

Tornado/No-Tornado Environments (All Cases 1972-1999)

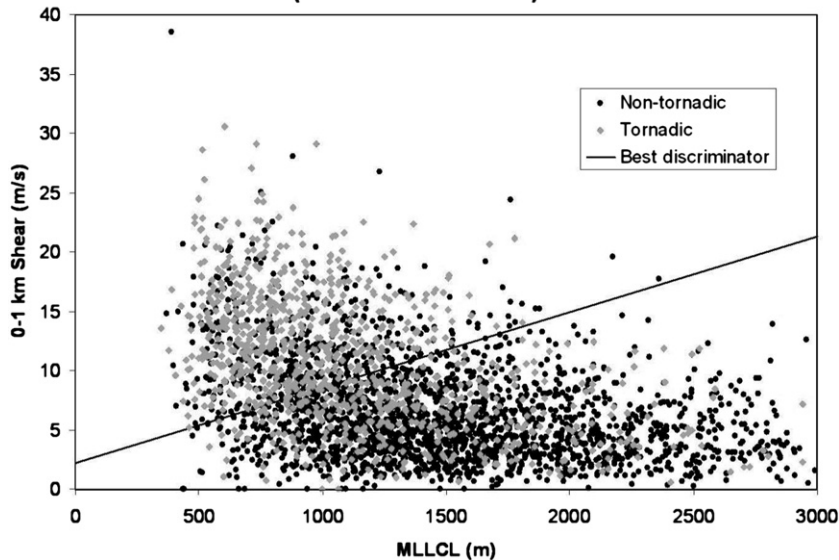


Fig. 6. Observations of tornadic versus nontornadic supercells as a function of low-level shear and mean boundary layer relative humidity of the environment (what actually is displayed on the axes is the magnitude of the 0–1 km vertical wind shear vector and the LCL computed by lifting an air parcel having the mean potential temperature and specific humidity of the lowest 1 km). Tornadoes are favored in environments containing large low-level relative humidity and low-level wind shear. Although this combination of environmental parameters has been found to be the most promising to date, much overlap still exists between the tornadic and nontornadic occurrences (the overlap is somewhat reduced if weak tornadoes are filtered). Courtesy of Harold Brooks.