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Editorial

The Ecotoxicology and Environmental Contamination would like to thank all the editors who contributed to the scientific growth and development of this journal during the year 2023. May we continue to count on the availability and commitment in this process.

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We also thank all the authors and reviewers for their wonderful work in producing quality science and considering the EEC as a vehicle for science communication.

A Happy New Year to everyone!

Editor-in-chief

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THE ROLE OF THE TOXICOLOGICAL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES IN THE BRAZILIAN REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

In 1981, **the National Environmental Policy** (Law 6938) was issued, and it is based on sustainable development principles, such as the polluter pays, prevention (or precaution), participation, the socio-environmental function of property, limits, and cooperation between people. Among the several other legal instruments that compose of the environmental regulatory system, I would like to highlight the ones issued by the **National Council for the Environment** (CONAMA). The resolutions CONAMA 357/2005 and CONAMA 396/2008 define quality classes for surface and groundwater, respectively, to be used as tools in the Water Resources Management Plans (BRASIL, 1997). These resolutions present a series of maximum allowed values, established depending on each specific use of the water resource (protection of aquatic life, recreation, irrigation, livestock, and human consumption). Included in the surface water regulation, conditions for the discharge of liquid effluents are specified by the CONAMA 430/2011. There are other important environmental regulations that also provide maximum allowed values for dredging materials, CONAMA 454/2012, and for soil quality, CONAMA 420/2009.

The maximum allowed values, also called standards, are based on environmental quality criteria. These criteria are scientifically proposed by specialists in the field of regulatory toxicology. They can be based on physic-chemical or biological analysis, such as ecotoxicity tests. There is a lot of science behind them and the role of the researchers in this process is not well recognized by the public and even by the academia.

The scientists from the toxicological societies, such as Ecotox-Brasil, Mutagen-Brasil, and Brazilian Society of Toxicology - SBTox have played key roles during the issue of Brazilian norms, with a highlight to the pesticide law (Law 7802/1989) and the CONAMA resolutions cited above. Other example of the participation of the societies, is related to capacity building. In 2009, Mutagen-Brasil held the workshop "Strategies to define environmental criteria for the protection of human health and the ecosystem". It was a one-week working meeting with national and international experts, including representatives of Ecotox-Brasil and SBTox, to propose a scientific-based approach to derive water quality criteria for drinking water and aquatic life protection to be used in Brazil and other countries of Latin America.

With the objective to contribute with the revision of Brazilian norms, there is one initiative led by Ecotox-Brasil happening right now. A call to all the society members was made with the aim of collecting proposals to revise or include new water quality criteria in the CONAMA 357/2005.

This journal, EEC, plays an important role in the regulatory process, as it is a source of peer-review information to support regulators in their activities. We highlight the special issue on "Toxicity of pollutants on representative species in Brazilian Ecosystems" (Martins and Oliveira, 2019). As more toxicity data with native/tropical species belonging to different trophic levels and taxonomic groups is produced, the confidence in the derivation of the quality criteria increases and consequently a higher level of environmental protection can be achieved.

I believe that initiatives-taking participation of social, industrial, and governmental stakeholders in a constructive dialogue and continuous education should be encouraged for a scientifically based derivation of quality criteria and their adoption in Brazilian norms warranting a better protection of our environment.

Senior editor

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