

FAO



EMERGENCY CENTRE FOR LOCUST OPERATIONS

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN No. 185



The Desert Locust situation continues to be serious in Mauritania and to a lesser extent in Senegal. During January, aerial and ground control operations continued against maturing swarms and hoppers bands in western and north-western Mauritania. Winter breeding has commenced in northern Mauritania and to date it is limited to the area around Zouerate. Aerial and ground control operations continued against small immature swarms in the northern and western Senegal. There have been no reports yet of swarms reaching the Gambia. During the forecast period, swarms are likely to start moving northwards from northern Mauritania. The scale of such a movement is difficult to assess since it depends on when temperatures begin to increase, how long breeding conditions remain favourable in currently infested areas and the effectiveness of control operations but it could be on at least a moderate scale.

Small scale breeding is in progress along the coastal plains of Sudan and Eritrea extending from Suakin to Massawa. However, conditions are reported to be favourable in limited areas, mostly in or near wadis and cropping areas such as the Tokar Delta. The scale of the breeding thus far is much lower than twelve months ago. There have been no reports of breeding along the Red Sea coastal plains of Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Several hopper bands and groups were confirmed to be present along a short stretch of coastal plains in northern Somalia in early January. There were also unconfirmed reports additional bands in nearby areas but these could not be confirmed due to inaccessability.

Scattered adults are present in a few coastal areas of western Pakistan where breeding conditions are expected to be improving as a result of recent rains.

The FAO Desert Locust Bulletin is issued monthly, supplemented by Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity, and is distributed by fax, telex, e-mail, FAO pouch and airmail by the Emergency Centre for Locust Operations, AGP Division, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy.

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WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Based on field reports, METEOSAT and ARTEMIS satellite imagery, and Météo-France synoptic and rain data. Rainfall terms: light = less than 20 mm of rain; moderate = 20 - 50 mm; heavy = more than 50 mm.

During January, several eastward moving depressions were present over the Mediterranean but rainfall associated with these systems was limited to the coastal areas north of the Atlas Mountains from Morocco to Tunisia and no significant rainfall was reported to have occurred in desert areas further south. However, as a result of earlier rainfall, ecological conditions are reported to be favourable south of the Atlas Mountains in the Wadi Draa area near the Moroccan-Algerian border and in the Algerian Sahara near Tamanrasset and close to the Malian border near Bir Bordj Moktar. Conditions are also reported to be favourable in northern Mauritania from Akjoujt to Zouerate, but less favourable further north to Bir Moghreïn. Presumably conditions continue to remain favourable for breeding in adjacent areas of the extreme south of Morocco where low temperatures persisted throughout the month. Heavy rain was also reported in Tibesti on 31 December and 1 January.

Light to heavy rain fell over parts of the Red Sea coastal plains of Eritrea and Sudan and in parts of northern Somalia in late December and early January. In Sudan, rainfall has been generally light and confined to the coastal plains from Port Sudan - Tokar Delta area. In Eritrea, breeding conditions were reported to be favourable along some wadis between Massawa and Alghena as a result of widespread rainfall near Massawa and local showers in coastal areas; north of Alghena to the Sudanese border was generally dry with only a few green areas. Despite the build-up of clouds over parts of the northern coast of Somalia, breeding conditions were reported to be mostly dry along the coastal plains.

Widespread light to heavy rains, associated with a depression over the Gulf of Oman, fell on 9-11 January from northern Oman (Sohar 32 mm, Sur 96 mm) to the south-eastern coast of Iran (Chahbahar 23 mm) and adjacent coastal areas of Pakistan as far east as Karachi (22 mm). Light rainfall (11 mm) was reported from Chahbahar on the 23rd. Ecological conditions are expected to be improving in these areas. Light to moderate rains were reported from Jodhpur, Bikaner and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan, India on the 11th.



AREA TREATED IN JANUARY 1994

Mauritania	90,730 ha (1-20 January)
Senegal	50,000 ha (1-27 January)



WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

Aerial and ground control operations continued in western and north-western areas, primarily against immature and maturing swarms along the coast from Rosso to the Moroccan border and in adjacent interior areas near Akjoujt. Swarms were still reported to be moving northwards along the coast and hopper bands were present at various locations between Akjoujt and Zouerate (2240N/1245W).

Winter breeding is also in progress in northern areas near Zouerate where copulating adults and new hatchlings were seen forming patches in early January.

SENEGAL

Aerial and ground control operations continued during January against numerous small immature swarms. Most infestations were concentrated in the Senegal River Valley between Richard Toll and Saint Louis and in western areas near Thies and Kaolack. Adults were at densities as high as 2000 per tree. By the end of the month, infestations appeared to be declining and there was no evidence of any further swarm movement towards Gambia.

NIGER

Scattered adults, at densities of 10-100 per ha, were seen at a few locations during surveys undertaken in Tamesna during January.

No locust information had been received from countries in the region up to 31 January.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

MOROCCO

Small swarmlets continued to be reported from the extreme south-west near Bir Guendez (2136N/1629W) during the last week of December.

