

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



No. 261
(4 July 2000)



General Situation during June 2000 Forecast until mid-August 2000

The Desert Locust situation remained calm during June in all regions and continued to be free from any gregarious activity. Only a few insignificant adults were reported in north-western Mauritania, in Niger, Egypt and northern Somalia. Breeding conditions are currently improving in the northern Sahel from Mali to Sudan where small scale laying may occur during the forecast period.

Western Region. There was a report of mature adults in the Dakhlet, Mauritania in mid June. Some scattered solitarious adults were seen in central Aïr, Niger and isolated adults were seen in Morocco. Although no reports were received from other countries in the Region, the current situation is expected to be calm with only a possibility of some adults in south-eastern Algeria. Low numbers of adults are likely to appear in southern Mauritania during the forecast period and lay with the onset of the rains. Adults may also appear and lay in areas of recent rainfall in the eastern Tamesna, Niger. Both areas require regular monitoring in the coming months.

Central Region. Mature adult populations were treated in a cultivated area in the Western Desert of Egypt. Scattered and isolated adults were present in northern Somalia. No locusts were reported in the summer breeding areas of Sudan. Small scale breeding is expected to commence during the forecast period in areas of recent rainfall in the interior of Sudan. Elsewhere, the situation will remain calm.

Eastern Region. No locusts were reported in the Region. Low numbers of adults may appear in the summer breeding areas along the Indo-Pakistan border and lay with the onset of the monsoon rains. Breeding this year is expected to be on a very small scale.

The FAO Desert Bulletin is issued monthly, supplemented by Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity, and is distributed by fax, e-mail, FAO pouch and airmail by the Locusts and Other Migratory Pests Group, AGP Division, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy. It is also available on the Internet.

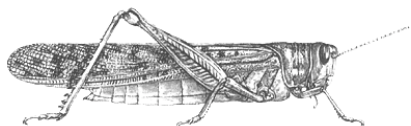
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Weather & Ecological Conditions in June 2000

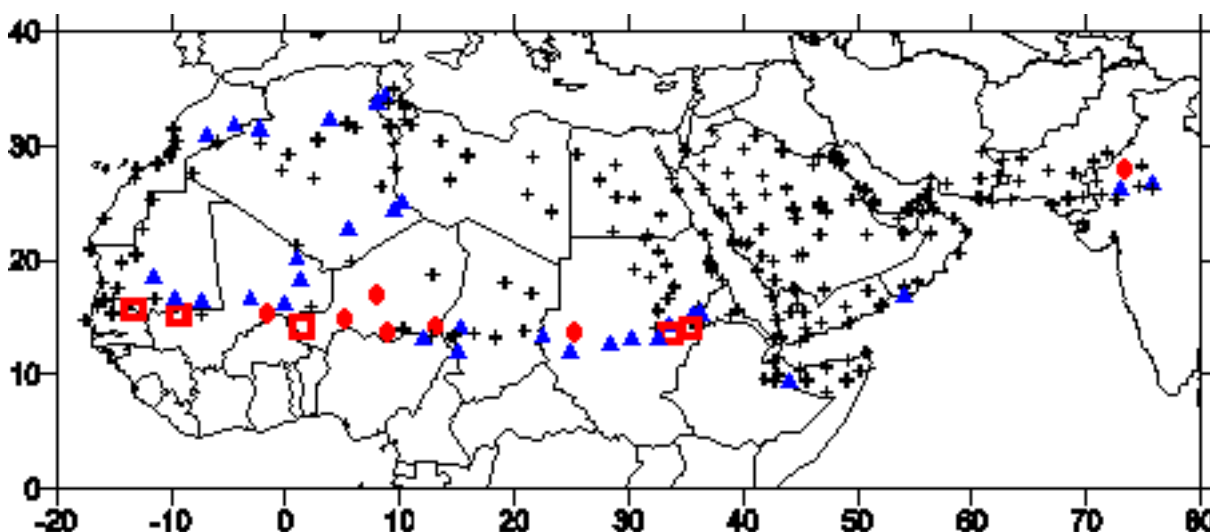
The rainy season has progressively started in the northern portion of the Sahel from Mali to Sudan where conditions are slowly becoming favourable for breeding but dry weather and unfavourable breeding conditions prevailed in southern Mauritania. Dry conditions prevailed in the summer breeding areas of South-West Asia.

