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منظمة
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DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

NO. 91 MARCH - EARLY APRIL 1986

SUMMARY

Gregarious breeding continued in western Saudi Arabia and on the Red Sea coasts of Sudan and south-east Egypt. Control was in progress but a number of small swarms were produced, one of which reached northern-central Saudi Arabia, while scattered adults reached Jordan. Small numbers of adults were present in Pakistan and India and there was small scale breeding in Baluchistan or Pakistan.

W/R 9551

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, MARCH-EARLY APRIL 1986

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

There were several waves in the Intertropical Front, which moved slowly north reaching 15°N in mid-April. Earlier, there were several pulls of the FIT, as reported in Summary No. 90. This disturbance traversed the Sahara towards Libya and Egypt and was clearly seen on Meteosat imagery. Other pulls of the FIT occurred between 23 and 28 March but the paucity of rain gauges in the Sahara prevented any assessment of the areas receiving rain.

On 3-4 April a family of Mediterranean disturbances of Atlantic origin crossed the Sahel producing sandstorms and thundery showers.

Regarding thermoconvective instability there were locally heavy showers in the vicinity and to the south of the FIT, giving daily rainfall totals frequently exceeding 20 mm.

Daily maximum temperatures were around 40°C in the interior and between 20° and 30°C in coastal areas.

Breeding conditions

No rain was reported from the breeding areas and little green vegetation remained.

Locusts

MALI

One adult was seen in the Gourma at 1624N/0003W.

No surveys were made and no adults were reported from MAURITANIA, NIGER or CHAD.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

Numerous Atlantic disturbances crossed the area from the west as reported in Summary No. 90. On 5 March the GTS reported 7 mm, 16 mm, 17 mm and 23 mm at Djelfa, El Golea, Timimoun and Ghardaia respectively, while Meteosat imagery indicated that the rain extended further south. The disturbed situation continued during the second decade of March. Several sandstorms accompanied thundery cold fronts but no rainfall totals from the breeding areas were transmitted by the GTS.

It has to be stressed that gaps in the GTS network prevent an adequate analysis of local effects, for example, of the northward "pulls" of the FIT as reported under West Africa. During the third decade a pull of the FIT resulted in rain at Tamanrasset in the Ahaggar on 27 March.

During the first decade of April, after a calm period, there were further cold fronts and waves associated with Atlantic disturbances, in particular from 6 April, when Agadir reported 21 mm and strong sandstorms affected all the Maghreb. During the second decade, and in particular on 13-14 April non-quantified rain was reported from In Salah and its surroundings.

Daily maximum temperatures frequently exceeded 30°C in the Sahara. In coastal areas of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia maximum temperatures were generally between 15° and 20°C while in Libya they frequently exceeded 20°C.

Breeding conditions

Conditions were favourable for breeding in coastal areas of north-west Libya and in the Libyan oases.

Locusts

No locusts were reported from the Region.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology

The period was marked by the passage of numerous disturbances and associated fronts. Northern and central Sudan, however, were generally dry although Port Sudan recorded 24 mm of rain on 3-4 March. The position of the Red Sea Convergence Zone was more variable than usual.

In early April a "pull" of the ITCZ, similar to those observed in West Africa, was significantly reinforced by "Rift fronts" and Mediterranean depressions reactivated over Arabia. On 4-7 April the suction extended on a south-west/north-east axis, giving significant rain in Djibouti, northern Somalia (no data available) and Ethiopia where Direidawa received 28 mm on 7 April, and 25 mm on 8 April. There were frequent thundery rains over the Ethiopian highlands where daily rainfall totals frequently exceeded 30 mm; Direidawa recorded 47 mm on 21 March.

Thermoconvective activity was well developed over Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and southern Sudan with the northward movement of the ITCZ, particularly during the period 3-8 April when the ITCZ reached 8°N.

Maximum daily temperatures approached 40°C in Sudan and Somalia but in the Ethiopian highlands they were frequently less than 25°C.

