

# **REMOVAL OF NUTRIENTS FROM SEWAGE USING SOME AGRICULTURAL WASTES**

**BY**

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B.Sc. in Physical and Chemical Science, 2003  
Teshreen University

A Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Master Degree In  
Environmental Science

Department of Environmental Basic Science  
Institute of Environmental Studied and Research  
Ain Shams University

**2009**

**APPROVAL SHEET**  
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## **DEDICATION**

This work took a period from my life. I  
wish to dedicate it

**To My Family, My Friends  
&  
My Country  
Syria**

# STATEMENT

This dissertation is submitted to Ain Shams University, Institute of Environmental Studies and Researches, for the degree of M.Sc. in Environmental Science.

The work included in this thesis was carried out by the author in El-berka wastewater treatment plant nearby Cairo city, Egypt, Institute of Environmental Studies and Researches, Ain Shams University, from October 2007 to April 2009.

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## **List of abbreviations**

<b>(BODS)</b>	<b>Soluble biochemical oxygen demand.</b>
<b>(BODT)</b>	<b>Total biochemical oxygen demand.</b>
<b>(CAS)</b>	<b>Coarse almond shell.</b>
<b>(CCW)</b>	<b>Coarse cotton wood.</b>
<b>(CODS)</b>	<b>Soluble chemical oxygen demand.</b>
<b>(CODT)</b>	<b>Total chemical oxygen demand.</b>
<b>(CSS)</b>	<b>Coarse sunflower stalks.</b>
<b>(DO)</b>	<b>Dissolved oxygen.</b>
<b>(DS)</b>	<b>Dissolved solids.</b>
<b>(EBPR)</b>	<b>Enhanced biological phosphorus removal.</b>
<b>(FAS)</b>	<b>Fine almond shell.</b>
<b>(FCW)</b>	<b>Fine cotton wood.</b>
<b>(FSS)</b>	<b>Fine sunflower stalks.</b>
<b>(MCW)</b>	<b>Medium cotton wood.</b>
<b>(MSS)</b>	<b>Medium sunflower stalks.</b>
<b>(N)</b>	<b>Nitrogen.</b>
<b>(P)</b>	<b>Phosphorus.</b>
<b>(PAOs)</b>	<b>Phosphate accumulating organisms.</b>
<b>(R2A)</b>	<b>Low nutrient medium.</b>
<b>(SS)</b>	<b>Suspended solids.</b>
<b>(TOC)</b>	<b>Total organic carbon.</b>
<b>(TS)</b>	<b>Total solids.</b>
<b>(TSS)</b>	<b>Total suspended solids.</b>

## ABSTRACT

Name: - **MOHAMMAD FAHED DARWISH.**

Title : - **“Removal of nutrients from sewage using some agricultural wastes”**

Faculty : - **Institute of Environmental Studies and Researches, Ain Shams University.**

Speciality : - **Environmental Basic Science.**

Abstract :-

Using biomass wastes as media to remove wastewater contaminants is environmentally very important to reduce agricultural wastes accumulation and wastewater treatment. This study has been made to remove the nutrients from sewage using some agricultural wastes; cotton stalks wood, sunflower stalks and almond shells. All experimental studies were constructed in El-Berka wastewater treatment plant nearby Cairo city, Egypt.

The objective of this study is to investigate physiochemical and biological effects. In physiochemical effects, agricultural wastes were used as a media by dividing them into three forms (coarse, medium and fine). Parallel column scale experiments were carried out with depths of the media between (8, 12, and 20) cm at flow rate of wastewater into the media around (1L/h). The removal efficiency of the sewage parameters TSS, COD, BOD, N and P for each form were measured. In biological effects, microbiological activities determinations were done for agricultural wastes samples so the degree of biological effect in wastewater treatment can be determined.

The results obtained in this work showed that an increase in the media depth increased the nutrients removal efficiency Re%. Also, when the pieces of agricultural waste around (fine and medium) the nutrient removal efficiency Re% was found to be relatively close and greater than coarse form. Removal efficiencies for nitrogen compounds were more than 50 % and reach to 94% and for phosphoric compounds were 40% to 90%. By comparing between the three types almond shells are better in nutrients removal efficiency than sunflower stalks and cotton stalks wood. These results emphasize the environmentally effectiveness of using cotton stalks wood, sunflower stalks or almond shell as media for wastewater treatment.

### KEYWORDS:

Wastewater Treatment, Agricultural Wastes, Nutrients Removal, Parallel Columns.



