

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR
L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE



ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 42 FEBRUARY - EARLY MARCH 1982

SUMMARY

Control operations against hoppers and adults continued on the Red Sea coast of Sudan, where excellent results were reported. Groups of adults were also reported from a coastal area in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. No other events were reported but it is probable there are considerable numbers in the Western Sahara and northern Mauritania.

There have been widespread heavy rains over much of the Arabian peninsula and in Pakistan.

W/P7333

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, FEBRUARY - EARLY MARCH 1982

WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

Between 5 and 9 February there was widespread rain, principally in northern Mauritania. Amounts are not yet available.

No reports of swarms in February have been received. In January adults at densities of 100 per hectare were present to the east of 13°W. Conditions were favourable for survival locally, particularly in the Aftout and Inchiri regions.

NIGER

Very low density adults persisted in January. There have been no reports for February.

No reports have been received from MALI or CHAD.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

No locusts were reported from ALGERIA, LIBYA, MOROCCO or TUNISIA during February.

In Algeria 15 mm of rain were recorded at Ain Salah on 12-14 February.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

Between 11 and 28 February adults at densities of up to 1 320 per hectare and scattered fourth and fifth instar hoppers were present over 400 hectares in Khor Karora (1747N/3823E). Groups of adults at densities of up to 7 140 per hectare were also present over an area of 2 400 hectares around Jebel Halibai (1754N/3827E) and at similar densities over an area of 2 000 hectares around Jebel Meihub (1752N/3824E) and Jebel Aitarba (1755N/3821E). Control operations were in progress, with excellent results.

No locusts were reported from DJIBOUTI, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, SOMALIA, TANZANIA or UGANDA.

NEAR EAST

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Widespread heavy rain was reported and flooding was reported on the southern Tihama and in the Asir. Conditions were suitable for breeding in all areas. The southern and northern Tihamas were thoroughly surveyed but no locusts were found.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Heavy rain was reported in early February and conditions were favourable for breeding. No locusts were seen.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Light to moderate rain fell on several occasions in coastal and interior areas extending from west of Aden to east of Mukalla.

Groups of solitariform adults were seen in scattered *Pennisetum* cultivations over an area of about 3 km² at Muqaybirah (1325N/4602E) on 23 February. Some adults were copulating.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Widespread heavy rain fell throughout the country on 13-15 February causing floods. There was further rain at Ajman, Umm al Qawain and Ras Al Khaima on 24 February. Conditions were becoming favourable for breeding.

The following rainfall totals were recorded:

			mm
Dabah	2529 N	5609 E	90.8
Khor Fakkan	2521 N	5618 E	177.2
Fujeira	2508 N	5618 E	122.7
Kalba	2502 N	5618 E	133.0
Sha'am	2602 N	5605 E	72.0
Masafi	2518 N	5610 E	142.6
Bitnah	2511 N	5614 E	155.1
Munayi	2457 N	5609 E	155.2
Masfut	2448 N	5606 E	159.4
Burarat	2546 N	5603 E	123.0
Digdaga	2540 N	5558 E	114.7
Khatt	2537 N	5601 E	116.1
Muleiha	2510 N	5548 E	115.0
El Ain	2413 N	5546 E	102.2
Falah Al			
Muala	2520 N	5551 E	118.8
Sharjah	2522 N	5523 E	82.4
Dubai	2515 N	5523 E	72.6
Al Awir	2511 N	5533 E	106.7
Abu Dhabi	2425 N	5422 E	94.9
Umm Al			
Quwain	2535 N	5535 E	72.4

Ground surveys were undertaken in the central agricultural region but no locusts were seen.

There were no reports from other countries in the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

PAKISTAN

During the first fortnight of February there was widespread rainfall throughout Baluchistan, and light rainfall in Cholistan and Nara deserts.

In the second fortnight of February there was widespread medium to heavy rain in many areas of Baluchistan and light rain in the summer breeding area.

In the first half of March there was moderate to heavy rain throughout Baluchistan and Bahawalpur.

No locusts were reported.

INDIA

There was fairly widespread light rainfall over north-east Rajasthan on 4 February and isolated rain in south-east Rajasthan on 3 February.

No locusts were seen.

In the first week of March western Rajasthan received good rains.

No locusts were reported in AFGHANISTAN or IRAN during January.

FORECAST FOR APRIL-MAY 1982

Breeding is likely to occur in the traditional spring breeding areas of North-Western Africa, Mauritania, around the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and in Pakistan. In the latter part of the forecast period adults, generally at low densities, will start to move towards the summer breeding areas.

In West Africa breeding has probably started and is likely to continue in areas of Mauritania which received rain in February and March, and it could be on a scale sufficient to produce hopper bands. Adults resulting from this breeding and from breeding in North-West Africa will start to move south towards the summer breeding areas in the southern Sahara and Sahel (Mauritania and Mali).

In North-West Africa small scale breeding has probably started and will continue in central and western Algeria in areas which received rain or run-off during February and March. Breeding on a scale sufficient to produce hopper groups and bands may be in progress in Western Sahara. The adults produced by this breeding, which may include a few small swarms will move south into Mauritania and some may reach Mali.

In Eastern Africa breeding will probably end on the Red Sea coast of Sudan and Ethiopia. Small numbers of adults will reach the interior of Sudan. Small scale breeding may also be in progress on the northern coastal plains of Somalia.

In the Near East breeding will occur in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen which have received rain or floods recently and is likely to give rise to hopper groups in some areas. If any adults reach the United Arab Emirates and adjacent areas of Oman, Saudi Arabia and Qatar they will start to breed but initially hoppers will only occur at low densities. It is still possible for adults to reach the Tihama of Saudi Arabia from across the Red Sea so it is still possible for breeding to occur there.

In South-West Asia small scale breeding will occur in coastal and progressively in more interior areas of Baluchistan in Pakistan and perhaps also in south-eastern Iran. Towards the end of the forecast period small numbers of adults will reach the summer breeding areas from the west.

Rome
19 March 1982

