

Comparative Analysis of Baobab (*Adonsonia Digitata*) and Tamarind (*Tamarindus Indica*) Seeds as Biocoagulant in Contaminated Water Treatment

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Abstract

Water is a basic resource; it is also the most essential liquid substance, and the substance of life is highly dependent on its availability. Drinking water treatment involves several unit processes. Commonly used chemicals for the treatment are synthetic organic and inorganic substances; these chemicals are expensive and are readily not available in developing nations. They also constitute a number of health hazard. The aim of this study was to evaluate contaminated water using locally available natural plant seeds as bio-coagulant. The dried seeds sample were collected, washed, dried, pulverized, grinded and later extracted using n-hexane through Soxhlet extractor model turbid water used for the bio coagulant study was prepared using kaolin. The experimental design was completed randomized design (CRD). Experiments were performed in triplicates baobab seed only, tamarind seed only and hybridized seeds of baobab and tamarind in different ratios using 0mg/l as control, 10mg/l, 20mg/l, 30mg/l, 40mg/l and 50mg/l of both samples seed extracts. Analysis of variance (anova) was adapted to compare the means of the various parameters measured the level of significance was taken at ($p < 0.05$) from Duncan multiple range test (DMRT). The outcome revealed that as a bio coagulant, an optimum dose of 30mg/l of hybridize sample in the ratio of 2:1 of baobab and tamarind (HBT) seeds powder was able to reduce turbidity of model water significantly ($p < 0.05$). Finally, from the investigation carried out, the hbt possess bio-coagulant potentials when harnesses and utilized properly for water purification. The study succeeded in elemental and proximate analysis of the seed samples.

Keywords: Bio-Coagulant, Chemical Oxygen Demand, Synthetic Chemical Turbidity, Total Dissolved Solid.

I. Introduction

Water is a basic resource; it is also the most essential liquid substance, and the sustenance of life is highly dependent on its availability (FAO 2014). The importance of water cannot be overemphasized, as it is used for domestic, agricultural, industrial, economic and commercial purposes. In the year 2015, it was estimated that 663 million people worldwide still utilize unimproved drinking water sources, including unprotected wells, springs and surface water (WHO 2015). It is also reported that almost half of all the people using unimproved drinking water sources live in Sub-Saharan Africa, while one-fifth live in Southern Asia (WHO 2015). It is estimated that 79% of people using unimproved sources and 93% of people using surface water live in rural areas (WHO 2015).

The environment has a way of multiplying and giving back what man gives to it, so man has become a snare to himself, by constantly discharging harmful substances into his environment (Edogbanya et al; 2013). According to AQUASTAT, an estimate of about 109 m³/year municipal wastewater is produced

annually (FAO 2006). Polluted water causes serious health implications worldwide. Waterborne diseases such as diarrhea and water-related vector-borne diseases like malaria are among the leading causes of death, especially affecting children and other vulnerable groups. Polluted water causes serious health implications worldwide (WWAP 2015).

Drinking water treatment involves several unit processes. Commonly used chemicals for the various treatment units are synthetic organic and inorganic substances (such as alum, chlorine, acryl amide and activated carbon); usually, these chemicals are expensive and are not readily available, especially in developing nations. Apart from these, they also constitute several health problems for instance; the use of alum has been reported to cause Alzheimer's disease; (Crapper et al 1973). While some synthetic organic polymers such as acryl amide have strong neurotoxin and carcinogenic effect; chlorine being a strong oxidizing agent reacts with natural organic matter (NOM) to form disinfection by-products (DBPs) such as Haloacetic Acids (HAAs), Trihalomethanes (THM), Halogenic Acetic Acid, Haloacetonnitrils, Chlorine Hydrates, Chloramines, Chlorophenolsetc, and these DBPs have been associated with increased risk for cancer and other health-related issues. They have also been reported to be non-eco-friendly, as they tend to affect non-target organisms and are usually non-biodegradable.

