Health Detriment Associated with Exposure to Natural Radioactivity from the Soil of Ondo and Ekiti States South Western, Nigeria.

Abstract:

The health detriment associated with human exposure to primordial radionuclides emanated from the earth crust has been a major source of concern to public health observers across the globe. The level of such detriment can be mitigated by constant monitoring in order to ascertain that the safe threshold is maintained from time to time. In the light of the above, the activity concentrations of naturally occurring radioactivity (i.e ^{232}Th, ^{226}Ra and ^{40}K) were determined in seventeen soil samples collected from selected cities across Ondo and Ekiti States using an n-type coaxial HPGe gamma ray detector with ORTEC multichannel analyzer (MCA) and MAESTRO-32 for spectrum analysis and processing. The measured activity concentrations ranged from 31.93 ± 1.77 to 227.50 ± 4.43 Bq Kg-1 for ^{232}Th, 45.60 ± 2.99 to 210.36 ± 8.76 Bq Kg^{-1} for ^{226}Ra, 364.89 ± 6.40 to 1274.57 ± 12.48 Bq Kg^{-1} for ^{40}K, and 48.64 ± 2.04 to 207.22 ± 5.50 Bq Kg^{-1} for ^{232}Th, 73.52 ± 3.81 to 209.15 ± 7.45 Bq Kg^{-1} for ^{226}Ra, 542.26 ± 10.41 to 2348.86 ± 21.83 Bq Kg^{-1} for ^{40}K for Ondo and Ekiti states respectively. Absorbed dose was calculated using the measured activity concentrations. The mean absorbed dose rate and standard deviation in nGyh^{-1} were 140.89 ± 65.27 and 173.27 ± 85.40 respectively for Ondo and Ekiti States respectively. Health detriment to various organs of the body resulting from the exposure scenario was evaluated.

|***KEYWORDS**: HPGe, Absorbed dose, Annual outdoor effective dose, Health detriment.*

1.0 Introduction

The human environment is composed largely of soil, water, gases and probably microorganism. Man uses soil or otherwise called land for various purposes ranging from citing of industries, Agriculture and erecting permanent structures for dwelling purposes. Man is a product of his environment. The environmentalist has studied for decades the impact of man's activities on his environment or vice-versa. Soil is a product of weathering and contains fossils, dead organic and in-organic matter, gases and physical contaminants called radionuclides or radioisotopes. Radionuclides occur naturally in the soil in the form of the Uranium and Thorium decay series (^{226}Ra and ^{232}Th) and the non-decay series ^{40}K. The activity concentrations of these Primordial radionuclides vary from one location to another and the distribution has been found to be largely dependent on geological and geographical

conditions, and appear at different levels in the soils of each region of the world (UNSCEAR, 1993). Hence Nuclear Scientist and or radiologist are working to characterise each environment based on the activity concentration and distribution of these radionuclides. Human exposure to radiation is dated back to the creation of the Earth. And natural sources still contribute almost 80% of the collective radiation exposure of the World's population (UNSCEAR, 1993). Despite the usefulness of radiation in the industry and Medicine (radiotherapy), exposure to radiation beyond a certain threshold value either from the primary or secondary sources pose a threat to human health. This situation is becoming worrisome as several cases of Tumour and other deadly ailment are linked to exposure to undue radiation. Hence, it therefore becomes necessary to quantify human exposure to radiation for environmental monitoring (UNSCEAR, 2000). Several studies performed worldwide to assess the activity concentrations of these radionuclides are reported (McAulay and Morgan 1988; Jibril, et al., 2009; Alaamer, 2008; Boukhenfouf and Boucenna 2011). But data regarding the levels of natural radionuclides and the associated radiation doses are still sparse in some area of Ondo and Ekiti states South-western Nigeria. It is therefore the aim of this work to carry out a comprehensive analysis of the radionuclides present in the studied area and the associated health detriment to its inhabitants. Ondo (5^0 48'N, 4^0 45'E) and Ekiti (8^0 15'N, 6^0 05'É) States are underlain by crystalline rocks or basement complex. The basement complex is of Precambrian age and composed primarily of metamorphic and igneous rock such as granites, gneisses and migmatites (Rahaman, 1988).

