LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Comment on "Evaluation of Trace Metals Found in Bottled Waters Sold in Izmir Turkey in Ekoloji 21 (83): 84-88."

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Ekoloji is now at the start of a new era of publication as an open access journal. I think that open access publication marks a turning point that will make Ekoloji unique in the environmental research. In this article, we comment on the recent article "Evaluation of trace metals found in bottled waters sold in Izmir Turkey", published in the Journal of Ekoloji by Murat Yabanli (2012). Our aim is to show that some incorrect assumptions and data employed in the analysis results in invalid results and conclusions.

Ekoloji has published many outstanding articles in the field of trace metals research. I believe that open access publication marks a turning point that will make *Ekoloji* unique in the environmental researches.

Murat Yabanli published an article in the Journal of *Ekoloji*. In their article "Evaluation of trace metals found in bottled waters sold in Izmir Turkey", Murat Yabanli (2017), they investigated 30 brands of bottled water sold in the Izmir Province of Turkey, were investigated for the levels of 6 trace metals (Al, Cr, Cu, As, Cd, and Pb) important for public health and drinking water quality. Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) was used for the analysis of the trace metals. The highest metal ion concentrations obtained in the analyses of the samples was found to be 102.99 µg Al/L, 1.80 µg Cr/L, 40.22 µg Cu/L, 11.36 µg As/L, 0.08 µg Cd/L, and 2.79 µg Pb/L. The concentration levels revealed in this work were compared to the maximum concentration levels allowed by the WHO and other international standards, and as a result, a water sample of one brand, from the natural waters of Izmir, contained a total arsenic level (11.36 µg As/L) exceeding national and international standards. The topic is certainly interesting and worthy of investigation, but the authors relied on faulty assumptions and incorrect data which consequently led to erroneous conclusions.

This article puts forward an interesting topic worthy of investigation, but several incorrect methodologies were employed which could have resulted in inaccurate conclusions. These methods included an incorrect use of some indices and a misunderstanding of their applications. Moreover, the title of the article does not suit the modeling. These corresponding results could be potentially misleading where future decisions are to be made.