

FAO 79-18

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR
L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE



ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 - ROME

Cables: FOODAGRI ROME

Telex: 610181 FAO I

Telephone: 5797

AGP Division

Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 10 June 1979

SUMMARY

Reported Desert Locust numbers continue to be very low. The main monsoon rains had not reached the main summer breeding areas in West Africa or India and Pakistan, but a tropical storm which reached the Sultanate of Oman in mid-June is likely to have produced very favourable breeding conditions over a large area. Rains adequate for breeding occurred locally in Sudan and Ethiopia. Breeding is likely to be widespread between Mauritania and Rajasthan. Initially it will be at low densities but could result in the formation of groups of hoppers and adults towards the end of August.

W/N1583

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION - JUNE 1979

WEST AFRICA

Weather (based on analysis of Meteosat and GOES Indian Ocean satellite imagery (see attached table) synoptic weather maps, weather station and locust reports)

The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was held in a northerly position by a deep heat low pressure area over the Sahara and by the St Helena anticyclone. Intensive thunderstorm activity occurred over Senegal, Mali, Niger and Upper Volta. Above average rainfall was recorded at Maradi, 151 mm, and Bobo Dialasso, 196 mm. Mauritania received only light rains because of the blocking effect of the Azores anticyclone. Only light rain fell in northern Mali and Niger.

The OCLALAV report for June has not yet been received. In May the desert locust situation was calm.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Weather

Due to persistent high pressure there was little rain in this Region. Some light, generally localised, rain fell in central and southern Algeria. Morocco, Tunisia and Libya were very dry.

No locust reports have been received for June. ALGERIA, LIBYA and MOROCCO were reported clear in May.

EASTERN AFRICA

Weather

South-westerly winds became well established over the Somali peninsula but the position of the ITCZ over Ethiopia and Sudan could seldom be determined accurately because of lack of synoptic data. Northern Sudan remained dry. North of 13°N only Gedaref, 173 mm, Sennar 75 mm, and Kosti, 53 mm recorded more than 50 mm of rain. Rainfall in Ethiopia was irregularly distributed; there was widespread shower activity in the Central and Harar Highlands but the coast was dry. The Somalia Afgoi received 170 mm, three times normal.

ETHIOPIA

A thin density population of mature adults was reported from the Red Sea coast between Assab and Raheita in mid-June.

No locusts were reported from DJIBOUTI, SOMALIA or SUDAN. KENYA, TANZANIA and UGANDA remained clear.

NEAR EAST

Weather

The most significant feature of the weather was a tropical storm which moved north-west from the Arabian Sea and reached the coast of the Sultanate of Oman between Masirah and Kharfawt on 18 June (see page 5). The storm weakened on 18 June but cloud cover extended over most of Oman at 1330 GMT on 18 June and there is likely to have been widespread and heavy rainfall. No station amounts are yet available from Oman.

The ITCZ lay over southern Arabia and some thunderstorm activity occurred over the Yemen Arab Republic, the People's Democratic of Yemen and the Asia and Hijaz mountains in Saudi Arabia. Heavy rain was also reported from Riyadh.

SAUDI ARABIA

Small numbers of solitary adults were recorded in the Jizan area (at 3 per square kilometre), Hautah (2535N/4537E) and Baha (2030N/4130 E).

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Surveys undertaken in most areas of the Tihama located only small numbers of solitary adults in wadis Hayran, Habl and at Al-Jarr on the northern Tihama.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Light showers fell around Bir Ali (4822N/1405E) on 30 June. Dathina Valley and wadis Bana and Toban received light floods during the second half of the month. In general, however, ecological conditions were unfavourable for breeding.

Isolated grey adults were seen on 30 June between Ayn (1348N/4553E) and Surah (1340N/4551E).

IRAQ was reported clear during June. No locust reports have been received from BAHRAIN, EGYPT, JORDAN, QATAR, SULTANATE OF OMAN or UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

SOUTH WEST ASIA

Weather

The weather remained generally dry over north-west India and Pakistan as the monsoon had not become established with sufficient depth to give widespread or heavy rain. No information has been received from Afghanistan and Iran but in view of data from Pakistan and India it is certain that they were also dry.

PAKISTAN (for period 1-15 June)

Heavy rain was recorded in parts of Cholistan and at Chotal in Nagar Parkar on 6 June and these areas are favourable for breeding.

