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AGP Division

Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 53 JANUARY - EARLY FEBRUARY 1983

SUMMARY

Some small swarmlets and groups of hoppers and immature and mature adults have been reported from the northern Red Sea coast of Ethiopia and dense groups of copulating adults from the Tihama of the Yemen Arab Republic. Breeding is almost certainly continuing on the Red Sea coast of Sudan. Small numbers of adults have been reported from Saudi Arabia, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the United Arab Emirates.

W/Q 1821

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION, JANUARY-EARLY FEBRUARY 1983

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was practically stationary over the Gulf of Guinea. There were persistent easterly winds, sometimes accompanied by sandstorms, over Chad, Niger, Mali and Mauritania. A low pressure area off the coast of Mauritania on 20-21 January resulted in southerly winds over Mauritania and Western Sahara. Maximum daily temperatures were generally in the range 20-25°C during January but were rising to about 35°C by mid-February. No rain was recorded in the recession area.

Breeding conditions

No AVHRR imagery coverage was scheduled but conditions were undoubtedly very unfavourable for breeding.

Locusts

No locusts were reported.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

Atlantic disturbances continued to affect the Maghreb and rain frequently fell in the form of thundery showers. The heaviest rains reported by the WMO Global Telecommunication System were 39.4 mm at Tamanrasset on 13 February and 39 mm in Tripoli on 22 January. Rain was reported from central and southern Morocco on several days, the maximum being 16.4 mm at Casablanca on 10 February. These rains were associated with disturbances moving from the Canaries to the Straits of Gibraltar. Maximum temperatures ranged from 12-24°C. Several sandstorms were observed, particularly in the Libyan desert.

Breeding conditions

Only one day's AVHRR imagery is available; this was over 50% masked by cloud. Breeding conditions were generally unfavourable although they were probably favourable between In Amenas and Gariat El Gharguia (3023N/1335E) which received good rain in December and they will improve following the rain at Tamanrasset.

Locusts

Libya was reported clear in January. No other reports for January received.

In December a ground survey team captured five solitarious adults in Taourta (2345N/1558W) region of Dakhla in the Western Sahara.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology

According to Meteosat imagery there was considerable build-up of cloud over the central and southern Red Sea and coastal plains on 10 January, 13-16 January, 19-21 January and 24-25 January. GTS data coverage for the recession area was very scanty but was not inconsistent with the Red Sea convergence zone between 16-20°N.

Breeding conditions

A single AVHRR image dated 11 January shows good vegetation development on the central Eritrean coast around the Buri peninsula and inland from Massawa. Further north vegetation development was masked by cloud. According to an aerial survey there was green vegetation throughout the coastal and sub-coastal plains of northern Somalia between Bulhar and Erigavo.

Locusts

ETHIOPIA

The northern Red Sea coast of Ethiopia was surveyed from 24-28 January. The ground team found groups of immature, copulating and laying adults over one sq. km. in Pennisetum cultivations in Wadi Teclai and small groups of second and third instar hoppers over 300 sq. km. in Wadi Hadarit (1717N/3854E). Considerable damage to Pennisetum was observed.

On 4 February a report was received of some swarmlets and scattered hoppers from the Karora area. A truck was being sent with poisoned bait to the area.

No locusts were seen in SOMALIA and there have been no fresh reports from SUDAN.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

GTS data coverage has not been available since 1 January for the southern Arabian peninsula owing to changes in station index numbers. Nevertheless, a complex low pressure area persisted over western Arabia. Frontal systems associated with it frequently moved eastwards from the Red Sea to the Persian Gulf. Widespread rain was recorded north of 20°N, the most significant amounts reported being 90 mm at Qassim on 9 January, 23 mm at Qaisumah on 3.9 January, 11 mm at Hail on 8 January. There were moderate heavy rains on the Tihama at Jizan, and Al Wejh in the first week of February and light rain along the western coast of Yemen PDR in middle and late January.

