



Characteristics of West African MCS observed with dropsondes during AMMA

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During the Special Observing Period of AMMA, dropsonde sampling of Mesoscale Convective Systems has been conducted with the French Falcon-20 aircraft. 8 to 16 sondes were released during each flight in the trailing stratiform part of these systems in domains of about 3° latitude \times 3° longitude. Airborne missions were conducted in 4 continental MCS during SOP-2a2 in Niamey (August 2006) and in 8 continental and oceanic MCS during SOP-3 in Dakar (September 2006).

We will present the methods used to edit the dropsonde data and to deduce mesoscale three-dimensional fields of cinematic and thermodynamic quantities. The obtained results will allow to analyze common and specific characteristics of these systems with more attention to organized vorticity structures.