In West Africa, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) broadly fluctuated between 14°N and 18°N during June. As a result some light to heavy rains fell in parts of the northern Sahel except in southern Mauritania where only sporadic light rains were reported (see map). Most of these rains were below the thirty year average for June except in the Aïr region of Niger where nearly 40 mm of rain fell in Agadez which is almost four times the monthly long term average. Winds were highly variable over the Sahelian countries as a result of the fluctuating ITCZ position. Despite sporadic light rain showers, most of the vegetation in southern Mauritania is dry and conditions remain unfavourable for breeding. Elsewhere in the northern Sahel, favourable breeding conditions should slowly develop.

In North-West Africa, light rain was reported by few stations from Morocco to Tunisia. During the first dekad of June, light to perhaps heavy showers were reported in the Hoggar Mountains of southern Algeria, extending to the Djanet area. Analysis of SPOT-Vegetation satellite imagery suggested that current vegetation continues to dry out or is completely dry in locust areas of all countries in the Region.

In Eastern Africa, light rains fell in parts of the summer breeding areas in Northern Darfur, Northern Kordofan and near Kassala, Sudan and moderate rains were reported at El Fasher (21 mm). Although these amounts were well below the long term average for June, green vegetation was present and conditions are favourable for breeding in Northern Kordofan as a result of rainfall during the past two months. A few light showers occurred in northern Somalia where vegetation is drying out on the central northern coastal plains but remains green in the wadis as well as on the escarpment in the interior. The south-westerly wind flow over the Horn of Africa that is associated with the South-West Asian monsoon is well established. Dry conditions persisted on the coastal plains of Eritrea.

In the Near East, no significant rainfall was reported from the Region except for the Tihama coastal plains of Yemen where light rains fell in the north and heavier rains falls in the south on 28 June. Vegetation was dry and conditions continued to be unfavourable for breeding along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coastal plains, in the interior of Saudi Arabia, and on the Batinah coast of northern Oman.



June 2000 rainfall
+ Unsignificant - Nulle (< 1 mm)
▲ Light - Faible (1-20 mm)
● Moderate - Moyenne (20-50 mm)
■ Heavy - Forte (> 50 mm)
Pluie mensuelle: Juin 2000

In **South-West Asia**, no significant rainfall was reported from the Region where a serious drought continues. Only few areas of eastern Rajasthan, India reported light to moderate showers during one day in June. Dry conditions persisted in Baluchistan of western Pakistan and south-eastern Iran.



Area Treated

Egypt no details (24 June)



Desert Locust Situation and Forecast

(see also the summary on the first page)

WEST AFRICA

Mauritania

- **SITUATION**

On the 14th of June, some groups of mature adults were reported east of Nouadhibou in the Dakhlet near Bou Lanouar (2116N/1630W) and the Moroccan border. These populations are probably those previously seen in the extreme south-western Morocco near Bir Guendouz (2124N/1634W) during May [see DL Bulletin No. 260] which are in the process of moving south towards the summer breeding areas. No other locust activity was reported during the month.

- **FORECAST**

Low numbers of adults are likely to appear in the summer breeding areas of Tagant and the two Hodhs and lay with the onset of the rains. The first generation of breeding is expected to be on a small scale but dispersed throughout the south and south-east, depending on the nature of the rainfall. No further activity is likely in the north due to dry conditions.

Niger

- **SITUATION**

During the first week of June, scattered solitary adults were seen in central and northern Air near Assode (1825N/0838E), Oued Zilalet and Iko (1846N/0804E). No locusts were seen elsewhere in northern Air near Tadreck nor in the Irhazer area of the Tamesna during the month.

- **FORECAST**

The scattered residual populations previously and currently reported in the Air area could move west towards Tamesna and lay during the forecast period in areas of recent rainfall.

