^{137}Cs uptake of forest berries

Eila Kostiainen
STUK - Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority

Materials

- Forest berry samples, collected during 1987–1989 in four sampling areas in northern Finland
- In total ~1780 samples
- Species
  - blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*)
  - lingonberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*)
  - cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccus*)
  - crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*)
- Chernobyl fallout (1.10.1986)
  - areas 1-3: 1.6–1.9 kBq m^{-2}
  - area 4: 7.3 kBq m^{-2}

Results

- ^{137}Cs concentrations in samples picked at the same sites inside the study areas
  - blueberries and lingonberries equal
  - cranberries 3–4 times higher
  - crowberries about 20 percent lower
- no clear annual variation during 1987, 1988 and 1989
- aggregated transfer factors calculated by using mean regional deposition values of each study area are given
- the results give the range of variation in ^{137}Cs uptake of forest berries in varying growing conditions during the first years after the deposition

Distribution of the aggregated transfer factors for forest berries (T_{ag} , Bq kg^{-1} dry weight / kBq m^{-2})