Formulation of Coagulation–Disinfection Adsorbent Using Locally Available Materials for Treatment of Pond Water Samples for Potability

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ABSTRACT

A coagulation–disinfection adsorbent for home water treatment was formulated using iron (III) tetraoxosulphate (VI) derived from scrap metal as a coagulant, calcium hypochlorite from carbide sludge as a disinfectant and banana unpeel ash as an adsorbent and applied in powdered form on one cycle water treatment. The effectiveness of the formulation was investigated on fifteen pond water samples located at Abakaliki, Ohaukwu and Onicha, Ebonyi State, Nigeria from 1st November, 2013 to 31st January, 2014. The physico-chemical parameters, metal concentrations and bacteriological analysis were carried out before and after treatment with the powdered product using approved standard methods. Results obtained showed total and calcium hardnesses, TDS, turbidity, BOD and COD, Al, Ca, Mg, Cd, Cr, Pb, Zn, Cu were reduced in the treated samples when compared with the untreated. While all the treated samples have increase free chlorine and improved pH as against the untreated samples in accordance with WHO guideline limit. The results suggested that the formulated product is well suited to be administered in one sachet with sufficient free chlorine for disinfection and flocculating for potability and provided information about the state of pond water in the three locations.

Keywords: coagulation–disinfection adsorbent, home water treatment and pond water

INTRODUCTION

Since [1], on the use of combined treatment methods for home water treatment, a number of researches have appeared on the subject [1], [2] and [3]. Most of the formulations are costly and contain mixtures of iron(III) tetraoxosulphate(VI), bentonite, sodium trioxocarbonate (IV), chitosan, polyacrylamide, potassium tetraoxomanganese (VII) and calcium hypochlorite [4], [5], aluminium tetraoxosulphate (VI), and dichloro –s –triazinetrione [3]. Some of the drawbacks in using these formulations for home water treatment include high free(residue) chlorine [6] in treated water and prohibitive cost applications [7].

The present work has formulated a cost effective inorganic coagulant, disinfectant, adsorbent using iron (III) tetraoxosulphate (VI), calcium hypochlorite and banana peels ash.
prepared from locally available raw materials of scrap metal from Abakaliki Mechanic Village and carbide sludge waste derived from carbide sludge in oxy-acetylene welder’s shop and banana peels at Ezza mgbo, Nigeria. The efficacy of the formulation was investigated on fifteen borehole water samples used as sources of drinking water by fifteen communities in Ebonyi State.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

All reagents used were of analytical grade (Merck products, Germany) and were used without further purifications, however, dilution was made as the need arises.

**Preparation of Fe\(_2\)(SO\(_4\))\(_3\), Ca(OCl)\(_2\) and Ca(OH)\(_2\) from waste (raw materials)**

**Fe\(_2\)(SO\(_4\))\(_3\):** The method of CR Scientific [6] was followed in which granulated and degreased scrap metal (100.0g) were weighed into 250cm\(^3\) glass beaker and enough 35% tetraoxosulphate (VI) acid into the beaker which dissolved the scrap metal.

\[
\text{Fe} + \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 \rightarrow \text{FeSO}_4 + \text{H}_2
\]

The solution was filtered after 2h and the filtrate concentrated by evaporation for 30mins using water bath at 80°C, then cooled to room temperature and allowed to stand for 24h to form enough green crystals of FeSO\(_4\).7H\(_2\)O. The crystals were removed by decanting the liquid and transferred to a desiccator having calcium chloride pellets to dry the crystals.

Accurately weighed 30.0g of FeSO\(_4\).7H\(_2\)O was put into 250cm\(^3\) beaker and 35% dilute H\(_2\)SO\(_4\) and 30% conc. H\(_2\)O\(_2\) added in the ratio 2:1:1 of FeSO\(_4\): H\(_2\)SO\(_4\): H\(_2\)O\(_2\) and heated on a water bath.

\[
2\text{FeSO}_4 + \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 + \text{H}_2\text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{Fe}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}
\]

The reddish brown crystals formed was Fe\(_2\)(SO\(_4\))\(_3\) and the liquid decanted, while the crystals were washed and dried to constant weight and weighed.

