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Distribution of Heavy Metals in Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*) collected on the Highway Krushë e Madhe-Xërxë, Kosovo

Bardha Korça, Kaltrina Jusufi*, Ismet Hashani, Vlora Vrajolli, Besir Krasniqi

University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina", Faculty of Natural Sciences, Prishtinë, Kosovë

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Abstract: Pollution caused by traffic activities is increasingly becoming a great threat to human health in the region of Prizren in Kosovo. This area was exposed to the dense traffic for a long period; traffic is a major source of heavy metals pollution in the environment, including the garden soils used for the production of vegetables and fruits. The aim of this study is to determine the level of contamination with heavy metals in cabbage. Twelve cabbage samples were collected along the highway Krushë e Madhe - Xërxë, taking the samples at different distances on that highway. All samples were analyzed for their heavy metals concentrations (As, Cu, Cd, Hg, Pb and Zn). The results showed that the cabbage in the study area was polluted mostly with As, Pb and Hg. The As concentration in the cabbage showed values from 0,19 - 0.79 mg/kg, the Pb from 0.12 - 0,94 mg/kg and the Hg from 0.18 - 0.69 mg/kg. Also, the pollution of Cu was found to be 0.12 – 0.45 mg/kg and of Zn at 0.91 – 4.11 mg/kg. On the other hand, Cd appeared at much smaller concentration of 0.1 ppb. Bearing in mind that cabbage is a traditional food in Kosovo, the impact of this pollution may have an implication on public health.

Keywords: *traffic pollution, heavy metal concentration, cabbage, human health.*

*Corresponding: E-Mail: kaltrinajusufi@gmail.com