

# Determination of Heavy Metals and Trace Element Levels in Honey Samples From Different Regions of Iraq and Compared with Other Kind

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**Abstract:** The aim of study quantitative analysis of toxic heavy metals Cd, Pb, Ni, AS, V and trace element Fe, Mg, Se, Cu, Mn, K, Na, Cain different kinds of Iraqi honey of bee and compare with other types. elements were determined by FAAS and GFAAS method. Because of the nutritional value and high medical honey for humans so it was necessary to appoint metals of great importance. High concentration of essential metals and Heavy metals can be toxic both to man and animals. The results indicated that the Se and K elements recorded at high concentrations (0.0384-712.8)mg/kg respectively while the Cu element recorded the low concentration(0.1) mg/kg in all kind of honey samples. The contents of heavy and trace metals in honey samples were found to be between (0.100-0.730)mg/kg for Pd,( 0.108-0. 8200)mg/kg for Cd, (0.210-0.894)mg/kg for Ni,(0.117-0.440) mg/kg for Fe,(0.0024-0.0348) mg/kg for Se, (0.260-0.721)mg/kg for Mg ,Cu<0.1, (140.8-240.8) mg/kg for Ca,(51.0-120.8) mg/kg for Na,(93.80-712.8) mg/kg for K,(0.0116-0.0708) mg/kg for Mn,(0.0091-0.086) mg/kg for V, for As (0.0104-0.035) mg/kg.

**Keywords:** Determination, Honey, Heavy Metals, Trace Element, Iraq

## 1. Introduction

Honey is a natural substance produced by bees and is a nutritious food of economic Importance worldwide. Honey is a sweet and viscous fluid created by honeybees from the nectar of flowers. It is important to note that honey created by insects other than honeybees has very different properties. Interestingly, honey has been cited in the Quran, a Holy book for Muslims (Section 16 surat 68-69), in reference to its medicinal properties <sup>(1,2)</sup>

The oldest known written document is a 4000 year old Sumerian clay tablet that records remedies for different illnesses by using natural product <sup>(4)</sup>. Beekeeping for the purpose of obtaining honey is an ancient art, at least as early as the Egyptians (2000 – 5000 years ago) who used honey in medicine, in embalming, and for food <sup>(3)</sup>.

Honey is at most composed of a complex mixture of carbohydrates and other minor substances, such as organic acids, amino acids, proteins, minerals, and vitamins. In roughly all honey types, fructose predominates glucose being

the second main sugar <sup>(4)</sup>.

Honey can be characterized according to its geographical source. Many scientists reported territorial difference in the physicochemical properties of the honey samples, such as the enzymes activities, ash contents, hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF), pH and electrical conductivity, The quality of honey is judged by the vegetable or floral origin and chemical composition, and price of honey is based on its quality and, hence, its floral <sup>(5)</sup>.

Honey is defending as a biological indicator of environmental quality and floral biodiversity. It is intrinsically connected to the territory in which it is produced and it is closely tied to the flora visited from the bees for its production. Pollen grains from the flowers visited by bees collecting nectar occur naturally in honey, as well as trace elements that the plants receive from the ground, water and air <sup>(6-8)</sup>.

The mineral content in honey is dependent on the natural absorption of minerals by plants from the soil and the environment. Usually, the mineral content of honey contributes to the color of the honey, which may vary from

light to dark, In fact, mineral concentration in honey was found to be correlated with geographic and floral origins, geochemical soil composition and local pollution<sup>(9, 10)</sup>

Honey has a rather low mineral content (typically 0.1–0.2% in floral honey and 1% or higher in mellate honey) that varies widely depending on the particular botanical origin, pedoclimatic conditions and extraction technique. The dominant element in honey is potassium, followed by chlorine, sulphur, sodium, phosphorus, magnesium, silicon, iron and copper<sup>(11)</sup>.

The major mineral elements present in honey are K, P, Mg, Al, Ca, Na, Fe, Mn, Cu, Zn, Cl, S and Si. Some elements such as Pb, Cr, I, Mo, Co, Hg, Sb, Ni, Cd etc. may also occur naturally or because of contamination by environmental sources<sup>(12)</sup>.

Trace elements play an important and vital role in metabolism, health and disease. Their presence in human food is very important, but if they exceed their safety levels, they will be toxic<sup>(13)</sup>.

From the nutritional point of view chromium, manganese and selenium are important, especially for 1 to 15 years old children. The elements sulphur, boron, cobalt, fluoride, iodide, molybdenum and silicon can be important in human nutrition too<sup>(14)</sup>

This small quantities of toxic heavy metals in honey bee comes on for most of the bees or food contamination area in which they live, where contaminated bees that fly long distances also for tools that are used in the process of storage may be contaminated the concentration of microelements can cause toxic danger, including heavy metals in nutritional products. Heavy metals are dangerous through: in the first place, in the processing of food the metals doesn't decompose, on the contrary their concentration referred to the mass unit increases. Secondly, the metals possess the feature to accumulate in the human organism, in this way they are slowing or even blocking the intracellular biochemical processes. Thirdly, the majority of the metals possess cancerigen and mutagen properties. Once they are assimilated is very difficult to remove them from the human organism<sup>(15 - 18)</sup>

## 2. Materials and Methods

*Honey samples:* honey samples were collected from different regions and market in Iraq

**Table (1).** Sources of honey bees.

Honey name	Source
Flower	Arable
Trefoil	Babbar
Seder(1)	College of Science of Women
Seder(2)	Alnajef
Eucalyptuses(1)	Alnajef
Nigella sativa	Baghdad
Mountain	Sulaymaniyah
Eucalyptuses(2)	College of Science of Women
Citrus	Baghdad
Eucalyptuses(3)	Alnajef
Olive honey	Southern of Baghdad
Sunflower	West of Baghdad
Germany	Germany
American	American
India	India

As shown in Table 1. Samples were collected in glass bottles and stored in dark prior 25 °C to analysis.

