

Trace metal contents of some wild-growing mushrooms in Bigadiç (Balıkesir), Turkey

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Abstract: In this study, heavy metal (Cd, Cr, Cu, Mn, and Zn) contents of wild-growing mushrooms and soil samples collected from Bigadiç (Balıkesir) were determined. A total of 38 fungal taxa were found in the study area. Among the mushroom samples analysed, minimum and maximum metal contents were 0.11-2.58 mg kg⁻¹ for Cd, 1.01-19.55 mg kg⁻¹ for Cr, 2.61-72.44 mg kg⁻¹ for Cu, 1.38-47.52 mg kg⁻¹ for Mn, and 5.75-97.55 mg kg⁻¹ for Zn. For all elements, values are within the acceptable levels as reported by several researchers. *Hohenbuehelia petaloides* (Bull.) Schulzer had the lowest elemental composition for all elements. Metal contents of the soil samples were also within acceptable levels. Therefore, the study area does not have heavy metal contamination. Nevertheless, the Cd, Cu, and Zn contents detected in the majority of mushroom samples were relatively higher than the contents in soil samples collected from beneath them.

Key words: Heavy metal, mushroom, Balıkesir, Turkey

Introduction

For a considerable length of time, trace element contents of wild-growing mushrooms have been investigated in numerous studies (Demirbaş, 2001; Yılmaz et al., 2003; Isildak et al., 2004; Turkekul et al., 2004; Yamaç et al., 2007; Chen et al., 2009; Gençcelep et al., 2009; Kaya & Bag, 2010; Radulescu et al., 2010; Şen et al., 2012). It is known that mushrooms can accumulate some metals, such as cadmium, mercury, and lead (Kalač & Svoboda, 2000). Although factors governing the accumulation of heavy metals in mushrooms are not well known, environmental factors (metal concentrations in soils,

pH, and contamination by atmospheric deposition) and fungal factors (fungal structure, morphological portion, development of mycelium and fruit bodies, biochemical composition, and decomposition activity) may play important roles in the ability of mushrooms to accumulate metals (Kalač & Svoboda, 2000; Işiloğlu et al., 2001). In particular, the mushrooms collected near highways, metal smelters, or mining areas have relatively higher levels of some elements. Işiloğlu et al. (2001) showed that traffic pollution has an important effect on the Pb contents of some mushrooms. Similar results have been found in several other studies (García et al., 1998; Kalač et al., 2004; Carvalho et al., 2005; Chen et al., 2009). In

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addition, Nikkarinen and Mertanen (2004) reported that natural geochemistry has a significant influence on the trace element contents of wild-growing mushrooms.

Turkey has great mushroom-producing potential due to climate conditions (Solak et al., 2007; Allı, 2011; Allı et al., 2011; Doğan et al., 2012). In light of the literature cited above, the aim of this study was to determine the heavy metal contents of wild-growing mushrooms collected from Bigadiç in the province of Balıkesir (Figure 1) and to compare the heavy metal contents of the mushrooms with soil samples taken from beneath the sampled mushrooms.

Material and methods

Collection and preparation of samples

Mushroom samples were collected in the autumn of 2009 in Balıkesir, and soil samples were taken from depths of 0-30 cm beneath randomly selected mushroom samples.

The habitat and morphological characteristics of the mushrooms were recorded and photographed, and mushroom samples were brought to the laboratory. Samples were identified by examining their macroscopic and microscopic features, using the references of Phillips (1981), Moser (1983), Breitenbach and Kränzlin (1984-2000), Hansen and Knudsen (2000), and Knudsen and Vesterholt (2008).

Mushroom samples were air-dried in laboratory conditions and cleaned with deionised water. Dried and washed samples were homogenised and stored in polyethylene bottles until analysis.

Soil samples were air-dried in the laboratory and sieved with a 2-mm sieve (Kacar, 1998). The pH and conductivity of the soil (1:2, soil:soil mixture) were measured as described by Radojevic and Bashkin (1999), and organic matter content was determined using burning methods (Kacar, 1998).

Chemical analysis of samples

Both mushroom and soil samples were analysed using the method of Radojevic and Bashkin (1999). Aqua regia (15 mL) was added to 0.25 g of homogenised samples, and the samples were kept overnight. The next day, samples were incubated at 50 °C for 30 min, and the temperature was raised to 120 °C for an incubation of 2 h. After heating, samples were cooled to room temperature, 10 mL of 0.25 M HNO₃ was added, and then the mixture was filtered with Whatman No. 541. Filtrate was brought to a volume of 25 mL with 0.25 M HNO₃ (Radojevic & Bashkin, 1999).

