



HANNO D. VETTER

BACHELOR THESIS

**COMMUNITY STRUCTURES AND
DIVERSITY IN A SMALL AND POORLY
PROTECTED SOUTH AFRICAN
INTERTIDAL HABITAT, BOULDER SHORES**

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Institute for Landscape Ecology – University of Muenster, Germany
Marine Research Institute – University of Cape Town, South Africa

Abstract

Several studies have provided hints towards the distinctiveness of community structures of boulder shores. Due to their complexity, this shore type and many other mixed shores have been avoided, resulting in a severe lack of research. This study aims to provide an initial assessment of the unique habitat that boulders comprise and consequently, highlights the need for conservation of these. In fact, all hypotheses were approved by results found. Differences are evident across whole transects of shores, only the type of difference varies with variation of vertical height levels. In conclusion, the necessity of appropriate protection of this unique habitat type is urgent, as it is one of the smallest habitats of South Africa and already critically endangered.