Chapter 6

THE GULF OF ADEN AND NORTHWEST ARABIAN SEA

Z. R. Beydoun
Department of Geology
American University of Beirut
Beirut, Lebanon

I. INTRODUCTION

The area discussed in this chapter extends from Ras el Hadd along the southeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula to Bab el Mandab at the entrance of the Red Sea, and the Horn of Africa from its connection with the Red Sea to the eastern tip of the Socotra archipelago (Fig. 1). It thus covers the maritime regions of South Oman, Dhofar, and North and South Yemen in Arabia and parts of the Afar region of Ethiopia, Djibouti, and the maritime part of the Somali Republic, as well as the Socotra archipelago which forms, territorially, part of South Yemen on the African side. These regions bound the Gulf of Aden but also include that part of the Arabian Sea west of the Owen Fracture Zone (Fig. 1). The approximate limits lie between longitudes 40° to 60°E and are between latitudes 9° to 14°N in the western part of the region, and 12° to 23°N in the eastern part.

Following scattered, and, in the main, geographical, exploratory work in the late 19th century, more extensive reconnaissance geological surveys and/or laboratory work on samples from them were carried out by Lloyd (1910), Little (1925), Lees (1928), de Chardin \textit{et al.} (1930), Basse (1930), Von Wissmann (1932), Lamare (1936), and Von Wissmann \textit{et al.} (1942) in Arabia and by Blandford (1869), Kossmat (1907), Pelikan (1907), de Chardin (1910), Little (1925), Lees (1928), de Chardin \textit{et al.} (1930), Basse (1930), Von Wissmann (1932), Lamare (1936), and Von Wissmann \textit{et al.} (1942) in Arabia and by Blandford (1869), Kossmat (1907), Pelikan (1907), de Chardin (1910), Little (1925), Lees (1928), de Chardin \textit{et al.} (1930), Basse (1930), Von Wissmann (1932), Lamare (1936), and Von Wissmann \textit{et al.} (1942) in Arabia and by Blandford (1869), Kossmat (1907), Pelikan (1907), de Chardin (1910), Little (1925), Lees (1928), de Chardin \textit{et al.} (1930), Basse (1930), Von Wissmann (1932), Lamare (1936), and Von Wissmann \textit{et al.} (1942) in Arabia and by Blandford (1869), Kossmat (1907), Pelikan (1907), de Chardin
Fig. 1. Location-index map: Gulf of Aden–N.W. Arabian Sea region.