In this work, 17 samples of soil were collected from selected cities across Ondo and Ekiti states and analysed for primordial radionuclides using gamma-ray Spectrometry to evaluate the activity concentration counting, absorbed dose due to exposure and the associated Health implications to different organs of the body.

2.0 Material and Methods

2.1 Samples Collection and Preparation

At each of the designated locations, the soil samples were collected at a depth of 10 cm. About 120g of soil samples were collected from each location; packaged in cellophane bag and labelled for proper identification. The collected soil samples were taken to the laboratory for preparation before activity counting. The soil samples were oven dried at a temperature of 110^{o}C to a constant weight; the dried samples were then pulverized and sieved using a 2 mm

mesh. The dried soil samples were sealed and stored for about four weeks to allow the samples achieve secular equilibrium between parent and daughter nuclides prior to analysis.

2.2 Samples Analysis

The activity Concentrations of the soil samples were measured using an n-type coaxial High Purity Germanium Detector (HPGe) gamma-ray detector at the laboratory of Ghana Atomic Energy Commission Accra with ORTEC Multichannel Analyzer (MCA) and MAESTRO-32 evaluation software for spectrum acquisition and processing. The relative efficiency of the detector was 28.5 % with energy resolution of 1.8 keV at gamma ray energy of 1332 keV of ^{60}Co. The gamma lines 609.31 and 1764.49 keV of ^{214}Bi were used to determine ^{226}Ra. The gamma lines 583.19 of ^{208}Tl were used to determine ^{232}Th and that of ^{40}K was determined from the gamma line of 1460.83 keV. The samples were counted for 18,000 seconds (5 hours). The energy and efficiency calibrations were performed using certified soil reference standards for various radionuclides. Each soil standard was place in a Marinelli beaker, which was placed on the detector. Spectral analyses were performed using MAESTRO-32 software (Canberra Industries Inc.), which allows data acquisition, storage and display. The standard was supplied by Deutscher Kalibrierdienst (DKD-3), QSA Global GmBH, Germany. Background measurements were made for the same period. Density corrections were also made where appropriate.

The specific activity concentrations (A_{sp}) of ^{226}Ra, ^{232}Th, and ^{40}K were determined in Bq kg^{-1} for the soil samples using the following expression (Uosif, et al., 2008; Darko and Faanu 2007; Darko, et al. 2008) after decay correction.

$$A_{sp} = \frac{N_{sam}}{P_E . \varepsilon . T_c . M} \qquad 1$$

where;

N_{sam} - net counts of the radionuclide in the sample

P_E - gamma ray emission probability (gamma yield)

ε - total counting efficiency of the detector system

T_c - sample counting time

M - mass or weight of the Sample

The specific activity obtained using equation (1) coupled with appropriate dose conversion factors form the basis for the evaluation of the radiological health hazards posed by the analysed samples from the study area.

2.3 Calculation of Absorbed Dose, Dose Equivalent and Health Detriment

Absorbed Dose

The absorbed dose rates, in nGy h^{-1} at a height of 1metre above the ground due to the inhalation of ^{232}Th, ^{226}Ra, and ^{40}K was calculated in this work using the following relation (Kohshi, et al., 2001).

$$D = A_{si} \times C_f \qquad 2$$

where A_{si} is the activity concentration measured in Bq kg^{-1} and C_f is the dose conversion factor (nGy h^{-1} per Bq kg^{-1}). In this work, the dose conversion co-efficients used for ^{232}Th, ^{226}Ra and ^{40}K where the ones determined by Saito and Jacob, 1990 and described by UNSCEAR, 2000. Hence equation 2 is then modified to reflect the dose conversion factor and presented as equation 3. Equation 3 is then the total absorbed dose due to gamma radiation from these radionuclides (^{232}Th and ^{226}Ra and the non series ^{40}K), thus:

$$D = 0.623A_{Th} + 0.461A_{Ra} + 0.0414A_K \qquad 3$$

Where A_{Th} = activity concentration of ^{232}Th, A_{Ra} = activity concentration of ^{226}Ra and A_K = activity concentration ^{40}K.

