## ASSESSMENT OF CERTAIN MICRONUTRIENTS AND POLLUTANT ELEMENTS IN SOILS OF TUSHKA

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> ${f F}$ ifty-two soil samples collected from eighteen soil profiles representing the studied area of Toshke were investigated to assess their contents of Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu, Pb, Co, Ni, and Cd and their conventional physical and chemical properties were determined. Total and DTPA-extractable Fe, Mn, Zn, Ca, Pb, Co, Ni, and Cd were determined. The data indicate that the soil texture varies from loamy sand to clay loam, CaCO3 ranged between 1.10 and 21.76 %, while organic matter content was low. The average total contents of Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu, Pb, Co, Ni, and Cd were 2.29 %, 422.68, 41.0, 8.90, 6.46, 8.59, 17.60 and 0.24 mg/kg, respectively. Most soils have their DTPA-extractable Fe lower than the critical level, in contrast to excessive levels of Mn, while the DTPA-extractable Zn and Cu were in the range of adequacy. On the other hand, data indicate that the average contents of Pb, Co, Ni, and Cd were 0.062, 0.404, 0.192 and 0.007 mg/kg, respectively. Computation of the statistical measures (weighted mean, trend and specific range) of total and chemically-extractable elements revealed that the studied elements are somewhat lower in the surface or follows an opposite trend when increased in the surface layer than the deeper ones as indicated by the common positive or negative values for the trend, and the values of specific range indicate that pedogenic processes had acted in a uniform manner through the solum.

Keywords: total heavy metals, DTPA-extractable, iron, manganese, zinc, copper, lead, cobalt, nickel, cadmium, Tushka.

Tushka is one of the promising areas for adding new agricultural lands, it reaches 3.0 million feddan Micronutrients status in soil is dependent almost entirely on the bedrock from which soil parent material was derived. Both geochemical and pedochemical weathering processes are responsible for soil

material as their final product upon time (Mitchell, 1964). However, Krauskopf (1972) reported that micronutrients seem to be strongly related to parent rock composition in early stages of soil development, but much less in later stages. He also stated that Fe, Mn, Cu and Zn are more abundant in basaltic lavas than in granites.

Considerable research work has been conducted to study the status of trace elements in the soils of Egypt. Nevertheless, none of which has tackled the soils in the area south Egypt, especially Toshke.

Therefore, this work is conducted to shed light on the status of some micronutrients and pollutant elements to help land users for establishing a suitable and sustainable land use plans.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Soil Sampling

Fifty-two soil samples were collected from eighteen soil profiles representing the studied area which lies between longitude 30° 40° and 32° 10° E and latitude 22° 30° and 23° 20° N. The samples were air-dried, crushed, passed through a 2.00 mm sieve and subjected to the following analyses:

Particle size distribution was carried out according to Piper (1950); total salts and soluble cations and anions were determined as outlined by Richards (1954); calcium carbonate content was determined by Collin's calcimeter, Richards (1954); organic matter content was determined by rapid titration method, Walkley (1947). CEC was determined as described by Richards (1954). Amorphous inorganic alumina, silica and iron were extracted and determined as follows:

Alumina and silica gels were extracted by dissolution technique, i.e., by successive washing with 5% NaCO<sub>3</sub> solution (Follett *et al.*, 1965).

Free iron oxides were extracted by the CBD method (Mitchell and

The soil samples were also analyzed for total content of the studied elements in the filtered extracts obtained from samples digested by Conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> + 60% HClO<sub>4</sub> as outlined by Hesse (1971), while the 5X10<sup>-3</sup> M DTPA in 10<sup>-2</sup>M CaCl<sub>2</sub> and 10<sup>-1</sup>M triethanolamine (TEA) at pH 7.3 all cases, the elements were determined by the atomic absorption spectrometer (Unicam 929).

# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## Soil Properties

Table (1) shows the relevant physical and chemical characteristics of the studied samples. Data show that the soils vary widely in their textural class between loamy sand and clay loam.

TABLE (1). Some physical and chemical characteristics of the studied

soil samples.

