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Characterization of Physicochemical, Heavy Metal and Poly Aromatic Hydrocarbon on Industrial Sewage in Nile river, Egypt

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Abstract

This study analyzed the sample of water and sediments form El-Hawamdeya, Egypt. As much as 11 stations sample site were investigated for the physicochemical characteristic, heavy metal and PAHs concentration. The physicochemical characteristic includes DO, COD, BOD, EC, pH and TDS. The results showed that the 63% stations have higher concentration of DO, COD and BOD compared to maximum concentration allowed by Egyptian regulation. The characterization of heavy metal including Cd, Co, Cu, Fe, Mn and Pb. The concentration of Co, Cu, Fe, Mn and Pb is still in the range of permissible limit from EPA while the Cd concentration has higher number than permissible limit. The highest concentration of PAHs is 2.256 mg/L and the lowest 0.0220 mg/L. Some stations have no detection for several kinds of PAHs. From all these result, the situation of El-Hawadeya region should be concerned in term of physicochemical characteristics, heavy metal contamination especially Cd and PAHs pollution.

Keywords: physicochemical parameters, heavy metals, industrial sewage, Poly Aromatic Hydrocarbon, River Nile

Introduction

All life forms on earth depend on water for their survival in the ecosystem [1]. According to Daraei et al, water is the second most important element required by human for survival after the air for we breathe [2]. The quality of water globally has been affected negatively due to man-made activities including unskilled utilization of natural water resources (Lata and Siddarth, 2020). Even though, the United Nations recognizes the availability of good drinking water for humans as a human right, high numbers of people in worldwide are still suffering with the limited access of clean and new drinking water [3].

The activity from agricultural discharge, industrial effluents and municipal sewage are being recklessly dumped into the Nile River, Egypt which cause the water spring on Nile River is not suitable for human consumption [4]. Sewage water from slums and other areas in Cairo are directly discharged to the river without treatment due to lack of water treatment plants [5]. Agricultural discharge highly contains pollutants including organic pollutants, pesticides and herbicides, which have negative effects on the river ecosystem

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and the people who consume the water [6]. Industrial effluents are very toxic containing heavy metals that can combine with the suspended solids in domestic waste water to form muck [7]. All of these factors are causing pollution for Nile River and give negative impact for future generations [8].

Egypt faces a rapidly increasing deterioration in surface area and ground water due to increasing discharges of heavily polluted domestic waste water and industrial effluents into the water flow [9]. There are approximately 24,000 industries in Egypt and about 700 of them have major industrial facilities [10]. Egyptian industries use 638 Million m3/year of water, which around 549 Million m3/year is discharged to the drainage system [11]. Industrial activities in the Greater Cairo and Alexandria contribute 40% of the total water discharged [12]. The Nile River supplies 65% of the industrial water needs and receives more than 57% of its effluents. Chemical contaminants are the most noticeable pollution that has an impact on the quality of water [13]. These chemical pollutants are coming from industrial activity and emission from transportation combustion of petroleum derivatives [14]. In the rural area, pollution arises from residues of agricultural chemicals, such as fertilizers and pesticides. United Nation reported that 61% of the population in rural areas and 26% of the urban population does not have safe drinking water due to contamination of pesticides in ground water [15].

Bioaccumulation of toxic heavy metals in biota of the river ecosystems may have adverse effects on animals and humans [16]. Higher levels of heavy metals in biota have negative effects on the ecological health of aquatic animal species and contribute for decreasing their populations [17]. Previous study has been confirmed that transmission of pesticide residues is toxic to fish. Metal concentrations above threshold levels affect the microbiological balance of soils and can reduce their fertility [18]. Heavy metals are strong neurotoxins in fish species which its interaction of heavy metals with chemical interrupt the communication of fish with their environment [19]. Heavy metals have been found associated with fish deformities in both natural populations and in the laboratory. Generally, deformities have negative effects on fish populations including their survival rates, growth rates, welfare, and external image [20]. In addition, deformities in fish can serve as excellent biomarkers of environmental heavy metal pollution [21].

