



The Slab Ocean El Niño

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The El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is thought of as an interaction between the atmosphere and the upper ocean, in which the ocean thermocline dynamics play a central role. In this study it is illustrated that ENSO-type of variability can exist in the ECHAM5 atmospheric general circulation model coupled to a simple 50m slab ocean model, that does not simulate any lateral ocean dynamics or thermocline variability by construction. The amplitude, frequency and pattern of this type of ENSO variability is described and possible mechanisms and their relation to the mean state are discussed.