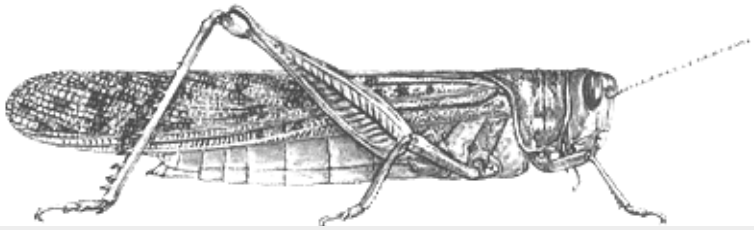

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations

No. 270
(4 Apr 2001)

General Situation during March 2001
Forecast until mid-May 2001

The Desert Locust situation remained calm during March. Only insignificant numbers of solitarious adults were reported in northern Mauritania, northern Mali, south-eastern Egypt, northern Somalia, and western Pakistan. Dry conditions prevailed throughout the recession area except for parts of Yemen and Saudi Arabia where good rains fell. No significant developments are expected during the forecast period.

Western Region. Locust numbers declined further in northern **Mauritania** where there has been no evidence of breeding to date due to a lack of rainfall and unfavourable conditions. A few locusts were reported to be surviving in localized patches of vegetation in northern **Mali** where conditions are not favourable for breeding. Although no locusts were reported in **Morocco**, **Algeria** and **Libya**, there is a slight possibility that a few isolated adults may be present in southern or central Algeria. Locust numbers will continue to decline during the forecast period.

Central Region. Scattered adults persisted in **Egypt** along the south-eastern coastal plains of the Red Sea but breeding has not been detected. No locusts were seen further south in **Sudan** or **Eritrea** where conditions are now dry. Isolated adults were seen in parts of northern **Somalia**. Good rains fell in coastal and interior areas of **Yemen** where low numbers of locusts are expected to be present and breeding but no surveys have been carried out since November. Regular surveys are strongly recommended in areas of recent rainfall. No locusts were reported in **Saudi Arabia**.

Eastern Region. Low numbers of solitarious adults were present in coastal areas of Baluchistan in western **Pakistan** from mid February onwards. Small scale breeding is expected to occur if rains fall during the forecast period. No locusts were reported in **Iran** or **India**.

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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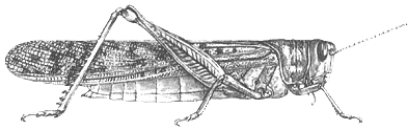
Telex: 610181 FAO 1
Internet: http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm



No. 270

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

Weather & Ecological Conditions in March 2001

Dry and unfavourable conditions for breeding prevailed throughout the recession area except for Yemen and Saudi Arabia where rains fell over parts of the Red Sea coast and in the interior desert.

In **West Africa**, no rainfall was reported and dry conditions prevailed for the fourth consecutive month. In Mauritania, prevailing winds were from the north and north-east, and temperatures were generally quite stable with minimum temperatures between 15-22°C and maximum between 23-35°C. Green vegetation was limited to a few very localized patches in wadis and drainage areas of the north. In northern Mali, daytime temperatures were starting to increase while night temperatures remained low. Conditions were generally dry except for localized patches of green vegetation in Timetrine and the Adrar des Iforas. The indications were that these would be enough to allow the survival of locusts but not for breeding.

In **North-West Africa**, dry conditions prevailed throughout the Region. No significant rainfall was reported during March except for some traces along the Atlantic coast of Morocco between Agadir and Sidi Ifni. Minimum and maximum temperatures in the central Sahara of Algeria were 16-20°C and 26-37°C respectively. Consequently, breeding conditions continued to be unfavourable in desert areas south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and Algeria. Similar conditions persisted in Libya except for some localized green vegetation in the north-west near Nalut.

In **Eastern Africa**, dry weather prevailed throughout the Region. Although clouds were present at times over the Red Sea coast of Sudan and Eritrea, no rainfall was reported and, consequently, vegetation is drying out along the coastal plains of both countries. In Northern Somalia, vegetation is generally dry along the coast except in some wadis that received run-off from isolated showers on the escarpment during the second week of March. Vegetation was also starting to become green in some places on the plateau near Hargeisa, Erigavo and Burao.