	Soil separates %														
			Soil se	parates											
Profile No.	Depth, Cm	Coarse Sand	Fine Sand	Silt	Clay	Textural	CaCO <sub>3</sub>	pH (1:2.5)	EC ds/m	O.M %	CEC me/100g Soil	SAR	SiO <sub>2</sub> %	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> %	Fe <sub>2</sub> O, %
1	0-18	17.8			10.0	SL	8.68	7.94	1.69	0.14	5.65 5.94	1.26 3.26	0.17 0.13	0.06 0.08	0.33
	18-45	19.3			12.0	SL	4.24	8.47 8.28	0.81	0.08	6.06	1.01	0.20	0.08	0.49
2	0-15	23.5	0.00	A	12.0 14.0	SL SL	3.81 2.94	7.98	3.62	0.31	7.05	6.95	0.19	0.08	0.20
3	0-15	18.4			8.0	LS	8.50	8.20	1.20	0.21	7.69	1.04	0.18	0.07	0.19
,	15-55	19.4		14.0	36.0	SL	4.35	7.89	2.79	0.12	6.06	1.56	0.13	0.08	0.49
	55-80	25.0		16.0	36.0	SL	3.52	7.95	2.97	0.18	7.18	0.42	0.14 0.18	0.09 0.08	0.48 0.47
	80-150	26.2	20.8	11.0	40.0	SL	2.94	7.97	3.88	0.14	6.24 16.98	4.26 1.99	0.15	0.07	0.25
4	0-20	27.2		16.0	18.0	SL	11.47	8.41	0.51 1.52	0.29 0.16	18.92	7.76	0.30	0.09	0.50
	20-45	19.6		12.0	12.0	SL SL	1.88 1.76	8.37 7.96	3.93	0.11	19.40	9.05	0.21	0.08	0.52
	45-80	18.5		6.0	16.0 8.0	LS	11.05	8.00	0.22	0.24	3.06	0.24	0.15	0.08	0.48
5	0-50 50-100	45.8 55.0	40000000 Ment	6.0	8.0	LS	1.10	8.10	0.20	0.21	4.95	1.02	0.07	0.10	0.49
6	0-15	31.9	_	8.0	10.0	LS	9.11	7.80	0.32	0.25	5.06	1.09	0.11	0.09	0.48
0	15-40	40.7	100 000	8.0	10.0	LS	7.64	8.00	0.49	0.09	6.65	2.69	0.19	0.08 0.07	0.50 0.49
	40-89	38.0	38.0	10.0	14.0	SL	4.17	7.80	2.78	0.17	4.85 4.59	2.75 4.02	0.11 0.13	0.07	0.51
	80-150	20.3	49.7	12.0	18.0	SL	10.05	8.10	0.69	0.17	5.55	1.79	0.12	0.07	0.47
7	0-15	19.5	60.5	10.0	10.0	SL	3.05	8.00 7.87	0.41 5.36	0.32	15.85	6.96	0.15	0.09	0.52
	15-70	18.2	35.8	16.0	30.0	SCL SCL	6.17 8.50	8.29	2.69	0.27	17.35	13.40	0.10	0.11	0.46
	70-150	27.3	26.7	8.0	32.0 8.0	LS	3.35	7.90	0.31	0.26	4.35	0.69	0.14	0.09	0.50
8	0-15 15-65	52.0 52.0	32.0 22.0	10.0	16.0	SL	1.76	8.00	0.33	0.24	12.80	3.38	0.18	0.08	0.55
	65-150	32.9	33.1	12.0	22.0	SCL	3.41	8.83	0.36	0.20	9.82	2.79	0.27	0.12	0.57
9	0-25	15.5	24.5	24.0	36.0	CL	11.47	8.58	1.52	0.30	20.22	3.21	0.33	0.10 0.12	0.54 0.57
,	25-85	13.6	34.4	20.0	32.0	SCL	10.00	7.30	16.12	0.36	12.69 7.27	33.35 17.02	0.21 0.15	0.12	0.49
	85-150	11.1	40.9	18.0	30.0	SCL	21.76	7.70 7.80	5.39 1.17	0.22	4.70	1.18	0.20	0.07	0.50
10	0-25	4.4	42.0	4.0	10.0	LS SL	8.52 6.76	8.00	0.50	0.07	9.49	3.74	0.25	0.10	0.56
	25-70	27.5	46.5	10.0	16.0 20.0	SCL	16.05	8.10	2.47	0.16	5.52	6.67	0.22	0.11	0.51
	70-150	13.2	54.8 55.0	12.0 8.0	10.0	LS	4.41	8.62	0.76	0.26	18.33	4.39	0.33	0.07	0.55
11	0-20 20-45	27.0 25.0	41.0	12.0	22.0	SCL	2.94	7.60	4.37	0.18	9.15	11.10	0.20	0.10	0.51
	45-80	36.0	34.0	10.0	20.0	SCL	1.41	8.48	11.34	0.16	8.88	15.74	0.21	0.09	0.57
	80-150	38.0	22.0	16.0	24.0	SCL	10.29	7.10	9.85	0.13	6.57	18.97	0.20	0.11	0.54
12	0-25	61.0	23.0	8.0	8.0	LS	3.41	8.00	0.50	0.20	4.30 7.56	4.14 1.55	0.18	0.10	0.50
	25-55	35.0	47.0	8.0	10.0	LS	3.76 4.41	7.70 7.80	0.87 1.06	0.14	6.28	3.62	0.23	0.11	0.51
	55-120	30.0	44.0	12.0	14.0	SL SL	6.47	7.90	0.61	0.16	14.33	1.31	0.14	0.11	0.55
13	0-25	21.0	53.0	10.0 14.0	16.0 30.0	SCL	5.88	7.60	1.95	0.13	11.28	2.55	0.03	0.11	0.50
	25-55	14.0	42.0 37.5	16.0	32.0	SCL	11.47	8.00	0.58	0.08	7.27	4.24	0.01	0.09	0.57
-11	55-120 0-25	14.5 35.9	46.1	8.0	10.0	LS	6.76	7.90	0.27	0.40	6.28	2.69	0.17	0.13	0.52
14	25-55	33.5	48.5	6.0	12.0	SL	7.64	7.90	0.51	0.26	4.79	1.22	0.20	0.10	0.49
15	0-25	10.8	37.2	20.0	32.0	SCL	8.52	7.80	0.34	0.22	6.96	1.52	0.15	0.10	0.51
	25-60	15.3	62.7	10.0	12.0	SL	4.11	7.90	2.01	0.15	8.88	4.30 3.95	0.20 0.19	0.11	0.53 0.48
	60-110	14.6	45.4	12.0	28.0	SCL	5.88	7.50	3.18	0.11	7.27 23.50	2.88	0.19	0.09	0.44
16	0-15	29.2	18.8	16.0	36.0	SC	7.05 2.05	8.00 7.70	0.56 2.36	0.26	9.71	7.76	0.02	0.12	0.51
	15-55	35.5	42.5	8.0	14.0	SL SL	2.35	7.50	4.84	0.11	10.81	7.03	0.12	0.09	0.48
	55-120	27.7	21.80	11.50	39.00 12.0	SL	1.76	8.00	0.68	0.36	14.80	1.93	0.02	0.10	0.54
17	0-30	32.5	45.5 46.8	10.0 10.0	12.0	SL	5.00	8.10	0.39	0.16	12.69	3.84	0.01	0.09	0.58
	30-70 70-150	31.2	41.2	12.0	14.0	SL	4.70	8.20	0.69	0.14	14.81	3.59	0.03	0.11	0.56
18	0-25	17.7	18.3	34.0	30.0	CL	5.58	8.10	0.33	0.20	21.86	2.56	0.34	0.12	0.58
		28.8	45.2	14.0	12.0	SL	10.00	7.60	1.85	0.14	24.44	5.66	0.13	0.10	0.63
	S.L. = Sandy loam $SCL = Sandy clay loam$ $LS = Loamy sand$														

SC = Sandy clay. CL = Clay loam

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The total carbonate content was very low to moderate where it ranged between 1.10 and 21.76 % with the average of 6.11 %. The lower content was found in the deepest layer of profile 5, while the highest content was recorded in the deepest layer of profile 9. In general, soil salinity ranged from non-saline to very strongly saline. On the other hand, data in table (1) indicate that soil alkalinity ranged from neutral to strongly alkaline.

# Status of the Studied Elements

### Total and DTPA-extractable iron

Table (2) gives the total and DTPA-extractable Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu, Pb, Co, Ni and Cd content of soils. Values of the total Fe content ranges from 0.88 to 4.44 % with an average of 2.29 %. In most samples, the highest total Fe was found in soils where fine fractions (silt and clay) contents were high. Statistical analysis shows a significant positive correlation between total iron content and both silt and clay fractions. These results were in agreement with those of Rabie et al. (1989), El-Demerdashe et al. (1991), Hafez et al. (1992) and El-Demerdashe and Abdel-Rahman (2000). As reported by Schwertmann and Taylor (1989), Fe may be a structural constituent of clay minerals, may exist as an amorphous iron oxide coating on clay external surfaces, or may be bound to clay surface as an exchangeable cation.

