will have become favourable for breeding in areas receiving 25mm of rain or run-off during northward pulls of the FIT.

### Locusts

No surveys were undertaken and no locusts were reported.

## NORTH-WEST AFRICA

### Meteorology

Throughout virtually the whole of May and in early June Atlantic depressions affected the Maghreb in varying degree and gave rise to local thunderstorms. As reported in Summary No. 92 El Golea received 15mm on 4 May, while Tamanrasset recorded 21mm on 12 June, apparently in the form of a local shower rather than widespread rainfall.

Maximum temperatures were around 40°C in the Sahara and 25°C in coastal areas.

### Breeding conditions

Vegetation was reported to be drying out in the southern Sahara in mid-May.

## Locusts

### ALGERIA

Immature adults at densities of 400-10,000 per hectare over areas of 5-100 hectares were found at six localities in southern Algeria between 13 and 17 May, the largest population being at Oued Ireliane (2031N/0236E) where BHC bait was applied.

### MOROCCO

One immature adult was captured at Tifnit (3012N/0938W) on 4 May.

In early June a survey team found immature adults at a density of 200 per hectare over 300 hectares at Merzouga (3120N/0417W).

There were no reports from LIBYA or TUNISIA.

## EASTERN AFRICA

### Meteorology

As indicated in Summary No. 92, the exact position of the ITCZ was partially masked by the influence of the interactions between Mediterranean depressions and Rift instability fronts. The complexity of this superposition of thermoconvective activity was clearly shown on Meteosat imagery. As a result there were quasi-permanent thundery showers extending from Eritrea to Uganda and over the Horn of Africa, but no daily station totals are available from the coastal breeding areas. Rainfall in the interior of Sudan had reached 15°N by early June.

Maximum temperatures ranged from 40°C in Sudan to 30°C in the Ethiopian highlands.

### Breeding conditions

There were widespread heavy rains over the Somali peninsula and NOAA/AVHRR imagery showed well developed green vegetation on the Sillil plains and east of Mait. There was also green vegetation north-west of Massawa but the coastal plains of Sudan were dry.

## Locusts

### SOMALIA

During a ground survey along the northern coast from Zeila to Bossaso between 7 and 22 May a total of 40 solitary adults were observed.

There were no further reports from the Region.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

Local thermoconvection and interactions between the ITCZ and Mediterranean disturbances were the origins of generally light rains. For example the GTS reported 16mm at Qaisumah on 9 May and Meteosat imagery confirmed these very rapid and localised developments. In Southern Arabia there were several showers, Taiz recording 6mm on 11 June.

This instability extended towards eastern Arabia but the rains associated with it were not heavy.

The Red Sea Convergence Zone occupied a very variable position between 15° and 20°N as a result of the complex influence mentioned above.

Maximum temperatures were generally around 45°C in the interior of Arabia, and 30°C in coastal areas.

Breeding conditions

Breeding conditions continued to be suitable in the interior of Saudi Arabia but the Tihama was dry.

Locusts

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Aerial control operations were concluded in the Umm Lejj and Al Ula areas on 20 May with good results reported.

In late May infestations of late instar hoppers and fledglings were found in the Sahl Rukba (2212N/4105E) area and Radwan areas about 150 kilometres north-east of Taif. These were controlled by ground teams. Also in late May scattered hoppers were reported in cultivations in the Majmaah, Hariq and Dawadmi areas.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Scattered immature adults were reported from Sa'dah, Sana'a and Dhamar on 12 June, and later groups were reported in cultivations in the Dhamar region. Control measures were in progress.

IRAQ was reported clear in May. There were no other reports from the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

The south-west monsoon moved progressively north with its usual intensity; Bombay recording 113mm on 10 June. On 15 June a vast heat low, with 990 mb in the centre, covered virtually the whole of the Indian sub-continent and also Iran and Afghanistan, giving more and more frequent thunderstorms. Light to moderate rain was reported from Khuzdar, Uthal, Panjgur and Turbat, during the first fortnight of June.

By contrast May, and in particular the first fortnight, was generally dry in the spring and summer breeding areas. Bikaner, however, recorded 12mm of rain between 8 and 15 May and Sikar recorded 22mm.

Maximum daily temperatures were 43-46°C in the summer breeding areas.

Breeding conditions

Breeding conditions became unfavourable except in a few low lying areas in Baluchistan in the first half of May. The Scheduled Desert Area of India was dry except around Bikaner.

Locusts

PAKISTAN

During the first fortnight of May, a total of 98 adults was seen at 18 localities in Uthal, Pasni, Turbat and Nushki areas, the maximum density being 14 per hectare at Rumra on 9 May. Scattered second to fifth instar hoppers were seen at three localities in Turbat and Pasni districts during the first half of May. Pakistan was reported clear during the first half of June.

INDIA

India was reported clear in April but isolated adults were reported from three localities in Jaisalmer district in the first half of May, the maximum density being 150 per square kilometre at Sadrao (2723N/7104E) on 12 May.

There were no reports from AFGHANISTAN or IRAN.