Effective Dose Equivalent

The annual outdoor effective dose equivalent $\mathbf{H_E}$ due to exposure or inhalation of these radionuclides from the soil was estimated taking into consideration the conversion factor from absorbed dose in air to effective dose and the outdoor occupancy factor. The former gives the equivalent human dose in Sv y^{-1} from the absorbed dose rate in air (nGy h^{-1}), while the latter gives the fraction of the time an individual is exposed. In this work, an occupancy factor of 0.3 was used (i.e. an individual is assumed to spend an average of 8 hours outdoor) and 0.7 Sv y^{-1} was used for the conversion co-efficient according to UNSCEAR, 2000.

Hence, the annual outdoor effective dose rate, H_E, in units of μSv y^{-1}, is calculated using the following relation:

$$H_E = D(\gamma) \times N(h) \times O_f \times C_f \quad (4)$$

where $D(\gamma)$ is the calculated absorbed dose (nGy h^{-1}), N(h) is the number of hours in a year ($0.3 \times 24h \times 365.25d = 2629.80h/y$) O_f is the occupancy factor (i.e. 0.3) and C_f is the conversion factor (0.7Sv Gy^{-1}).

Collective Effective Dose Equivalent

The collective effective dose equivalent to a population is a measure of the collective detrimental effects and the percentage of people at risk of incurring radiation-induced diseases; which is calculated using the expression ICRP, 1991.

$$S_E = \sum N_i H_{Ei} \quad (5)$$

Where S_E = collective effective dose equivalent (person – Sv)

N_i = the numbers of individual exposed to radiation and H_{Ei} is the mean outdoor effective dose equivalent (μSvy^{-1}).The N_i used in this work is 3441024 Persons and 2384212 Persons for Ondo and Ekiti states respectively (NPC, 2006).

Collective Health Detriment

The collective health detriment G (person), due to exposure to gamma radiation in an environment, was calculated using the relation described by Ajayi, et al., 2008.

$$G = R_T S_E \quad (6)$$

where R_T = Total risk factor

S_E = Collective effective dose equivalent (person – Sv)

The risk factor for each of the body organ used in this work is as given in table 1.0.

Table 1.0: Values of Weighing & Risk Factor (ICRP, 1991)

Organs	Weighting factor W_T	RISK FACTOR ($X10^{-3}$ Sv^{-1})
Gonads	0.25	4.00
Breast	0.15	2.50
Red Bore Marrow	0.12	`2.00
Lung	0.12	2.00
Thyroid	0.03	0.50
Bone	0.03	0.50
Others	0.30	5.00
TOTAL	1.00	16.50

2.4 Radium Equivalent Activity (Ra_{eq}): This is a radiation hazard indices used to assess the cumulative effect of gamma radiation hazards due to exposure to a mixture of ^{226}Ra, ^{232}Th and ^{40}K . The Ra_{eq} index is calculated using the relation of Beretka and Matthew, 1985 as thus;

$$Ra_{eq} = A_{Ra} + 1.43A_{Th} + 0.07A_K \quad (7)$$

where A_{Ra}, A_{Th} and A_K are the activity concentrations in Bq Kg^{-1} of ^{226}Ra, ^{232}Th and ^{40}K respectively. This index assumed that 370 Bq Kg^{-1} of ^{226}Ra or 259 Bq Kg^{-1} of ^{232}Th or 4810 Bq Kg^{-1} ^{40}K produce the same gamma dose.

3.0 Results and Discussion.

The Activity concentrations of the radionuclides in soil samples from Ondo and Ekiti States have been measured. The result is presented in Table 2.0. Naturally occurring radionuclides ^{232}Th, ^{40}K and ^{226}Ra were detected in all the Seventeen (17) Soil samples. A trace quantity of ^{137}Cs was also detected in the soil samples of both Ondo and Ekiti states.