**Ca(OH)\(_2\):** Collected carbide sludge from welders' shops in Ezza mgbo Junction was sun dried for 7days, homogenized with lab mortar and sieved in accordance with [8]. The sieved sample (1000g) were poured into 10 litres bucket, sufficient water added into the bucket, stirred, covered and allowed for 24h. After 24h, the mixture was filtered and the filtrate was dried to a constant weight in an oven at 105 ± 3°C which is the commercial Ca(OH)\(_2\).

\[
\text{CaC}_2 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{C}_2\text{H}_2 + \text{Ca(OH)}_2.
\]

**Ca(OCl)\(_2\):** Two stages chlorination process was used in accordance with the Columbia encyclopedia, (2008) [8]. Solid slaked lime sample (57.0g) and 112.0mL suspension obtained from the prepared slake lime were weighed into 250cm\(^3\) conical flask with magnetic stirrer. KMnO\(_4\) (40.0g) was weighed into another conical flask having thistle funnel through which conc. HCl was passed into the flask [9]. The flask was connected to two aspirator bottles containing water and H\(_2\)SO\(_4\) respectively to the flask having the
Ca(OH)$_2$ suspension. Cl$_2$ was passed into flask as shown in fig. 11 at a temperature of 50 ± 5°C and the product obtained was filtered using Buchner filter in a vaccum.

$$2\text{KMnO}_4 + 16\text{HCl} \rightarrow 2\text{MnCl}_2 + 2\text{KCl} + 8\text{H}_2\text{O} + 5\text{Cl}_2$$

$$2\text{Ca(OH)}_2 + 2\text{Cl}_2 \rightarrow \text{Ca(OCl)}_2 + \text{CaCl}_2 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}.$$ 

Then 27.0g of the residue, 28.5mL of distilled water and 2.1g of NaOH were added to 250cm$^3$ conical flask with magnetic stirrer and the temperature adjusted to 35 ± 5°C and chlorine immersed for 3h. The pH of the suspension at the end of reaction was 9.3 and the flask removed from the reactor (thermostatically controlled bath) and the suspension filtered through Buckner filter. The solid (residue) was washed with 10.0cm$^3$ of distilled water and dried at 65°C and the active chlorine content was 59.6%.

**REAGENTS FOR THE COAGULATION-DISINFECTION ADSORBENT FORMULATION**

Twenty-three (25.0) grams of iron (III) tetaoxosulphate (VI) was dissolved in 250cm$^3$ volumetric flask and made to the mark with distilled de-ionized water. Calcium hypochlorite was prepared by dissolving 1.0g Ca(OCl)$_2$ in 250cm$^3$ volumetric flask and made to the mark with distilled de-ionized water. Banana peels ash (5.0g) was also prepared by dissolving 2.0g of ash in 250cm$^3$ beaker and made to the mark with distilled de-ionized water, covered and allowed to stand for 24h, filtered and filtrate used for the formulation of the product. All the reagents served as stock solutions in the formulation.

