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Geochemistry of endemic goitre, Sri Lanka

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Abstract—A large section of the population living in the wet climatic zone of Sri Lanka is prone to endemic goitre, which is mainly caused by the lack of I. In Sri Lanka, an area in which 40% of the inhabitants are afflicted by goitre, the I content in soil and water was still observed to be high relative to other goitrous regions of the world, indicating the possible importance of other factors such as goitrogens in the aetiology of endemic goitre. Cluster analysis of the geochemical data showed that the endemic goitre region lies in the group with lowest I, alkali earths, Cl, NO_3^- , Fe and Mn.