The activity concentration of these radionuclides were found to be within the range of 31.93 ± 1.77 - 227.50 ± 4.43 Bq kg^{-1}, 45.60 ± 2.99 - 210.36 ± 8.76 Bq kg^{-1}, 364.89 ± 6.40 – 1274.57

159 ± 12.48 Bq kg^{-1}, and 1.85 ± 0.32 - 5.03 ± 0.56 Bqkg-1^{-1} for ^{232}Th, ^{226}Ra and ^{40}K and ^{137}Cs
160 respectively in Ondo state soil samples. While that of Ekiti States ranged between 48.64 ±
161 2.04 – 207.22 ± 5.50 Bq kg^{-1}, 73.52 ± 3.81 – 209.15 ± 7.45 Bq kg^{-1}, 542. 26 ± 10.41 –
162 2348.86 ± 21.83 Bq kg^{-1}, and 3.09 ± 0.46 – 8.88 ± 0.82 Bq $kg^{-1}$for ^{232}Th, ^{226}Ra and ^{40}K and
163 ^{137}Cs respectively. ^{137}Cs was not detected in the two soil samples taken from Omuo Ekiti. A
164 comparison of the activity concentration of these radionuclides in soil samples from different
165 countries was done and presented in Table 3.0. The results in this work are a bit higher than
166 findings from other parts of the world and the world average values UNSCEAR, 2000, also
167 reported in Table 3.0. In Ondo state soil samples, the range of activity concentrations of ^{226}Ra
168 (45.60 ± 2.99 - 210.36 ± 8.76 Bq kg^{-1}) measured in this work is still less than the international
169 range of 10 Bq Kg^{-1} to 3700 Bq Kg^{-1} reported by Trabidou, 2004 and comparable to the
170 range of 9.3 ± 3.7 Bq kg^{-1} to 198.1 ± 13.8 Bq Kg^{-1} reported by Ajayi, et al, 2008 for the
171 South-western part of Nigeria.

172 ^{232}Th had its highest activity concentration of 227.50 ± 4.43 Bq Kg^{-1} in the soil sample from
173 Ondo town and the least activity concentration of 31.93 ± 1.77 Bq Kg^{-1} in the soil sample
174 from Ikare-Akoko and ^{40}K had its highest concentrations of 1274.57 ± 12.48 Bq Kg^{-1} in the
175 soil sample from Akure and the least of 364. 89 ± 6.40 Bq Kg^{-1} in the soil sample from Owo.
176 This is equally comparable to the range of 34.9 ± 4.4 – 1358.6 ± 28.5 Bq Kg^{-1} reported by
177 Ajayi, et al., 2008 and higher to the range of 129 ± 5.7 – 230 1.1 Bq Kg^{-1} reported for ^{40}K by
178 El-Aydarous, 2007 in the soil of Saudi Arabia. The high activity concentration of ^{232}Th in
179 Ondo town might be as a result of emerging Industries, while that of ^{40}K in Akure might be
180 as a result of local geology. Similarly, in Ekiti state the highest activity concentrations of
181 (209.15 ± 7.45 Bq Kg^{-1}) and (207.22 ± 5.50 Bq Kg^{-1}) for ^{226}Ra and ^{232}Th were found in the
182 soil sample from Ado-Ekiti. The highest activity concentrations of 2348.86 ± 21.83 Bq Kg^{-1}
183 was found for ^{40}K in the sample from Aramoko Ekiti and the least of 542.26 ± 10.41 Bq Kg^{-1}
184 was found in the sample from Ise-Ekiti. The calculated mean activity concentrations of
185 (91.76 ± 3.12, 101.12 ± 5.50, 849.03 ± 12.89) Bq kg^{-1} and (105.72 ± 3.50, 118.88 ± 5.55,
186 1270.74 ± 15.34) Bq kg^{-1} for ^{232}Th, ^{226}Ra and ^{40}K for Ondo and Ekiti States respectively are
187 higher than the World average values (30, 35, 400) Bq kg^{-1} reported by UNSCEAR, 2000.
188 The result is however in close range with the findings of Ajayi,et al., 2008. It is evident from
189 the result that factors like local geology and industrial development have notable influence on
190 the activity concentration in environmental samples like soil.