Other than organic compounds and heavy metal, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) also contribute as pollutants in aquatic ecosystem. The PAHs constitute a large class of semi-volatile organic compounds containing two or more fused aromatic rings. Hundreds of individual PAHs may be formed during incomplete combustion or pyrolysis of 20 organic matters and they are categorized as persistent organic pollutants (POPs) [22]. PAHs are ubiquitous in terrestrial, atmospheric and particularly aquatic environments throughout the world and have been detected in lakes, groundwater and rivers [23]. One of the example of PAH is benzo[a]pyrene [24]. Anthropogenic sources of PAHs in the environment are mainly pyrogenic which mean derived from industrial activities and combustion of organic matter and petrogenic which mean derived from petroleum including crude oil and its refined products [25]. Due to their hydrophobic character, PAHs rapidly become associated with suspended particles and form sediments when they are introduced into the aquatic environment [26]. Contemporary sediments are considered as a sink for hydrocarbons in the aquatic environment and their importance in pollution monitoring has been emphasized by many authors [27]. Sediments are good source of samples representing the levels of hydrocarbons, which are many times higher than those found in the water column [28]. The PAHs released in the aquatic environment enter the food chain and accumulate in aquatic organisms including fish [29]. The POPs are of great concern in environmental monitoring because of their carcinogenic, mutagenic and teratogenic effects on animals especially for aquatic ecosystem [30].

Materials and Methods

Study area

El Hawamdeya is a city in the Giza Governorate of Egypt. The geographical coordinates are 29°53′52″N 31°15′51″E / 29.89778°N 31.26417°E / on the bank of Nile and Marriotia canal as shown in (FIG. 1) It is centre for numerous factories including Egyptian

Sugar Integrated Industries, chemical industries, plastics industries and panties industries. These industries produce waste water as a result from their activity and discharge directly into the Nile river or Marriotia canal [31].

FIG. 1. The locations of study area at different stations across north and south the industrial area along Nile river bank.

Sample Collection

Soils and sediments

Four samples were collected using the template method from 10 stations. An area of about 25   25 cm2 up to a depth of 5 cm was cut out from the ground using the stainless steel template for guidance [32]. The samples were collected using a shovel and stored in sealed plastic bags to avoid contamination.

Water

Water samples were collected from Nile River and tributaries around the industrial area. A plastic pail and disposable cups were used to obtain the samples. Unfiltered water samples were then dispensed into 100 ml polypropylene sample bottles, which were then taped shut to avoid spill.

Physicochemical analysis

Physicochemical parameters analysis was conducted in-situ including temperature, pH, electrical conductivity (EC) and total dissolved solids (TDS). All the parameters were measured by using Manta 2, Water-Quality Multiprobe device Sub 3 Model, USA, Central lab, Desert Research center, Egypt, for each station, a suitable amount of water was collected for major ions and stable isotopes analysis. The water samples were collected in two polyethylene bottles (2 liters) rinsed with the same water sample. All bottles were closed tightly to prevent evaporation. The samples were preserved at 4º C until the analyses were performed. The biological oxygen requirement (BOD) was measured by the difference between the two dissolved oxygen concentrations before and after incubation estimated according to Azide Modification method. The chemical oxygen requirement (COD) was also measured according to the Dichromate reflux method which is based on heating the sample in the presence of a standard potassium dichromate mixture. The Ratio BOD and COD were calculated for all treatments before and after wastewater treatment with chemicals [33].

Heavy metal analysis

The concentrations of heavy metal inclusing Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, Mn, Ni and Pb were measured using the Inductively Coupled Plasma – Optical Emission Spectrometry (ICP-OES) with Ultra Sonic Nebulizer (USN) (Perkin Elmer Optima 3000). The samples were filtered by filtration system through membrane fitter of pore size 0.45 µm before analyses using Standard Methods (APHA, 1992).

Bed sediment samples were digested using microwave digestion techniques as reported by Littlejohn et al (1995) in which 0.25 gm of sample was placed in Teflon vessel with 5 ml HNO3 (65%), 2 ml HF (40%) and 2 ml H2O2 (30%) by using Microwave digestion system (MILESTONE mls-200 mega) [34]. An aliquot of the filtration of the samples was taken about 100 ml. Digestion solutions were measured for total heavy metals using ICP-OES (APHA 1995).

