

## Editorial Manager Registration

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From: Journal of Environmental Radioactivity (em@editorialmanager.com)

To: eddy\_nurtjahya@yahoo.com

Date: Sunday, 16 October 2022 at 12:10 GMT+7

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Dear Dr. Eddy Nurtjahya,

Thank you for registering for the Editorial Manager online submission and peer review tracking system for Journal of Environmental Radioactivity.

Here is your username, which you need to access Editorial Manager at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jenvrad/>.

Username: eddynurtjahya

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Journal of Environmental Radioactivity

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## PDF for submission to Journal of Environmental Radioactivity requires approval

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From: Journal of Environmental Radioactivity (em@editorialmanager.com)

To: eddy\_nurtjahya@yahoo.com

Date: Wednesday, 19 October 2022 at 10:44 GMT+7

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\*This is an automated message.\*

Study of soil-to-plant Transfer Factors (TFs) of <sup>226</sup>Ra, <sup>232</sup>Th, and <sup>40</sup>K on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia

Dear Dr. Nurtjahya,

The PDF for your above referenced manuscript has been built and requires your approval. If you have already approved the PDF of your submission, this e-mail can be ignored.

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\* Confirm you have read and agree with Elsevier's Ethics in Publishing statement by ticking the relevant box.

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## JENVRAD-D-22-00443 - Confirming your submission to Journal of Environmental Radioactivity

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From: Journal of Environmental Radioactivity (em@editorialmanager.com)

To: eddy\_nurtjahya@yahoo.com

Date: Wednesday, 19 October 2022 at 11:13 GMT+7

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Study of soil-to-plant Transfer Factors (TFs) of <sup>226</sup>Ra, <sup>232</sup>Th, and <sup>40</sup>K on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia

Dear Dr. Nurtjahya,

We have received the above referenced manuscript you submitted to Journal of Environmental Radioactivity. It has been assigned the following manuscript number: JENVRAD-D-22-00443.

To track the status of your manuscript, please log in as an author at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jenvrad/>, and navigate to the "Submissions Being Processed" folder.

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## Decision on submission to Journal of Environmental Radioactivity

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From: Journal of Environmental Radioactivity (em@editorialmanager.com)

To: eddy\_nurtjahya@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, 10 November 2022 at 22:54 GMT+7

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Manuscript Number: JENVRAD-D-22-00443

Study of soil-to-plant Transfer Factors (TFs) of <sup>226</sup>Ra, <sup>232</sup>Th, and <sup>40</sup>K on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia

Dear Dr. Nurtjahya,

Thank you for submitting your manuscript to Journal of Environmental Radioactivity.

We have completed our evaluation of your manuscript. The one reviewer recommend rejection, I was the other reviewer and although I agree with what the reviewer said, I suggested many changes that might lead to an acceptable paper. You must download 3 files to see my comments. I invite you to resubmit your manuscript after addressing the comments below. Please resubmit your revised manuscript by Dec 01, 2022.

When revising your manuscript, please consider all issues mentioned in the reviewers' comments carefully: please outline every change made in response to their comments and provide suitable rebuttals for any comments not addressed. Please note that your revised submission may need to be re-reviewed.

To submit your revised manuscript, please log in as an author at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jenvrad/>, and navigate to the "Submissions Needing Revision" folder.

Research Elements (optional)

This journal encourages you to share research objects - including your raw data, methods, protocols, software, hardware and more – which support your original research article in a Research Elements journal. Research Elements are open access, multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed journals which make the objects associated with your research more discoverable, trustworthy and promote replicability and reproducibility. As open access journals, there may be an Article Publishing Charge if your paper is accepted for publication. Find out more about the Research Elements journals at [https://www.elsevier.com/authors/tools-and-resources/research-elements-journals?dgcid=ec\\_em\\_research\\_elements\\_email](https://www.elsevier.com/authors/tools-and-resources/research-elements-journals?dgcid=ec_em_research_elements_email).

Journal of Environmental Radioactivity values your contribution and I look forward to receiving your revised manuscript.