Adults at densities of up to 450 per square kilometre were recorded at Islamgarh, Rukunpur (2823N/7208E), Salamsar (2757N/7154E) in Cholistan and at densities of up to 350 per square kilometre at Sadahu (2611N/6958E) and Meharwari in Khipro. Adults were also found in cultivations at densities of 1200 per square kilometre at Haji Shera (2915N/6749E) and Sanni (2909N/6734E) in Bhag district.

INDIA

Generally light showers were reported from Rajasthan, but rains were more widespread in Gujarat after 19 June. Barmer received 27 mm, Jaisalmer 4 mm, Jodhpur 71 mm, Bikaner 3 mm, Sikar 16 mm and Sriganganagar 1 mm.

Isolated adults at a maximum density of 150 per square kilometre were found in Cholistan and Sheo Tehsils of Barmer district on 5 and 8 June respectively. Small numbers of adults were also reported from Kolayatji (2750N/7258E), Ramsar (2544N/7053E) and Chheh (2655N/7055E) in the first half of June. In the second half of June isolated adults at a maximum density of 375 per square kilometre in Shergarh (2620N/7218E) and Pokaran (2656N/7155E) areas, and small numbers of adults were also reported from Bikaner, Jodhpur and Jalore districts.

AFGHANISTAN was reported clear. The June report for IRAN has not been received but in April and May hoppers and adults were reported from green areas in Jirope.

FORECAST FOR LATE JULY - AUGUST 1979

The forecast period is a time when breeding can be expected to be widespread throughout the summer breeding area, which extends from the Atlantic coast of Mauritania to Rajasthan in north-west India. Known population levels are low in all regions but if summer rains are widespread, heavy and prolonged population densities may rise rapidly, resulting in gregarisation and the formation of groups of hoppers and adults even in the first generation.

In South-West Asia breeding will commence in Rajasthan and adjacent areas of Pakistan and may result in the formation of groups of hoppers in areas which receive good monsoon rainfall.

