

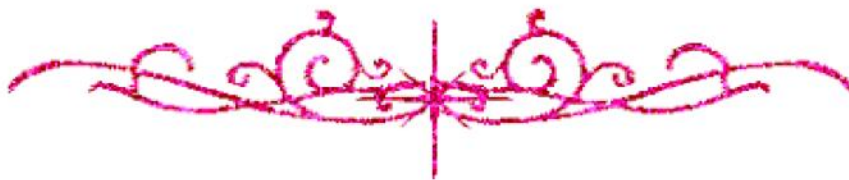
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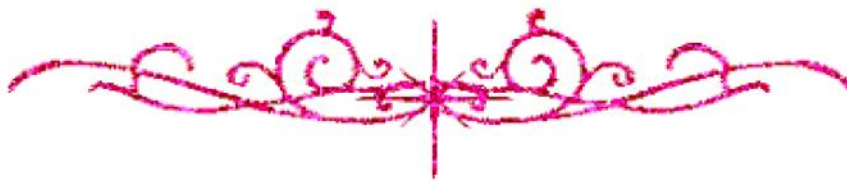
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لم ترد بالأصل



HOSSAM MAGHRABY

*Ecological Studies on Macrobenthic
Invertebrates, in the Intertidal
zone of the Suez Region*

B16#06

By

*Aisha Ahmed Mohamed Belal
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Demonstrator in

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Aqaba and Suez Gulfs Branch*

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Suez Canal University

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*Dean and
Chairman of the
B. Sc. Board*

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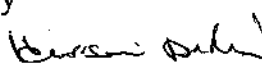
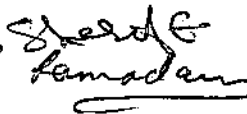
Faculty of Science

Zoology Department

Title : "Ecological Studies on Macrobenthic Invertebrates in the Intertidal Zone of the Suez Region".

Name : *Aisha Ahmed Mohamed Belal*

Supervisors :

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Prof. Dr. H.K. Badawi	President of National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Egypt.	
Dr. Sh. E. Ramadan	Associate Proferssor of Marine Invertebrates, National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Alexandria.	
Dr. H. A. El-Serehy	Associate Professor of Marine Invertebrates, Faculty of Science, Suez Canal University.	

Zoology Department head
Professor

Referees Decision

Title : "Ecological Studies on Macrobenthic Invertebrates in the Intertidal Zone of the Suez Region".

Name : *Aisha Ahmed Mohamed Belal*

Referees :

Name	
1- Prof. Dr. H.K. Badawi.	<i>H.K. Badawi</i>
2- Prof. Dr. A.N. Kayed.	<i>A.N. Kayed</i>
3- Prof. Dr. R. Boulos.	<i>Ramy Boulos</i>
4- Assitant Profssor Sh. E. Ramadan.	<i>Sh. E. Ramadan</i>

Date of Discussion:

Degree of Dissertation:

Referees Signature:

Name	Signature
1- Prof. Dr. H.K. Badawi.	
2- Prof. Dr. A.N. Kayed.	<i>A.N. Kayed</i>
3- Prof. Dr. R. Boulos.	
4- Assitant Profssor Sh. E. Ramadan.	<i>Sh. E. Ramadan</i>

Zoology Department head
Professor M.E. Mohallal

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
قالوا

سُبْحَانَكَ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ أَعْلَمُ الْغُيُوبِ

