

# Evaluation of Natural Radioactivity and Excess Lifetime Cancer Risk Due To Gamma Dose Rates from Egyptian Black Sand and Its Components

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## ABSTRACT

Scientific investigations have long concluded that prolonged exposure to low dose of radioactivity can induce deleterious effects in human. The aim of this work is to investigate the radioactivity in black sand and its components that are suspected to have natural radioactivity radiation risk in Egypt. High-resolution gamma-ray spectrometry (HPGe) detector was used to detect the radioactive elements abundance in "Abu-Khashaba" located at 5 Km east of Rosetta north Nile Delta. It was noticed that, Radium, thorium and potassium are concentrated in black sand and its components especially monazite and zircon. Radium equivalent activity (Raeq), outdoor and indoor external dose and total average annual effective dose were measured. The hazard indices and total excess lifetime cancer risk (ELCR) were measured to be higher than the worlds average values for most samples. The harmful radiation effects are posing to human going to the area under investigation.

**Key words:** Black sand, HPGe Detector, Activity concentration, Annual effective dose rate, Excess life time cancer risk (ELCR).

## INTRODUCTION

The beach area of Rosetta includes most of the economic minerals reserves of the Egyptian black sands due to its relatively great extension and high grade especially on both sides of the Rosetta promontory. The Egyptian black sand deposits were subjected to extensive research. The studies were dealing with the evaluation of a certain economic mineral, for example zircon, rutile, limonite, and garnet. Other studies were dealing with the evaluation of all economic minerals present in the Egyptian black sands (Abdel Fattah, 2008) (Moustafa, 2010). Abu-Khashaba area lies in the extreme northwestern corner of the Nile Delta were investigated. It is located at the Mediterranean coast to the east of Rosetta distributaries and covers 5 km stretch parallel to shoreline with 0.5 km width (Abdel-Aal et al., 2012) as

shown in Figure 1. Radiation and radioactive materials in the environment can reach human through many routes. Primordial radioactivity is widespread in the earth crust, mainly in various geological formation and their disintegration products. Because of weathering effects on rocks, the radionuclides carried to the soils, streams and rivers by rain. Black sands are usually sorted and deposited along rivers or river mouths, the heavy mineral sources sometimes being very distant from the placer locations (Margineanu et al., 2014). Black sand and some of its components such as monazite and zircon naturally enriched in uranium and thorium; significantly contribute the increasing of local radioactivity levels from normal background (Cetiner et al., 2011). According to the dose, radiation may damage the cell, where it delivers extra

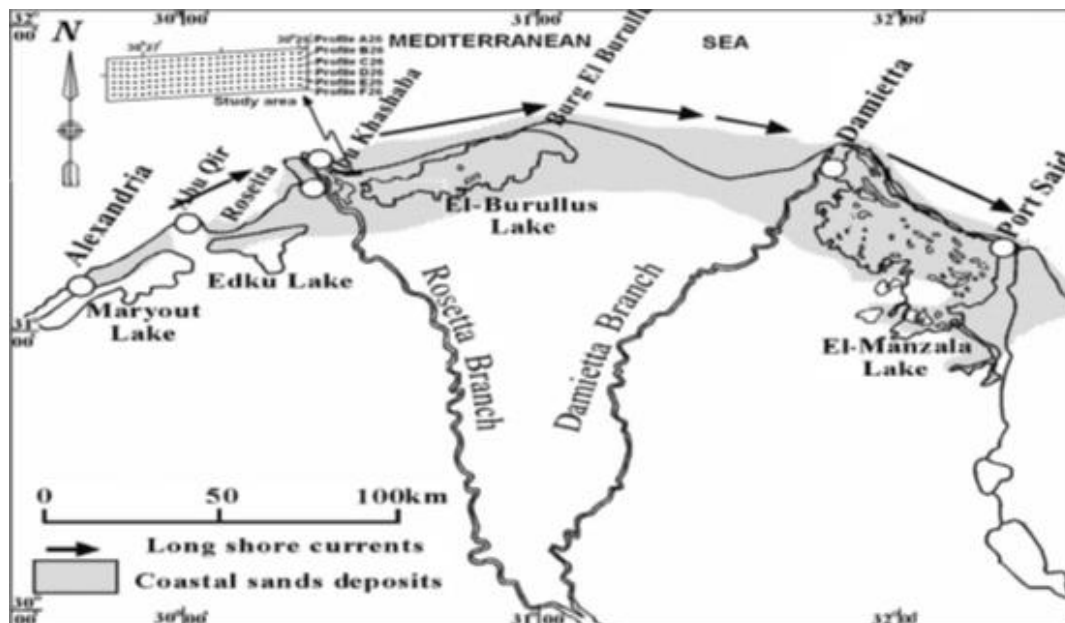


Figure 1. Map of Abu-Khashaba located at 5 Km east of Rosetta north Nile Delta.