Breeding conditions

Conditions were favourable for breeding in Kkors on the northern and southern sectors of the Red Sea coastal plains in Sudan during March and also along the Ethiopian coast north of Massawa. The southern sector of the Sudan coastal plains, however, were drying out in late March. NOAA/AVHRR imagery also indicated that conditions were favourable for breeding on the north-west coastal plains of Somalia and in coastal areas of Djibouti.

Locusts

SUDAN

Groups of late instar hoppers and adults were sprayed with Dieldrin from the air over 1300 hectares at Mersa Arus. Dense late instar hopper bands and fledglings were sprayed with Dieldrin, Diazinon and Fenitrothion over 6145 hectares in Khores Ashat, Gowb, Tobein, Hambokeib and Hoshiry south of Port Sudan. Baiting was in progress against light infestations of late instar hoppers and adults at Karora. On 24 March a low density swarm was observed copulating over 50 hectares at Taharay (1855N/3717E), and was controlled.

ETHIOPIA

In February and March there were unconfirmed reports of large numbers of locusts on the coastal plains north of Massawa, and in January hoppers and adults were reported for 60 kilometres around Mersa Teclaf,

There were no other reports from the Region.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

As reported in Summary No. 90 thermoconvective instability in early March gave the following rain: 13 mm at Abha and 19 mm at Qassim on 1 March, 10 mm at Bisha and 18 mm at Khamis Mushait on 2 March. A reactivated disturbance along the axis Cairo-Dubai gave 14 mm of rain at Hofuf on 6 March. A further disturbance originating over the Red Sea gave rain in Aden. On 24-26 March a Mediterranean depression passed across northern Arabia giving widespread heavy rains.

In early April a "pull" of the ITCZ, associated with a Rift Front and provoked by a Mediterranean depression brought moist air to Arabia resulting in variable rainfall. Khamis Mushait reported 38 mm on 7 April, 28 mm on 8 April and 40 mm on 10 April, but the rain extended to the Gulf.

The position of the Red Sea Convergence Zone was rather variable in position, being at about 15°N in mid-March. During the first decade of April it had displaced towards 20°N as a result of the interaction of the ITCZ and Mediterranean disturbances through "Rift Fronts".

Maximum daily temperatures fluctuated depending on the passage of disturbances. In periods of dry weather they were 35°C or more but during cloudy or rainy weather they were frequently below 20°C.

Breeding conditions

Breeding conditions were favourable on the Tihama north of Jeddah but were drying up to the south of Jeddah.

Locusts

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

On 4 March a small thin density mature swarm was reported near Tuwwal north of Jeddah. On 15 March a small swarm was seen north of Taima and a thin swarm was seen at Uneiza in the Qassim.

Ground control operations continued on the northern Tihama. From 1-15 March 453 hectares of first and second instar bands had been controlled using 900 kg of BHC dust around Rabigh; 76 first to third instar bands were controlled between 2 and 11 March around Yenbo; 1543 first to third instar bands were controlled over 119 square kilometres around Umm Lejj using 925 litres of Malathion and 525 kg BHC dust; 65 bands were controlled over 2250 hectares using 280 litres of Malathion and 110 kg of BHC around Badr on 3-6 March. A report of hoppers at Shawwaq (2722N/3629E) on 15 March was being investigated.

Control continued during the second half of March and in April but was completed in Umm Lejj and Yenbo by 14 April.

Scattered mature, copulating and laying adults at densities of 200-300 per hectare and third to sixth instar hoppers and fledglings at densities of 500-600 per hectare were present 20 kilometres south-west of Mecca on 22 March.

EGYPT

Control operations were completed against groups of hoppers and adults over 3000 hectares at Gash Amir (2214N/3613E) and Khor Adarem (2139N/3607E) in early March. By 10 April 1000 first and second instar bands were controlled over an area of 50 square kilometres around Abu Ramad in the South-Eastern Desert, and control operations were continuing.

