

BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF CHROMIUM IN WASTEWATER

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Abstract. *The possibilities of using higher algae in the treatment of chromic wastewater were studied and analyzed. Chromium (Cr) tolerance of the high alga Azolla caroliniana was determined, and wastewater treatment processes with high chromium retention were analyzed based on chromium-adapted cultures of Azolla. Chromium sorption levels in the dry mass of Azolla were determined.*

Key words. *Wastewater, algae, ecosystem, Azolla caroliniana, sorption, biodiversity, sustainability.*

Introduction. Today, the huge amount of waste water containing harmful chemicals is causing serious environmental problems. Biological treatment of wastewater is distinguished by its importance in ensuring the stability of the man-made ecosystem. In particular, treatment of wastewater contaminated with harmful chemicals on the basis of high algae is of great importance from the point of view of ecology and environmental protection. In the production process, effluents from tanneries, paper mills, coal mines and thermal power stations are extremely dangerous for aquatic ecosystems due to the presence of Cr.

Especially in a period of rapid development of the industry, scientific research is being carried out on acute environmental problems caused by the incomplete purification of chemical and harmful substances in the waste water of leather processing enterprises.

In this regard, it is necessary to determine the toxic properties of chromium in wastewater, to use chromium as one of the main tools in electroplating, leather processing, metal preparation and polishing in light industry, to improve the method of biological treatment of wastewater coming out of leather processing enterprises and treated by physico-chemical methods, to reprocess leather special attention is paid to the fact that the formation of large amounts of sulfites, ammonium nitrogen, and protein compounds in processing plants leads to a sharp change in the ecosystem.

Research methods. As we know, many species of higher algae, blue-green algae, are widely used to remove metals from wastewater, including toxic chemicals.

Research results and their analysis. During our research, in order to study the practical aspects of experimental work, the joint enterprise "PENG-SHENG" LLC, located in the Syrdarya region of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which is considered one of the largest enterprises in the country in terms of production capacity, was selected.

It is known that in different countries of the world there are different requirements for the maximum amount of chromium in the waste water coming out of the enterprise. For example, in the Russian Federation, the amount of trivalent chromium is 0.5 mg/l, and the amount of hexavalent chromium is 0.1 mg/l. The same parameters in the countries of the European Union are defined as chromium (⁺³) 0.5-5.0 mg/l, and chromium (⁺⁶) 0.1-0.5 mg/l.

In the course of our research, it was found that the content of the wastewater from the 1st pipe of the leather processing enterprise from the Shorozak ditch contains 1.55 mg/l of chromium (⁶⁺), sulfates and nitrites.

In the course of research, the processes of mechanical and physical cleaning of intermediate biomasses from the tanning and processing shop of JV "PENG-SHENG CHARM" LLC to processing, tempering and then chemical processing, and biological processing as the last stage were analyzed.

During the research, the chemical composition of the wastewater of the leather processing enterprise after chemical treatment was determined under production conditions.

Table 1.

Composition of wastewater from tanning and processing plant

№	Substances	Standard concentration amount, mg/l	Study results, mg/l
1.	Sulphur-containing crucible	10,7	36,2
2.	Carbon disulfide	5,0	7,8
3.	Anionic SPAV	20,0	208
4.	Sulfides	1,0	6,4
5.	pH	6,5 — 8,5	6,5 to 8,5
6.	Mixed particles	500	3750
7.	Dry residue	2000	3500
8.	Total nitrogen	30,0	42,5
9.	Ammonium nitrogen	2,5	9,72
10.	Nitrite nitrogen	3,3	9,9
11.	Nitrate nitrogen	45,0	68,4
12.	Ammonium ions	2,5	12,5
13.	Chlorides	350	700
14.	Phosphates	2,5	16,2
15.	Fluorine ion Fluorine ions	1,5	2,7
16.	COD	500	1500
17.	BOD ₂₀	15 - 30	90
18.	BOD ₅	11,3 - 22,6	67,8

According to the obtained results, high amounts of Ca (240000), Mg (100000), K (61000), and Mn (410), Fe (920) were found in the wastewater after chemical treatment.

These chemical substances are the most important elements in the cultivation of azolla culture, which ensure the adaptability of the culture to adverse conditions.

