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Adv. Geosci., 20, 39-43, 2009

www.adv-geosci.net/20/39/2009/

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Trends and seasonality of extreme precipitation characteristics related to mid-latitude cyclones in Europe

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Abstract. An attempt is made to study the extreme precipitation characteristics, which are related to the mid-latitude cyclonic systems. Daily pluviometric data, from several stations across the continental Europe and the British Islands, are used. The covered time-period is from 1958 to 2000. Only extreme precipitation events related to mid-latitude cyclonic systems are studied, since thermal thunderstorm episodes are being excluded. To accomplish that, summer months are excluded and a strict criterion for identifying the exact episodes is set, which also defines the episode itself and the extremity of it. A decreasing trend in the cases of extreme precipitation of the European continent was found. It starts in the mid 60's and continues until the mid 70's. After that and until the end of the examined period, no significant trend was found. Seasonality of extreme precipitation cases and episodes is also studied. October and November are the two months that present the higher frequencies of such cases and episodes. In general, autumn months indicate the higher percentages of extreme precipitation, with winter and spring months to follow.

Full Article in PDF (PDF, 596 KB)

Citation: Karagiannidis, A., Karacostas, T., Maheras, P., and Makrogiannis, T.: Trends and seasonality of extreme precipitation characteristics related to mid-latitude cyclones in Europe, Adv. Geosci., 20, 39-43, 2009. Bibtex EndNote Reference Manager



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