

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



No. 238
(4 Aug 1998)



General Situation during July 1998 Forecast until mid-September 1998

Only a few countries reported Desert Locust during July, and numbers seen were low, indicating that the situation is calm. The majority of locust activity was along the Indo-Pakistan border where small scale breeding is in progress. Elsewhere, seasonal rains in summer breeding areas of West Africa and Sudan have been sporadic and generally below normal. Breeding is likely to be limited to just a few areas. No significant developments are expected during the forecast period.

Eastern Region. Small scale breeding is believed to be in progress in desert areas along the Indo-Pakistan border. Good rains associated with the current monsoon will allow breeding to continue during the forecast period. As a result, locust numbers will increase slightly in the Tharparkar and Cholistan deserts of **Pakistan** and in Rajasthan, **India** where scattered locusts are currently present. Isolated adults were reported in south-eastern **Iran**.

Central Region. A few isolated locusts were present in south-western **Saudi Arabia** and there were unconfirmed reports of locusts in southern **Yemen**. Although surveys were not undertaken in **Sudan**, low numbers of adults are probably present and small scale breeding may be underway in areas of recent rainfall. A similar situation may be developing in western **Eritrea**.

Western Region. Rainfall in **Mauritania** was sporadic and poorly distributed during July which will limit breeding to a few areas of the south where isolated adults were reported. There was an unconfirmed report of laying in **Niger** which received good rains. In North-West Africa, isolated adults were present in southern **Algeria**.

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Telephone: +39 06 570.52420 (7 days/week, 24 hr)

Facsimile: +39 06 570.55271

E-mail: eclo@fao.org

Telex: 610181 FAO 1

Internet: <http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm>



No. 238

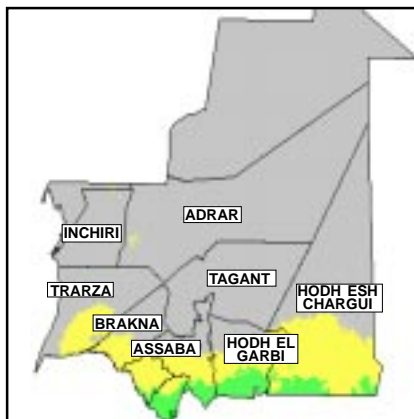
DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN



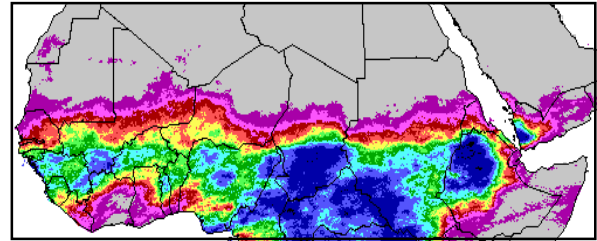
Weather & Ecological Conditions in July 1998

Although rains were sporadic and poorly distributed in the Sahel of West Africa, they were better in Sudan, and conditions were becoming favourable for breeding in many areas by the end of July. Monsoon rains continued along the Indo-Pakistan border where good breeding conditions prevailed.

In West Africa, summer rains continued to be sporadic and poorly distributed although there was some improvement by the end of July. In Mauritania, conditions were much drier than normal but may improve in some parts of the extreme south as a result of rainfall during the last dekad. This could allow breeding in southern Hodh Esh Chargui (Timbedra, 43 mm; Nema, 75 mm) and to a lesser extent in the southern areas of Trarza (R'Kiz, 32 mm), Brakna (Aleg, 32 mm) and Hodh El Garbi (Tintane, 22 mm), and perhaps near Atar in the north. In Mali, light rains fell in the Adrar des Iforas at mid month but probably not enough for breeding. Rains were more consistent further south on the edge of the locust recession area near Hombori (90 mm) and in the south-west at Nara (73 mm) and Niore (47 mm). As a result of rainfall during the second half of July, breeding conditions are expected to be improving in the Tamesna, extending into Niger north of Tahoua (55 mm) and west of Agadez (36 mm). In Chad, no rain was reported in the north. Conditions are slowly improving in southern Biltine near Abeche (22 mm).



Estimated rainfall in Mauritania, July 1998.



