Haemanthus and Mitracarpus scaber as Bioaccumulators of Heavy Metals

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Abstract: Levels of heavy metal concentrations in Haemanthus and Mitracarpus scaber were assessed using atomic absorption spectrophotometry. The concentrations of nickel, cobalt, chromium, lead, copper, manganese and iron in Haemanthus compared with their concentrations in soil indicated their bioaccumulation. Cobalt, iron, nickel, manganese and zinc were also bioaccumulated by Mitracarpus scaber. They are hence endemic indicator plant species with potential for use as bioaccumulation, phytoremediation / phytoextraction as interrelationships between these metal concentrations in the soil and their tissues were significant ($P<0.05$).

Key words: Heavy metals, Haemanthus, Mitracarpus scaber, bioaccumulation, phytoremediation.

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