

SCIENTIFIC CORRESPONDENCE

The levels of magnesium and lanthanides in coconut root (wilt)

The measurement of magnesium in wet weight in our paper¹ on a common basis for a human cardiomyopathy and coconut root (wilt) had been questioned². We have repeated the measurements on dry weight basis³ in the same number of

samples from the same locations. The results are given in Figure 1.

The data confirm our earlier findings on the reciprocal relationship between magnesium and lanthanide levels and clearly distinguish three subsets of

palms; healthy controls in Manavala-kurichi, healthy looking (asymptomatic) and diseased palms in Quilon and Alleppey districts. The marked difference in the levels of magnesium and lanthanides in the healthy controls and diseased palms is obvious.

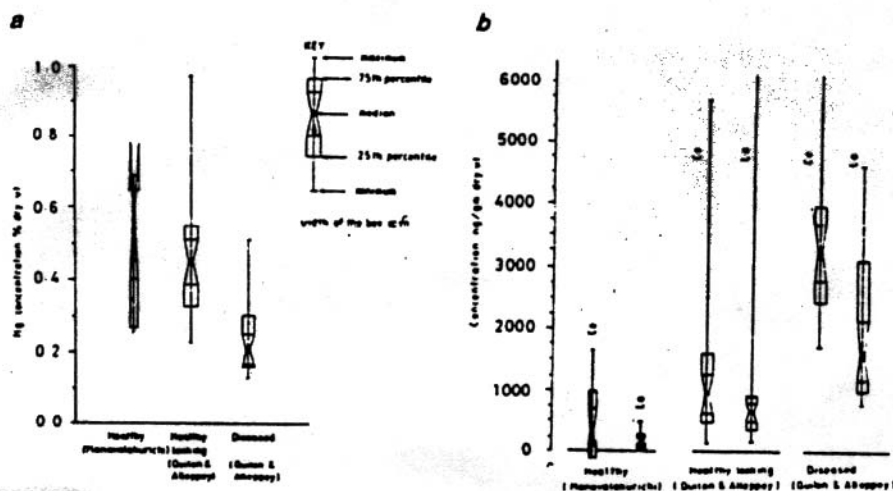


Figure 1 a, & Box plot of magnesium (a) and lanthanide levels (b) in three subsets of coconut palms. Pr and Nd were not significantly different when compared with controls. Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Yb and Lu were below detection limit.

1. Valiathan, M. S., Eapen, J. T. and Mathews, C. K., *Curr. Sci.*, 1992, 63, 565-567.
2. Nair, M. K., *Curr. Sci.*, 1993, 64, 279-280.
3. Jones, J. B., in *Official Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists* (ed. Williams, S.), AOAC, Arlington, VA 22209, USA, 1984, pp. 38-64.

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