

Full Length Research Paper

Granulometric analysis and heavy mineral studies of the sandstone facies exposed near Igbile, south-western Nigeria

^{*1}Ikhane PR, ^{1*}Akintola AI, ²Bankole SI, ¹Oyebolu OO and ¹Ogunlana EO

¹Department of Earth Sciences, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye

²Department of Geosciences, University of Lagos

Abstract

The knowledge of particle size distribution and the assemblages of heavy minerals in sedimentary rocks particularly in the Earth's crust make it possible to effectively locate and use essential minerals to predict their dispersal pattern when they re-enter the natural environment. Particle size distribution of Sandstone facies exposed near Igbile, South western Nigeria were described to study the provenance and deduce the transportation history, environment of deposition and source area of the sediment. Twenty four (24) surface samples collected from the study area were subjected to granulometric analysis in order to determine their grain size distribution using sieves method of mesh size ranging from 1.00M to 90 μ m. Twelve samples were selected from the twenty four samples for heavy mineral studies to describe the heavy mineral make-up, using float and sink procedure with dense liquid, thin section studies was also done. Result of the granulometric studies of the sediments are medium to coarse grained, moderately sorted and finely skewed. The mean value ranges from 0.67-1.30, which suggests high to low energy of transportation, Inclusive standard deviation (sorting) ranges from 0.70-1.15, with more samples falling under moderately sorted, it suggest that the have been transported relatively farer away from their source with relatively low energy of transportation at a regular intervals that permitted fair hydraulic sorting at a lower course of a river. Inclusive graphic skewness ranges from 0.28-0.89. Only location 2B falls under finely skewed while the rest are severely finely skewed which exhibits sediments input from various sources of tributaries and also implies a low velocity than normal. The heavy mineral assemblage shows the presence of opaque and non-opaque minerals such as zircon, tourmaline, rutile, stourolite, garnet, epidote, apatite, silimanite and kyanite. The calculated Zircon-Tourmaline-Rutile (ZTR) index shows that majority of the sample location have >50% ZTR index which suggest that almost all the location contain mineralogically immature sediments. Distribution bar chart of the ZTR index shows that majority of the sample locations have greater than 40% ZTR which is suggestive of texturally immature sediments. All locations except location 2B did not contain garnet and Kyanite heavy minerals which are indicative of metamorphic source. The mono-source characteristic could also be responsible for the moderately well sorted exhibited by particles deposited in the location. Also, all locations except location 4B is characterized by sediment input from volcanic source due to the presence of Apatite heavy mineral which is a source indicator.

Keywords: Granulometric analysis, heavy minerals, provenance, Zircon-Tourmaline-Rutile (ZTR) index.

INTRODUCTION

Sedimentary rocks contain numerous clues to their origin and the environment in which they were deposited. This information can be determined from the shape and

sequence of rock layers, from the sediment grains and the sedimentary structures such as fossils, cross-beds, ripple marks, and mud cracks that are contained in the rock. Sedimentary rocks are wide spread, about three-fourths (3/4) of the surface of the continents is blanketed with a relatively thin skin of sedimentary rocks. They are important components of the solid earths system and

*Corresponding Author Email: busayoakins@yahoo.com

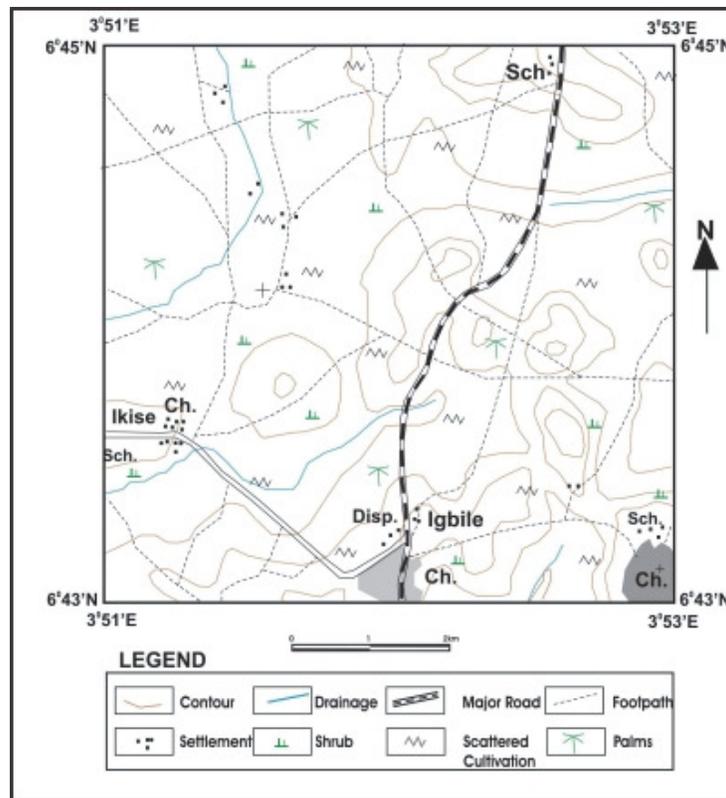


Figure 1. Location map of the study area

they are classified generally into detrital or clastic, biogenic and chemical sedimentary rocks based on mineralogical composition, texture, cement, and matrix.

However, as the observational elements of physical stratigraphy became more quantitative and the layers of strata were considered in terms of the physical, chemical and biological processes that formed them, the concept of interpreting rocks in terms of modern processes becomes inevitable. The knowledge of particle size distribution and the assemblages of heavy minerals in sedimentary rocks particularly in the earth crust make it possible to effectively locate and use essential minerals to predict their dispersal pattern when they re-enter the natural environment and information about the source of the sediment, provenance of the material as well as the environment of deposition may be obtained from an examination of the clast types present (Pettijohn 1975; Basu 2003).

Grain size is the most fundamental property of sediment particles, affecting their entrainment, transport and deposition. Grain size analysis therefore provides important clues to the sediment provenance, transport history and depositional conditions (e.g. Folk and Ward, 1957; Friedman, 1979; Bui *et al.*, 1990). This research was carried out with the aim of determining the origin of the sediments, infer the transportation history and

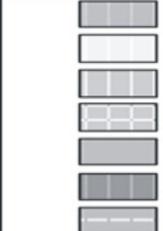
delineate the pale environment of deposition of the sediments or sedimentary rocks exposed near Igbile, southwestern Nigeria.

Location, physiography and regional geology

The study area is located within Eastern Dahomey basin and lies between latitude N06°44'00" to N06°46'00" and longitude E003°51'00" to E003°53'00". The study area is very well accessible by roads and footpaths (figure 1) and it falls within the tropical rain forest zone of Nigeria with evergreen tree vegetation. Four distinguished seasonal periods have been recognized in the area and they include:

- The long heavy wet season that ranges between March and July.
- The short break in rainfall or short dry season around August termed "August Break".
- The short wet season spanning from September to October with moderate but more constant rainfall than in the long wet season.
- The long dry or harmattan season between Novembers to early March as a result of dry dust laden winds blowing from the Sahara Desert.

Table 1. Stratigraphic column of the eastern Dahomey basin showing the comparison between works of Jones and Hockey (1964) and Omatsola and Adegoke (1981)

ERA	Jones & Hockey (1964)			Omatsola & Adegoke (1981)		
	Age	Formation	Lithology	Age	Formation	Lithology
Quaternary	Recent	Alluvium				
Tertiary	Pleistocene-Oligocene	Coastal Plain Sands		Pleistocene-Oligocene	Coastal Plain Sands	
	Eocene	Ilaro		Eocene	Ilaro	
	Paleocene	Ewekoro		Paleocene	Akinbo Ewekoro	
Late Cretaceous	Late Senonian	Abeokuta		Maastrichtian Neocomian	Araromi Afowo Ise	
PRE - CAMBRIAN CRYSTALLINE BASEMENT						
						

The vegetation found in the area includes tree crops, shrubs and those typical of the forest savannah mosaic of the moist low land forest ecological zone of Nigeria. Physiographically, the area displays a relatively flat topography typical of a sedimentary terrain and this is responsible for the dendritic drainage pattern that is characterized by the irregular branching of tributary streams in many directions at almost any angle but usually less than 90° in the area.

The Dahomey basin constitute part of a system of West African peri- cratonic (margin sag) basin (Klemme, 1975; Kingston *et al.*, 1983) developed during the commencement of rifting, associated with the opening of the gulf of Guinea, in the Early Cretaceous to the Late Jurassic (Burke *et al.*, 1971; Whiteman, 1982). The crustal separation, typically preceded by crustal thinning, was accompanied by an extended period of thermally induced basin subsidence through the Middle – Upper Cretaceous to Tertiary times as the South American and the African plates entered a drift phase to accommodate the emerging Atlantic Ocean (Storey, 1995; Mpanda, 1997). The Ghana Ridge, presumably an offset extension of the Romanche Fracture Zone, binds the basin to the west while the Benin Hinge Line, a basement escarpment which separates the Okitipupa structure from the Niger-Delta basin that binds it to the east. The Benin Hinge Line supposedly defines the continental extension of the Chain Fracture Zone. The onshore part of the basin covers a broad arc-shaped profile of about 600 km^2 in extent. The onshore section of the basin attains a

maximum width, along its N-S axis, some 130 km around the Nigerian–Republic of Benin border. The basin narrows to about 50 km on the eastern side where the basement assumes a convex upwards outline with concomitant thinning of sediments. Along the northeastern fringe of the basin where it rims the Okitipupa high is a band of tar (oil) sands and bitumen seepages (Nwachukwu and Ekweozor, 1989).