Cd, Cr, Cu, Mn, and Zn were analysed with a PerkinElmer Optima 2000 ICP-OES with the appropriate standards, and calibration was carried out as described by the manufacturer. All experiments were done in triplicate.

Results and discussion

Heavy metal contents of mushroom samples

The habitat, edibility of mushroom species, and heavy metal contents are given in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively.

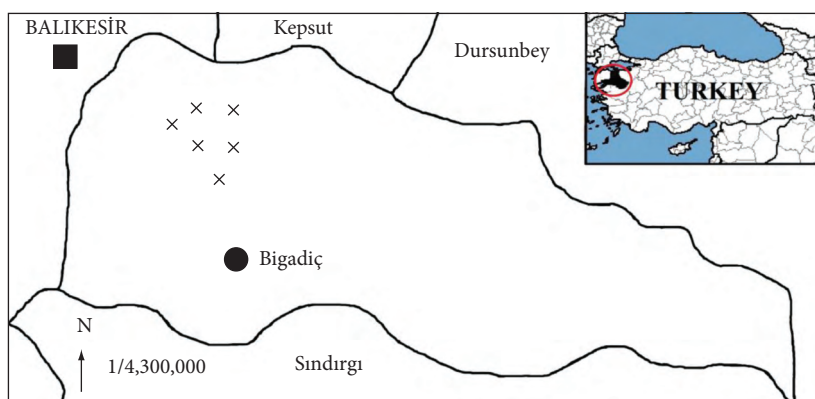


Figure 1. Map of the study area. Sampling sites indicated with x.

Table 1. The habitat and edibility of mushroom species.

Taxa	Habitat	Edibility
<i>Agaricus aestivalis</i> var. <i>veneris</i> (R.Heim & G.Becker) Wasser	In coniferous or mixed forests	Edible
<i>Agaricus altipes</i> (F.H.Møller) F.H.Møller	In coniferous or mixed forests	Edible
<i>Amanita ovoidea</i> (Bull.) Link	In or near mixed woodland, on calcareous soils	Edible
<i>Chroogomphus rutilus</i> (Schaeff.) O.K.Mill.	With conifers, usually <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> or other 2-needle pines	Edible
<i>Clavulina cinerea</i> (Bull.) J. Schröt.	On the ground in woods	Edible
<i>Clitocybe costata</i> Kühner & Romagn.	In coniferous forests	Not edible
<i>Cystoderma cinnabarina</i> (Alb. & Schwein.) Harmaja	On soil or among mosses and grasses	Not edible
<i>Flavoscypha cantharella</i> (Fr.) Harmaja	In broadleaved forests, under <i>Fagus</i> (beech), on mossy ground	Unknown
<i>Geastrum fimbriatum</i> Fr.	On rich humus under deciduous trees	Not edible
<i>Geopora arenosa</i> (Fuckel) S.Ahmad	On damp sandy ground, also around burned places	Unknown
<i>Gloeophyllum trabeum</i> (Pers.) Murrill	On dead, barkless wood of broadleaved trees and conifers	Not edible
<i>Hohenbuehelia petaloides</i> (Bull.) Schulzer	On stumps or decaying wood of deciduous trees	Edible
<i>Hygrophorus discoxanthus</i> Rea	In spruce forests on calcareous soils	Edible
<i>Inocybe ayeri</i> Furrer-Ziogas	In coniferous forests, on the remains of wood, and in acidic soil	Poisonous
<i>Inocybe corydalina</i> Quéł.	In hardwood and coniferous forests, on calcareous soil	Poisonous
<i>Inocybe geophylla</i> (Fr.) P.Kumm.	On path sides in deciduous, mixed, and coniferous woods	Poisonous
<i>Lactarius</i> sp.	In coniferous forests	Edible
<i>Lepiota cristata</i> (Bolton) P.Kumm.	In woods, garden refuse, or leaf litter	Poisonous
<i>Lepista nuda</i> (Bull.) Cooke	In woodlands, hedgerows, and gardens	Edible
<i>Leucocoprinus lanzonii</i> Bon, Migl. & Brunori	In hot houses or tropical houses in peaty soils	Not edible
<i>Lycoperdon lividum</i> Pers.	On heaths, pastures, dunes, and waste ground in sandy soil	Unknown
<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i> Pers.	In woodlands	Edible
<i>Melanoleuca paedida</i> (Fr.) Kühner & Maire	Along forest edges, in forest meadows, on bare soil	Edible
<i>Melanoleuca stridula</i> (Fr.) Singer	Along grassy path sides	Edible
<i>Mycena amicta</i> (Fr.) Quéł.	In conifer forests or mixed conifer-hardwood forests, on dead wood	Unknown
<i>Mycena galopus</i> var. <i>candida</i> J.E.Lange	Among leaf litter in woods, hedgerows, and on path sides	Unknown
<i>Mycena pura</i> (Pers.) P. Kumm.	In beech litter	Poisonous
<i>Mycena strobilicola</i> J. Favre & Kühner	On spruce cones embedded or buried in the ground	Not edible
<i>Mycetinis alliaceus</i> (Jacq.) Earle ex A.W. Wilson & Desjardin	On leaf litter, buried twigs, and other debris, usually beech; especially on chalk	Not edible
<i>Myxomphalia maura</i> (Fr.) Hora	On burnt ground in conifer woods	Not edible
<i>Phellinus torulosus</i> (Pers.) Bourdot & Galzin	Parasitic on conifer and dead trees	Not edible
<i>Pisolithus arhizus</i> (Scop.) Rauschert	In sandy or well-drained gravelly soil in fields or on roadsides	Not edible
<i>Russula cyanoxantha</i> (Schaeff.) Fr.	In broad-leaved trees	Edible
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i> (Willd.) Pers.	On stumps, logs, and fallen branches of deciduous trees	Not edible
<i>Suillus collinitus</i> (Fr.) Kuntze	In coniferous woodland	Edible
<i>Tapinella panuoides</i> (Batsch) E.-J.Gilbert	On conifer debris; causes infected wood to become soft and discolour bright yellow	Not edible
<i>Tricholoma fracticum</i> (Britzelm.) Kreisel	In coniferous forests, primarily under <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> , in calcareous soils	Not edible
<i>Tricholoma terreum</i> (Schaeff.) P.Kumm.	In woods, especially in conifers	Edible

