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Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

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No. 82 JUNE-EARLY JULY 1985

SUMMARY

The overall Desert Locust situation remains calm. Small numbers of adults have been reported from Djibouti, Somalia, Pakistan and India. There have been good early summer rains in Mali, Sudan, Pakistan and India, and initially low density breeding will occur between August and November.

W/R5275

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION JUNE-EARLY JULY 1985

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

As reported in Summary No. 81, the ITCZ was active in early June; Gao received 32 mm of rain on 6 June and Tidjikja 15 mm on 7 June. There were violent thunderstorms over Togo and Benin on 11 June, giving up to 55 mm of rain, while on 12 June Bamako recorded 39 mm, Cotonou 67 mm and Abidjan 169 mm. Subsequently, and as was well shown on Meteosat imagery, the ITCZ was fragmented into very localised and very active thundery cells, which accounts for localised heavy rains for example, 41 mm at Maradi on 18 June, 37 mm at Bamako on 19 June, 36 mm at Gaya on 23 June and 47 mm at Birao on 24 June. On 26 June the ITCZ lay to the north of 15°N and gave rise to 17 mm at Tombouctou and 26 mm at Gao, while on 27 June Kiffa and Agadez reported 8 mm. Abundant rains fell in the Adrar des Iforas and Malian Tamesna in the last decade. The GTS observation network, confirmed by reports from OCLALAV and the FAO Agrometeorological Group (AGPC), indicated that rainfall was locally above average, notably in Burkina Faso, Mali, The Gambia and Senegal. This rainfall pattern continued into early July. Sandstorms were recorded in Mauritania and Mali.

Maximum temperatures ranged from 45°C in the interior to 25°C in coastal areas.

Breeding conditions

In the last decade of June rains caused floods in wadis Eracher Sadiden (1838 N/0117 E) and Ibdeken (1845 N/0126 E).

Locusts

No surveys were made and no locusts were reported.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

The weather was predominantly dry as a result of several anticyclonic ridges originating from the Azores. On the other hand some cold fronts with stormy troughs affected the Maghreb, but according to the GTS, there was little rain.

There was clear evidence of the influence of Mediterranean depressions on the northward progression of the ITCZ, a front associated with a depression resulting in an acceleration of the northward movement and a ridge leading to a slowing up.

Maximum temperatures reached 45°C in the Sahara but were only around 25°C in coastal areas.

Breeding conditions

No NOAA/AVHRR imagery is available for the period but it is likely that conditions were favourable for breeding in some areas, particularly in wadis draining upland areas in the Sahara.

Locusts

No locusts were reported.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology

The position of the ITCZ was followed daily on Meteosat imagery and confirmed that thermoconvective rains reached the Khartoum area of central Sudan, but also extended to Uganda and Ethiopia and to a lesser extent to Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti. There were numerous thunderstorms in Ethiopia, particularly over the highlands, which frequently gave up to about 20 mm of rain. There were no reports of any rain in coastal areas of Ethiopia or northern Somalia.

Maximum temperatures ranged from 40°C in the interior of Sudan to 20°C in the Ethiopian highlands.

Breeding conditions

According to DLCO-EA conditions were suitable for breeding on the coastal plains of north-west Somalia.

Locusts

SOMALIA

Two adults were seen on the coastal plain of north-west Somalia.

DJIBOUTI

One female was collected in Wadi Atar (1129 N/4312 E).

No other locusts were reported from the Region.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

The weather was dominated by a vast multicellular heat low pressure area which resulted in sandstorms and localised thunderstorms. Scattered showers were reported from the Asir mountains and in borders between the two Yemens. The Red Sea Convergence Zone lay between 15° and 20°N.

Maximum temperatures ranged from 35°C in coastal areas to 45°C in the interior.

Breeding conditions

Conditions were generally unfavourable for breeding although there were some small floods in the foothills and wadis west of Aden.

Locusts

There was an unconfirmed report of locusts in the Mahwit area (1529 N/4334 E) of the YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC on 30 June.

There were no other reports of locusts from the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

On 1-2 June humid air extended to most of the winter-spring and summer breeding areas, giving widespread heavy rain in the Tharparkar desert on 1 June and the Cholistan desert on 2 June. Chor recorded 97.6 mm during the first half of the month and Ganganagar 68.6 mm. There was also light rain at Khuzdar on 10 June and at Lasbela on 20 June.

Maximum temperatures were 35-46°C in the summer breeding area.

Breeding conditions

Conditions will have become favourable in areas which received rainfall in early June.

Locusts

PAKISTAN

A total of 32 isolated adults were reported from 15 localities in the summer breeding area during the second half of June, the maximum density being 3-4 per hectare at Tar Mubarak (2502 N/2035 E) on 17 June.

INDIA

Isolated adults were found at five localities in Jaisalmer district the first half of June, the maximum density being 150 per square kilometre at Khinu (2735 N/7157 E) on 12 June.

No locusts were reported from AFGHANISTAN and IRAN.

FORECAST FOR AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1985

The overall Desert Locust situation remains calm. Winter-spring was on a very reduced scale but there have been good early summer rains in parts of the Indo-Pakistan desert areas, Sudan and Mali. Summer breeding will start in those areas and in others which receive rains but it will be on a small scale.