II. Statement of the Problem

Contaminated water has become a global challenge these days and issue of concern across the world. It is estimated that about 750 million people, continuously rely on unimproved drinking water sources of whom almost a quarter (187.5 million people) still rely on direct use of contaminated surface water (WHO and UNICEF 2014) The use of chemicals in the treatment of water is expensive, and the chemicals are not readily available especially in the developing nation. Chemicals used in the treatment of water have been reported to be hazardous to man and his environment.

III. Aim and objectives of the study:

The aim is to treat (purify) contaminated water using locally available natural plants as bio-coagulant. The objectives of the study are to:

- i. extract active components from Baobab (*Adansonia digitata*) and Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*) seeds.
- ii. further analyse the effect of bio-coagulants on the following turbidity, pH, colour, hardness, alkalinity, total dissolved solids of contaminated water.
- iii. hybridize the Baobab (*Adonsonia digitata*) and Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*) seed samples in different ratios as bio-coagulant.

IV. Significance of the Study:

Several plants seeds have been reported to contain coagulant proteins, which are responsible for their bio-coagulative, disinfectant, and biosorptive properties that enhance the purification of water. The use of alternative technique (such as using plant seeds) in the purification of water has not been fully explored,

and the findings of this work would give vital information that would contribute towards the solving of the problems related to contaminated water (especially in the rural areas).

V. Scope and Limitation

The scope of the work is to perform comparative analysis which is limited to Baobab and Tamarind Seeds.

Kinetic Models for Biosorption

The mechanism of adsorption and its potential rate-controlling steps that include mass transport and chemical reaction processes is usually investigated using kinetic models. In addition, information on the kinetics of metal uptake is required to select the optimum condition for full-scale batch metal removal processes (Febrianto et al., 2009). Adsorption kinetics is expressed as the rate of solute removal that controls the residence time of the sorbate in the solid–solution interface. In practice, kinetic studies are carried out in batch reactions using various initial sorbate concentrations, sorbent doses, particle sizes, agitation speeds, pH values and temperatures along with different sorbent and sorbate types. Then, linear regression is used to determine the best-fitting kinetic rate equation. There are several kinetic models but the most commonly used are the pseudo first and second order rate model in biosorption models (Febrianto et al., 2009).

The Pseudo-first-order kinetic model

The Lagergren first-order rate expression based on solid capacity is generally expressed as:

$$\frac{dq}{dt} = k_1(q_e - q) \quad (2.1)$$

It can be expressed in linear form as:

$$\text{Log}(q_e - q) = \text{Log}(q_e) - \frac{k_1 t}{2.303} \quad (2.2)$$

Where:

q_e (mg g⁻¹) = the solid phase concentration of the metal ions at equilibrium,

q (mg g⁻¹) = the average solid phase concentration of metal ions at contact time t (min) and

k_1 (min⁻¹) = the pseudo-first-order rate constant.

The rate constant k_1 (min⁻¹) could be obtained from the plot of $\text{Log}(q_e - q)$ versus t Febrianto et al., (2009); Njoku, (2011).

The Pseudo-second-order kinetic model

The Ho Pseudo-second-order Kinetic Model is derived based on the sorption capacity of the solid phase and is expressed as in equation 2.3:

$$\frac{dq}{dt} = k_1 (q_e - q)^2 = \quad (2.3)$$

It can also be expressed in linear form as in equation 2.4:

$$\frac{t}{q} = \frac{1}{(k_2 q_e^2)} + \left(\frac{1}{q_e}\right)t \quad (2.4)$$

Where k_2 is the pseudo-second-order rate constant.

A plot of t/q versus t gives a straight line and the values of the constants k_2 (g mg^{-1}) and q_e (mg g^{-1}) can be calculated (Febrianto et al., 2009); (Njoku, 2011).