Table 2. Heavy metal contents of mushroom samples (mg kg⁻¹, dry weight).

Taxa	Cd	Cr	Cu	Mn	Zn
<i>Agaricus aestivalis</i> var. <i>veneris</i>	0.54	6.88	72.44	28.11	84.47
<i>Agaricus altipes</i>	0.37	15.53	57.78	27.93	50.19
<i>Amanita ovoidea</i>	0.26	4.59	5.00	9.23	29.78
<i>Chroogomphus rutilus</i>	0.48	5.71	8.20	10.81	22.83
<i>Clavulina cinerea</i>	0.18	9.26	8.13	5.21	37.03
<i>Clitocybe costata</i>	0.62	2.88	32.09	14.35	24.70
<i>Cystoderma cinnabarina</i>	1.41	7.21	12.69	14.63	20.32
<i>Flavoscypha cantharella</i>	0.25	6.75	17.55	6.70	---
<i>Geastrum fimbriatum</i>	0.56	3.02	43.17	---	47.27
<i>Geopora arenosa</i>	0.77	12.98	29.27	---	84.32
<i>Gloeophyllum trabeum</i>	0.36	4.00	8.68	10.88	20.00
<i>Hohenbuehelia petaloides</i>	0.11	1.01	2.61	1.38	5.75
<i>Hygrophorus discoxanthus</i>	1.84	7.66	56.28	7.10	49.87
<i>Inocybe ayeri</i>	0.69	17.13	6.91	21.47	44.28
<i>Inocybe corydalina</i>	2.02	6.06	7.93	8.63	80.19
<i>Inocybe geophylla</i>	1.54	6.44	16.47	3.57	63.96
<i>Lactarius</i> sp.	0.18	3.63	3.37	1.68	13.99
<i>Lepiota cristata</i>	0.66	5.98	41.67	5.92	45.58
<i>Lepista nuda</i>	1.15	6.29	67.42	13.87	76.07
<i>Leucocoprinus lanzonii</i>	2.58	10.11	60.16	11.93	44.09
<i>Lycoperdon lividum</i>	1.74	6.13	71.08	18.58	---
<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>	0.72	3.47	61.78	6.81	97.06
<i>Melanoleuca paedida</i>	1.21	3.76	61.37	45.21	54.61
<i>Melanoleuca stridula</i>	0.60	3.92	37.97	17.51	35.73
<i>Mycena amicta</i>	1.10	---	29.09	31.00	67.30
<i>Mycena galopus</i> var. <i>candida</i>	1.65	---	19.76	14.62	97.55
<i>Mycena pura</i>	2.01	6.11	71.82	18.30	54.90
<i>Mycena strobilicola</i>	0.34	12.81	11.35	12.31	49.57
<i>Mycetinis alliaceus</i>	0.55	3.65	29.59	47.52	55.42
<i>Myxomphalia maura</i>	1.35	6.64	11.10	31.53	34.67
<i>Phellinus torulosus</i>	0.22	8.16	19.52	10.29	7.84
<i>Pisolithus arhizus</i>	0.12	2.44	12.20	6.86	9.68
<i>Russula cyanoxantha</i>	0.27	15.65	17.76	9.17	49.65
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	0.18	8.18	8.33	20.42	17.97
<i>Suillus collinitus</i>	0.21	9.46	7.64	8.53	34.02
<i>Tapinella panuoides</i>	0.25	3.62	7.67	2.54	15.78
<i>Tricholoma fracticum</i>	1.39	19.55	3.54	17.14	19.84
<i>Tricholoma terreum</i>	1.47	7.07	28.90	43.15	68.07

