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DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 52 DECEMBER 1982 - EARLY JANUARY 1983

SUMMARY

There have been no further reports of the swarms reported in the interior of Arabia in October and November and they may have dispersed. Groups of hoppers and adults were reported from the Red Sea coast of Sudan and low density populations were reported from Ethiopia, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, the Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen PDR, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan and India.

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, DECEMBER 1982 - EARLY JANUARY 1983

GENERAL

The NOAA/AVHRR vegetation index imagery coverage, acquired and processed for FAO by NOAA and NASA, has now been shifted to the winter-spring breeding areas. Regular coverage at either 1 or 4 km spatial resolution is now being obtained for the following areas: North-West Africa: 21°-29°N/5°-15°W; 22°-30°N/0°-10°E; Eastern Africa/Near East: 3°-10°N/41°-51°E; 10°-18°N/37°-47°E; South-West Asia/Near East: 15°-23°N/52°-62°E; 24°-32°N/58°-68°E.

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

During December the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) retreated toward the Gulf of Guinea, reaching it at the end of the month. Some thunderstorms were observed in coastal regions between Abidjan and Douala. Regarding the thundery showers in central Mali starting on 8 December (reported in Summary No. 51) these completely disappeared after 10 December. Sandstorms were observed frequently throughout the area. Maximum temperatures were in the range 30°-35°C at the beginning of the period but progressively declined, particularly at the beginning of January, when they were in the neighbourhood of 25°C.

Breeding conditions

No AVHRR imagery coverage scheduled.

Locusts

No reports of locusts have been received.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

During December Atlantic disturbances influenced Maghreb countries from Algeria to Libya. These disturbances were frequently accompanied by rain, sometimes as thunderstorms. Morocco continued to remain under the influence of the Azores anticyclone and as a result received little rain. Maximum temperatures were generally in the range 15°-20°C. Sandstorms were frequently observed, particularly in Algeria and Libya.

Breeding conditions

The winter breeding areas in southern Morocco, Western Sahara, northern Mauritania and central Algeria were observed to be dry during December and no vegetation biomass activity could be detected. Overall conditions for breeding were therefore considered unsuitable in the region during this period.

Locusts

No locusts were reported during December. One female was captured at Bouizakarne (2910N/0944W) on 22 October.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology

Meteosat imagery showed there were convective clouds over Somalia and Ethiopia but there was little rain. According to GTS data there were falls of up to 12 mm, eg. at Djibouti on 13 December. Weak disturbance associated with the Red Sea convergence zone occurred on several occasions over the southern Red Sea. Showers associated with the Intertropical Convergence Zone were observed over Kenya in particular and also locally over Uganda and Tanzania. Maximum daily temperatures were generally in the range 25^o-35^oC.

Breeding Conditions

The Red Sea coastal plains of Ethiopia including Erithrea as well as the Danakil Depression were observed to be dry, except for small areas near Asmara and Massawa where good vegetation conditions existed during early November. These areas were now seen to be drying out.

Substantial green areas were detected in late December on the northern coastal plains of Somalia between Bulhar and Silil (1020N/4435E - 1035N/1325E) and in the vicinity of Ras Khanzira (1010N/4545E-1035N/4625E) as a result of localized good rains during December. During late October more or less the same areas had received good rains implying that the ecological conditions on the coastal plains of Somalia have been favourable more or less continuously since late October.

In the interior of Somalia and the Ogaden the vegetation was generally drying out when compared to the situation of late October.

Locusts

SUDAN

In the first decade of December second and third instar hoppers at densities of 2-5 per plant and solitariform adults at densities of 240-720 per hectare were present over 2160 hectares in the Tokar delta. In Khor Baraka adults were found at 120-180 per hectare over 2400 hectares. Near the Ethiopian border 15 220 hectares were infested by adults at 180-720 per hectare.

In late December hoppers and adults continued to be present in the Tokar delta, the adults at densities of 400-720 per hectare. The hoppers were mainly green but some had developed black markings. In the Ethiopian border area adults were found in Panicum and dukhn at densities of 480-720 per hectare over 10 160 hectares. In the sector between Port Sudan and the Tokar delta there were scattered adults and isolated hoppers. Vegetation was green in Khors north of Mohammed Gul and there were scattered adults in Panicum at densities of 180-240 per hectare over a total area of 1200 hectares.