Substantial amount of sediments were deposited in fault-controlled depressions in the Dahomey basin during the Late Cretaceous. Post-Santonian marine transgression accompanied the subsidence and drowning of continental margins, which brought about the deposition of very thick sequence of continental grits and pebbly sands over the entire basin (Lehner and Ruitter, 1977). In some places, mudstones and shales with thin limestone beds were formed. The stratigraphy has however been described in detail in the works of Jones and Hockey, 1964; Adegoke, 1969; Ogbe, 1970; Kogbe, 1974; Billman, 1976; Ako *et al.*, 1980; Omatsola and Adegoke, 1981; Okosun, 1990; Nton, 2001; Elueze and Nton, 2004; Adekeye, 2005 and Adekeye *et al.*, 2006; Nton *et al.*, 2006; Ikhane *et al.*, 2011, among others. These authors reported five lithostratigraphic formations covering the Cretaceous to Tertiary ages. The formations from the oldest to the youngest include: Abeokuta Group comprising of Ise, Afowo and Araromi formations (Cretaceous), Ewekoro Formation (Paleocene), Akinbo Formation (Late Paleocene-Early Eocene), Oshosun Formation (Eocene) and Ilaro Formation (Eocene) table 1.

Ise Formation

This is the oldest formation in the group and it unconformably overlies the basement complex of Southwestern Nigeria, consisting of conglomerates and grits at the base which is in turn overlain by coarse to medium grained sands with inter-bedded kaolinite. The conglomerates are unimbricated and at some locations ironstones occur (Nton, 2001). An age range of Neocomian-Albian is assigned to this formation based on paleontological assemblages.

Afowo Formation

Afowo formation overlies the Ise formation, and composed of coarse to medium grained sandstone with variable but thick interbedded shale, siltstone and claystone. The sandy facies are tar-bearing while shales are organic-rich (Enu, 1985). The lower part of this formation is transitional with mixed brackish to marginal horizons that alternate with well sorted, sub-rounded sands indicating a littoral or estuarine near-shore environment of deposition. Afowo Formation thus indicates the commencement of deposition in a transitional environment after the entire basal and continental Ise Formation. Using palynological assemblage, a Turonian age is assigned to the Lower part of this formation, while the upper part ranges into Maastrichtian.

Araromi Formation

This is the youngest Cretaceous formation in the group. It conformably overlies the Afowo formation. The formation is composed of fine to medium grained sandstone at the base, overlain by shales, siltstone with thin inter-beds of limestone, marl and lignite bands (Omatsola and Adegoke, 1981; Agagu, 1985). This Formation is highly fossiliferous containing abundant planktonic foraminifera, ostracods, pollen and spores. Omatsola and Adegoke (1981) assigned a Maastrichtian to Palaeocene age to this formation based on faunal content.

Ewekoro Formation

The Ewekoro Formation directly overlies the Abeokuta Group as observed from the sections at Ewekoro and Sagamu quarries as well as the cored sections at Ibeshe. It is an extensive limestone body, which is traceable over a distance of about 320km from Ghana in the west, towards the eastern margin of the Dahomey basin in Nigeria (Jones and Hockey, 1964). Elueze and Nton, (2004) has reported that the limestone is of shallow

marine origin owing to abundance of coralline algae, gastropods, pelecypods, echnoid fragments and other skeletal debris . It is made up of grayish white and occasionally greenish limestone which is sandy toward the base and having a thickness that varies between 15-30m. This formation is dated Paleocene age.

Akinbo Formation

The Akinbo Formation is mostly found in the western part of the basin, directly overlying the Ewekoro Formation. It constitutes the upper part of the Imo Group. It is made up of shale and clayey sequence (Ogbe, 1972). The claystones are concretionary and are predominantly kaolinite (Nton and Elueze, 2005).The base of the formation is defined by the presence of glauconitic band with lenses of limestones (Ogbe, 1972; Nton, 2001). It is essentially greenish, highly fossiliferous and thickly laminated. The age of Akinbo Formation is considered Paleocene to Eocene.

Oshosun Formation

The Oshosun Formation overlies the Akinbo Formation and consists of greenish – grey or beige clay and shale with interbeds of sandstones. The shale is thickly laminated and glauconitic. According to Okosun (1998), the basal beds consist of any of the following facies; sandstones, mudstones, claystones, clay-shale or shale. This formation is phosphate- bearing (Jones and Hockey, 1964; Nton, 2001).

Ilaro Formation

The Ilaro Formation overlies conformably the Oshosun Formation and consists of massive, yellowish, poorly consolidated, fine to coarse, cross-bedded sandstones, clays and shales with occasional thin bands of phosphate beds being observed at Ilaro. The formation is Eocene in age.

METHODS

Detailed field work in which close observation and study were made on the exposed lithologic section within a shallow depression in the area noting the rock types, colour and sedimentary textures (see figures 2 and 3). Twenty four fresh samples were collected procedurally both vertically and laterally at different locations. Two samples were collected for each location, except for location four where four samples were collected and location ten to thirteen where one sample was collected



Figure 2. Exposed outcrop from road cut near Igbile, southwestern Nigeria



Figure 3. Grain size distribution within the outcrop. (A) Coarse grained portion, (B) medium grained portion, (C) Fine grained portion and (D) Pinkish colouration fine grained portion

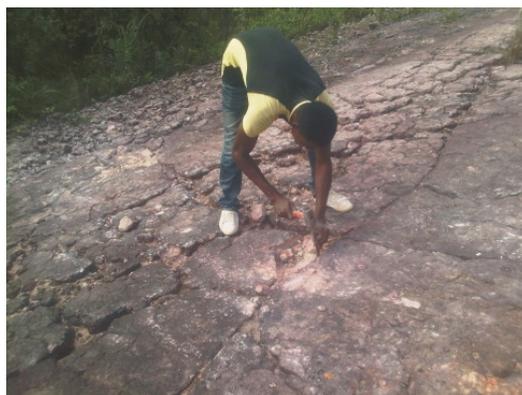


Figure 4. Photograph of sampling procedure

for laboratory analysis.

GRAIN SIZE (GRANULOMETRIC) ANALYSIS

Twenty four samples were subjected to grain size analyses out of which twelve (12) of the finest residues were randomly selected for heavy mineral analysis. In the case of grain size analysis (granulometric); some of the samples were slightly consolidated, therefore, those that were loosely consolidated were effectively disaggregated by squeezing them between fingers and paper sheets. The slightly lithified were broken and slightly crushed and disaggregated by squeezing between sheets of paper. The sand samples were observed under the binocular microscope in order to view the proportion of aggregated sands; however, where such situation is greater than five percent the samples were remixed and further subjected to disaggregation. Such sample was split on sheet of paper, divided into parts till a weight of 60gm was obtained using a weight balance as a measuring instrument. Sieving analysis was achieved by sieve shaker using a set of nine sieves agitating for about 10min. The sieve size used for this operation are as follows; 1.00m, 850µm, 600µm, 425µm, 300µm, 212µm, 180µm, 150µm, 90µm. The fraction left in each sieve and that in the pan were weighed and used for statistical calculations. The percentage of the aggregates was estimated. The corrected weight of each fraction was used to calculate individual percentage. Each cumulative percentage was obtained as a percentage of the cumulative of the cumulative corrected weight to the total corrected weight. The grain size of the 5th, 16th, 25th, 50th, 75th, 84th and 95th percentiles were obtained from each cumulative curve drawn. These were used to calculate statistical parameters for the Graphic Mean (M), Standard Deviation (sorting) (SD), Graphic Kurtosis (K) and Graphic Skewness (SK) based on Folk and Ward (1957) as follows:

$$\text{Graphic Mean (M)} = \frac{\phi_{16} + \phi_{50} + \phi_{84}}{3}$$

$$\text{Standard Deviation (Sorting) (SD)} = \frac{\phi_{84} - \phi_{16}}{4} + \frac{\phi_{95} - \phi_{5}}{6.6}$$

$$\text{Graphic Kurtosis (K)} = \frac{\phi_{95} - \phi_5}{2.44(\phi_{75} - \phi_{25})}$$

$$\text{Graphic Skewness (SK)} = \frac{\phi_{16} + \phi_{84} - 2\phi_{50}}{2(\phi_{84} - \phi_{16})} + \frac{\phi_5 + \phi_{95} - 2\phi_{50}}{2(\phi_{95} - \phi_5)}$$

Heavy Mineral Analysis

Twelve samples were selected from the twenty four

samples used for sieve analysis. The procedure of (Suzuki, 1975, Mange and Heinz, 1992) which has proved to be a rapid and accurate means of heavy minerals separation was followed. The prepared slides were examined petrographically for non-opaque heavy minerals and on reflected light for opaque heavy minerals. Identification of mineral type was based on optical characteristics such as color, pleochroism, absorption, relief, extinction, and birefringence; others are size, crystal form, and elongation. Therefore, 50-200 grains were counted in each slide with the size and roundness of each mineral noted. The "ZTR" index which is a quantitative definition of mineral assemblage was calculated using the percentage of the combined zircon, tourmaline and rutile grains for each sample according to the formula below.

$$\text{ZTR index} = \frac{\text{Zircon} + \text{Tourmaline} + \text{Rutile}}{\text{Total NO. of non-opaque heavy minerals}}$$

This formula is referred to as Hubert's (1962) scheme. The calculated index is expressed in percentage to ascertain the mineralogical maturity of the sediment. Accordingly, ZTR <75% implies immature to sub mature sediments and ZTR >75% indicates mineralogically matured sediments.

