MULTISPECTRAL ANALYSIS OF SURFACE FEATURES IN THE STUDY OF THE EVOLUTION OF BARRIER ISLANDS

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An unusual feature, a series of concentric beach ridges, appears in multispectral imagery, simulated IR imagery, and in computer-generated plots of ERTS digital data from either the IR band or from a composited 4-channel representation of the digital data of Assateague Island(ERTS image #1079-15140). These features, while not directly visible from the ground, have been shown by ground analysis to be associated with an unusual arrangement of vegetation. The concentric arrangement of different plant associations is correlated with topographic features, such as small differences in elevation. The topgraphy is that associated with the development of a barrier island or barrier island chain. The location of the feature, 8 miles north of the end of Assateague gives information regarding the history of formation of the Island.

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