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Table 2.0: Activity Concentrations of Radionuclides in Ondo and Ekiti State Soil Samples

	S/N	Activity concentration ($Bq\ kg^{-1}$) Sample location	Th – 232	K-40	Ra - 226	Cs -137	Ra_{eq} ($Bq\ kg^{-1}$)
ONDO SOIL SAMPLES	1	IS_3 – SOIL	36.42 ± 1.64	364.89 ± 6.40	48.09 ± 2.89	2.00 ± 0.33	125.71
	2	HS_3 – SOIL	62.84 ± 2.21	1274.57 ±12.48	45.60 ± 2.99	1.85 ± 0.32	224.68
	3	KS_5 – SOIL	31.93 ± 1.77	627.56 ± 10.65	82.21 ± 4.93	2.08 ± 0.36	171.80
	4	IS_2 – SOIL	80.21 ± 3.64	934.81 ± 12.64	71.40 ± 4.44	3.02 ± 0.62	251.54
	5	HS_2 – SOIL	93.46 ± 4.43	1047.62 ±18.25	108.00 ± 6.79	4.55 ± 0.88	314.18
	6	ES_1 – SOIL	227.50 ± 4.43	1165.50 ±13.54	210.36 ± 8.76	5.03 ± 0.56	612.67
	7	ES_2 – SOIL	94.83 ± 2.65	628.09 ± 10.04	84.61 ± 5.09	3.10 ± 0.47	264.18
	8	AS_5 – SOIL	115.47 ± 3.03	908.35±11.24	146.08 ± 6.38	4.83 ± 0.50	374.79
	9	AS_1 – SOIL	83.16 ± 4.27	1115.39± 20.79	113.70 ± 7.22	2.82 ± 0.88	310.70
EKITI SOIL SAMPLES	1	OS_3 – SOIL	79.19 ± 4.01	683.49 ± 11.86	85.28 ± 4.49	BDL	246.37
	2	TS_1 – SOIL	48.64 ± 2.04	1487.76 ±18.50	100.90 ± 6.14	5.51 ± 0.79	274.60
	3	TS_3 – SOIL	207.22 ± 5.50	2292.23± 21.14	209.15 ± 7.45	8.22 ± 0.93	665.93
	4	SS_3 – SOIL	104.49 ± 3.03	1248.96± 15.78	111.68 ± 5.09	3.97 ± 0.54	348.53
	5	SS_1 – SOIL	105.00 ± 2.41	807.94 ± 10.50	104.04 ± 4.12	3.09 ± 0.46	310.75
	6	OS_2 – SOIL	72.40 ± 3.18	754.44 ± 12.68	84.56 ± 5.05	BDL	240.90
	7	QS_2 – SOIL	176.28 ± 4.93	2348.86± 21.83	181.87 ± 8.22	8.88 ± 0.82	598.37
	8	MS_5 –SOIL	52.54 ± 2.90	542.26 ± 10.41	73.52 ± 3.81	3.31 ± 0.47	186.61

BDL= Below Detection Level

H=Akure, E=Ondo, A=Okitipupa, I=Owo, K=Ikare Akoko, T=Ado-Ekiti, S=Erinmope-Ekiti, O=Omuo-Ekiti, Q=Aramoko-Ekiti, M=Ise-Ekiti

3.1 Absorbed Dose Rate, Health Detriment and Radium Equivalent index

The absorbed dose rate in air at a gonadal height of 1m resulting from the presence of ^{40}K, ^{226}Ra and ^{232}Th in the soil of the two states was calculated using equation 3.

The mean absorbed dose rate in nGy h^{-1} and the standard deviation were respectively 140.89, 65.27 and 173.27, 85.40 for Ondo & Ekiti states.