Kind regards,  
Steve Sheppard  
Editor-in-Chief

Journal of Environmental Radioactivity

Editor and Reviewer comments:

Reviewer #1: This study explored the transfer of radionuclide species from soil to crop (vegetable and fruit). However, the experiment is poor in design, hypothesis and novelty. English structure needs improvement very much. Some data like Figs. 1 and 3 show poor statistical concepts. Thus, this reviewer can not accept. Moreover, the abstract is very short and non-informative. The highlights are awkward.

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Manuscript marked by editor.docx

88kB



Table 1 Soil sample marked by Editor.docx

32.9kB



Table 4 Soil-to-plant Transfer Factors marked by Editor.docx

35.5kB

Revision of "Study of soil-to-plant Transfer Factors (TFs) of 226Ra, 232Th, and 40K on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia" is due soon

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From: Steve Sheppard (em@editorialmanager.com)

To: eddy\_nurtjahya@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, 24 November 2022 at 12:57 GMT+7

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\*This is an automated message.\*

Manuscript Number: JENVRAD-D-22-00443

Study of soil-to-plant Transfer Factors (TFs) of 226Ra, 232Th, and 40K on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia

Dear Dr. Nurtjahya,

We would like to remind you that on Nov 10, 2022 we asked you to revise your above referenced manuscript and your revision is due by Dec 01, 2022.

Journal of Environmental Radioactivity values your contribution and we look forward to receiving your revised manuscript.

To submit your revision, please log in as an author at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/JENVRAD/>, and navigate to the "Submissions Needing Revision" folder under the Author Main Menu. You will also find the decision letter and comments available there.

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Re: Revision of "Study of soil-to-plant Transfer Factors (TFs) of 226Ra, 232Th, and 40K on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia" is due soon

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From: Eddy Nurtjahya (eddy\_nurtjahya@yahoo.com)

To: sheppards@ecomatters.com

Date: Friday, 25 November 2022 at 11:14 GMT+7

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Dear Dr. Sheppard,

Thank you very much for your email informing us of the possibility of requiring more time to revise our major revisions. My colleague and I are still doing the revision and working a little hard on some data.

I personally am very grateful for this possibility. We need more time to revise and try to meet the requirement. Some administrative works and workshops have slowdown my work recently.

I am working hard to meet the requirement to submit the promotion proposal. Published international paper is very important.

While we are working on the revision, I am waiting for the extension time the journal may give us.

Thank you very much  
Best regards,

Eddy Nurtjahya  
Department of Biology  
Universitas Bangka Belitung  
Bangka Island, Indonesia

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On Thursday, 24 November 2022 at 12:57:25 GMT+7, Steve Sheppard <em@editorialmanager.com> wrote:



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Manuscript Number: JENVRAD-D-22-00443

Study of soil-to-plant Transfer Factors (TFs) of 226Ra, 232Th, and 40K on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia

Dear Dr. Nurtjahya,

We would like to remind you that on Nov 10, 2022 we asked you to revise your above referenced manuscript and your revision is due by Dec 01, 2022.

Journal of Environmental Radioactivity values your contribution and we look forward to receiving your revised manuscript.

To submit your revision, please log in as an author at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/JENVRAD/>, and navigate to the "Submissions Needing Revision" folder under the Author Main Menu. You will also find the decision letter and comments available there.

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Revision of "Study of soil-to-plant Transfer Factors (TFs) of 226Ra, 232Th, and 40K on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia" is due soon

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From: Steve Sheppard (em@editorialmanager.com)

To: eddy\_nurtjahya@yahoo.com

Date: Friday, 16 December 2022 at 12:59 GMT+7

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\*This is an automated message.\*

Manuscript Number: JENVRAD-D-22-00443

Study of soil-to-plant Transfer Factors (TFs) of 226Ra, 232Th, and 40K on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia

Dear Dr. Nurtjahya,

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Re: Revision of "Study of soil-to-plant Transfer Factors (TFs) of 226Ra, 232Th, and 40K on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia" is due soon

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From: Eddy Nurtjahya (eddy\_nurtjahya@yahoo.com)

To: sheppards@ecomatters.com

Date: Tuesday, 20 December 2022 at 13:11 GMT+7

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Dear Editor,

Thank you for your reminder. I confirm that I will submit the manuscript by December 23, 2022.