Breeding conditions

Breeding conditions were reported to be favourable in the Tihamas of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic, in western coastal areas of Yemen PDR and in the United Arab Emirates.

Locusts

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Eighty-three dense copulating groups of solitary adults were found over 10 sq. km. in dukhn (Pennisetum) cultivations at Salamania, Hamzia, Makhoulia and Bajil areas 40 km. north-east of Hodeidah in mid February. Control operations using BHC dust were in progress.

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Low density adults were reported from the Qunfidah area.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Low density adults populations were observed at Am Fajarah (1259N/4418E) at a density of 61-65 per hectare on 13 January and at Harur (1314N/4512E) at a density of 44-45 per hectare on 25 January.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

One adult was found at Masfut (2448N/5606E).

No locusts were reported from other countries in the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

The recession area was mainly under the influence of the continental high pressure area and the weather was generally cool and dry the first fortnight of January. In the second half of January a cold front moved slowly eastwards across the area and gave rise to light to heavy rainfall in the Quetta, Mushki, Turbat, Panjgur, Pasni, Sukkur and Bahawalpur areas of Pakistan during the last week of January.

Breeding conditions

The only AVHRR imagery available, that of 9 January 1983, does not show any vegetation development in Baluchistan.

Locusts

PAKISTAN

Pakistan was reported clear during January.

INDIA

India was reported clear during January.

AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan was reported clear during January.

No report was received from IRAN.

FORECAST FOR MARCH - APRIL 1983

Breeding is likely to continue on both sides of the Red Sea coast particularly if there is further rain and some hopper bands and swarmlets may be produced in areas where no control is possible. Some swarmlets may cross the Red Sea and reach the Arabian peninsula during periods of southerly winds. Small scale breeding is likely to occur in coastal areas of Yemen PDR, northern Somalia, south-eastern Iran, Baluchistan of Pakistan, in Oman and the United Arab Emirates and it may begin in eastern, central, southern and western Algeria and southern Morocco and the Western Sahara.

In West Africa small numbers of adults are likely to persist in restricted areas in Mauritania, Mali and Niger.

