

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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FREQUENCY OF TROPICAL CYCLONES

Tropical cyclones are storms of relatively small area, though their tracks are sometimes thousands of miles long. Because of their moderate size, many of them never touch any populous land or any part of the ocean frequented by shipping, and thus attract little or no attention. This fact explains why the frequency of these storms has generally been greatly underestimated.

According to statistics collected by Prof. S. S. Visher, there are about 100 tropical hurricanes and less tropical cyclonic storms on an average each year in all parts of the world. The region most infested with these storms is the western North Pacific (the Far East), where tropical cyclones are called "typhoons."

Here are the figures:

	Severe Hurricanes	Lesser Hurricanes and Cyclones
Western North Pacific, 110 to 140 E.	10	20
Central North Pacific, 140 W. to 140 E.	2	4
Eastern North Pacific, east of 150 W.	2	3
Western South Pacific, 130 W. to 160 E.	5	10
Australian region, 110 to 160 E.	5	8
South Indian Ocean	8	5
Arabian Sea	2	2
Bay of Bengal	2	6
North Atlantic	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	39	60

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