We are still finishing it.

Thank you for giving us the extension.

Best regards,

Eddy Nurtjahya

On Tuesday, 20 December 2022 at 13:01:41 GMT+7, Steve Sheppard <em@editorialmanager.com> wrote:



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Manuscript Number: JENVRAD-D-22-00443

Study of soil-to-plant Transfer Factors (TFs) of 226Ra, 232Th, and 40K on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia

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Revision of "Study of soil-to-plant Transfer Factors (TFs) of 226Ra, 232Th, and 40K on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia" is due soon

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From: Steve Sheppard (em@editorialmanager.com)

To: eddy\_nurtjahya@yahoo.com

Date: Tuesday, 20 December 2022 at 13:01 GMT+7

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Manuscript Number: JENVRAD-D-22-00443

Study of soil-to-plant Transfer Factors (TFs) of 226Ra, 232Th, and 40K on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia

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## PDF for submission to Journal of Environmental Radioactivity requires approval

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From: Journal of Environmental Radioactivity (em@editorialmanager.com)

To: eddy\_nurtjahya@yahoo.com

Date: Friday, 23 December 2022 at 18:34 GMT+7

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\*This is an automated message.\*

Study of soil-to-plant Transfer Factors (TFs) of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$ , and  $^{40}\text{K}$  on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia

Dear Dr. Nurtjahya,

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Please review the PDF carefully, before approving it, to confirm it appears as you expect and is free of any errors. Once approved, no further changes can be made.

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## Decision on submission to Journal of Environmental Radioactivity

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From: Journal of Environmental Radioactivity (em@editorialmanager.com)

To: eddy\_nurtjahya@yahoo.com

Date: Saturday, 4 February 2023 at 01:37 GMT+7

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Manuscript Number: JENVRAD-D-22-00443R1

Study of soil-to-plant Transfer Factors (TFs) of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$ , and  $^{40}\text{K}$  on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia

Dear Dr. Nurtjahya,

Thank you for submitting your manuscript to Journal of Environmental Radioactivity.

We have completed our evaluation of your manuscript. Several things need more work. The reviewers recommend reconsideration of your manuscript following major revision. I invite you to resubmit your manuscript after addressing the comments below and in two files you must download. Please resubmit your revised manuscript by Feb 17, 2023.

When revising your manuscript, please consider all issues mentioned in the reviewers' comments carefully: please outline every change made in response to their comments and provide suitable rebuttals for any comments not addressed. Please note that your revised submission may need to be re-reviewed.

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Journal of Environmental Radioactivity values your contribution and I look forward to receiving your revised manuscript.

Kind regards,  
Steve Sheppard  
Editor-in-Chief

Journal of Environmental Radioactivity

Editor and Reviewer comments:

Reviewer #3: The manuscript is concerned with study of soil-to-plant transfer factors (concentration ratios) of Ra-226, Th-232 and K-40 on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land. The subject fits into the scope of JENVRAD, and could in principle be interesting for the public concerned with naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM). Unfortunately, its overall quality and consequently scientific contribution is rather limited in terms of methodology

development, the novelty involved and the conclusions drawn. In my opinion, the manuscript should not be considered for publication. The main observations and reasons are listed below.

Motivation and consequently objective for the study are limited mostly to the determination of transfer factors (TFs) for a number of vegetables, fruit and staple food samples, grown on the former tin mining area. A reader may tend to feel that the work was method-driven (use of gamma-ray spectrometry as a measurement technique), rather than problem-driven (most relevant contaminant radionuclides in the area under investigation). This feeling is further emphasized by the fact that U-238 and Cs-137 were also measured but, due to low concentrations, not further considered in the manuscript. In the literature, one may find hundreds of publications concerned with TF determinations, so the present contribution does not represent a novel and original scientific value in radioecology. The authors should therefore address at least more parameters, such as the influence of soil composition, the differences between undisturbed sites versus mine land sites, etc.