DTPA-extractable Fe content in the studied soils ranged between 0.18 and 7.78 mg/kg with an average of 1.06mg/kg soil. The lowest and highest contents were recorded in the deepest layer of profiles 4 and 3, respectively. Viets and Lindsay (1973) and El-Gala et al. (1986), reported that the critical level of Fe, as determined by the DTPA method, is about 4.0 mg/kg. They added that soils, which contain available Fe below this level, are not able to provide the growing plant with their requirements of the nutrients. Accordingly, only the soil of profile 3 contain more than the critical level of Fe, while the other profiles contain lower amounts than the critical level.

# Total and DTPA-extractable manganese

Table (2) shows that the total Mn content in the studied soils ranged from 135.00 to 962.00 mg/kg with the average of 422.68 mg/kg. The lowest content was found in 45-80 cm layer of profile 11, while the highest content was recorded in the surface layer of profile 10. This result was in agreement with those of El-Demerdashe and Abdelvariable and not closely related to the Mn content of the parent material, mobilize, then reprecipitate Mn as oxides in nodules and other deposit. He property, which was measured in this work.

TABLE (2). Total and DTPA-extractable micronutrients content of the studied soil samples (values in mg/kg except total Fe in %).

-		-	studied soil							717		Co		Ni	100	Cd	
		Fe		Mı	1	Zn		Cu		Pl	,	Co	AL STATE	- 1	2 9 69	99 117	The second
Profile No	Depth, cm	Total	Av.	Total	Av.	Total	Av.	Total	Av.	Total	Av.	Total	Av.	Total	Av.	Total	Av.
1	0-18	1.39	0.42	327.5	13.42	18.00	0.88	3.44	0.35	8.15	0.12	2.08	0.45	4.88	0.20	0.24	0.007
	18-45	1.32	0.57	475.0	16.01	27.15	0.43	5.75	0.38	6.13	0.08	3.90	0.81	8.05	0.33	0.20	0.00
2	0-15	1.98	0.38	375.0	9.29	25.23	0.33	4.48	0.32	7.65	0.05	4.05	0.22	9.60	0.11	0.10	0.00
	15-45	2.02	0.25	460.0	4.56	26.80	0.77	7.00	0.49	16.10	0.04	5.03	0.19	10.43	0.13	0.18	0.00
3	0-15	2.38	7.06	290.0	2.20	24.95	0.38	5.43	0.27	6.80	0.06	3.75	0.30	7.23	0.04	0.21	0.00
	15-55	2.58	5.60	235.0	1.66	24.05	0.50	8.43	0.50	7.48	0.03	10.85	0.75	7.50	0.08	0.28	0.01
	55-80	1.51	4.60	287.5	1.96	19.05	0.50	7.60	0.62	6.20	0.07	1.50 2.60	0.20	10.50	0.16	0.39	0.01
	80-150	3.22	7.78	187.5	4.13	24.25	0.78	10.25	1.00	5.45	0.03	4,33	0.25	17.15	0.10	0.31	0.00
4	0-20	3.65	0.26	675.0	9.74	50.38	0.58	8.55	0.39	7.95	0.02	11.60	0.46	21.43	0.31	0.50	0.02
3.3	20-45	3.67	1.46	632.5	8.48	58.00	0.80	11.80	0.68	6.50	0.05	19.15	0.38	34.73	0.27	0.40	0.01
	45-80	4.44	0.18	712.5	5.36	73.78	0.33	2.48	0.10	5.38	0.01	1.65	0.11	3.83	0.08	0.10	0.00
5	0-50	0.88	1.55	275.0	5.23	24.68	0.51	3.90	0.15	6.73	0.02	4.58	0.18	8.90	0.21	0.21	0.00
	50-100	1.69	0.69	507.5	9.42	29.28	0.76	5.30	0.17	5.43	0.10	4.58	0.08	9.33	0.09	0.11	0.00
6	0-15	1.90	0.95	380.0 427.5	5.92	40.78	0.45	7.05	0.24	5.65	0.13	5.48	0.04	13.05	0.22	0.09	0.00
	15-40	2.27	0.38	770.0	4.44	58.45	0.80	11.98	0.65	5.33	0.01	10.03	0.12	18.30	0.19	0.34	0.00
	40-80 80-150	1.78	0.55	525.0	12.72	37.13	1.02	8.25	0.45	6.28	0.06	6.73	0.61	12.75	0.25	0.27	0.0
7	0-15	2.69	0.43	555.0	15.58	49.10	0.42	6.63	0.29	5.50	0.01	7.50	0.49	16.20 31.33	0.14	0.29	0.00
,	15-70	3.54	0.54	410.0	3.26	55.18	0.89	5.50	0.45	6.63	0.10	13.78	0.08	32.50	0.43	0.41	0.0
	70-150	3.46	0.64	392.5	10.48	55.08	0.62	7.88	0.39	5.00	0.14	13.13	0.02	6.13	0.17	0.31	0.0
8	0-15	1.54	2.12	380.0	4.48	28.40	0.71	3.70	0.13	5.80 6.25	0.06	5.68	0.72	9.73	0.24	0.41	0.0
	15-65	1.80	2.31	342.5	15.13	30.25	0.62	5.90	0.33	5.73	0.07	8.55	1.01	18.25	0.53	0.50	0.0
	65-150	2.00	0.43	325:0	16.51	48.28	0.56	10.08	0.43	5.23	0.11	9.28	0.18	20.18	0.15	0.20	0.0
9	0-25	2.83	0.30	570.0	7.42	65.10 28.30	1.02	9.80	0.48	5.10	0.04	10.95	0.45	17.20	0.18	0.10	0.0
	25-85	1.55	0.62	535.0	2.21	64.73	0.93	13.33	0.42	8.60	0.14	13.20	0.04	27.03	0.05	0.11	0.0
	85-150	2.80	0.41	962.0	16.31	36.88	2.23	7.45	0.30	6.95	0.06	8.40	0.59	13.15	0.30	0.33	0.0
10	0-25	2.25	0.38	682.5	17.10	1.80	0.71	10.30	0.26	5.43	0.11	10.95	1.39	19.48	0.49	0.29	0.0
	25-70	1.87	0.45	335.0	8.60	35.25	0.66	6.63	0.55	6.50	0.15	6.75	0.24	12.20	0.16	0.50	0.0
	70-150	2.60	0.42	480.0	7.67	45.90	0.68	8.28	0.17	5.93	0.06	7.80	0.08	17.03	0.11	0.09	0.0
11	0-20 20-45	2.24	0.26	217.5	1.19	27.73	0.88	8.43	0.35	7.33	0.01	5.25	0.03	12.20	0.10	0.12	0.0
	45-80	1.66	0.29	135.0	1.66	26.85	1.02	6.73	0.27	7.53	0.06	4.10	0.12	9.25	0.12	0.17	0.0
	80-150	1.41	0.20	147.5	2.24	14.55	0.59	6.03	0.16	5.20	0.10	4.00	0.06	8.15	0.08	0.10	0.0
12	0-25	1.42	0.77	452.5	8.60	23.15	0.25	3.15 4.30	0.10	5.35	0.02	4.83	0.85	12.53	0.05	0.42	0.0
	25-55	1.09	0.65	302.5	16.23	21.45 32.10	0.28	6.53	0.24	6.35	0.10	6.73	0.49	17.00	0.14	0.38	0.0
	55-120	1.77	0.29	325.0	12.73	51.80	0.38	10.20	0.28	5.53	0.05	13.35	0.27	22.00	0.15	0.31	0.0
13	0-25	2.09		410.0 537.5	1.00	71.25	0.40	18.03	0.69	5.78	0.03	21.10	1.26	33.08	0.48	0.51	0.0
	25-55	2.47		165.0	754.5	43.78	0.55	11.83	0.59	7.05	0.06	10.15	8.03	27.40	0.20	0.49	0.0
No.	55-120		-	355.0	e Comments	29.68	0.17	4.73	0.21	4.43	0.01	6.13	0.37	12.13	0.16	0.09	0.
14	0.25	1.89		305.0		32.28	0.97	4.48	0.25	5.13	0.04	5.15	0.50	10.10	0.19	0.10	0.
	25-55	2.31		457.5	4.74	54.23	0.63	10.75	0.34	7.35	0.03	10.43	0.11	22.45 32.40	0.11	0.25	0.
15	0-25 25-60	3-4 T	TO THE	255.0	3.37	59.73	0.74	14.73	0.64	5.93	0.08	13.38	0.23	23.83	0.20	0.20	0.
	60-110			260.0	1.05	49.53	2.23	10.00	0.55	7.00	0.05	9.48	0.28	20.05	0.15	0.09	0.
16	0-15	To the state of	0.38	Market No. 1	Of the same	54.33	1.53	10.90	0.47	6.68	0.03	12.13	0.53	23.85	0.17	0.21	0.
	15-55	The state of	THE REAL PROPERTY.	100		56.90	0.89	14.78	0.79	8.23	0.15	25.00	0.94	44.00	0.20	0.26	0.
	55-120	3.58	10000000	100 East 1		82.10	0.61	9.93	0.33	6.75	0.01	9.38	0.45	8.875	0.19	0.09	0.
17	0-30	The same of	1000	The Parking		2 2 2 9 3		11.55	0.43	5.68	0.07	9.85	0.73	22.95	10000	0.08	0
	30-70		17 12000	75.5			1000	16.48	0.43	5.25	0.07	13.03	0.83	31.18	The second second	0.11	0.
	70-15	The second	18 18 to 18			6 / Cran 307	4 100 000	10.98	0.25	4.98	0.04	9.40	0.17	20.53		0.10	0.
18	0-25	2.69	1.26	370.0		F   P   S   Y   E		11.40	0.67	7.35	0.07	15.33	0.95	36.78	0.40	0.31	0

