



First Ozone Soundings over Cotonou in the frame of AMMA.

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In the frame of the Enhanced Observation Period (EOP) of the AMMA program, ozone soundings have been scheduled for two years of operation in Cotonou, Benin, in order to provide a valuable climatology characteristic of the West Africa region. On the other hand, this new site for tropical ozone soundings will complete the SHADOZ network giving thus the missing site over the western part of continental Africa. Thus, soundings over Cotonou are regularly performed since December 2004. We use the Vaisala technique along with the ECC ozone sondes to launch balloons once a week or four times a month to get a minimal statistical significance on a monthly basis. We propose to present the first ozone profiles throughout the troposphere and the stratosphere characterizing the dry season over Cotonou (December – March). As noticed with the MOZAIC profiles recorded in the region (Abidjan, Lagos, Douala), ozone profiles over Cotonou often exhibit thick polluted layers confined to the lower troposphere. We intent to present all the soundings available by that time and to analyze different case studies corresponding (well or not) to the climatology built by *Sauvage et al.*, 2005 using the MOZAIC data.