

PROCEEDING OF THE SECOND DESERT LOCUST BORDER MEETING BETWEEN THE LOCUST OFFICERS OF PAKISTAN AND INDIA HELD AT KHOKHROPAR / MUNABAO BORDER POINT AT 0900 HOURS (PST) 0930 HOURS (IST) ON 22ND AUGUST, 2017

The second Indo-Pak desert locust border meeting of the year 2017 between the Locust Officers of Pakistan and India held on 22nd August, 2017 at Khokhropar / Munabao border point (Pakistan side) at 0900 hours (PST) / 0930 hours (IST). The following officers participated in the meeting.

PAKISTAN

1. Mr. Muhammad Tariq Khan, Deputy Director (Locust) HQs, Karachi
2. Mr. Muhammad Hussain Dars, Assistant Entomologist (Locust), Mirpur Khas
3. Mr. M. Shahbaz, Assistant Entomologist (Locust), HQs, Karachi
4. Mr. Jawed Iqbal Khan, Locust Assistant / Desert Locust information Officer, Karachi.

INDIA

1. Dr. J.P. Singh, Joint Director (Entomology), LWO, Jodhpur
2. Mr. Debasis Roy, Assistant Director (WS), FSIL, Bikaner
3. Mr. Sunil Chandra, Plant Protection Officer (E), LCO, Churu
4. Mr. Om Prakash, Assistant Plant Protection Officer, LWO, Jodhpur
5. Mr. Chandra Shekhar Sharma, Scientific Assistant, LWO, Jodhpur

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION (18th July, 2017 to 20th August, 2017)

The routine fortnightly locust surveys were carried out in the summer-monsoon breeding areas of Nara and Tharparkar deserts in Sindh, Cholistan desert in Punjab and in seasonal-overlapping area of Uthal in Balochistan during the reporting period. A total number of 396 localities were surveyed and only at 22 localities isolated mature solitarious adults were seen southeast of Bahawalpur (2923N/7141E) and Rahimyar Khan (2825N/7018E) in Cholistan Desert as well as south of Uthal (254801N-663721E) in Balochistan ranging from 6-33 adults / hectare. A maximum population of 33 adults / hectare was observed at Midyari (253103N-664101E) in Uthal area of Balochistan on 27-07-2017. No locust was found in Sukkur area of Nara desert and Mirpur Khas area of Tharparkar Desert during the reporting period.

On India side Distant, cross Country and Special Border Survey on locust in the Scheduled Desert Areas of India were conducted by 11 Locust Circle Offices in their respective jurisdiction. Based on the survey data/observations, it has been inferred that India has continued to remain free from gregarious locust activities. Whereas low density of solitary desert locust observed at 8 locations, ranging from 5 to 20 locust with a maximum 20 adults per hectare at BOP Indra (277138N-707351E) of Jaisalmer district.

ECOLOGY AND WEATHER

As per the rainfall estimation map for the third decade of July, light to heavy rainfall occurred in all the locust potential breeding area of Pakistan. No rainfall occurred during the first decade of August, 2017. As per locust survey reports, vegetation was found greening and green in Mirpur Khas, Sukkur, Rahimyar Khan and Bahawalpur areas during the reporting period. In Uthal area, it was observed greening and green during the last decade of July, whereas it was found drying and dry during August. Soil moisture remained wet except Uthal area where it was recorded dry.

On India side, moderate to heavy rainfall has been observed in widespread in the month of June and July 2017 of Scheduled Desert Area. As regards the vegetation, it has been found significant green1 vegetation in the Scheduled Desert Area which is critical for locust breeding and development during ensuing locust active season.

FORECAST

Due to widespread rainfall in the month of June and July and sufficient newly developed vegetation of weeds may help in breeding the locust population, the ecological conditions have become favourable. Considering the detection of low density locust population in the both countries, there is a need to keep continuous and close watch on population build up and behavior of the desert locust in order to avoid any locust emergency situation.

MISCELLANEOUS

Fortnightly desert locust situation bulletins, recent FAO bulletin, RAMSES map showing locust situation, green vegetation and rainfall estimation for the reporting period of both the countries were exchanged and discussed during the meeting.

VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The 3rd border meeting of the year 2017 will be held at Khokhropar / Munabao border point on 19th September 2017 at 0900 hours (PST) / 0930 hours (IST) on India side.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Locust Officers of both the countries expressed their deep and sincere thanks to the Pakistan Rangers and Border Security Force of India for extending their full cooperation and support for making necessary arrangements for the meeting at Khokhropar Meeting Hall (Pakistan). Delegates from both the countries thanked each other for their cooperation for smooth conducting of the meeting. Indian delegation thanked Pakistan side for cordial welcome and hospitality extended during the course of the second border meeting of the year 2017.

Place: Khokhropar Meeting Hall, Pakistan
Date: 22nd August, 2017

PARTICIPANTS

PAKISTAN

(Muhammad Tariq Khan)
Deputy Director (Locust) HQs
Karachi

(Muhammad Hussain Dars)
Assistant Entomologist (Locust)
Mirpur Khas

(M. Shahbaz)
Assistant Entomologist (Locust) HQs
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(Jawed Iqbal Khan)
Locust Assistant /
Desert Locust Information Officer
Karachi

INDIA

(Dr. J.P. Singh)
Joint Director (Entomology)
Locust Warning Organization, Jodhpur

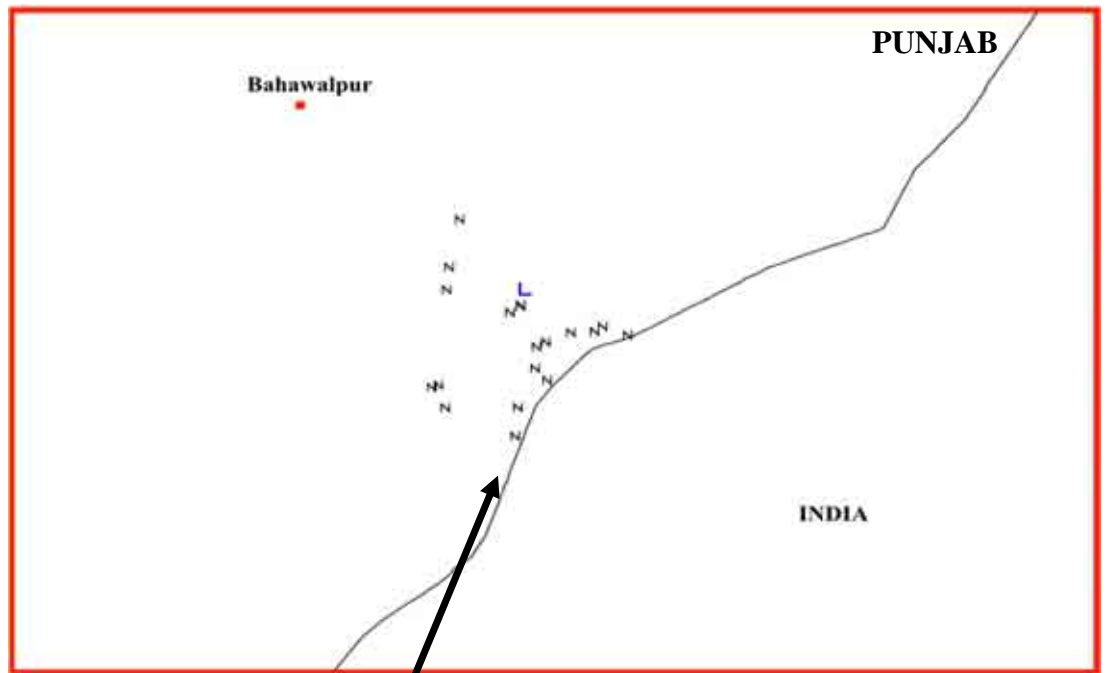
(Debasis Roy)
Assistant Director (WS)
FSIL, Bikaner