Mali

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

Low numbers of locusts are likely to be present and will persist in a few wadis in the Adrar des Iforas where small scale laying could commence during the forecast period if rainfall occurs.

Chad

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Senegal

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, and Guinea Conakry

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Algeria

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

Low numbers of adults may be present and could persist in areas of recent rainfall in the south-east near Djanet or in areas of run-off near the Hoggar Mountains. No significant developments are expected during the forecast period.

Morocco

- **SITUATION**

A few isolated adults were reported near Errachidia at Merzouga (3102N/0400W) on 5 June.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

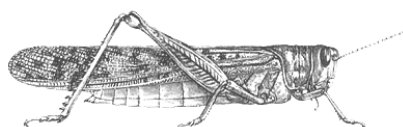
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

- **SITUATION**

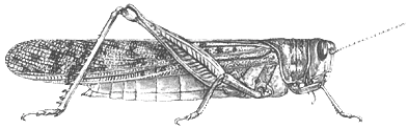
No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.



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Tunisia

- SITUATION

A late report indicated that a single mature adult was seen on 8 May in the Matmata El Jadida (3340N/1001E) region of the south.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

EASTERN AFRICA

Sudan

- SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in Northern Kordofan from 7-30 June. There was an unconfirmed report of a swarm on 1 June in the extreme north of Northern Kordofan flying from the south-east towards the north in Wadi Almuhbes (1545N/2947E). Given the low population numbers in the Region and generally dry conditions up to now, this may not be a swarm.

- FORECAST

Low numbers of adults may be present on the western side of the Red Sea Hills north of Kassala and in parts of Northern Kordofan and Northern Darfur. Small scale breeding is expected to occur primarily in areas of Northern Kordofan which have received rainfall during the past two months and, to a lesser extent, in Northern Darfur and Kassala. Low numbers of hoppers are likely to appear during the forecast period.

Eritrea

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported along the Red Sea coast and in the interior during June.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Somalia

- SITUATION

Scattered mature adults were seen on the northern coast west of Berber near Sabawanak (1033N/4405E) and near the foothills in Wadi Osoli (1033N/4348E) on 4 June, and east of Berber near Hodmo (1034N/4618E) on the 20th.

- FORECAST

Low numbers of adults may persist in a few coastal and subcoastal areas. No significant developments are likely.

Ethiopia

- SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out on 11-19 June in the eastern part of the country from Dire Dawa to the Djibouti border.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Djibouti

- SITUATION

No reports received.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

NEAR EAST

Saudi Arabia

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported along the Red Sea coastal plains or in the interior during June.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Yemen

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported during the first half of June from the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coastal plains.

- FORECAST

Low numbers of adults may appear and persist in areas of recent rainfall on the Tihama.

Egypt

- SITUATION

Mature transiens adults at densities of 2-3 per sq. m. in cropping areas were treated on 26 June in El-Heiz (2802N/2838E) in the Western Desert. It is unclear if these are Desert Locust or a local species of grasshopper. No other locusts were seen during surveys on the Red Sea coastal plains from Safaga to the Sudanese border, in adjacent subcoastal areas, and in other parts of the Western Desert.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Kuwait

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported during May.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Oman

• SITUATION

The situation is reported to be calm and no surveys were conducted during June.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

United Arab Emirates

• SITUATION

No reports received.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Syria Arab Republic and Turkey

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Iran

• SITUATION

A late report indicated that no locusts were seen during surveys carried out on 22 April to 23 May in Hormozgan and Kerman provinces.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Pakistan

• SITUATION

No locusts were reported during June.

• FORECAST

Low numbers of adults are likely to appear in parts of the summer breeding areas, primarily Tharparkar and to a lesser extent Khairpur and Bahawalpur. Laying will occur on a small scale with the onset of the monsoon rains.

India

• SITUATION

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in Rajasthan during the second half of May and the first half of June.

• FORECAST

A few isolated adults are likely to appear in Rajasthan and lay on a very small scale with the onset of the monsoon rains. No significant developments are likely.

Afghanistan

• SITUATION

No reports received.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.