The values of DTPA-extractable Mn are tabulated in table (2), where they ranged between 1.05 and 17.10 mg/kg with an average of 8.50 mg/kg. The lowest content was recorded in the deepest layer of profile 15, where the texture was sandy clay loam, while the highest content was found in the subsurface layer of profile 10 where the texture was loamy sand. El-Falah (1995) found that the greatest available Mn was found in the mediumtextured soils followed by the coarse and heavy-textured soils. As reported by Viets and Lindsay (1973) and El-Gala et al. (1986), the critical level of Mn as determined by DTPA method is 1.0 mg/kg. Accordingly, it is clearly apparent that the studied soils are far higher than the critical level. It was reported by Millar (1955) that the optimum concentration ratio of Fe to Mn in the nutrient medium of plants is about 2.0. The Fe to Mn ratio in the studied soils is less than 1.0. Therefore, it may be anticipated that excessive Mn would adversely affect Fe nutrition by plants growing in the studied area.

## Total and DTPA-extractable zinc

The total zinc content as given in Table 2 ranges from 13.08 to 82.10 mg/kg soil with an average of 41.05 mg/kg. The lowest content was recorded in the surface layer of profile 5, while the highest content was found in the deepest layer of profile 16. These results are in close agreement with the findings of several workers on the total zinc content such as Abdel-Hamid et al. (1991) and El-Falah (1995). The differences encountered among the studied samples could be attributed mainly to the parent material from which they were inherited. Based on the report of Krauskopf (1972), the parent materials of these soils may have been derived from basic igneous rocks.

With respect to the DTPA-extractable Zn, it is clear from table (2) that its values range from 0.17 to 2.23 mg/kg with an average of 0.74 mg/kg. The lowest content was found in the surface layer of profile 14, while the highest content was recorded in the deepest layer of profile 15. Kamh (1981) reported values extending from 0.1 to 5.8 mg/kg with the upper range in heavy soils. These values of the DTPA extractable Zn were in the range of adequacy according to Lindsay and Norvell (1978) and El-Gala et al. (1986) who reported that 0.6 and 0.7 ppm soil Zn were the critical level for sorghum and maize, respectively. The reason for this phenomenon may be related to some genetic soil factors, which are related to the quantity and thermodynamic stability of the native Zn phases.

Total and DTPA-extractable copper

Data tabulated in Table 2 show that total Cu content in the studied soil ranges from 2.48 to 21.60 mg/kg with an average of 8.90 mg/kg. In general, the highest content was found in soils where clay content is high. Statistical analysis shows a significant correlation coefficient between these

Results of DTPA-extractable Cu ranged from 0.10 to 1.00 mg/kg soil. The lowest figure recorded in the surface layer of profile 5, while the Egyptian J. Desert Res., 53, No.1 (2003)

highest value was found in the deepest layer of profile 3, which contains the highest amount of clay. Accordingly to the critical value suggested by Lindsay and Norvell (1978) and El-Gala *et al.* (1986) (0.2 ppm for sorghum plants), except for profile 5 and the surface layer of profile 6, 8, 11 and 12, the other samples are within the range of adequacy of Cu.

#### Total and DTPA-extractable lead

The amount of total Pb in the investigated soils was given in table (2). It is quite clear that the total content of this element varies from 4.43to 16.10 mg/kg with an average of 6.46 mg/kg soil. The lowest content was found in the surface layer of profile 14 where the texture was loamy sand, while the highest content was observed in the deepest layer of profile 2 where the texture was sandy loam. In Egypt, Rashad *et al.* (1995) found that the normal level of Pb in the alluvial soils of Nile Delta ranged between 32.0 and 48.0 ppm with an average of 41.0 ppm for total content.

On the other hand, Hegazy (1993) and Abbas (1993) indicated that irrigation water by itself is not the main source of Pb polluted in soils but other factors such as the use of fertilizers, pesticides and dust full might increase Pb content in the soils.

The amount of DTPA-extractable Pb in the investigated samples was given in Table 2. The data show that its values ranged between 0.01 and 0.15 mg/kg soils with an average of 0.06 mg/kg. The lowest content was recorded in the lower layer of profile 6 and the surface layer of profile 7 and 17, while the highest content was found in the deepest layer of profile 10 and 16. Misra and Pande (1976) found that the values of Pb extracted by different methods varied between 0.2 and 2.8 ppm. Mokma *et al.* (1980) reported that the mean extractable Pb in maize soils of Michigan ranged from 0.00 to 4.20 ppm.

In Egypt, Rashad *et al.* (1995) found that the available form of Pb in the alluvial soils of Nile Delta ranged from 1.4 to 2.5 ppm with an average of 1.9 ppm. Aboulroos *et al.* (1996) recorded 0.78-2.46 ppm with an average of 1.39 ppm for DTPA extracted Pb in these soils.

### Total and DTPA-extractable cobalt

Table 2 shows that the total Co content in the studied soils varied from 1.50 to 25.00-mg/kg with an average of 8.59 mg/kg. The lowest value was associated with the layer (50-80 cm) of sandy loam soil of profile 3, while the highest content was found in the deepest layer of profile 16 where the texture was sandy loam. Rabie (1984) reported that total Co content in heavy textured soils was 20.6 to 31.5 ppm, in light textured alluvial soils, 2.6 to 29.3 ppm, and ranged from 1.3 to 26.7 ppm in cálcareous soils. Metwally and Rabie (1989) found that the total Co in the alluvial soils of Egypt ranged from 3.00 to 30.00 ppm according to soil texture.

The normal soil content of Co was reported to vary between 1 and 40 ppm with the highest frequency in the range of 3-15 ppm with a mean of 8.5 ppm (Kabata Pendias and Pendias, 1984). Rashad *et al.* (1995) reported

that the normal levels of Co content in alluvial soils of Nile Delta ranged from 3.7 to 5.5 ppm with an average of 4.7 ppm, while those of contaminated alluvial soils of Egypt were 11.2-36.1 ppm with an average of 23.7 ppm, El-Lithi (1986) and Faiyad et al. (1996). These results indicate that the investigated soils have higher Co content than the normal noncontaminated soils of Nile Delta. This could be attributed to the parent materials, which inherited from it the studied soils.

With respect to DTPA-extractable Co, data tabulated in Table 2 reveal that its content ranged from 0.02 to 1.39 mg/kg soil with the average of 0.54 mg/kg soil. The lower content was associated to the surface layer of profile 8, while the highest content was found in the subsurface layer of profile 10.

DTPA-extractable Co was reported to be 0.07-0.11 ppm in alluvial noncontaminated Delta soils, Rashad *et al.* (1995). Values of 0.13-0.28 ppm Co with an average of 0.19 ppm were reported by Aboulroos *et al.* (1996) and similar values were reported by Abou-Hussien and Faiyad (1996). Recently, Mourid (1999) found that the soils of Helwan, Bahr El-Baqar and Gharbanyat have available Co ranged between 0.227 and 1.770 ppm with an average of 1.00 ppm.

#### Total and DTPA-extractable nickel

Table 2 shows that total Ni content varies widely from 3.83 to 44.0 mg/kg with an average of 17.60 mg/kg. The lowest content was found in the surface layer of profile 5, while the highest content was associated to the deepest layer of profile 16.

The average content of Ni in soils of England and Wales was reported to be 20 mg/kg, McGrath and Loveland (1992) with much variation between soil types. Rashad *et al.* (1995) reported that the normal levels of total Ni in alluvial soils of Egypt ranged from 21 to 44 mg/kg with an average of 32 mg/kg.

DTPA-extractable Ni ranged between 0.04 and 0.53 mg/kg with an average of 0.19 mg/kg. The lowest content was found in the surface layer of profile 3, while the highest content was associated to the deepest layer of profile 8. These results were in agreement with those of Rashad *et al.* (1995), Aboulroos *et al.* (1996) and Omran *et al.* (1996) who mentioned that the concentration of DTPA-extractable Ni in Nile Delta alluvial soil ranged from alluvial soils of Egypt values of 0.44-1.34 mg/kg were found in El-Fayoum soils, 0.59-0.98 mg/kg for the soils of Helwan (El-Lithi, 1986).

Data tabulated in table (2) shows that total Cd content in the studied soils ranged from 0.081 to 0.509 mg/kg with an average of 0.243 mg/kg. The lowest content was recorded in the subsurface layer of profile 17, while the highest content was found in the subsurface layer of profile 13. Fleischer et al. (1974) reported that normal background levels of Cd in soil are <1.0 Egyptian J. Desert Res., 53, No.1 (2003)

mg/kg, but contaminated soils may contain considerably higher amounts. Aichberger *et al.* (1982) found that Cd content was 0.07-2.40 mg/kg at different geological regions of upper Australia.

Regarding the Egyptian soils, Abdel-Karim (1994) obtained higher total Cd in the range of 8.0 to 15.5 mg/kg for some alluvial and calcareous soils, while Mohamed (1995) found that Cd ranged from 5.6 to 7.4 mg/kg and from 2.2 to 3.4 mg/kg in the lacustrine and calcareous soils, respectively. Recently, Mouride (1999) found the total Cd content in different polluted soils ranged from 0.40 to 1.78 mg/kg.