Apart from the ZTR index, various frequency percentage plot of both pie and bar charts were made for each sample location.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Lithology and Description of Studied Outcrop

The outcrop is laterally very extensive with a relative height of about 12 meters and exposed due to road cuts along Ijebu-Omu express road. It has dense vegetation in some part at the top. Lithologically, it comprises of Mudstone, being the oldest among the exposed beds. Overlying the Mudstone is Siltstone and Sandstone being the topmost and youngest layer in the sequence. The beds are horizontal or near horizontal and comprise of reddish coloured, brownish-red to whitish and pinkish coloured sandstone facies. The sandstone facies range from coarse grain to fine grain texture in a fining upward sequence. Trace fossils were however identified from the sandstone bed. The identified forms are cylindrical, vertical burrow of length 5cm and diameter between 1cm and 2cm. Some of them are identified as *Skolithos*, *Ophiomorpha* and *Paleophycus* (Figure 5).

The result of the sieve analysis of the twenty four samples is presented in Table 2. However, the result of the 24 samples tabulated in Table 2 recorded about twenty samples having greater than 90% aggregate weight percent; while, four samples such as S1A, S4C, S6A and S9A show a value range of 89.0 - 89.7%. Table 3 presents the cumulative weight percentage of the 24

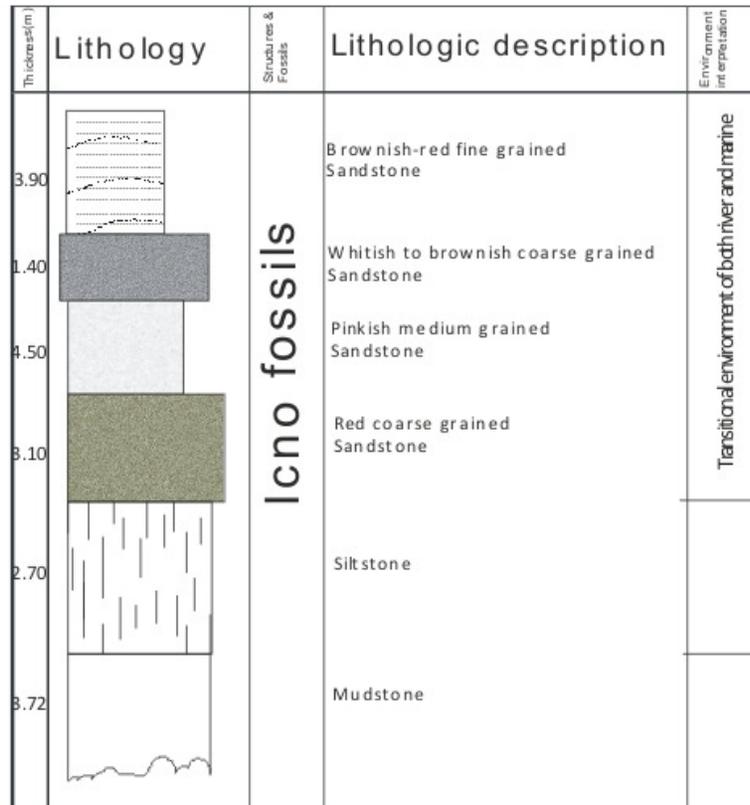


Figure 5. Lithology of the studied outcrop

Table 2. Grain Size Analysis results of selected Sandstone locations

Phi (Ø)	S1A	S1B	S2A	S2B	S3A	S3B	S4A	S4B	S4C	S4D	S5A	S5B	S6A	S6B	S7A	S7B	S8A	S8B	S9A	S9B	S10	S11	S12	S13
1.00M	0.8	5.5	5.3	0.2	5.3	2.1	4.8	5.4	4.5	4.8	2.6	5.4	4.8	0.2	9.6	9.2	5.2	1.1	5.4	6.4	5.9	5.5	6.6	4.6
850µM	28.3	35.2	32.4	27.4	31.0	25.3	31.2	26.0	26.4	16.3	18.2	32.3	40.2	17.3	26.1	12.2	33.1	16.0	26.2	22.3	28.4	32.3	27.3	31.4
600µM	21.9	25.0	28.1	22.3	28.9	32.0	29.1	24.2	23.9	13.8	11.3	27.8	9.3	14.8	24.2	8.1	27.0	14.3	24.0	27.1	31.8	27.9	22.1	28.8
425µm	13.2	12.8	12.4	25.8	12.3	14.4	13.1	4.8	13.2	21.4	22.4	12.2	13.2	25.6	15.8	26.8	12.8	24.5	12.8	5.0	12.2	12.4	5.2	13.8
300µm	8.4	7.5	7.7	12.9	7.5	7.4	8.0	4.8	9.0	14.8	15.8	7.6	8.1	14.3	8.2	15.2	7.2	15.2	7.4	4.9	7.5	7.3	4.4	7.9
212µm	6.7	5.4	5.2	4.6	5.6	5.5	4.8	6.2	4.9	8.8	7.2	5.5	4.7	8.2	6.0	6.9	5.1	7.5	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.6	5.2	4.7
180µm	4.2	3.2	3.1	1.7	3.1	3.2	3.1	4.6	3.0	4.2	4.6	3.2	3.0	4.4	3.0	5.3	3.6	4.3	3.4	4.2	3.3	3.2	4.6	3.2
150µm	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.8	2.2	1.5	3.5	1.3	2.6	2.4	1.9	1.6	2.5	2.6	2.8	1.8	2.6	1.8	3.9	1.8	1.6	3.5	1.4
90µm	2.8	2.2	2.6	1.5	2.5	2.4	2.7	12.4	2.3	7.2	7.9	2.6	2.8	7.7	2.4	6.9	2.5	7.8	2.3	11.8	2.3	2.8	12.1	2.7
Pan	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.4	8.0	1.1	6.2	6.2	1.4	1.3	6.9	1.5	6.4	1.3	6.6	1.2	8.2	1.5	1.2	8.1	1.3

Table 3. Cumulative Weight Percent of the samples

μM	\emptyset	CU MM WT %	CU MM WT %	CU MM WT %	CUM M WT %	CUM M WT %	CUM M WT %	CUM M WT %	CU MM WT %	CU MM WT %	CU MM WT %	CUM M WT %	CU MM WT %	CU MM WT %	CU MM WT %	CUM M WT %	CUM M WT %	CU MM WT %	CU MM WT %	CU MM WT %	CUM M WT %	CUM M WT %	CU MM WT %	CUM M WT %	
		S1 A	S1 B	S2 A	S2B	S3A	S3B	S4A	S4 B	S4 C	S4 D	S5A	S5 B	S6 A	S6 B	S7 A	S7B	S8A	S8 B	S9 A	S9 B	S10	S11	S12	S13
1.00M	0.0	0.8	5.5	5.3	0.2	5.3	2.1	4.8	5.4	4.5	4.8	2.6	5.4	4.8	0.2	9.6	9.2	5.2	1.1	5.4	6.4	5.9	5.5	6.6	4.6
850 μM	0.2	29.5	40.7	37.7	27.6	36.3	30.4	36.0	31.4	30.9	21.1	20.8	37.7	45.0	17.5	35.7	21.4	38.3	17.1	31.6	28.7	34.3	37.8	33.9	36.0
600 μM	0.7	51.5	65.7	65.8	44.9	65.2	62.4	65.1	55.6	54.8	34.9	32.1	65.5	54.3	32.3	59.9	29.5	65.3	31.4	55.6	55.8	66.1	65.7	56.0	64.8
425 μM	1.2	64.5	78.2	78.2	75.7	77.5	76.8	78.2	60.4	68.3	56.3	54.5	77.7	67.5	57.9	75.7	56.3	78.1	55.9	68.4	60.8	78.3	78.1	61.2	78.6
300 μM	1.7	72.5	86.0	85.9	88.6	85.0	84.2	86.2	65.2	77.1	71.1	70.3	85.3	75.6	72.9	83.9	71.5	85.3	71.1	75.8	65.7	85.8	85.4	65.6	86.5
212 μM	2.2	79.5	91.4	91.1	93.2	90.6	89.7	91.0	71.4	81.9	79.9	77.5	90.8	80.3	80.4	89.9	78.4	90.4	78.6	81.0	70.7	90.9	91.0	70.8	91.2
180 μM	2.5	83.5	94.6	94.2	94.9	93.7	92.9	94.1	76.0	84.9	84.4	82.1	94.0	83.3	84.8	92.9	83.7	94.0	82.9	84.4	74.9	94.2	94.2	75.4	94.4
150 μM	2.7	85.4	96.1	95.6	96.1	95.5	95.1	95.6	79.5	86.2	86.7	84.5	95.9	84.9	87.3	95.5	86.5	95.8	85.5	86.2	78.8	96.0	95.8	78.9	95.8
90 μM	3.5	88.2	98.3	98.2	97.6	98.0	97.5	98.3	91.9	88.5	93.9	92.4	98.5	87.7	95.0	97.9	93.4	98.3	93.3	88.5	90.6	98.3	98.6	91.0	98.5
Pan		89.6	99.9	99.5	98.7	99.2	98.9	99.7	99.9	89.6	100.1	98.6	99.9	89.0	101.7	99.4	99.8	99.6	99.9	89.7	98.8	99.8	99.8	99.1	99.8

