

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

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New Peer Review

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I have read through the manuscript and I have the following observations to make:

The manuscript is well-written and very comprehensive in terms of data analysis. However, I have some issues with the methodology which I suggest the authors need to explain/address.

- i. In the analytical procedure, it is indicated that the soil samples were sieved before . What is the aperture size of the sieve used? What is the aim of sieving the soil samples? What happens to the large particles that cannot go through the sieve? If they are discarded, will that not affect the results? The authors really need to be clear on this.
- ii. The concentration of the various metals was determined using an XRF analyzer, which to my understanding will determine all the metals present in the soil samples nondestructively. What if these metals are part of the geological makeup of the soils? Do we have a control sample? If the metals are part of the geology of the area, should they really be called pollutants? What are pollutants?