FAO DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN No 127

GENERAL SITUATION DURING MARCH-EARLY APRIL 1989 FORECAST FOR MAY-JUNE 1989

SUMMARY

No significant change in the overall locust situation occurred during the summary period with most regions reported free of any significant locust populations. This continued decline in locust populations reported over the past three months indicates that the plague has collapsed. It is stressed however, that the potential exists for residual populations to develop into localised outbreaks if conditions are suitable in the summer breeding areas over the next few months and continued vigilance is essential.

In West Africa the locust situation remained generally calm. Reports of a few swarms were received from Cameroon and Guinea Conakry and hopper bands were reported in Niger. However, the overall scale of these infestations was small.

In North-West Africa small scale control operations continued in Morocco until early March. Other countries in North-West Africa remained free of any significant locust activity and by the end of the summary period the situation appeared calm with only one report of locusts in the region.

In Eastern Africa the Near East and in South-West Asia the locust situation remained calm throughout the summary period with only low density populations reported.

Widespread heavy rains have fallen in the coastal areas of Ethiopia, northern Somalia, Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen PDR, Saudi Arabia and Oman in late March. This rainfall will allow successful breeding by any residual adult population but all recent indications suggest that the scale is likely to be small, at least initially.

WEST AFRICA

Meteorology

Analysis of Meteosat imagery for the second decade of March indicated discontinuous cloud throughout the northern Sahel and localised rain may have fallen in parts of this area. Meteosat imagery for the third decade of March indicates an area of cloud, which may have resulted in localised rainfall, over south-east Mali extending from the border with Niger to the border with Guinea Bissau.

Breeding Conditions

Analysis of low resolution NOAA imagery for early March indicates significant areas of green vegetation in Guinea Conakry and western Guinea Bissau. Other areas of West Africa appear dry with no areas of green vegetation identified from the imagery. Areas of drying vegetation are present in south-eastern Senegal, south-western Mali and the extreme south-west of Chad.

Locusts

MAURITANIA

(2002N/1303W) and Grara Oum Chenali. In the same period there was an unconfirmed report of hoppers at Eggde, south of Nterguint (1930N/1300W). No further information was available. Scattered hoppers and adults were reported at Lebheir, 150 km south-west of Chinguetti, during the summary period. Extensive surveys over 21-24 March in the Bir Moghrein, Tiris Zemour and Adrar areas, found only isolated locusts. The vegetation was reported as mainly dry with only small patches of green vegetation in wadis.

SENEGAL
The overall locust situation was reported as calm on 30 March with only scattered adults reported at Nioro-Du-Rip (1345N/1548W).

GAMBIA
The overall locust situation was reported as calm on 30 March.

GUINEA BISSAU
No reports of locust activity were received during the summary period and the situation is believed to be calm.

GUINEA CONAKRY
Immature medium density swarms were reported from seven localities in western Guinea Conakry in mid March: Gaoual (1150N/1315W), Labe (1120N/1220W), Pita (1100N/1230W), Mali (1205N/1220W), Dalaba (1030N/1220W), Mamou (1020N/1205W) and Telimele (1055N/1305W). There were reports of significant crop damage.

CAMEROON
Swarms, reported in Summary 126, at Batouri (0425N/1425E) and Bertoua (1430N/1335E) in mid to late February were confirmed as Desert Locust. Mating was observed in one swarm.

MALI
No locust activity reported up to 22 March.

NIGER
Second to fourth instar hopper bands were reported over an area of 20,000 ha near In Abangharit in Tamesna in the second decade of March. Immature and mature adults were also reported in the same area. Up to14 March a total of 1,300 ha had been treated. There were reports of adult groups, in the Air Ou Azbin area and on the Djado Plateau in mid March and adult locusts west and north-west of In Abangarit on 17 March. No further details were available.

CHAD
No reports of locust activity were received during the summary period and the situation is believed to be calm.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Meteorology
Analysis of Meteosat imagery for the second decade of March indicated small areas of cloud over central and south-eastern Algeria and some localised rain may have fallen. In the third decade of March four seperate areas of cloud mass were present over northern Morocco, northern Algeria, northern Tunisia and the extreme north-east of Libya. Significant rain was recorded along the coast of Algeria and rain is also likely to have fallen in the other areas mentioned above.

Breeding Conditions
Analysis of low resolution NOAA imagery for early March indicates that areas of green vegetation were mainly confined to the coastal areas of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco.

Locusts

MOROCCO
Localised small scale adult control was undertaken in the Ouarzazate area in the first decade of March. A total of 160 ha were treated from 1 to 6 March. No reports of locust activity have been received since 6 March and the situation is believed to be calm.

ALGERIA
No locust activity was reported during the summary period and the situation was described as calm on 1 April.

TUNISIA
Isolated adults, at 50 per ha over an area of 50 hectares, were reported at Tataouine on 4 April in south-east Tunisia.

LIBYA
No reports of locust activity were received during the summary period and the situation is believed to be calm.