(Sunil Chandra)
qw Plant Protection Officer (E)
LCO, Churu

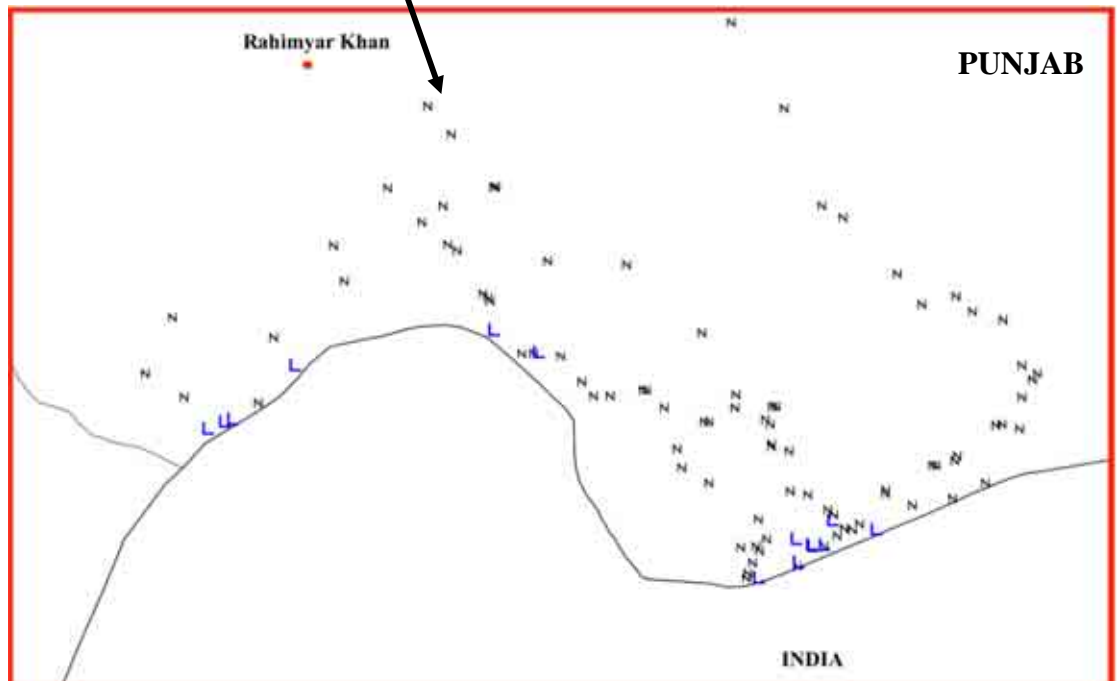
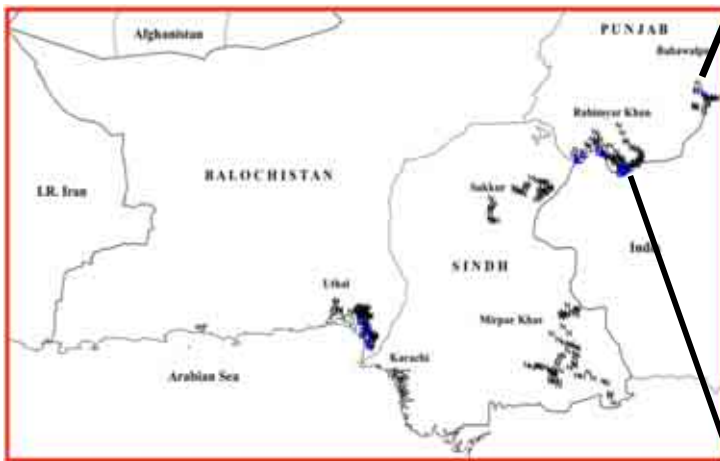
(Om Prakash)
Assistant Plant Protection Officer
LWO-Jodhpur

(Chandra Shekhar Sharma)
Scientific Assistant
LWO-Jodhpur

Map showing the desert locust situation in summer-monsoon breeding areas
i.e. Bahawalpur and Rahimyar Khan from 18th July 2017 to 20th August 2017

