



# DESERT LOCUST UPDATE

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



(25 May 2005)



## General Situation as of 25 May 2005

**In early May, several immature swarms were seen in southern Niger moving from west to east along the Southern Circuit. A few swarms may have reached northern Cameroon and western Chad. Small-scale breeding is in progress in central Niger where hatching and band formation have commenced. Small hopper infestations are present in northeast Morocco and Algeria. Those in Algeria have started to fledge and could form some adult groups, perhaps a few small swarms, that will start to move towards the Sahel in the coming weeks. At the same time, locust numbers are likely to increase in Niger as breeding continues there. Control operations are underway in Algeria, Morocco and Niger.**

During the first decade of May, there were several reports of immature swarms moving eastwards in southern **Niger** from Maradi to Zinder and Diffa where good rains fell this month. Some of these may have continued migrating and reached western **Chad** near Bol. There were also unconfirmed reports from the extreme north of **Cameroon**. These swarms probably originated in Guinea and moved along the Southern Circuit route to Mali and Burkina Faso in April, as reported in the latest FAO Desert Locust Bulletin No. 319. Locally produced infestations of mature adult groups appeared north of Zinder near Tanout and laid eggs in areas of recent rainfall. In the past few days, hatching commenced and first instar hoppers have started forming small bands. Control operations have treated 420 ha so far. In **Mali**, small infestations are

probably present in the north where surveys should be undertaken. Although good rains fell in southeast and northwest **Mauritania**, no locusts were seen during recent surveys.

In Northwest Africa, hoppers formed small patches and bands earlier this month in a limited area near El Oued and Khenchela in northeast **Algeria**. In the past few days, many of the hoppers have started to fledge while new reports of scattered immature adults have been received from the province of Tamanrasset. So far this month, ground control operations have treated 400 ha. In northeast **Morocco**, small infestations of second and third instar hoppers are present near Oujda where ground operations have treated 30 ha in May. Unusually dry conditions prevail in the remainder of the spring breeding areas in Morocco.

In the Central Region, scattered immature solitarious and transiens adults are present in a few places in the Red Sea Hills in southeastern **Egypt**. No new information has been received from **Saudi Arabia** where hopper bands were present on the Red Sea coastal plains near Jeddah last month. In northern **Somalia**, scattered adults were present at mid-month near Erigavo.

The most up-to-date information on the situation and photos are available on the Internet ([www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm](http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm)) as well as maps of the latest infestations (193.43.36.11/mapper). Please note that the monthly bulletins and updates are no longer distributed by fax.

The FAO Desert Bulletin is issued monthly, supplemented by Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity, and is distributed by fax, e-mail, FAO pouch and airmail by the Locusts and Other Migratory Pests Group, AGP Division, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy. It is also available on the Internet.

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