energy which causes destroying parts of the cell as well as its function. Exposure to high levels of gamma radiation causes a number of harmful effects in man such as mutation and cancer of various types (Aziz Ahmed et al., 2014). This work aims to study the influences of relatively high levels of gamma radiation from radioactive black sand and its component. Concentration of naturally occurring radionuclides ( $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$  and  $^{40}\text{K}$ ) in the black sand and its component from Abu-Khasha beach of Rosetta in order to evaluate the radiation hazard indices and excess lifetime cancer risk (ELCR) for population due to naturally.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Sampling and Sample Preparation

Ten samples from black sand and its components were taken from Abu-Khashaba. The samples dried in an oven at  $110^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 24 h to remove moisture from the samples. Then each sample was crushed and sieved through 200 mm mesh size. Weighed samples placed in polyethylene containers of  $250\text{ cm}^3$  volume. The bottles were completely sealed for one month in order to obtain the secular equilibrium between  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  and its daughters (Hamby and Tynbvkov, 2002).

### Measurements Technique

Activity measurements was used by system consists of ORTEC hyper pure germanium (HPGe) detector (ORTEC 572A) of sensitive volume  $76.11\text{ cm}^3$  was used. The

energy resolution of HPGe detector is 1.9 keV at 1332.5 keV gammas -ray transition of  $^{60}\text{Co}$  with photo peak efficiency 30%.

The detection system calibrated using gamma standard source including Co-60 (1172.5 and 1332.5) keV, Am-241 (59.5 keV) and Ra-226 (186.2, 242.2, 295.2, 351.9 and 609.3) keV Figure 2. The efficiency curve of the (HPGe) detector in the energy range from 186 to 2450 keV was obtained through two stages. In the first "stage" the relative efficiency curve of the detector was performed using  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  point source. In the second stage, the average relative curve of the detector was normalized to an absolute potassium chloride has been used (El-Tahawy et al., 1992) as shown in Figure 3. To reduce gamma-ray background, a cylindrical lead shield with a fixed bottom and a movable cover shielded the detector. The lead shield contained two inner concentric cylinders of copper and cadmium to prevent interference X-ray by lead. In order to determine the background distribution in the environment around the detector, an empty bottle was counted in the same manner and in the same geometry as the samples.

The background spectra were used to correct the areas of gamma rays of measured isotopes. Periodical measurements were made to check the background level of radioactivity in the laboratory. Weekly  $\gamma$ -ray measurements of the reference material were done to calibrate the system. The counting time for each sample was 24 h. The gamma transmissions 351.9, 295.1 keV used for activity calculations of ( $^{214}\text{Pb}$ ) and (609.3, 768.4, 934.6, 1120.3, 1729.9 and 1764.5 keV) for ( $^{214}\text{Bi}$ ) were considered for identifying  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ . The  $\gamma$ -ray photo of 338.4, 463.1, 968.1, 911 keV) used for activity calculations of

