

Climatology of explosively developing extratropical cyclones over the Kuroshio Front

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When the East Asian winter monsoon is strong, the explosive cyclone activity tends to concentrate in the Kuroshio Current (Yoshiike and Kawamura, 2009). It is important to understand the relationship between the heat supply from the Kuroshio extension region and the development process of cyclones. The purpose of this research is to reveal meteorological and oceanic environments that can provide differences of the cyclone path or the rapid development.

Composite analysis for cyclones developed over the westerly (TypeW_P) or easterly (TypeE_P) Kuroshio extension region was conducted. The result suggests the existence of mesoscale circulation over the Sea of Japan is important to the northward path of the TypeW_P cyclone. In addition, before the maximum deepening of the TypeW_P cyclone, latent heat flux clearly increased at the Kuroshio extension region. It was the result of easterly winds, blowing in front of a warm front of the cyclone. The Kuroshio extension region, which was meandering north and south direction, responded to the winds. These results do not appear in composite analysis for the TypeE_P cyclone. The influence on the weather of the Kanto region is also investigated. The results show that TypeW_P cyclones tend to provide heavy rain or snow, and TypeE_P cyclones provide severe winds on that region. These results show the important contribution of water vapor provided from the Kuroshio extension region to the TypeW_P cyclone. We conducted more composite analysis for these cyclones. Composite analysis at the cyclone center revealed some differences in advection of water vapor. The water vapor flux, blowing from the southeast quadrant to the cyclone center, was stronger in the TypeE_P, but the precipitable water that extends to the south of the cyclones was greater in the TypeW_P. As the result of strong water vapor advection, the development of the TypeE_P cyclone was assisted. On the other hand, more humid air masses contributed to the development of the TypeW_P cyclone. These experiments were conducted for cyclones that developed over the westerly or easterly Subarctic frontal zone of the northwestern Atlantic (TypeW_A and TypeE_A, respectively). But no clear difference appeared in the low-level environment associated with the TypeW_A or the TypeE_A cyclone. These results suggest that the differences of low-level fields associated with the difference of the maximum deepening position are a particular phenomenon in the Kuroshio extension region. In addition, the contribution of water vapor advection to the cyclone center was stronger for cyclones developed over the Kuroshio extension region.

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