---: Not determined.

The levels of Cd in samples ranged from 0.11 to 2.58 mg kg⁻¹, and the highest Cd levels were detected in *Leucocoprinus lanzonii*. In the literature, Cd contents of wild-growing mushrooms collected from different parts of Turkey were reported to be within the range of 0.10-3.48 mg kg⁻¹. Cd contents of the mushrooms in Balıkesir are in agreement with these published values (Demirbaş, 2001; Isildak et al., 2004; Doğan et al., 2006; Yamaç et al., 2007; Yagiz et al., 2008).

Cr concentrations ranged from 1.01 to 19.55 mg kg⁻¹, and *Hohenbuehelia petaloides* and *Tricholoma fracticum* had the minimum and maximum Cr concentrations, respectively. Cr contents of mushroom samples collected from the Black Sea region in Turkey were reported to range from 1.1 to 9 mg kg⁻¹ (Mendil et al., 2004; Yagiz et al., 2008); however, Cr was found in the range of 3.05-84.5 mg kg⁻¹ in samples collected from Konya, Turkey (Doğan et al., 2006). Therefore, the Cr contents of mushrooms seem to differ with respect to sampling areas. Similarly, Cr contents of wild-growing mushrooms were reported to be 1.3-24.3 mg kg⁻¹ by Isildak et al. (2004). The findings reported in this study are in agreement with previously reported values.

Cu levels ranged from 2.61 to 72.44 mg kg⁻¹, and the highest Cu levels were seen in *Agaricus aestivalis* var. *veneris*. Cu levels in mushrooms were generally reported to be 100-300 mg kg⁻¹ in Europe, which is not considered a health risk (Kalač & Svoboda, 2000). Based on these results, the Cu levels in mushrooms reported in this study were within acceptable levels.

The minimum and maximum concentrations of Mn were 1.38 mg kg⁻¹ in *Hohenbuehelia petaloides* and 47.52 mg kg⁻¹ in *Mycetinis alliaceus*, respectively. In the literature, Mn levels in some mushroom species were reported to range from 3 to 81.3 mg kg⁻¹; however, the majority of these values were lower than 30 mg kg⁻¹ (Demirbaş, 2001; Isildak et al., 2004). Kalač & Svoboda (2000) reviewed the usual trace element composition of mushroom species and reported that Mn levels ranged from 5 to 60 mg kg⁻¹, and *Agaricus* spp. can be considered as accumulators of Mn. In this study, Mn levels in *Agaricus altipes* and *Agaricus aestivalis* var. *veneris* were 27.93 and 28.11 mg kg⁻¹, respectively.