## 3. Reagents

All reagents and standard solutions were of the highest purity available and at least of analytical-reagent grade. Deionizer water is used for all purposes. Glass ware, tubes, volumetric flasks, pipettes, tips and other glass were immersed in HNO<sub>3</sub> (5% V/V) for 24 hr. the visuals were rinsed with deionizer water about three times. Stock standard solution with a concentration of 1000 mg/L for element measurement was manufactured by Reidel-de Haen (Germany), Fluke and BDH

## 4. Apparatus

Instrumental parameters for determination of elements under study by FAAS (Shimadzu model AAS -670) table 2 and GFAAS (Shimadzu model GFA-4B) ,table 3.

**Table (2).** Instrumental conditions for analysis elements by FAAS.

Elements	Flame type	Fuel flow L/min	Lamp current A	Wave length nm	Slit width nm	Air flow L/min
Pb	Air-Acetylen	2.00	5.00	217.00	1.00	10.00
Cd	Air-Acetylen	2.00	3.00	228.8	0.5	10.00
Ni	Air-Acetylen	2.00	4.00	232.00	0.2	10.00
Fe	Air-Acetylen	2.00	7.00	248.3	0.2	10.00
Cu	Air-Acetylen	2.00	3.00	324.7	0.5	10.00
Mn	Air-Acetylen	2.00	5	403.1	2.00	10.00
Mg	Air-Acetylen	2.00	3.00	285.2	0.5	10.00
Na	Air-Acetylen	2.00	5	589	2.00	10.00
K	Air-Acetylen	2.00	6	766.5	2.00	10.00
Ca	Air-Acetylen	2.00	10	422.7	2.00	10.00

**Table (3).** Instrumental conditions for analysis elements by FAAS.

Elements	Wave length(nm)	Gas flow L/min	Lamp current A	Slit width nm	Atomization temperature°C /duration sec
Se	196.0	1.5	6.0	1.2	1200/20
V	318.1	1.5	6	0.8	2600/3
As	193.7	1.0	12	1.0	2500/20

## 5. Preparation of Honey Sample

One gram of sample was placed in a high form porcelain crucible. The furnace temperature was slowly increased from room temperature to 450 °C in 1 h. The samples were ashes for about 5 h until a white or greyash residue was obtained. The residue was dissolved in 5 ml of HNO<sub>3</sub> (25% v/v) and the mixture, when necessary, was heated slowly to dissolve the residue. The solution was transferred to a 10 ml volumetric flask and made up to the volume. A blank digest was also carried out in the same way<sup>(34)</sup>

## 6. Results and Discussion

Trace elements are importance on human metabolism. Therefore analysis these elements are important part of public health studies. Some transition elements at trace level in our metabolism Play effective roles for healthy. Heavy metals usually occurring in nature are not harmful, because they are present in very small amounts. However, if the levels of these metals are higher, then they can show negative effects. The main sources of heavy metal ions are directly Foods, water and indirectly industrial activities and trafficin

the investigated area, etc. Elements like copper, zinc, nickel, manganese, iron, selenium are essential metals play an important role in biological processes. Essential elements deficiency results in impairment of biological function, but when their intakes exceed the recommended quantities In contrast lead cadmium and aluminum are non-essential Elements. Soil and weather conditions, the use of fertilizers, all affect the final level of trace metal components in a plant. Take of food is an obvious means of supply to metals, not only .Many metals are natural components of foodstuffs, but also because of environmental contamination and contamination during processing<sup>(19,20)</sup>.

In the last years the studies for determination minerals concentration in honey has been an increase because benefit for human healthy and can be use indicator of environmental pollution.

It is possible that the contamination occurs in minerals and elements of heavy metals meager by bad storage of honey or using vessels inappropriate. As a matter of fact, the acidic property of honey could lead to release of heavy metals from metallic tools and containers<sup>(21)</sup>. Table (4 a and b) shows concentration of elements under study in deferent kind of honey bee. While table (5) shows concentration for honey samples in different counters.

**Table (4a).** Comprises the results obtained for the elements under study in different kind of honey sample values are expressed in mg/kg as mean  $\pm$ SD\*.

