

## SHORT COMMUNICATION

ONSET DATES OF THE SOUTH-WEST MONSOON OVER KERALA  
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## ABSTRACT

This communication presents the dates of onset of the south-west monsoon over south Kerala for the period 1890–1900 and over north Kerala for the period 1870–1900.

KEY WORDS South-west monsoon Onset dates Kerala

## INTRODUCTION

In a paper entitled *The onset of south-west monsoon over Kerala: 1901–1980* (Ananthakrishnan and Soman, 1988), we listed the dates of onset of the south-west monsoon over south Kerala (SK) and north Kerala (NK) for the 80-year period 1901–1980. These dates were arrived at by utilizing the pattern of daily rainfall averaged over a network of stations.

From a scrutiny of the records prior to 1901 we have found that rainfall data for Kerala stations are available from 1870 onwards, but with a reduced density of the rain-gauge network. For SK we have such data from 1891 and for NK from 1870. Despite the reduced network our study shows that the criteria which we have utilized for fixing the dates of monsoon onset for the period 1901–1980 hold good for the earlier period also.

Table I. Onset dates of the south-west monsoon over south and north Kerala (1870–1900); days counted from 1 May (1 May = 01, . . . , 1 June = 32, . . .)

Year	NK	Year	NK	Year	SK	NK
1870	34					
1871	31	1881	40	1891	31	33
1872	32	1882	31	1892	22	26
1873	23	1883	34	1893	23	26
1874	16	1884	40	1894	34	35
1875	34	1885	35	1895	40	43
1876	39	1886	31	1896	34	34
1877	38	1887	32	1897	33	37
1878	40	1888	28	1898	33	35
1879	17	1889	30	1899	24	27
1880	26	1890	28	1900	41	41

## DATES OF MONSOON ONSET

The dates of monsoon onset for south Kerala and north Kerala that we have been able to fix for the years prior to 1901 are given in Table I.

The mean dates of onset are 31 May for SK (1891–1900) and 1 June for NK (1870–1900). The standard deviation is about six days in both cases.

This short communication is a supplement to our earlier paper. The two papers together give, on the basis of uniform criteria, the dates of onset of the south-west monsoon over south Kerala for the 90-year period 1891–1980 and over north Kerala for the 111-year period 1870–1980. The earliest and latest years of monsoon onset over the entire period are 1918 and 1972, respectively.

## REFERENCES

- Ananthakrishnan, R. and Soman, M. K. 1988. 'The onset of the south-west monsoon over Kerala: 1901–1980', *Journal of Climatology*, **8**, 283–296.