Hohenbuehelia petaloides and *Mycena galopus* var. *candida* had the minimum and maximum Zn concentrations at 5.75 and 97.55 mg kg⁻¹, respectively. The Zn contents of some mushrooms in Turkey were

reported to range from 32 to 162 mg kg⁻¹ (Mendil et al., 2004; Yagiz et al., 2008). The current results are in agreement with values reported in the literature; however, Zn concentrations in *Lycoperdon perlatum* (97.06 mg kg⁻¹) and *Tricholoma terreum* (68.07 mg kg⁻¹) were higher than the values reported by several researchers (Demirbaş, 2001; Genççelep et al., 2009). Similarly, Zn contents of mushrooms collected from Europe were reported to range from 30 to 150 mg kg⁻¹ (Kalač & Svoboda, 2000), and it was emphasized that *Lycoperdon perlatum* may be considered an accumulator of Zn. In addition, the Zn content of *Lycoperdon perlatum* collected from the vicinity of metal smelters in Romania was 127-136 mg kg⁻¹ (Radulescu et al., 2010), and these values were higher than the values reported in this study.

For all elements, *Hohenbuehelia petaloides* has the lowest elemental composition. There is no information about the elemental composition of *Hohenbuehelia petaloides* in the literature. This species grows on stumps or decaying woods of deciduous trees, which may explain this outcome.

In Table 1, it is shown that 27 of the mushroom taxa grow on the ground; the others grow on wood, litter, in pastures, or on tree cones. As expected, the mushrooms growing on wood and stumps (*G. trabeum*, *H. petaloides*, *M. amicta*, *P. torulosus*, *S. hirsutum*, and *T. panuoides*) have relatively lower elemental compositions (Table 2). In addition, mushroom samples found on the leaf litter or litter (*M. galopus* var. *candida*, *M. strobilicola*, and *M. alliaceus*) have relatively higher metal contents than the other samples; however, the highest Mn and Zn contents were found in *Mycetinis alliaceus* (47.52 mg kg⁻¹) and *Mycena galopus* var. *candida* (97.55 mg kg⁻¹), respectively. All of these findings suggest that substrates have an important impact on the elemental composition of mushrooms.

The background levels of some trace element contents in the European species of wild-growing mushrooms were reviewed by Kalač (2010) for the period of 2000-2009. According to Kalač (2010), the values (mg kg⁻¹, dry weight) obtained for most of the species grown in unpolluted sites were 1-5 for Cd, 20-100 for Cu, 0.5-5 for Cr, 10-60 for Mn, and 25-200 for Zn. The metal contents of mushrooms collected from Balıkesir are in an agreement with the results indicated by Kalač (2010).

Knowledge of the heavy metal contents of wild-growing mushrooms is important for public health due the fact that some mushrooms are widely consumed for food in many countries. The proposed maximum levels of Cd and Cu set by the Food and Agricultural Organization and the World Health Organization (FAO/WHO) are 0.5 and 2 mg kg⁻¹ (1987), respectively. In the current study area, 15 taxa were identified as edible (Table 1), and the Cd and Cu contents of these species were 0.11-1.84 and 2.61-72.44 mg kg⁻¹, respectively (Table 2). Therefore, Cd and Cu contents in the edible mushrooms were higher than the acceptable values set by the FAO/WHO (1987). Nevertheless, in the specific study

area, the authors see no immediate toxicological risk, because the local community consumes only *Lactarius* sp.

Heavy metal contents of the soil samples and comparison of heavy metal contents of mushrooms and soil samples

Nine soil samples were collected in this study from beneath randomly selected mushroom samples. Some properties of the soil samples (pH, electric conductivity (EC), and organic matter (OM)) are given in Table 3, and comparison of heavy metal contents of soil and mushroom samples are given in Figures 2-6.

Table 3. Some properties of the soil samples.

Soil samples	pH	EC	OM
Soil 1	7.88	217.00	15.46
Soil 2	8.02	166.40	19.71
Soil 3	8.14	146.30	9.28
Soil 4	8.08	173.20	12.81
Soil 5	8.14	232.00	9.51
Soil 6	6.98	283.00	19.34
Soil 7	8.24	137.40	8.43
Soil 8	7.78	213.00	27.23
Soil 9	7.49	403.00	41.56