samples from which fourteen samples were selected for cumulative weight percent plot against Phi (\emptyset) in order to generate necessary statistical parameters needed to interpret various sedimentological processes that have taken place and their eventual paleoenvironment of deposition. The various samples selected are S1B, S2B, S3A, S4A, S4D, S5B, S6B, S7A, S8B, S9A, S10, S11, S12 and S13 based on their (i) Individual ability to achieve near 100% cumulative value, (ii) The fact that some of the sediments have majority of grains in coarse class and (iii)

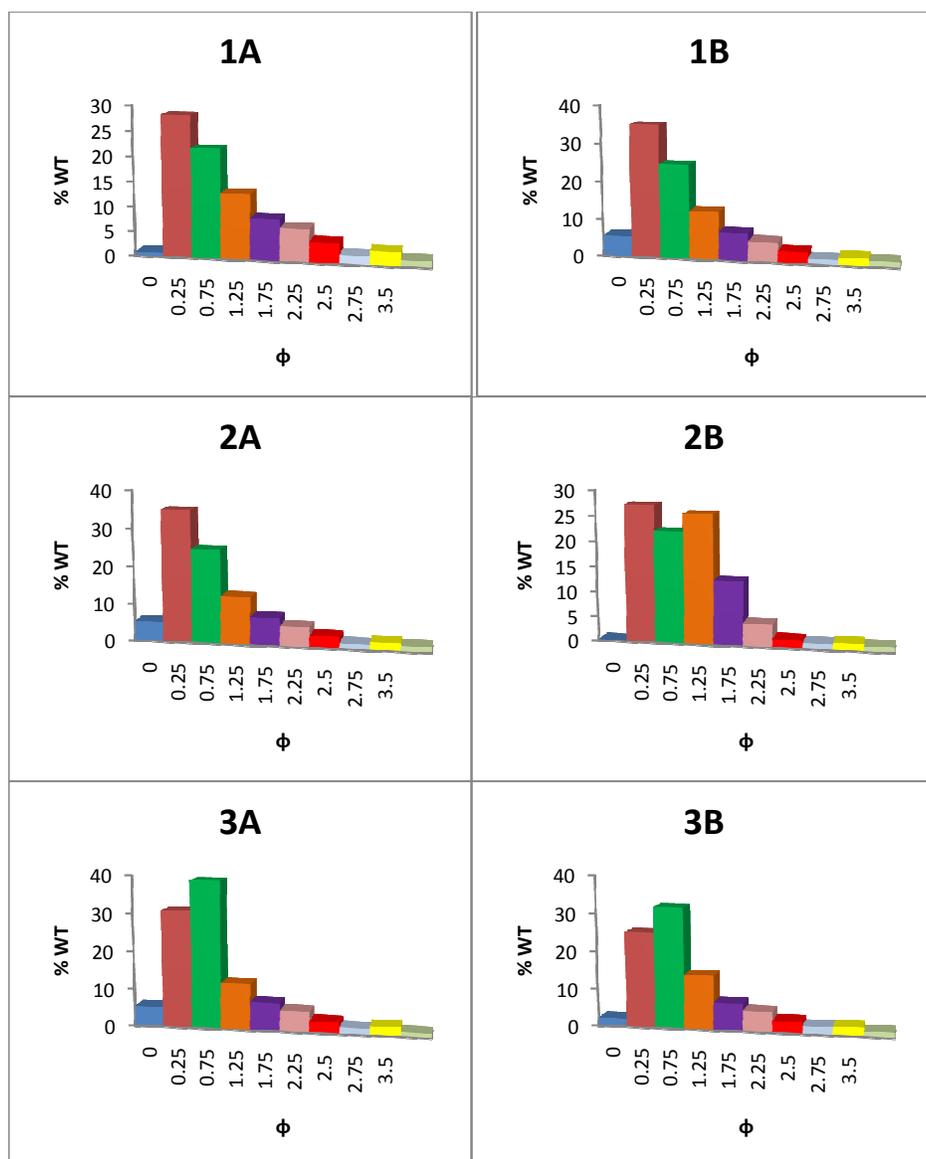
similarity in grain size range. However, location 6B is based on the combined reasons.

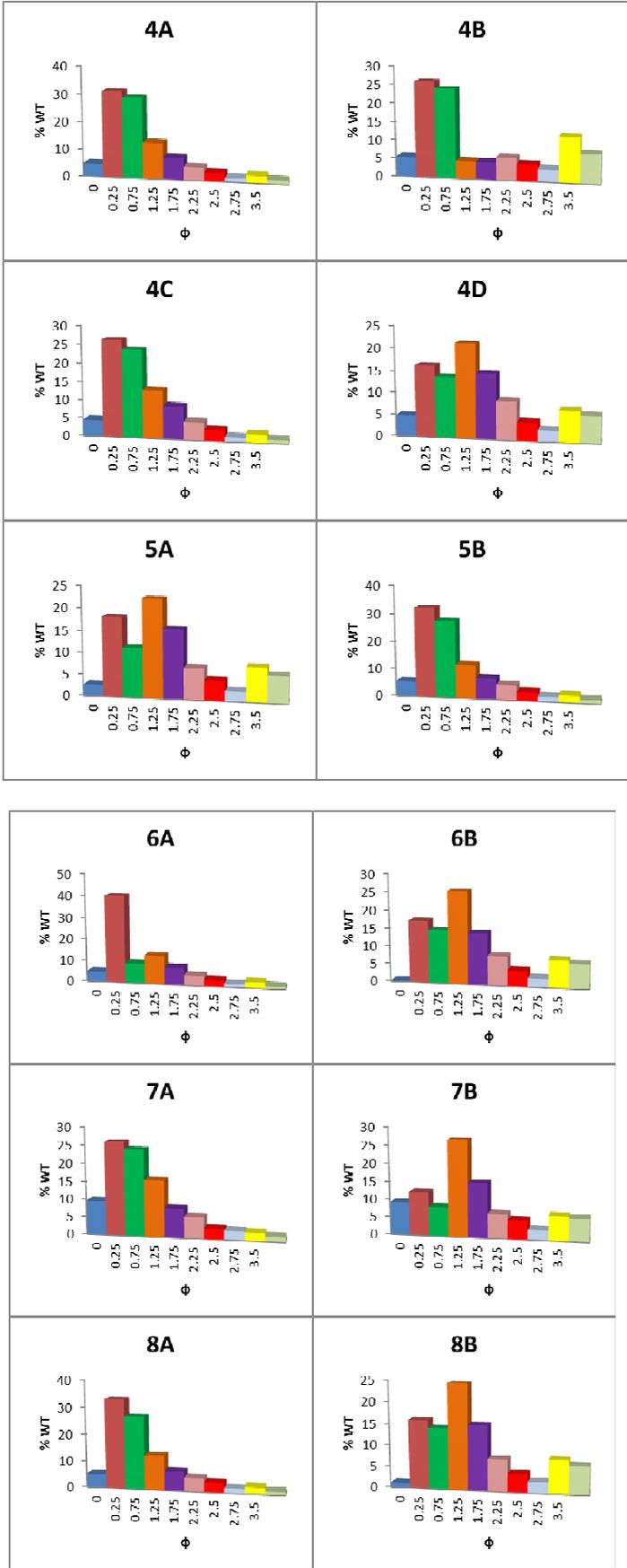
Heavy mineral result is presented in Table 4. Various plots of pie and bar charts were made for the twelve samples in percentage (See figures 11 – 15). The result shows the present of Zircon, Tourmaline, Rutile, Stauroilite, Garnet, Epidote, Apatite, Sillimanite, Kyanite and Opaque mineral. Results of the weight percentage of each of the size fraction from the sieve analysis for the 24 samples are graphically represented using histogram (figure 6) to illustrate the nature of the

sediments. Fourteen of the analyzed samples were selected for cumulative weight percent plot against Phi (\emptyset) in order to generate necessary statistical parameters needed to interpret various sedimentological processes that have taken place and their eventual paleoenvironment of deposition. The various samples selected are 1B, 2B, 3A, 4A, 4D, 5B, 6B, 7A, 8B, 9A, 10, 11, 12 and 13 on the basis of their individual ability to achieve near 100% cumulative value, on the fact that some sediments have majority of grains in coarse class and finally on similarity in grain size