In the **Near East**, rains fell at times in parts of the Region. In Saudi Arabia, light rains fell on the northern Red Sea coast at Yenbo (12 mm) in early March. Good rains fell during the third week in the spring breeding areas of the interior near Hail (93 mm) and Qassim (121 mm) and light rains fell on the north-western edge of the Empty Quarter at W. Dawasser (9 mm) and Sharurah (7 mm). No significant rainfall was reported on the Red Sea coastal plains. In Yemen, light rains fell in a few places on the Red Sea coastal plains near Hodeidah. Widespread and heavy rains fell during the first half of March along the southern coastal plains east of Aden and in the interior between Ataq, Bayhan and Marib. In Egypt, small patches of dense vegetation and moist soil were present in a few areas along the south-eastern Red Sea coastal plains even though the last rains occurred in mid December.

In **South-West Asia**, dry conditions prevailed in the spring breeding areas of Baluchistan in western Pakistan and south-eastern Iran. No rainfall was reported except for light showers at Nokkundi and Dalbandin in north-western Baluchistan, Pakistan on the 11th.

Area Treated

No control operations were reported.

Desert Locust Situation and Forecast

(see also the summary on the first page)

WEST AFRICA

Mauritania

• **SITUATION**

During the last dekad of February, a few isolated adults remained in previously infested areas south of Atar and individual mature adults were present at two locations near Zouerate (2244N1221W).

During the first two dekads of March, a few mature adults persisted at three locations near Zouerate. No locusts were seen during surveys in nearby areas or during the third dekad.

• **FORECAST**

In the absence of any further rainfall in Tiris Zemmour and Adrar, breeding is less likely to occur and locust numbers will continue to decline in the north. This suggests that there will be very few locusts to move south this year towards the summer breeding areas.

Mali

• **Situation**

During March, a few immature adults were reported in Timetrine at Tirikfen (2042N/0002W) and Ifirdjane (2030N/0013W) and in the southern Adrar between Gao and Tabankort (1749N/0019E).

• **Forecast**

Low numbers of adults are likely to persist in a few areas of Timetrine and the Adrar des Iforas. In the absence of rainfall, no significant developments are expected.

Niger

• **Situation**

No reports received.

• **Forecast**

A few isolated adults may be present in parts of the Air. No significant developments are expected.

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 locusts were reported during March.

• **Forecast**

A few isolated adults may be present south of the Hoggar Mountains and in the central Sahara. No significant developments are likely.

Morocco

• **Situation**

No locusts were reported up to 23 March.

• **Forecast**

Low numbers of locusts may be present in parts of the extreme south-west. No significant developments are likely.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

• **Situation**

A single solitarious adult was seen south-west of Nalut (3141N/1053E) on 28 March.

• **Forecast**

No significant developments are likely.

Tunisia

• **Situation**

No reports received.

• **Forecast**

No significant developments are likely.

EASTERN AFRICA

Sudan

• **Situation**

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in March on the Red Sea costal plains between Tokar Delta and Arbaat, north of Port Sudan.

• **Forecast**

No significant developments are likely.

Eritrea

• **Situation**

No reports were received from the Red Sea coastal plains up to 26 March.

• **Forecast**

Low numbers of solitarious adults may be present in a few areas along the Red Sea coastal plains between Tio and Karora; however, breeding is unlikely to occur as vegetation continues to dry out in the absence of any rainfall. No significant developments are likely.

Somalia

• **Situation**

During March, a few mature adults were seen near the coast east of Berbera in Wadi Duudo (1033N/4530E) on the 5th and immature adults were present further west at Gargaara (1016N/4348E) on the 24th. Isolated immature adults were seen on the 30th at two locations in the hills and on the coast near Las Koreh (1110N/4812E). No locusts were seen elsewhere in coastal or interior areas of the north-west.

• **Forecast**

Low numbers of adults are likely to persist in a few areas along the coast and on the escarpment where ecological conditions are favourable. No significant developments are likely.

