



DISTRIBUTION OF RECENT FORAMINIFERA IN THE LITTORAL SEDIMENTS OF DWARKA, SAURASHTRA COAST, GUJARAT

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ABSTRACT

Littoral sediments of Dwarka beach, Gujarat yield a Recent foraminiferal assemblage comprising 26 species dominated by the family Hauerinidae (42.3%). Systematics and distribution of the constituent species are discussed.

The Dwarka beach foraminiferal assemblage is a typical shallow, warm-water assemblage dominated by calcareous forms. Six species, viz., *Textularia* aff. *T. kerimbaensis*, *Textularia* cf. *T. punjabensis*, *T. rugosa*, *Quinqueloculina* aff. *Q. oculus*, *Triloculina* aff. *T. inornata*, and *T.* aff. *T. unidentata* are recorded for the first time from the Indian waters, while two species, viz., *Quinqueloculina sulcata* and *Amphistegina madagascariensis* are recorded for the first time from beach sediments of the West Coast of India. The Dwarka foraminiferal assemblage is compared with other foraminiferal assemblages of the West and East coasts of India.

The study indicates that West Coast of India has a prolific foraminiferal assemblage with high Total Species Number (TSN) as compared to the East Coast. The Dwarka beach is a relatively clean beach with coastal waters free from marine pollutants as reflected by the absence of any distortion and abnormality in the foraminiferal tests. Furthermore, salinity appears to play a dominant role among various ecological factors controlling the distribution of foraminifera along Dwarka coast.

Keywords: Recent foraminifera, Dwarka beach, systematics, distribution