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DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 104 APRIL-EARLY MAY 1987

SUMMARY

A number of swarms have formed on the Red Sea coast of Eritrea despite control operations and have started to move inland. Gregarious populations have also reached western Saudi Arabia. A number of small swarms have reappeared in Central Mauritania. Elsewhere there has been small scale gregarious breeding in Yemen AR and scattered breeding in Pakistan and small numbers of adults have been reported from Morocco, Algeria, Yemen PDR, Pakistan and India.

W/S4311

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

During most of April the Intertropical Front lay to the south of its mean position for the month. But in late April and early May it moved rapidly north and by the middle of the month it had reached 16-17 degrees north between Senegal and Niger. Later its mean position was 13°N. During the first two decades of April there were dust storms and strong east-north-easterly winds over Mauritania. Boutilimit recorded 9.5 mm of rain on the night of 12-13 April.

Breeding conditions

Conditions were unfavourable for breeding but continued to be favourable for survival in the Tagant, Khar Makteir, north of Tichit and north of Khat El Moinan.

Locusts

MAURITANIA

Some small swarms flying south-south-west were seen at Tichit (1825N/0930W), in the Adafens, in the Adrar à Lehbeir (2002N/1303W) and in the Tagant at Iverchaye (1810N/1150W) and at Ain El Khadra (1840N/1215W). Control was undertaken at Iverchaye. There were also scattered adults in Tagant.

There were no reports from MALI, NIGER or CHAD.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

There were several days during the first two decades of April when rain could have fallen south of the Atlas mountains, particularly to the south-east of Tindouf.

Breeding conditions

According to NOAA/AVHRR imagery breeding conditions were favourable in south-west Morocco, where Tan-Tan received 48 mm of rain in March, in the Errachidia region south of the Anti-Atlas, in two areas in northern Tassali-n-Ajjer at 26°N/7°E and 26°N/6°E and in the oases around Sabha in the Fezzan.

Locusts

MOROCCO

Low density mature adults were found at two localities in south-eastern Morocco in mid-March.

ALGERIA

Low density adults were found in the Central Sahara in March but no details are available.

There were no reports from LIBYA and TUNISIA.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology

There was a period of low cloud and rain over the Eritrean coastal plains around Massawa on 5-7 April.

In mid-May there was a further period of heavy rain between the 18th and 20th when Asmara recorded 61.8 mm and Massawa 57.1 mm. In Sudan rains were reported from Derudeb, Haiya and Musmar areas in early May. Kassala reported 33 mm up to 20 May. Rainfall was also reported from Gedaref and the Blue Nile Province.

Breeding conditions

Conditions were becoming unfavourable for further breeding along the Red Sea coastal plains and there were no reports of fresh breeding in coastal areas.

Locusts

SUDAN

Aerial and ground control operations against progressively older hoppers and fledglings continued in the southern sector of the Red Sea coast between Tokar and the Ethiopian border up to 12 May, when the area was eventually reported free from infestations. During April 29,410 hectares were treated with 16,200 litres of Fenitrothion ULV and 7,750 kg of BHC dust and bait and Propoxur dust. In early May a further 40 hectares of fifth instar hoppers and fledglings were treated in the Tokar delta.

On 29 April a dense immature 15 km² swarm flew over Jebel Meihub (1752N/3824E) and settled at Aiterba where control operations using poisoned bait were undertaken.

On 20 May a medium sized swarm flew over Kassala heading west.

ETHIOPIA

Aerial spraying continued against hopper infestations in the following areas on the Red Sea coast:

- 4 April: Wachiro and Adilo; groups of early instar hoppers over 32 km² using 60 litres of Ensodil.
- 8 April: Ghedem; barrier spraying against third instar hoppers over 9 km² using 200 litres of Ensodil.
- 9 April: Emberemi and Wachiro; barrier spraying against groups of third instar hoppers over 48 km² using 300 litres of Ensodil and 100 litres of Diazinon.
- 10 April: Sheb and Abarrara; barrier spraying against groups of third instar hoppers using 400 litres of Ensodil.
- 11 April: Embre, Mersa Gulbub and Naro; 200 litres of Ensodil applied against small fourth instar hopper bands.

- 12 April: Embre and Hamelul; barrier and target spraying against low density hoppers over 2 km².
- 15 April: Wachiro; patches of third and fourth instar hoppers sprayed with 200 litres of Ensodil over an area of 8 km².
- 16 April: Hasmel and Mesholit; barrier spraying of groups of third instar hoppers over 18 km² using 200 litres of Ensodil.
- 19 - 20 April: Akbanazuf, Wachiro and Meshalit; target and barrier spraying of groups of third and fourth instar hoppers over 6 km² using 400 litres of Ensodil.
- 23 - 29 April: Emberemi - Mai Awalid; scattered groups of fifth instar hoppers were sprayed with 200 litres of Ensodil.