Sample	Pb	Cd	Ni	Fe	Se	Mg	Cu
Flower honey	0.2150 $\pm$ 0.013	0.278 $\pm$ 0.0084	0.227 $\pm$ 0.0152	0.216 $\pm$ 0.0114	0.0036 $\pm$ 0.0001	0.374 $\pm$ 0.011	<0.1
Trefoil honey	0.570 $\pm$ 0.0100	0.348 $\pm$ 0.0130	0.4860 $\pm$ 0.024	0.260 $\pm$ 0.010	0.0172 $\pm$ 0.0001	0.3420 $\pm$ 0.01	<0.1
Seder(1) honey	0.516 $\pm$ 0.0114	0.470 $\pm$ 0.0158	0.721 $\pm$ 0.3553	0.209 $\pm$ 0.1034	0.0133 $\pm$ 0.0001	0.382 $\pm$ 0.008	<0.1
Seder(2) honey	0.443 $\pm$ 0.0885	0.564 $\pm$ 0.01140	0.360 $\pm$ 0.0002	0.338 $\pm$ 0.0130	0.0153 $\pm$ 0.0001	0.446 $\pm$ 0.021	<0.1
Eucalyptuses(1) honey	0.422 $\pm$ 0.008	0.628 $\pm$ 0.01924	0.868 $\pm$ 0.0164	0.386 $\pm$ 0.01140	0.0225 $\pm$ 0.0014	0.638 $\pm$ 0.007	<0.1
Nigella sativa honey	0.332 $\pm$ 0.0083	0.346 $\pm$ 0.01140.3460	0.452 $\pm$ 0.0084	0.440 $\pm$ 0.0200	0.0348 $\pm$ 0.0013	0.550 $\pm$ 0.021	<0.1
Mountain honey	0.214 $\pm$ 0.0134	0.280 $\pm$ 0.00837	0.210 $\pm$ 0.01517	0.216 $\pm$ 0.0114	0.0329 $\pm$ 0.0002	0.374 $\pm$ 0.011	<0.1
Eucalyptuses(2) honey	0.730 $\pm$ 0.0224	0.418 $\pm$ 0.0130	0.894 $\pm$ 0.0114	0.282 $\pm$ 0.0130	0.0184 $\pm$ 0.0001	0.260 $\pm$ 0.016	<0.1
Citrus honey	0.593 $\pm$ 0.0032	0.416 $\pm$ 0.0114	0.762 $\pm$ 0.0259	0.338 $\pm$ 0.014	0.0149 $\pm$ 0.0001	0.614 $\pm$ 0.011	<0.1
Eucalyptuses(3) honey	0.6180 $\pm$ 0.013	0.223 $\pm$ 0.0084	0.878 $\pm$ 0.0327	0.314 $\pm$ 0.0114	0.0280 $\pm$ 0.0001	0.721 $\pm$ 0.021	<0.1
Honey Germany	0.100 $\pm$ 0.0000	0.222 $\pm$ 0.0084	0.378 $\pm$ 0.0327	0.310 $\pm$ 0.0114	0.0010 $\pm$ 0.0001	0.720 $\pm$ 0.021	<0.1
American honey	0.105 $\pm$ 0.0000	0.2120 $\pm$ 0.013	0.226 $\pm$ 0.0114	0.282 $\pm$ 0.0084	0.0024 $\pm$ 0.0002	0.528 $\pm$ 0.008	<0.1
Olive honey	0.120 $\pm$ 0.010	0.108 $\pm$ 0.0084	0.305 $\pm$ 0.01143	0.201 $\pm$ 0.0103	0.0177 $\pm$ 0.0087	0.486 $\pm$ 0.011	<0.1
Indiahoney	0.111 $\pm$ 0.008	0.4860 $\pm$ 0.011	0.220 $\pm$ 0.0113	0.229 $\pm$ 0.0114	0.0223 $\pm$ 0.0001	0.634 $\pm$ 0.011	<0.1
Sun flower honey	0.115 $\pm$ 0.013	0.8200 $\pm$ 0.0158	0.525 $\pm$ 0.0113	0.117 $\pm$ 0.014	0.0173 $\pm$ 0.0001	0.710 $\pm$ 0.008	<0.1

**Table (4b).** Comprises the results obtained for the elements under study in different kind of honey sample values are expressed in mg/kg as mean  $\pm$ SD\*.

Sample honey	Na	K	Ca	Mn	V	AS
Flower	85.200 $\pm$ 85.200	194.200 $\pm$ 0.837	224.200 $\pm$ 0.837	0.0138 $\pm$ 0.0001	0.0236 $\pm$ 0.0006	0.0236 $\pm$ 0.0006
Trefoil	99.800 $\pm$ 0.8367	186.600 $\pm$ 1.673	159.200 $\pm$ 0.837	0.0342 $\pm$ 0.0008	0.0289 $\pm$ 0.0398	0.0114 $\pm$ 0.0009
Seder(1)	94.200 $\pm$ 0.8367	341.000 $\pm$ 1.000	143.800 $\pm$ 1.304	0.0133 $\pm$ 0.0001	0.0718 $\pm$ 0.0008	0.035 $\pm$ 0.00089
Seder(2)	118.60 $\pm$ 0.5477	712.8 $\pm$ 712.800	182.00 $\pm$ 1.0000	0.0632 $\pm$ 0.0008	0.0424 $\pm$ 0.0011	0.0142 $\pm$ 0.0008
Eucalyptuses(1)	83.2000 $\pm$ 0.837	197.600 $\pm$ 0.548	208.800 $\pm$ 0.837	0.0442 $\pm$ 0.0008	0.086 $\pm$ 0.00548	0.0154 $\pm$ 0.0006
Nigella sativa	102.000 $\pm$ 0.707	340.800 $\pm$ 340.8	153.800 $\pm$ 1.304	0.047 $\pm$ 0.00071	0.0172 $\pm$ 0.0008	0.0266 $\pm$ 0.0011

Sample honey	Na	K	Ca	Mn	V	AS
Mountain	93.800±0.8367	93.800±0.8367	200.600±0.894	0.0512±0.0013	0.0158±0.0013	0.0152±0.0008
Eucalyptuses(2)	51.000±0.7071	214.600±0.548	170.800±0.837	0.0708±0.0008	0.0282±0.0008	0.0171±0.0001
Citrus	120.800±0.837	222.800±0.837	187.200±0.837	0.0121±0.0001	0.0638±0.0013	0.0154±0.0001
Eucalyptuses(3)	72.000±0.8165	209.200±0.837	198.200±0.837	0.0116±0.0164	0.0324±0.0011	0.0324±0.0011
Germany	62.2000±0.837	199.800±0.837	140.800±0.837	0.0141±0.0001	0.0105±0.0001	0.0304±0.0412
American	90.000±1.2247	289.600±1.14	240.800±0.837	0.0618±0.0008	0.0191±0.0001	0.0191±0.0001
Olive	69.600±1.1402	183.800±1.304	150.200±1.304	0.0153±0.0001	0.0104±0.0001	0.0104±0.0001
India	84.200±0.8367	191.200±0.837	194.000±1.000	0.0121±0.0001	0.0177±0.0001	0.0177±0.0001
Sunflower	81.200±0.8367	192.200±0.837	220.800±0.837	0.0392±0.0481	0.0091±0.0001	0.0181±0.0001

Table (5). Continued element (mg/kg) in honey samples from some countries.