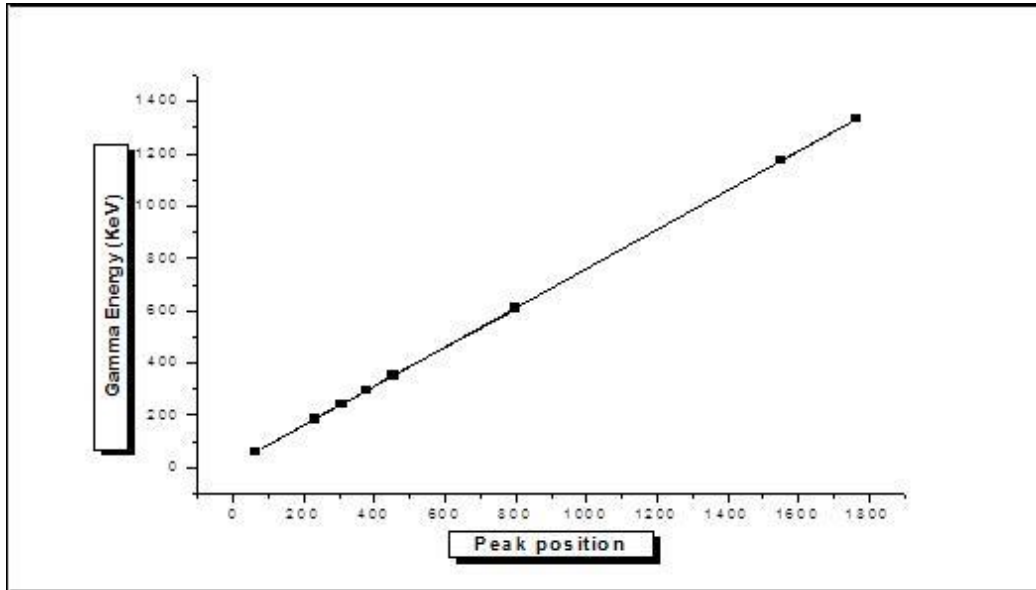


Figure 2. Energy channel calibration curve.

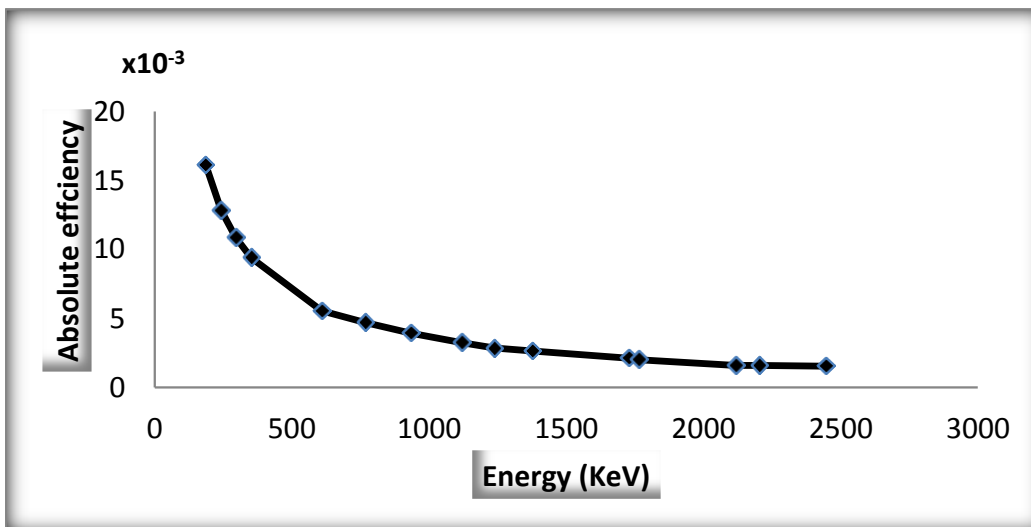


Figure 3. Absolute efficiency curve of Ra-<sup>226</sup> and its daughter gamma energy lines.

(<sup>228</sup>Ac), (583.1, 860.1 keV) for activity calculations of (<sup>208</sup>Tl) and (727.3, 1620.7 keV) for activity calculations of (<sup>212</sup>Bi) were used to identify <sup>232</sup>Th in the samples (Akhtar et al., 2005) (IAEA, 1989) <sup>40</sup>K concentration was measured from its (1460 KeV) gamma line.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Activity Concentration of <sup>226</sup>Ra, <sup>232</sup>Th And <sup>40</sup>K

The activity concentration of <sup>226</sup>Ra, <sup>232</sup>Th and <sup>40</sup>K in the black sand varies from 802.4 to 920, 2112.1 to 2211.4

and 188.9 to 199.1 Bq.Kg<sup>-1</sup> with the average values of 852.27, 2171.73 and 194 Bq.Kg<sup>-1</sup>, respectively as shown in Table 1. The activity concentration of <sup>226</sup>Ra and <sup>232</sup>Th are higher than the world's averages which are 32, 45 while the concentration of <sup>40</sup>K is lower than the world's averages which is 412 (UNSCEAR, 2000). In monazite the activity concentration of <sup>226</sup>Ra, <sup>232</sup>Th and <sup>40</sup>K vary from 20745 to 21018, 146372.3 to 157866.3 and 7966.5 to 8357.2 Bq.Kg<sup>-1</sup> with the average values of 20931.6, 153223.7 and 8148.8 Bq.Kg<sup>-1</sup>, respectively as shown in Table 1. In monazite these values are higher than the world's averages which are 10000 to 50000 Bq.Kg<sup>-1</sup> for radionuclides in the <sup>226</sup>Ra series and 5000 to 35000

**Table 1.** Activity concentration of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$ ,  $^{40}\text{K}$  for black sand and its component in (Bq/Kg).