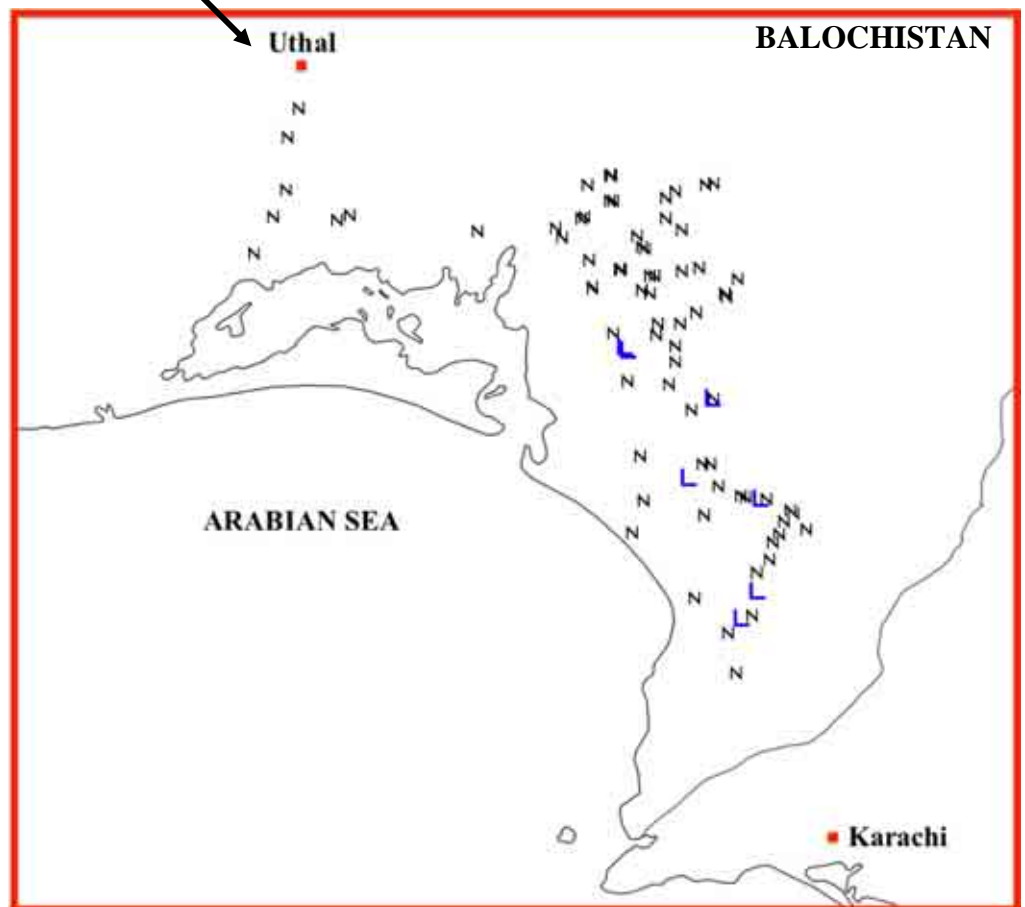


Solitary adults were seen at one locality



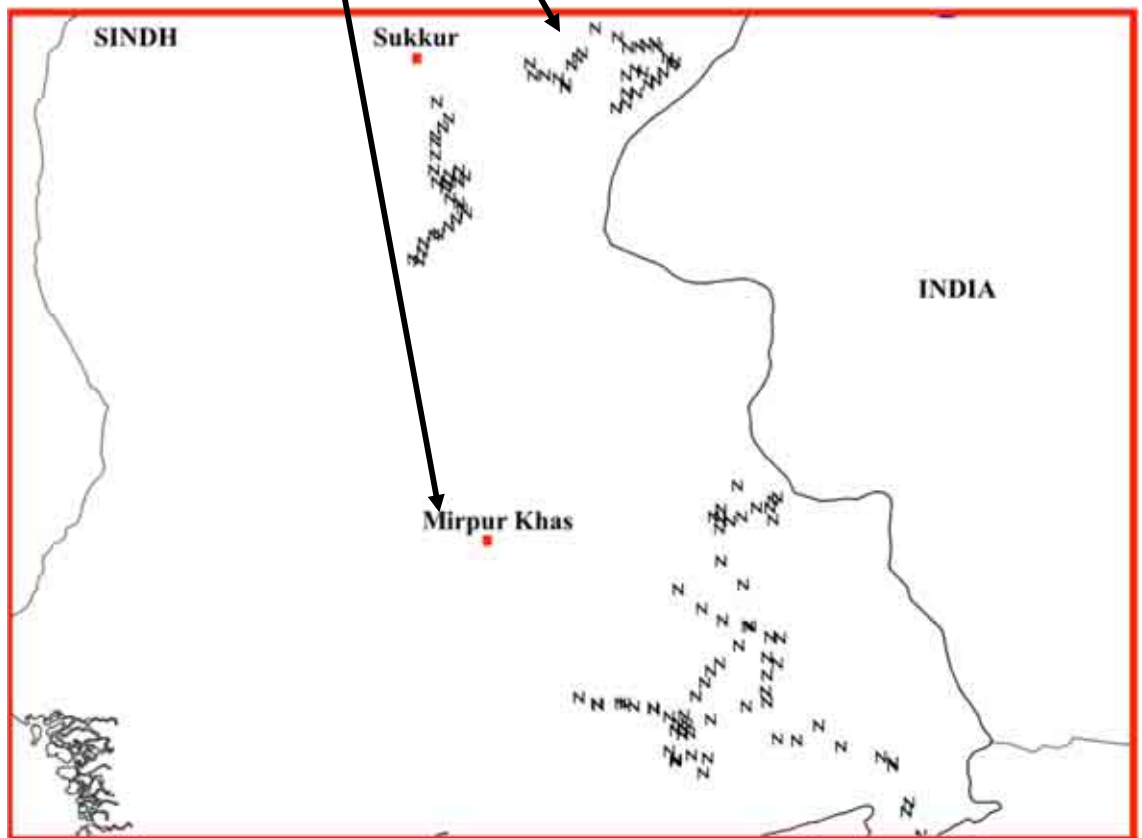
Solitary mature adults were seen at fourteen localities