Type of honey Samples	Element						
	Pb	Cd	Ni	Fe	Se	Mg	Cu
India <sup>(22)</sup>	0.2-4.2	0.01-0.33					
Manuka <sup>(11)</sup>	-----	-----	-----	55.8-233	-----	-----	-----
Poland <sup>(24)</sup>	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----		0.17-0.42
Poland <sup>(25)</sup>	<0.073	<0.005	<0.015-0.389	-----	-----	-----	-----
Saudi Arabia <sup>(26)</sup>	150	0.1	135	72		195	0.54
Brazil <sup>(27)</sup>	2×10 <sup>-8</sup>	88×10 <sup>-8</sup>					
Saudi Arabia <sup>(28)</sup>	0.06-0.23	0.16	0.15-0.67	12.61-94.68	----	----	----
Ataturk <sup>(29)</sup>	0.00-0.642	0.0-0.038	-----	-----	-----	----	-----
Bulgaria <sup>(30)</sup>	-----	-----	-----	<0.15-5.01	-----	5.2-109.1	<0.05-2.26
Southern Poland <sup>(31)</sup>	0.06-0.13	-----	1.24-2.73	0.24-0.08	-----	0.42-0.86	-----
Turkey <sup>(32)</sup>	8.4-44.1	0.9-17.9	2.6-29.9	1.8-10.2	0.038-0.113	-----	-----
Czech Republic <sup>(33)</sup>	0.315	0.00135	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kenya <sup>(34)</sup>	0.01-0.05	0.01-0.05	-----	-----	-----	-----	0.07-0.24
Iran <sup>(35)</sup>	-----	-----		1.050- 1.727	-----	-----	-----
Iraq <sup>(36)</sup>	0.015-0.315	0.019-0.058					
Iran <sup>(37)</sup>	0.04	-----	0.003	0.6	-----	-----	7.09
Romania <sup>(38)</sup>	-----	-----	-----	27.42-122.87	-----	376.9-1008.3	-----
Argentina Australia Brazil <sup>(39)</sup>	115.17-332.33	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
sunflower honeys Turkey <sup>(40)</sup>	0.00048	0.00989	0.115	0.0014	0.29		0.00046
Brazil (jandaira) <sup>(41)</sup>				16.4-33.5			0.8-1.9
Kenyan <sup>(42)</sup>	BLD-0.28	BLD-0.03		0.08-1.12		12.64-41.88	0.02-0.05
Ethiopia <sup>(43)</sup>		Nd-0.69	0.8-4.46	5.37-12.43			0.09-0.468
Libyan <sup>(44)</sup>	Nd-0.06	Nd-0.005					0.8-10.4
Czech Republic <sup>(45)</sup>						16.6-57.9	0.09-0.34
Spanish <sup>(46)</sup>				5.3		38	0.62
India <sup>(22)</sup>	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	Nd-BDL

Table (5). Continue

Type of honey Samples	Element				
	Na	K	Ca	Mn	AS
Manuk <sup>(11)</sup>	83.17-732.16	413.63-417.43	65.8-567.27	-----	-----
Saudi Arabia <sup>(26)</sup>	15.69-26.93	298-491.4	21.1-33.29	4.15-6.04	-----
Bulgaria <sup>(30)</sup>	0.21-1.82	9.5-62.1	22.8-127.7	<0.15-15.6	-----
Turkey <sup>(32)</sup>	-----	-----	-----	0.32-4.56	-----
Czech Republic <sup>(33)</sup>	-----	-----	-----	-----	<0.001-0.00365
Iran <sup>(35)</sup>	12.653- 16.183	41.857- 47.871	9.077 - 10.058	0.346- 0.399	0.017- 0.068
Iraq <sup>(36)</sup>	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Iran <sup>(37)</sup>				9.99	0.0008
Helianthus annuus L. and Salix sp <sup>(38)</sup>	-----	3246-5421.9	65.1-5421.85	-----	-----
sunflower honeys in Turkey <sup>(40)</sup>	-----	-----	-----	0.00882	-----
Brazil(jandaira) <sup>(41)</sup>	-----	5918.5-13366.6	1864.1-3424.9	-----	-----
Kenyan <sup>(42)</sup>	98.04-269.1	172.83-781.52	19.33-70.17	-----	
Ethiopia <sup>(43)</sup>	-----	-----	-----	-----	0.16-0.885
Czech Republic <sup>(45)</sup>				2.4-2.51	
Spanish <sup>(46)</sup>	98	653	88	1.92	-----

Lead and cadmium are known as toxic elements. Both metals cause adverse health effects in humans, and their widespread presence in the human environment comes from anthropogenic activities<sup>(47)</sup>. Lead and cadmium are industrial pollutants which have strong negative effect on human and animal health. These metals are accumulated in the organism, mainly in the liver and Kidneys. The exposure to toxic elements could be mineralized by regular control of food and feed and setting maximum levels for heavy metals in these products<sup>(48)</sup>.

