

AVVISO DI SEMINARIO



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Color vision impairments at low-level methylmercury exposure of an Amazonian population at the Madeira River - Brazil

Land exploitation that follows deforestation and mining can result in soil erosion and the release of mercury to the waters of rivers in the Amazon Basin. Inorganic mercury is methylated by bacteria present in the environment and serves as a source of human contamination through fish consumption in the form of methyl mercury. Long-term exposure to low-level methyl mercury in the riverside populations can lead to nervous system alterations, some of which are visual impairments such as loss of luminance contrast sensitivity, restricted visual fields and color vision defects. Although other studies have previously found color vision impairment in the Amazon, they were found in the region of the Tapajos River at the east side of Amazon while this study was conducted in the central Amazon. These results suggest that long-term exposure to low-level methyl mercury in riverside populations is wider spread in Amazon than previously verified.

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Ore 11 - Aula Chiarugi

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