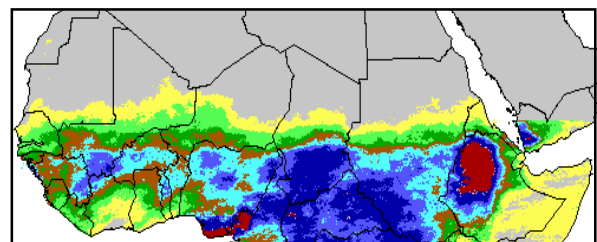
Cold clouds during July 1998 indicate that rains may have fallen in the summer breeding areas of Sudan and, to a lesser extent, in the Sahel of West Africa.

light [color scale] heavy

In North-West Africa, apart from a few isolated showers in Algeria near El Golea (61 mm) and Tamanrassat (10 mm), no significant rainfall was reported. Conditions were unfavourable for breeding and only small patches of green vegetation are likely near the Hoggar Mountains in southern Algeria.

In Eastern Africa, breeding conditions are expected to be improving over large areas of Sudan as a result of good rains in Northern Darfur (Geneina, 186 mm; El Fasher, 105 mm), Northern Kordofan (En Nahud 100 mm; El Obeid, 31 mm), White Nile (Ed Dueim, 113 mm) and Eastern (New Halfa, 48 mm; Kassala 28 mm) provinces. Favourable conditions could extend to 1430N in Northern Darfur, and to 1530N east of Sodiri in Northern Kordofan. There were also reports of heavy rain in the north at Dongola (60 mm) and Karima (62 mm) that could not be confirmed. Light rains may have fallen in southern areas of the western lowlands in Eritrea where breeding conditions could be improving. Isolated showers were reported in Port Sudan (24 mm) and may have occurred on the southern coastal plains of the Red Sea in Eritrea. Breeding conditions are also likely to be favourable in the railway area of eastern Ethiopia near Dire Dawa (56 mm). Dry conditions prevailed in northern Somalia.

In the Near East, rains were reported on the Red Sea coast of Yemen (Hodeidah 36 mm) and in the southern Asir Mountains of south-western Saudi Arabia. Breeding conditions could become favourable



Estimated rainfall during July 1998 indicates that conditions should be improving in the summer breeding areas of Sudan and, to a lesser extent, in the Sahel of West Africa.

16 92 180 268
1 48 136 224 312mm

near Hodeidah but may be short-lived unless further rains occur. Light rains fell on the edge of the Empty Quarter (Sharurah 14 mm) which may have extended into adjacent areas of Yemen. The monsoon continued on the coastal plains of Salalah (20 mm) in southern Oman.

In **South-West Asia**, rainfall associated with the monsoon continued to fall in desert areas along the Indo-Pakistan border where good breeding conditions prevailed. In Rajasthan, India, rainfall was heaviest in Bikaner (234 mm) district, followed by Jaisalmer (67 mm) and Jodhpur (21 mm). Conditions were drier in Barmer where less rain fell. In Pakistan, rains fell in Tharparkar (Chhore, 35 mm) and to a lesser extent in Cholistan. Conditions will continue to remain favourable for breeding.



Area Treated

No control operations were reported



Desert Locust Situation and Forecast

(see also the summary on the first page)

WEST AFRICA

Mauritania

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported from mid June to mid July. Isolated solitary adults were seen at two locations south-west of Aioun El Atrous (1642N/0936E) on 21-22 July.

- FORECAST

Extremely low numbers of solitary adults are expected to be present and breeding in a few places of the southern parts of Trarza, Brakna, Assaba and the two Hodhs. Consequently, scattered hoppers may appear but be difficult to detect.

Mali

- SITUATION

No reports received.

- FORECAST

Low numbers of solitary adults are expected to be present in a few of the major wadis in the Adrar des Iforas, the Tilemsi Valley and in Timetrine. Small scale breeding is likely to occur if additional rains fall.

Niger

- SITUATION

In early June, there were unconfirmed reports of adults in the Air. During the first dekad of July, mature adults at densities of 1,000 per ha were seen laying. Further details are awaited.

- FORECAST

Low numbers of solitary adults are probably present in a few places of Tamesna and Air. Small scale breeding may be in progress in a few of these areas where rains have recently fallen. Breeding is expected to continue and scattered hoppers are likely to appear.

Chad

- SITUATION

No reports received.

- FORECAST

Low numbers of solitary adults may be present in a few places of Biltine and southern BET. Small scale laying is likely to occur if additional rains fall.

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

Isolated solitary adults were present to the south-west of the Hoggar Mountains in July.

- FORECAST

Isolated adults are likely to persist in the extreme southern or eastern areas of the Sahara where small scale laying could occur in areas of recent rainfall.

Morocco

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported during July.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.



No. 238



No. 238

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

Tunisia

- SITUATION

No locusts were seen in June.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Libya

- SITUATION

No reports received.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

EASTERN AFRICA

Sudan

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported during July.