Table 4. Heavy mineral Analysis result for selected samples

SAMPLE	ZIRCON	TOURMALINE	RUTILE	STOUROLITE	GARNET	EPIDOT	APATITE	SILIMANITE	KYANITE	OPAQUE
1A	12	5	6	8	2	1	3	3	1	88
3A	9	6	10	11	-	1	3	-	2	93
5A	7	3	8	14	2	1	5	-	-	104
7A	11	5	6	11	1	-	4	-	2	84
2B	14	8	8	8	-	-	2	3	-	90
4B	8	6	12	8	-	1	-	1	2	94
6B	10	5	14	9	3	-	1	1	1	96
8B	5	7	4	10	2	-	2	2	1	81
4C	9	6	8	11	-	1	-	-	1	63
4D	11	3	6	9	2	-	1	-	1	69
10	7	5	4	7	1	-	1	1	-	74
12	9	9	6	4	1	-	-	2	1	82





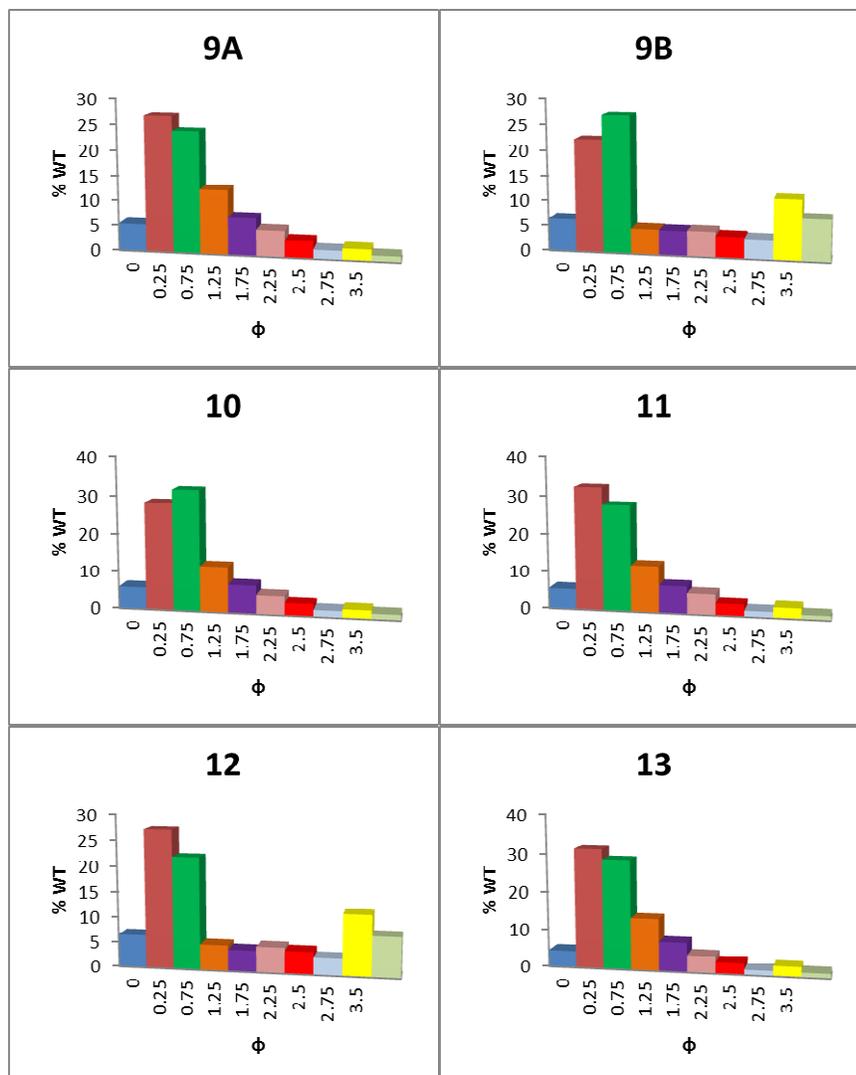


Figure 6. Histograms showing percentage proportion of grain size in each sediment samples

range. However, location 6B is based on the combined reasons. The various plots of cumulative weight percentage against phi (ϕ) of the different locations were plotted on arithmetic graph sheets as given in Figure 7.

Various percentiles such as 5th, 16th, 25th, 50th, 75th, 84th and 95th recorded for different statistical parameters were derived from the graph plots and tabulated in Table 5. Only three statistical parameters are used for this work; they include: mean, inclusive graphic standard deviation (sorting) and Inclusive graphic skewness (SK_I).

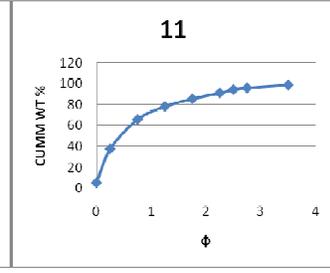
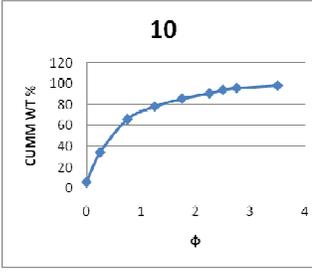
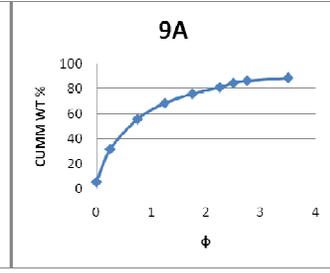
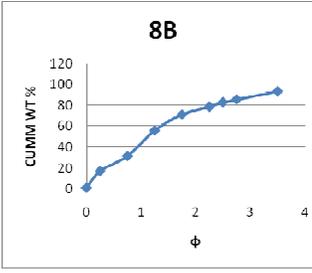
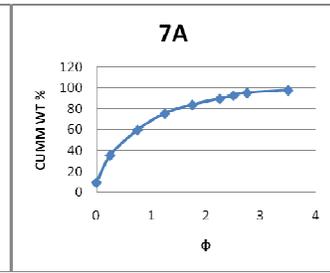
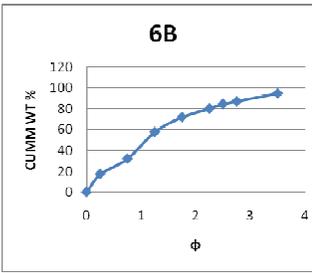
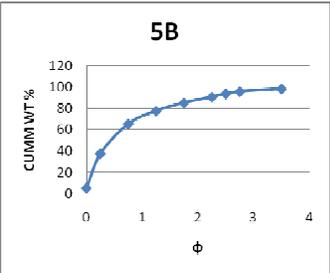
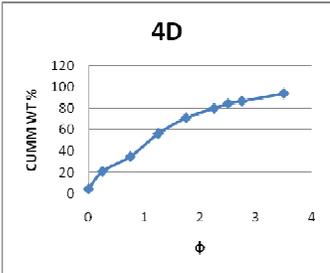
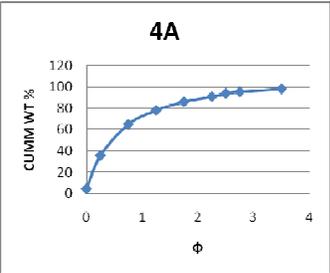
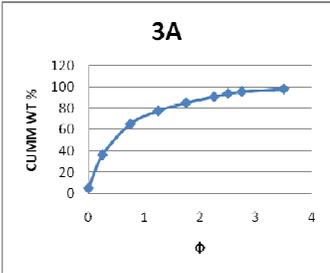
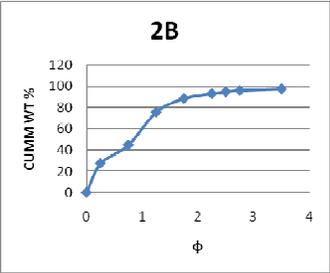
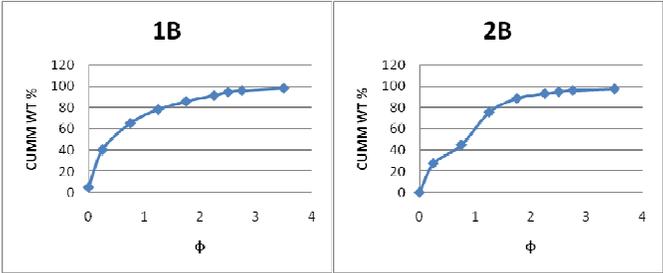
Heavy Minerals

Photomicrograph of the heavy mineral is presented on plate 1 – 11 in addition to the plots of pie and bar charts were made for the twelve samples (figure 11 – 15).

Notice the various colour and sizes of both opaque and non-opaque heavy minerals.

Transportation History

The mean values were used for classification of sandstones as it describes the average grain size of the sediments. The values obtained range from 0.67 – 1.30. The lowest mean value is 0.67 which belongs to sample S1B, while the peak value of 1.30 is associated with sample S8B. Therefore, the mean values that range from 0.6-1.0 are described to be medium grained while those samples with mean values greater than 1.0 such as samples S4D (1.29), S6A (1.26), S8B (1.3) and S9A (1.05) are described to contain coarse grained sediments with large minor clast.