Kinetic Models for Biosorption

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Classification Baobab (*Adansonia digitata*)

Kingdom:	-	Plantae
Division:	-	Magnoliophyta
Class:	-	Equisetopsida
Subclass:	-	Magnoliidae
Superorder:	-	Rosana
Order:	-	Malvales
Family:	-	Malvaceae
Genus:	-	<i>Adansonia</i>
Species:	-	<i>Adansoniadigitata</i>

(Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew)

Tamarindus indica is probably indigenous to tropical Africa, (Morton et al 1987). But has been cultivated for so long in the Indian subcontinent that it is sometimes reported to be indigenous there (Tamale et al 1995). It grows wild in Africa in locales as diverse as Sudan, Cameroon, Nigeria, Kenya, Zambia, Somalia, Tanzania and Malawi. In Arabia, it is found growing wild in Oman, especially Dhofar, where it grows on the sea-facing slopes of mountains. It reached South Asia likely through human transportation and cultivation several thousand years ago Tamale et al (1995). It is widely distributed throughout the tropics, from Africa to South Asia, northern Australia, and throughout Oceania, Southeast Asia, Taiwan and China.

In the 16th century, it was introduced to Mexico and Central America, and to a lesser degree to South America, by Spanish and Portuguese colonists, to the degree that it became a staple ingredient in the region's cuisine Tamale et al (1995). Today, India is the largest producer of tamarind. The consumption of tamarind is widespread due to its central role in the cuisines of the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and the Americas, especially Mexico.

Classification of Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*)

<u>Scientific:</u>	-	<u>Classification</u>
<u>Kingdom:</u>	-	<u>Plantae</u>
<u>Clade:</u>	-	<u>Tracheophytes</u>
<u>Order:</u>	-	<u>Fabales</u>
<u>Family:</u>	-	<u>Fabaceae</u>
<u>Subfamily:</u>	-	<u>Detarioideae</u>
<u>Tribe:</u>	-	<u>Amherstieae</u>
<u>Genus:</u>	-	<u>TamarindusL.</u>
<u>Species:</u>	-	T. indica

VI. Materials and Methods

The study was carried out in three experimental stages viz:

- i. Extraction of the active components of the samples,
- ii. Evaluation of the samples and
- iii. Characterization of bio-coagulants and there effects on model turbid water.

Materials

- i. Distilled water
- ii. Weighing balance
- iii. Measuring cylinder
- iv. Beaker
- v. Conical flask
- vi. Mortar and pestle
- vii. Sieve
- viii. Incubator
- ix. Hydrogen Tetraoxosulphate (VI) acid (H_2SO_4)
- x. Sodium Hydroxide (NaOH)
- xi. $Fe(NH_4)_2(SO_4)_2$
- xii. $K_2Cr_2O_7$
- xiii. Ag_2SO_4
- xiv. buffer solution

- xv. Powdered seed of Baobab
- xvi. Powdered seed of Tamarind

IV. Methodology

Collection, Identification and Preparation of Sample Baobab (*Adansonia digitata*)

Baobab (*Adansonia digitata*) seed samples were purchased at Monday market in Maiduguri, Borno, state and taken to Botany Laboratory in Biological Science Department, University of Maiduguri for proper identification. Dried fruit of *Adansonia digitata* were properly washed with distilled water, sun dried, pulverised into powder using mortar and pestle, sieved, and stored in an airtight container.

Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*) seeds

Tamarind seeds were collected from a tamarind tree plantation at Dalori village 15 kilometer along Maiduguri, Bama road in Konduga LGA in Borno state, Nigeria and was properly identification at the Botany Laboratory in Biological Science Department, University of Maiduguri. The tamarind seeds were divided in to two; half of the sample was soaked in cold water for about 24h before they were washed to separate the seeds from the pulp and rewashed to remove adhering pulps. The other half was soaked in boiled water for 1.5h. The seeds containers were labelled tamarind cold water sample and tamarind hot water sample for easy identification. The seeds were allowed to dry under ambient temperature first and then, placed in an oven for about 8h at 50°C. This was carried out thus to make crushing of the tamarind seeds easy. The crushing of the seed samples was carried out for size reduction using mortar and pestle. The crushed seed samples were ground using a blender to produce the tamarind seed powder that was sieved to form medium fine powder used as the coagulant. The samples collected were preserved at optimum temperature of about 40°C. The samples collected were analysed to find out the physical, chemical, and biological contents, based on the analysis the samples were treated by using organic methods as given below:

Extraction of active component from tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*) seeds

Extraction of the powdered tamarind seed samples was carried out using n-hexane in electro-thermal Soxhlet extractor. 50g of powdered seeds was weighed and put into the thimble of the Soxhlet extractor, the apparatus was mounted and allowed to run for 60min, after which the powder was removed and dried over a hot plate at low heat to evaporate the n-hexane. The tamarind cake residue after oil extraction was used in the preparation of the extract. Six different concentrations (0mg/L, 10mg/L, 20mg/L, 30mg/L, 40mg/L and 50mg/L) of the coagulant reagent were prepared by suspending the required weighed amount of de-fatted powdered seed in to conical flask and 20ml of distilled water was added in order to prepare stock solution and then transferred the stock solution in to 1000ml beaker of distilled water, which was then stirred for 15 min using the flocculator (PCI Ltd England) in order to extract active components. After that, the suspension was filtered through What-man filter paper No. 1 (Bichi et al., 2012; Choubey et al., 2012). Before each experiment a fresh coagulant reagent was prepared, because keeping it overnight reduced the effectiveness.

Extraction of active component from Baobab Seeds (*Adansonia digitata*)

The *Adansonia digitata* seeds were sorted, washed and dried. Some of the seeds were crushed for proximate and elemental analysis, while the rest were kept in a black polythene bag, sealed and stored in a dark cool place until required for analysis, this method is described by (Nkafamiya et al; 2007). The powdered Baobab seed samples were also de-fatted like that of tamarind using n-hexane in electro-thermal Soxhlet extractor. Another 40g of powdered seeds was weighed in put into the thimble of the Soxhlet extractor, the apparatus was mounted and allowed to run for 60min, after which the powder is removed and dried over a hot plate at low heat to evaporate the n-hexane. The Baobab cake residue after extraction was used in the preparation of the extract. Also, six different concentrations (0mg/l, 10mg/l, 20mg/l, 30mg/l, 40mg/l and 50mg/l) of the coagulant reagent were prepared by suspending the required weighed amount of de-fatted powdered seed into conical flask and 20ml of distilled water was added in other to prepare stock solution using 1000ml of model water in a beaker, which was then stirred for 15 minutes using the flocculator (PCI Ltd England) in order to extract active components. After that, the suspension was filtered through What-man filter paper No. 1 (Bichi et al., 2012); (Choubey et al., 2012). Before each experiment a fresh coagulant reagent was prepared, because keeping it overnight reduced the effectiveness.

Methods for Proximate Analysis

- i. Moisture content
- ii. Ash content
- iii. Crude fibre
- iv. Dry matter
- v. Crude protein
- vi. Ether extract
- vii. Nitrogen free extract

Bio-coagulation Studies

Preparation of model turbid water

Turbid water was prepared by adding 10g kaolin to 1L tap water. The suspension was stirred for 1h to achieve uniform dispersion of kaolin particles, and then it was allowed to remain for 24hours for completing hydration of the particles. This suspension was used as the stock. Turbid water used for the study was prepared by diluting 50ml of stock solution in 1000ml of water (This gave an initial turbidity of about 379 nephelometric turbidity units –NTU) Okuda et al., (2001); Antov et al (2010).

viii. Results and Discussion

The study revealed that the elemental analysis shown in (Table.1) below presented both micro and macro elements. The Potassium content of the two samples as shown on table 4.1 are higher than the values of (Osman 2004), while the sodium and calcium were all in agreement as reported by (Sidibe 2002) whereas

the phosphorus content which was slightly lower than that of (Sidibe 2002) but in agreement with report presented by (El-Siddiq, 2002 & Igbow 1997). The iron which is an essential component was also in agreement with the reported value of (Fleuret 1980). Therefore, the slight variation of the tamarind samples (hot and cold) in the table 4.1 was due to the Thermal activity of the hot water.