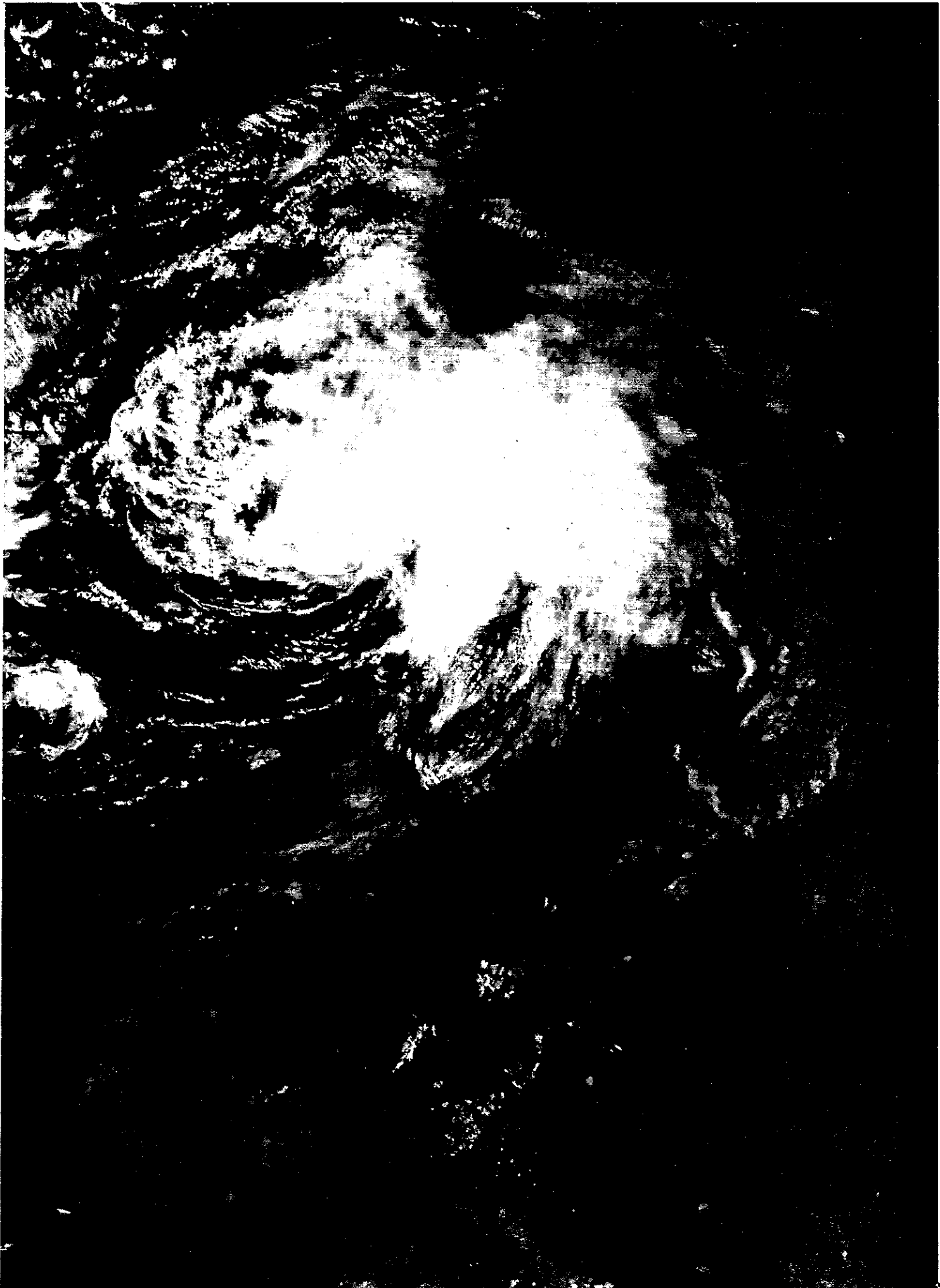
In the Near East breeding could already have started in areas of the Sultanate of Oman which received rain during the Tropical storm of mid-June. Initially the numbers of breeding adults are likely to have been very low and the early breeding is accordingly likely to produce only small numbers of hoppers. If, however, more adults reach the area then breeding will be on a large scale and could give rise to groups of hoppers and, later, adults. These could start to move towards the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen towards the end of the forecast period. Small numbers of adults already present in the Yemers and the Jizan area of Saudi Arabia are likely to persist and to breed in wadis receiving run-off water from adjacent highlands and some groups of hoppers may be produced.

In Eastern Africa there will probably be widespread breeding in Sudan and adjacent areas of northern Ethiopia initially at very low densities but it is possible some hopper groups may form in some areas. Breeding could also occur in parts of Dankalia and the Railway Area but is likely to be on a small scale. Small numbers of scattered adults may move east along the coastal escarpment of northern Somalia and it is possible that some breeding may occur in the Mijertein and northern Mudugh Provinces.

In West Africa breeding is likely to commence in Air and Tamesna of Niger, Tamesna, the Adrar des Iforas, the Tilemsi and Timeltrine areas of Mali and in southern Mauritania which receive sufficient rain or run-off. Initially densities of adults and hoppers are likely to be low but are likely to increase as more adults find suitable breeding sites.

In North-West Africa small scale breeding may occur in the Tassili des Ahaggar if summer rains penetrate sufficiently far north.

Rome
19 July 1979



EAST AFRICA

Period (1979)	Country																				
	Ethiopia			Somalia			Djibouti			Kenya			Tanzania			Sudan					
	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H			
31 May - 6 June	o			o	o		o												o	o	
				o	o																
				o																	
7 - 13 June		o		o		o						o								x	x
																				o	
14 - 20 June																			o	o	
21 - 27 June																					

NEAR EAST

	Egypt			Saudi Arabia						Yemen A.R.			Yemen PDR			Oman			U.A.E.					
	L	M	H	L	1/		2/		L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M		
					M	H	L	M															H	
31 May - 6 June											o	o		o	o									
											o			o										
7 - 13 June											o			o										
14 - 20 June											o	x					o	x	x				x	
21 - 27 June														o										