In late April there were unconfirmed reports of locusts from three localities in Central Tigray.

On 5 May a thin density swarmlet of 4 hectares was located in Wadi Shalshal (1548N/3912E). On the same day a large swarm settled at Ghinda. On 6 May one swarmlet of 6 hectares was sprayed with 125 litres of Diazinon at Wadi Wachiro and another of 50 hectares was sprayed with 110 litres of Diazinon at 1546N/3917E.

On 12 May an immature 1 km² swarm was reported and sprayed with 105 litres of Fenitrothion, south-east of Mai Aini (1448N/3906E) and on the following day a medium density immature 1 km² swarm was sprayed with 100 litres of Fenitrothion at Dambae (1508N/3857E).

On 14 May following an unconfirmed report of a swarm an aerial survey was flown off Asmara to Decamere, Adi Ugri and Adi Grotto (1445N/3903E) but failed to locate the swarm. From 15 to 20 May there were no aerial surveys due to rain and low cloud.

No locusts were reported from DJIBOUTI and SOMALIA.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology

There were widespread light to moderate rains over western Arabia in early April including the northern Tihama of the Yemen and further heavy rain in Hail, Qassim, Taif and Gizan on 10-11 May.

Breeding conditions

Conditions were favourable for breeding on the Central Tihama of Saudi Arabia but were becoming unfavourable along the southern Tihama and on northern Tihama of Yemen. They were favourable for breeding in coastal and interior areas of PDR Yemen.

Locusts

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

In early April there were small-medium sized medium density hopper bands within an area of 64 km² between Wadis Bawhal and Hayran which were being controlled by ground teams using Fenitrothion and BHC. In late April there were still small numbers of late instar bands, groups of fledglings and scattered adults in the same area. Control was concluded on 27 April.

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

During March mature adults at densities of 200 per hectare were controlled by helicopter at Dhahban (1810N|4135). In early April scattered adults were reported from the southern Tihama.

On 11 May four pink adults were captured in Jeddah at a time of southerly winds.

On 19 May groups of mature adult were found over an area of 500 ha at Haffer (1946N|4053E) north of Wadi Doga and other mature groups were found at 2025N|4110E.

YEMEN PDR

Two pairs of copulating adults were seen at Al-Resras (1333N|4639E) north of Wadi Maseb during March.

KUWAIT was reported clear in March, IRAQ was reported clear in February. There were no other reports from the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology

No rain was reported from the spring breeding area in Pakistan during April.

Breeding conditions

Conditions were favourable for breeding in some coastal and inland areas of Baluchistan in Pakistan.

Locusts

PAKISTAN

Low density hoppers were reported from Shooli (2533N|6213E), Jiwani (2503N|6147E) in April and from four localities in Gwadar and Panjgur districts during the first fortnight of May. Adults were found at a number of localities in Uthal, Turbat, Pasni, Panjgur, Khuzdar and Kharan districts in April, the maximum density being 900 per square kilometre at Tagazai (2829N|6522E) on 22 April. By the first fortnight of May the density at Tagazai had increased to 1,500 per square kilometre.

INDIA

In the second half of March scattered adults were found at four localities in Barmer and Bikaner districts, the maximum density being 150 at Bajju (2750N/ 7231E) on 28 March and at Agnao the next day.

In the first half of April scattered adults were found at three localities in Bikaner and Nagaur districts, the maximum density being 75 per square kilometre at Jaswantgarh (2735N/7425E) on 14 April.

IRAN

One adult was seen in the Bordolthan area south of Bushehr in February but the country was reported clear in March.

AFGHANISTAN was reported clear from December 1986 to April 1987.

FORECAST FOR JUNE-JULY 1987

A number of swarms have formed on the Red Sea coast of Eritrea despite control operations and have started to leave the winter-spring breeding areas. Some small swarms have also reappeared in Mauritania.

In West Africa conditions have been favourable for survival in central Mauritania and a number of small swarms have reappeared. These and other lower density populations in Mali and Niger are likely to mature and start to breed towards the end of the forecast period. There is a small possibility that the region may be invaded by gregarious populations from the east. Only small numbers of adults may reach the region from North-West Africa.

In North-West Africa very small scale breeding is likely to occur in south-western and south-eastern Morocco and the central Sahara in Algeria.