- FORECAST

Low numbers of solitary adults are expected to be present and will breed in a few areas of Northern Darfur, Northern Kordofan, Northern and Eastern regions. Small scale breeding may already be in progress in areas of recent rainfall such as Geneina, En Nahud, El Obeid, Ed Dueim, Dongola and Karima. Consequently, scattered hoppers are likely to appear.

Eritrea

- SITUATION

A late report indicated that scattered immature adults were seen in Asmara during June.

- FORECAST

Low numbers of locusts are probably present in the western lowlands. These are expected to lay on a small scale in areas of rainfall. Consequently, scattered hoppers are likely to appear.

Somalia

- SITUATION

No reports received.

- FORECAST

Low numbers of solitary adults may persist in a few places on the escarpment and lay if rainfall occurs.

Djibouti

- SITUATION

No reports received.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Ethiopia

- SITUATION

Low numbers of solitary adults were present in the eastern lowlands near Aidara on 26 June. No locusts were seen during surveys near Dire Dawa, Jijjiga and Deghabur on 6-22 July.

- FORECAST

Low numbers of adults may persist and breed on a small scale in areas of recent rainfall near Dire Dawa.

Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

NEAR EAST

Saudi Arabia

- SITUATION

Isolated adults at densities of 1-3 per sq. km were present within about 3,000 ha in the Najran area at Wadi Selah (1723N/4422E) and near Bishah (2010N/4240E) in late June and July.

- FORECAST

Low numbers of locusts may persist on the southern Tihama near Jizan and in the interior near Najran, and breed if additional rains fall.

Yemen

- SITUATION

A late report stated that solitary adults were seen in the eastern desert at Al-Saaed (1606N/4456E) on 20 June. There was an unconfirmed report of small groups of immature adults in the Abyan area near Mukiras (1355N/4540E) on 6 July.

- FORECAST

Low numbers of adults may persist in a few areas of eastern desert between Al-Jawf and Hadhramaut. Small scale breeding could occur if rain falls.

Egypt

- SITUATION

No reports received.

- FORECAST

Isolated adults may be present in a few oases near Lake Nasser and in the Western Desert.

Kuwait

- SITUATION

No reports received.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Oman

• SITUATION

No reports received.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

UAE

• SITUATION

No locusts were reported during July.

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Syria and Turkey

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Iran

• SITUATION

Scattered mature adults were present during 6-18 July at a few places along the south-eastern coastal plains between Chabahar (2518N/6038E) and Beris (2512N/6108E). No locusts were seen during surveys elsewhere along the Chabahar and Bushehr plains.

• FORECAST

Isolated adults may persist at a few places along the Chabahar coastal plains.

Pakistan

• SITUATION

During the first fortnight of July, the number of locations reporting locusts in the summer breeding areas increased significantly from 34 in the second half of June to 71. Although densities increased from 26 to 65 adults per ha during the period, they are considered to be low and of only minor significance. Infestations were scattered throughout the desert areas along the Indo-Pakistan border, extending from Tharparkar to Cholistan. Most of these were present in the districts of Mirpurkhas, Bahawalapur, and Sukkur, and to a lesser extent in Rahimyar Khan and Uthal.

• FORECAST

Laying has almost certainly occurred and small scale breeding is probably in progress in areas of recent rainfall near Sukkur and Tharparkar. Breeding will continue and extend to other areas of Cholistan and Tharparkar if additional rainfall occurs. This will lead to an increase in locust numbers. Resulting hoppers are likely to be scattered and difficult to detect. Fledging could commence from mid August onwards.

India

• SITUATION

During the first fortnight of July, the number of locations reporting locusts in the summer breeding areas

increased from 11 in the second half of June to 40. Although densities increased from 4 to 21 adults per ha during the period, they are considered to be low and insignificant. The infestations were scattered throughout the desert areas of Rajasthan along the Indo-Pakistan border in the districts of Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur.

• FORECAST

Laying has almost certainly occurred and small scale breeding is probably in progress in Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts of Rajasthan. Breeding will continue and extend to other areas if additional rainfall occurs. This will lead to a slight increase in locust numbers. Resulting hoppers are likely to be scattered and difficult to detect. Fledging could commence from mid August onwards.

Afghanistan

• FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.



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.



No. 238

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN



No. 238

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

Internet FAO locust pages updated. The webpages of the Locust Group have been expanded to include information on recent Desert Locust plagues and also on training activities. The Plagues page includes maps of swarm breeding and migrations and an in-depth analysis of last year's upsurge in Saudi Arabia. The Training page has training programmes, participants and photos of trainees and activities in Yemen and Iran. The information is presented in a straightforward manner for a wide audience that includes the general public, donors, locust workers and researchers. Comments are more than welcome! Go to:

<http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm>



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 km² • band: 1 - 25 m²

SMALL

- swarm: 1 - 10 km² • band: 25 - 2,500 m²

MEDIUM

- swarm: 10 - 100 km² • band: 2,500 m² - 10 ha

LARGE

- swarm: 100 - 500 km² • band: 10 - 50 ha

VERY LARGE

- swarm: 500+ km² • 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.

