

MOUNTAIN METEOROLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES

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Meteorological observations made in mountains are of considerable value to the climatologist, the agriculturist, the aviator and the health officer.

The climatologist realizes that, next to the distribution of land and water, elevation above sea level is the most important factor in causing differences of climate along the same parallel of latitude. The problem of the meteorologist is to ascertain the influence of mountains on air temperature, humidity, cloudiness and precipitation. Mountain meteorology guides the agriculturist in the selection of the best crops to be planted in a given region, offers to the plant-physiologist an explanation of the modification of the functions of plants in response to elevation and supplies the ecologist with important data for the determination of the zones of mountain vegetation. Mountain meteorology played an important part in the decision to cultivate quinine in Impalutao and Arabian coffee in Baguio. In flying over or around mountains, the aviator encounters air-currents with temperature and moisture different from those prevailing elsewhere and has to contend often with variable ceilings, strong winds, considerable gustiness and at times with a strong upward currents.