Map showing the desert locust situation in seasonal overlapping area of Uthal, Balochistan from 18th July 2017 to 20th August 2017



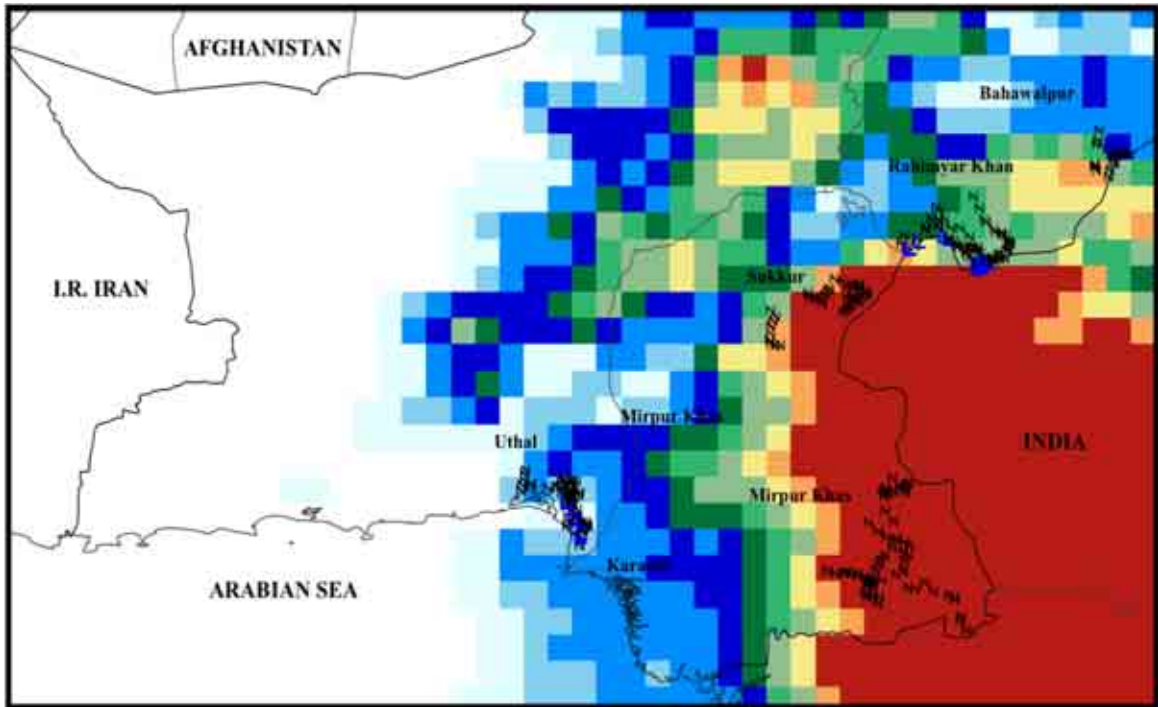
Solitary mature adults were seen at seven localities