The obtained results show that total Cd content in the studied soils was below 1.0 mg/kg. On the other hand, Kabata Pendias and Pendias (1992) mentioned that the background levels of Cd were 0.06-1.10 mg/kg with a calculated worldwide mean of 0.53 mg/kg. A survey of agriculture soils of USA comprising 3045 samples representing 307 different soil series collected from sites remote from metal contamination gave a mean topsoil Cd concentration of 0.265 mg/kg and a range of <0.01-2.00 mg/kg, McGrath and Loveland (1992).

The background Cd levels in soils of Delta ranged between 0.7 and 1.4 mg/kg, Rashad *et al.* (1995). In contaminated soils, however, mean values of 3.4, 3.2, 5.5 and 1.9 ppm were reported by Abdel-Haleem (1984). El-Sabbagh (1991), Ramadan (1995) and Rabie *et al.*, (1996), respectively. The data tabulated in Table 2 show that total Cd content in the studied soils was lower than those reported for contaminated soils of Egypt. Based on these information one can conclude that the investigated soils were uncontaminated with Cd.

Table (2) shows that DTPA-extractable Cd ranged from 0.001 to 0.020 mg/kg with an average of 0.007 mg/kg. The lowest content was recorded in the subsurface layer of profile 6, while the highest content was found in the subsurface layer of profile 4. El-Sokkary (1987); Rashad *et al.*(1995) and Aboulroos *et al.* (1996) found that the normal levels of DTPA-extractable Cd were 0.03-0.06, 0.017-0.095 and 0.08-0.18 mg/kg soil, respectively. In contaminated soils, however, El-Sokkary (1987) found that the higher values ranged from 0.45 to 4.5 mg/kg soils. These results show that the soils under investigation contain values of DTPA-extractable Cd comparable with those of uncontaminated soils.

# Soil Properties and Studied Elements Contents

Soil properties and iron content

Soil factors that were reported to affect heavy metal availability include pH, EC, CaCO<sub>3</sub>, organic matter, cation exchange capacity, sodium adsorption ratio, clay and silt content and inorganic amorphous materials (SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>). Data presented in table (3) show that total iron content was highly significant correlated positively with CEC, while was correlated positively with silt, clay and (silt + clay). Clay minerals may contain Fe either in their crystalline structure or as exchangeable cations on

their surface. Moreover, Fe in the form of oxides may be externally associated with the clay fraction of soils. This association may be a surface coating on clay particles or it may be in the form of tiny nodules and concretion especially in heavy textured soils, McKenzie (1989). On the other hand, data show that DTPA-extractable iron was negatively correlated with iron oxide.

Soil properties and manganese content

Data tabulated in table (3) show that no statistical correlation was detected between the total Mn content and any individual soil property, which was measured in this work. This result was in agreement with that of El-Falah (1995). Several reasons can be advanced to explain this result. First, some of the measured properties such as the soil pH values, O.M and clay content, vary within a limited range to be effective as far as the total Mn concerned. Second, some variables such as the total Mn and the clay contents vary along a wide range. However, this variation is usually associated with the changes in measured system. To illustrate this case, two soils with less than 135.0 and 960.0 mg/kg total Mn are not different only in their elemental contents but they may also differ in their mineralogy which lead to difference between their chemical composition.

TABLE (3). Correlation coefficients between soil variables and total and DTPA-extractable elements

	Fe		Mn		Zn		Cu		Pb		Co		Ni		Cd	
Soil Variables	Total	Available	Total	Available	Total	Available	Total	Available	Total	Available	Total	Available	Total	Available	Total	Available
Hq	0.09	0.04	- 0.01	0.30*	0.00	- 0.13	- 0.16	0.01	The sel	4,387		44.75				100
EC	0.02	- 0.03	- 0.08	- 0.50**	• 0.05	0.19	0.13	• 0.21	- 0.13	0.11	- 0.25	0.01	- 0.16	0.18	- 0.08	- 0.14
CaCO <sub>3</sub>	- 0.04	- 0.13	0.04	- 0.03	0.09	0.02		0.25	0.18	0.05	0.15	- 0.12	0.11	- 0.16	0.03	0.09
M.C	- 0.03	- 0.09	0.06	0.08	- 0.13		- 0.06	• 0.09	- 0.04	0.33*	- 0.01	0.13	0.06	- 0.12	- 0.07	- 0.25
CEC	0.60**	- 0.18	0.18	0.03	0.58**	- 0.04	- 0.37**	• 0.38**	- 0.04	- 0.34*	- 0.23	- 0.28*	- 0.25	- 0.21	- 0.05	- 0.40°
SAR	0.07	- 0.19	0.00	- 0.36**	0.05	0.19	0.44**	0.20	- 0.09	0.08	0.48**	- 0.03	0.55**	0.23	- 0.13	0.21
SiO <sub>2</sub>	- 0.02	0.02	0.06	- 0.06	- 0.03	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.12	0.16	0.21	- 0.05				0.05
N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	- 0.16	- 0.25	- 0.21	0.10		0.15	- 0.20	- 0.21	- 0.01	0.15	- 0.19		0.21	- 0.03	- 0.06	
e <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	- 0.06	- 0.29*	- 0.07	0.14	0.13	- 0.09	0.17	- 0.02	- 0.27	0.01		- 0.31°	- 0.17	- 0.11	- 0.10	0.06
Silt	0.32*	0.02	04		0.21	0.06	0.23	0.02	- 0.47**		0.24	0.02	0.25	0.12	- 0.21	0.15
	0.311	0.27	- 0.18	- 0.20	0.31*	0.15	0.30*	0.22	0.11	0.06	0.31*	0.16	0.30*	0.20	- 0.01	0.06
	0.341	0.20	_	· 0.34°	0.21	0.20	0.30*	0.45**		0.08	0.22	0.06	0.29*	-0.09	- 0.06	0.06
	* and		- 0.14	· 0.31°	0.27	0.19			0.01	0.10	0.22	0.16	0.27	- 0.03	- 0.07	0.17
	and	a, de	enote	signifi	cant c	liffere	maaa	0.40**	0.05	0.10	0.24	0.14	0.30*	- 0.06	- 0.07	0.14

ignificant differences at 0.05 and 0.01 levels, respectively.

DTPA-extractable Mn shows positive correlation with pH and negative correlation with clay and (silt + clay) contents, while was highly negatively correlated with EC and SAR.

