Reviewer 2

1. Furthermore, the tested concentrations are very high: present in aparticularly polluted site, Bagnoli, they are unrealistic from an environmental point of view.

Bagnoli brownfield site is characterized by soil multielement contamination. It is the second largest integrated steelworks in Italy under remediation by a Government project. The industries, originally sited in the area and now closed, included a smelting plant, a very large integrated steelwork (with blast furnaces, coke ovens, sinter plants, electric arc steel furnace).

2. Last but not least, it is clear from the text that the animals were exposed to very high stress, assuggested by the 33% mortality. The work therefore also presents some weaknesses from anethical point of view

The experiments were performed in accordance with the ethical provisions imposed by the European Union and permitted by the National Committee of the Italian Ministry of Health on in vivo experimentation.
Furthermore, the lizards at the Bagnoli site live naturally.

Manuscript has been improved in clarity and English format but the critical issues presented by me have not been addressed.

The authors responded to both the first and second requests.