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CLAY MINERALS DISTRIBUTION OF SUPRATIDAL REGION, SOUTH OF IRAQ

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ABSTRACT

Two boreholes were chosen in the southern part of Mesopotamian flood plain. Grain —size distribution, x-ray diffraction, and chemical analysis were determined on the clay fraction. The results showed that the dominant clay mineral is kaolinite followed by palygorskite, illite, montmorillonite and illite- montmorillonite mixed layers. It is suggested that the origin of palygorskite is a neof ormation in sabkha region, in the presence of high evaporation, hypersaline and notable quantity of carbonates.