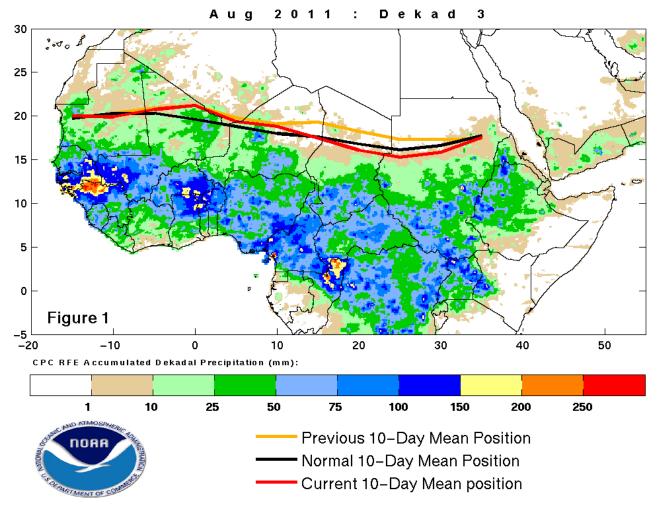
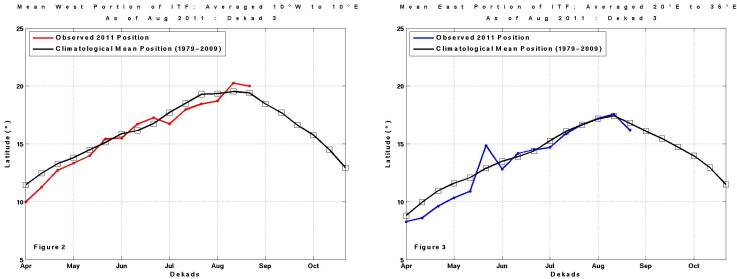
Current vs. Mean Position of the Africa ITF





From August 21-31, 2011, the ITF stalled over western portions of Africa while propagating southward across east Africa. The mean western portion of the ITF was located approximately at 20 degrees North and was ahead of the climatology mean by 0.6 degrees while falling south of the second dekad position by 0.3 degrees. The continued northern location of the western segment of the ITF can be attributed to anomalously strong and moist southerly winds over West Africa as well as continued easterly wave activity over the region. The eastern portion of the ITF was approximated at 16.2 degrees North, which was south of the climatology mean across eastern Africa by 0.6 degrees. The thid dekad of August marked a sharp southerly regression of the ITF from its peak position, 17.5 degrees North, during the second dekad of August. Figure 1 shows the current ITF position relative to the climatology position for the third dekad of August and its previous position during the second dekad of August. Figures 2 and 3 are time series, illustrating the latitudinal means of the western and eastern portions of the ITF, respectively, and their evolutions since the start of April.