Lead is one of the most ubiquitous elements in the environment and is recognized as a major health risk to humans and animals. Lead is a serious cumulative body poison which enters our body system through air, water, and food. And acts as an enzyme inhibitor. Acute lead poisoning in humans causes severe damage in the kidneys, liver, brain, reproductive system and central nervous system, and even causes death. Mild lead poisoning causes anemia, headache and sore muscles and the victim may feel fatigued and irritable. Chronic exposure to lead causes nephritis, scarring and the shrinking of kidney tissues. It is emitted into the biosphere in considerable amounts, owing to its increased industrial use and its application as a fuel additive<sup>(49)</sup>.

Cadmium belongs to those trace heavy metals that are of major interest in environmental protection due to its cumulative toxicity. Its natural occurrence in the environment is due to volcanic emissions. The main contamination sources of this element are anthropogenic: industry wastewaters, mining operations, waste incineration as well as the combustion of some coals and oils. Sludge-based fertilizers and phosphate fertilizers are important sources of cadmium in agricultural soils<sup>(50)</sup>. Cadmium can also accumulate in kidney where it damages filtering and causes excretion of essential proteins sugar from the body, headache, chest pen, The weakness of the muscles ,pulmonary edema and death<sup>(51,52)</sup>.

The table (4) shows the concentration of lead is highest in Eucalyptuses (2) honey which appeared mean  $(0.730 \pm 0.0224)$  mg/kg and lowest in Germany Honey respectively has shown mean  $(0.100 \pm 0.000)$  mg/kg. Lead concentration decreased in the following order while cadmium showed the highest level in  $(0.8200 \pm 0.01924)$  mg/kg in sunflower honey and olive lowest level  $(0.108 \pm 0.00837)$  mg/kg. Figure (1) and (2).

When comparing the ratio of lead and cadmium measured in the current study with the other samples are shown in Table (5) Shows that the highest percentage of lead in Argentina Australia and Brazil honey samples  $(332.33)$  mg/kg while she was in the measured samples In the current study  $(0.730)$  mg/kg and don't appeared in Ataturk and Libyan honey while the samples showed measured in the current study  $(0.105)$  mg/kg. Cadmium was highest value in Turkey honey samples  $(17.9)$ mg/kg while  $(0.628)$ mg/kg in current study and don't appeared in Ataturk, Ethiopia and Libyan honey and lowest value incurrent study was  $(0.108)$ mg/kg.

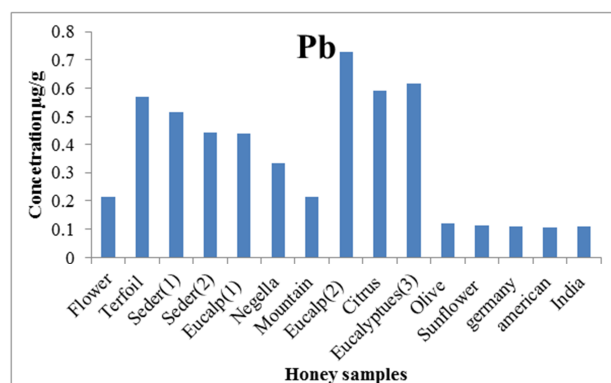


Figure (1). Distribution of lead in honey samples.

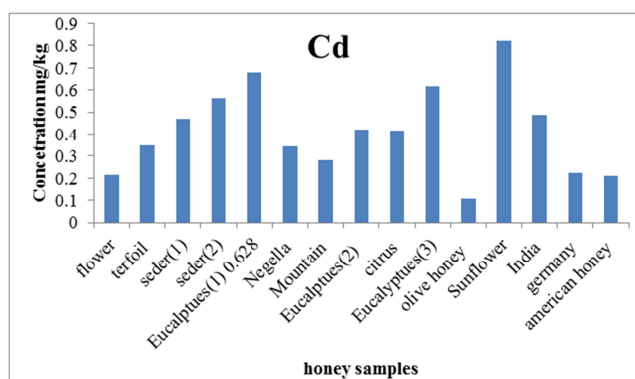


Figure (2). Distribution of Cadmium in honey samples.

Nickel is one of the essential elements to human health. Nickel plays some role in body functions including enzyme functions. It occurs more in plants than in animal flesh. It activates some enzyme systems in trace amount but its toxicity at higher levels is more appears. nickel and its salt do not affect the human body but in some cases it has been recorded to cause allergic problems as it has comes in contact with moist skin<sup>(53)</sup>. The lowest nickel content was  $(0.210 \pm 0.01140)$  mg/kg in the American honey and highest content in Eucalyptuses (2)honey  $(0.894 \pm 0.0114)$  mg/kg. Figure (3) show this.

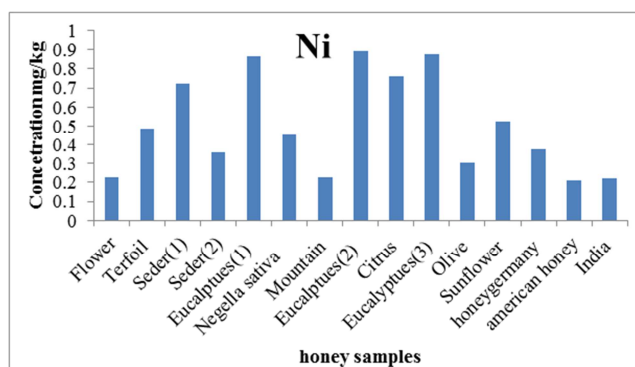


Figure (3). Distribution of Nickel in honey samples.

When comparing the ratio of Nickel measured in the current study with the other samples are shown in Table (5)

Shows that the highest percentage of Nickel in Turkey honey samples (29.9) mg/kg while she was in the measured samples in the current study (0.878) mg/kg and the lowest appeared in the Iran honey (0.003) mg/kg while the samples incurrent study showed measured in the current study (0.210) mg/kg.

