

TEXTURE AND GRAIN SIZE OF SEDIMENT ANALYSIS OF THE KRISHNAPATNAM COASTAL MANGROVES IN SOUTH-EAST COAST OF INDIA

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Indian mangroves coverage accounts for about 5% of the world's mangrove vegetation, which occupies 0.14% of the country's total geographic area. Among this about 57% of them spread along the east coast, 23% along the west coast, and 20% in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The present work is carried out to understand and provide baseline information on the texture and grain size of sediment of mangroves of Krishnapatnam coastal region. These dense mangroves situated on mudflats of Burada and Chintala and in the open estuarine areas with Conservation Priority Index (CPI) 0.57, which has been proposed as Community or Conservation Reserve (CCR). Sediment characteristics of the extreme Northern region have been influenced mainly by the influx of kandaleru creek, which increasing erosion rate in Northern region which is dominant than that of in the Southern region. The study revealed that the sediments are characterized by the abundance of silt and sand with minor amounts of clay. The nature of the soil texture has been characterized by the abundance of silt loamy, sandy clay. The observed sediments are poorly sorted, symmetrical skewed and kurtosis was platykurtic in nature. The present study region is of anthropogenic, developmental and industrial activities which are rationales for changing in the sediment nature and grain size.

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