

Peer Review

Review of: "Human Exposure to Arsenic and Toxic Metals Through Meat Consumption in Africa: A Review of the Scientific Literature"

Mahmoud Mahrous M. Abbas¹

1. Zoology, Al-Azhar University of Cairo, Egypt

As a reviewer for the review titled "Human Exposure to Arsenic and Toxic Metals Through Meat Consumption in Africa: A Review of Scientific Literature" submitted to Qeios, I appreciate the authors' efforts in addressing the critical issue of heavy metal accumulation in edible animal tissues. However, several significant concerns need to be addressed to enhance the manuscript's academic rigor and relevance.

Firstly, the study exhibits a pronounced geographical bias by focusing predominantly on Nigeria, thereby neglecting substantial data from other African countries. Numerous studies have investigated heavy metal concentrations in fish and meat across various African nations, including Tanzania, Kenya, Namibia, Botswana, Sudan, and Zambia.

Secondly, the manuscript's focus on various edible animal tissues, including liver and kidneys, while informative, may not align with typical consumption patterns in many African contexts, where muscle tissue is the primary component consumed. Concentrating the analysis on muscle tissue would enhance the study's applicability to public health assessments and dietary exposure evaluations.

In addition, the discussion section lacks a critical evaluation of the analytical techniques employed in the reviewed studies.

In conclusion, while the manuscript addresses a pertinent public health concern, it requires substantial revisions to address the highlighted issues. I recommend that the authors undertake a comprehensive review to broaden the geographical scope, focus on relevant tissues, incorporate a wider range of

literature, and provide a more detailed discussion of analytical methods and findings. Until these revisions are made, I do not recommend the manuscript for publication in its current form.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.