Defluoridation by coagulation in drinkable water from the south east of Algeria

Djamel Atia, Abdelghani Hoggui
Laboratoire de Valorisation et Technologie des Ressources Sahariennes, Département Sciences de la Matière, Institut des Sciences et Technologie Centre, Université de Ouargla, Ouargla, Algérie
E-mail address: atia.sahan1@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The drinkable water in the south east of Algeria contains high quantity of fluoride which causes dental fluorosis. To decrease fluoride, we have chosen a sample with the biggest content of fluoride among many sources in order to coagulate it with \( \text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 \cdot 18\text{H}_2\text{O} \). After that the parameters influencing (concentration, pH, temperature) are studied to choose the best conditions for better reduction yield.

Keywords: Coagulation; Defluoridation; Fluorosis; Oasis water

1. INTRODUCTION

The water of the south east of Algeria is characterized by high concentrations of fluoride, associated with severely high and excessive total mineralization. This water is the only source of drinking. The hot and dry climate has forced people to consume a lot of water which leads to raise the daily consumption rate of fluoride. In addition the eating a lot of dates and tea leads to the spread of fluorosis disease [1] which is characterized by the yellowish of tooth enamel according to the classification of the national program of school health [2, 3]. To prevent these diseases from happening or reduce them, many techniques of defluoridation are used such as: membrane technologies, precipitation and adsorption. Our study is focused on adsorption with sulfate aluminium salt and determination of optimal conditions affecting the reduction of fluoride in drinking water.

2. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

2. 1. Preparation of fluoride curve witness

To determine the concentration of fluoride in Various samples, a potentiometer method was used (Rodier 2005) [4]. Different standard concentration solutions were prepared from NaF salt in cups of plastic. Then their potential is measured by using specific fluoride pole (ISE15381/1) and a pH-meter model (pH211), using a solution of TISAB [6]. The graph \( E = f(\log C_F) \) is presented in Figure 1.
2. 2. Determination of fluoride concentration in some samples of the study area

The concentration of fluoride has been determined in some water sources of the study area in order to determine and treat the largest content of fluoride. The results are presented in Table 1. The selected sample (cold water of Shuhada) has a concentration of fluoride 2.61 (mg / l).

Table 1. Fluoride concentration for some water in the studied area at T = 19.3 °C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources of water</th>
<th>mars city</th>
<th>mastur city</th>
<th>400 city</th>
<th>8may city</th>
<th>1Nov City</th>
<th>Nezla city</th>
<th>Shuhada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[F⁻] (mg/l)</td>
<td>1.87</td>
<td>1.90</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>1.84</td>
<td>1.94</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>2.61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. 3. Determination of the predominant concentration of ions in the studied water

The study was done according to (Rodier 2005) [4] on cold water of Shuhada as follows:

2. 3. 1. Nitrates and sulfates

Spectroscopy method (UV) ray using (spectrophotometer DR 2400).
2. 3. 2. Total hardness
   
   By complexity with EDTA\(^{(1)}\) in the presence of Eriochrome Black T at buffer solution of pH = 10.

2. 3. 3. Sodium and potassium
   
   Using flame atomic absorption analysis. Results of Predominant ions are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Physico-chemistry properties of Shuhada water.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>SO(_4^{2-})</th>
<th>Ca(^{2+})</th>
<th>Mg(^{2+})</th>
<th>Na(^{+})</th>
<th>K(^{+})</th>
<th>NO(_3^{-})</th>
<th>TA</th>
<th>TAC</th>
<th>Cl(^{-})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C (mg/l)</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>402</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. 3. 4. Alkalinity
   
   Determining TA\(^{(4)}\) and TAC\(^{(5)}\) using PhPh\(^{(3)}\) and MO\(^{(2)}\) indicators respectively.

2. 3. 5. Chlorides
   
   Volumetric method for Mohr.

2. 3. 6. Calcium concentration
   
   By complexity with EDTA\(^{(1)}\) in the presence of Murexide at a solution of pH = 12.

2. 3. 7. Magnesium concentration
   
   Calculated from the difference Total hardness and Calcium concentration. The results are presented in Table 2.

2. 4. Treatment
   
   The factors affecting (mass, pH, and temperature T) were studied by the Coagulation method using Al\(_2\)(SO\(_4\))\(_3\)·18H\(_2\)O with a purity of (98-100) %.

2. 4. 1. Effect of aluminium concentration
   
   Based on the coagulation of fluoride on Al(OH)\(_3\) according to equilibrium (1). 100 ml of Shuhada water was put in each cup of plastic then the pH and temperature T were measured, after that different amount of the same salt was added to each cup. After stirring for 3 minutes, they are left for a while then filtered, finally the amount of fluoride in the filtrate was measured. The results were presented in Table 3 and Figure 2.
2.4.2. Effect of pH

Based on adsorption of fluoride ion on Al(OH)$_3$ which is related to the pH of the studied water according to the equilibrium (1).

We repeat the same steps of the previous experiment as mentioned in (2.4.1) by fixing the temperature and the added optimal concentration of aluminium sulfate but changing the pH by buffer solutions. The results are presented in Table 4 and Figure 3.