Poly aromatic-hydrocarbon analysis

All chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Company. Solvents with highest grade of purity commercially available therefore it used without further purification. The PAH mixture solution containing 16 USEPA priority PAHs standard including naphthalene (Nap), acenaphthylene (Acy), acenaphthene (Ace), fluorine (Fle), phenanthrene (Phe), anthracene (Anth), fluoranthene (Fla), pyrene (Pyr), benzo[a]anthracene (BaA), chrysene (Chr), benzo[b]fluoranthene (BbF), benzo[k]fluoranthene (BkF), benzo[a]pyrene (BaP), indeno[1,2,3-cd] pyrene (Ind), dibenz[a,h]anthracene (DBA) and benzo[g,h,i]perylene (BgP)). All of these mixture was transferred to acetonitrile with concentration 10 μg·mL-1 for each mixture. In order to exclude impurities before use, analytical-grade anhydrous Na2SO4 was used.

Extraction of PAHs

The general overall method used has been described in the literature20. The initial 1 L water sample, to be analyzed, was equally divided into two 500 mL fractions. For each fraction, two successive extractions were carried out. Each extraction involved the addition of100 mL of dichloromethane while letting the mixture shack for one hour with a stirring bar on a magnetic agitator. The mixture was then extracted using a separating funnel. All extracts, combined to a total of 400 mL of dichloromethane, were dried with anhydrous Na2SO4 and concentrated by rotary evaporation to a 1 mL residue liquid for HPLC analysis, Central lab , Egyptian Petroleum Research Institute

Results and Discussion

Psycohemical analysis

TABLE 1 shows the result of analysis physicochemical parameters of water at Nile River from station 1 until station 11. Based on the table 1, the highest concentrations of DO is located at station 11 as much as 6.8 mg/L and the lowest concentration of DO is located at station 5 as much as 4.4 mg/L. In term of COD, the highest concentration is 86.2 mg/L which located at station 3 and the lowest concentration is 33.6 which located at station 11. The highest and lowest concentration of BOD are located at station 2 and station 11with amount of 56.2 mg/L and 25.2 mg/L respectively. Same thing happend with the EC value which is the highest amount at station 2 as much as 68.2 mS/cm and the lowest amount at station 11 as much as 27.4 mS/cm. The pH value from all stations in range of 7-8 which indicate the neutral pH of the water.

Table 2 represents the comparison of minimum standards for the water quality released to the river between World Health Organization Guidelines (WHO), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA United States, 2018) and Egyptian standard regularities of article 60 law No. 48/1982. There is no significant difference between all regulation in term of maximum concentration allowed. According to table 2, the value of pH in this study is still in the range of standard limit for water released to the environment. The pH amount of water in all stations of Nile River are considered safe. This amount is confirmed by previous study which reported on evaluation of water quality at Fayoum watershed, Nile River, Egypt. The result showed that the pH of the water in the range of 7.60-8.47 during winter season and 7.31-8.10 during summer season [35].

TABLE 1. **Concentration of pysicochemical parameters of water at Nile River from different stations.**

Stations	DO (mg/L)	COD (mg/L)	BOD (mg/L)	pH	EC (mS/cm)	TDS (mg/l)
S1	4.9	79.4	48.3	7.24	62.8	45,700
S2	5.1	52.7	56.2	7.35	68.2	62,200
S3	4.8	86.2	53.8	7.46	57.4	54,300
S4	4.6	64.6	48.7	7.67	43.7	48,500
S5	4.4	73.8	55.2	7.32	48.4	46,200
S6	5.2	46.3	33.7	8.17	37.2	39,600
S7	5.6	64.7	29.5	8.15	42.6	35,300
S8	6.2	38.3	26.8	8.23	33.8	37,400
S9	6.7	42.4	37.4	7.65	33.4	26,300
S10	6.4	45.2	28.3	8.12	29.5	29,500
S11	6.8	33.6	25.2	8.22	27.4	27,600

TABLE 1. **Comparison of minimum standards for the water quality released to the river between World Health Organization Guidelines, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Egyptian standard regularities of article 60 law No. 48/1982**

Parameters	Egyptian Regulation	WHO 2011	EPA 2018
pH	7.0-8.5	8.2-8.8	6.5-8.5
TDS (mg/L)	500	-	500
DO (mg/L)	<5	-	-
BOD (mg/L)	6	-	-
COD (mg/L)	10	-	-
Nitrate(mg/L)	45	50	10
Ammonium (mg/L)	0.5	-	30
Iron (mg/L)	1	0.1	0.3
Manganese (mg/L)	0.5	0.05	0.05
Copper (mg/L)	1	2	1
Zinc (mg/L)	1	3	5
Cadmium (mg/L)	0.01	0.003	0.005

