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DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 71 JULY - EARLY AUGUST 1984

SUMMARY

Desert Locust numbers remain abnormally low; no reports of locusts from west of the Red Sea have been received since May. Early monsoon rains have been patchy but locally above average in West Africa, very deficient in Sudan and generally below average in Rajasthan of India. Small numbers of adults were reported from India and Pakistan.

W/R0314

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, JULY - EARLY AUGUST 1984

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was quasi-stationary at about 20°N over Mauritania and Mali but with a tendency to reach only 15°N over Chad.

North of the ITCZ there were frequent sandstorms while to the south there were numerous and sometimes violent thunderstorms.

During the first decade of July, 7 mm of rain were recorded at Nema, 21 mm at M'bour, 137 mm at Kedougou (long term average 76 mm), 41 mm at Kidal (long term average 9 mm), 70 mm at Tombouctou (long term average 16 mm), 42 mm at Mopti (long term average 38 mm), 130 mm at Bamako (long term average 67 mm), 67 mm at Ouagadougou (long term average 54 mm) and 79 mm at Dedougou. In Niger rainfall was less abundant but N'Guimi with 14 mm had above average (11 mm) rainfall, while the rainfall at Gaya was normal, 57 mm.

During the second decade rainfall was essentially localised to the south of 16°N but on 20 July it reached Afoun el Atrouss and Kiffa, which received 2 and 8 mm respectively. On 26 July the GTS reported 22 mm at Nema. On 30 July there was a thunderstorm at Kiffa, which recorded 11 mm and on 1 August Nema recorded 20 mm. On 14 August Kiffa recorded 30 mm and Birni N'Kouni 25 mm. On 16 August Gao recorded 21 mm and on 17 August Afoun el Atrouss recorded 35 mm and Nema 19 mm.

From 19 to 21 August, an important thermoconvective cell, covering more than half of Senegal and Mauritania, associated with the ITCZ, moved from south to north. The cumulonimbus clouds associated with this thermoconvective cell were tracked using Meteosat imagery.

Maximum daily temperatures varied between 32° and 42°C in the interior and from 25° to 32° C in Atlantic coastal areas.

Breeding conditions

No information is available but conditions will have become favourable for breeding in parts of Mauritania, Mali and Niger to the north of 16° which have received monsoon rain.

Locusts

No surveys were reported and no locusts were reported.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

The Azores anticyclone persisted during July with a ridge extending to Egypt. As a result it was very dry over the Maghreb, and only Morocco had a few drops from passing showers coming from the Atlantic.

Dust storms were reported in the Sahara.

Midday temperatures were between 35° and 45°C in interior areas and between 25° and 35°C in coastal areas.

Breeding conditions

No AVHRR imagery is available and the only areas where breeding is possible is in the Libyan oases.

Locusts

MOROCCO was reported clear for May, June and July. There were no other reports from the Region.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology

During the first half of July the only information, apart from Metar, from the Sudan, came in the form of Meteosat imagery which showed very clearly the progression of cumulonimbus clouds to the north of 17°N, which intermittently reached 20°N. During the second half of July, synoptic data transmitted by the GTS showed the position of the ITCZ and its progression towards the north. Amongst the rare rainfall data transmitted by the GTS were 9 mm and 31 mm respectively at Gedaref and Abu Na'ama on 19 July, and 2 mm and 14 mm at Damazine and Kadugli on 25 July. Numerous sandstorms were reported. Maximum daily temperatures were in the region of 30°C in the humid air over southern Sudan, and were 40°C or above over northern Sudan, where dry weather persisted.

By contrast in Ethiopia there were numerous thunderstorms in the highlands during July and the first fortnight of August. Daily rainfall totals were frequently in the range 20-30 mm; Bahar Dar recorded 48 mm on 22 July. Asmara recorded 137 mm during July (compared with a long term mean of 173 mm) and a further 51 mm in the first decade of August. Red Sea coastal areas were dry.

In Somalia there was moderate rain around Hargeisa but sandstorms further south. No rain was reported from Djibouti.

In Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, Meteosat imagery confirmed the very variable instability evident from synoptic charts. Rainfall was very variable, the maximum daily total transmitted by the GTS being 47 mm at Bukoba on 25 July.

Breeding conditions

The main Summer breeding areas in Sudan were reported to be dry. The vegetation was dry in Djibouti and along the northern coastal plains of Somalia.