ETHIOPIA

Following reports of locusts from Mersa Teclai (1735N/3850E) a helicopter survey of the area was made between 28 December and 1 January. Third to fifth instar hoppers and solitariform adults were found over 200 sq. km at Mersa Teclai and over 128 sq. km at Wadi Ejeha (1745N/3830E). Rain had fallen in this area in late November but by late December conditions were no longer favourable for laying.

SOMALIA

Small numbers of adults were present in north-western coastal areas.

No locusts were reported from other countries in the region.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

The weather was dominated by frontal systems both along the Tihama and also extending from the Persian Gulf to the south-west of the Arabian peninsula. Moderate rainfall was reported frequently in many parts of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates particularly on 10-11 December, 18-19 December and 8 January. Only light rains were reported from the two Yemens. At the beginning of December maximum temperatures were in the region of 30°C.

Breeding Conditions

In late December the Red Sea coastal plains of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic south of 18°N and the coastal plains of Yemen PDR were observed to be generally dry but substantial cloud cover at the end of the month prevented assessment of the development of the vegetation. Ground reports, however, indicated that conditions were favourable for breeding locally. Also the interior areas of the three countries were generally dry during this period.

In the United Arab Emirates a substantial area with green vegetation was detected around Dubai between 2535N/5545E and 2555N/5605E. Also on the coastal plains of Oman and in the interior localized low density green areas indicated some potential for locust breeding.

Locusts

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Adults at densities of 200-250 per hectare were found over an area of 200 sq. km north of Qunfidah during December. Adults at lower densities were also found in the Jizan area. No trace was found of the swarms previously reported in the Sulaiyil-Sharawrah areas.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Small numbers of adults were reported in the Tihama.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

During extensive ground surveys of coastal areas adults at low densities were observed in wadi Mayfah (1355N/4744E) on 19 December.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

During extensive ground surveys scattered adults were seen at Yarra (2304N/5406E) over an area of 3 sq. km and scattered adults and third to fifth instar hoppers at densities of 2-3 per bush every third bush were found at Wadil (2303N/5407E) over an area of 20 sq. km.

No locusts were reported from other countries in the region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

In spite of the development of multiple anticyclonic ridges there was some atmospheric instability and as a result some local rainfall in December. The most characteristic feature was the persistence of a moderate depression over the extreme south of India. A tendency to stormy weather over western India was reported on 27 December. These diverse influences explain the considerable variations observed in the daily maximum temperatures which were generally in the range 20°-30°C throughout the period.

Breeding Conditions

During December, the Mekran coasts of Iran and Pakistan were generally dry. However, heavy cloud cover was observed towards the end of the month over both countries and widespread rainfall was reported from Baluchistan. In Eastern Iran localized green areas were observed in the interior drainage basins.

NOAA/AVHRR imagery coverage was not available during this period for the summer breeding areas of India and Pakistan.

Locusts

PAKISTAN

In the second half of November a total of 7 adults were seen in three localities in Uthal and Pasni districts. In the first half of December 31 adults were seen in 10 localities in Uthal, Turbat, Panjgur and Pasni districts, the maximum density being 600 per sq. km at Gano (2528N/6310E) on 1 December. No locusts were seen during the second half of December, or the first half of January.

INDIA

During the first half of December scattered adults were found at four localities in Bikaner district at a maximum density of 225 per sq. km. No locusts were observed in the second half of December.

IRAN confirms that control operations had been undertaken over an area of 200 hectares in September.

AFGHANISTAN was reported clear of locusts in November and December.

FORECAST FOR FEBRUARY-MARCH 1983

Breeding will continue on the Red Sea coast of Sudan and is likely to extend to other coastal areas around the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Breeding may also commence in the interior of south-west Arabia and in south-eastern Iran and Baluchistan of Pakistan. Small scale breeding is likely to occur in the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

In West Africa small numbers of adults are likely to persist in Mauritania, Mali and Niger in restricted areas.

In North-West Africa small numbers of adults may persist in central and western Algeria.

In Eastern Africa a second generation of breeding will probably occur on the Red Sea coast of Sudan and perhaps also in Eritrea if there is further rain. In north-west Somalia and Djibouti low density breeding is likely to occur on the coastal plains in areas which have received rain.

