

Current study reported the concentration levels, profile distribution, soil air exchange and ecological risk assessment via environmental matrices viz; water, sediment, soil and air of Khabeki and Uchalli lakes as Ramsar sites of international importance. Σ OCPs were ranged between in the water ($0.27\text{--}2.70\ \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$; $0.94\text{--}10.37\ \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$) and sediment ($146.9\text{--}348.49\ \text{ng g}^{-1}$; $289.26\text{--}589.03\ \text{ng g}^{-1}$) while Σ OCPs in soil ($159.01\text{--}384.78\ \text{ng g}^{-1}$; $247.06\text{--}480.17\ \text{ng g}^{-1}$) and air ($187.43\text{--}1349.99\ \text{pg m}^{-3}$; $3.31\ \text{pg m}^{-3}\text{--}168.65\ \text{pg m}^{-3}$) of Khabeki and Uchalli lakes respectively. Σ DDT has the highest contribution in water (56%, 68%), sediment (88%; 89%), soil (86%; 89%) and in air (56% and 76%) of Khabeki and Uchalli lakes from total of all analyzed OCPs. Significant variations ($p < 0.05$) in water and non-significant ($p > 0.05$) in sediment of studies lakes were observed through independent sample T test. While only cis-chlordane in soil and pp' -DDE, pp' -DDD, op' -DDT in air revealed significant difference ($p < 0.05$). The Pearson correlation revealed significant associations of pp' -DDE ($p = 0.038$) and γ -HCH ($p = 0.041$) with organic matter in the sediment while positively related with op' -DDE ($r = 0.360$, $p = 0.250$) and pp' -DDE ($r = 0.317$, $p = 0.316$) in the soil. DDTs and HCHs showed fugacity fraction (ff) > 0.5 , indicating the net volatilization of OCPs from soil to air in Khabeki lake except DDE in Uchalli lake. While chlordanes and endosulphans in Khabeki lake and op' -DDE, chlordanes and endosulphans in Uchalli lake revealed $ff < 0.5$, indicating the net deposition from air to soil. The ecological risk assessment of all metabolites of DDTs in Uchalli lake and the only metabolite (op' -DDE) in Khabeki lake showed a high risk with $RQ > 1$.