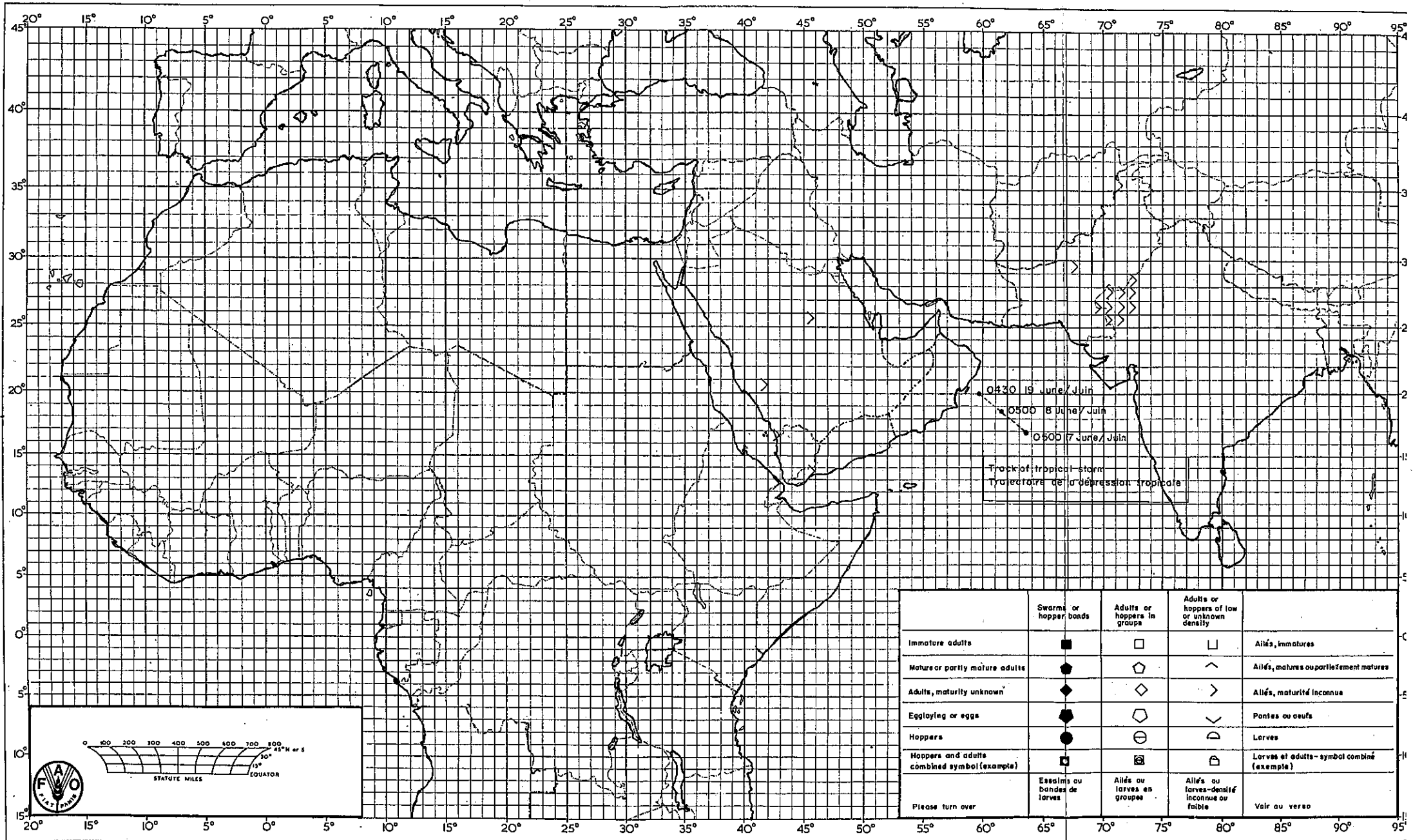
SOUTH-WEST ASIA

S. Iran			S. Afghanistan			S. Pakistan			N.W. India		
L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H

No data analysed for this period

1/ Red Sea Coastal Areas

2/ Interior



	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density	
Immature adults	■	□	◻	Alités, immatures
Mature or partly mature adults	●	◐	◑	Alités, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown	◆	◊	◌	Alités, maturité inconnue
Egglaying or eggs	⬤	◕	◔	Pontes ou œufs
Hoppers	●	⊖	◐	Larves
Hoppers and adults combined symbol (example)	◐	⊖	◐	Larves et adults - symbol combiné (exemple)
Please turn over	Essaims ou bandes de larves	Alités ou larves en groupes	Alités ou larves-densité inconnue ou faible	Voir au verso