Lead (mg/L)	0.005	0.01	0
Total Alkalinity (mg/L)	20-150	200	80-120
Oil and Greases (mg/L)	0.1	-	50-100
Sulphate (mg/L)	200	500	250
Nitrogen (mg/L)	1	-	2-6
Mercury (mg/L)	0.001	0.002	0.002
Detergents (mg/L)	0.5	-	0.7
Florides (mg/L)	0.5	-	4
Phenol (mg/L)	0.02	5	2-8
Arsenic (mg/L)	0.05	0.1	0.1
Chrome (mg/L)	0.05	-	0.1
Cyanide (mg/L)	0.1	0.2	0.2
Silinium (mg/L)	0.01	0.04	0.05

FIG. 2 shows the comparison of concentration between physicochemical parameters including DO, COD and BOD from all stations with maximum concentration allowed by Egyptian regulation. The results show there are 7 stations have higher DO concentration compared to maximum concentration allowed by Egyptian regulation. Meanwhile the rest of stations have lower concentration. The previous study reported that DO in Damietta Branch, Niler River also has higher concentration compared to Egyptian regulation as much as 6.53 mg/L [36]. This can be concluded that most of site in Nile River, Egypt have higher concentration of DO compared to maximum concentration allowed by Egyptian regulation.

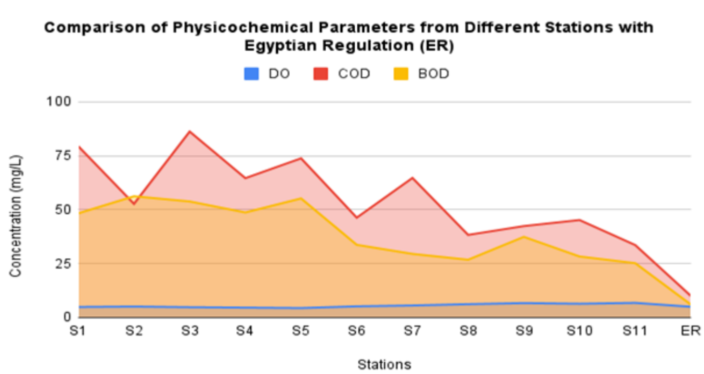

FIG. 2. The comparison of physicochemical parameters (DO, COD and BOD) from different stations with Egyptian regulatin (ER).

In term of concentration of COD as shown in figure 2, all stations at El-Hawamdeya ,Egypt have higher amount compared to maximum concentration allowed by Egyptian regulation. However, previous study reported that the concentration of COD at water surface of Nile River and Rosetta Branch are in the range of permissible concentration by Egyptian regulation. The concentration of COD from both sites are 7.43 mg/L and 9.65 mg/L respectively [36,37]. It means that Nile River at El-Hawamdeya should be given more attention for action especially for organic pollutant wastewater treatment. Figure 2 also shows the comparison of BOD concentration between all stations at Nile River with maximum concentration allowed by Egyptian regulation. The results show that all stations at El-Hawamdeya, Egypt have exceded from the maximum limit by Egyptian regulation. The concentrations even reach until 3 times higher than number of maximum limit. Different case happened in Manyal District, Niler River, Egypt which reported by previous study that the BOD concentration in the range of 1-4 mg/L [38]. These amount is below than the maximum limit by Egyptian regulation. It indicates the water in Manyal District is categorized safer than in El-Hawamdeya.

Heavy metal analysis

FIG. 3 shows the concentration of Cd from station 1 until station 11 in water sample at El-Hawamdeya, Egypt. The table 3 represents the permissible limit concetration of heavy metals by WHO and EPA. The results show that the highest concentration of Cd is located at 3 stations including station 5, 10 and 11. These 3 stations have same amount of Cd concentration as much as 0.041 mg/L. These concentrations are higher than permissible amount by WHO and EPA. The results of this study is in agreement with previous study which reported the Cd analysis in Al-Nasiria site, Egypt. The previous study reported that concentration of Cd in Nile River is higher than permissible amount by WHO and EPA as much as 0.106 mg/L. It indicates that some of site in Nile River is polluted by Cd.