In the research, it was noted that the amount of hexavalent chromium in the wastewater after chemical treatment is 54,000. Therefore, it was noted that there is a need to improve the chemical cleaning process implemented at the leather tanning and processing enterprise.

The high chromium content in the waste water coming out of this chemical process was observed in the process of processing the main chemical reagents manually in the chemical reservoir at the enterprise.

Table 2.

Analysis of elements found in large quantities in the wastewater of a leather processing enterprise

B	Na	Mg	Al	P	K	Ca	Cr	Mn	Fe
Initial chemical composition of wastewater (ppm, mkg/g, g/t)									
310	1300	100000	2700	4600	61000	240000	54000	410	920
Chemical composition of wastewater after chemical and biological treatment									
160	220000	35000	900	1100	58000	130000	2200	90,0	390
After chemical and biological treatment, the composition of wastewater after treatment with Azolla									
10,0	3000	28000	390	810	13000	82000	230	71,0	280

So, the human factor may have a negative impact on this process. Therefore, it was recommended to install new automated additional equipment at the enterprise.

When the chemical composition of the wastewater coming out of the enterprise after chemical and biological treatment was studied, it was observed that the amount of magnesium decreased by 35%, the amount of potassium decreased by 5%, and the amount of calcium decreased by 7.2%. It was noted that it decreased to mg/l. However, it was noted that the amount of chromium was not reduced to the required level.

Therefore, biological treatment with Azolla culture was carried out for 7 days and 10 days in industrial conditions. In the researches, it was noted that the amount of chromium was 0.011 mg/l on the 10th day of growing Azolla in wastewater after chemical biological treatment leaving the enterprise (Fig. 1).

It is known from scientific sources that the biomass of azolla cultures used in wastewater treatment is collected and used as animal feed, sometimes it is recommended as a nitrogen-phosphorous fertilizer for agricultural crops if its chemical composition prevents it from being given to livestock.

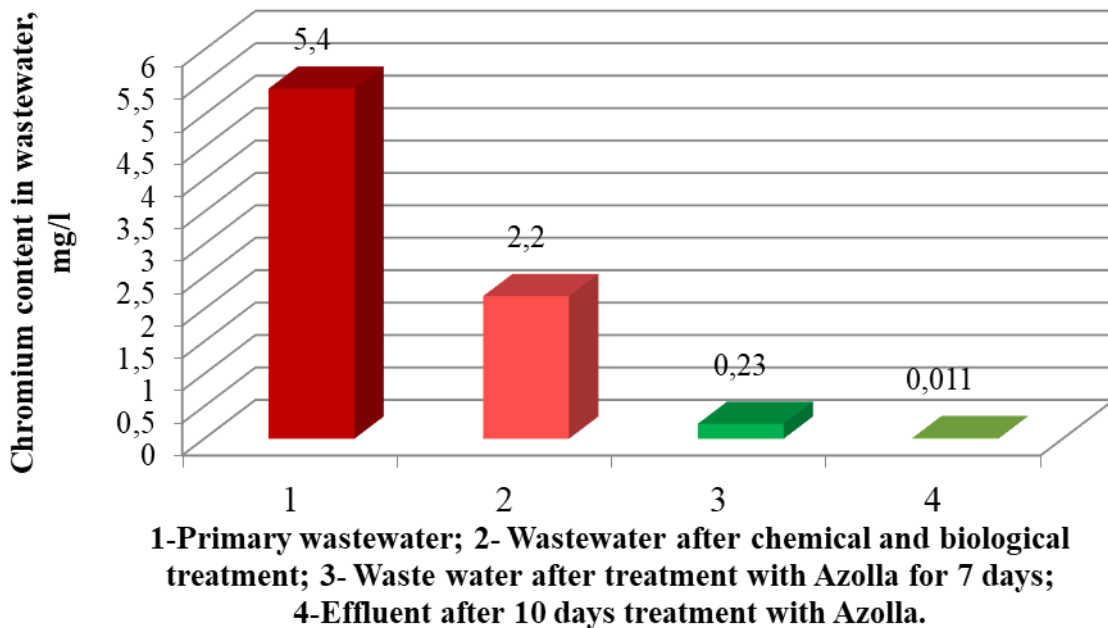


Figure 1. Indicators of biological treatment of chromic wastewater

In the course of research, the accumulation of chromium and mineral salts in the biomass of Azolla culture grown for 7 and 10 days in chromium-containing wastewater and their uniform distribution in the biomass were investigated. When the obtained results were analyzed, it was noted that the sigma weight of O in different spectra of biomass was in the range of 0.83% to 0.92%, and the total weight was from 43.29% to 38.36%.