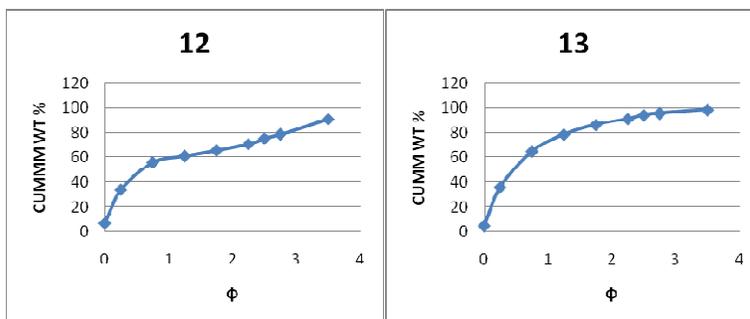


Figure 7. Cumulative percentage plots of the analysed samples

Table 5. Percentile values of selected sample locations

Percentile	1B	2B	3A	4A	4D	5B	6B	7A	8B	9A	10	11	12	13
5	0.0	0.05	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.06	0.0	0.05	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
16	0.08	0.15	0.08	0.10	0.26	0.08	0.28	0.08	0.25	0.08	0.1	0.08	0.05	0.03
25	0.15	0.22	0.15	0.18	0.5	0.15	0.45	0.15	0.43	0.2	0.15	0.20	0.1	0.15
50	0.35	0.7	0.40	0.45	1.10	0.4	1.05	0.43	1.05	0.58	0.4	0.4	0.36	0.45
75	1.08	1.25	1.15	1.15	1.95	1.10	1.9	1.10	2.0	1.65	1.12	1.10	1.10	1.12
84	1.58	1.52	1.65	1.60	2.5	1.65	2.45	1.60	2.6	2.5	1.60	1.65	1.65	1.6
95	2.65	2.45	2.75	2.65	3.6	2.60	3.45	2.65	3.63	3.6	2.65	2.60	2.65	2.6

Table 6. Values obtained from the calculated Mean, Inclusive standard deviation, and Inclusive graphic skewness of the selected sample locations

Percentile	1B	2B	3A	4A	4D	5B	6B	7A	8B	9A	10	11	12	13
Mean	0.67	0.79	0.71	0.72	1.29	0.71	1.26	0.70	1.3	1.05	0.7	0.71	0.69	0.69
Inclusive Standard Deviation(sorting)	0.78	0.70	0.81	0.78	1.11	0.78	1.05	0.78	1.13	1.15	0.78	0.78	0.8	0.78
Inclusive Graphic Skewness	0.69	0.28	0.69	0.60	0.32	0.88	0.71	0.61	0.38	0.89	0.65	0.65	0.67	0.56

Therefore, two main sediment size types which varies from coarse to medium grain are present. The coarse conglomeratic natured sediments observed were associated with high energy conditions in which smaller grains were washed away leaving the coarse, pebbly grains that were too heavy due to gravity to be carried away by the water current. Such sediments are suggested to be within the upper course of a river regime. On the contrary, the medium grained sediments of the other samples are suggested to have been carried further down the river channel at a relatively lower energy of transportation. Moreover, sample location S2B is suggested to be the finest of the three classes in grain size and as such transported farer than the other two groups of relative sand size class; with a more relatively low energy of transportation. Hence, a form of lateral gradation or down grading phenomenon is obtained, whereby, sample from locations S4D, S6B, S8B and SS9A were weathered, transported and deposited at the upper course of the river, while, sample from locations S1B, S3A, S4A, S5B, S7A, S10, S11, S12 and S13 were deposited further down- stream and location 2B was

probably deposited at the mouth of the river.

Another important statistical parameter utilized for the deduction of the transport history is Inclusive standard deviation (sorting). The sorting measures the scatter around the mean and the greater the scatter, the higher the standard deviation and the poorer the sorting. The statistical calculation indicated a sorting values range from 0.70 - 1.15. The lowest value (0.70) corresponds to location S2B while the highest (sorting) value (1.15) belongs to location S9A. The classification class of 0.5 – 0.71 defined as moderately well sorted is only found in location S2B; 0.71 – 1.0 defined as moderately sorted encompasses sample locations S1B, S3A, S4A, S5B, S7A, S10, S11, S12, and S13; while value range 1.0-2.0 defined as poorly sorted is associated with sample locations S4D, S6B, S8B and S9A. The spread of sorting values is a reflection of distance of transportation, energy and environment of deposition as described for “mean”. Therefore, the poorly sorted sediments of locations S4D, S6B, S8B and S9A have not been transported far away from their source; high energy of transportation which did not permit hydraulic sorting and probably associated with

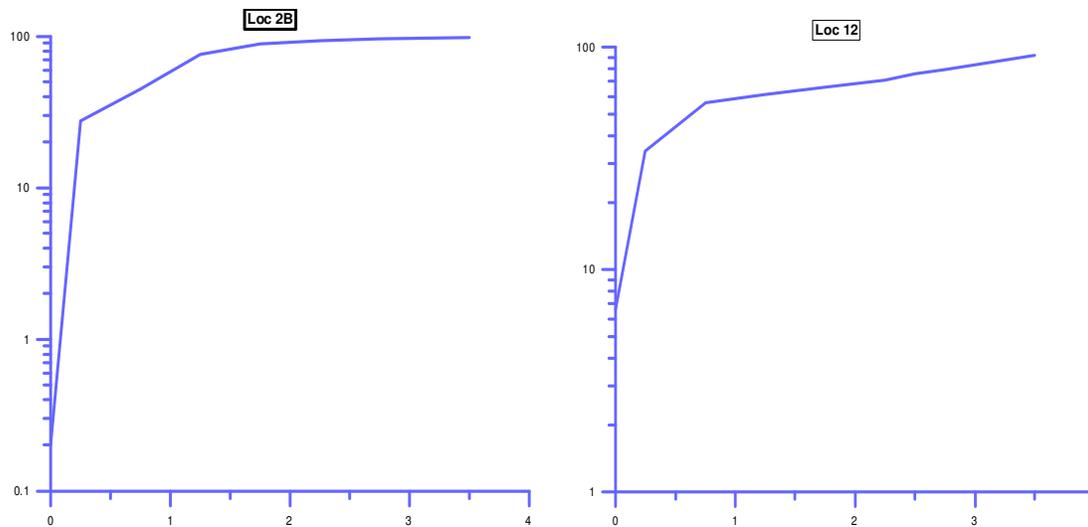


Figure 8a. Representative plot showing the 3 main sediment types for Location 2B and 12

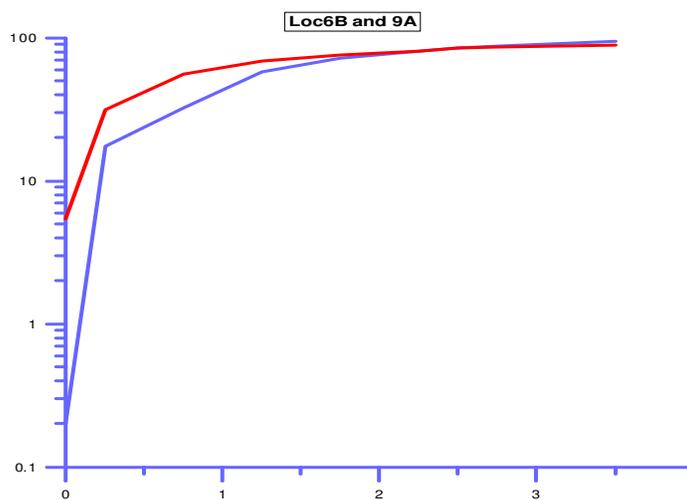


Figure 8b. Representative plot showing sediment type for Location 6B and 9A

flash flood of water volume and relatively high rate of sedimentation is suggested to be responsible. On the other hand, the moderately sorted sediments indicates that they have been transported relatively farer away from their source as a result of relatively lower energy of transportation at regular intervals that permitted fair hydraulic sorting at the lower course of a river. The location S2B is moderately well sorted, finer grained; thus, have been transported very far from source at regular low energy of transportation at the distal part of the lower course of river channel or probably deposited within transitional environment at a relatively low sedimentation rate.