EASTERN AFRICA

Meteorology
Analysis of Meteosat imagery for the last two decades of March indicated significant cloud mass over central and southern parts of Ethiopia and northern Somalia which almost certainly resulted in significant rainfall. Some localised cloud was indicated from imagery taken in the second decade of March over central Chad and north-western Sudan.

Breeding Conditions
Analysis of low resolution NOAA imagery for early March indicated that, apart from central Ethiopia, breeding conditions in the Eastern Africa region were generally unfavourable with no significant areas of green vegetation detected.

Locusts

SUDAN
The overall situation remained calm throughout Sudan during the summary period with small localised residual populations of late instar nymphs reported from Shendi in early March. Scattered low density adults were reported in wadis along the Red Sea coast between Tokar and Halaib in late March.

ETHIOPIA
Reported free of locusts on 29 March.

DJIBOUTI and **SOMALIA**
The locust situation was reported calm on 31 March.

KENYA, **UGANDA** and **TANZANIA**
The locust situation was reported calm on 31 March.

NEAR EAST

Meteorology
Analysis of Meteosat imagery for the second and third decade of March indicated a substantial cloud mass over the Arabian Peninsula, extending into southern Iraq and Iran. The imagery also indicates significant storm activity over the Tihama of Yemen Arab Republic and parts of Yemen PDR. Widespread heavy rain was reported in Saudi Arabia and in Yemen PDR in the second decade of March.

Breeding Conditions
Analysis of low resolution NOAA imagery for early March indicated that favourable conditions for locust breeding were restricted to the Wadi Dawasir and central parts of Saudi Arabia. Breeding conditions in Kuwait were reported as unfavourable except for a small localised area in the southern part of the country. However, recent rain in Saudi Arabia, Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen PDR and possibly Oman will almost certainly result in a substantial improvement in breeding conditions.

Locusts

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
Extensive locust surveys from 1-14 March in the northern and central areas of Saudi Arabia found only low density adult populations. Low density adult groups were observed in the Nuayriyah, Fadhili and Dammam areas and some small scale egg-laying was reported. Scattered adults were also reported in the Al Kharj, Wadi Dawasir and Haradh areas. A small infestation of early instar hoppers was also reported at Wadi Dawasir. No locusts were found in the northern Nefud area following surveys in this area in early March. The locust situation was reported as calm on 27 March. Heavy rain was reported in northern areas of Saudi Arabia in the first decade of March, with further heavy rain in the the second decade of March, in the Wadi Dawasir, Najran, Riyadh and Qassim areas. Small scale localised breeding by residual populations may occur in these areas.

EGYPT
The overall locust situation was reported as calm on 22 March with some residual populations present in the Sidi Barani area of the North-Western Desert.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC
No reports of locust activity were received during the summary period and the situation is believed to be calm.

YEMEN PDR
Surveys undertaken in the last week of March indicated that the locust situation was calm with only solitary adults reported at Wadi Al-Fajrah, Wadi Masib and Wadi Dahamah. Widespread heavy rains fell during the last two weeks of March with 80mm recorded at Al-Gaydhah and flooding also reported in several areas.

KUWAIT
The overall situation was reported calm and breeding conditions generally unfavourable on 20 March with only low density adults in the Al Wafra area (2834N/4804E) at 35-50 individuals per sq. km. Other parts of the country were reported clear of any locust activity.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
No reports of locust activity were received during the summary period and the situation is believed to be calm.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Meteorology
Analysis of Meteosat imagery for the last two decades of March indicates a substantial cloud mass over western Iran which may have resulted in significant rainfall. Widespread light rainfall was recorded in the Baluchistan area of Pakistan during the second week of March.

Breeding Conditions
Localised areas suitable for breeding are likely to be present in western Iran and Pakistan in areas of recent rainfall.

Locusts

IRAN and **AFGHANISTAN**
No reports of locust activity were received during the summary period and the situation is believed to be calm.

PAKISTAN
Low density adults were observed in the traditional winter/spring breeding areas in the first half of March with a maximum density of 600 adults per sq. km reported from Shagwas (2527N/6148E) on 13 March.

INDIA
In the second half of February low density adults were reported from seven localities in Bikaner and Jaisalmer with a maximum density of 375 adults per sq. km reported from Kakusar (2740N/7255E) on 23 February. The overall situation was reported calm on 15 March with only isolated adult locusts (maximum density 37.5 adults per sq. km) reported at Kalu (2833N/7353E) in Rajasthan.

FORECAST FOR MAY-JUNE

The forecast period is traditionally one of migration from the winter to the spring breeding areas with locust movements from North-West Africa into the Sahel and from the Near East to the northern and western areas of Eastern Africa. However, all recent information indicates that the plague has collapsed with only low density populations persisting. Therefore it is unlikely that major population migrations will occur in the forecast period.

In West Africa it is likely that small areas of residual adults will persist in the Sahelian zone and it is possible that localised breeding may occur on early summer rains, particularly late in the forecast period. It is possible this may be supplemented by immigration of low density populations from North-West Africa. A few swarms currently present in the Gulf of Guinea States are expected to move gradually north and east with the northward movement of the Inter- Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) and may reach Burkina Faso, southern Mali or southern Niger while those reported in southern Cameroon may cross the Central African Republic and reach western Sudan during the forecast period.