Sample No.		Minimum	Maximum	Average
B.S.	$^{226}\text{Ra}$ Bq.Kg <sup>-1</sup>	802.4	920.0	852.3
	$^{232}\text{Th}$ Bq.Kg <sup>-1</sup>	2112.1	2211.4	2171.7
	$^{40}\text{K}$ Bq.Kg <sup>-1</sup>	188.9	199.1	194.0
Mon.	$^{226}\text{Ra}$ Bq.Kg <sup>-1</sup>	20745	21018	20931.6
	$^{232}\text{Th}$ Bq.Kg <sup>-1</sup>	146372.3	157866.3	153223.7
	$^{40}\text{K}$ Bq.Kg <sup>-1</sup>	7966.5	8357.2	8148.9
Zr.	$^{226}\text{Ra}$ Bq.Kg <sup>-1</sup>	3435.4	4029.3	3749.5
	$^{232}\text{Th}$ Bq.Kg <sup>-1</sup>	5339.5	5769.3	5619.9
	$^{40}\text{K}$ Bq.Kg <sup>-1</sup>	323.9	390.1	349.8
Mag.	$^{226}\text{Ra}$ Bq.Kg <sup>-1</sup>	6.16	7.86	6.80
	$^{232}\text{Th}$ Bq.Kg <sup>-1</sup>	6.23	7.59	7.12
	$^{40}\text{K}$ Bq.Kg <sup>-1</sup>	12.81	18.27	15.52
Ilm	$^{226}\text{Ra}$ Bq.Kg <sup>-1</sup>	9.14	9.94	9.24
	$^{232}\text{Th}$ Bq.Kg <sup>-1</sup>	7.97	9.70	8.94
	$^{40}\text{K}$ Bq.Kg <sup>-1</sup>	6.55	10.29	8.33

Bq.Kg<sup>-1</sup> for radionuclides in the  $^{232}\text{Th}$  series and 412 for  $^{40}\text{K}$  (UNSCEAR, 2008). In magnetite the activity concentration of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$  and  $^{40}\text{K}$  vary from 6.16 to 7.86, 6.23 to 7.59 and 12.81 to 18.27 Bq.Kg<sup>-1</sup> with the average values of 6.80, 7.12 and 15.52 Bq.Kg<sup>-1</sup>, respectively as shown in Table 1. The activity concentration of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$  and  $^{40}\text{K}$  are lower than the world's averages which are 32, 45 and 412 (UNSCEAR, 2000). In Zircon the activity concentration of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$  and  $^{40}\text{K}$  vary from 3435.4 to 4029.3, 5339.5 to 5769.3 and 323.9 to 390.1 Bq.Kg<sup>-1</sup> with the average values of 3749.55, 5619.95 and 349.8 Bq.Kg<sup>-1</sup>, respectively as shown in Table 1.

In zircon these values are higher than the world's averages which are 7000 Bq.Kg-1 for radionuclides in the  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  series and 300 Bq.Kg-1 for radionuclides in the  $^{232}\text{Th}$  series (UNSCEAR, 2008); while the concentration of  $^{40}\text{K}$  is lower than the world's averages which are 412. In ilmenite the activity concentration of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$  and  $^{40}\text{K}$  vary from 9.14 to 9.94, 7.97 to 9.70 and 6.55 to 10.29 Bq.Kg<sup>-1</sup> with the average values of 9.24, 8.94 and 8.33 Bq.Kg<sup>-1</sup>, respectively as shown in Table 1. The activity concentration of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  and  $^{232}\text{Th}$ ,  $^{40}\text{K}$  is lower than the world's averages which are 32, 45 and 412 (UNSCEAR, 2000).

### Radium Equivalent Activity ( $Ra_{eq}$ )

To represent the activity level of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$  and  $^{40}\text{K}$  by a single quantity, a common radiological index has been introduced. This index called radium equivalent activity ( $Ra_{eq}$ ). It can be calculated from the following relation (Al-Trabulsi et al., 2011).

$$Ra_{eq} = A_{Ra} + 1.43A_{Th} + 0.077A_K$$

Where  $A_{Ra}$ ,  $A_{Th}$  and  $A_K$  are the activity concentration of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$  and  $^{40}\text{K}$ , respectively

expressed in Bq/Kg. The recommended value is equal 370 Bq.Kg<sup>-1</sup> (UNSCEAR, 2000). Results show that all values of radium equivalent in black sand, monazite and zircon samples at Abu-Khashaba are higher than the recommended maximum value 370 Bq.Kg<sup>-1</sup> (UNSCEAR, 2000). In magnetite and ilmenite samples in this region is lower than this limit shown in Table 2.