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.

UPSURGE

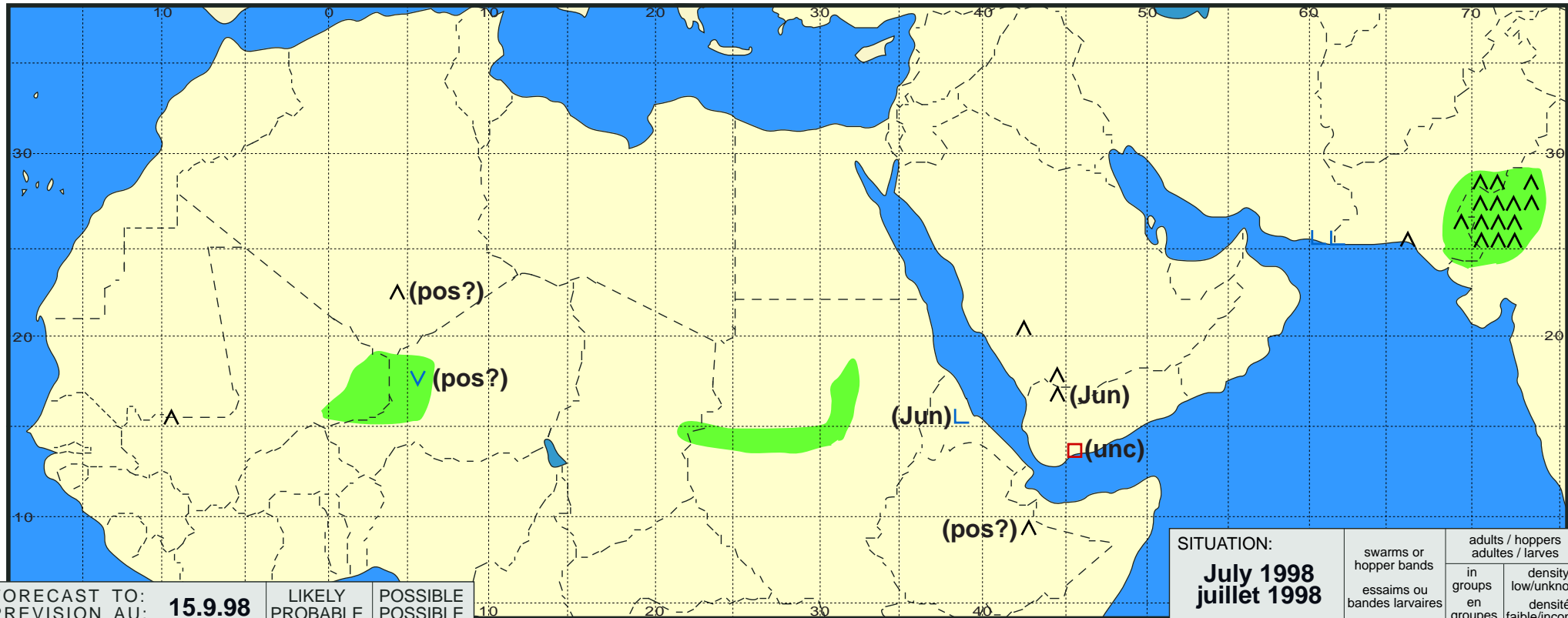
- a period following a recession marked initially by a very large increase in locust numbers and contemporaneous outbreaks followed by the production of two or more successive seasons of transient-to-gregarious breeding in complimentary seasonal breeding areas in the same or neighbouring Desert Locust regions.



Desert Locust Summary

Criquet pèlerin situation résumée

238



FORECAST TO: PREVISION AU:	15.9.98	LIKELY PROBABLE	POSSIBLE POSSIBLE
favourable breeding conditions conditions favorables à la reproduction			
major swarm(s) essaim(s) important(s)			
minor swarm(s) essaim(s) limité(s)			
non swarming adults adultes non essaimant			

SITUATION: July 1998 juillet 1998	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			
adults, maturity unknown adultes, maturité inconnue			
egg laying or eggs pontes ou œufs			
hoppers larves			
hoppers & adults (combined symbol example) larves et adultes (exemple symboles combinés)			