In North-West Africa the locust situation is expected to remain calm.

In Eastern Africa the locust situation is expected to remain calm. There is a possibility of small scale immigration of low, possibly moderate density, populations from the Near East into Sudan and northern Ethiopia late in the forecast period. One or two small swarms may reach Darfur in western Sudan from the west.

In the Near East recent rain has increased the probability of breeding in the region but it is considered that this is most likely to be on a small, possibly moderate, scale. Low to moderate density populations produced from breeding in areas of recent rainfall are likely to migrate in a northward direction early in the forecast period and towards Eastern Africa late in the forecast period.

In South-West Asia no significant change in the situation is likely to occur.

Rome, 7 April 1989.

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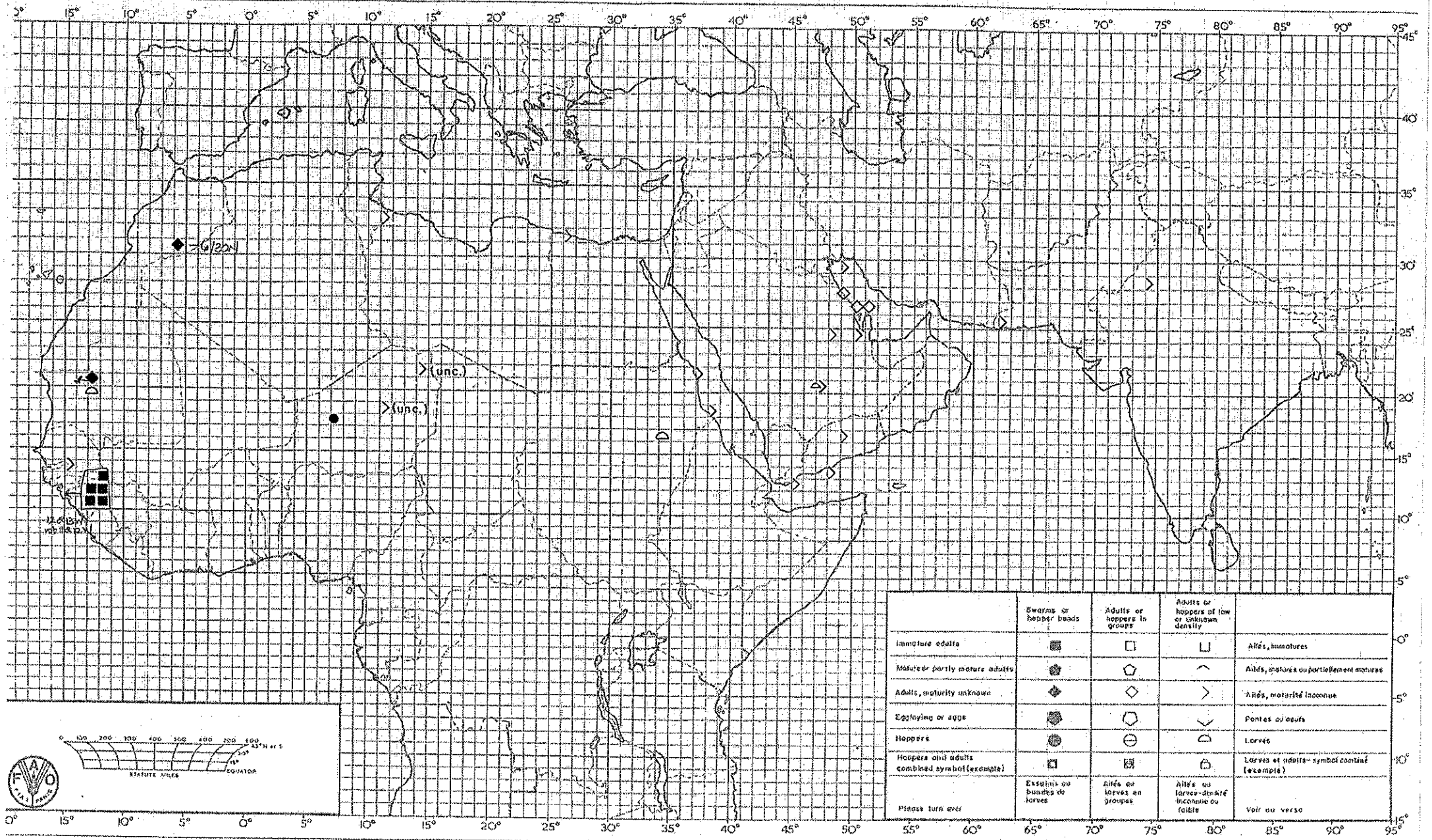

	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density	
Immature adults				Ailés, immatures
Mature or partly mature adults				Ailés, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown				Ailés, maturité inconnue
Egglaying or eggs				Pontes ou oeufs
Hoppers				Larves
Hoppers and adults combined symbol (example)				Larves et ailés- 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