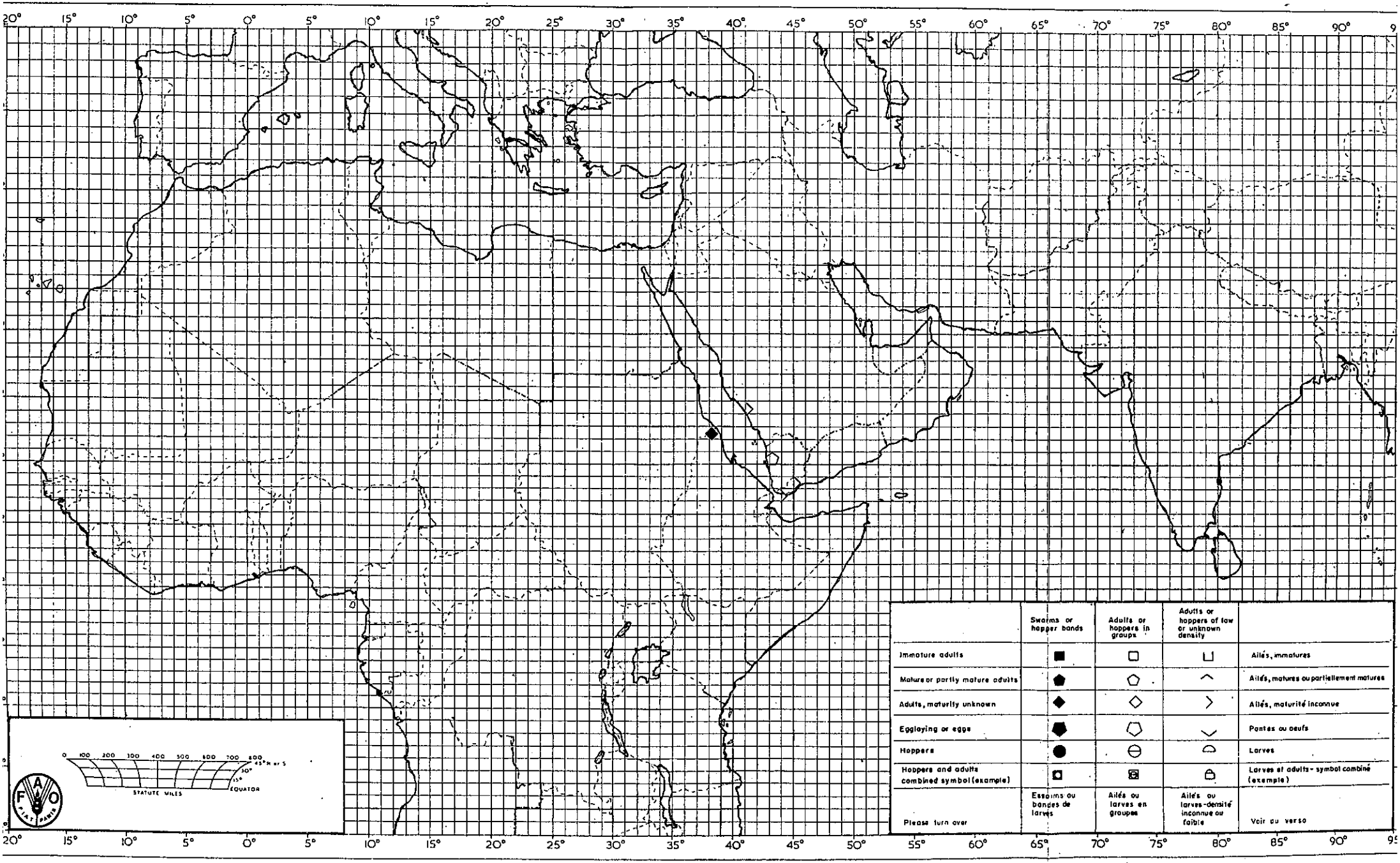
In North-West Africa breeding on a very small scale may commence in areas of the Algerian Sahara which have received good rain since December. Small scale breeding may also occur in southern Morocco and the Adrar Soutouf area of Western Sahara.

In Eastern Africa breeding is likely to continue on the Red Sea coasts of Sudan and Eritrea, particularly if these areas receive further rainfall. If there is no more rain breeding will terminate and the adults, which may include some small swarms, could move towards the interior. If there are periods of warm south-westerly winds some adults may move north-eastwards across the Red Sea. Small scale breeding is also likely to occur on the coastal and sub-coastal plains of northern Somalia.

In the Near East breeding will continue on the Tihama of the Yemen Arab Republic and may give rise to some hopper bands. The origin of the adults is not known but if others reach the Tihama of Saudi Arabia and coastal areas of Yemen PDR breeding, which may be partially gregarious, is likely to become more widespread. Although there have been no recent reports of adults in the interior of Arabia they may still be present and may start to breed in areas which have received rainfall. Small scale breeding is likely to occur in Oman and the United Arab Emirates and may occur in the South-Eastern Desert of Egypt.

In South-West Asia small scale breeding is likely to occur in south-eastern Iran and in Baluchistan of Pakistan.

Rome, 21 February 1983



	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density	
Immature adults	■	□	⊔	Ailés, immatures
Mature or partly mature adults	⬟	⬠	^	Ailés, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown	◆	◇	>	Ailés, maturité inconnue
Egglaying or eggs	⬢	⬡	v	Pontes ou oeufs
Hoppers	●	⊖	⌓	Larves
Hoppers and adults combined symbol (example)	◘	⊠	⌂	Larves et adultes - symbol combiné (exemple)
Please turn over	Essaims ou bandes de larves	Ailés ou larves en groupes	Ailés ou larves - densité inconnue ou faible	Voir au verso