

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

August 2005 Dekad 2

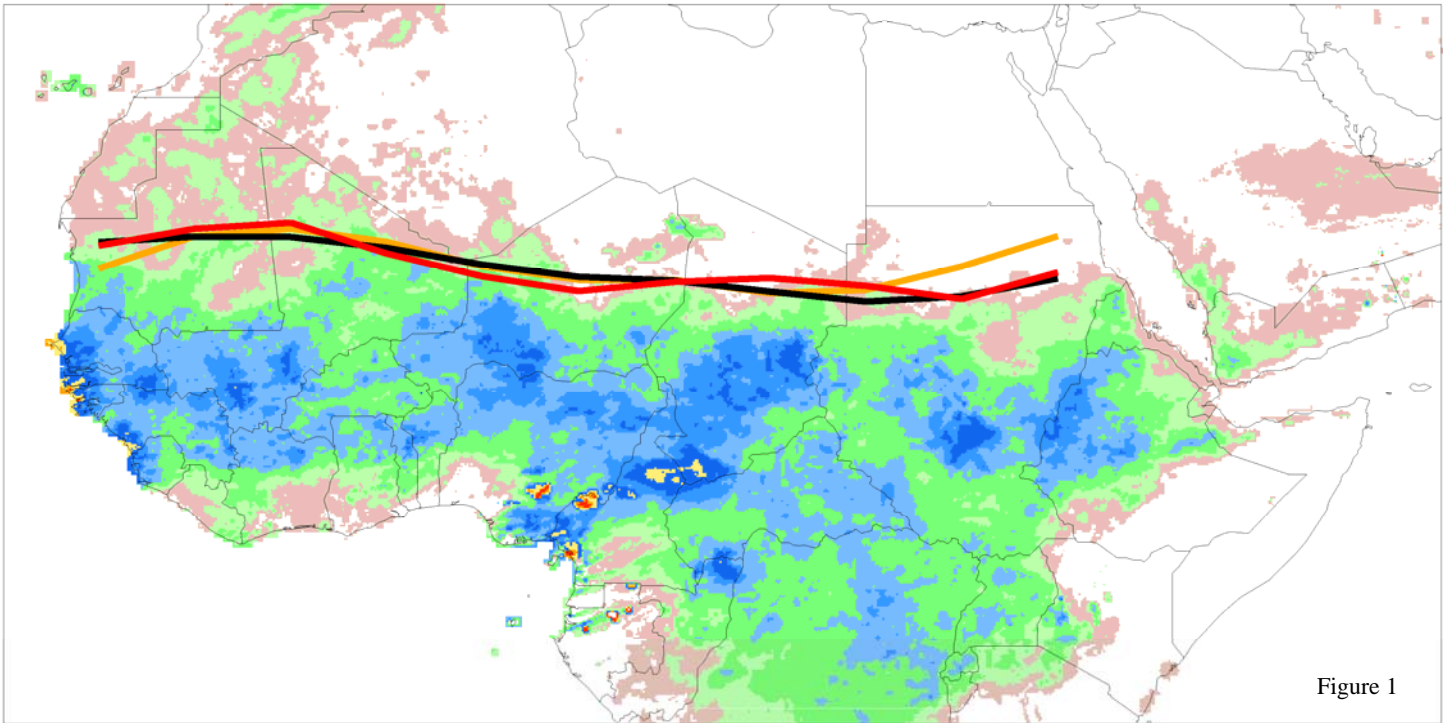
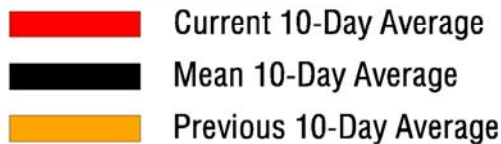


Figure 1

Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:



Mean Position of the ITCZ
10 degrees west - 10 degrees east longitude

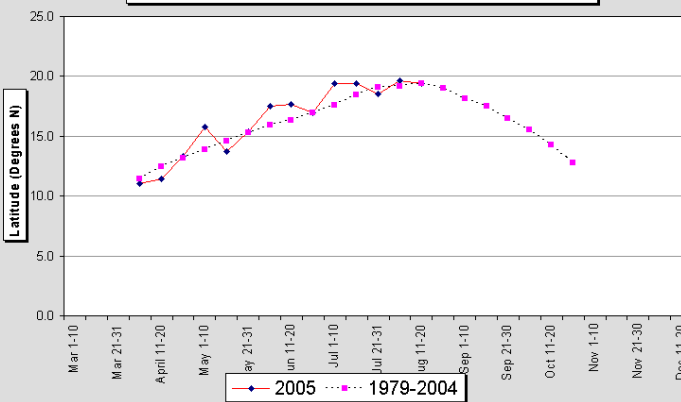


Figure 2

Mean Position of the ITCZ
20-35 degrees east longitude

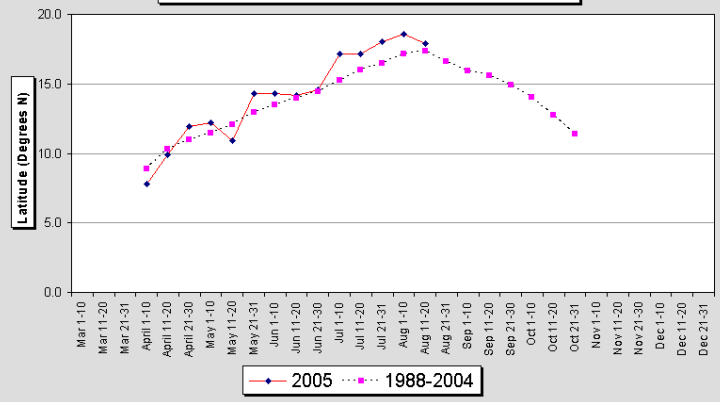


Figure 3

What a ride for the western region of the African ITCZ during the period from August 11-20 2005! Though Figure 2 shows a near constant latitude, compared to the previous dekade, of the region averaged from 10 degrees west to 10 degrees east, this is highly misleading due to the fact that the position is averaged for the ten day period. The fact is, that two strong Easterly Waves passed thru the region beginning on August 14th, brought rainfall to much of western Africa, and caused a very large daily fluctuation in the ITCZ. For example, the ITCZ near 5 degrees west longitude fluctuated from nearly 28 degrees north on August 16th to around 18 degrees north on August 17th. Strong northerly winds accompanied this movement, with dry air plunging southward to southern Burkina on the 16th. For the record, the ITCZ was located near 18.8N during the dekade, compared to a normal position of around 18.7N, and a position last dekade of 19.0N. Judging on the latest analysis, it appears that the ITCZ has reached its maximum northerly peak, at least in the eastern areas of Africa, though it is yet to be determined if such is the case in the west.