**PROCEDURE**

Some of analyses were determined using Atomic Absorption spectrophotometer (AAS) (Buck Scientific, 205) on metals which include lead, manganese, chromium, cadmium, iron, aluminum, zinc, while potassium and sodium levels were analyzed using flame photometer (Perkin Elmer: 52-A). X-ray florencecence (XRF, Rigaku RIX, 3000, Japan) was used for the metal contents of the ash, the membrane filtration method according to [10] was used for bacteriological examinations and complexometric method was used for total and calcium hardnesses.
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Mean physico-chemical parameters of Abakaliki, Ohaukwu and Onicha pond water samples between 1st Nov.2013 – 31st Jan. 2014 compared with WHO standard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Abakaliki</th>
<th>Ohaukwu</th>
<th>Onicha</th>
<th>WHO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parameters</td>
<td>BT</td>
<td>AT</td>
<td>BT</td>
<td>AT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temp (°C)</td>
<td>31.0±0.02</td>
<td>32.0±0.00</td>
<td>31.4±0.10</td>
<td>31.8±0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph</td>
<td>6.10±0.11</td>
<td>7.60±0.06</td>
<td>6.10±0.02</td>
<td>7.30±0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. hardness(mgL⁻¹)</td>
<td>133±0.32</td>
<td>48.9±0.12</td>
<td>126±0.23</td>
<td>45.3±0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ca hardness(mgL⁻¹)</td>
<td>85.6±0.17</td>
<td>30.8±0.11</td>
<td>77.3±0.32</td>
<td>28.5±0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mg hardness(mgL⁻¹)</td>
<td>46.8±0.09</td>
<td>17.8±0.18</td>
<td>48.0±0.12</td>
<td>16.8±0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDS (mgL⁻¹)</td>
<td>718±0.56</td>
<td>277±0.23</td>
<td>517±0.41</td>
<td>192±0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. chlorine (mgL⁻¹)</td>
<td>0.04±0.00</td>
<td>0.96±0.00</td>
<td>0.04±0.11</td>
<td>0.90±0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turbidity (NTU)</td>
<td>10.00±0.11</td>
<td>1.60±0.04</td>
<td>14.00±0.21</td>
<td>0.40±0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOD (mgL⁻¹)</td>
<td>2.70±0.04</td>
<td>0.73±0.21</td>
<td>1.31±0.03</td>
<td>0.12±0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COD (mgL⁻¹)</td>
<td>4.20±0.15</td>
<td>0.90±0.00</td>
<td>5.31±0.08</td>
<td>0.26±0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total coliform (TCL/100mL)</td>
<td>23.0±0.19</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>11.0±0.02</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

where BT = before treatment, AT = after treatment, ND = not dictated

Tables 1 presented the mean physico-chemical parameters of pond water samples from Abakaliki, Ohaukwu and Onicha compared with WHO’s standard. The result of the analysis showed that seven parameters were reduced after treatment with the prepared product, except free chlorine which increased in all the water samples. It agrees with PUR Water Purifier developed by Procter and Gamble Company in reducing turbidity and improving the water quality. However, the quantity of free chlorine was reduced from 3.0mgL⁻¹ to between 0.9 - 1.04mgL⁻¹. This an added advantage since excess free chlorine adds odour and taste to water, and may react with organic matters in water to form by-products such as trihalomethane and chloroethanoic acid which are carcinogenic [2].
The summary of the result revealed that in Abakaliki, Al (0.070±0.01), Cd (0.044±0.06), Fe (0.560±0.17), Mn (0.052±0.12), Pb (0.060±0.11) and Zn (5.010±0.09), in Ohaukwu, Al (0.026±0.04), Cd (0.260±0.15), Cr (0.180±0.11) and Fe (0.520±0.12), and in Onicha Al (0.030±0.12), Fe (0.340±0.09), Mn (0.290±0.01) and Pb (0.290±0.01) were above WHO standard limit before treatment with the prepared product. After treatment, all the metals were reduced to the guideline limit of WHO and agrees with PUR Water Purifier in reducing the level of metals in treated water [4]. From the result, it is seeing that Abakaliki, Ohaukwu and Onicha pond water samples have high metal concentrations in various levels and should not be taken without treatment and the prepared product could serve the purpose.