Ethiopia

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Djibouti

• **SITUATION**

No surveys were carried out during March.

• **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 during March on the Red Sea coastal plains or in the interior.

• **FORECAST**

Low numbers of solitarious adults are likely to be present and breeding on a small scale in a few places along the Red Sea coast between Jeddah and Jizan. Population levels are not expected to be high enough to warrant migration to the spring breeding areas of the interior and take advantage of recent rainfall.

Yemen

• **SITUATION**

Although no locust surveys were conducted during March, there was an unconfirmed report of locusts on the southern coastal plains near Aden.

• **FORECAST**

Low numbers of solitarious adults are expected to be present and breeding on a small scale in a few places of the Red Sea coastal plains in areas of recent rainfall and perhaps on the coastal plains near Aden. Breeding conditions are expected to improve in the summer breeding areas of the interior where recent rains fell between Marib, Bayhan and Ataq. Regular surveys are suggested to monitor the situation.

Egypt

• **SITUATION**

During March, isolated immature adults continued to be present in a few places along the Red Sea coastal plains between Abu Ramad (2224N/3624E) and Halaib (2212N/3635E) and in the adjacent sub-coastal areas. No locusts were reported further north along the Red Sea coast or in the Western Desert.

• **FORECAST**

Locust numbers will decline along the Red Sea coastal plains as vegetation dries out but a few may persist in agricultural areas in the Western Desert near Tushka and Sharq Oweinat. No significant developments are likely.

Kuwait

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Oman

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **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**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

A few isolated adults may be present in a few places on the south-eastern coastal plains near Chabahar. Breeding could occur in those places that receive rainfall. No significant developments are likely.

Pakistan

• **SITUATION**

During the second half of February, isolated maturing adults were reported at 10 locations in the spring breeding areas of Baluchistan between Pasni (2513N/6330E) and Panjgur (2658N/6406E), and near Las Bela (2612N/6620E).

During the first half of March, isolated and insignificant populations persisted in the above areas.

• **FORECAST**

Small scale breeding may occur in a few places of coastal Baluchistan if rains fall. No significant developments are likely.

India

• **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported during the second half of February and first half of March in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Afghanistan

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Other Locust species

Peru

In the northern part of Peru, about 50,000 to 75,000 ha were infested during March by gregarious hoppers of *Schistocerca initerrita*. Some mature adult populations were still present at densities varying from 500 to 15,000 adults/ha. The infested areas varied from some square-metres to thousands of hectares.

In the central part of the country, an outbreak of *transiens* populations of *Schistocerca piceifrons peruviana* has occurred again.

Madagascar

An outbreak of Malagasy Migratory Locust (*Locusta migratoria capito*) is again developing in the south-west of the country. February reports indicated that more than 40,000 ha were infested by *transiens* adult populations along the coastal plains in the south-west. Adults were maturing and more than 30% were copulating. Densities varied from 2,000 to 14,000 adults/ha. A total of 7,450 ha were treated during February.

Announcements

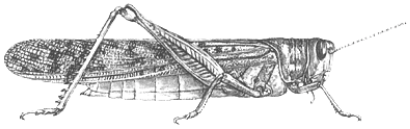
Locust reporting. Affected countries are kindly reminded to make sure that locust situation reports are sent to FAO HQ by the 25th day of the month so the information can be included in the FAO bulletin for the current month; otherwise, it will not appear until the following month. Reports should be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

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

The Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in North-West Africa. The 23rd Session will be held in Algiers, Algeria from 2-7 June 2001.

Desert Locust Control Committee. The 36th Session will be held in Rome from 24-28 September 2001.

Pesticide Referee Group. The 9th meeting will be held during the last quarter of 2001. Results of any field trials recently undertaken on the efficiency and human/environmental safety of control agents used against locusts and grasshoppers should be submitted to the Locust Group for transmission to the PRG.