In mid January, several low density adult groups or swarmlets were seen near the coast between Bir Guendez and Dakhla (2340N/1555W) and in adjacent interior areas.

ALGERIA

No locusts were reported during December and early January.

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 31 January.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

No locust reports for January have been received.

ERITREA

A late report stated that as a result of earlier breeding in October-November, fifth instar hoppers, fledglings and low densities of scattered adults were present on the coastal plains north of Massawa at Wadi Adelo (1550N/3924E) in late December.

Scattered immature and mature adults were present on 14-16 January on the coastal plains near Mersa Gulbub (1624N/3851E) and in Wadi Aderhima (1600N/3910E), Wadi Gubaa (1615N/3912E) and Wadi Adelo; laying was reported in areas of recent rains. The highest density, 30.500 per hectare, was reported over two hectares of cultivation near Mersa Gulbub; however most densities were less than 500 per ha.

SOMALIA

Previous unconfirmed reports of hopper bands along the northern coast were confirmed as Desert Locust: nine medium size fifth instar hopper bands were seen marching within a 6 km stretch of coastal plains about 50 km east of Mait (1100N/4706E) on 2 January. Scattered adults were also seen in the same area. Small groups of mid instar hoppers were reported on 1,000 ha at Okraut-Tug (1101N/4733E) on the 3rd. Reports of hopper bands at Harshau (1110N/4727E) and Hidid Tug (1104N/4726E) could not be confirmed due to inaccessibility.

DJIBOUTI, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, TANZANIA and UGANDA

No locust activity was reported up to 13 January.

NEAR EAST**SAUDI ARABIA**

Low density adults were reported at four localities of the southern Tihama between Shuqeiq and Wadi Masalah (1647N/4250E)

EGYPT

A late report stated that no locusts were seen between 15 November and 20 December.

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 31 January.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA**PAKISTAN**

A late report stated that during the first half of December low numbers of immature adults were seen at a few places along the coastal plains of Lasbela and Makran of Baluchistan, with a maximum density of 3,750 adults per sq. km reported from Awaran (2625N/6517E) in Turbat district on 2 December. A loose group of immature adults was seen near the Basol River (2523N/6424E) in Gwadar district on the 4th.

During the second fortnight of December, isolated adults were reported in the above areas, at a maximum density of 450 adults per sq. km at Randewari (2531N/6605E) in Lasbela district on 30 December.

No locust activity was reported during the first half of January.

INDIA

No locust activity was reported up to 31 December.

No locust information had been received from other countries in the region up to 31 January.

**WEST AFRICA****MAURITANIA**

Winter breeding is expected to continue in northern areas around Zouerate and perhaps further north towards Bir Moghreïn depending on conditions. Swarm formation on a small to moderate scale is likely.

SENEGAL

The situation is expected to improve during the forecast period. Any swarms escaping control operations will most likely move further south out of the country.

The GAMBIA

A few small swarms may reach western areas from the north during the forecast period but no breeding is expected

GUINEA BISSAU

A few small swarms may reach northern areas during the forecast period but no breeding is expected.

GUINEA CONAKRY

A few small swarms may appear during the forecast period but no breeding is expected.

MALI

A few isolated adults may be present in the Adrar des Iforas; no significant developments are expected.

NIGER

A few isolated adults may be present in Tamesna; no significant developments are expected.

CHAD

A few isolated adults may be present in Tibesti; no significant developments are expected.

BURKINA FASO and CAMEROON

No significant developments are likely.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

MOROCCO

Some small swarms are likely to reach the Oued Draa area from mid-February during periods of south-westerly winds and could extend as far east as Figuig by the end of the forecast period. Small scale breeding could commence in southern areas.

ALGERIA

Some small swarms are likely to reach the Tindouf area from mid-February and could extend as far east as Bechan by the end of the forecast period.

TUNISIA and LIBYA

No significant developments are likely.

EASTERN AFRICA

SUDAN

Small scale hopper and adult infestations are likely to persist in a few localities on the southern Red Sea area.

ERITREA

Breeding is likely to continue in areas where green vegetation persists.

SOMALIA

Breeding, some of it gregarious, is likely to continue in areas of green vegetation but its scale is not known.

DJIBOUTI, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, TANZANIA and UGANDA

No significant developments are likely.

NEAR EAST

SAUDI ARABIA

Small numbers of adults will be present on the southern Tihama, and small scale breeding may occur in areas of green vegetation.

YEMEN

Small numbers of adults are likely to be present in the Tihama and small scale breeding may occur in areas of green vegetation.

EGYPT

No significant developments are likely.

UAE

No significant developments are likely,

OMAN

No significant developments are likely.

IRAQ, ISRAEL, JORDAN, KUWAIT, LEBANON, QATAR, SYRIA and TURKEY

No significant developments are likely during the forecast period.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

IRAN

Small scale breeding may start in areas of green vegetation towards the end of the forecast period.

