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Application of crushed shells *Cristaria plicata* to separation cadmium and chromium from polluted water by static sorption

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Cristaria plicata is a species of freshwater mollusk in the genus *Cristaria* of the family Unionidae. *Cristaria plicata* shells are available natural raw materials in Vietnam for the production of sorbents that can absorb many pollutants from wastewater. The most important pollutants are heavy metals. The aim of the study was to study the possibility of using powders from *Cristaria plicata* shells to purify contaminated water from heavy metals such as Cd and Cr by sorption method. A technology for obtaining a sorbent has been developed. After collection, the shells were washed, dried and ground to a size of no more than 0.5 mm, then the powder was soaked in distilled water for 10 hours, dried to a constant weight and sieved through sieves, collecting a fraction with a particle size of about 0.5 mm. Microscopic studies showed that the sorbent particles from the shells of *Cristaria plicata* contained pores with a diameter of 4.5 to 8.2 microns and a length of 15.9 to 27.6 microns. The static sorption method was used. The Cd and Cr content in water samples before and after sorption was performed by atomic absorption spectrophotometry. It is shown that the sorbent from the shell material of *Cristaria plicata* can be used quite effectively for wastewater treatment from Cd and Cr. It was found that with an increase in the mass fraction of the powder in the treated water, the concentration of Cr and Cd in this water noticeably decreases. The Cr content drops by 29.5-45.5% after shaking for 60 minutes, while the Cd content drops by 91.6-96.9%. The absorption capacity of the sorbent from the shells of *Cristaria plicata* depends on the initial concentrations of Cr and Cd, the higher the initial concentration, the more pollutants are absorbed by the sorbent. The best effect of sorption purification is observed at the initial concentrations of Cd 1 mg/l and Cr 20 mg/l. For maximum Cd allocation, the recommended processing time is 40÷60 minutes, and for Cr-80÷100 minutes.

Keywords: polluted water, freshwater shellfish, heavy metals, static sorption, cadmium, chromium

Introduction

Heavy metals contamination, radionuclides and other inorganic chemicals are problems in many countries, including Vietnam. The cause may come from nature, however, most of it come from the product created by human activities. Remarkable activities are mining, waste from heavy industry, petroleum production, fertilizer, etc... Most of that waste is discharged directly into the environment without treatment. Therefore, it creates enormous pressure on the ecosystem and environmental protection activities. In addition, heavy metal pollution in soil, water and air is causing many harm to people's health [1-5].

Cristaria plicata is a freshwater mollusk species in the genus *Cristaria* of the Unionidae family. In Vietnam, *Cristaria plicata* shells are an affordable natural raw material for the manufacture of sorbents that are capable of absorbing many pollutants from wastewater. Pearl's shell consists of 3 layers: the horny layer, the limestone layer, the na-

cre layer. The limestone layer, which has a lot of internal pores as its characteristics, is capable of retaining some surface matter, so this could be a good adsorbent material. Pearl's shell is a natural material capable of absorbing many substances in wastewater, especially heavy metals and a common material easily found in nature. Inhabits river and lake water bodies, prefers silty-sandy soils.

Methods

Research subjects. The subjects of this study is self-made solutions containing Cadmium, Chromium in the laboratory and the pearl's shells are grinded to sizes below 0.2mm. Experiments conducted in the laboratory.

Research content. Study on characteristics of *Cristaria plicata* shell. Assess the effects of Cr, Cd concentration inputs to the adsorption capability of *Cristaria plicata* shell. Assess the effects of the shell content on the ability to remove Cr, Cd in polluted wastewater. Assess the effect of mixing time on the efficiency of Cr and Cd treatment in polluted wastewater of *Cristaria plicata* shell.

Methods of collecting secondary data. Gather the necessary documents, data and information for the purpose of the study of the thin-shelled clam shell, information on chromium including the amount of chromium in the environment and the impact of chromium on the organism.

Experimental design. Experiments were conducted by static adsorption method with triangle flasks containing 50 ml Cr^{6+} or Cd^{2+} solution. Adding shell contents into the flasks containing the solution and mixing on the shaker at 60 rpm at room temperature and for the specified time for adsorption to occur. Then filter paper was used to separate the material from the mixed solution and take Cd^{2+} and Cr solution samples to analyze by applying AAS spectrophotometer.

The experiment assesses the effects of mixing time factors, Cr^{6+} , Cd^{2+} concentration inputs and absorbed shell contents on treatment efficiency. Each experimental formula did 3 replicates.

Experiment 1. Effect of the concentration of Cr, Cd on the absorption capacity of *Cristaria plicata* shells. Effect of Cr concentration: (5 formulas) Adding 500 mg of shell contents into 50 ml of Cr^{6+} solution with the different concentrations: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 mg/l and mixing on a shaker for 60 minutes. Effect of Cd concentration: (5 formulas) Adding 500 mg of shell contents into 50 ml of Cd^{2+} solution with the different concentrations: 0.5, 1.0, 2, 5, 10 mg/l and mixing on a shaker for 60 minutes.

Experiment 2. Influence of pearl shell content on the ability to remove Cr and Cd. Effect of pearl shell content on Cr removal: (5 formulas) Adding the amount of shell contents 100, 200, 300, 400, 500 mg to 50 ml Cr^{6+} solution 20 mg/l and mixing on the machine for 60 minutes. Effect of pearl shell content on Cd removal: (5 formulas) Adding the amount of shell contents 250, 500, 750, 1000, 2000 mg into 50 ml Cd^{2+} solution 20 mg/l and mixing on the machine for 60 minutes.

Experiment 3. Effect of mixing time on Cr and Cd removal performance by *Cristaria plicata* shells. The effect of mixing time on the performance of Cr removal: (5 formulas) Adding 400 mg of shell contents into 50 ml of Cr^{6+} solution 20 mg/l, mixing with the time of 20, 40, 60, 80 and 100 minutes, respectively. The effect of mixing time on the performance of Cd treatment: (5 formulas) Adding 500 mg of shell contents into 50 ml of Cd^{2+} solution 1 mg/l, mixing with the time of 20, 40, 60, 80 and 100 minutes.

Laboratory analysis methods. Cd and Cr mobilize were analyzed by AAS spectrophotometer.

Synthesis and analysis data and documents. The statistics were processed by SAS software and Microsoft Excel.

Conduct experiments. Fabrication of adsorbent material from pearl shell. The process of shell treatment is described in the following fig. 1.

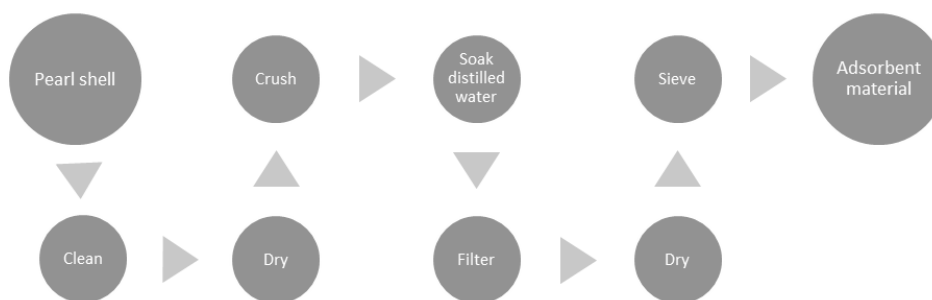
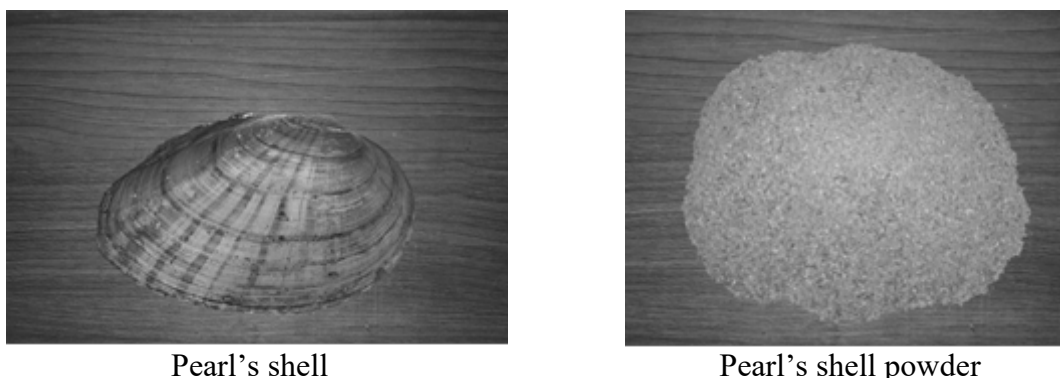


Fig. 1. The process of handling the shell into adsorption material

Shells after being collected are washed then dry and grind to size below 0.5 mm. Next, it is soaked in distilled water for 10 hours, then filtered, dried for a second time to a constant weight and brought to light, sieved to remove materials larger than 0.5 mm (fig.2).