### Table 2: Mean metal concentrations of Abakaliki, Ohaukwu and Onicha pond water samples between 1st Nov.2013 - 31st Jan. 2014 compared with WHO standard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metals(mgL⁻¹)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Abakaliki</th>
<th>Ohaukwu</th>
<th>Onicha</th>
<th>WHO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BT</td>
<td>AT</td>
<td>BT</td>
<td>AT</td>
<td>AT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al</td>
<td>0.070±0.01</td>
<td>0.020±0.04</td>
<td>0.026±0.04</td>
<td>0.004±0.01</td>
<td>0.030±0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ca</td>
<td>40.50±0.22</td>
<td>13.50±0.09</td>
<td>34.80±0.24</td>
<td>17.40±0.09</td>
<td>24.66±0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cd</td>
<td>0.044±0.06</td>
<td>0.010±0.02</td>
<td>0.260±0.15</td>
<td>0.020±0.00</td>
<td>0.030±0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cr</td>
<td>0.034±0.00</td>
<td>0.004±0.00</td>
<td>0.180±0.11</td>
<td>0.010±0.00</td>
<td>0.026±0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cu</td>
<td>0.540±0.04</td>
<td>0.044±0.11</td>
<td>1.010±0.21</td>
<td>0.230±0.04</td>
<td>1.000±0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fe</td>
<td>0.560±0.17</td>
<td>0.030±0.00</td>
<td>0.520±0.12</td>
<td>0.180±0.17</td>
<td>0.340±0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>2.880±0.12</td>
<td>3.160±0.08</td>
<td>5.880±0.42</td>
<td>6.610±0.18</td>
<td>3.380±0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mg</td>
<td>10.60±0.23</td>
<td>4.360±0.21</td>
<td>8.040±0.08</td>
<td>3.160±0.07</td>
<td>7.920±0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mn</td>
<td>0.052±0.12</td>
<td>0.010±0.04</td>
<td>0.030±0.07</td>
<td>0.008±0.13</td>
<td>0.290±0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na</td>
<td>2.940±0.08</td>
<td>0.300±0.07</td>
<td>1.770±0.09</td>
<td>0.560±0.08</td>
<td>2.680±0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pb</td>
<td>0.060±0.11</td>
<td>0.010±0.00</td>
<td>0.170±0.23</td>
<td>0.040±0.12</td>
<td>0.380±0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zn</td>
<td>5.010±0.09</td>
<td>0.034±0.02</td>
<td>4.640±0.23</td>
<td>1.160±0.00</td>
<td>4.220±0.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All the metals were reduced after treatment by the product except potassium, K.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bacteria</th>
<th>No of colonies</th>
<th>BT</th>
<th>AT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AB</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>ON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Echerichia. Coli</em></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Salmonella typhi</em></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Vibro cholera</em></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Shigella sonnei</em></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Klebsiella terrigena</em></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Campylobacter jejuni</em></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Shigella flexneri</em></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AB = Abakaliki, OH = Ohaukwu, ON = Onicha, BT = before treatment, AT = after treatment

Table 3 presented seven bacteria pathogen with the number of colonies at Abakaliki, Ohaukwu and Onicha pond water samples at their respective dilutions before treatment and after treatment. The study shows that the product inactivated the pathogens. This is an indication that the metal based product is effective in destroying disease causing bacteria organisms.

In conclusion, all the pond water samples from Abakaliki, Ohaukwu and Onicha towns before treatment were unfit for drinking. However, after treatment with the metal based product, all the parameters analyzed in treated water samples met WHO’s guideline limit, thus making the waters fit for drinking.
Figure 1 presented the metal contents of the ash in the pie chart form. The chart indicates that potassium was highest and the presence of potassium in excess is a welcome development since high level of potassium decreases high blood pressure and muscle cramp (Gelaijnse et al, 2004) [11]. According to the Figure 1, the metals in the banana peel ash were in the order K > Ca > Fe > Na > Mg > Zn > Mn > Cu and differs from the report of [12]. However, [4] , [5] and [3], in [12] informed that unripe banana peels may have the metals in slight difference because of the nature of the soil and diversities in agricultural practices in different places. A metal such as Ca is important in bones and teeth formations, while Mg is essential constituent of chlorophyll in plant and Fe is the oxygen carrying pigment in the haemoglobin of the blood and as such both are important for
growth and development and in building up the red blood cells. Zn and Mn promote the activities of many enzymes in the body [12].

Statistical Analysis Using One-Way ANOVA

Summary of the results were presented in mean and standard deviation. Statistical Analysis was carried out using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) software for Microsoft excel.

The results obtained were subjected to one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) using Student Newman Keuts (S-N-K) post hoc test. The results were tested at p < 0.05 at 95% confidence level to determine significance difference of variations between multiple variables.

Results at P < 0.05 were considered significant.

REFERENCES:


