

A PRELIMINARY STUDY ON THE RADIOACTIVITY OF PLANTS FROM A HIGH RADIATION AREA OF SRI LANKA—BERUWELA

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A radio-ecological survey has been carried out to investigate the gamma activity of plants growing in the monazite bearing high radiation region¹, Beruwela. Radioactivity for plants from locations with normal background radiation levels and ecological characteristics similar to the exposed population were carried out for comparison. Data clearly demonstrate that the levels of gamma activities in plants from the radiation area are higher than those in the control samples.

A relative comparison of alpha activities have also been carried out on some of the plants studied.

Comparing with the gamma spectrum of a pure thorium salt, it is observed that radiation energies of 0.08, 0.24, 0.33, 0.57, 0.7 and 1.6 Mev occur most extensively in the spectra of samples from the high radiation area.

Reference

1. Amarasiriwardena, D. D. and Dharmawardena, K. G. (1981). High background radiation areas present on the South Coast and East Coast, *Proc. Sri Lanka Ass. Advmt. Sci.* **37** (1), 64.