Pearl's shell

Pearl's shell powder

Fig. 2. Pearl's shell before and after grinding

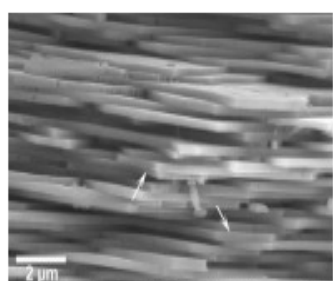
Results and discussion

Pearl's shell adsorption characteristics. To observe the characteristics of pearl's shell adsorption, it is needed to enlarge x100 and high oil soaked to visualize, count and measure bacteria. The results showed that there were many cracks on the shell perpendicular to the shell (fig. 3-4). The mature subshell consists of thin matrix layers interspersed with ~500nm thick layers of calcium carbonate minerals parallel to the inner shell surface as well as the cell's shells in the coating. The matrix layers are so thin that they cannot be detected by the naked eye (arrows indicate the position of the matrix). The significant difference between the superstructure formed by the different mollusk layers is the persistence of the orientation of the crystals in the direction perpendicular to the surface of the shell: the two edges of the two aragonite crystals of the Layers close to each other never exist, while in Cephalopods [1] form a stack of ~50 vertical flat bricks in the vertical direction.

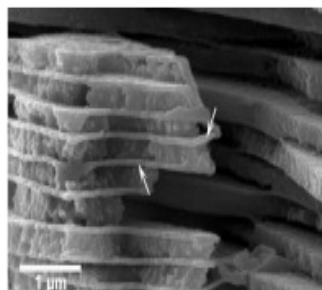
Single Aragonite pellets are nucleated on the matrix ground and grow rapidly in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the shell (crystal-shaped axis c). Parallel growth with the thin layer after the Aragonite layer reaches its maximum thickness. The growing crystal is hexagonal. They are just like the irregular polygons when they grow and merge

together in a continuous layer. The image shows three characteristic, well-defined hierarchies of overlapping development layers. The arrow indicates the direction of growth. The coating cells are placed next to the steps in living organisms.

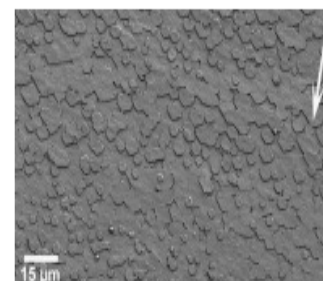
The shell of the mussel is characterized by a break as shown in Figure 3.c. In Figure 3 (A) the breaking position is shown by an arrow. It is illustrated as the red bars in the picture. (B) illustrates the part of the shell where the «after crack» measurements are made.