Table 4. Relation between the pH and the residual fluoride $[\text{Al}^{3+}] = 0.0024$ g/l, $T = 27.6 \, ^{\circ}\text{C}$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pH</th>
<th>4.02</th>
<th>5.07</th>
<th>6.00</th>
<th>7.02</th>
<th>8.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$[\text{F}^-]$ (mg/l)</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.4.3. Effect of temperature T

The same steps of the experiment are repeated as mentioned in (2.4.1) by fixing the added optimal concentration of Al$_2$(SO$_4$)$_3$ and the optimal pH, but changing the temperature.

The results were presented in Table 5 and Figure 4 [5].

Table 5. Relation between the temperature and the residual fluoride [Al$^{3+}$] = 0.0024 g/l, pH = 8.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T (°C)</th>
<th>20.0</th>
<th>26.5</th>
<th>30.0</th>
<th>40.0</th>
<th>45.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[F⁻] (mg/l)</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>1.41</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4. Variation of residual fluoride against temperature.
3. EQUATION AND EQUILIBRIUM

\[ 3\text{Ca(HCO}_3\text{)}_2 + \text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 \rightleftharpoons 3\text{CaSO}_4 + 2\text{Al(OH)}_3(\text{S}) + 6\text{CO}_2 \ldots (1) \]

\[ \text{Al(OH)}_3(\text{S}) + 3\text{H}_3\text{O}^+ \rightleftharpoons \text{Al}^{3+} + 6\text{H}_2\text{O} \ldots \ldots (2) \]

\[ \text{Al(OH)}_3(\text{S}) + \text{OH}^- \rightleftharpoons \text{Al(OH)}_4^- \ldots \ldots (3) \]

\[ \eta = Ae^{B/T} \ldots \ldots (1) \]

\[ V = \frac{Z.D.E}{4\pi\eta} \ldots \ldots (2) \]

Where: \( \eta \) = viscosity coefficient ;
(A , B) = constants related to the quality of the liquid;
T = temperature of solution;
D = dielectric constant of water;
Z = Zeta potential.
E = electric field intensity;
\( V_{\text{mob}} \) = speed of observed particles;
V = speed of particles in an electric field.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- According to the results of Table 2 we observe that the high concentrations of (Ca\(^{2+}\), Mg\(^{2+}\), SO\(_4^{2-}\), Cl\(^{-}\)) exceed the WHO standards of water. This relates to the geological characteristics and the structure of rocks.
- The results of Table 3 indicate that the concentrations of residual fluoride are decreased when the values of added aluminium concentration are increased. This can be explained by the formation of gelatinous aluminium hydroxide (equilibrium 1) which adsorbs F\(^{-}\) \[5\]. The optimal concentration of aluminium is 0.0024 g/l.
- The results of table (4) show that:
  - In acidic medium: The residual F\(^{-}\) is decreased when the pH is increased which is proved by equilibrium (2).
  - In basic medium: The residual F\(^{-}\) is increased when the pH is increased which is proved by equilibrium (3).
- The optimal chosen pH = 7.6 leads to a residual fluoride concentration equals 1.5 mg/l which fits the OMS standard.
- According to the results of Table 5 we observe that residual [F\(^{-}\)] is decreased when T is increased, this can be proved by the following:
  Increasing T leads to the decrease of [equation of Guzman-andrad] (1), so V is increased [equation (2)]. As a result \( V_{\text{mob}} \) is increased [equation (3)].
V_{mob} increases the probability of convergence F\(^-\) from Al(OH)\(_3\) particles which augment the adsorption of F\(^-\) on the surface of the particles [6, 7]. The optimal chosen T = 26.5 °C leads to a residual fluoride concentration equals 1.5 mg/l which fits the OMS standard.

5. CONCLUSION

- According to the quantity of fluoride in the water of Oasis region of Algeria, it appear that most of them contain surplus exceeds the standard value of (WHO)\(^{(9)}\) with a total high hardness.
- The present investigation indicates that reducing fluoride from water is economic method because using a small amount of Al\(_2\)(SO\(_4\))\(_3\) is needed for this purpose.
- Through the study of factors affecting (concentration, pH, temperature) it is possible to choose the best conditions for a reduction process with Al\(_2\)(SO\(_4\))\(_3\)·18H\(_2\)O by adding an amount at a concentration of 0.030 g / l, pH = 7.6 and a temperature of 26.5 °C.

ABRIVIATIONS

EDTA\(^{(1)}\): ComplexonIII (Ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid disodium salt).
MO\(^{(2)}\): methyl orange
Ph.Ph\(^{(3)}\): phenolphthalein
TA\(^{(4)}\): alkalimetric title.
TAC\(^{(5)}\): The complete alkalimetric title.
TISAB\(^{(6)}\): total ionic strength adjustment buffer
WHO\(^{(7)}\): World Health Organization.

Acknowledgment

Authors are thankful to Dr. Bebba Ahmed Abdelhafid who helped as to do this research also we thank the head of Department of Analytic chemistry, Institute of Technology, Ouargla University, for providing laboratory facilities.

References

