

Morphological and Sedimentologic Variability of the "Santa Catarina" Littoral Beaches, Southern Brazil.

HORN FILHO, N.O.; LEAL, P.C. and OLIVEIRA, J.S. de.
Departamento de Geociências, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina
- UFSC, PO. Box 476, Florianópolis, SC, Brazil, 88040-900.

"Santa Catarina" Littoral, located between 25°57'41" and 29°23'55" South latitudes, is compartmented in eight sectors, according to geomorphological aspects: Setentrional; Northeast; Central-North; Central; Central-South; Southeast; South and Meridional.

The different beaches of these sectors are conditioned by the heads as follows: (a) occurrence of the lithological types of the Crystalline Basement; (b) presence of the Coastal Plain deposits; (c) influence of the river flood; (d) morphologic variations of the lower foreshore and inner continental shelf sectors and, (e) physical processes of the coastal dynamics (tides, winds, waves and longshore currents).

Along of the coast are observed dominantly beaches beneath oceanic regime, opened and high coastal energy and secundarily, beaches adjacent to bights, bays and estuaries, usually in restricted environments and under low energy. The beaches are right-lined, extenses, width and gentle foreshore slopes in Setentrional, South and Meridional littorals, typical of dissipative beaches, turning into curved line, narrow, short and well-inclined in Northeast, Southeast and Central sectors, symbolizing transitional and reflective beaches.

Sandy sediments, fine to coarse, dominate in the beaches. The main shapes are related to sequentes morphological elements: (a) Beaches associated to rocky and mountainous coasts, originating pocket beaches (bights and bays); (b) Beaches adjacent to pleistocenic and holocenic littoral dunes; (c) Holocenic barrier beaches, separated from the Coastal Plain deposits by shallow lagunes; (d) Beaches adjacent to holocenic marine terraces, rectilineal or concavous shape; (e) Barrier spit beaches, connected to the Crystalline Basement, nevertheless free in the extremity; (f) Tombolo beaches, resultant from coastal island/inland connexion and (g) Beaches contiguous to the paludal deposits, usually mangrove swamps.