

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| List of Tables | I |
| List of Figures | II |
| Summary (in English) | V |
| Summary (in German) | IX |
| Background | 1 |
| B1 Water Problem in Jordan | 1 |
| B2 Aim of study | 2 |
| Chapter 1. Natural Zeolite: Introduction and Properties. | 3 |
| 1.1 Introduction | 3 |
| 1.2 Zeolite Structures | 3 |
| 1.3 Formation and Occurrence of zeolite minerals | 5 |
| 1.4 Properties of natural zeolite | 5 |
| 1.4.1 Cation-Exchange Capacity (CEC) | 5 |
| 1.4.2 Adsorption Property | 6 |
| 1.4.3 Extensive Properties | 7 |
| 1.5 Uses of Natural Zeolite | 7 |
| 1.6 Jordanian Natural Zeolite | 8 |
| Chapter 2. Aqua-Environmental System Pollution with Heavy Metals and Plant Nutrients. | 9 |
| 2.1 Heavy metals (Lead, Cadmium, Copper, Nickel and Zink) | 9 |
| 2.1.1 Environmental and health risks | 9 |
| 2.1.2. Treatment methods | 10 |
| 2.1.2.1 Chemical precipitation | 11 |
| 2.1.2.2 Ion exchange method | 11 |
| 2.1.3 Applications of natural zeolite for the removal of heavy metals from wastewater (Previous work) | 12 |
| 2.1 Plant nutrients (Ammonium and Phosphor) | 15 |
| 2.2.1 Resources | 15 |
| 2.2.2 Environmental pollution and health risks | 16 |
| 2.2.3 Removal processes of Ammonium and Phosphor | 17 |
| 2.2.3.1 Ammonium | 17 |
| 2.2.3.1.1 Nitrification-de-nitrification | 17 |

Table of Contents

| | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| 2.2.3.1.2 | Breakpoint chlorination | 18 |
| 2.2.3.1.3 | Air stripping | 18 |
| 2.2.3.1.4 | Ion exchange | 18 |
| 2.2.3.1.4.1 | Natural zeolite (Previous work) | 18 |
| 2.2.3.2 | Phosphorus Removal | 21 |
| 2.2.4 | Alternative environmental friendly fertiliser materials | 22 |
| Chapter 3. Jordanian Zeolitic tuffs: Chemistry, Mineralogy and Physical Characteristics. | | 25 |
| 3.1 | Materials | 25 |
| 3.2 | Methods | 26 |
| 3.3 | Results and discussion | 29 |
| 3.2.1 | Chemical Analysis | 29 |
| 3.2.2 | Mineralogy | 30 |
| 3.2.3 | Total Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) | 32 |
| 3.2.3.1 | Batch experiment. | 32 |
| 3.2.3.2 | Ion exchange column | 34 |
| 3.2.4 | Thermal Stability | 36 |
| 3.2.5 | Adsorption Capacity | 38 |
| 3.2.6 | Extensive Properties | 41 |
| 3.2.6.1 | Packed bed density and wet attrition resistance | 41 |
| 3.2.6.2 | Surface area | 41 |
| Chapter 4. Evaluation of Zeolitic Tuffs as Slow release Fertiliser | | 43 |
| 4.1 | Material | 43 |
| 4.2 | Methods | 43 |
| 4.2.1 | Exhaustion process | 43 |
| 4.2.1.1 | Standard solution. | 44 |
| 4.2.1.2 | Animal manure | 44 |
| 4.2.2 | Released process | 44 |
| 4.3 | Results and Discussion | 45 |
| 4.3.1 | Standard solution | 45 |
| 4.3.1.1 | Nitrogen Exchange Capacities of Zeolite | 45 |
| 4.3.1.2 | Release Properties | 45 |
| 4.3.2 | Animal Manure | 48 |
| 4.3.2.1 | Plant nutrient loading capacities of zeolitic tuffs | 48 |

Table of Contents

| | | |
|--|--|-----------|
| 4.3.2.2 | Extraction Process | 53 |
| 4.3.2.2.1 | Ammonium | 53 |
| 4.3.2.2.2 | Phosphor | 55 |
| 4.3.2.2.3 | Other plant nutrients | 56 |
| Chapter 5. Removal of Heavy Metals from Industrial Wastewater using Natural Zeolite | | 60 |
| 5.1 | Introduction | 60 |
| 5.1.1 | Batch reactor system | 60 |
| 5.1.2 | Ion Exchange Process | 60 |
| 5.2 | Materials | 61 |
| 5.2.1 | Samples preparation | 62 |
| 5.3 | Methods | 62 |
| 5.3.1 | Batch system | 62 |
| 5.3.1.1 | Adsorption capacity of metal ions | 62 |
| 5.3.1.2 | Effect of regeneration form | 63 |
| 5.3.1.3 | Effect of counter cation types | 63 |
| 5.3.2 | Ion exchange column | 64 |
| 5.3.2.1 | Adsorption capacity | 64 |
| 5.3.2.2 | Effluent velocity effect on the adsorption capacity | 65 |
| 5.3.2.3 | Effect of regeneration type | 66 |
| 5.4 | Results and discussion | 67 |
| 5.4.1 | Batch reactor system | 67 |
| 5.4.1.1 | Adsorption capacity of heavy metals | 67 |
| 5.4.1.2 | Effect of regeneration form | 70 |
| 5.4.1.3 | Effect of counter cations | 73 |
| 5.4.2 | Ion exchange column | 79 |
| 5.4.2.1 | Adsorption capacity of heavy metals | 79 |
| 5.4.2.1.1 | Lead | 79 |
| 5.4.2.1.2 | Cadmium | 82 |
| 5.4.2.1.3 | Copper | 84 |
| 5.4.2.1.4 | Nickel | 85 |
| 5.4.2.1.5 | Zinc | 87 |
| 5.4.2.2 | Effect of the effluent velocity on the adsorption capacity | 89 |
| 5.4.2.3 | Effect of the regeneration form | 96 |

Table of Contents

| | | |
|---|--|------------|
| 5.4.2.3.1 | Regeneration efficiency of zeolitic tuff | 102 |
| 5.4.2.4 | Synthetic wastewater | 107 |
| Chapter 6. Conclusions and Recommendations | | 110 |
| 6.1 | Conclusions | 110 |
| 6.2 | Recommendations | 113 |
| References | | 114 |
| Appendices | | 125 |