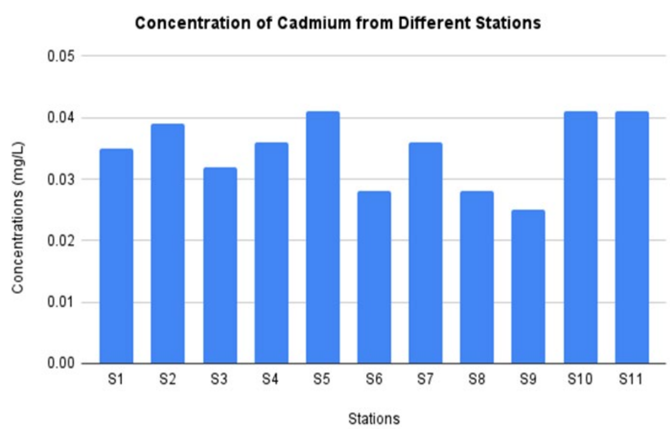

FIG.3. **Concentration of Cd from different stations in water sample.**

TABLE 3. **Maximum limit concentration of heavy metals for drinking water by world health organization (WHO) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**

Heavy Metals (mg/L)	**WHO**	**EPA**
Cd	0.003	0.01
Co	0.05	0.05
Cu	1.6	1.3

Fe	-	5
Mn	0.1	-
Pb	0.01	0.006

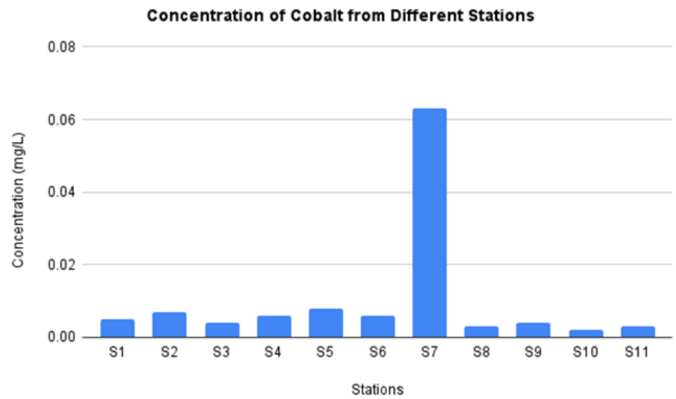

FIG. 4. **Concentration of Co from different stations in water sample.**

Figure 4 represents the concentration of Co from station 1 until station 11 in water sample at El-Hawamdeya, Egypt. The lowest concentration of Co is located at station 10 as much as 0.002 mg/L. Meanwhile the highest concentration of Co is located at station 5 as much as 0.008 mg/L. This concentration is still in the range of permissible limit by WHO and EPA which is 0.05 mg/L. Compared to previous study conducted in El-Srew Drain, Egypt which has higher concentration of Co as much as 0.40 mg/L rather than this study [39].

The station 2 is the highest concentration of Cu as much as 0.091 mg/L as shown in figure 5. This amount is also in the range of permissible limit by WHO and EPA which is 1.6 mg/L and 1.3 mg/L respectively. In addition, the lowest concentration of Cu is located at station 6 as much as 0.047 mg/L. Previous study also confirmed the concentration of Cu in Nile River is still in the range of permissible limit by WHO and EPA. It is reported that in Lake Nasser, Egypt the Cu concentration as much as 0.021 mg/L [40].

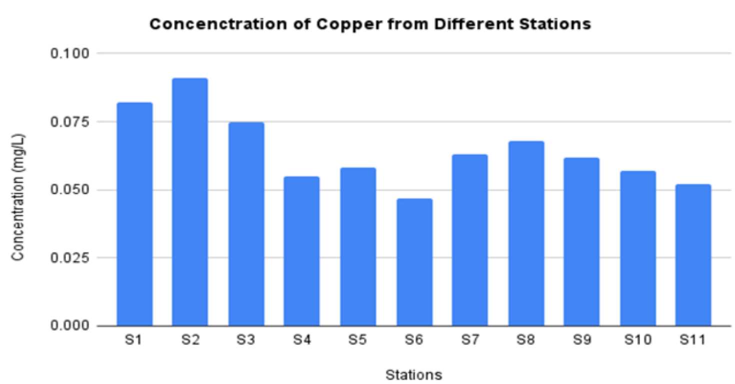

FIG. 5. **Concentration of Cu from different stations in water sample**.