PAKISTAN

Small scale breeding may start in areas of green vegetation towards the end of the forecast period.

INDIA

The situation will remain quiet.

AFGHANISTAN

No significant developments are likely during the forecast period.

1 February 1994

NOTE: The map will be issued with Bulletin 186.

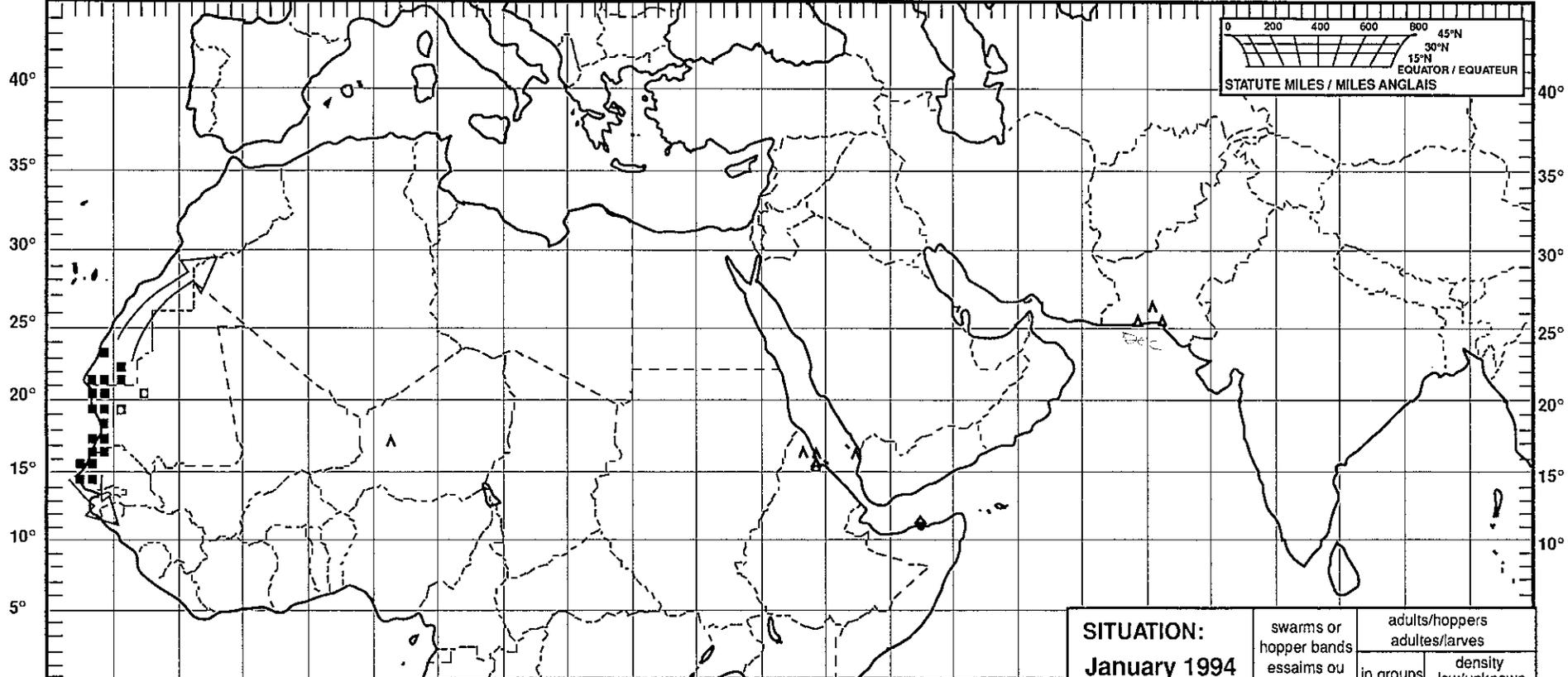
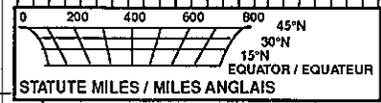


Desert Locust: summary Criquet pèlerin: situation résumée

No. 185



20° 15° 10° 5° 0° 5° 10° 15° 20° 25° 30° 35° 40° 45° 50° 55° 60° 65° 70° 75° 80° 85° 90° 95°



FORECAST TO: PREVISION AU: 15.3.94	LIKELY PROBABLE	POSSIBLE POSSIBLE
current undetected breeding reproduction en cours et non détectée		
major swarm(s) essaim(s) important(s)		
minor swarm(s) essaim(s) limité(s)		
non swarming adults adultes non essaimant		

SITUATION: January 1994 janvier 1994	swarms or hopper bands essaims ou bandes larvaires	adults/hoppers adultes/larves	
		in groups en groupes	density low/unknown densité faible/inconnue

immature adults adultes immatures			
mature or partly mature adults adultes matures ou partiellement matures			
adults, maturity unknown adultes, maturité inconnue			
egg laying or eggs pontes ou œufs			
hoppers larves			
hoppers & adults (combined symbol example) larves et adultes (exemple symboles combinés)			