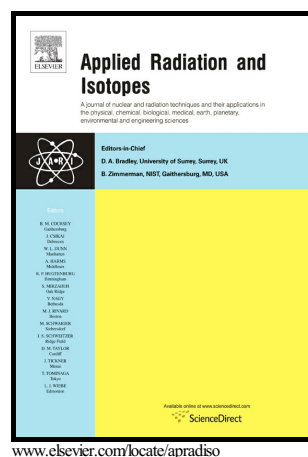


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1. Introduction

In sub-surface sediments, soils and rocks, actinides are naturally produced in the decay chains of ^{238}U , ^{235}U and ^{232}Th . Human activity linked to the nuclear industry also produces artificial actinides such as ^{239}Pu . Radioisotopes found in these series are alpha or beta

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