Iron is one of the critical elements for humans. Its delivery with food or herbal drugs can supply the organism with this essential metal <sup>(54)</sup>. The role of iron in the body is associated with hemoglobin and the transfer of oxygen from lungs to the tissue cells. Iron deficiency is the most prevalent nutritional and is commonly caused by insufficient dietary intake, excessive menstrual flow or multiple births. In this case, it results especially an anemia <sup>(55)</sup>. Nigella sativa honey has been found to bear the highest concentration of Iron (0.44±0.0200) mg/kg and the lowest level in Iron was recorded in sunflower honey with value (0.117±0.014)mg/kg one of the reasons for the expected increase in the level of iron in the Honey Nigella sativa honey may be the presence of a high percentage of iron in the food upon which the bee so recommend eating this type of honey for people with severe anemia. Figure (4) shows this result.

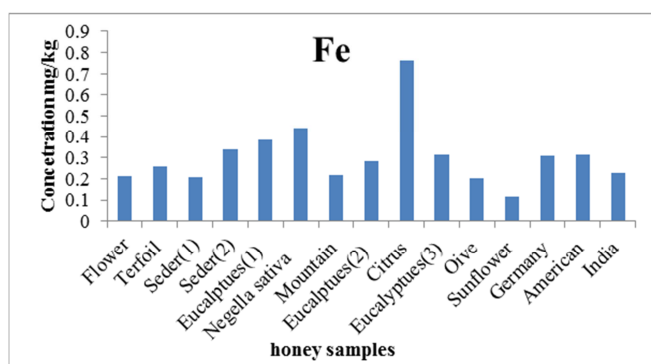


Figure (4). Distribution of Iron in honey samples.

When comparing the ratio of Iron measured in the current study with the other samples are shown in Table (5) Shows that the highest percentage of Iron in Manuka samples (233) mg/kg while she was in the measured samples in the current study (0.440) mg/kg and the lowest appeared in the sunflower honeys Turkey honey (0.0014) mg/kg while the samples in current study showed measured (0.117) mg/kg.

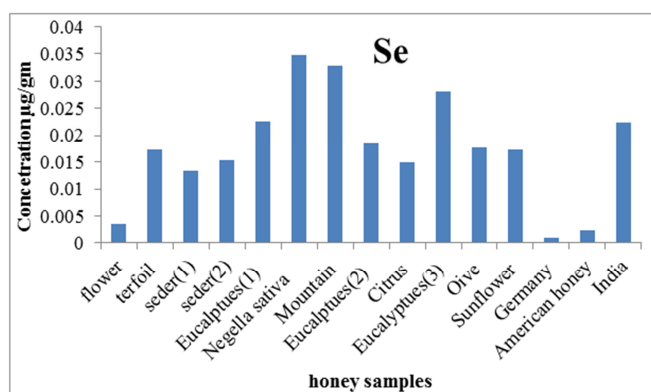


Figure (5). Distribution of selenium in honey samples.

Selenium is an essential component of the body, a food ingredient gives protection from diseases of the heart, Selenium is taking center stage as a potential anticancer agent by promoting formation of white blood cells which destroys the cancer cells and is an essential component of more than 10 selenoproteins with multiple bio chemicals functions <sup>(56,57)</sup>. The level of Se in the Iraq and other kind honey samples ranged from (0.232±0.0084) mg/kg to (0.8100±0.0130) mg/kg from flower and American honey respectively.

When comparing the ratio of Selenium measured in the current study with the other samples are shown in Table (4) Shows that the highest percentage of Selenium sunflower honeys Turkey honey samples (0.29) mg/kg while she was in the measured samples in the current study (0.0348) mg/kg and the lowest value in another Turkey honey sample (0.113) mg/kg.

Copper is both vital and toxic for many biological system, it is critical for energy production in the cells, also involved in nerve conduction, connective tissue, the cardiovascular system and the immune system. Copper is closely related to estrogen metabolism and is required for women's fertility and to maintain pregnancy. Copper stimulates production of the neurotransmitters epinephrine, nor epinephrine and dopamine. It is also required for monoamine oxides', an enzyme related to serotonin production <sup>(58)</sup>. In the present study, the Cu concentrations <0.1 in all samples because the sensitivity of instrument for this metals low (<0.1 mg /L.). while another study shows lowest value in sunflower honeys Turkey (0.00046)mg/kg and highest value in Libyan (10.4) mg/kg respectively.

Magnesium, Calcium, sodium and potassium are the major components in the cells. Magnesium it is present in many enzymes involved in proteins, carbohydrates and lipids metabolisms. Deficiency in humans caused muscle spasms, and has been associated with a high blood pressure, many cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and osteoporosis <sup>(59)</sup>, the concentrations of Mg in the present study ranged from (0.260±0.0158)mg/kg to (0.721±0.0211)mg/kg in Eucalyptus (2) honey and Eucalyptus (3) honey respectively figure(6).

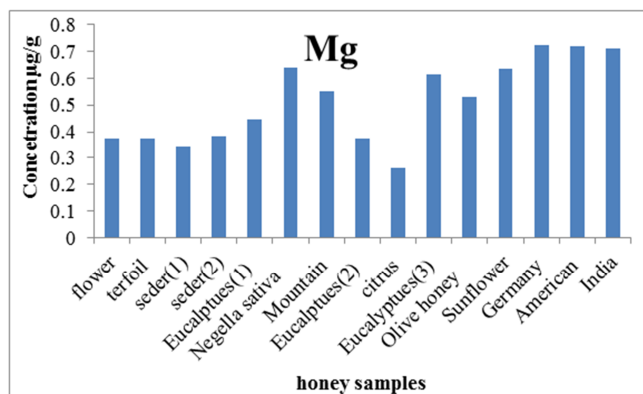


Figure (6). Distribution of Magnesium in honey samples.