## **AIM OF WORK**

The work presented in this thesis aim at:

1. Studying the possibility of using the agricultural wastes as treatment material to remove contaminates from the sewage.
2. investigating the efficiencies of treatment by:
  - (i) Detection the best agricultural waste.
  - (ii) Detection of the best physical form of the agricultural waste with respect to its removal efficiency.
3. Reducing the costs of sewage treatment.
4. Reducing the agricultural wastes which on burning by the farmers represent an environmental problem.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item	Page
Acknowledgement .....	
Abstract .....	
Aim of work .....	
List of Tables .....	
List of Figures .....	
Summary .....	
<b>Chapter I: Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter II: Literature Review .....</b>	<b>5-34</b>
2.1. Wastewater treatment .....	5
2.2. Nutrients removal methods .....	19
2.3. Agricultural wastes .....	26
2.4. Agricultural wastes in wastewater Treatment .....	30
2.5. Factors affect used agricultural waste in wastewater Treatment.....	33
<b>Chapter III: Materials and Methods.....</b>	<b>35-43</b>
3.1 Sampling.....	35
3.2 The measured parameters.....	35
3.3 Preparing agricultural wastes.....	35
3.4 Operating system .....	38
3.5 Experimental methods .....	38
3.6 Analytical measurements .....	41
<b>Chapter IV: Results &amp; Discussion .....</b>	<b>44-89</b>
5.1 Physiochemical studies .....	44
5.2 Microbiological studies .....	80
<b>Chapter V: Conclusions .....</b>	<b>90-92</b>
<b>References .....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Arabic Summary .....</b>	

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
2/1	Sewage Contaminants and Modes of treatment	6
2/2	Typical Concentration of Significant Constituents in Medium Strength Sewage	8
2/3	Chemical Precipitants for Phosphates and Their Products	21
2/4	The Chemical Contents of Some Agricultural Residues	28
2/5	Different Quantities of Waste Types According to the Report on "Solid Waste System in Egypt", issued by EEAA in 2001	29
2/6	Effect of Cellulose Hydrazone Derivatives on Fe %, Cr% and COD % Removal.	34
4/1	The Results Using Coarse Cotton Stalks Wood (First Week).	46
4/2	The Results Using Medium Cotton Stalks Wood (Second Week).	47
4/3	The Results Using Fine Cotton Stalks Wood (Third Week)	48
4/4	The Removal Efficiencies Re% Using Course Cotton Stalks Wood (First Week)	49
4/5	The Removal Efficiencies Re% Using Medium Cotton Stalks Wood (Second Week).	50
4/6	The Removal Efficiencies Re% Using Fine Cotton Stalks Wood (Third Week).	51
4/7	The Results Using Course Sunflower Wood (Fourth Week)	57
4/8	The Results Using Medium Sunflower Wood (Fifth Week)	58
4/9	The Results Using Fine Sunflower Wood (Sixth Week)	59
4/10	The Removal efficiency Re% Using Course Sunflower Wood (Fourth Week)	60
4/11	The Removal efficiency Re% Using Medium Sunflower Wood (Fifth Week).	61
4/12	The Re% of the result using fine sunflower wood	62

	(sixth week)	
4/13	The Results Using Coarse Almond Shell (Seventh Week)	67
4/14	The Results Using Fine Almond Shell (Eighth Week)	68
4/15	The Removal Efficiencies Re% Using Coarse Almond Shell (Seventh Week)	69
4/16	The Removal Efficiency Re% Using Fine Almond Shell (Eighth Week)	70
4/17	Comparison Re% Between Types of Media at 20Cm Depth after 4 hrs	75
4/18	Total Bacterial Counts on Low Nutrient Media R2A And Agar Nutrient Media (In Cfu/G X 10 <sup>10</sup> ).	80
4/19	Proteolytic Bacteria Counts on Ca Caseinate Agar	81
4/20	Bacteria Counts on Acetate Agar for Degradation of Acetate	81
4/21	Bacteria Counts on Simons Citrate for Degradation of Acetate	82
4/22	Bacteria Counts on Urea Agar for Urea Metabolism	82
4/23	Counts of bacteria Produce Amylase Enzyme	83
4/24	Counts of Bacteria produce lipase Enzyme	83
4/25	Counts of Fungi Grow on sabouraud Agar	84
4/26	Counts of Fungi grow on Sabouraud maltose agar	85
4/27	Counts of Fungi grow on Sabouraud dextrose agar	85
4/28	<i>Sphaerotilus Natans</i> Existence Using BOD Lactate	86
4/29	Counts of Sulfate Reducing Bacteria Using Agar Medium	86

# LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Figure No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
2/1	Schematic flow diagram of a typical conventional treatment system	12
2/2	Flow diagram of a typical preliminary treatment system	13
2/3	Schematic diagram of a typical primary treatment system	14
2/4	Schematic diagram of a typical secondary treatment system with activated sludge process	14
2/5	Aerobic and Anaerobic Biological Treatment	15
2/6	Sketch of the biological process in a filter bed	16
2/7	Biological Treatment System with Trickling Filter	26
2/8	Biological Processes for Phosphorus and Nitrogen Removal	20
2/9	Flow Diagram for Nitrification by Conventional Biological Treatment	24
2/10	Flow Diagram for Denitrification by Conventional Biological Treatment	24
2/11	Flow diagram for nitrification-denitrification by conventional biological treatment	25
2/12	Chemical biomass composition (EEAA, 2001)	27
3/1	Coarse form of almond shells.	36
3/2	Fine form of almond shells.	36
3/3	Coarse form of sunflower stalks.	36
3/4	Medium form of sunflower stalks.	37
3/5	Fine form of sunflower stalks.	37
3/6	Coarse form of cotton stalks wood.	37
3/7	Medium form of cotton stalks wood.	38
3/8	Medium form of cotton stalks wood.	38
3/9	Column Reactor.	39
3/10	Schematic Diagram of Column Reactor	40
3/11	Details of the parallel columns in the experimental setup.	40
3/12	Real parallel columns using in the experimental studies at the EL-Berka wastewater treatment plant.	41
4/1	N Removal efficiency using cotton stalks wood.	52

4/2	P Removal efficiency using cotton stalks wood.	52
4/3	TSS Removal efficiencies using cotton stalks wood.	53
4/4	CODS Removal efficiencies using cotton stalks wood.	53
4/5	CODT Removal efficiencies using cotton stalks wood.	54
4/6	BODS Removal Efficiencies Using Cotton Stalks Wood.	54
4/7	BODT Removal Efficiencies Using Cotton Stalks Wood.	55
4/8	P Removal Efficiencies Using Sunflower Stalks.	63
4/9	N Removal Efficiencies Using Sunflower Stalks.	63
4/10	TSS Removal Efficiencies Using Sunflower Stalks.	64
4/11	CODS Removal Efficiencies Using Sunflower Stalks.	64
4/12	CODT Removal Efficiencies Using Sunflower Stalks.	65
4/13	BODS Removal Efficiencies Using Sunflower Stalks.	65
4/14	BODT Removal Efficiency Using Sunflower Stalks.	66
4/15	P Removal Efficiency Using Almond Shell.	71
4/16	N Removal Efficiency Using Almond Shell.	71
4/17	TSS Removal Efficiency Using Almond Shell.	72
4/18	CODS Removal Efficiency Using Almond Shell.	72
4/19	CODT Removal Efficiency Using Almond Shell.	73
4/20	BODS Removal Efficiency Using Almond Shell.	73
4/21	BODT Removal Efficiency Using Almond Shell.	74
4/22	Comparison The Media According to N Removal Efficiency.	76
4/23	Comparison The Media According to P Removal Efficiency.	76
4/24	Comparison The Media According to TSS Removal Efficiency.	77
4/25	Comparison The Media According to CODS Removal Efficiency.	77

4/26	Comparison The Media According to CODT Removal Efficiency	78
4/27	Comparison The Media According to BODS Removal Efficiency.	78
4/28	Comparison The Media According to BODT Removal Efficiency.	79
4/29	Total Bacterial Counts on R2A Medium for The Three Types of Agricultural Wastes.	87
4/30	Total Bacterial Counts on Nutrient Agar Medium For The Three Types of Agricultural Wastes.	87
4/31	Proteolytic Bacteria Counts on Ca Caseinate Agar for The Three Types of Agricultural Wastes.	88
4/32	Bacteria Counts on Acetate Agar for Degradation of Acetate for The Three Types of Agricultural Wastes.	88
4/33	Bacteria Counts on Simons Citrate for Degradation of Acetate for The Three Types of Agricultural Wastes.	89
4/34	Counts of Sulfate Reducing Bacteria Using Agar Medium for The Three Types of Agricultural Wastes.	89