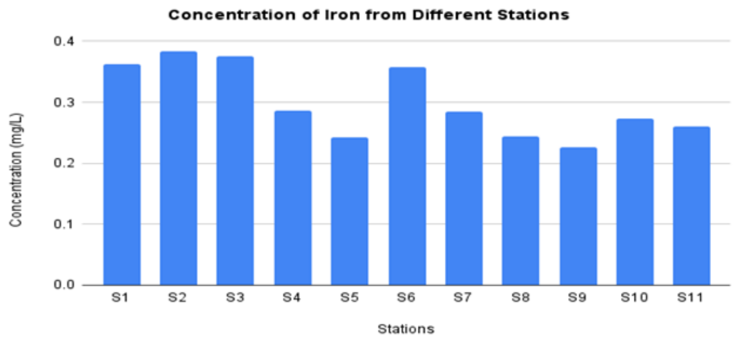

FIG. 6. **Concentration of Fe from different stations in water sample.**

The station 2 is also highest concentration of Fe as much as 0.384 mg/L as shown in figure 6. This amount is in the range of permissible limit by EPA which is 5 mg/L. The lowest concentration of Fe is located at station 9 as much as . The previous study reported that the concentration of Fe at Aswan site, Nile river as much as 0.403 mg/L [41]. It means the agreement about some of the site in Nile River were contaminated by Fe. Figure 7 represents the concentration of Mn in water sample from station 1 until station 11. The highest concentration of Mn is located at station 2 as much as 0.056 mg/L which still in the range of permissible limit by WHO. The previous study confirmed that the Nile River did not affected by Mn. It is reported that the concentration of Mn as much as 0.004 mg/L at Demietta branch, Nile River which is still in the range of permissible amount [42].

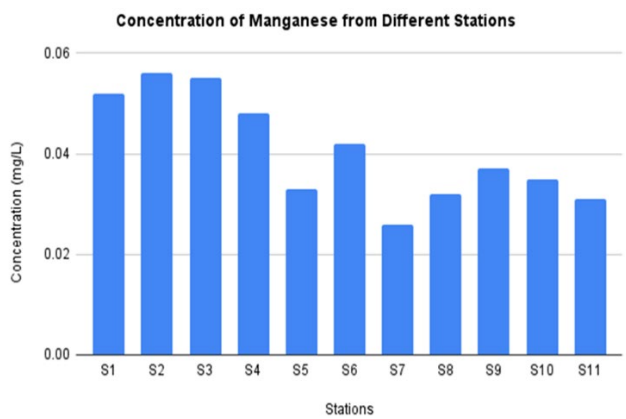

FIG.7. **Concentration of Mn from different stations in water sample.**

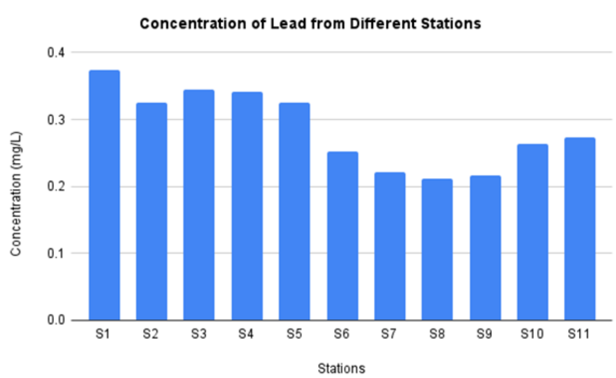

FIG. 8. **Concentration of Pb from different stations in water sample.**

Figure 8 shows the concentration of Pb in water sample from station 1 until station 11. The highest concentration of Pb is located at station 1 as much as 0.374 mg/L. This amount of concentration is higher than permissible limit by WHO and EPA. In addition, the lowest concentration of Pb is located at station 1 as much as. The concentration of Pb in this study has similar amount with the previous study conducted in El-Minya site, Nile River. The previous study reported that the concentration of Mn in drain water of Nile River as much as 0.329 mg/L [43]. The accumulation of heavy metals including Cd, Co, Cu, Fe, Mn, Pb, etc. in several regions come from the exhausts of transportation, discharges of different industries, oil lubricants, automobile parts, corrosion of building materials, and atmospheric deposition [44]. Heavy metals concentration that coming from different sources such as industrial, domestic waste and soils which cut off by rain and releasing heavy metals into water and groundwater system. The high concentrations of Fe naturally found in regions that have polluted soil. In addition, emissions of vehicle and industryn also crust re-suspension increased the concentrations of other heavy metals [45].

