



Some Aspects of Molluscan Ecology of the Sudanese Red Sea Coast with Special Reference to Family Strombidae

Faiza Ahmed

Deanship of Preparatory Year and Supportive Studies, Basic Science Department, Immam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, Saudi Arabia

The aim of the present work is to study and correlate the different environmental factors together with substrate characteristics to the spatial and seasonal distribution and abundance of epifaunal mollusca in general and the family Strombidae in particular. So, this study investigates the environmental conditions and some aspect of molluscan ecology; in particular, the family Strombidae at the three pin-pointed sites along the Sudanese Red Sea Coast. These sites are the mangrove ecosystem of Mersa Kilo Tammania, the sandy shore of Suakin and the Open Sea. The environmental conditions studied are physio-chemical characteristics of air, water and sediment grain size. Off all the physico-chemical characteristics in the three sites a significant difference was only encountered for water depth, salinity and nitrate values. One zone at Kilo Tammania site has similar sediment texture to two zones at Suakin sandy shore. With exception of *Littorina scarba*, which has found in the mangrove area of Kilo Tammania site, molluscan species were similar to those of the sandy shore of Suakin site. The distribution of molluscan species was limited by air temperature, water temperature and sediment grain size in Kilo Tammania site whereas, at Suakin site the distribution was limited by air temperature, water depth, tide and wind speed. For family Strombidae distribution, the sediment grain size represented the most important factor. The molluscan species abundance had lower evenness indices at Suakin sandy shore site than those at Kilo Tammania site.