Table: 1 Elemental Analysis of Baobab (*Adonsonia Digitata*) and Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*) Seeds

Element	Baobab Seeds	Tamarind Seeds	
		Hot	Cold
Macroelement			
(mg/100g)			
Potassium (K)	122.33	155.49	179.12
Sodium (Na)	85.06	87.041	101.62
Calcium (Ca)	86.08	201.0	229.30
Magnesium (Mg)	2.43	1.99	2.11
Phosphorus (P)	0.28	0.00	2.26
Microelement			
Iron (Fe)	50.28	53.74	56.81
Copper (Cu)	0.29	0.00	0.03
Zinc (Zn)	0.43	0.55	0.64

The moisture content of the two seeds samples (Table 4.2) were higher than the value of 9.4% estimated by Merangoni et al (1988) and lower than the rate 11.4% - 22.7% reported by Ishola et al (1990), Bhattacharya et al, (1993) and Morad et al (1978). The protein content of the two samples agreed with the result of 21 -25 % reported by Yusuf et al (2007). The Ash values agreed with the rate 2.1% - 4.2% reported by Morad et al, Ishola et al, (1980); Battacharya et al; (1993) but lower than 4.58% reported by Marangoni et al (1988). The Fibre content of the two samples were within the range 0.7 – 8.2% reported by Bhattacharya et al; (1993) but higher than the value of 2.33% mentioned by Marangoni et al (1988).

Proximate Analysis of Baobab (*Adonsonia Digitata*) and Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*) Seeds

Constituents (g/100g)	Baobab Seeds	Tamarind Seeds	
		Hot	Cold
Moisture	8.92	11.98	11.64
Ash Content	4.54	3.29	3.60
Crude Fibre	5.63	6.18	6.00
Dry Matter	91.08	87.24	88.68
Crude Protein	8.87	15.66	18.21
Ether Extract	8.17	10.84	11.66
Nitrogen Free Extra	63.87	51.35	48.89

The phytochemical profile of Baobab and Tamarind Seed Extract shown in the Table 4.3 revealed the present of Alkaloid, flavonoid, phenol, saponin and Tanin in the seeds. The higher values of 33.3g/100g from Baobab and 19.62g/100g of Tamarind seeds of flavonoid and leaf values of 2.46g/100g of Baobab and 3.83g/100g of Tamarind have been reported to be associated with the different pharmacological activities of plant (Del-Rio et al; 1997).

ix. Conclusion and Recommendation

Conducting Jar test for the bio coagulants such as Baobab seeds, tamarind seeds and Hybrid of Baobab and tamarind seeds, shows that Hybrid of Baobab and tamarind seeds is a better coagulant in removing turbidity. It has extensively developed internal pore structure. Due to Hybridization, internal pore network is created and thus HBTSP gets its unique characteristics leading to high surface area, porosity, and greater strength. Also, Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) studies showed the functional groups available on the surface of Baobab (*Adansonia digitata*), Tamarind seed bio-sorbent. *Adansonia digitata* seeds possess potentials as a bio-coagulant. It was not significantly effective when used as a bio-coagulant for highly turbid water, since it was unable to bring turbidity down within the acceptable limit of less than 5 NTU (USEPA, 2012). But combination of the two bio-coagulant lead to its significant improvement.

Recommendation and Further Studies

1. The efficiency of hybrid Baobab and Tamarind seeds as a bio-coagulant must be improved by isolation and purification of the bio-coagulant protein especially when combined other seeds with higher disinfectants quality.
2. The efficacy of Baobab *and* Tamarind seeds as a bio-sorbent may also be improved by the chemical or physical modification of the nature of the bio-sorbent (e.g. by converting them to activated carbon).
3. HBT seed powder bio-coagulant may be used to complement or replace other conventional coagulants like alum when properly optimized.
4. Scanning Electron Microscope (S.E.M) and X-ray diffraction (XRD) studies may be carried out to understand the morphology and interlayer structure of the HBT seed powder bio-sorbent.
5. Energy Dispersive X-ray analysis (EDAX) may be carried out to ascertain the composition of each element present in the Hybridized Baobab and Tamarind (HBT) sample.

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