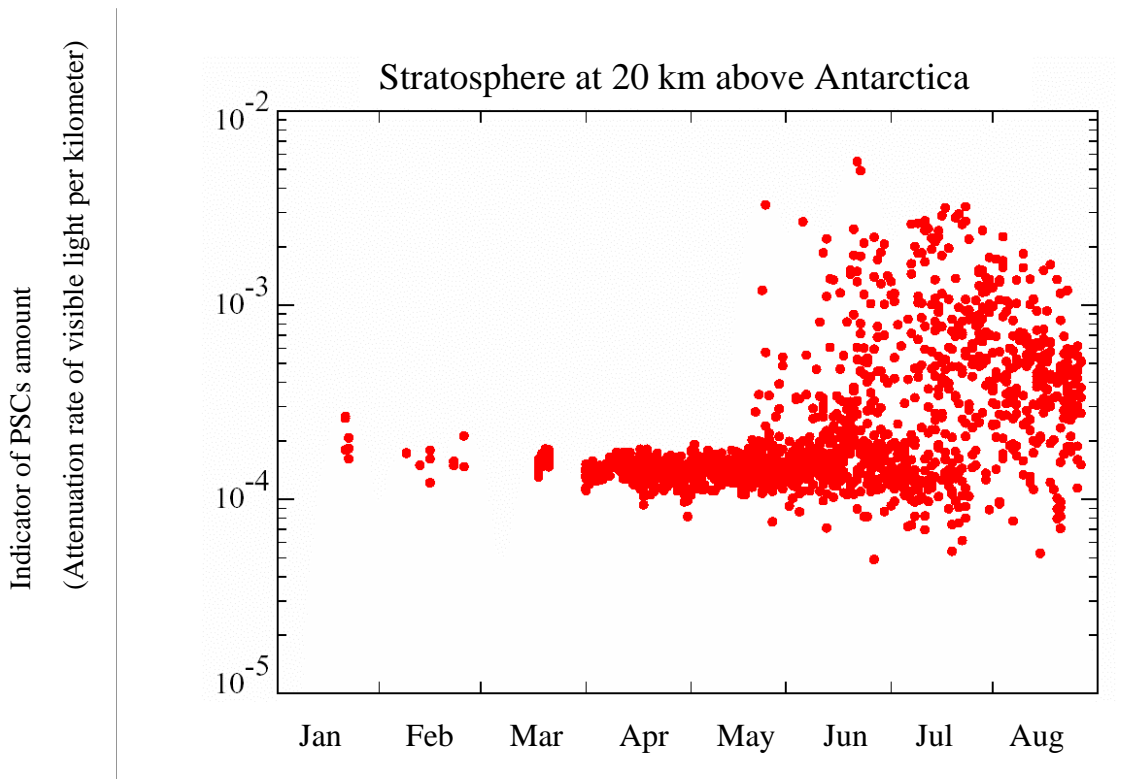




**Fig. 2. Polar Stratospheric Clouds (PSCs) at 20 km over Antarctica as Observed by ILAS-II**



Polar Stratospheric Clouds (PSCs), as observed by the ozone observation sensor ILAS-II mounted on *Midori II*, have occurred frequently since the end of May in tandem with the low temperatures. This occurrence of PSCs is the most prevalent seen since the 1980s, when the ozone hole first became noticeable. Since the mechanism leading to formation of the ozone hole has been triggered, there is a higher possibility for the ozone hole in 2003 to become the largest in history. It is important to continue monitoring by ILAS-II.