



Main Characteristics of Tornadoes in Estonia and Latvia

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A year ago the early period of tornadoes research in Estonia and Latvia was reported on 15th EMS/12th ECAM. In abstract of this conference author's preliminary conclusions about the main features of tornadoes were discussed. Now we present characteristics of tornadoes in our region on the whole period of 1745 – 2015, as much as there were data available in descriptions of chronicles and periodicals in Estonia and Latvia.

Having in our data-bank all together around 350 tornado-cases we can estimate some 400 vortex occurrences if taking into account individual ones in series. In reality most cases happened before the year 1870 are in written form not reported at all. The people knew the atmospheric whirls well which is proved by almost 30 different names for the phenomenon existing only in Estonian but people did not report them to more educated persons.

Statistically speaking the variability of all features of tornadoes is very great and we can give only certain limit-values within which the most characteristics occurs. These are the diurnal, annual and decade frequency of tornadoes, the track longitude and width fixed in forests and on fields as well as observed on waterspouts, the height of Cumulonimbus and it's moving direction and speed. Finally we report the number of victims and injured people.