### Outdoor External Dose ( $D_{out}$ )

The ( $D_{out}$ ) at 1m above the ground surface is assessed from the gamma- radiation originating from  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$  and  $^{40}\text{K}$  supposed to be equally distributed in ground. For the conversion of gamma-radiation originating from  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$  and  $^{40}\text{K}$ , the factors of 0.436 nGy h<sup>-1</sup> per Bq<sup>-1</sup>kg<sup>-1</sup> for  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ , 0.599 nGy h<sup>-1</sup> per Bq<sup>-1</sup>kg<sup>-1</sup> for  $^{232}\text{Th}$  and 0.0417 nGy h<sup>-1</sup> per Bq<sup>-1</sup>kg<sup>-1</sup> for  $^{40}\text{K}$  were used for calculating the ( $D_{out}$ ). The conversion factors have been taken as means of those reported by (Quindos et al., 2004). The ( $D_{out}$ ) was calculated using the following equation by (Huy and Luyen, 2006)

$$D_{out} = 0.436A_{Ra} + 0.599A_{Th} + 0.0417A_K \text{ (nGyh}^{-1}\text{)}$$

The outdoor external doses ( $D_{out}$ ) due to the presence of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$  and  $^{40}\text{K}$  in the black sand samples were calculated which range from 1661.7 to 1701.4 nGy h<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of 1680.5 nGy h<sup>-1</sup> as shown in Table 2. The outdoor external doses ( $D_{out}$ ) in monazite samples range from 97168.8 to 103771.6 nGy h<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of 101247 nGy h<sup>-1</sup> and the outdoor external doses ( $D_{out}$ ) in zircon samples were calculated which range from 4878.6 to 5205.1 nGy h<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of 5015.7 nGy h<sup>-1</sup>. These averages are higher than the world's average of 57 nGy h<sup>-1</sup>. While the outdoor external doses ( $D_{out}$ ) in magnetite and ilmenite samples were calculated which range from 6.99 to 8.44 nGy h<sup>-1</sup> with an average

**Table 2.** The values of radium equivalent ( $Ra_{eq}$ ) in  $Bq.Kg^{-1}$ , outdoor external dose ( $D_{out}$ ), indoor external dose ( $D_{in}$ ) in  $nGyh^{-1}$ , annual outdoor effective dose ( $E_{out}$ ), annual indoor effective dose ( $E_{in}$ ) in  $mSvy^{-1}$  and total annual effective dose ( $E_{out}+E_{in}$ ) in  $mSvy^{-1}$  for black sand and its component.

Sample No.		Minimum	Maximum	Average
B.S.	$Ra_{eq}$ ( $Bq.Kg^{-1}$ )	3929.9	4022.9	3972.8
	$D_{out}$ ( $nGyh^{-1}$ )	1661.7	1701.4	1680.5
	$D_{in}$ ( $nGyh^{-1}$ )	3148.1	3226.3	3188.7
	( $mSvy^{-1}E_{out}$ )	2037.2	2086.02	2060.3
	$E_{in}$ ( $mSvy^{-1}$ )	15441.6	15825.2	15641.03
	$E_{out}+E_{in}$ ( $mSvy^{-1}$ )	17478.9	17911.2	17701.4
Mon.	$Ra_{eq}$ ( $Bq.Kg^{-1}$ )	230929.5	247319.5	240669
	$D_{out}$ ( $nGyh^{-1}$ )	97168.8	103771.6	101247
	$D_{in}$ ( $nGyh^{-1}$ )	180980.7	193581.8	188464.7
	( $mSvy^{-1}E_{out}$ )	119129	127545.5	124128.8
	$E_{in}$ ( $mSvy^{-1}$ )	887710.5	949519	924419.4
	$E_{out}+E_{in}$ ( $mSvy^{-1}$ )	1006839.5	1077064.5	1048548.3
Zr	$Ra_{eq}$ ( $Bq.Kg^{-1}$ )	11482.6	12252.7	11813
	$D_{out}$ ( $nGyh^{-1}$ )	4878.6	5205.1	5015.7
	$D_{in}$ ( $nGyh^{-1}$ )	9416.4	10041.1	9659.8
	( $mSvy^{-1}E_{out}$ )	5981.2	6381.4	6149.3
	$E_{in}$ ( $mSvy^{-1}$ )	46187.7	49252	47381.7
	$E_{out}+E_{in}$ ( $mSvy^{-1}$ )	52168.9	55633.5	53531
Mag.	$Ra_{eq}$ ( $Bq.Kg^{-1}$ )	16.12	19.55	18.16
	$D_{out}$ ( $nGyh^{-1}$ )	6.99	8.44	7.87
	$D_{in}$ ( $nGyh^{-1}$ )	13.65	16.50	15.36
	( $mSvy^{-1}E_{out}$ )	8.57	10.37	9.65
	$E_{in}$ ( $mSvy^{-1}$ )	66.95	80.97	75.34
	$E_{out}+E_{in}$ ( $mSvy^{-1}$ )	75.53	91.34	84.99
Ilm	$Ra_{eq}$ ( $Bq.Kg^{-1}$ )	22.17	24.49	22.67
	$D_{out}$ ( $nGyh^{-1}$ )	9.28	10.51	9.73
	$D_{in}$ ( $nGyh^{-1}$ )	18.17	20.54	18.93
	( $mSvy^{-1}E_{out}$ )	11.38	12.89	11.93
	$E_{in}$ ( $mSvy^{-1}$ )	89.17	100.74	93.28
	$E_{out}+E_{in}$ ( $mSvy^{-1}$ )	100.56	113.64	105.22