JORDAN

Scattered adults were reported from Krak on 30 March and isolated adults were reported from Wadi Araba. On 1 April three groups of adults were reported flying north-east near Aqaba.

There were no other reports from the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

During the first decade of March high pressure over central Asia directed dry continental air over winter-spring breeding area. By contrast, during the second decade western disturbances were accompanied by rain. According to the GTS daily amounts totalled 15-30 mm north of 30°N. The Pakistan Locust Situation Bulletin reported variable rainfall at Quetta, Khuzdar, Nushki, Kharan and Panjgur. During the third decade a new family of very active disturbances gave heavy rain throughout Baluchistan up to 26 March, after which the rain extended eastwards. The end of the month was characterized by an anticyclonic ridge extending from central Asia to 60°E. There were further disturbances in early April but according to the GTS they brought little rain.

Daily maximum temperatures ranged from less than 20°C in northern Baluchistan to 40°C in the summer breeding areas.

Breeding conditions

Breeding conditions were favourable in the winter-spring breeding areas of Pakistan.

Locusts

PAKISTAN

During the second fortnight of February scattered locusts were seen at four localities in Uthal, Turbat and Pasni districts, the maximum density being 175 per hectare at Phore (2533N/6556E) on 21 February. During March scattered adults were seen at many localities in Uthal, Turbat, Pasni and Nushki districts the maximum density being 3-4 per hectare. During the first fortnight of April scattered adults were reported with a maximum density of 2-3 adults per hectare at Tinkanda (2531N/6642E) on 7 April. Some solitarious first to second instar hoppers were found near Pasni during the second week of April.

INDIA

Scattered adults were found at four localities in the first fortnight of March, the maximum density being 150 per square kilometre at Nawatala (2707N/7139E) on 4 March. In the second fortnight of March adults were found at two localities, the maximum density being 75 per square kilometre at Tadana (2720N/7132E) on 17 March.

There were no reports from AFGHANISTAN or IRAN.

FORECAST FOR MAY-JUNE 1986

The forecast period is characterized by a marked redistribution of adults as they leave the winter-spring breeding areas and move towards the summer breeding areas. During the 1985-86 winter-spring breeding season gregarious populations have developed on both sides of the Red Sea and adults have reached Jordan for the first time since the end of the last major plague. Considerable numbers of adults are likely to move south-west into the interior of Sudan, and perhaps further west. Others may reach southern Arabia and some may move east.

In West Africa scattered adults will persist in areas of greener vegetation in Mauritania, north-east Mali and north-west Niger, where breeding may commence in areas receiving early monsoon rain. It is possible that some adults may reach Niger from the east.

In North-West Africa there may be low density breeding in a few localities in the Algerian Sahara.

