

TEXTURAL CHARACTERISTICS, MINERALOGY
AND FAUNA IN THE SHORE ZONE SEDIMENTS
BETWEEN RABIGH AND SHARM AL-KHARRAR,
EASTERN RED SEA, SAUDI ARABIA

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Thirty nine sediment samples were collected along three profiles nonnal to the shore between. Rabigh coast and near the Sharm Al-Kharrar. Samples were collected from beach, nearshore and offshore zones.

The textural criteria outlined in this paper together with infonnation given by mineralogy and fauna provide new insight for environmental interpretation for the shore zone along the Saudi coast on the Red Sea.

The nearshore sediments in the three profiles in concern are generally composed of carbonate grains rich with benthic foraminiferal fauna (Triloculina, Peneroplis, Elphidium, Ammonia Beccarii and Sorites) besides micropelecypodes and microgastropods. Few amounts of detrital quartz and feldspar grains are also encountered especially in the very fine fraction.

The heavy mineral suite has dominance of less stable minerals; amphiboles, pyroxenes and epidotes over the stable constituents; zircon, tounnaline and rutile that mostly common in the shore-zone sediments at Rabigh coast.