



Beachrock as an indicator of Holocene sea level change

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The abundance of beachrocks in the tropics and warm temperate zones renders them a potentially useful indicator of former sea level position. Some studies, however, have expressed doubt with regard to their vertical accuracy, arguing that they form at a range of vertical elevations with respect to former sea level. These criticisms are not, however, coupled with nuanced sedimentological or diagenetic studies of beachrocks. Rather, few beachrock studies take account of such variability and therefore disregard potentially important signatures of the depositional environment. Using detailed case studies, we review the use of beachrocks as Holocene sea level indicators from sites on the continental shelf and contemporary shorelines in southern Africa. We conclude that utilization of detailed sedimentological analysis enhances the utility and vertical resolution of beachrocks as palaeo-sea-level indicators.