3.a. Cracks on the shell



3.b. Layers of 60-70 nm



3.c. Front side of the nacre layer on the inner surface

Fig 3. Shell structure

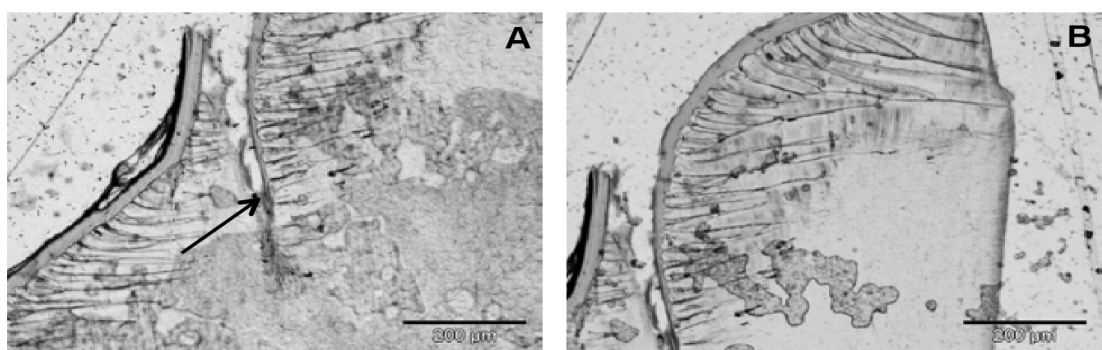


Fig. 4. Characteristics of shell's breakdown

Explaining this characteristic, in the SEM image, it shows that in the shell of the pearl, there are always exist of bacteria which are arranged in a contiguous order, distributed from the outer layer to the inside. Cracking in the shell is due to a change in the size of the bacteria, including the width and length during which bacteria live on the shell. The smallest width measured is 4.50 μm and the maximum width is 15.94 μm , the minimum value measured by covers taken from other areas is: 8.17 μm and the maximum value is 27.56 μm (Fig. 4) shows that this difference depends on the growth of microorganisms and may be due to both mussel habitat but no conclusions about environment and locality can be made due to lack of information and the fact that it is impossible to measure a year in a row and there is no information about the lifetime.

There is also a big difference in quality between the layers of shell, although they all have the same arrangement and structure. In every thin piece removed from the original shell it is evident that the degree of cracking is different for this, as a result of the difference that exists singly and population or compete in the community, among organisms in a population.

Thus, the structure of the shell always exists with small holes having a width of from 4.50 to 8.17 μm and a length of 15.94 μm to 27.56 μm and gradually decreasing from the outer surface of the shell. For this reason, pearl shell has the ability to adsorb many

substances in the water and has the potential to be used in handling heavy metal adsorption in general as well as Cadmium itself, while it like other adsorbent materials in desorption capacity and enrich the metal.

Assess the effect of input Cr, Cd concentration on the shell adsorption capacity.
The results of the effects of Cr and Cd concentrations are shown in Table 1, fig. 5.

Table 1. The effect of Cr, Cd concentration on the shell adsorption capacity

No	Formula	Before the treatment, mg/l	Pearl powder, mg	Time, min.	After the treatment, mg/l	Treatment efficiency, %
The effect of Cd ²⁺ concentration on the shell adsorption capacity						
1	CT1	0.5	500	60	0.066 ± 0.007 ^d	86.8
2	CT2	1.0			0.063 ± 0.002 ^d	93.7
3	CT3	2.0			0.169 ± 0.017 ^c	91.6
4	CT4	5.0			0.377 ± 0.108 ^b	92.5
5	CT5	10.0			1.144 ± 0.046 ^a	88.6
6	LSD _{0.05}				0.097	
The effect of Cr ⁶⁺ concentration on the shell adsorption capacity						
7	CT1	5	500	60	3.49 ± 0.20 ^d	30.2
8	CT2	10			4.52 ± 0.31 ^d	54.8
9	CT3	20			6.48 ± 0.45 ^c	67.6
10	CT4	30			16.84 ± 0.84 ^b	43.9
11	CT5	40			28.38 ± 0.95 ^a	29.1
12	LSD _{0.05}				1.136	