In the Introduction section, the authors refer to IAEA TRS 364 (1994), an old publication that was superseded in 2010 by IAEA TRS 472, containing more recent data. They also fail to note that K, opposed to Ra and Th, is an essential element, thus having different physiological role in the studied organisms.

In the Materials and methods section, a part on quality assurance / quality control is completely missing. It is unclear how detection efficiency was determined, how measurement results were validated and measurement uncertainty assessed. If the values obtained are incorrect, then also TFs and the related conclusions are erroneous.

In the Results and discussion part, the authors in many cases fail to present experimental values containing significant number of digits only (e.g., in line 122: 97.30 and 323.12).

The authors sometimes quote secondary references (e.g., in line 123: Atipo et. al., who is giving the original reference of UNSCEAR 2008). In this particular case the values quoted by the authors does not match by the values given by Atipo. Furthermore, when consulting the UNSCEAR 2008 (Annex B, Table A-1), it appears that the activity concentrations are based on countries' data so it is unclear how the world averages were derived.

The authors present statistically obtained correlations Ra-K, Ra-Th and K-Th, without justifying the reason and importance. The results are presented in form of many excessive parameters (even not in form of tables) and does not appear further in the text for explanation of their potential influence on TFs.

In table 2, the TF values are presented, without explaining the meaning of values, following the +- sign. In many cases, the decimal places do not match (e.g., cucumber: 0.17+-0.1).

On page 9, line 165, the authors introduce the TF value of 0; such number does not exist in experiments and in real life.

On page 10, line 198, the authors discuss Cs-137, although they do not present any result for this radionuclide.

In table 3, my remark is similar as for the table 2; it is also not clear, what the authors mean by Asterix (\*) - significantly different between treatment.

In the Conclusions section, there are no scientifically sound conclusions given, apart from what is more or less known from other previously conducted and published studies. The conclusions are short and inconclusive. In the last sentence on page 11, line 213, the authors claim: "The non-edible parts hyperaccumulate Ra-226 and Th-232", without defining the word "hyperaccumulate". From the table 3, it is evident that only the TF value for Th in pepper and cassava is bigger than 1, which is far from Hyperaccumulation.

Reviewer #4: Dear Authors

I have read your paper titled "Study of soil-to-plant Transfer Factors (TFs) of 226Ra, 232Th, and 40K on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia" and I have some comments

General comments: The paper is interesting and contain important data for the scientists. I have mainly editing problems with the paper. Plase check my detailed comments

Detailed comments:

1. Highlights: "The non-edible parts hyperaccumulate 226Ra and 232Th" which plants or the each studied? This point should rephrase.

2. Keywords: to long keywords more or less sentences

3. Introduction: more comprehensive literature study should be inserted from the last years

eg Transfer of radionuclides from soil to acacia auriculiformis tree in high radioactive background areas in North Vietnam DOI: 10.1016/j.jenvrad.2021.106530; Transfer of 40K, 226Ra and 210Pb from soil to plants in various

locations of El-Jadida agricultural area (north-western Morocco) <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202131401004>;

Study of soil to plant transfer factors of 226Ra, 232Th, 40K and 137Cs in Vietnamese

crops <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvrad.2020.106416>;

4. Chapter "3.2. The correlation of radionuclide activity in soil" there are some tables without numbering but the more seriuse problem of this chapter the importance

What was your expectations OK there is no significant correlation between the potassium and the radium but it was expected? for exampel due to teh structure of the soil etc

Therefore the chapter is too long or not necessary and the text not contain more informations that the authors wrote in the tables.

