

PREFACE

Long before the scientific study of Animal-Sediment Relationships existed, the sediments of this world have been biogenically modified. Organisms of one sort or another today inhabit virtually every sedimentary environment, they leave their mark in most of these settings, either directly in the form of their bodies or indirectly in the form of biogenic sedimentary structures. Such structures includes various tracks, trails, burrows, pellets and coprolites and are known for their modifying effect of the sediments. In addition to their profound modifying effect, they also depict behavioral activity in response to substrate and other environmental conditions.

The study of Animal-Sediment relationships initiated in the intertidal zone of the Mandvi area presents a broad spectrum of biogenic sedimentary structures. The study contains a wealth of new data generated during the course of present investigation. A specific link had been established between animals and their biogenic sedimentary structures and its behaviour in different micro-geomorphic environments. Moreover, Trauma behaviour of the *Oratosquilla striata* - Stomatopodean Crustaceans have also been observed during 26th January 2001 Kachchh earthquake and reported. Such structures if preserved can be extremely useful in paleoseismic study and its linkage to animal behaviour.

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