The Inclusive graphic skewness (SK_i) is the last parameter calculated for the interpretation of the

sediment transport history. This determines or measures symmetry in the scatter of a distribution as well as the degree of lopsidedness of a curve (See figure 9c). The skewness (SK_i) value ranges from 0.28 – 0.89. A classification group of 0.1-0.3 defines finely skewed sediments such as location S2B; while 0.3-1.0 defines severely finely skewed sediments such as may be found in other suit of sediments. The fine skewed nature of the sediments exhibits sediments input from various sources of tributaries whereas the finely skewed nature implies a low velocity than normal. Representative plot of the three main sediment types identified in this study were plotted using probability log graph in order to further understand mechanism of transportation of the sediments (figure 8a and b). Sample S2B displays three segments of

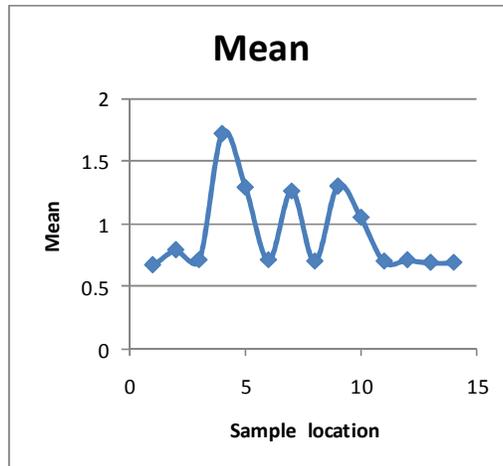


Figure 9a. Variogram of mean for the selected locations

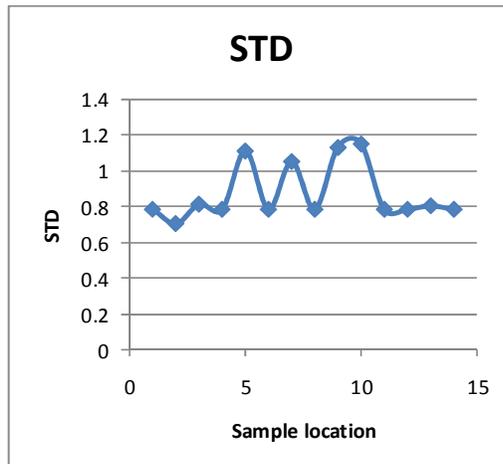


Figure 9b. Variogram of inclusive standard deviation for the selected locations

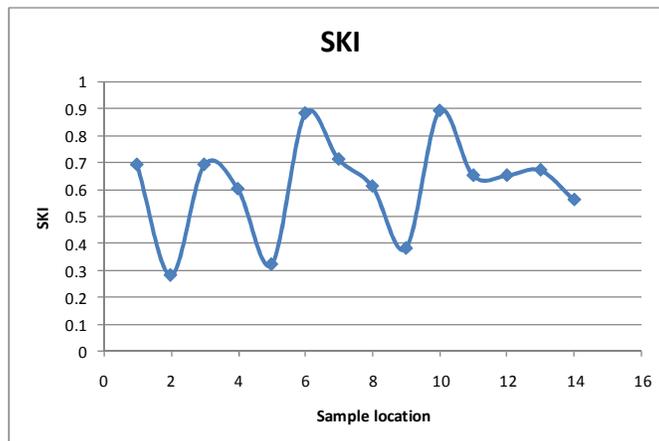


Figure 9c. Variogram of Inclusive graphic skewness for the selected sample locations

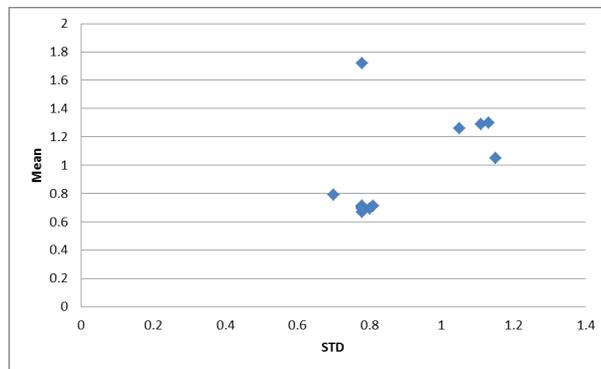


Figure10a. Cross Plot of mean against standard deviation (After Friedman, 1967)

transportation characterized by rolling, saltation and suspension. The amount of grains in rolling segment is relatively low, indicative of lower energy of transportation; while most of the sand grains present are dominant in the suspension segments, but moderate in saltation segments. Therefore, such sediment is suggested to have more hydraulic sorting impact in order to achieve moderately well sorted definition. Location S12 is also characterized by three transportation mechanism but it contains most of its sand grains in saltation regime, while quite a fair amount of coarse grains (rolling) are still present in the sediment suite. Thus, a relatively higher energy of transportation which afforded movement of coarse sediments and few amounts of grains in suspension is ascribed. Two different plots constituting locations S6B and S9A were superimposed (Figure 8b). Sample location S6B is characterized by the three fundamental mechanism of sediment movement; large percentage of coarse size grains is present, moderate grains in saltation segment and relatively low amount of fine sediment in suspension class. It is suggested that the sediment was carried by high energy current and under a high rate of sedimentation. Location S9A has several segments of straight lines joining the points. This indicate sediments of various sizes ranging from pebble through coarse to fine grains; transported at high energy but in flashes. This however, is also responsible for poor sorting of this sediments and are suggested to be deposited in the upper course of a river.

Source area of the sediments

The ZTR Index calculated from the result of heavy minerals analysis for the selected twelve samples varies from 45.0-75%. Majority of the sample locations have >50% ZTR index. Only two locations have <50% ZTR index (Locations S5A and S8B). The high ZTR indices suggest that almost all the locations contain mineralogically immature sediments except the questionably relatively low ZTR indices of locations S5A

and S8B (See Table 4)

The pie chart (figure 14) shows heavy mineral percentage distribution of location S1A; Zircon has the highest occurrence of 29% followed by Staurolite (20%) and Tourmaline (12%). The lowest heavy mineral occurrence is Kyanite with 2%. Locations S2B, S3A, S4B, and S4C follow the same trend as found in location S1A. The bar chart of Location 4D shows that Zircon has >10% and Epidote with lowest amount; same is applied to Location 6B (See Figure 15). Locations S5A and S7A show that Zircon and Tourmaline have high frequency percentage occurrence in the order; while location S8B and S12 show Tourmaline with highest frequency percent of 31% and 28% respectively; Also in location S10 both Zircon and Stourolite have 27% highest occurrence followed by Tourmaline 19% and Rutile 15%; lowest occurrence of 4% is shared among Kyanite, Silimanite and Garnet.

Summation of the opaque minerals obtained in the slide section distribution is presented in Figure 11. The figure reveals that location S5A has the highest occurrence of over 100 while the lowest recovery is present in location S4D. The percentage distribution of opaque heavy minerals distribution is shown in Figure 12-13. Distribution bar chart of the ZTR index shows that majority of the sample locations have greater than 40% ZTR which is suggestive of texturally immature sediments except Location 2B with relatively lower ZTR index within the threshold of mature sediment.

CONCLUSION

Friedman, (1967) suggested the determination of paleoenvironment of deposition of sediments from grain size analysis by cross plotting values obtained from Inclusive graphic skewness against Inclusive graphic standard deviation (Figure 10b) and a cross plot of mean values against Inclusive graphic standard deviation (Figure 10a).The graphical plots (Figures 10a and 10b) show that all the samples analyzed for this study were

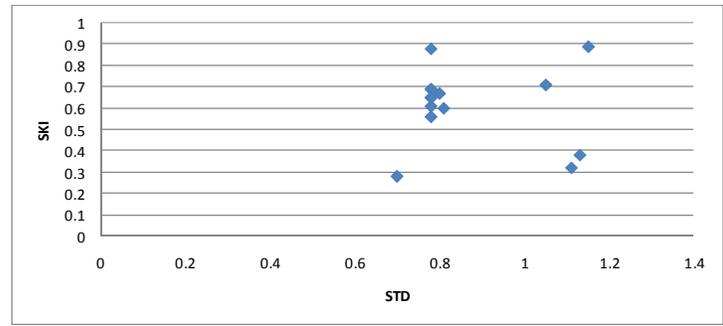


Figure 10b. Cross Plot of Inclusive graphic skewness and Inclusive graphic standard deviation (After Friedman, 1967)

