

CONTENTS

	Page
1. INTRODUCTION.	1
2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE.	3
2.1. Physiographic features of study area.	3
2.1.1. Location and description of the study area.	3
2.1.2. Climate.	4
2.1.2.1. Temperature.	6
2.1.2.2. Rainfall.	6
2.1.2.3. Relative humidity.	6
2.1.2.4. Evaporation.	8
2.1.2.5. Wind speed.	8
2.1.2.6. The climatic zone.	8
2.1.2.7. Temperature and soil moisture regime.	8
2.2. Geology.	13
2.3. Geomorphology.	19
2.4. Water resources.	22
2.4.1. Ground water origin.	23
2.4.2. Surface water origin.	24
2.5. Natural vegetation.	25
2.6. Agriculture.	26
3. MATERIALS AND METHODS.	28
3.1. Landsat image visual interpretation.	28
3.2. Field investigation.	28
3.3. Laboratory analyses.	30
3.3.1. Physical analyses.	30
3.3.2. Chemical analyses.	30
3.3.3. Mineralogical analyses.	31
3.3.3.1. Mineralogical analyses of the sand fraction.	31
3.3.3.2. Mineralogical analyses of the clay fraction.	32
3.4. Soil Taxonomy.	33
3.5. Land Evaluation.	33
4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.	34
4.1. Remote sensing investigation.	34
4.2. Soils characteristics.	36

	Page
4.2.1. Soils of marine sediments.(M)	36
4.2.2. Soils of lacustrine sediments. (L)	47
4.2.3. Soils of fluvio-lacustrine sediments. (FL)	54
4.2.4. Soils of aeolian plain. (E)	59
4.3. Field morphological rating.	71
4.3.1. Relative Horizon Distinctness (RHD).	72
4.3.2. Relative Profile Distinctness (RPD).	77
4.4. Microelements of the studied soils.	79
4.4.1. Total iron.	79
4.4.2. Total manganese.	85
4.4.3. Total zinc.	89
4.4.4. Total copper.	93
4.5. Mineralogy of soil materials.	98
4.5.1. Mineralogy of sand fraction.	98
4.5.1.1. Light minerals.	98
4.5.1.2. Heavy minerals.	102
4.5.2. Mineralogy of clay fraction.	109
4.5.2.1. Clay mineralogy of marine soils.	111
4.5.2.2. Clay mineralogy of lacustrine soils.	118
4.5.2.3. Clay mineralogy of fluvio-lacustrine soils	118
4.5.2.4. Genesis of the clay minerals.	118
4.6. Uniformity of soil materials.	120
4.6.1. The granulometric analysis.	121
4.6.1.1. Soils of marine sediments.	122
4.6.1.2. Soils of lacustrine sediments.	126
4.6.1.3. Soils of fluvio- lacustrine sediments.	126
4.6.1.4. Soils of aeolian plain.	130
4.6.2. Weathering ratio.	135
4.7. Soil classification.	138
4.8. Land suitability classification for agriculture use.	142
4.8.1. Soils of grade (II).	147
4.8.2. Soils of grade (III).	147
4.8.3. Soils of grade (IV).	147
4.8.4. Soils of grade (V).	147
4.9. Land suitability classification for different crops.	148

	Page
4.9.1. Soils of marine sediments.	152
4.9.2. Soils of lacustrine sediments.	152
4.9.3. Soils of fluvio-lacustrine sediments.	152
4.9.4. Soils of aeolian plain.	152
5. SUMMARY.	153
6. REFERENCES.	160
ARABIC SUMMARY.	