value of  $7.87nGy h^{-1}$  and from  $9.28$  to  $10.51 nGy h^{-1}$  with an average value of  $9.73 nGy h^{-1}$ . These averages are lower than the worlds' average of  $57 nGy h^{-1}$ (UNSCEAR, 2000).

**Indoor External Dose ( $D_{in}$ )**

The gamma -ray dose ( $D_{in}$ ) imparted by  $^{226}Ra$ ,  $^{232}Th$  and  $^{40}K$  present in the indoor is calculated by converting the absorbed dose rate into effective dose using the three conversion factors,  $0.92 nGy h^{-1}$  per  $Bqkg^{-1}$  for  $^{226}Ra$ ,  $1.1 nGy h^{-1}$  per  $Bqkg^{-1}$  for  $^{232}Th$  and  $0.081 nGy h^{-1}$  per  $Bq kg^{-1}$  for  $^{40}K$ . By utilizing the above mentioned conversion

factors following equation was used to calculate the ( $D_{in}$ ) (Huy and Luyen, 2006)

$$D_{out} = 0.436A_{Ra} + 0.599A_{Th} + 0.0417A_k \text{ (nGyh}^{-1}\text{)}$$

The indoor external doses ( $D_{in}$ ) due to the presence of  $^{226}Ra$ ,  $^{232}Th$  and  $^{40}K$  present in the indoor (Table 2). In black sand samples were calculated which range from  $3148.1$  to  $3226.3 nGy h^{-1}$  with an average value of  $3188.7 nGy h^{-1}$ . The indoor external doses ( $D_{in}$ ) in monazite samples were calculated which range from  $180980.7$  to  $193581.8nGy h^{-1}$  with an average value of  $188464.7$

nGy h<sup>-1</sup> and the indoor external doses ( $D_{in}$ ) in zircon samples were calculated which range from 9416.4 to 10041.1 nGy h<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of 9659.8 nGy h<sup>-1</sup>. These averages are higher than the worlds' average of 75 nGy h<sup>-1</sup> (UNSCEAR, 2008). While the indoor external doses ( $D_{in}$ ) in magnetite and ilmenite samples were calculated which range from 13.65 to 16.5 nGy h<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of 15.36 nGy h<sup>-1</sup> and from 18.17 to 20.54 nGy h<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of 18.93 nGy h<sup>-1</sup>. These averages are lower than the worlds' average of 75 nGy h<sup>-1</sup> (UNSCEAR, 2008).

### Annual Effective Dose

The annual effective dose is of two types, the annual outdoor effective dose ( $E_{out}$ ) and annual indoor effective dose ( $E_{in}$ ).