Poly aromatic hydrocarbon analysis

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a class of non-polar volatile organic compounds consisting of two or more benzene rings connected in a linear, angular, or clustered manner [46]. The PAHs are widely spread via different environmental media, such as water, soil, sediments, and the atmosphere [47]. The characteristic of PAHs strongly explains that they are difficult to degrade, toxic, carcinogenic, teratogenic, and mutagenic. Furthermore, the risk of environmental pollution from PAHs has been widely studied [48]. That is why it is important to analyze the concentration of total PAHs from water sample in Nile river.

In this study, concentrations of total PAH from water sample at different stations is showed by Figure 9. The highest concentraion is located at station 3 as much as 0.0440 mg/L. On the other hand, the lowest concentrtion is locared at station 11 with only 0.0013 mg/L. The highest concentration of PAHs in this study is higher compared to previous study with concentration as much as 0.0103 mg/L. The previous study was use Rosetta Branch, Egypt as sampling site [49]. Eventough there is slightly different between both concentration, something that can be highlighted about the distance between El-Hawamdeya region with Rosetta Branch is approximately 180 mils apart. In addition, different time periods and increased emission of industrialization affect the concentration of PAHs produces [50].

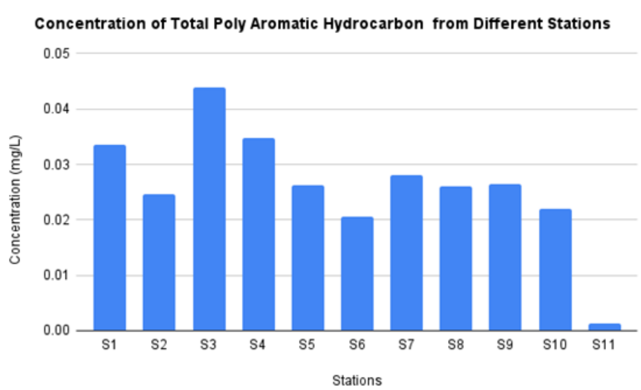

FIG. 9. **Concentration of Total PAHs in water sample from different stations**

In this study, the type of PAHs detected including acenaphtylene, acenaphtene, anthracene, fluorene, chrysene, fluoranthene and benzo[a]pyrene. According to table 4, the type of PAHs that can be detected in all stations is anthracene and benzo[a]pyrene. The highest concentration of anthracene and benzo[a]pyrene as much as 0.0092 mg/L and 0.0226 mg/L respectively. Meanwhile the lowest concentration of anthracene and benzo[a]pyrene found 0.0012 mg/L and 0.0026 mg/L. Chrysen was found only 60% of the stations including station 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 with the highest value detection 0.0092 mg/L which located at station 7 and the lowest detection 0.0041 at station 6. There are some stations which cannot detect the PAHs. This is due to due to natural removal and reduction by evaporation through solar heat, ultraviolet radiation, and biological activity [51,52,53].

TABLE 4**. Concentration of different PAHs in water sample from different stations.**

Stations	Acenaphtylene (mg/L)	Acenaphtene (mg/L)	Anthracene (mg/L)	Fluorene (mg/L)	Chrysene (mg/L)	Fluoranthene (mg/L)	Benzo[a]pyrene (mg/L)	∑ PAHs (mg/L)
S1	0.0084	0.0007	0.0081	ND	0.0072	ND	0.0091	0.0335
S2	0.0031	ND	0.0055	ND	ND	0.0035	0.0125	0.0246
S3	0.0082	ND	0.0092	0.0014	ND	0.0026	0.0226	0.044
S4	0.0075	0.0007	0.0074	0.0012	0.0091	0.0024	0.0064	0.0347
S5	0.0051	0.0002	0.0015	0.0031	0.0048	0.0032	0.0083	0.0262
S6	0.0022	ND	0.0036	ND	0.0041	0.0012	0.0095	0.0206
S7	0.0062	0.0003	0.0022	0.0013	0.0092	0.0052	0.0037	0.0281
S8	0.0077	0.0006	0.0027	0.0024	0.0073	0.0021	0.0033	0.0261
S9	0.0091	0.0004	0.0041	0.0012	0.0058	0.0033	0.0026	0.0265
S10	0.0058	0.0001	0.0025	0.0031	ND	0.0061	0.0044	0.022
S11	ND	0.0001	0.0012	0.0022	ND	0.0047	0.0048	0.013

