Authors are grateful to the reviewers for their useful suggestions. The introduced changes improved the manuscript significantly.

**Reviewer A:**

**REPORT:**

**The manuscript reported the use of honeybees as bioindicators of spatial variations and origin determination of metal pollution in Serbia. The concentrations of different metals were measured in bodies of adult honeybees using ICP-OES. Multivariate statistical methods were used to analyze the origin and location of the metal pollution. The result is promising and interesting, which providing a useful tool to the research community whose interests involve the tracking metal pollution in the environment. Therefore, the manuscript could be accepted for publication in “Journal of the Serbian Chemical Society” after minor revision. Specific problems are:**

**1) Introduction. Metal pollution is an important topic in environmental research. The detection or monitoring the metal concentration is very important, therefore it is recommended to add a small paragraph to discuss the current technologies for metal detections with some key references (e.g. Nano Today 2016, 11 (3), 309-329)**

The reviewer’s suggestion about adding a small paragraph with the discussion about different methods for the detection of metals is added in the first paragraph on the 3rd page.

“Another important part of monitoring toxic metal pollution is the method used for the detection of these metals. For the detection of metals in biological samples different traditional methods are used, such as ion chromatography (IC) atomic absorption spectroscopy (AAS), inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectroscopy (ICP-OES), inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS).16,30–33 These methods require complicated sample preparation, that usually involves expensive equipment.34 This is why in the past few years different new methods for detection of metals in biological samples are being explored, amongst which are X-ray fluorescence (XRF), Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) which can be coupled with X-ray spectroscopy (SEM-EDX), and fluorescence nanoprobes.34–36”

**2) Experimental. Quality control was based on the analysis of blanks. The component of the blank samples should be mentioned.**

The composition of the blank samples is now given in the second paragraph on the 4th page:

“Quality control was based on the analysis of blanks (containing 7 ml of concentrated HNO3 and 2 ml of concentrated H2O2 but no analyte, prepared following the whole sample preparation procedure), duplicates and analysis of the standard solutions.”

**3) Results and discussion. TABLE 2 summarized the mean metal concentrations in bodies of honeybees at different apiaries and standard deviations. However, it would be useful if the authors could provide a figure to visualize the distribution.**

4) Conclusion. The advantage and limitation of the proposed method should be

included.

In my opinion, this manuscript should:

be published after minor revision without additional review

If manuscript is suitable for publishing, referees recommendation :

Original scientific paper