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SOME FEATURES OF THE ANTARCTIC SEA ICE
OBSERVED FROM MESSR IMAGES (ABSTRACT)

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We describe some features of Antarctic sea ice using the Multispectral Electronic Self Scanning Radiometer (MESSR) installed on MOS-1/lb satellites. MESSR images have the advantage of high spatial resolution, approximately 50 m. This makes possible, for the first time, the observation of the ice band features and of their variations. Ice bands can often be seen from the ice edge to the ice interior zone throughout the year and they extend hundreds of kilometers in the latitudinal direction. We found that the width and spacing of ice bands tend to decrease from winter to spring. The band width is 2-10 km in August, whereas it is only 0.2-3 km in December. Ice streamers, which are composed frazil ice and new ice, are observed in the coastal polynya off land-fast ice and Breid Bay.

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