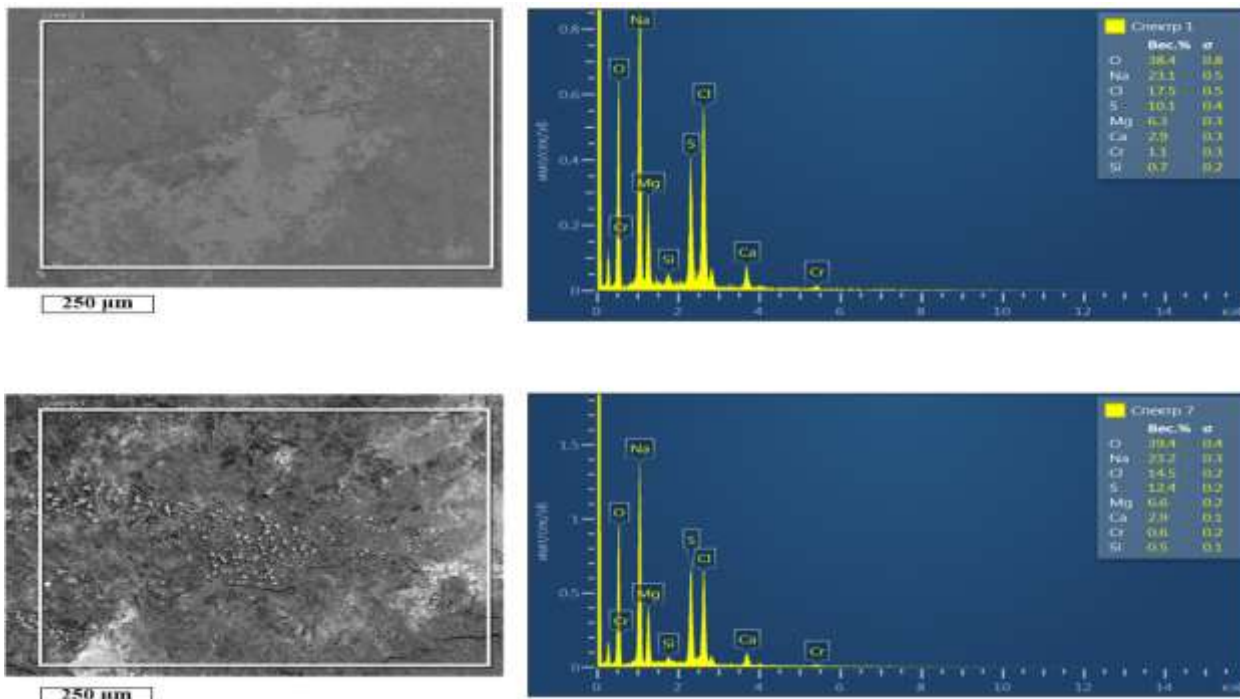


Figure 2. Chromium adsorption on Azolla biomass in production experiments

Figure 2 shows the data on the distribution of chromium in *Azolla* biomass, where it can be observed that the sigma weight of chromium varies from 0.16 to 0.30%, and the weight percent varies from 0.56% to 1.09% in a non-uniform order.

Conclusion. Analyzing the obtained results, it was observed that the accumulation of chromium and mineral salts in the dried biomass of *azolla* culture adsorbed was different.

This shows that it cannot be used in agricultural fields due to the amount of mineral salts and high chromium, and secondly, the accumulated chemical elements are not distributed in the same plane in the biomass. Therefore, it is desirable to dispose of the *Azolla* biomass formed in the bioremediation process by burying it in a special landfill together with the sludge from the 2nd settling basin.

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