Locusts

No locusts were reported during July and the first decade of August.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

A vast heat low pressure area extending from Iraq to the Gulf of Aden was the cause of an essentially northerly airflow over the Red Sea, if local land and sea breezes are excluded. As a result the Red Sea Convergence Zone is often marked by air-sea-land-ographic interactions which characterise the zone between 12° and 17°N. It is in this region that the most typical thermoconvective phenomena occur. The GTS reported thunderstorms preceded by sandstorms along the Tihama, and Abha and Khamis Mushait recorded 2 mm of rain on 12 July. Before this there were traces of rain in the first decade and later there were scattered thunderstorms associated with quasi-permanent cumulonimbus clouds. Heavy rains were reported from many parts of Yemen Arab Republic including the Tihama during July. The PDR Yemen locust report confirmed thermoconvective instability which gave rise to sandstorms accompanied by occasional thunderstorms and rain, particularly in the second half of July. These phenomena extended to Oman, where they were very well displayed on Meteosat imagery. According to the GTS 22 mm of rain fell at Saig on 8 July and 14 mm on 21 July at Salalah.

Maximum temperatures were between 27° and 37° in coastal areas and between 38° and 48°C in interior areas.

Breeding conditions

Conditions will have become favourable for breeding along the Tihama of the Yemen Arab Republic, but they were generally unfavourable on the Tihama of Saudi Arabia and in the Yemen PDR.

Locusts

No locusts were reported from SAUDI ARABIA, YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC or the PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN during July. There were no other reports from the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

The monsoon progressed and thundery rain occurred frequently in the Indo-Pakistan summer breeding areas. The Pakistan locust situation bulletin for 1-15 July confirmed heavy rain in Cholistan during the first week of July. Moderate rain was reported from Quetta on 1 July and Panjgur on 9 July. A heavy duststorm from the south prevailed at Bahawalpur on 1 July. During the third week of July there were moderate to heavy rains in Lasbela, Tharparkar, Nara and Cholistan areas. In the first half of August there were heavy and repeated rains in Tharparkar and Lasbela districts and scattered light to moderate rains in Nara and Cholistan deserts.

In India the thundery low pressure area affected Rajasthan and Punjab in particular. There was rain virtually every day, but of very variable intensity. Rainfall was generally higher in the first half of July than in the second but overall was generally below average. Station totals for the month were Barmer 99.6 mm (long term average 87), Jaisalmer 28.1 mm, Jodhpur 71.9 mm (122 mm) Sikar 61.6 mm, Ganganagar 57.4 mm (69 mm), Bikaner 26.0 mm (87 mm).

Maximum temperatures were over 40°C in the interior but in coastal regions generally fluctuated between 25° and 35°C.

Breeding conditions

Conditions will have become favourable for breeding in many parts of the summer breeding area.

Locusts

PAKISTAN

During the first half of July scattered adults were recorded at 12 localities in Uthal, Sukkur, Bahawalpur and Rahim Yar Khan districts, the maximum density being 600 per square kilometre at Bundry (283N/713OE) on 7 July. During the second half of July a total of 50 adults were seen at 17 localities at a maximum density of 4.5 per hectare at Surtanahu (262N/7002E) on 19 July and Kandjahng (253N/672OE) on 25 July. In the first half of August the maximum density of adults had risen to 6 per hectare at Nakakhari (252N/6645E).

INDIA

During the first half of July mature and maturing adults were found at nine localities in Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jodhpur and Nagaur districts at a maximum density of 225 per square kilometre at Phalodi and Bhojasar (271N/7247E) on 11 July. In the second half of July scattered adults were found at eight localities in Bikaner, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Mohindergarh districts, the maximum density being 225 per square kilometre at Bhadla (2739N/7301E) on 17 July and Kery (2716N/7133E) on 29 July.

No locusts were reported from AFGHANISTAN in May or June and no report was received from IRAN.

FORECAST FOR SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1984

The forecast period marks the peak of the summer breeding season but the number of adults available to breed is abnormally low. There will nevertheless be widespread low density breeding in Rajasthan and adjacent desert areas in Pakistan and more restricted breeding in southern Arabia, Sudan, Niger, Mali and Mauritania. Small numbers of adults are likely to reach the Red Sea coast of Sudan and Ethiopia and possibly Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic and some may reach Oman, the United Arab Emirates and central and western Algeria and northern Morocco.

In South-West Asia there will be widespread low density in Rajasthan in India, and in the Tharparkar, Khipro, Nara and Cholistan deserts in Pakistan and there may be restricted breeding in Lasbela district of

Pakistan. The number of parent generation adults is unusually low but some small groups may form if there is a second generation of breeding. Small numbers of adults may start to emigrate westwards if the monsoon rains finish early.

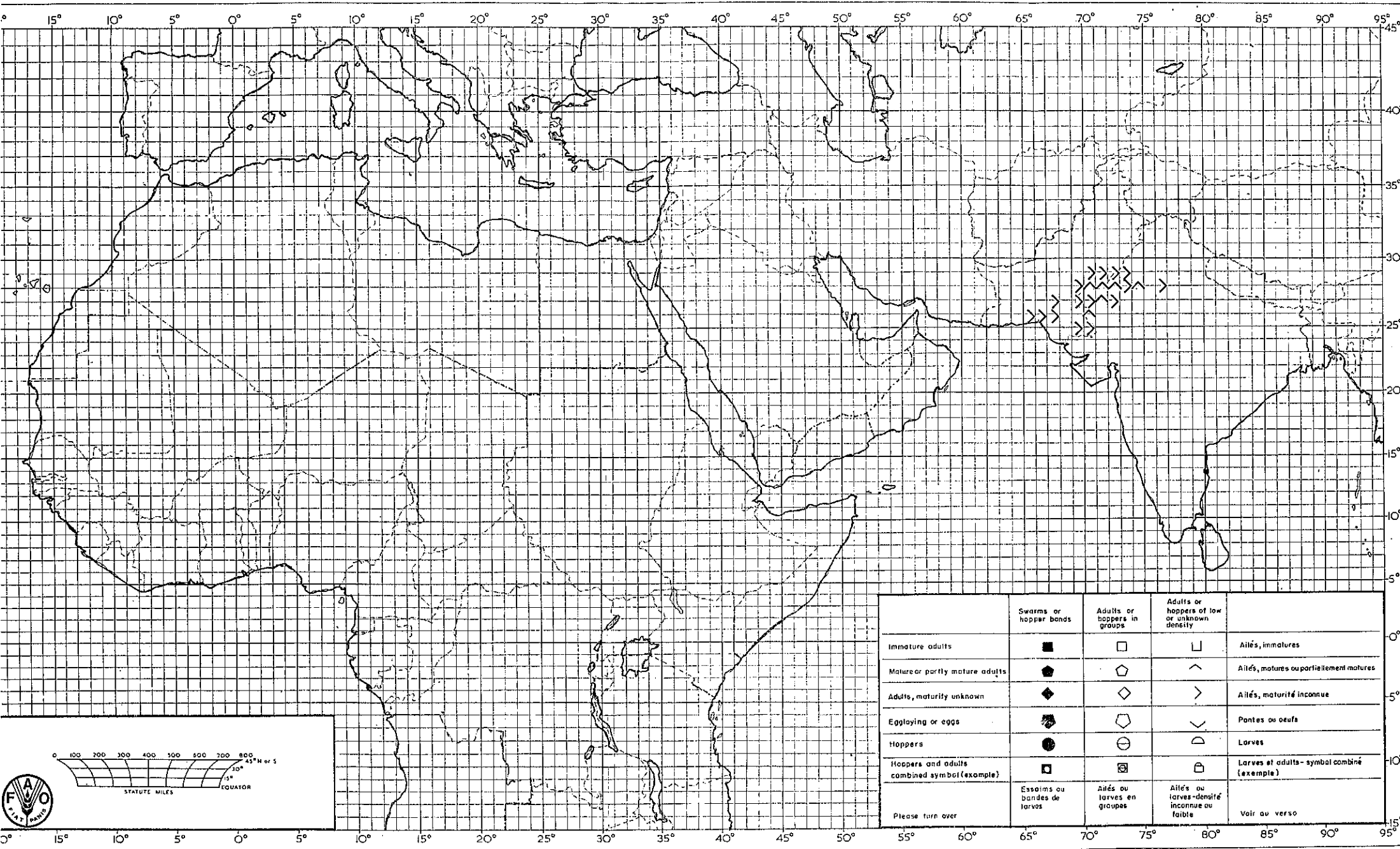
In the Near East there may be restricted breeding in coastal and interior areas of Yemen PDR and the interior of Yemen AR and south-western Saudi Arabia. Small numbers of adults may reach Oman and the United Arab Emirates from the east.

In Eastern Africa low density breeding will occur in the interior of Sudan. In the latter part of the forecast period adults will start to reach the Red Sea coastal areas of Sudan and northern Ethiopia and concentrate in areas which have received summer floods. Small numbers of adults are likely to be present on the northern coastal and sub-coastal plains of Somalia and small scale breeding may occur in areas which have received summer floods.

In North-West Africa the situation will remain calm although small numbers of adults may reach central and western Algeria and southern Morocco from the south and some adults may persist in Libyan oases.

In West Africa numbers of adults are low but they may have been concentrated into a few relatively small areas by north-south oscillations of the ITCZ and if early monsoon rains were restricted in extent. Breeding will occur; most will be at low density but some groups may form in areas where adults have been concentrated.

Rome
22 August 1984



	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 larves	Ailés ou larves en groupes	Ailés ou larves - densité inconnue ou faible	Voir au verso