أَنَا أَنْتَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ

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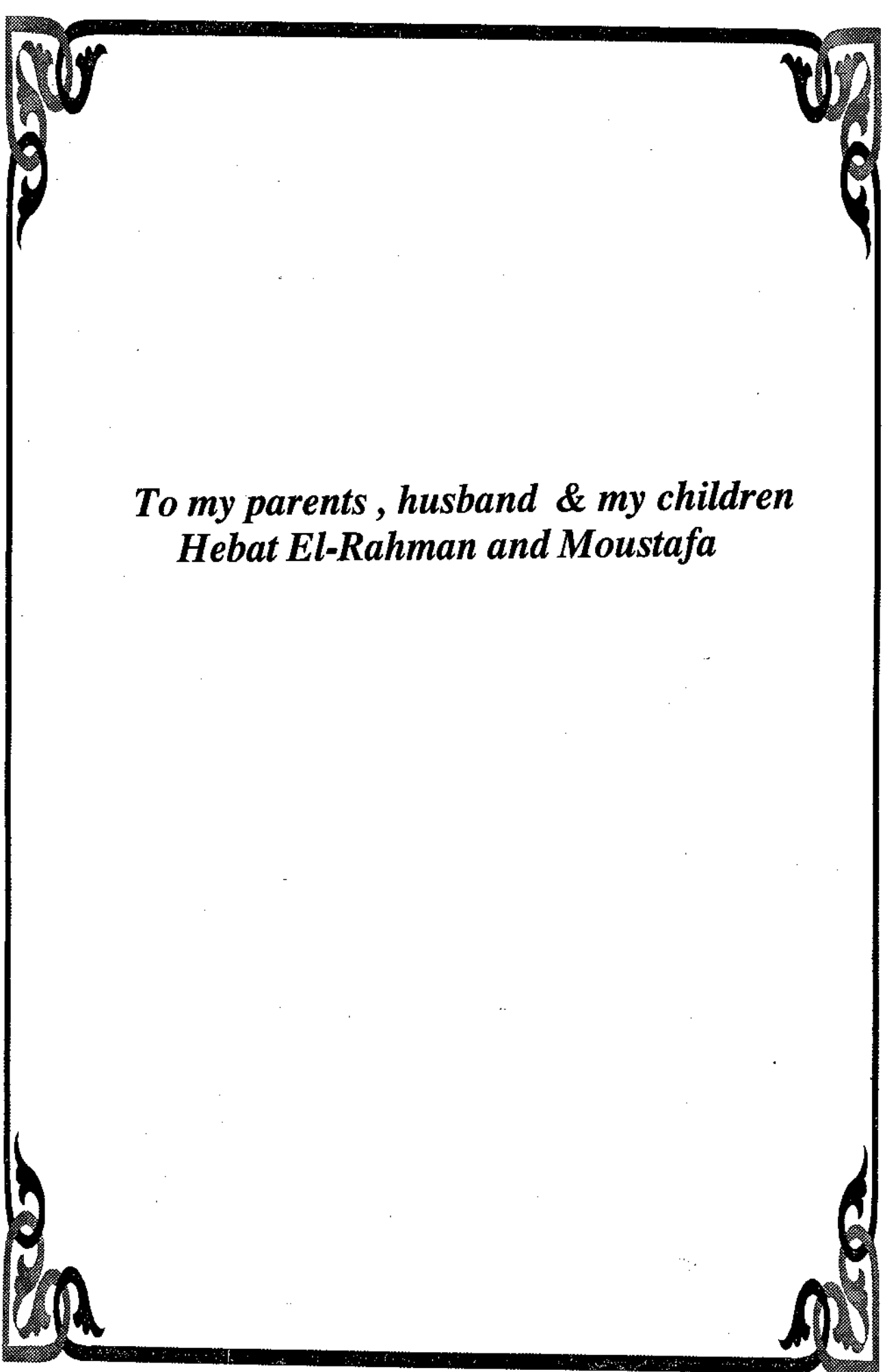
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*To my parents , husband & my children
Hebat El-Rahman and Moustafa*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Large areas of the sea floor are covered by uncompacted deposits of mud, sand or gravel. Nearly every type of marine deposit, except for a few exposed to excessive disturbance by waves or currents, is inhabited by an assemblage of animals, these are called benthic animals, which spend all or most of their life in or on the bottom of different aquatic habitats. Their role from an economic stand point is to convert detritus and small planktonic and bottom-living organisms into fish food (Holme, 1964). The larval stages of most benthic fauna occurring in the plankton serve as a good source of food for many pelagic fishes (Farag, 1981). Molluscs furnish the food requirements for some bottom invertebrates (Petersen and Jensen 1911; Broekhuysen, 1936; Nimoto, 1972 and Tyler, 1972). Crustaceans are also important food for many fishes. Steven (1930) found *Portunus depurator* in stomach of many fishes. Polychaetes act as good source of organic matter after their death and decay. *Ampelisca* spp. have also been identified as important dietary items in the food of valuable ground fish (Lee, 1944; Smith, 1950; Pratt, 1973; Edwards and Bowman, 1979).

The first basic studies on the littoral benthic fauna of the Red Sea were performed by Ruppell (1828/1830); Ehrenberg (1834); Klunzinger (1877, 1879) and Heller (1861 a,b).

In the Red Sea the polychaetes were estimated by Gravier (1906 and 1908). Also, the polychaete fauna of the Red sea is relatively well known, important recent works including Hartmann-schroder (1960), Day (1965) published on the polychaete fauna collected from south Red Sea in 1962, while Monro (1937), Fauvel (1955) and Laubier (1966 and 1970) reported on the Red Sea polychaetes which migrated to the eastern Mediterranean. Ben-Eliahu (1977) estimated the polychaete cryptofauna from rims of similar vermetid reefs