Belo Horizonte, January 29th, 2013 – Minas Gerais, Brazil

Dear Editors,

We submit an original research paper, entitled “Occurrence of pesticides in surface water in Manhuaçu, Brazil”. We would like you to accept it as a candidate for publication in the Ambiente & Água - An Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Science

The area of study (Manhuaçu in Minas Gerais) is an expressive coffee producer, which is related to relatively high amounts of pesticide usage. The city possesses many different water sources directed to public water supply and 13 points of water extraction. Its land relief is strong, wavy and mountainous, and its pluviometric means are high. Crops are often located right next to water sources. There have also been several occurrences of cancer on the local population – it was responsible for over 12% of all deaths in the city. This high cancer occurrence and the possibility that it is linked to pesticide usage has attracted media coverage and concerned the local population. It is also object of a public civil action impetrated by the Public Ministry of the State of Minas Gerais. Assessment of surface water contamination by pesticides was, thus, necessary.

The main purpose of this study was to investigate the presence of pesticides used in a sub-basin headwater with coffee crops, situated in Dom Corrêa district, Manhuaçu, MG. This study is based in the hypothesis that intensive use of pesticides and environmental conditions (mountains relief, rain intensity and proximity of crops to streams), in the area of study, led to contamination of surface water by pesticide wastes. In this work were detected semi-quantitatively, by means of analyses gas and liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry, the presence of pesticides of chemical groups organochlorine, organophosphate, pyrethroid, triazole and carbamates.

As the corresponding author I have read all submission instruction and I am responsible for the information inserted in the submission procedure. I assure that the contribution is original and unpublished, and it is not being evaluated for publication by other journal and that it will not be withdrawn from the editorial processes until final decision from the journal’s administration.

The authors do not have any competing financial interests that could compromise the integrity of the work.

Sincerely,

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