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Origin and spatial distribution of metals in moss samples in Albania: A hotspot of heavy metal contamination in Europe

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Highlights:

- The origin of trace metals in moss samples is assessed through different methods.
- Mosses are able to reflect the spatial variability of trace elements air pollution.
- Mineral dust particles is the main source of trace elements in present moss samples.
- Geochemical interpretation of current moss data show high local dust emission.
- EF is used to distinguish contributions from atmospheric deposition or substrate soil.

Abbreviations:

AAS – Atomic absorption spectroscopy

C_i – Concentration of element i

CVAAS - cold vapor atomic absorption spectrometry

EF – Enrichment Factor

ENAA – epithermal neutron activation analysis

ETAAS - electrothermal atomic absorption spectrometry

FA – Factor analysis

GIS - Geographic Information System

HM – heavy metal

ICP-AES - inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometry

INAA – Instrumental neutron activation analysis

L_i - individual loads of element i

NAA - neutron activation analysis

PM – Particulate matter

RLE – Ratios of lithophile elements

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