Map showing the desert locust situation in summer-monsoon breeding areas
i.e. Sukkur and Mirpur Khas from 18th July 2017 to 20th August 2017



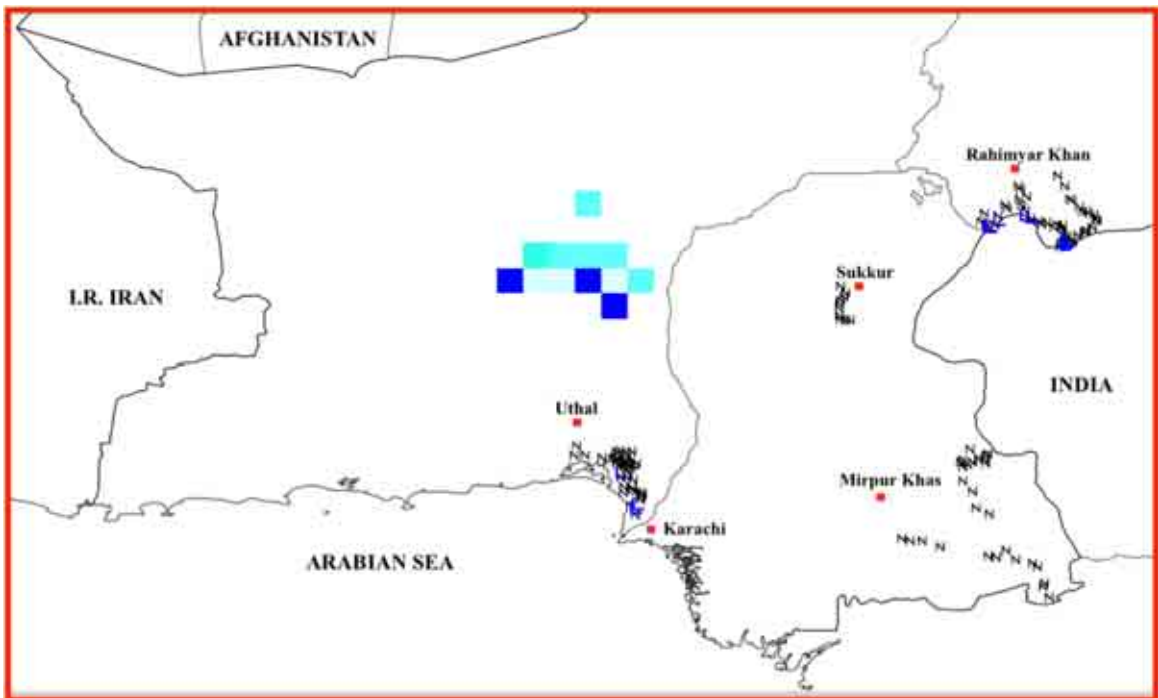
No locust was seen during the reporting period in Sukkur and Mirpur Khas area

Rainfall estimation map for the third decade of July 2017

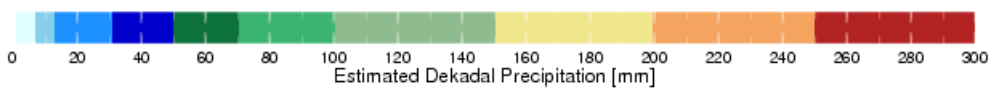


Light to heavy rainfall occurred in locust potential breeding areas during third decade of July 2017

Rainfall estimation map for the first decade of August 2017



No rainfall occurred in any locust breeding areas during the first decade of August 2017



Map showing the vegetation conditions in summer-monsoon breeding areas from 18th July 2017 to 20th August 2017