The results in both cases is beyond the limits (30 nGy h^{-1}-70 nGy h^{-1}) recommended by UNSCEAR, 1988 for area of normal background radiation. The results of the absorbed dose, effective dose equivalent and the health detriment are presented in tables 4.0 and 5.0 for both Ondo and Ekiti States respectively. The result of annual outdoor effective dose equivalent (μSv y^{-1}) ranged between 0.15 - 0.70 mSv y^{-1}, with a mean annual outdoor effective dose equivalent 0.35 ± 0.16 mSv y^{-1} for Ondo state.

For Ekiti, the range of annual outdoor effective dose equivalent is between 0.22 - 0.79 mSv y^{-1}, with a mean of 0.43 ± 0.21 mSv y^{-1}.

The result of the mean annual outdoor effective dose equivalent exceeds the values recommended by ICRP (70μSv y^{-1}), but below the world's average of 1.0mSv y^{-1}. Health detriment resulting from the inhalation of these radionuclides and the health implication to different Organs of the body were highlighted and presented in Figures 1.0 and 2.0. For both Ondo and Ekiti States, the body organ tagged ''others'' had the highest health detriment followed by Gonads. Hence, the residents of the two States are advised to reduce their exposure to radiation to the barest minimum.

The calculated Ra_{eq} index for the study area is presented in Table 2.0. The mean Ra_{eq} index for Ondo and Ekiti States were 295.07 Bq Kg^{-1} and 359.01 Bq Kg^{-1} respectively. Though an elevated concentration of Ra_{eq} index was recorded in the samples from Ondo and Okitipupa for Ondo State and in the samples from Ado Ekiti and Aramoko in Ekiti State. The area under investigation is still safe for habitation since the mean value for the two states are still less than the 370 Bq Kg^{-1} of ^{226}Ra international standard (Beretka and Matthew, 1985).

Table 3.0: Comparison of Activity Concentration of ^{40}K, ^{226}Ra, and ^{232}Th in Soil measured worldwide

Country	Activity concentration (Bqkg^{-1})			Reference
	^{40}K	^{226}Ra	^{232}Th	
Pakistan (Punjab)	615 ± 143	35 ± 7	41 ± 8	Tahir et al., (2005)
Cyprus	105 ± 95	7.1 ± 8.6	5.0 ± 7.1	Tzortzis et al., (2004)
Alexandria, Egypt	262 ± 82	16.7 ± 2.7	19.4 ± 5.0	Saleh et al., (2007)
South India	117.5	35	29.8	Narayana et al., (2001)
Spain	650	46	49	Baeza et al., (1992)
Kenya	255 ± 38.5	28.7 ± 3.6	73.3 ± 9.1	Mustapha et al., (1999)
China	578 ± 164	42.7 ± 15	46.3 ± 12	Ziqiang et al., (1988)
Republic of Ireland	350	60	26	McAulay and Morgan,(1988)
Saudi Arabia	225 ± 63	14.5 ± 3.9	11.2 ± 3.9	Alaamer A.S., (2008)
Ondo State (Nigeria)	849.03 ± 12.89	101.12 ± 5.50	91.76 ± 3.12	This study
Ekiti State (Nigeria)	1270.74 ± 15.34	118.88 ± 5.55	105.72 ± 3.50	This study
World's average	400	35	30	UNSCEAR, 2000

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235 Table 4.0: Absorbed dose and Health detriment from Ondo state soil samples

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Sample Location	AB DOSE nGy/h	N(h/Y)	$C_{F(}$Sv/Gy)	$H_E(\mu^{Svy-1})$	AVE	S_E (person-sv)	ORGAN	R_T(/Sv)	G(Person)
IS3	59.9656	2629.8	0.7	110.3883			Gonad	0.004	3569765
HS3	112.9382	2629.8	0.7	207.9034			Breast	0.0025	2231103
ES2	124.0872	2629.8	0.7	228.4272			RBM	0.002	1784882
AS5	176.8864	2629.8	0.7	325.6231			Lung	0.002	1784882
IS2	121.5874	2629.8	0.7	223.8254			Thyroid	0.0005	446220.6
KS5	83.77218	2629.8	0.7	154.2129			Bone	0.0005	446220.6
HS2	151.385	2629.8	0.7	278.6786			Others	0.005	4462206
ES1	286.9602	2629.8	0.7	528.2536			TOTAL	0.0165	14725280
AS1	150.4015	2629.8	0.7	276.8681					
				2334.18	**259.3534**	**892441209**			