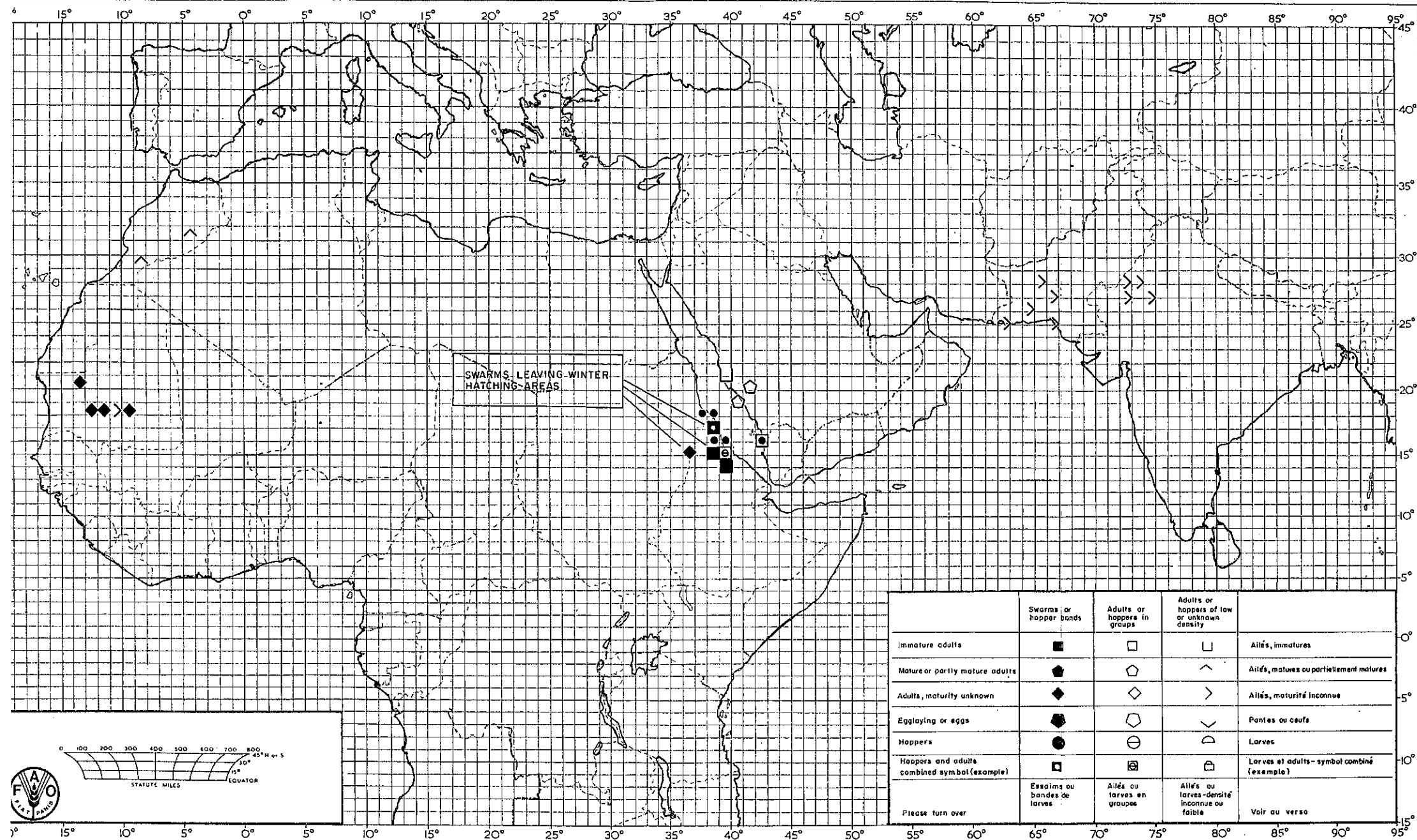
In Eastern Africa a number of swarms have formed on the Red Sea coast of Eritrea despite control operations. Some have moved inland and have already reached Kassala Province, while others became temporarily immobilised in the highlands due to bad weather. Further westward migration will resume and some of the swarms could reach as far west as Darfur or even Chad. There could be further immigration into Sudan from across the Red Sea in late May or early June or possibly at the end of the forecast period. Breeding may become widespread in the vicinity of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone at the end of the forecast period.

In the Near East, the gregarious adults which reached Saudi Arabia in early May may move back to Eritrea or Sudan or, more likely, they will breed in the Nejd. There may be also be small scale breeding in the Asir. Small numbers of adults may reach the highlands of Yemen Arab Republic and localised breeding may occur in eastern draining wadis. Small scale breeding may occur in interior areas of Yemen PDR.

In South West Asia increasing number of adults will occur in the summer breeding areas of Rajasthan and adjacent areas of Pakistan. Low density breeding may be widespread during the forecast period.

Rome
28 May 1987

Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 104 APRIL-EARLY MAY / AVRIL - DEBUT DE MAI 1987



SWARMS LEAVING WINTER HATCHING AREAS

	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
Egg laying or eggs	◼	◕	◖	Pontes ou oeufs
Hoppers	●	⊖	◐	Larves
Hoppers and adults combined symbol (exemple)	◼	◼	◼	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