When comparing the ratio of Magnesium measured in the current study with the other samples are shown in Table (5) Shows that the highest percentage of Magnesium in Romania honey samples (1008.3)mg/kg while she was in the measured samples in the current study (0.71) mg/kg and the lowest appeared in the southern Poland honey (0. 42) mg/kg while the samples in current study showed measured in the current study (0.26) mg/kg.

Calcium is the major abundant mineral in the body. 99% of all the calcium in the body is found in the bones and teeth. The remaining one percent is in the blood. Calcium plays important roles in nerve conduction, muscle contraction, and blood clotting. If calcium levels in the blood abnormal, calcium will be taken from bone and put into the blood in order to save blood calcium levels. Therefore, it is important to expend enough calcium to maintain suitable blood and bone calcium levels<sup>(60)</sup>. So the highest concentration of calcium in the American honey which appears (240.800±0.837)m/kg and lowest concentration in Honey Germany (140.800±0.837)mg/ kg. Figure (7).

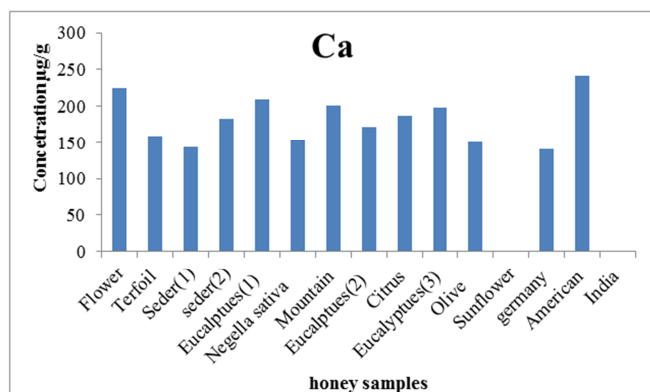


Figure (7). Distribution of Calcium in honey samples.

When comparing the ratio of Calcium measured in the current study with the other samples are shown in Table (5) Shows that the highest percentage of Calcium Helianthus annuus L. and Salix sp honey samples (5421.85) mg/kg while the measured of samples in the current study was (224) mg/kg and the lowest appeared in the Iran honey samples (9.077) mg/kg while the samples in current study showed measured in the current study (143.8) mg/kg.

Sodium is a mineral element plays important role in the human body. It predominance the Volume of fluid in the body and helps keep the acid-base level. When sodium level in the blood is too low is dangerous and can cause seizures and coma<sup>(62)</sup>. The highest concentration in Citrus honey was (120.800±0.837)mg/kg and lowest concentration in Eucalyptus (2) honey was (51.000±0.7071)mg/ kg Figure (8).

When comparing the ratio of Sodium measured in the current study with the other samples are shown in Table (5) Shows that the highest percentage of Sodium in Manuka honey samples (732.16) mg/kg while the measured of samples in the current study was (120.8) mg/kg and the lowest appeared in the Bulgaria honey samples (0.21) mg/kg

while the samples in current study showed measured in the current study (51) mg/kg.

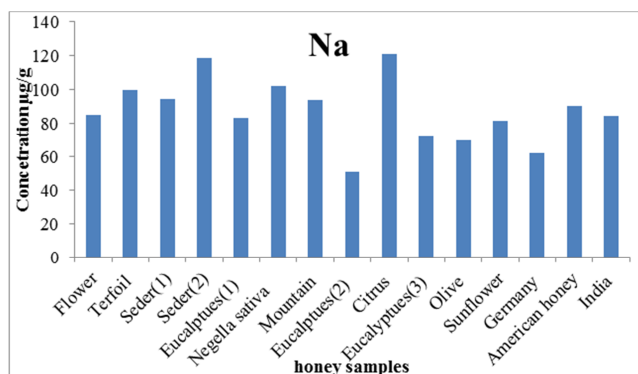


Figure (8). Distribution of Sodium in honey samples.

Potassium was the great plentiful element usually come in plant from soils as fertilizers consist of a lot of potassium .it is a mineral that helps the kidneys job normally .it is crucial to heart job and plays important role in skeletal and smooth muscle curtailment, working of potassium is normal digestion and muscular job .When too much of potassium in the blood is called hyperkalemia when too little is known as hypokalemia<sup>(61)</sup> .the levels of potassium was higher in Sider(2) honey(712.8±712.800) mg/kg than Mountain honey (93.800±0.8367) mg/kg. Figure (9).

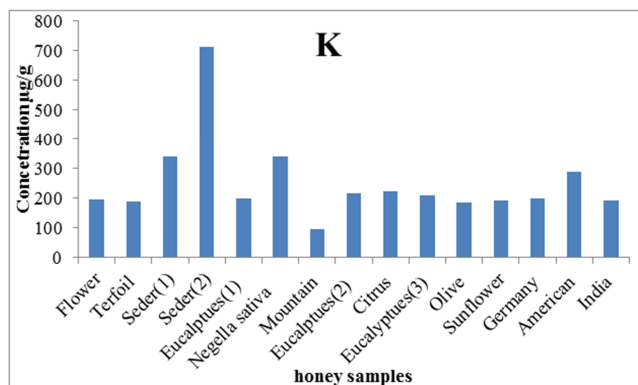


Figure (9). Distribution of potassium in honey samples.

When comparing the ratio of Potassium measured in the current study with the other samples are shown in Table (5) Shows that the highest percentage of Potassium in Brazil (jandaira) honey samples (13366.6) mg/kg while the measured of samples in the current study was (712.8) mg/kg and the lowest appeared in the Bulgaria honey samples (9.5) mg/kg while the samples in current study showed measured in the current study (93.8) mg/kg.

