

ABSTRACT

Mineralogy of Beach Sands of Tobago

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The purpose of this research project was to investigate how closely the beach minerals reflect the mineralogy of the interior and the extent to which the mineralogical combinations are indicative of the different areas. Particular attention was placed on the dark coloured mineral beaches because of the economic value associated with heavy minerals.

The beach sands sampled were investigated by optical microscope and X-ray diffraction techniques, and compared with the minerals found by previous work on the corresponding rock formations. It was found that though the beach mineralogy appeared to reflect the source rock, it was modified by local influences like the nearby environment, transport and the sea currents. The results also seem to indicate that the heavy minerals do not exist in quantities significant enough to be of real economic value.