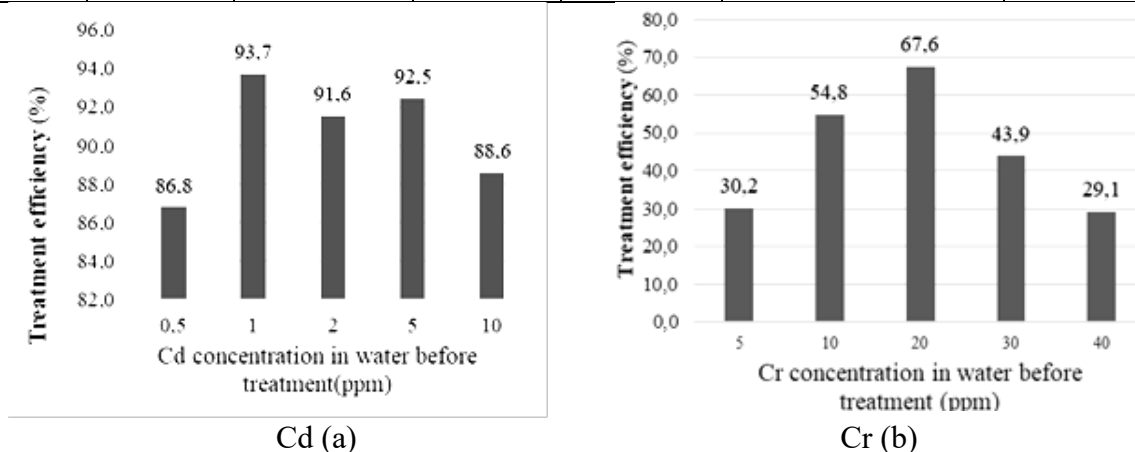


Fig 5. Cd and Cr treatment efficiency in water has different concentrations

With a shell content of 500 mg and shaking time of 60 min with different concentrations of input in the ascending direction, the treatment efficiency decreases from 7 to 15 times corresponding to the processing efficiency of 86.8-93.7 %. The results also show that the greater the concentration of Cd²⁺ will give the higher concentration of Cd²⁺ after processing, the ability to treat Cd²⁺ with mussel powder by shaking method for the highest treatment results when applied in according to the formula 2: C2=1.0 mg/l.

With shell content of 400 mg and shaking time of 80 minutes with different concentrations of input in the ascending direction, the treatment efficiency decreased by 30÷67.6% compared to the initial concentration. The results also show that the higher the concentration of input Cr, the higher the concentration of Cr after treatment, the ability to remove Cr with mussel powder by mixing method for the highest treatment result when applied according to the formula 3: C3=20 mg/l, treatment efficiency decreased 67.6%.

Effect of shell content on the ability to remove Cd²⁺ and Cr⁶⁺ (tab.2, fig.6). With the input concentration of 1.0 mg/l with the content of shell powder according to different formulas after shaking for 60 minutes, the processing efficiency varies from 91.6 to 96.9%. Comparing the initial pollutant concentration after the experiment with the ratio of mussel shell powder ratio according to the formulas showed that: The higher the adsorption efficiency of the thin-shelled shellfish powder for Cd²⁺, the higher the fixed ability of the bigger it. The trend of reducing this concentration decreased with the increase rate of *Cristaria plicata* shell powder but the decrease was not significantly different.

Table 2. Effect of shell content on the ability to remove Cd²⁺ and Cr⁶⁺

No	Formula	Before the treatment, mg/l	Pearl powder, mg	Time, minutes	After the treatment, mg/l	Treatment efficiency, %
Effect of shell content on the ability to remove Cd ²⁺						
1	CT1	1.0	250	60	0.082 ± 0.004 ^a	91.8
2	CT2		500		0.062 ± 0.003 ^b	93.8
3	CT3		750		0.045 ± 0.003 ^c	95.5
4	CT4		1000		0.035 ± 0.004 ^d	96.5
5	CT5		2000		0.031 ± 0.001 ^d	96.9
6	LSD _{0.05}				0.005	
Effect of shell content on the ability to remove Cr ⁶⁺						
7	CT1	20	100	60	14.10 ± 0.42 ^a	29.5
8	CT2		200		13.32 ± 0.38 ^a	33.4
9	CT3		400		10.91 ± 0.58 ^b	45.5
10	CT4		600		13.90 ± 0.69 ^a	30.5
11	CT5		800		13.65 ± 0.45 ^a	31.8
12	LSD _{0.05}				0.934	

With the input concentration of 20 mg/l with the content of shell powder in different formulas after shaking for 60 min, the processing efficiency decreased by 29.5-45.5%. Comparing the initial pollutant concentration after the experiment with the ratio of shell powder ratio according to the formulas showed that: the higher the adsorption efficiency of the *Cristaria plicata* shell for Cr, the more fixed the the bigger it. The ability to remove Cr with pearl shell powder by shaking method gives the highest treatment results when applying the formula 3: CT=400 mg of pearl shell powder. The trend of reducing this concentration decreased with the increase rate of *Cristaria plicata* shell powder but the decrease was not significantly different.

The influence of mixing time on Cd²⁺ treatment efficiency of *Cristaria plicata* shells (tab. 3, fig. 7). With the input concentration of C=1.0 mg/L, the content of shell powder 500 mg is added to the shaker at different time intervals in the direction of increase, resulting in the concentration of Cd²⁺ with reduced treatment efficiency compared to the original. from 6 to 20 times, respectively 84-95.1%.

The results showed that in formula 1 with shaking time of 20 minutes, the value of the highest concentration of Cd²⁺ or the lowest adsorption capacity of Cd²⁺ in CT2 with a shaking time of 40 minutes, the adsorption efficiency was more effective than the remaining formulas.