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 km^2 • band: 1 - 25 m^2

SMALL

- swarm: 1 - 10 km^2 • band: 25 - 2,500 m^2

MEDIUM

- swarm: 10 - 100 km^2 • band: 2,500 m^2 - 10 ha

LARGE

- swarm: 100 - 500 km^2 • band: 10 - 50 ha

VERY LARGE

- swarm: 500+ km^2 • 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

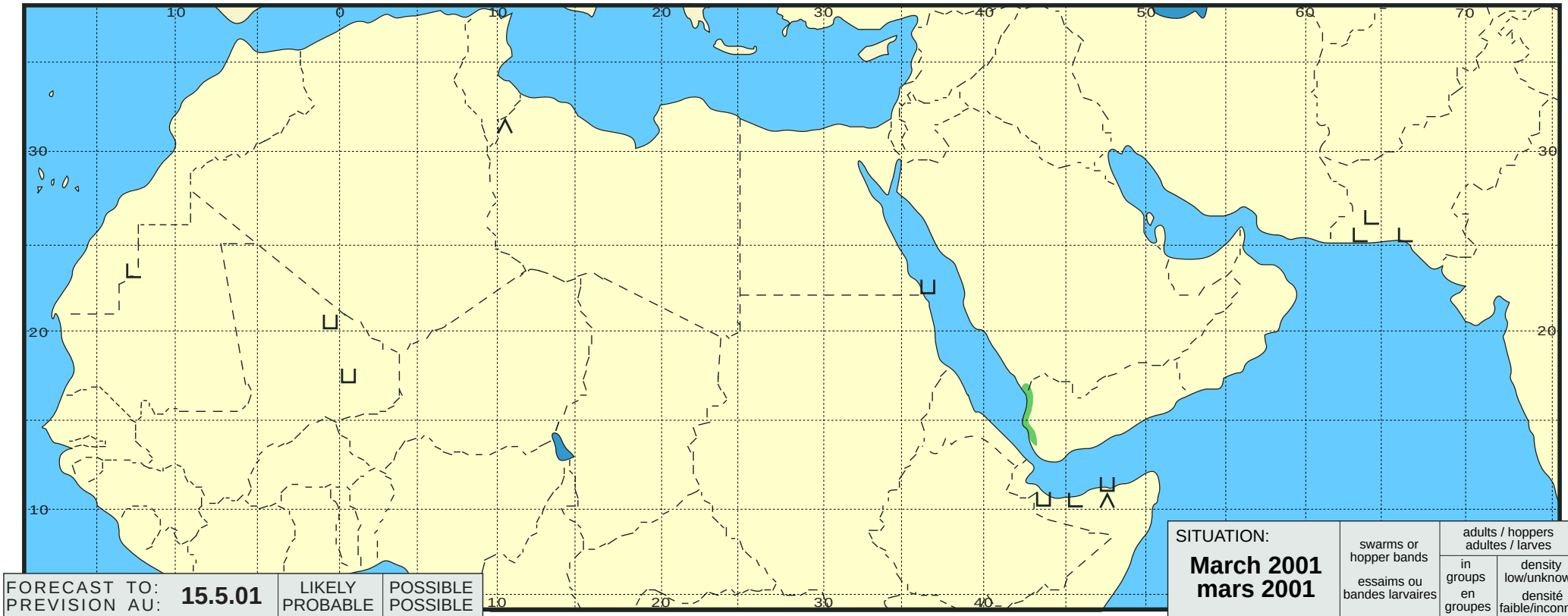
- period without widespread and heavy infestations by swarms.

REMISSION

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

Desert Locust Summary
Criquet pèlerin - Situation résumée

270



FORECAST TO: PREVISION AU: **15.5.01**	LIKELY PROBABLE	POSSIBLE POSSIBLE
favourable breeding conditions conditions favourables à la reproduction		
major swarm(s) essaim(s) important(s)		
minor swarm(s) essaim(s) limité(s)		
non swarming adults adultes non essaimant		

SITUATION: **March 2001 mars 2001**	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	◣	◺	L
adults, maturity unknown adultes, maturité inconnue	▲	△	Λ
egg laying or eggs pontes ou œufs	▼	▽	V
hoppers larves	●	○	◡
hoppers & adults (combined symbol example) larves et adultes (exemple symboles combinés)	◘	◙	⊍