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منظمة
الأغذية
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للأمم
المتحدة

Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy

Cables: FOODAGRI ROME

Telex: 610181 FAO I

Telephone: 57971

AGP Division

Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 75 NOVEMBER - EARLY DECEMBER 1984

SUMMARY

The Desert Locust situation remains exceptionally calm. Small numbers of adults have been found in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and India.

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, NOVEMBER - EARLY DECEMBER 1984

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

After oscillations around 15°N the ITCZ moved progressively south reaching 10°N during the first decade of December. In Mauritania the harmattan resulted in several sandstorms at the beginning of November, while on 24 November a stormy disturbance coming from the Atlantic, detected by Meteosat, affected Nouadhibou.

South of the ITCZ rainfall was normal in Ivory Coast, Liberia and Southern Mali; by contrast rainfall in the Sahel was virtually nil. For example at Matam (Senegal) the only significant rain was 13 mm on 24 November.

Maximum temperatures ranged from 28°C in coastal areas to 38°C in the interior.

Breeding conditions

According to NOAA/AVHRR imagery no areas were suitable for breeding north of 16°N .

Locusts

No reports have been received.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

Several cold fronts from the Atlantic, locally stormy, crossed the Maghreb giving variable rainfall; thus for example on 5 November Casablanca and Nara received 48 and 36 mm respectively, while on 7 November Essaouria reported 43 mm and on 8 November recorded 60 mm.

In the interior, Beni Abbes and Bechar reported 13 mm and 15 mm on 10 November, while on 11 November El Golea and Ain Sefra registered 4 mm and 5 mm. On 13 November Beni Mallal received 68 mm and Tripoli 22 mm. On 15 November In Amenas reported 8 mm and on 29 November Zuara reported 29 mm. Several sandstorms were associated with the storms, particularly in Libya,

Maximum temperatures varied from 15°-25°C in coastal areas and between 25° and 30°C in the interior.

Breeding conditions

According to NOAA/AVHRR imagery conditions were not favourable for breeding in the recession area.

Locusts

Morocco was reported clear in October and November.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology

The ITCZ moved rapidly south across the Somali peninsula during November. Coastal regions of Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti and northern Somalia were dry throughout November but in early December a low pressure centre from the Arabian Sea moved westwards into the Gulf of Aden and almost certainly gave rise to rain along the northern Somali coast between 6 and 9 December. Djibouti reported 0.2 mm on 9 December.

In the Ethiopian highlands there were scattered thunderstorms up till late November; Jimma received 10 mm on 10 November and 16 mm on 22 November, Gore reported 16 mm on 26 November. Meteosat imagery showed considerable thermoconvective activity over southern Sudan, Uganda, southern Kenya and Tanzania.

Maximum temperatures varied considerably depending on local conditions, but they were generally in the range of 25^o-35^oC.

Breeding conditions

According to NOAA/AVHRR imagery conditions were unfavourable for breeding in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coastal areas of Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia during November.

Locusts

SUDAN

A joint Sudanese-Egyptian team surveyed the northern section of the Red Sea coast of Sudan in November but found no locusts.

There were no reports of locusts from elsewhere in the region.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

The exceptionally rainy situation reported in October partially persisted into November, not only in northern and central Saudi Arabia but also in eastern Arabia. This unstable thermoconvective activity accompanied by thunderstorms originated in cold fronts from the eastern Mediterranean, but later and in particular during the first decade of December air-sea interactions originating in the Arabian Sea resulted in rain in the two Yemens and Oman. There was further rain in the Najran-Sulayyil-Wadi Dawasir areas, north-eastern Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on 10-12 December. Najran reported 20 mm on 10 December.

The following rain was reported in Saudi Arabia: 17 mm on 10 November at Qaisumah, 18 mm on 11 November at Al Jouf, 45 mm on 24 November at Rafka, 45 mm at Jeddah and 46 mm At Medina on 25 November and 31 mm on 26 November at Hail.

The Red Sea convergence zone oscillated around 20°N.

Breeding conditions

According to NOAA/AVHRR imagery conditions were unfavourable for breeding in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coastal areas of the Arabian peninsula, but the Yemen AR report for October indicates that conditions were favourable for breeding during October.

Locusts

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Low density adults were found at Sabeel (1240 N/4358 E) on 16 November and in Wadi Maddin (1300 N/4421 E) the following day.

A loose group of adults was reported flying westwards east of Musaiynah (1504 N/5038 E) on 28 November but this report has not been unconfirmed.

No other locusts were reported from the region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

The north-east monsoon started to develop in association with the development of continental high pressure (1030 mb) east of 50°E with ridges frequently extending to central India. As a result, rainfall activity was virtually confined to southern India.

Summer and winter breeding areas were generally dry but heavy rain was reported at Quetta on 11 December.

Breeding conditions

In the winter breeding areas conditions were unfavourable for breeding.

Locusts

INDIA

Small members of adults and two fourth instar hoppers were found at one locality in Jaisalmer district in the second half of October. Small numbers of adults were also found at three localities in Jaisalmer in the first half of November, at a maximum density of 150 per square kilometre at Chayan (2715 N/7150 E) on 7 November.

PAKISTAN

No locusts were reported during November and the first half of December.