### Annual Outdoor Effective Dose ( $E_{out}$ )

The ( $E_{out}$ ) is estimated from the outdoor external dose rate ( $D_{out}$ ), time of stay in the outdoor or occupancy factor (OF = 20% of 8760 h in a year) and the conversion factor (CF = 0.7 Sv Gy<sup>-1</sup>) to convert the absorbed dose in air to effective dose. During the present study, the ( $E_{out}$ ) was calculated using the following equations from (UNSCEAR, 2008)

$$E_{out} = D_{out} (nGyh^{-1}) \times 0.2 \times 8760 h \times 0.7 (Sv Gy^{-1})$$

$$E_{out} = D_{out} \times 1.226 \mu SV$$

In black sand samples the values of  $E_{out}$  were calculated which range from 2037.2 to 2086 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of 2060.3 mSvy<sup>-1</sup>, in monazite samples ranges from 1191129 to 127545.5 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of 188464.7 mSvy<sup>-1</sup>. In zircon samples ranges from 5981.2 to 6381.4 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of 6149.3 mSvy<sup>-1</sup>. These averages are higher than the worlds' average of 0.07 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> (UNSCEAR, 2008). While annual outdoor effective dose ( $E_{out}$ ) in magnetite and ilmenite samples were calculated which range from 8.57 to 9.45 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of 9.65 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> and from 11.38 to 12.89 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of 11.93 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> respectively. These averages are higher than the worlds' average of 0.07 mSvy<sup>-1</sup>.

### Annual Indoor Effective Dose ( $E_{in}$ )

The ( $E_{in}$ ) is the dose that a person receives in the indoor environment. The ( $E_{in}$ ) depends on the indoor external dose ( $D_{in}$ ) that is the gamma-ray dose within the buildings, dose conversion factor (CF that is 0.7 SvGy<sup>-1</sup>) and the time of stay in the indoor (OF that is 80% of the 8760 h in a year). The annual indoor effective dose ( $E_{in}$ ) was calculated as per equations given below (Taskin et al., 2009).

$$E_{in} = D_{in} (nGyh^{-1}) \times 0.8 \times 8760 h \times 0.7 (Sv Gy^{-1})$$

$$E_{in} = D_{in} \times 4.905 \mu SV$$

In black sand samples the values of  $E_{in}$  were calculated which range from 15541.6 to 15825.2 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of 15641 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> (Table 2), in monazite samples ranges from 887710.5 to 949519 mSv y<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of 924419.4 mSv y<sup>-1</sup>. In zircon samples ranges from 46187.6 to 49252 mSv y<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of 47381.7 mSvy<sup>-1</sup>. These averages are higher than the worlds' average of 0.41 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> (UNSCEAR, 2000). While annual indoor effective dose ( $E_{in}$ ) in magnetite and ilmenite samples were calculated which range from 66.95 to 80.97 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of 75.34 mSv y<sup>-1</sup> and from 89.17 to 100.7 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> with an average value of 93.28 mSv y<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. These averages are higher than the worlds' average of 0.41 mSvy<sup>-1</sup>. The total annual effective dose ( $E_{out} + E_{in}$ ) in black sand samples ranges from 17478.9 to 17911.2 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> with an average 17701.4 mSvy<sup>-1</sup>. In monazite samples ranges from 1006839.5 to 1077064.5 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> with average 1048548.3 mSvy<sup>-1</sup>. In zircon samples ranges from 52168.9 to 55633.5 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> with average 53531 mSvy<sup>-1</sup>. In magnetite and ilmenite samples ranges from 75.53 to 91.34 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> and from 100.56 to 113.64 mSvy<sup>-1</sup> with averages 84.99 and 105.22 mSvy<sup>-1</sup>. These values are higher than the criterion limit of 0.48 mSv y<sup>-1</sup> (UNSCEAR, 2000).

### Excess Lifetime Cancer Risk (ELCR)

Lifetime cancer risk (ELCR) was calculated using the following equation

$$ELCR (outdoor) = E_{out} \times LE \times RF$$

$$ELCR (indoor) = E_{in} \times LE \times RF$$

Where ( $E_{out}$ ) and ( $E_{in}$ ) are the annual effective doses, LE life expectancy (66 years) and RF (Sv-1) is fatal risk factor per Sievert, which is 0.05 (ICRP 60, 1990). As shown in Table 3, for black sand samples, ranges from  $5.48 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $5.61 \times 10^{-3}$  with an average value of  $5.54 \times 10^{-3}$ , in monazite samples ranges from  $320 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $343.3 \times 10^{-3}$  with an average value of  $334.1 \times 10^{-3}$  and in zircon samples ranges from  $16.09 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $17.17 \times 10^{-3}$  with an average value of 16.55. While in magnetite and ilmenite samples were calculated which range from  $0.023 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $0.027 \times 10^{-3}$  with an average value of  $0.025 \times 10^{-3}$  and from  $0.030$  to  $0.034 \times 10^{-3}$  with an average value of  $0.032 \times 10^{-3}$ . In black sand samples, ranges from  $50.95 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $52.22 \times 10^{-3}$  with an average value of  $51.61 \times 10^{-3}$ , in monazite samples ranges from  $2929.4 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $3133.4 \times 10^{-3}$  with an average value of  $3059.9 \times 10^{-3}$ . In zircon samples ranges from  $152.4 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $162.5 \times 10^{-3}$ .

