
THE ORIGIN OF RHOMBOIDAL PATTERN ON SANDY BEACHES

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ABSTRACT

Rhomboidal pattern consists of a series of rather evenly spaced, criss-crossed lines formed on the sand of the beach by the action of the swash and backwash. As a wave breaks at an acute angle against the shore, the swash moves diagonally up the slope then flows back in a course that makes an acute angle with the direction of its ascent. In general, the stronger the current of the swash and backwash, the greater the distances between the parallel lines forming the pattern. The rhomboidal pattern forms best when the slope of the beach is such that the velocities of the swash and the backwash are nearly equal.