Based on a strictly theoretical argument as given by Ellis et al. (1983) and McKenzie (1989), oxidation / reduction potential and pH control Soil properties and zinc content

The correlation coefficients (Table 3) reveal that the total Zn content tudied soils was significant. in the studied soils was significant and highly significant correlated with silt

and CEC, respectively. These results are in agreement with those of El-Falah (1995). He mentioned that this correlation may be explained by the presence of Zn as a structural constituent of some clay minerals or as an exchangeable cation on clays. It may also be explained by the possible presence of some Zn bearing minerals in the clay and silt fractions. On the other hand, no statistical correlation was detected between the DTPA-extractable Zn and any individual soil property which was measured in this study.

Soil properties and copper content

Data tabulated in table (3) show that as was the case with total Fe, there is a positive correlation between total Cu and both the silt, clay and (silt + clay) contents of soils, while there is a highly significant positive and negative correlation with CEC and O.M, respectively. These results were in agreement with those of El-Falah (1995).

With regard to the DTPA-extractable Cu, data in Table 3 show that there is a highly positive correlation with both clay and (silt + clay) contents,

while was negatively correlated with O.M content.

Soil properties and lead content

Data in Table 3 show that, no statistical correlation was detected between the total Pb content and any individual soil property, which was measured in this study with the possible exception of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> content. This could be attributed to the limited range of the measured properties such as pH, O.M and CaCO<sub>3</sub>. On the other hand, data in Table 3 reveal that DTPAextractable Pb was correlated positively and negatively with CaCO3 and O.M contents, respectively.

Soil properties and cobalt content

The correlation coefficients (Table 3) reveal that total Co content was highly significant and significant correlated with CEC and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, respectively. Kabata Pendias and Pendias (1992) mentioned that numerous investigators especially have cited the roles of montmorillonitic and illitic clays as being of significance because of their great sorption capacity and their relatively easy release of Co.

With regard to DTPA-extractable Co, data in table (3) reveal that it is negatively correlated with both O.M and SiO2 contents. Bloomfield (1981) found that soils rich in organic matter are known to have both a low Co

content and low Co availability.

Soil properties and nickel content

Table (3) show that total Ni content was highly significant correlated with CEC, while was significant correlated with Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, silt and (silt + clay). These results are in agreement with Mouride (1999) who obtained similar results indicating that texture was the main factor affecting total Ni content. On the other hand, Kabata Pendias and Pendias (1992) mentioned that Ni is easily mobilized during weathering and then is coprecipitated mainly with Fe oxides. No statistical correlations were observed between DTPAextractable Ni and any soil properties measured in this study.

Soil properties and cadmium content

Data in table (3) show that no statistical correlation was detected between total Cd and individual soil properties, while DTPA-extractable Cd was highly negatively correlated with O.M content.

To draw attention to the possible use of analytical data for heavy metals, given in summarized form, and to discuss some interesting features of the results in so far as they appear to reflect the general properties of distribution of certain heavy metals in soils, their weighted mean, trend and

specific range (Oertel and Giles, 1963) are employed.

Table 4 shows that, the weighted mean for total Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu, Pb, Co, Ni and Cd in the studied soils varies from 1700 to 40000; 200.58 to 685.10; 18.88 to 70.23; 3.19 to 17.99; 4.81 to 13.28; 3.06 to 18.77; 6.36 to 34.29 and 0.10 to 0.46 ppm, respectively. The variations encountered within the studied profiles may be ascribed to the chance of variation in soil formation processes or local conditions prevailing in each site.

Considering the trend (T), data in table (4) indicate variable symmetrical distribution of total Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu, Pb, Co, Ni and Cd as indicated by (T) values which range from -0.758 to 0.502; -0.995 to 0.336; -0.929 to 0.313; -0.201 to 0.540; -0.192 to 0.424; -0.562 to 0.669; -0.440 to 0.638 and -0.695 to 0.703 ppm, respectively. These results show that the studied elements are somewhat lower in the surface or follows an opposite trend when increased in the surface layer than the deeper ones as indicated by the common positive or negative values for the trend.

Specific range (R) for total content of Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu, Pb, Co, Ni and Cd is generally widely variable as it ranges from 0.020 to 0.672; 0.063 to 1.720; 0.060 to 1.317; 0.038 to 0.792; 0.089 to 0.636; 0.174 to 1.976; 0.119 to 0.909 and 0.158 to 1.033 ppm, respectively. This suggests that the pedogenic processes had acted in a fairly uniform manner through the solum.

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TABLE C4). Weighted mean (W), freque (1) and specific tables (N) of the control			M	0.22	0.15	0.30	0.41	0.15	0.24	0.35	0.45	0.12	0.41	0.14	0 33									
TABLE C (4). Weighted mean (W), trend (1) and specific range (N) to the large (N) to the			R						ALC: NO PERSONAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PER	_			0.500	0.658	0.630	0.050	0.400	0.184	0.379	869.0	_			
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TABLE (4). Weighted mean (W), trend (1) and specific diagrams (1) and	ıc ra			-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-			_		-	1		_	_	_		
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No.	), tr		R	0.355	0.197	0.451	0.118	_	69.0	_		_		_									-	
No.	n (W	Mn	٢	0.213	0.131	-0.277	0.005	0.297	0.321	_		_											-	1
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No.	ghted		×	_	The second	_			0.512	0.249	0.243		0.186		0.672			0.161	_		0.354			
No.	. Wel	Fe	T	_	_	_	_	_	_			-0.225	-0.103		-0.469					100			0.018	
No.	E (4).			_	_		_					_	20400		1700	15300	20600	17400	12000	73000	28000	25900	27400	
Fayntian I. Desert Res., 53, No.1 (2003)	TABL	F	Profile					T		1		6		≘	_	12	13	1 4	: :	2		17	18	_