With the input concentration of C=20 mg/l, the content of shell powder 400 mg put into the shaker at different time intervals in the direction of increasing the Cr concentration results with a reduction of treatment efficiency compared to the original 18.8-41.7%. The results showed that in formula 4 with the shaking time of 80 minutes, the value of the Cr concentration was treated with the highest efficiency of 41.7%.

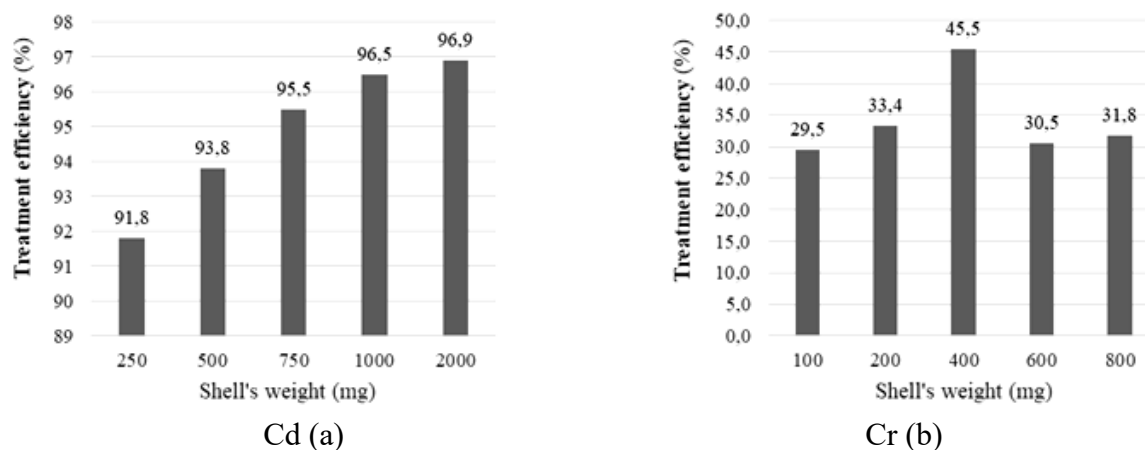


Fig 6. Cd and Cr treatment efficiency in water has different amounts of shell

Table 3. Effect of mixing time on Cd²⁺ and Cr⁶⁺ treatment capacity of pearl shells

No	Formula	Before the treatment, mg/l	Pearl powder, mg	Time, min.	After the treatment, mg/l	Treatment efficiency, %
Effect of mixing time on Cd ²⁺ treatment capacity of pearl shells						
1	CT1	1.0	500	20	0.160 ± 0.030 ^a	84.0
2	CT2			40	0.049 ± 0.007 ^b	95.1
3	CT3			60	0.080 ± 0.018 ^b	92.0
4	CT4			80	0.075 ± 0.025 ^b	92.5
5	CT5			100	0.075 ± 0.015 ^b	92.5
	LSD _{0.05}				0.038	
Effect of mixing time on Cr ⁶⁺ treatment capacity of pearl shells						
6	CT1	20	400	20	16.25 ± 1.55 ^a	18.8
7	CT2			40	15.04 ± 2.30 ^a	24.8
8	CT3			60	12.48 ± 0.35 ^b	37.6
9	CT4			80	11.67 ± 0.39 ^b	41.7
10	CT5			100	12.12 ± 0.60 ^b	39.4
	LSD _{0.05}				2.347	

