

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



ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C 740

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 - ROME

Cables: FOODAGRI ROME

Telex: 610181 FAO I

Telephone: 57971

A G P Division

Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

NO. 41 JANUARY - EARLY FEBRUARY 1982

SUMMARY

Two swarms were reported from Mauritania and considerable numbers of adults are probably in that country and in Western Sahara. Widespread rain fell in early February and breeding is likely to occur in both countries. Groups of hoppers and adults were controlled on the Red Sea coast of Sudan and gregarious breeding was in progress in adjacent areas of the northern Ethiopian Red Sea coast. Small numbers of adults were reported from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and India.

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, JANUARY - EARLY FEBRUARY 1982

WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

During January the vegetation was dry. On 3 January a swarm was seen flying north to the west of Tidjikja at 1818N/1222W and on 18 January a swarm was seen flying south to the south-east of Nouakchott at 1750N/1540W. No locusts were seen around Nema.

Between 5 and 9 February there was widespread rain, principally in northern Mauritania.

ATLANTIC OCEAN

There is no further information about the yellow locust found alive on a ship at 0939N/2546W at 0400 hours GMT on 24 January (see Summary No. 40).

There have been no reports from CHAD, MALI or NIGER.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

No locusts were reported from ALGERIA, LIBYA, MOROCCO, TUNISIA and WESTERN SAHARA during January. No rain was reported in the recession area within the Region during January but widespread rain may have fallen in southern Algeria in early February.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

During January and up to 10 February adults and fledglings at densities of up to 9 720 per hectare and hopper groups were present over 1 200 hectares in the Tokar delta. Adults and fledglings at densities of up to 12 120 per hectare and medium sized hopper bands were present over 2 400 hectares in Khor Balatat (1758N/3825E). Control operations were in progress using EHC bait and dust. Dense groups of adults and hoppers invaded the southern sector from northern Ethiopia.

The infestations stated to be in the northern sector in Summary No. 40 were in fact at Khor Balatat in the southern sector.

ETHIOPIA

Dense groups of adults and hoppers were crossing into Sudan from the Karora area.

NEAR EAST

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Moderate rains occurred frequently on the northern and southern Tihamas and in the interior, but by mid-February the vegetation on the southern Tihama was beginning to desiccate. A few adults were reported north of Lith in early January.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Light to moderate rains fell in coastal areas in mid-January and light rains fell in the interior. Ecological conditions were favourable for breeding in some wadis. Three locusts were seen during surveys in the Abyan and Ahwar areas.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

No locusts were reported but heavy rain was reported from the Tihama.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Light rains and occasional thunderstorms occurred in most areas.

There were no reports from other countries in the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

PAKISTAN

Light to moderate rain fell in the winter-spring breeding areas on 2-3 January and in the Khuzdar, Panjgur, Kharan and Nuskhil areas of Baluchistan in the second half of January. There was widespread rainfall throughout Baluchistan in the first half of February.

No locusts were reported.

INDIA

Light to moderate rain fell in Rajasthan during the first half of January. Scattered adults were found at Jaswantgarh (2735N/7425E) on 11 January.

There were no locust reports from AFGHANISTAN or IRAN.

FORECAST FOR MARCH-APRIL 1982

With rising temperatures adults will become more conspicuous. There has been widespread rain in Mauritania, around the Red Sea and in Pakistan and breeding is likely to occur in all these areas.

In North-West Africa considerable numbers of adults, possibly including some small swarms, are probably present in Western Sahara. The amount of rain which fell in the period 5-9 February is not yet known but if it exceeded about 25 mm it is probable that breeding will occur and lead to the formation of hopper bands. The small number of adults which have reached southern Morocco will start to breed but not on a scale sufficient to produce hopper bands. Small scale breeding is likely to occur in wadis in central and southern Algeria if rain falls. Small scale breeding may occur in western Libya and in irrigated areas.

In West Africa breeding is likely to occur in areas which received adequate rain in early February and it could be on a scale sufficient to form hopper bands. Small numbers of adults will persist in north-east Mali and north-west Niger.

In Eastern Africa breeding will continue on the Red Sea coast of Sudan and Ethiopia. Hoppers and adults from the latter are likely to continue to invade Sudan and some adults could cross the Red Sea. The adults may breed again and give rise to further hopper bands. Low density breeding may be in progress on the coastal plains of north-west Somalia.

In the Near East small scale breeding may occur on the Tihamas of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic and in coastal areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Considerable numbers of adults, possibly including swarms, could reach the central and northern Tihamas of Saudi Arabia during periods of strong southerly or south-westerly winds. These adults will start to breed in areas which have received adequate rainfall or run-off. Small scale breeding may occur in the south-eastern desert of Egypt. No locusts are expected in the United Arab Emirates or Oman.

In South-West Asia, small scale breeding will occur in coastal and progressively in interior areas of Baluchistan in Pakistan and perhaps also in south-eastern Iran. Small numbers of adults will persist in summer breeding areas.

Rome
19 February 1982.

