




Journal of Environmental Science and Health, Part A >
Toxic/Hazardous Substances and Environmental Engineering
Volume 38, 2003 - [Issue 11](#)

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Concentration of Copper, Iron, Zinc, Cadmium, Lead, and Nickel in Boar Semen and Relation to the Spermatozoa Quality

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Pages 2643-2651 | Received 28 Jan 2003, Published online: 06 Feb 2007

 Cite this article  <https://doi.org/10.1081/ESE-120024453>

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Abstract

The concentration of copper, iron, zinc, cadmium, lead, and nickel as well as its relation to spermatozoa quality was investigated. The semen samples were analyzed by atomic absorption spectrophotometry (AAS). The concentration of copper in boar semen was $1.64 \pm 0.28 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$ and of iron $16.14 \pm 10.35 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$. The concentration of zinc in boar semen reached an average value of $171.74 \pm 64.72 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$ and the level of cadmium reached $0.01\text{--}0.16 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$ with the average value of 0.05 mg kg^{-1} . The analysis of lead showed that the concentration of this element in boar semen was $0.02 \pm 0.03 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$ and the average level of nickel was $0.06 \pm 0.08 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$. The total percentage of pathological spermatozoa was $9.82 \pm 1.47\%$. Detail analysis

determined 3.18% of separated flagellum, 2.26% knob twisted flagellum, 0.88% flagellum torso, 0.85% flagellum ball, 0.42% broken flagellum, 0.23% retention of the cytoplasmic drop, 0.14% small heads, 0.03% large heads, and 1.83% forms other of pathological changes. Correlation analysis showed significant ($p < 0.05$) positive correlation between copper and lead ($r = 0.52$). High correlation between small head and knob twisted tail ($r = 0.67$), small head and broken flagellum ($r = 0.88$) as well as between small head and total number of pathological spermatozoa ($r = 0.73$) was determined.

Keywords:

- Copper
- Iron
- Zinc
- Cadmium
- Lead
- Nickel
- Spermatozoa
- Boar

Acknowledgments

We would like to express our gratitude to Ing. P. Cupka and Ing. O. Messinger for statistical analysis, Mrs. P. Sýkorová and Mrs. A. Sobčáková for technical assistance. This was supported by VEGA Scientific Grant 1/9080/02 from the Ministry of Education of Slovak Republic.

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