AFGHANISTAN was reported clear in October.

FORECAST FOR JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1985

Desert Locust numbers remain exceptionally low and only small scale breeding will occur in the forecast period.

In West Africa adults produced on the summer rains will survive in restricted habitats such as are provided by clumps of green Panicum, Lasiurus, Cornulaca in wadi beds in and around the Adrar des Iforas in Mali. Elsewhere only very small numbers of adults will survive.

The North-West Africa small numbers of adults may have reached southern Algeria and some may persist in Libyan cases.

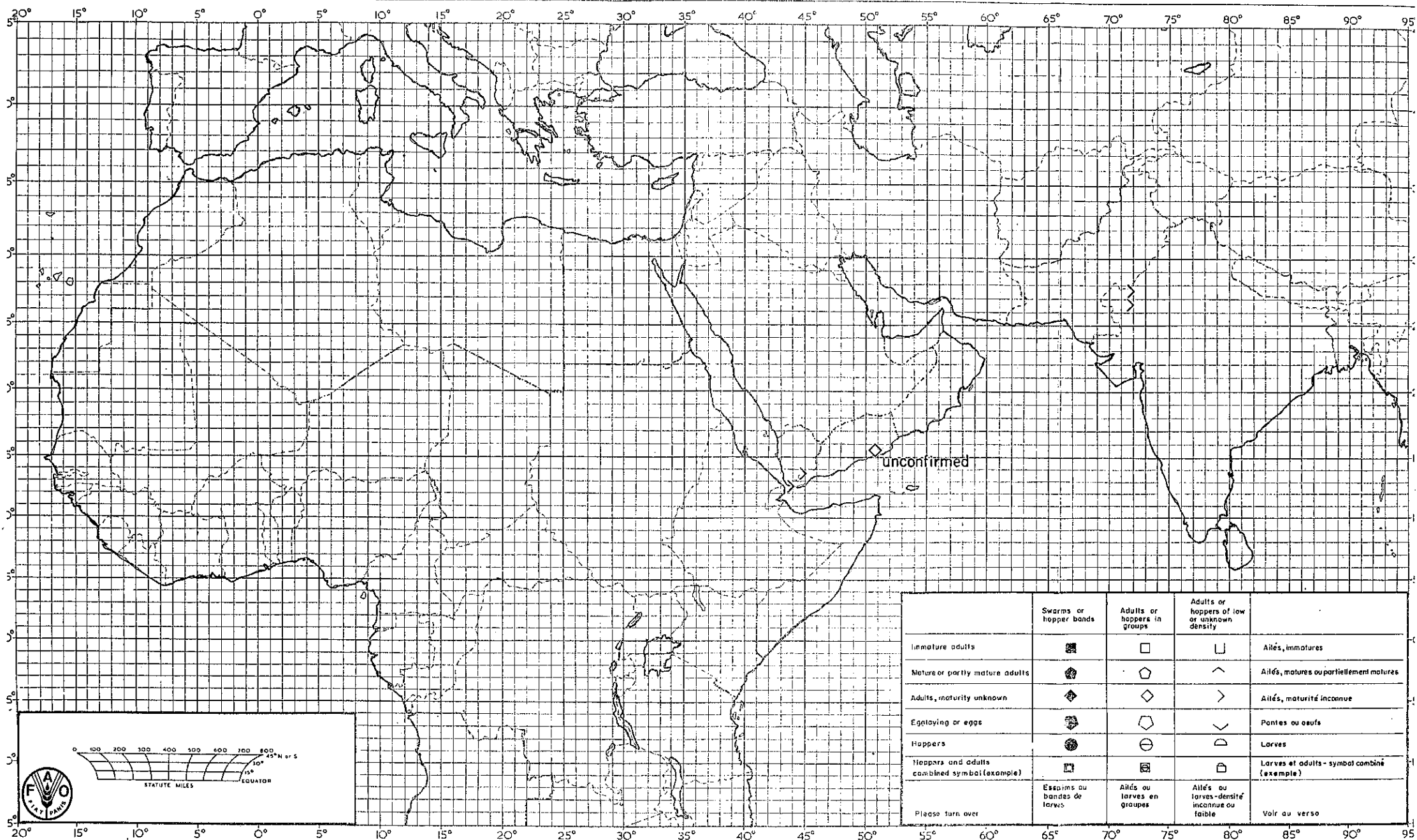
In Eastern Africa small numbers of adults will occur on the Red Sea coastal plains of Sudan and Ethiopia and small scale breeding will occur in areas which received late summer floods or winter rains. Small numbers of adults may also occur along the northern coastal plains of Somalia and will breed if ecological conditions become suitable.

In the Near East small numbers of adults are likely to have reached the Tihama of Saudi Arabia and Yemen AR and will breed in areas where ecological conditions are suitable. Small numbers of adults are likely to persist in Yemen PDR and may breed in areas offering suitable conditions.

In South-West Asia small numbers of adults will occur in Pakistan and others will persist in the summer breeding areas.

Rome
19 December 1984

Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 75 NOVEMBER - EARLY DECEMBER / NOVEMBRE - DEBUT DECEMBRE



	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	Voix au verso

STATUTE MILES

EQUATOR

10° 15° N or S