In South-West Asia there will be small scale breeding in the Tharparkar, Khipro, Nara and Cholistan deserts of Pakistan and in Rajasthan in India. Gregarisation could occur in restricted areas depending on the distribution and amount of the mousson rains.

In the Near East widely scattered but small scale low density breeding may occur in south-west Saudi Arabia and in coastal and interior areas of the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

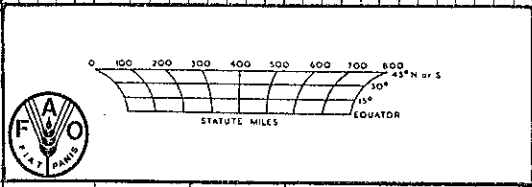
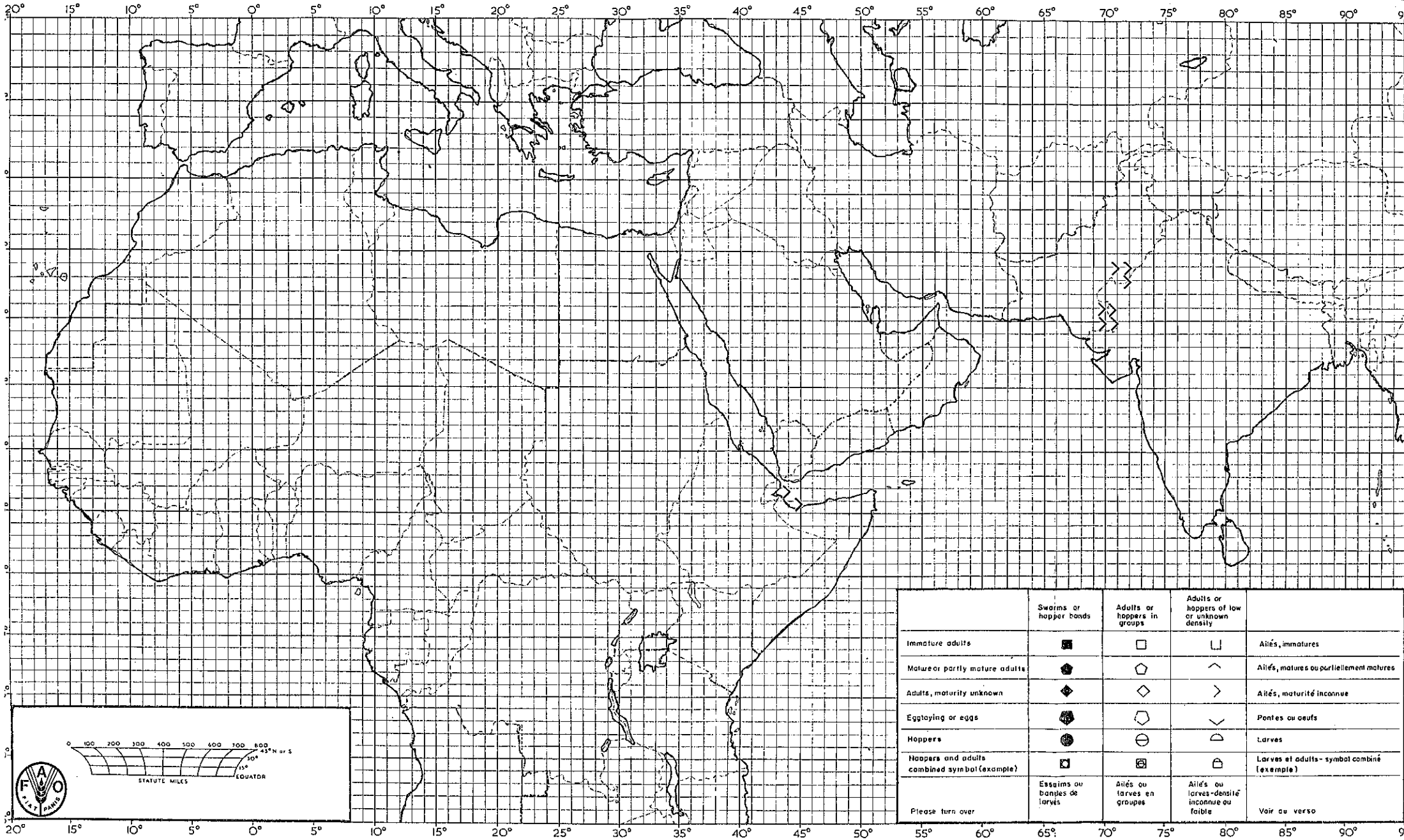
In Eastern Africa there could be low density breeding on the north-western coastal plains of Somalia and in the interior of Sudan.

In North-West Africa the situation will remain calm.

In West Africa there will be initially low density breeding in areas of marked relief in the Adrar des Iforas and Timetrine in Mali, Atar in Mauritania, Air in Niger but later extending to Tamesna, Aouker and Trarza.

Rome
16 July 1985

Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 82 JUNE - EARLY JULY / JUIN - DEBUT DE JUILLET 1985



	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
Egg laying 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 larvés	Ailés ou larvés en groupes	Ailés ou larvés - densité inconnue ou faible	Voir au verso