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MINERALOGICAL STUDY OF TANJONG BATU KULAT TO TANJONG TULANG,
LANGKAWI MARINE SEDIMENT

By

ROSNANI NAZRI

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Department of Marine Sciences
Faculty of Science and Technology
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Haji Nazri Osman

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ABSTRAK

Projek ini bertujuan untuk mengenalpasti kandungan dan jenis mineral serta taburan sedimen dasar laut di perairan Langkawi (Tanjung Batu Kulat hingga Tanjung Tulang). Kajian ini dijalankan di kawasan berukuran 15 km persegi terhadap 15 stesen dengan menggunakan pengcekau jenis Van Veen. Sedimen dianalisa melalui tiga kaedah utama: *X-Ray Diffractometer (XRD)*, *Grain mounting* dan *Quantitative Mineral Estimation (QME)* untuk fraksi kelodak dan liat, pasir dan mineral berat. Analisa tekstur sedimen ditentukan melalui pengkelasan Folk (1974). Analisis saiz butiran pasir, kandungan humus dan karbonat juga dijalankan. Keputusan dari analisis *XRD* menunjukkan kuartza sangat dominan di setiap stesen dan terdapat elemen surih seperti kaolinite, feldspar, illite dan montmorillonite di stesen tertentu. Analisa *grain mounting* turut menunjukkan mineral kuartza yang dominan di setiap stesen dengan kehadiran kalsit, oksida besi dan kandungan legap di beberapa stesen. Analisa *QME* menunjukkan kadungan hidroilmenite yang dominan di setiap stesen diikuti rutile, ilmenit dan zirkon. Zirkon hanya hadir di stesen 10, 14, 15, 16, 18, dan 22 manakala topaz hadir di stesen 13, 16 dan 19. Oksida besi, monazit, magnetit, siderit, turmalin dan topaz adalah mineral yang hadir surih. Pengkelasan tekstur menunjukkan liat ditemui jauh dari pantai (stesen 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25 dan 26) manakala pasir dan gravel didapati banyak hadir berdekatan dengan pantai (stesen 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 dan 22). Kandungan organik adalah kurang dari 7% bagi setiap stesen manakala kandungan karbonat adalah dalam lingkungan 12.5% (stesen 11) hingga 52.69% (stesen 24).

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to determine the mineral contents of the Langkawi Island marine sediments (Tanjung Batu Kulat to Tanjung Tulang). The sediments were collected from 15 stations which covered an area of 15 km² by using a Van Veen Grab. The sediments were analyzed for its mineralogy using three methods: *The X-Ray Diffractometer (XRD)*, *Grain mounting* using petrographic microscope with image analyzer and *Quantitative Mineral Estimation (QME)* for silt and clay fractions, sand fractions and heavy minerals, respectively. Textural analysis was determined using Folk's Classification and the grain size was also done along with its carbonate and organic contents. Results of the *XRD analysis* showed that quartz is the dominant mineral in every station while trace amounts of kaolinite and feldspar in stations 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25 and 26. Nevertheless, illite was present in trace amounts in station 11 and 19 while station 24 had trace amounts of montmorillonite. The result of *grain mounting* is a reflection to the results obtained from the *XRD Analysis* which showed that quartz is the dominant mineral in the study area with few existences of calcite, iron oxide and opaque materials. From the *QME analysis*, only 11 heavy minerals obtainable in the study area which are listed in order of their decreasing abundance: hydroilmenite, rutile, ilmenite, zircon, topaz, magnetite, leucoxene, iron oxide, tourmaline, monazite and siderite. Regarding the textural class mud was mostly found offshore while sand and gravel were mostly found nearshore. The organic contents is less than 6 % in all stations while the carbonate contents is moderately higher in most of the stations with the exception of station 24 (52.69%) and station 11 (12.5%).