If the chapter contain any additional data about the soil characteristics (sandy, clay, marl etc) in that case this correlation study is welcome

5. References: as I mentioned previously little bit more deep literature study is necessary putting this results to the map

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Table 3 Mean TFs of edible and non-edible parts (rev 2) marked by Editor.docx

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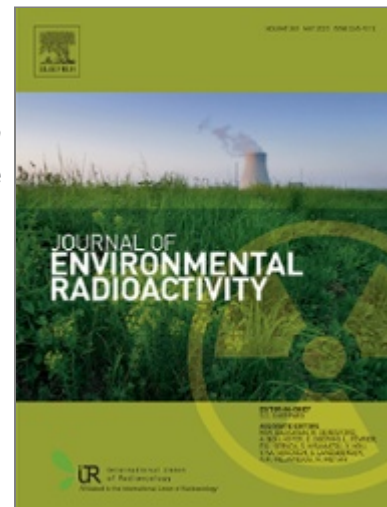
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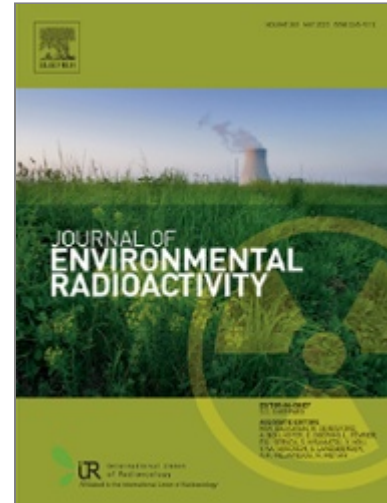
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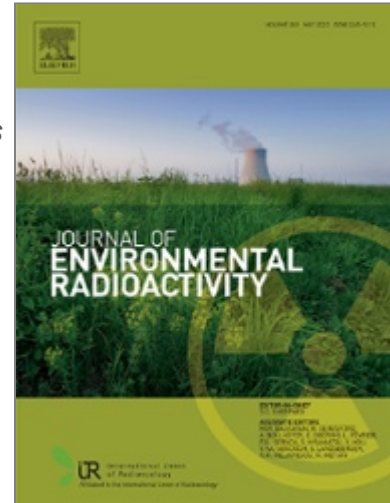
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**To:** Achuthan, Arivalagan (ELS-CON) <A.Achuthan@elsevier.com>  
**Subject:** Contact Details for JENR\_107144

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Dear Sir,

Here are my contact details:

Dr. Eddy Nurtjahya  
Universitas Bangka Belitung  
Biology  
Kec. Merawang, Bangka 33172  
Indonesia  
Phone: +628158142418 (WhatsApp); +62 717 93653 (home)  
Fax: not available  
E-mail: [eddy\\_nurtjahya@yahoo.com](mailto:eddy_nurtjahya@yahoo.com)

Thank you for the service.

Best regards,

Eddy

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Our reference: JENR 107144

Article reference: JENR\_JENVRAD-D-22-00443

Article title: Transfer factors on ex-mining land plants study of soil-to-plant transfer factors (TFs) of 226Ra, 232Th, and 40K on plants cultivated on ex-tin mining land in Bangka Belitung, Indonesia

To be published in: Journal of Environmental Radioactivity

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Universitas Bangka Belitung  
Biology  
Kec. Merawang, Bangka 33172  
Indonesia  
Phone: not available  
Fax: not available  
E-mail: [eddy\\_nurtjahya@yahoo.com](mailto:eddy_nurtjahya@yahoo.com)

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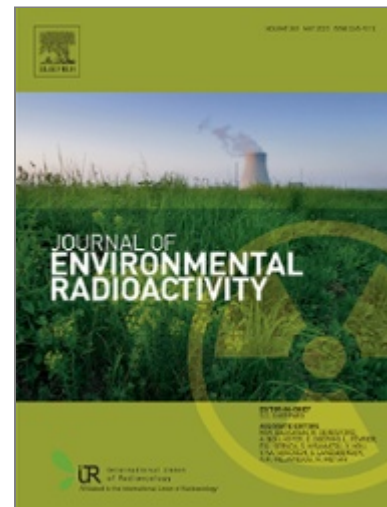
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