**Table 3.** The values of outdoor excess lifetime cancer risk (ELCR)  $\times 10^{-3}_{(out)}$  and indoor excess lifetime cancer risk (ELCR)  $\times 10^{-3}_{(in)}$  and total excess lifetime cancer risk (ELCR)  $\times 10^{-3}_{(Total)}$  for black sand and its component.

Sample No		Minimum	Maximum	Average
B.S.	(ELCR) $\times 10^{-3}_{(out)}$	5.48	5.61	5.54
	(ELCR) $\times 10^{-3}_{(in)}$	50.951	52.22	51.61
	(ELCR) $\times 10^{-3}_{(Total)}$	56.44	57.831	57.16
Mon.	(ELCR) $\times 10^{-3}_{(out)}$	320.65	343.31	334.11
	(ELCR) $\times 10^{-3}_{(in)}$	2929.4	3133.4	3059.98
	(ELCR) $\times 10^{-3}_{(Total)}$	3250.1	3476.7	3394.1
Zr.	(ELCR) $\times 10^{-3}_{(out)}$	16.09	17.17	16.55
	(ELCR) $\times 10^{-3}_{(in)}$	152.41	162.53	156.35
	(ELCR) $\times 10^{-3}_{(Total)}$	168.51	179.70	172.90
Mag.	(ELCR) $\times 10^{-3}_{(out)}$	0.0231	0.0279	0.0259
	(ELCR) $\times 10^{-3}_{(in)}$	0.221	0.267	0.248
	(ELCR) $\times 10^{-3}_{(Total)}$	0.243	0.295	0.274
Ilm	(ELCR) $\times 10^{-3}_{(out)}$	0.0306	0.0347	0.032
	(ELCR) $\times 10^{-3}_{(in)}$	0.294	0.332	0.307
	(ELCR) $\times 10^{-3}_{(Total)}$	0.324	0.367	0.339

with an average value of 156.3, while in magnetite and ilmenite samples were calculated which range from  $0.221 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $0.267 \times 10^{-3}$  with an average value of  $0.248 \times 10^{-3}$  and from  $0.294$  to  $0.332 \times 10^{-3}$  with an average value of  $0.307 \times 10^{-3}$ . The total (ELCR) blacks, monazite and zircon samples range from ( $56.44 \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $3250.1 \times 10^{-3}$  and  $186.1 \times 10^{-3}$ ) to ( $57.83 \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $3476.7 \times 10^{-3}$  and  $179.7 \times 10^{-3}$ ) with average ( $57.1 \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $3394.1 \times 10^{-3}$  and  $172.9$ ) is higher than the worlds' average of  $1.45 \times 10^{-3}$  (12). While in magnetite and ilmenite samples range from ( $0.243 \times 10^{-3}$  and  $0.324 \times 10^{-3}$ ) to ( $0.295 \times 10^{-3}$  and  $0.367 \times 10^{-3}$ ) with average  $0.274 \times 10^{-3}$  and  $0.339 \times 10^{-3}$  is higher than the worlds' average of  $1.45 \times 10^{-3}$  (UNSCEAR, 2008) (Taskin et al., 2009).

## CONCLUSION

Results that Egyptian black sand and its components from the Rosetta area (Abu -Khashaba) are considered as high radioactive background area. Therefore, we recommend that the workers who separate components from black sand must be very careful and take all possible precautions because they receive higher total effective doses due to inhalation of dust containing natural radioactive. Long -term exposure to radiation assumed to have some risk of causing cancer. This means that all people have a risk of getting cancer. The (ELCR) factor assessed during present study on the basis of outdoor ( $E_{out}$ ) and indoor ( $E_{in}$ ) annual dose was found to be higher than the world's average of  $1.45 \times 10^{-3}$  in black sand, monazite and zircon samples, while in magnetite and limonite are lower than the world's average.

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