Other Locust species

Madagascar. Gregarious Malagasy Migratory Locust (*Locusta migratoria capito*) adults persisted and swarms continued to form mainly in the central western portion of the country during May and early June. The situation is reported to have deteriorated during the rainy season which suggests that there is a risk of a re-invasion later this year.

Kazakhstan. During June, large-scale operations were in progress against the Italian Locust (*Calliptamus italicus*) north of the 49th parallel from the north-western to the eastern part of the country. All hopper instars were present and hatching is continuing in a few areas. Some adults appeared in the south in mid-June.

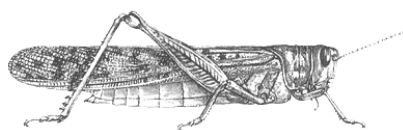
China. Dry weather has favoured the development of a serious locust outbreak in the eastern provinces as well as another outbreak in the north-west. In mid June, about 1 million ha were reported to be infested in the former area by what is thought to be Migratory Locust (*Locusta migratoria*) at densities up to 4,000 adults per sq. m. About 33,000 ha infested by Migratory Locust and 2 million ha by Italian Locust, at densities up to 1,000 adults per sq. m., were reported in the north-west. Control operations are in progress.

Peru. An outbreak of Peruvian Locust (*Schistocerca piceifrons peruviana*) has developed in the northern highlands and in the adjacent coastal areas where crop damage has been reported. There may be a risk that some swarms could move to southern Ecuador.

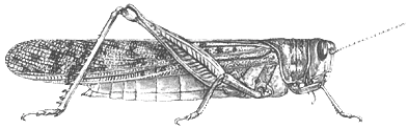


Announcements

Locust reporting. Affected countries are kindly reminded to make sure that locust situation reports are sent to FAO HQ by the 25th day of the month so the information can be included in the FAO bulletin for the current month; otherwise, it will not appear until the following month. Reports should be sent even if no locusts were found or if no surveys were conducted.



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Reporting by email. Affected countries are encouraged to send completed FAO Locust Survey Forms with a brief interpretation of the results by email to eclo@fao.org.

FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Eastern Region of its Distribution Area in South West Asia. The 13th session of the Executive Committee and the 22nd session of the Commission will be held in Tehran, I.R. Iran on 17-21 September.



Glossary of terms

The following special terms are used in the Desert Locust Bulletin when reporting locusts:

NON-GREGARIOUS ADULTS AND HOPPERS

ISOLATED (FEW)

- very few present and no mutual reaction occurring;
- 0 - 1 adult/400 m foot transect (or less than 25/ha).

SCATTERED (SOME, LOW NUMBERS)

- enough present for mutual reaction to be possible but no ground or basking groups seen;
- 1 - 20 adults/400 m foot transect (or 25 - 500/ha).

GROUP

- forming ground or basking groups;
- 20+ adults/400 m foot transect (or 500+/ha).

ADULT SWARM AND HOPPER BAND SIZES

VERY SMALL

- swarm: less than 1 km² • band: 1 - 25 m²

SMALL

- swarm: 1 - 10 km² • band: 25 - 2,500 m²

MEDIUM

- swarm: 10 - 100 km² • band: 2,500 m² - 10 ha

LARGE

- swarm: 100 - 500 km² • band: 10 - 50 ha

VERY LARGE

- swarm: 500+ km² • band: 50+ ha

RAINFALL

LIGHT

- 1 - 20 mm of rainfall.

MODERATE

- 21 - 50 mm of rainfall.

HEAVY

- more than 50 mm of rainfall.

OTHER REPORTING TERMS

BREEDING

- the process of reproduction from copulation to fledging.

SUMMER RAINS AND BREEDING

- July - September/October

WINTER RAINS AND BREEDING

- October - January/February

SPRING RAINS AND BREEDING

- February - June/July

DECLINE

- a period characterised by breeding failure and/or successful control leading to the dissociation of swarming populations and the onset of recessions; can be regional or major.

OUTBREAK

- a marked increase in locust numbers due to concentration, multiplication and gregarisation which, unless checked, can lead to the formation of hopper bands and swarms.