Manganese is a naturally-occurring element that can be found ubiquitously in the air, soil, and water. Manganese is also an essential nutrient for humans and animals'. The main exposure of humans to manganese is from ingestion of food. Manganese deficiency in humans appears to be rare because manganese is present in many common foods. Manganese is essential to the proper functioning of both humans and other

animals as it is required by many cellular enzymes (e.g., manganese superoxide dismutase, private carboxyl's) and can serve to activate many others Manganese is found in a variety of foods including many nuts, grains, fruits, legumes, tea, leafy vegetables, infant formulas, and some meat and fish<sup>(62)</sup>. The highest concentration of Mg was recorded in honey samples Eucalyptuses (2) honey ( $0.0708 \pm 0.0008$ )mg/kg and minimum concentration was recorded in Eucalyptuses (3)honey ( $0.0116 \pm 0.0164$ ) mg/kg. Figure (10).

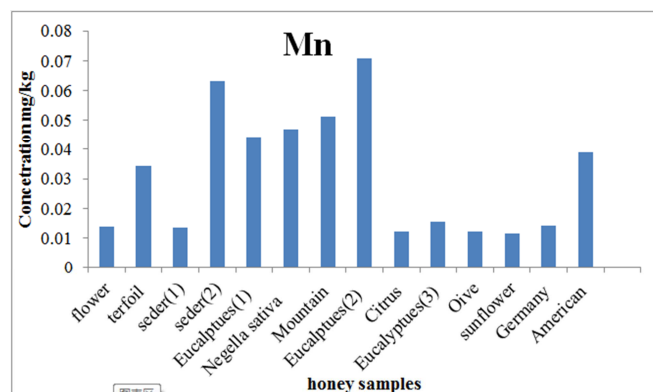


Figure (10). Distribution of Manganese in honey samples.

When comparing the ratio of Manganese measured in the current study with the other samples are shown in Table (5) Shows that the highest percentage of Manganese in Bulgaria honey samples (15.6) mg/kg while the measured of samples in the current study was (0.0632) mg/kg and the lowest appeared in the sunflower honeys Turkey honey samples (0.00882) mg/kg while the samples in current study showed measured in the current study (0.0121) mg/kg.

Vanadium is a natural component of the earth, which is distributed wide in nature main sources are oil and fossil fuels from here the combustion of fossil fuel has been described as one of the largest sources of environmental pollution by vanadium since coal and oil are among the most of sources of the metal<sup>(63)</sup>. the maximum and minimum Vanadium levels observes ( $0.086 \pm 0.00548$ )mg/kg in honey samples Eucalyptuses (1) and ( $0.0091 \pm 0.0001$ ) mg/kg in sunflower honey sample. Figure (11).

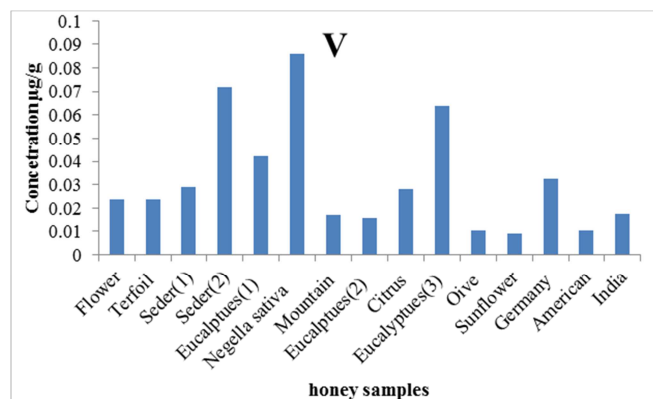


Figure (11). Distribution of Vanadium in honey samples.

Arsenic is among the top 20 most toxic known substances which can lead to a wide range of health problems in humans. As is described as a metalloid and found element in the environment. The main sources of Arsenic in the environment is natural or anthropogenic origin, mining, agricultural facilities, manufacturing, and traffic. Atmosphere, surface and ground waters, soil, foods, and plants are affected by the trace elements due to these facilities<sup>(64)</sup>. Maximum content of metal in Seder(1) honey ( $0.035 \pm 0.00089$ )mg/kg and minimum content in Trefoil honey ( $0.0114 \pm 0.0009$ ) mg/kg. Figure (12).

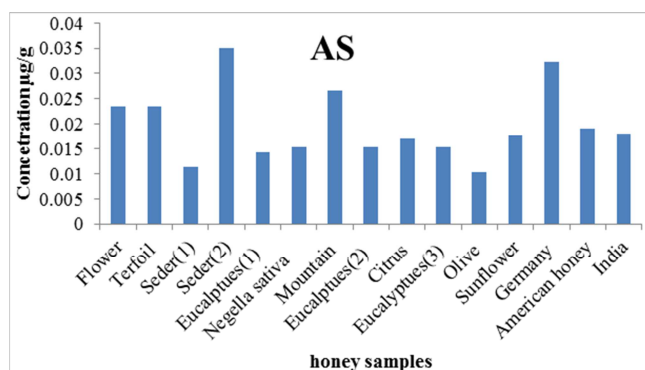


Figure (12). Distribution of Arsenic in honey samples.

When comparing the ratio of Arsenic measured in the current study with the other samples are shown in Table (5) Shows that the highest percentage of Arsenic in Ethiopia honey samples (0.885) mg/kg while the measured of samples in the current study was (0.0352) mg/kg while Iran honey (0.00882) mg/kg concentration of Arsenic .while the samples in current study showed lower measured in the current study (0.0104) mg/kg.

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