237

238 Table 5.0: Absorbed dose and Health detriment from Ekiti State soil samples

Sample Location	AB DOSE nGy/h	N(h/Y)	$C_{F(S}$ v/Gy)	$H_E(\mu^{Svy-1})$	AVE	S_E (person-sv)	ORGAN	R_T(/Sv)	G(Person)
OS3	116.9459	2629.8	0.7	215.281			Gonad	0.004	3041993
TS3	320.4145	2629.8	0.7	589.8382			Breast	0.0025	1901246
SS1	146.8262	2629.8	0.7	270.2865			RBM	0.002	1520996
TS1	138.4109	2629.8	0.7	254.7951			Lung	0.002	1520996
SS3	168.2887	2629.8	0.7	309.7959			Thyroid	0.0005	380249.1
OS2	115.3212	2629.8	0.7	212.2902			Bone	0.0005	380249.1
QS2	290.9073	2629.8	0.7	535.5196			Others	0.005	3802491
MS5	89.0747	2629.8	0.7	163.9741			TOTAL	0.0165	12548221
				2551.781	**318.9726**	**760498247**			

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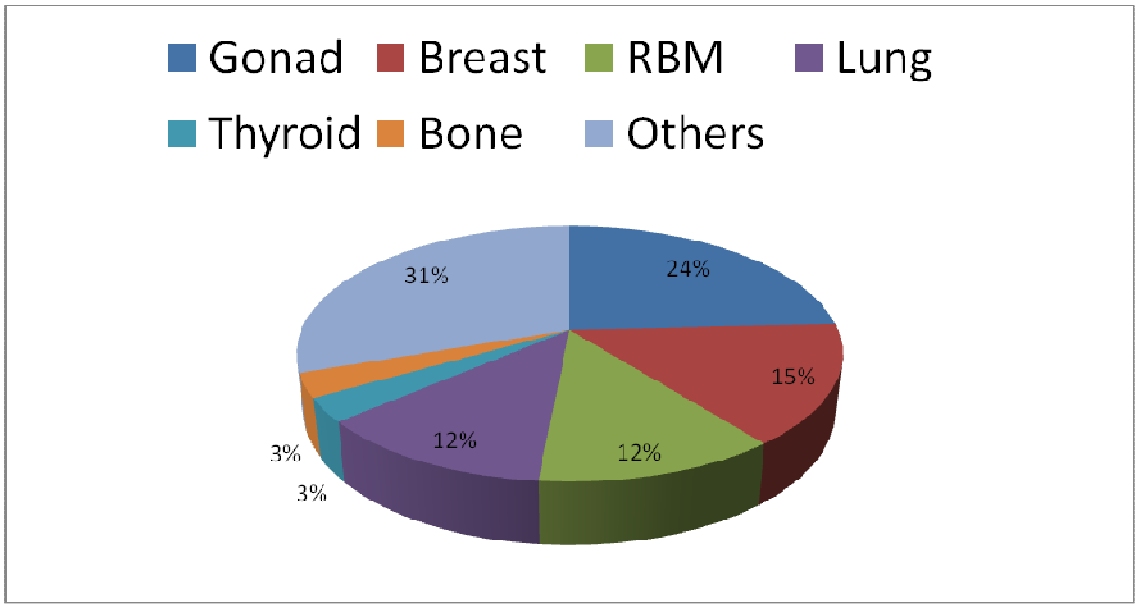
240 Figure 1.0: Percentage Distribution of Health Detriment From the Soil of Ondo state to
241 different Organs of the Body