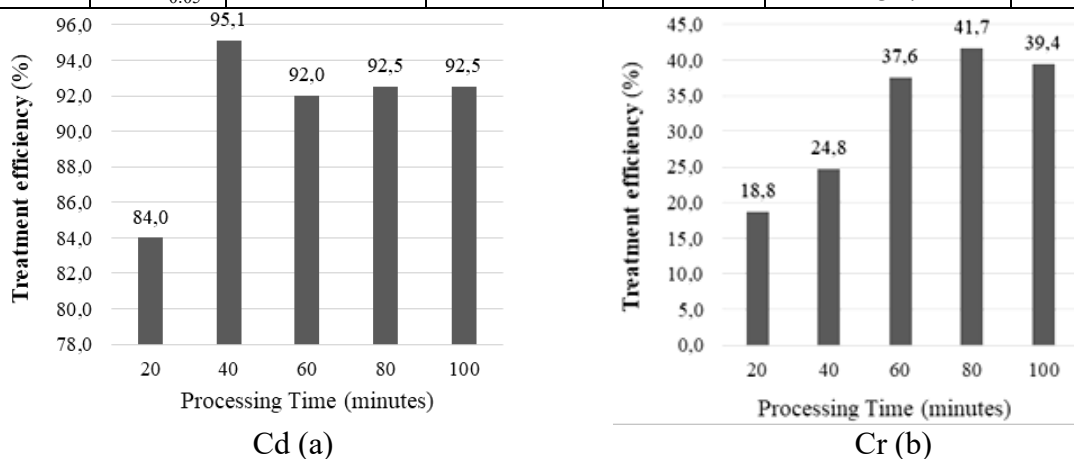


Fig 7. Cd, Cr treatment efficiency with different mixing times

Conclusion

The pearl shell is made up of small holes always having a width from 4.50 to 8.17 μm and a length of 15.94 to 27.56 μm and gradually decreasing from the outer surface of

the shell. Therefore, mussels have the ability to adsorb many substances in the water. The *Cristaria plicata* shell powder has the potential to be used to remove heavy metals in water. According to the research results, the higher the ratio of pearl shell powder, the lower the proportion of Cr, Cd concentration in water. The change of the content of pearl shell powder increased with a defined Cr concentration after shaking for 60 minutes, the treatment efficiency reached 29.5-45.5% and Cd achieved the higher efficiency of 91.6-96.9%. However, the results showed no significant difference. The change of shaking time affects the concentration of Cr, Cd output after the experiment, the treatment efficiency reaches 29.5-45.5% for Cr and 91.6-96.9% for Cd. The absorption capacity of *Cristaria plicata* shell powder is affected by the input concentrations of Cr and Cd, Cd and Cr treatment efficiency respectively changes are 86.8-93.7% and 30-67.6%. It was found that the higher the input concentration will give the greater concentration after treatment, but the results show that the input concentration effect will give the highest adsorption results when applied according by C=20 mg/l for Cr and C=1 mg/l for Cd.

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Применение измельченных раковин *Cristaria plicata* для извлечения кадмия и хрома из загрязненной воды методом статической сорбции

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Cristaria plicata – вид пресноводных моллюсков в составе рода *Cristaria* семейства Unionidae. Раковины *Cristaria plicata* являются во Вьетнаме доступным натуральным сырьем для изготовления сорбентов, которые способны поглощать многие загрязняющие вещества из сточных вод. К наиболее важным загрязнителям относятся тяжелые металлы. Целью исследования было изучение возможности применения порошков из раковин *Cristaria plicata* для очистки загрязненной воды от таких тяжелых металлов как Cd и Cr сорбционным методом. Разработана технология получения сорбента. После сбора раковины промывали, сушили и измельчали до размера не более 0.5 мм, затем порошок вымачивали в дистиллированной воде в течение 10 часов, сушили до постоянного веса и просеивали через сита, собирая фракцию с размером частиц около 0.5 мм. Микроскопические исследования показали, что частицы сорбента из раковин *Cristaria plicata*, содержали поры, имеющие диаметр от 4.5 до 8.2 мкм и длину от 15.9 до 27.6 мкм. Был использован метод статической сорбции. Содержание Cd и Cr в пробах воды до и после сорбции выполняли методом атомно-абсорбционной спектrophотометрии. Показано, что сорбент из материала раковин *Cristaria plicata* может достаточно эффективно применяться для очистки сточных вод от Cd и Cr. Найдено, что при увеличении массовой доли по-

рошка в очищаемой воде, концентрация Cr и Cd в этой воде заметно падает. Содержание Cr после встряхивания в течение 60 минут падает на 29.5-45.5%, а Cd – на 91.6-96.9%. Поглощающая способность сорбента из раковин *Cristaria plicata* зависит от исходных концентраций Cr и Cd, чем выше исходная концентрация, тем большее количество загрязнителей поглощается сорбентом. Наилучший эффект сорбционной очистки наблюдается при исходных концентрациях Cd 1 мг/дм³ и Cr 20 мг/дм³. Для максимального выделения Cd рекомендуемое время обработки 40-60 мин, а для Cr – 80-100 мин.

Ключевые слова: загрязненная вода, пресноводные моллюски, тяжелые металлы, статическая сорбция, кадмий, хром

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