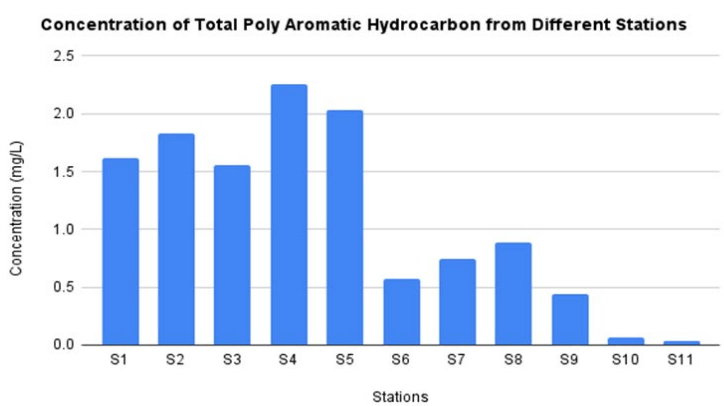

FIG. 10. **Concentration of Total PAHs in sediments sample from different stations.**

TABLE 5. **Concentration of different PAHs in sediments sample from different stations.**

Sstations	Acenaphtylene (mg/L)	Acenaphtene (mg/L)	Anthracene (mg/L)	Fluorene (mg/L)	Chrysene (mg/L)	Fluoranthene (mg/L)	Benzo[a]pyrene (mg/L)	∑ PAHs (mg/L)
S1	0.097	0.182	0.084	0.063	0.246	0.358	0.582	1.612
S2	0.061	0.156	0.089	0.042	0.183	0.574	0.726	1.831

S3	0.082	0.071	0.083	0.082	0.086	0.737	0.417	1.558
S4	0.094	0.364	0.095	0.084	0.274	0.521	0.824	2.256
S5	0.089	0.221	0.074	0.046	0.146	0.846	0.613	2.035
S6	0.013	0.4 63	0.031	0.016	0.073	0.221	0.216	0.57
S7	0.011	0.082	0.037	0.018	0.048	0.131	0.413	0.74
S8	0.021	0.011	0.048	0.011	0.022	0.442	0.327	0.882
S9	0.031	ND	0.025	0.035	0.011	0.121	0.221	0.444
S10	0.025	ND	0.013	0.014	0.015	0. 353	ND	0.067
S11	ND	ND	0.027	ND	0.011	0. 211	ND	0.038

Conclusion

The activity from agricultural discharge, industrial effluents and municipal sewage affect the condition and water quality ofthe Nile river, Egypt which cause the water spring on Nile river is not suitable for human consumption. Therefore it is important to study the situation of the Nile river. This study was conducted at El-Hawamdeya, Egypt. As much as 11 stations sample site were investigated for the physicochemical characteristic, heavy metal and PAHs concentration. The physicochemical characteristic include DO, COD, BOD, EC, pH and TDS. The results showed that the 63% stations have higher concentration of DO, COD and BOD compared to maximum concentration allowed by Egyptian regulation.The characterization of heavy metal including Cd, Co, Cu, Fe, Mn and Pb. The concentration of Co, Cu, Fe, Mn and Pb is still in the range of permissible limit from EPA while the Cd concentration has higher number than permissible limit. The highest concentration of PAHs is 2.256 mg/L and the lowest 0.0220 mg/L. Some stations have no detection for several kinds of PAHs. From all these result, the situation of El-Hawadeya region should be concerned in term of psycochemical characteristic, heavy metal contamination especially Cd and PAHs pollution. An effective river treatment can be intergrated for better water quality in the future.

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