FORECAST FOR JULY-AUGUST 1986

Breeding will commence in the summer breeding areas, extending from Mauritania to Rajasthan in India. Over most of the area it will initially be at low density but it may be partially gregarious in Sudan and southern Arabia.

In West Africa, only small numbers of adults are likely to have survived the dry season but they will be augmented by adults produced on spring breeding in North-West Africa. Breeding will commence in southern and central Mauritania, north-east Mali and north-west Niger but initially it will be at low density.

In North-West Africa, there may be further breeding in southern Algeria south of the Ahaggar.

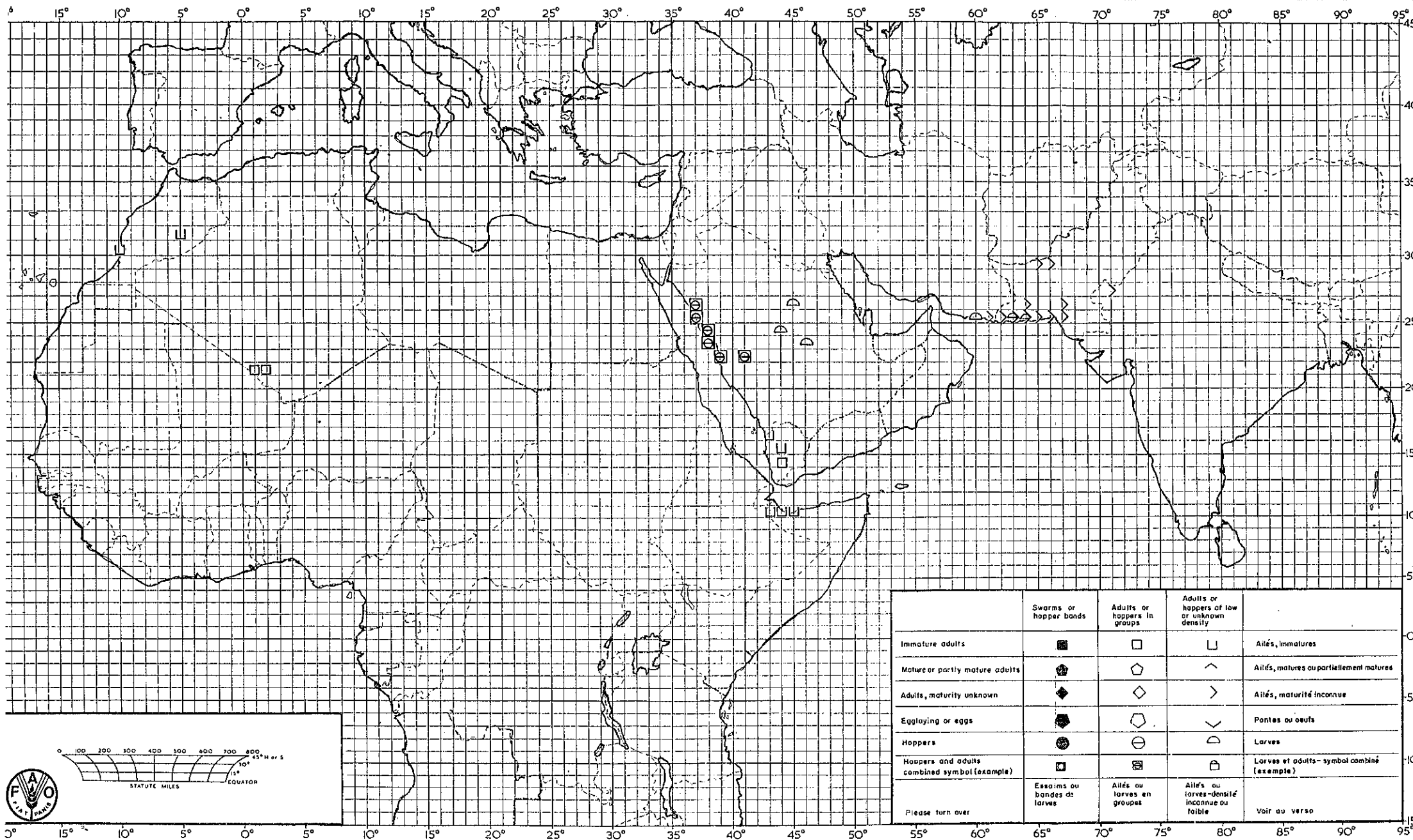
In Eastern Africa, breeding will commence in the interior of Sudan. It is likely to be widespread and generally at low density but it may be partly gregarious, depending on the scale and phase of any escapes from northern Ethiopia. There is also likely to be widespread, although initially low density, breeding on the northern coastal plains of Somalia, which may be invaded by scattered adults from Arabia.

In the Near East, breeding will terminate in the northern interior of Saudi Arabia, but is likely to commence in the interior of Yemen AR and Yemen PDR and in coastal areas of Yemen PDR.

In South-West Asia, scattered adults will move from Baluchistan into the summer breeding areas and breeding will commence. Initially it will be at low density.

Rome  
23 June 1986

# Desert Locust Situation Summary No.93 MAY - EARLY JUNE / MAI - DEBUT DE JUIN, 1986



	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
Eggclaying 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