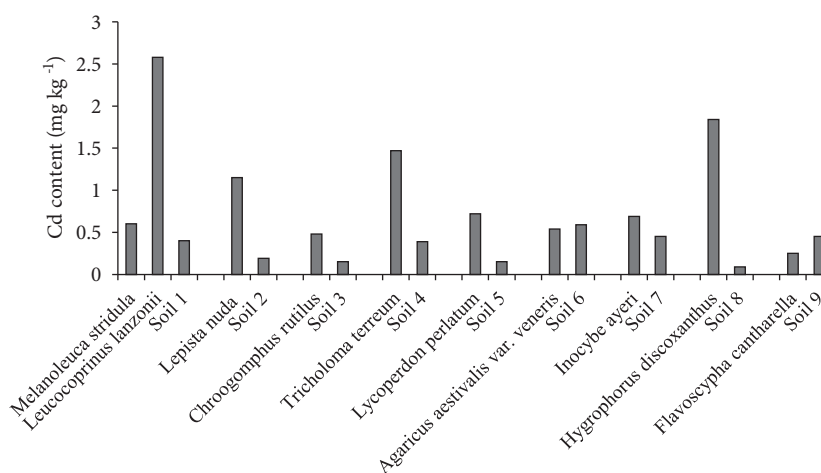


Figure 2. Cd contents of mushroom and soil samples.

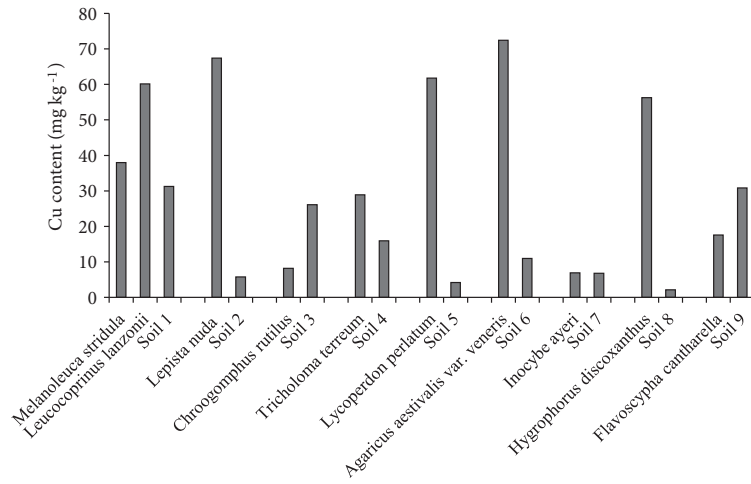


Figure 3. Cu contents of mushroom and soil samples.

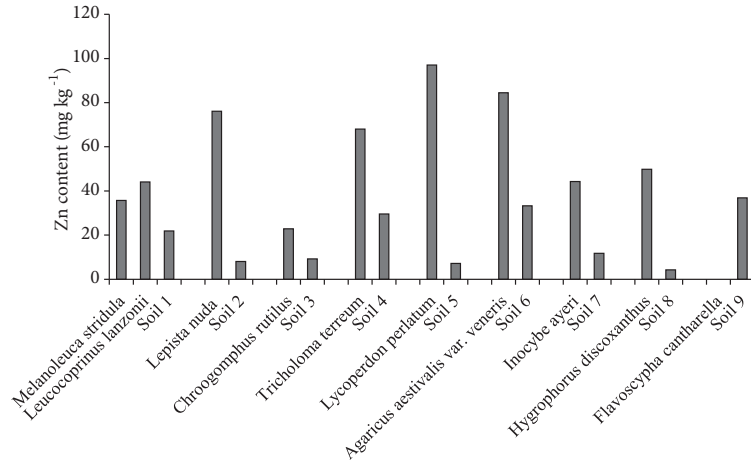


Figure 4. Zn contents of mushroom and soil samples.

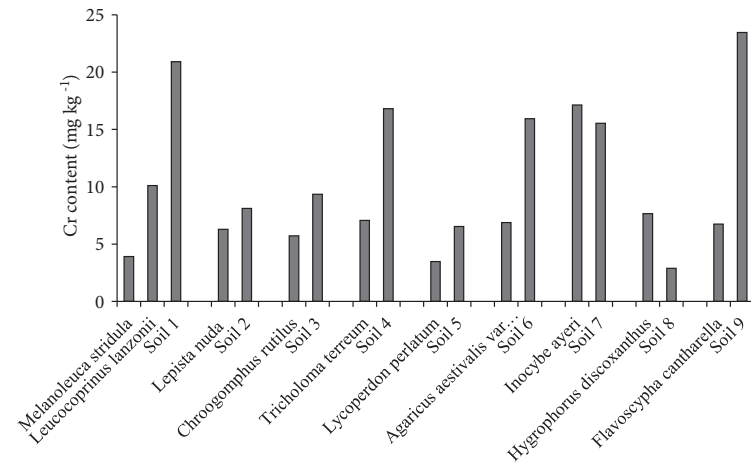


Figure 5. Cr contents of mushroom and soil samples.

