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Analysis of Experimental Data and Breakthrough Curves for Hexavalent Chromium Biosorption by Eucalyptus Chips in a Fixed-**Bed Column**

Siham Benaissa, Ali Alouache*, Faiza Nessark, Mohamed Hachi, Radia Maachou, Salima Kaizra, Houssem Eddine Sayah, Ghezlen Berrahou, Nail Elmebrouk Ben Amara

at the 19th Conference on Sustainable Development of **Energy, Water and Environment** Systems -SDEWES,

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Analysis of Experimental Data and Breakthrough Curves for Hexavalent Chromium Biosorption by Eucalyptus Chips in a Fixed-Bed Column

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Abstract

The study investigated the elimination of Cr(VI) from aqueous solutions using Eucalyptus chips biomass within a fixed-bed column. Various crucial design parameters such as bed depth (10–15 cm), flow rate (5–20 mL/min), and inlet concentration (30–50 mg/L) were explored through experimental trials. Optimal conditions were determined to be 15 cm bed depth, 10 mL/min flow rate, and 50 mg/L inlet concentration. Additionally, the BDST, Thomas, and Adams–Bohart models were employed to analyze the experimental data and forecast breakthrough curves under different operating conditions. The BDST model exhibited good conformity with the experimental results. Breakthrough curves were accurately represented by the Thomas model (R2 > 0.97), while the Adams–Bohart model was suitable for the initial biosorption stage. The column was regenerated by rinsing Cr(VI) with 0.05 M HNO3, and the biosorbent was reused for three biosorption regeneration cycles. The outcomes demonstrated efficient regeneration and significant Cr(VI) removal, albeit with a slight decline in biosorption capacity over cycles. Eucalyptus chips biomass emerged as a promising biosorbent for Cr(VI) removal in fixed-bed column applications.

Keywords: Eucalyptus chips, Hexavalent chromium, Biosorption; Modeling; Fixed-bed column

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