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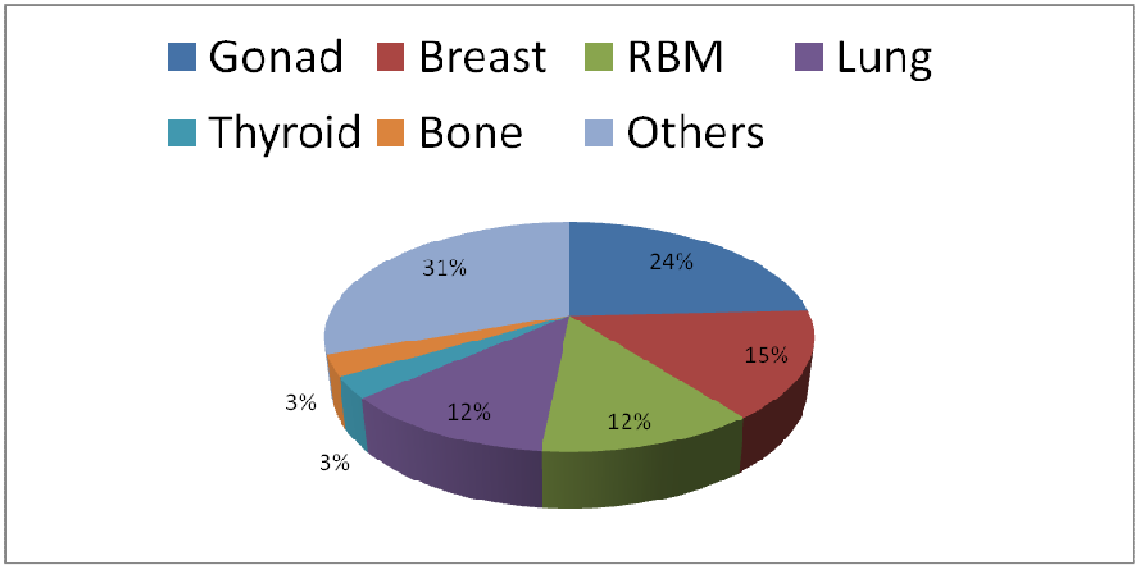
244 Figure 2.0: Percentage Distribution of Health Detriment From the Soil of Ekiti state to
245 different Organs of the Body



RBM= Red Bone Marrow

4.0 Conclusion

This study investigated the activity concentrations of 17 soil samples taken from selected locations across Ondo and Ekiti States, the radiological health detriment resulting from exposure to different organs of the body and the Radium equivalent index was also evaluated.

Measured activity concentrations recorded in this work ranged from 31.93± 1.77 - 227.50± 4.43 Bq Kg^{-1} ^{232}Th, 364.89± 6.40 - 1274.57± 12.48 Bq Kg^{-1} ^{40}K, 45.60± 2.99-210.36± 8.76 Bq Kg^{-1} ^{226}Ra and 48.64± 2.04 - 207.22± 5.50 Bq Kg^{-1} ^{232}Th, 542.26± 10.41 - 2348.86 ± 21.83 Bq Kg^{-1} ^{40}K 73.52± 3.81 - 209.15± 7.45 Bq Kg^{-1} ^{226}Ra for Ondo and Ekiti states respectively. These values are found to be above those reported from other parts of the World and the World average value reported by UNSCEAR, 2000. Annual outdoor effective dose equivalent was also calculated using a dose conversion factor of 0.7 Sv Gy^{-1} for the two states. The results were found to be above the $70\,\mu Sv\ y^{-1}$ recommended by ICRP and below the world average of 1 mSv y^{-1}. The calculated mean Radium equivalent index for Ondo and Ekiti States are 295.07 Bq Kg^{-1} and 359.01 Bq Kg^{-1} respectively. These values are still below the international standard of 370 Bq Kg^{-1} ^{226}Ra; hence the area under investigation is still safe for Human habitation. Health detriment to various organs of the body resulting from exposure to these radionuclides was also evaluated.

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