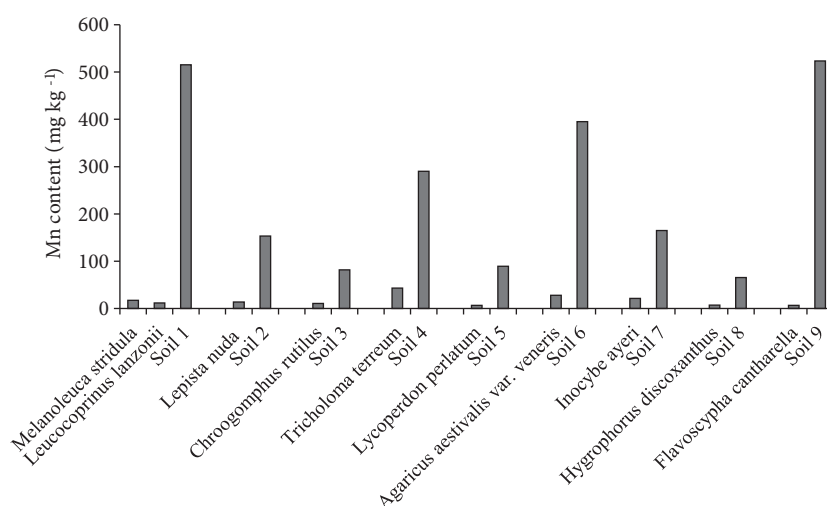


Figure 6. Mn contents of mushroom and soil samples.

Soil pH ranged from 6.98 to 8.26, and EC ranged from 137.40 to 403 $\mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$. OM content varied from 8.43% to 41.51%. Most soil samples were slightly alkaline, and there was no salinity problem.

Heavy metal contents of soil samples collected from agricultural areas in the United States ranged from 0.01 to 2 mg kg^{-1} for Cd, 0.3 to 495 mg kg^{-1} for Cu, and 1.5 to 264 mg kg^{-1} for Zn (Holmgren et al., 1993). Similarly, Kabata-Pendias (2001) reported that background levels of heavy metal contents in soil samples worldwide were 13-24 mg kg^{-1} for Cu, 270-525 mg kg^{-1} for Mn, and 17-125 mg kg^{-1} for Zn. The acceptable values of Cr in Europe were reported to range from 50 to 150 mg kg^{-1} (Lucho-Constantino et al., 2005). The heavy metal contents of soil samples collected from the study area in Balıkesir are in agreement with these values. Although the Mn contents of soil samples collected from Balıkesir were higher than the levels reported in the literature, Mn is not considered a pollutant in soils, and the maximum acceptable concentration of Mn is about 1500 mg kg^{-1} (Kabata-Pendias, 2001). Therefore, it was concluded that there was no pollution in the soil samples.

Cd, Cu, and Zn contents in the majority of mushroom samples were higher than those in the soils collected from beneath the samples (Figures 2-4). Cr concentrations in *Inocybe ayeri* and *Hygrophorus discoxanthus* were similar to the Cd, Cu, and Zn contents of the mushroom and soil samples (Figure 5). Mn contents in all soil samples were higher than the contents in mushroom samples (Figure 6).

These findings show that metal contents of the mushroom species can be higher than those of the soil samples collected from beneath them. Similar results were reported by Nikkarinen and Mertanen (2004), and these authors emphasised that the correlations between mushrooms and soil samples were dependent upon the element involved. Jongmans et al. (1997) reported that fungal hyphae were found in the pores of mineral grains in the soil horizon of coniferous forests. Additionally, studies have shown that some of the fungal taxa were distributed in the deeper soil layers (Rosling et al., 2003; Tedersoo et al., 2003). In other words, mushrooms may take up the elements directly from the pores of mineral layers in soils (Nikkarinen & Mertanen, 2004). Studies should continue to address the uptake mechanisms of mushrooms because mushrooms are useful tools for distinguishing between polluted and unpolluted areas (Kalač & Svoboda, 2000). The findings of this study and others will be helpful in providing the wealth of information required to help reach this goal.

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