

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM GBRMPA-TM-8

GEOMORPHOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE:
REEF COVER AND ZONATION ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

D. A. KUCHLER

June 1986

(submitted 1983)

SUMMARY

A glossary of generally accepted coral reef geomorphological nomenclature has yet to be developed for reef features on the Great Barrier Reef (GBR). A survey of GBR literature for trends in usage of terms describing surface reef covers and zonation allows a proposal for geomorphological nomenclature. Such a nomenclature is needed for the labelling and comparison of Landsat and aerial photograph interpretation maps of coral reefs of the GBR.

The various coral reef geomorphological terms used by scientists in published literature on the GBR are researched. The terms are then assessed for their appropriateness to different scales of mapping until a term is selected for the nomenclature. A full listing of the literature is included.

Illustrations of the coral reef features or zones proposed for the nomenclature are generally not given here, but are listed in Technical Memorandum TM-7, "Reef cover and zonation classification system for use with remotely sensed Great Barrier Reef data". As a secondary reference document, this paper has subsidiary relevance to data collection operations.

This work draws heavily on the research for, and content of, Kuchler's "Geomorphological separability, Landsat MSS and aerial photographic data: Heron Island Reef, Great Barrier Reef, Australia", (1984). Two of the Figures referred to here may be found in Kuchler, 1984.

KEYWORDS: nomenclature, remote sensing, GBR, reef morphology.

Technical memoranda are of a preliminary nature, and represent the views of the author, not necessarily those of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Please address comments or requests for additional copies to:

The Executive Officer,
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority,
P.O. Box 1379, TOWNSVILLE, AUSTRALIA, Q4810.

© Commonwealth of Australia

ISSN 0817-6094

ISBN 0-642-52521-8