

**DEFLUORIDATION OF POTABLE WATER IN CKDu
PREVALENT AREAS OF SRI LANKA BY
FUNCTIONALIZED MODIFIED-FLY ASH**

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Degree of Master of Environmental Management

Department of Civil Engineering

University of Moratuwa
Sri Lanka

March 2019

Declaration

“I declare that this is my own work and this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any other University or institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text.

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Abstract

The last two decades marked a progressive increase in an epidemic of Chronic Kidney Disease of unknown ('u') origin (CKDu) among the farming communities in Sri Lanka. In the presence of the combination of fluoride, with other potential nephrotoxic ions or constituents can lead to the development of CKDu, even at lower concentrations of individual ions. The Na/Ca ratio and fluoride combination in potable water, has been identified as one of the plausible causes of CKDu.

The toxicity of potable water from CKDu prevalent areas could be minimized, if the fluoride level of the CKDu prevalent areas can be brought below 0.4 mg/L, to overcome the synergistic effect between Na/Ca ratio and fluoride. The effects of solution Na/Ca ratio, on the adsorption of fluoride onto functionalized modified fly ash (FMFA) were investigated in this work. (FMFA)_{opt} was selected as the optimized FMFA from a series of synthesized adsorbents, with varying degrees of functionalization with CaO, MgO and Al₂O₃. It was found that the maximum adsorption took place at pH 6.8 and the maximum monolayer adsorption (Q_m) increased from 0.452 mg/g to 0.755 mg/g when the Na/ Ca ratio of the solution was changed from 01 to 07. The adsorption studies confirm that the Ca²⁺ ions in the solution were rejected by (FMFA)_{opt} while giving preference to F⁻ ion adsorption, according to the Donnan coion exclusion rule. The defluoridation reaction fits the Langmuir Model and pseudo second order kinetics. NaOH was identified as the best desorbent for (FMFA)_{opt}. regeneration. (FMFA)_{opt} is a low cost, an effective and efficient adsorbent to remove fluoride irrespective of the Na/Ca ratios present in CKDu prevalent areas.

Keywords: CKDu, fluoride, Na/Ca ratio, functionalized modified fly ash, defluoridation.

Acknowledgement

First of all, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Mahesh Jayaweera, for giving me the opportunity to complete the research. Your guidance and encouragement given at every step of the way in the research helped me to achieve the goals. Your support was immense, and I am very fortunate to have you as my supervisor. I extremely appreciate the advice given in experiments, writings and moral assistance given to complete this research.

I am very grateful to my co-supervisor Dr. Buddhika Gunawardana, for providing her guidance and support for the research project. Your advice and assistance given are very much appreciated. Furthermore, I would like to extend my gratitude to Prof. Jagath Manatunge for guiding me to conduct fruitful and successful research. Your feedback on my experiments, writing, helped me to complete a very productive study.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the laboratory staff of Environmental Engineering Laboratory, Department of Civil of Engineering, University of Moratuwa; Ms. Nilanthi Gunathilake Mr. Kasun Zoysa, Mr. Justin and Mr.Dhananjaya for the assistance received to conduct my research experiments successfully in the Environmental engineering laboratory. My special thanks go to Ms. Nipuni for helping me with the lab work.

I would like to thank head and the staff of Analytical Laboratory, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa for allowing me to use laboratory equipment.

I would like to thank Ayomi, Thilini, and Gimhani for their friendship, guidance, strength and assistance given in the period of the research study. Thank you, Madhusa for being my research partner and helping me in various ways to complete the research and giving me the moral support for the completion.

I am grateful to my family for being there for me, giving their unconditional love and support to fulfill my aims. Finally, I would like to thank my husband, Roshan for supporting, encouraging and understanding me in my quest.

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