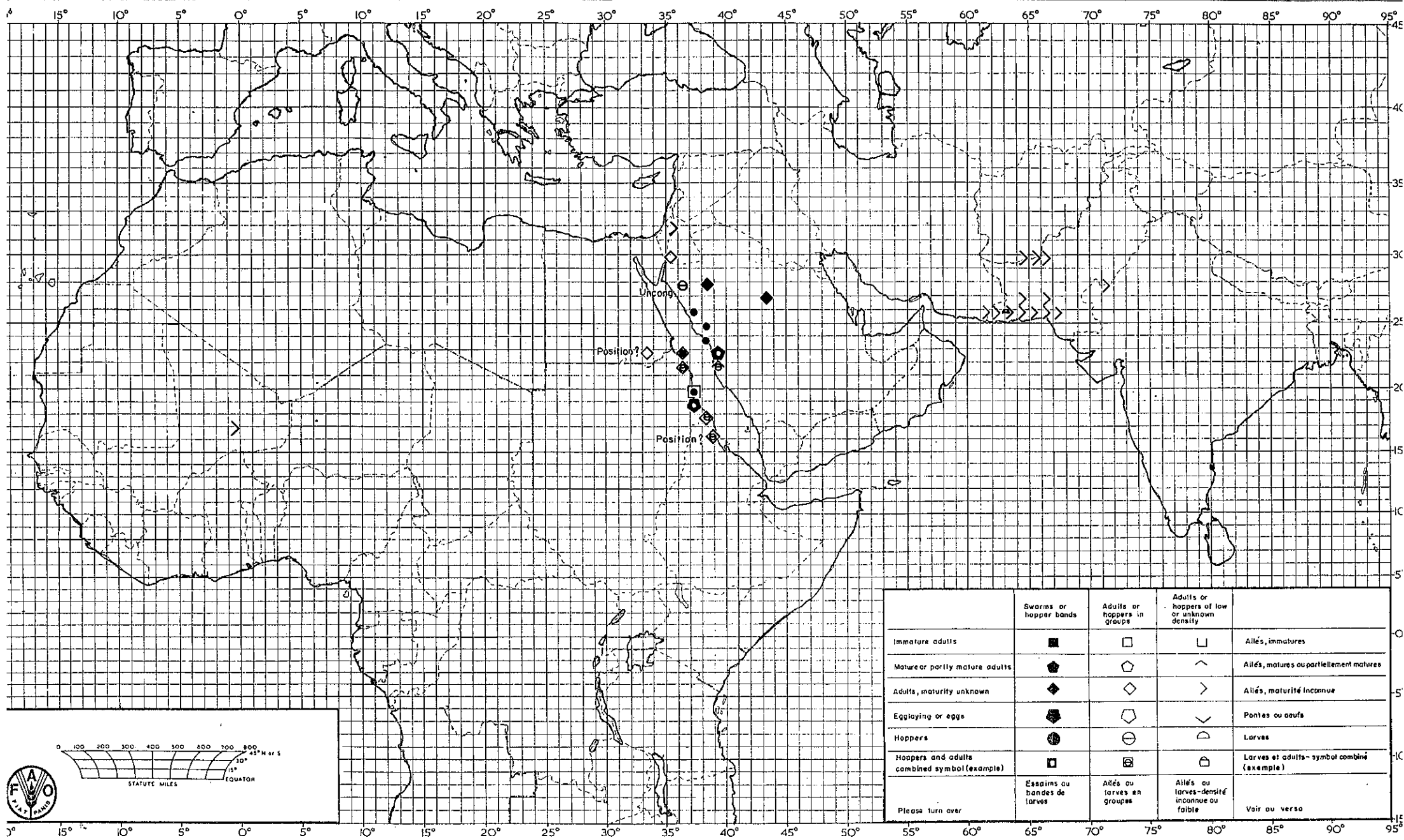
In Eastern Africa spring breeding along the Red Sea coast of Sudan and Ethiopia will come to an end. There may be considerable numbers of escapes, particularly from northern Ethiopia, possibly including one or two small swarms and these will move into the interior of Sudan. They will probably be augmented by adults from Arabia. Small numbers of adults may be present on the coastal plains of northern Somalia.

In the Near East breeding will continue in north-west Saudi Arabia and may extend into adjacent areas of Jordan and possibly western Iraq. It is likely to end on the Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia and Egypt. If there are any escapes most are likely to move south-west to Sudan but some may move south to the PDR Yemen and others east across the Arabian Gulf.

In South-West Asia small scale breeding will continue in Baluchistan and adult numbers will increase in the summer breeding area. Breeding may commence there but initially it will be on a small scale. There may be an influx of adults from the Near East but this will not include swarms.

Rome
25 April 1986

Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 91 MARCH-EARLY APRIL / MARS DEBUT AVRIL 1986



	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density	
Immature adults	■	□	◻	Alliés, immatures
Mature or partly mature adults	●	◐	∧	Alliés, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown	◆	◇	>	Alliés, maturité inconnue
Egg laying 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	Alliés ou larves en groupes	Alliés ou larves - densité inconnue ou faible	Voir au verso