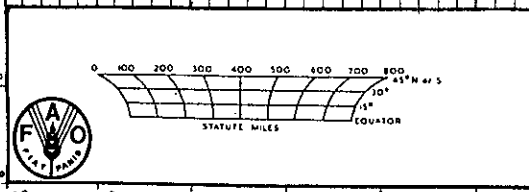
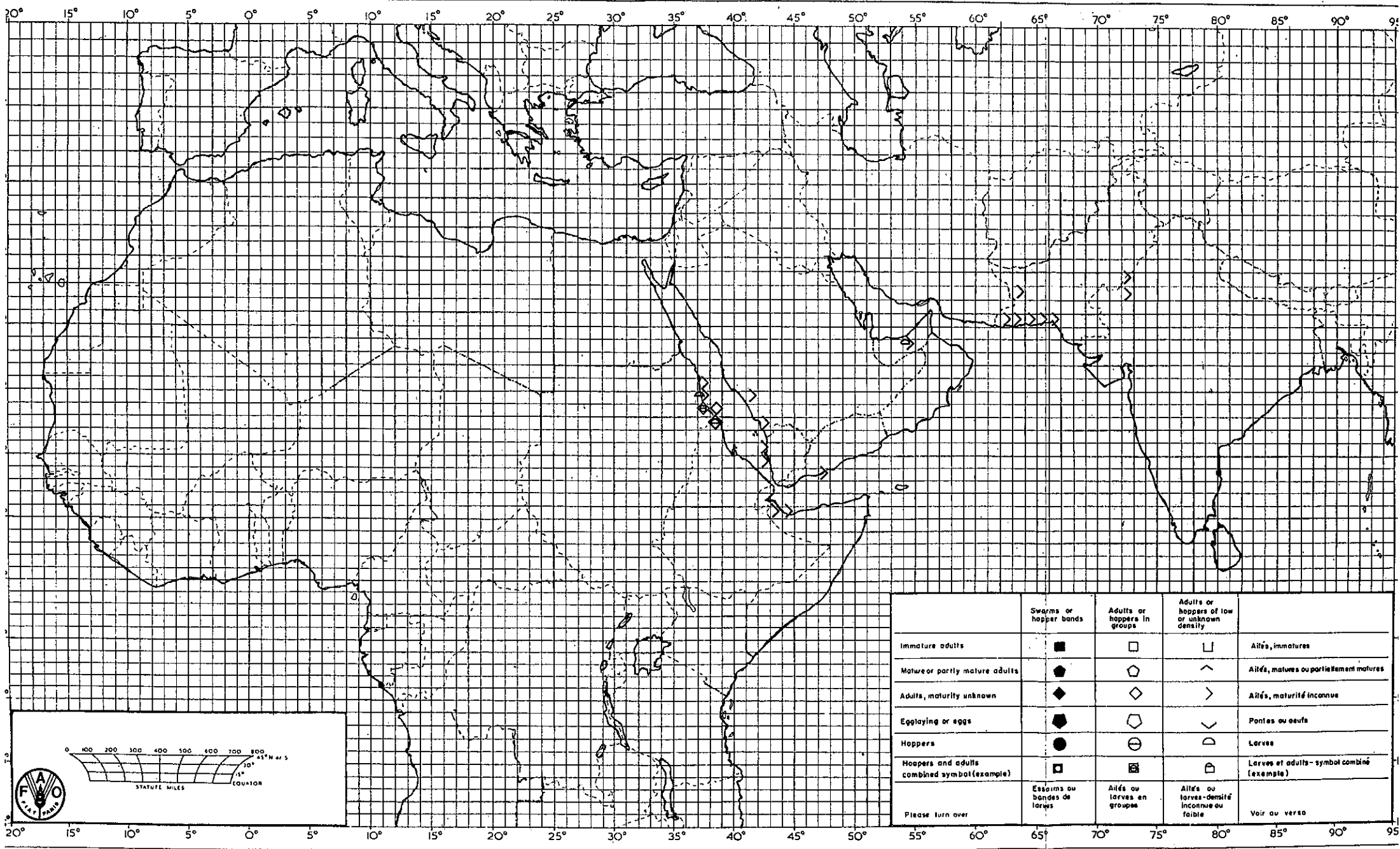
In the Near East the swarms reported in the interior of the Yemen Arab Republic and western Arabia in October and November appear to have dispersed. Nevertheless, there may be considerable numbers of adults and these may start to breed during the forecast period. Small scale breeding is also likely to occur along the Tihamas of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic, in coastal areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and in the United Arab Emirates and Oman. No substantial invasion of the region is expected.

In South-West Asia small numbers of adults are likely to persist in south-east Iran and Baluchistan of Pakistan and initially small scale breeding is likely to commence within the forecast period.

Rome

24 January 1983

Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 52 DECEMBER-EARLY JANUARY / DECEMBRE 1982-DEBUT DE JAN



	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	Voir au verso