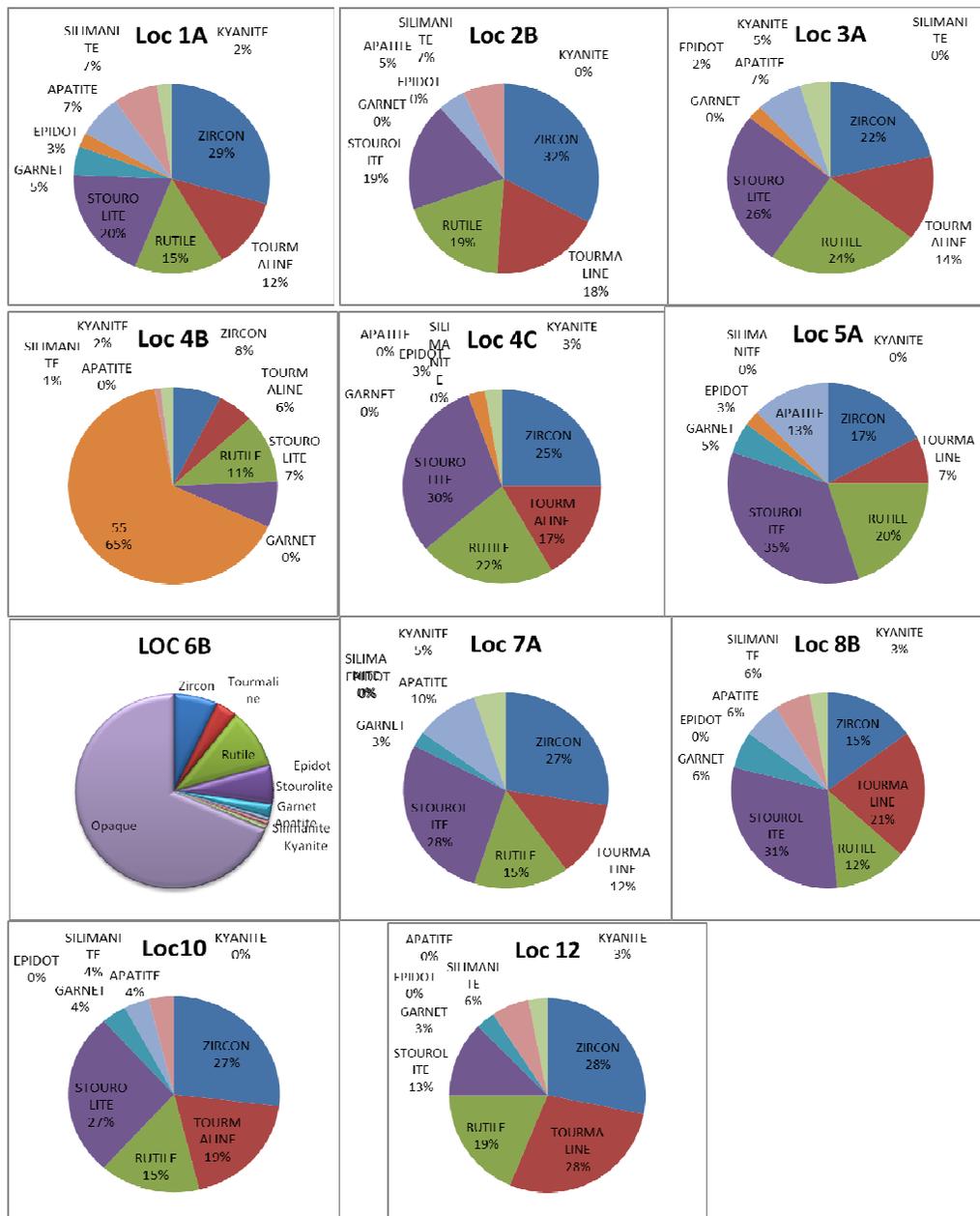


Figure 11. Pie chart of heavy mineral distribution for some sampling locations

OP

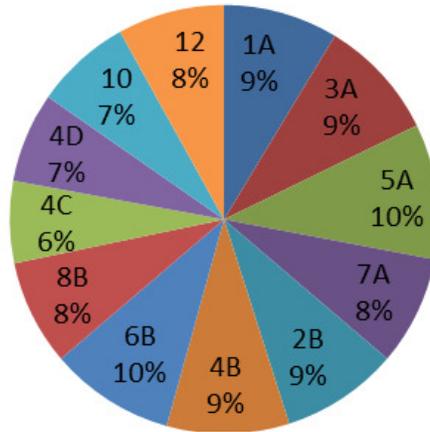


Figure 12. Percentage distribution pie chart of opaque minerals

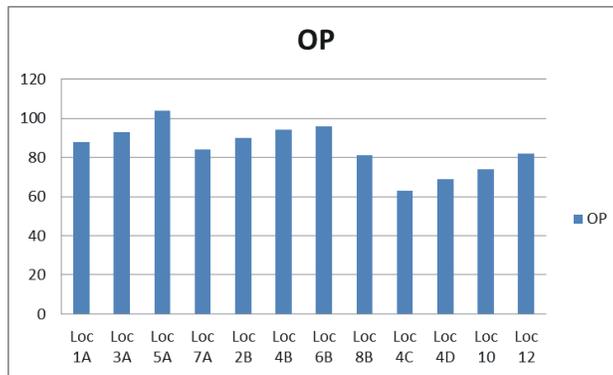


Figure 13. Frequency distribution bar chart of opaque minerals

ZTR

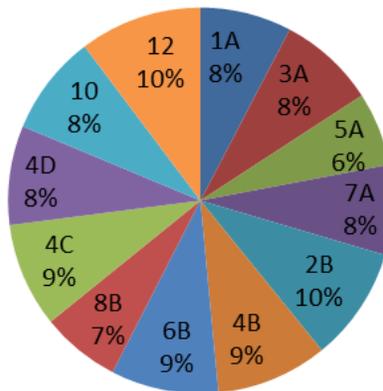


Figure 14. Pie chart of ZTR index in percentage of selected locations

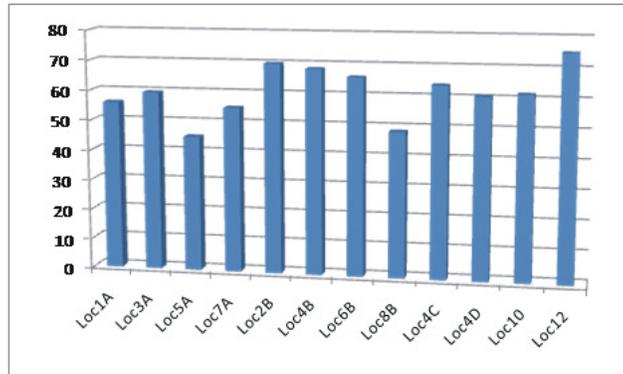


Figure 15. Bar chart of ZTR index of selected locations

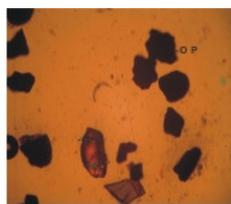


PLATE 1:
Heavy Mineral Photomicrograph of
Location 1A

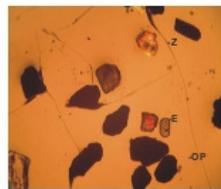


PLATE 2:
Heavy Mineral Photomicrograph of
Location 2B

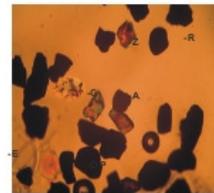


PLATE 3:
Heavy Mineral Photomicrograph of
Location 3B



PLATE 4:
Heavy Mineral Photomicrograph of
Location 4C

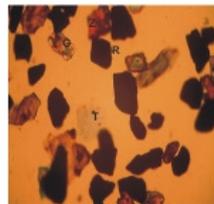


PLATE 5:
Heavy Mineral Photomicrograph of
Location 4D



PLATE 6:
Heavy Mineral Photomicrograph of
Location 5A

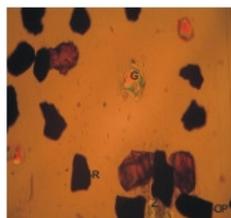


PLATE 7:
Heavy Mineral Photomicrograph of
Location 6B

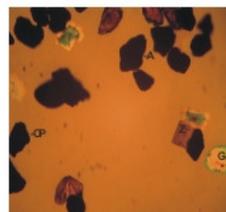


PLATE 8:
Heavy Mineral Photomicrograph of
Location 7A

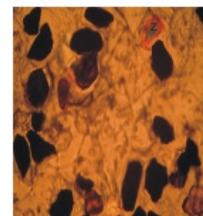


PLATE 9:
Heavy Mineral Photomicrograph of
Location 8B

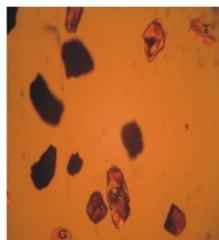


PLATE 10:
Heavy Mineral Photomicrograph of
Location 10

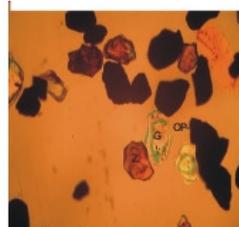


PLATE 11:
Heavy Mineral Photomicrograph of
Location 12

Figure 16. Photomicrograph of heavy mineral suites of samples selected

deposited by a river. However, a close observation as shown in Figure 10b shows that sample S2B was deposited at the fringe of the beach environment or better described to be influenced by transitional environment of both river and marine effects. The combined unidirectional and multiple directional water wave effect is suggested to be responsible for moderately well sorted impact on the sediment. Lateral grading or down grading is also apparent; whereby samples S9A, S8B, S6B continued to improve in sorting, though they are all poorly sorted, but gradually become moderately sorted as the sediments get closer towards marine environment. This is reflected in locations S1B and S3A. Thus, the sediments of samples S4D, S6B, S8B and S9A are texturally immature while as the downgrading progresses samples S1B, S3A, S4A, S5A, S7A, S10, S11, S12 and S13 are texturally sub mature while sample S2B is texturally mature because of its proximity to beach environment.

Some of the sediments in the locations studied are suggested to be from both igneous and metamorphic rocks and also possibly from volcanic source. All locations except location S2B did not contain garnet and Kyanite heavy minerals which are indicative of metamorphic source. The mono-source characteristic could also be responsible for the moderately well sorted exhibited by particles deposited in the location. Also, all locations except location S4B is characterized by sediment input from volcanic source due to the presence of Apatite heavy mineral which is a source indicator. The combined suites of sediment source characterized by different geologic evolution could be an additional factor responsible for degree of weathering imparted on the sand grains; consequently, they have different degrees of sorting.

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