UPSURGE

- a period following a recession marked initially by a very large increase in locust numbers and contemporaneous outbreaks followed by the production of two or more successive seasons of transient-to-gregarious breeding in complimentary seasonal breeding areas in the same or neighbouring Desert Locust regions.

PLAGUE

- a period of one or more years of widespread and heavy infestations, the majority of which occur as bands or swarms. A major plague exists when two or more regions are affected simultaneously.

RECESSION

- period without widespread and heavy infestations by swarms.

REMISSION

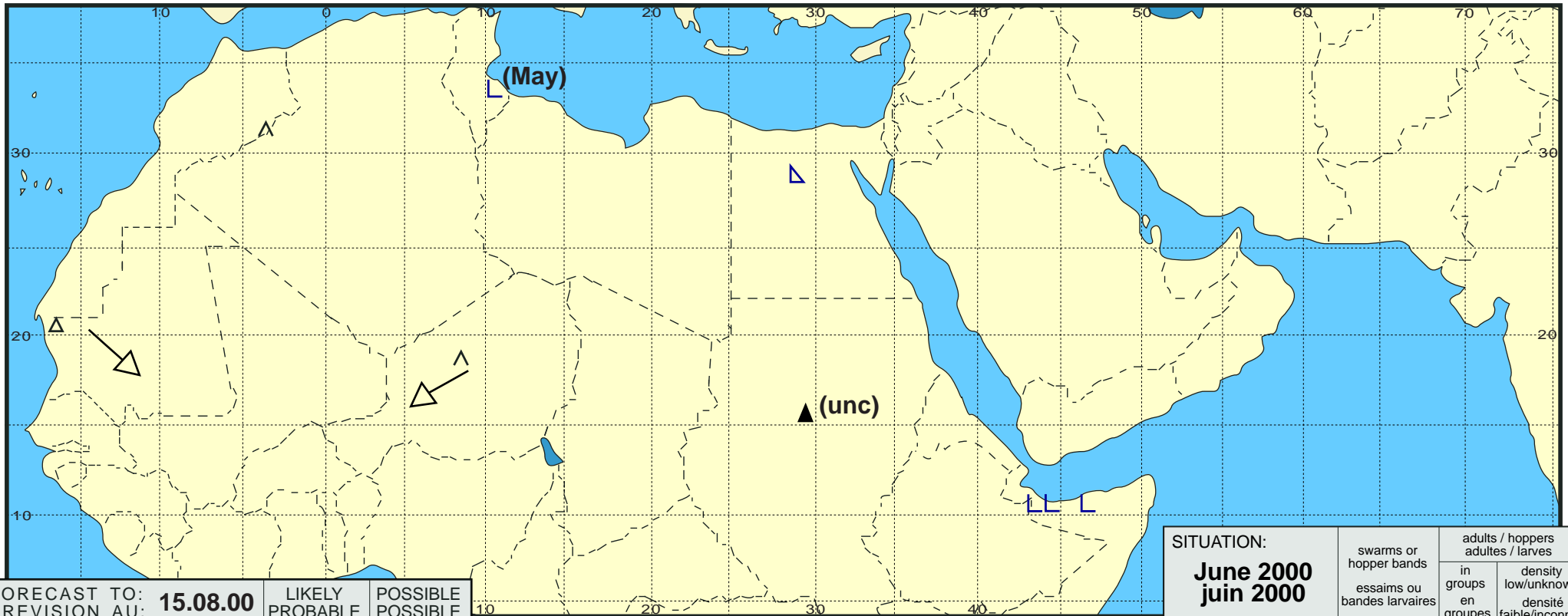
- period of deep recession marked by the complete absence of gregarious populations.



Desert Locust Summary

Criquet pèlerin - Situation résumée

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FORECAST TO: PREVISION AU: 15.08.00	LIKELY PROBABLE	POSSIBLE POSSIBLE
favourable breeding conditions conditions favorables à la reproduction		
major swarm(s) essaim(s) important(s)		
minor swarm(s) essaim(s) limité(s)		
non swarming adults adultes non essaimant		

SITUATION: June 2000 juin 2000	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)			

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)			