

# Review of: "Probabilistic Assessment of the Heavy Metal Pollution in Debrecen's Topsoil"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

I just read and evaluated the paper by Feher and Nagy on Debrecen's topsoil.

This paper is very interesting and important; it contributes to the overall knowledge about heavy metal pollution in urban soils.

The paper is completely acceptable for publishing; I only have some minor comments and ask the authors to include them in the text, performing a "minor revision."

In the Introduction, please mention and briefly describe a similar recent investigation of Zagreb urban soils in neighboring Croatia, published in Minerals. Here is the link to open access:

<https://www.mdpi.com/2075-163X/13/12/1481>

In statistics, I don't see the determination of anomalies using e.g., the boxplot method. It seems that it was not performed, and I encourage the authors to conduct this kind of analysis and get statistical anomalies (extremes and outliers) for each element, to be able to mention which locations are mostly anthropogenically affected. You can see how this approach looks in the recommended paper.

I don't see in the Results and Discussion chapter any comparison with other towns/cities in Europe or worldwide, so I strongly recommend the authors to add a paragraph or a sub-chapter in which they would compare concentrations of metals and pollution situations with some other cities; also, please see the recommended paper - you can make a comparison with Zagreb, but also in that paper, there are comparisons with some other cities - so you can use them for comparison.

Everything else is really very good, and I don't have any other objection or request for change. So, after performing those really minor things, I am looking to see this interesting and important paper accepted and published!

Kind regards and congratulations to the authors for a very good job!