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0.778 0.833 0.833 0 364 1.400 1 1.333 0.400 6 333 1 886 0.583 177 1.077 1990 1001 × TABLE (5). Weighted mean (W), trend (T) and specific range (R) of DTPA-extractable elements content in the studied soils. 0.333 0.200 1990 0.556 0.500 0.667 0.017 273 0.417 0.538 0.011 0.005 0.012 0.012 0.013 0.003 0000 1100 0.005 0.011 3 1.130 0.524 1.249 0.915 0.829 0.781 0.909 1.203 0.147 0.492 0.620 0.284 0.861 868 0 0.364 0.972 × 890.0--0.261 0.414 0.572 170.0-0.600 0.294 0.267 0.370 0.186 0.664 0.571 0.449 0.079 0.075 0.103 0.269 0.568 Z -0.12 0.10 0.22 0.26 0.32 0.24 0.40 0.11 0.15 0.28 0.18 0.18 0.18 0.21 0.13 = 0 0.25 0.29 3 1.215 1.824 0.537 0.120 0.642 0.569 0.545 1.734 1.489 1.785 0.953 1.632 1.644 0.302 1.283 0.915 0.521 1.244  $\simeq$ 0.012 0.080 0.334 -0.761 0.203 9200 0.321 0.276 0.767 0.978 0.943 0.166 0.121 0.887 0.225 0.611 0.380 0.726 -3.17 13.08 12.80 11.65 4.70 4.73 7.18 7.17 3.06 8.29 0.00 4.82 0.49 0.14 0.72 0.44 0.73 3 0.62 0.413 0.190 0.764 1.220 0.833 2.103 1.230 0.188 1.054 0.513 0.711 0.500 1.013 1.167 0.925 0.887 1.175 0.466  $\simeq$ -0.119 -0 250 -0.073 -0.172 0.680 0.417 -0.724 0.965 -0.600 0.141 -0.218 £ 0.496 0.377 0.000 0.625 0.538 0.276 0.930 0.00 90.0 0.04 0.05 90.0 0.11 90.0 0.00 0.12 0.01 0.01 0.05 0.02 0.05 ₹ 0.08 0.11 90.0 90.0 0.084 0.380 1.004 0.509 1.075 0.408 0.398 0.242 0.857 0.682 0.745 609.0 0.385  $\simeq$ 0.176 0.391 0.440 0.244 0.846 0.051 0.253 0.634 0.330 0.208 909.0 0.285 0.141 0.669 0.280 0.444 0.493 E 0.289 0.094 0.355 0.378 0.193 0.494 W 0.37 0.73 0.43 0.58 0.44 0.13 0.43 0.40 0.38 0.42 0.30 0.55 0.22 0.53 0.75 0.23 0.41 0.729 0.714 0.643 1.135 0.674 0.440 0.670 0.244 0.566 1.679 0.576  $\simeq$ 0.131 0.370 1.313 1.146 1.113 0.398 0.921 0.437 0.475 0.447 2 0.381 0.220 0.099 0.396 -0.187 0.429 -0.991 -0.263 -0.538 0.095 0.215 -0.105 0.716 0.546 -0.861 ¥ 0.61 0.63 0.62 1.04 0.42 0.84 0.70 0.00 0.60 0.94 0.75 0.48 0.82 19.0 0.84 0.28 1.40 0.61 0.173 0.772 0.847 0.590 0.915 0.768 1.477 0.811 1.309  $\simeq$ 2.446 0.684 0.131 0.396 0.169 0.599 1.405 1.406 0.084 0.514 -0.311 0.104 0.245 Mn -0.041 0.384 898.0--0.864 -0.312 669.0 H -0.989 -0.804 0.076 0.326 0.199 -0.046 -1.000 0.011 14.97 6.13 2.91 7.43 8.48 8.05 14.85 3 8.34 3.98 12.44 11.83 12.96 12.74 13.30 2.65 12.34 1.82 2.62 0.456 0.451 2.142 0.481 0.767 1.298  $\simeq$ 0.362 0.663 1.541 1.325 0.846 0.360 1.000 0.622 0.182 0.021 1.386 0.287 -0.212 690.0--0.300 리는 -0.906 0.575 -0.384 0.266 -0.735 0.377 -0.596 -0.076 0.219 909.0--0.405 0.313 0.020 0.162 ≥ 2 0.29 0.60 09 9 0.50 0.58 1.22 0.48 0.48 0.26 0.48 0.33 0.56 0.55 0.60 0.88 Profile No. " 4 5 9 18 8 6 0 17 13 12 16 14 15 Egyptian J. Desert Res., 53, No.1 (2003)

Further computation of the weighted mean (W), trend (T) and specific range (R) of DTPA-extractable heavy metals were then carried out, table (5). Weighted mean for DTPA-extractable Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu, Pb, Co, Ni and Cd in the studied soil profiles varies widely.

The results of (T) values show that Fe, Mn and Zn are usually higher in the surface layer than the deepest ones as indicated by the common negative values for the trend. The variations in the values of (R) are mainly attributed to inherited characteristics, modified by bedogenic processes, sedimentation regime as well as local condition of each soil profile.

The specific range for the concerned elements also ranged widely suggesting the pedogenic processes had acted in a fairly uniform manner throughout the solum in each soil profile.

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# تقييم بعض المغذيات الصغري والعناصر الملوثة في أراضي توشكى

محمد عيسى عبد الرحمن ، سعد الدمرداش قسم كيمياء وطبيعة الأراضى – مركز بحوث الصحراء – المطرية – القاهرة – مصر

أجريت الدراسة علي اثنين وخمسون عينة ارضية تمثل ثمانية عشرة قطاعا ارضيا بمنطقة توشكي بهدف تقييم محتواها الكلي والميسر من عناصر الحديد، المنجنيز، الزنك، النحاس، الرصاص، الكوبالت، النيكل، الكادميوم بالإضافة إلى تقدير خواصها الطبيعية والكيميائية.

أوضحت النتائج أن قوام هذه الأراضي يتفاوت بين الطميى الطيني، الرملي الطميلي ويختلف محتواها من كربونات الكالسيوم مابين ١,١٠-٢١٧% في حين كان محتواها من المادة العضوية منخفضا. كذلك بينت النتائج أن متوسط المحتوي الكلي لكل من الحديد، المنجنيز، الزنك، النحاس، الرصاص، الكوبالت، النيكل، الكادميوم ٢,٢٩%، ٢٢٢,٦٥، ١٠,٠٠، ١٠,٠٠، ٢٤٢، مرايجرام/لتر علي التوالي. كما وجد أن محتوي معظم الأراضي مسن الحديد الميسر أقل من المستوي الحرج في حين وجد عكس ذلك في المنجنيز، بينما كان المحتوي الميسر لكل من الرصاص، الكوبالت، النيكل، الكادميوم ٢٠٠٠، ١٥٥،، ١٩٠،، ١٩٠،، ١٠،٠، ملليجرام/لتر على التوالي.

وقد أظهر حساب القياسات الإحصائية (المتوسط الوزني، الاتجاه، النطاق النوعي) للمحتوي الكلي والميسر للعناصر المدروسة عدم تجانس الأراضي وأرجع ذلك إلي اختلاف مواد الأصل المشاركة في تكوين هذه الأراضي أو إلي العمليات البيدوجينية التي صاحبت تكوين الأراضي.