



Fluoride removal from aqueous solution using *Psidium guajava* and *Mimosa pudica* Leaves

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Abstract: This paper investigate the used of natural adsorbent for fluoride removal namely *Psidium guajava* (Guava) and *Mimosa pudica* (Touch-Me-Not) leaves carried out at varied pH, contact time and adsorbent dosage. The characteristics of adsorbent were determined such as moisture content (%), bulk density (g/cm^3), particle density (g/cm^3), water solubility (%), acid solubility (%). The optimum pH was found to be 6 for Guava leave and 5 for Touch-Me-Not leave. The optimum dose was found to be 0.75 mg and optimum contact time of 150 min for both the leaves efficiency of 94%, 90%, 96% and 94% was observed.

Keywords: Fluoride aqueous solution, low-cost adsorbent, adsorption, characterization, Guava and Touch-Me-Not leaves.

I. INTRODUCTION

Safe drinking water is one of the important source for human being. Pure water is not easily available. One of the major contaminants for water is fluoride [1]. Fluoride occurrence in water is due to two factors: natural and man-made source [2]. Depending on fluoride concentration in water maybe both beneficial and also have an effects on human health [4]. Above 1.5 mg/l of fluoride concentration cause dental and skeletal fluorosis, destruction of enamel of teeth [5] but if below 1.5 mg/l F⁻ which is the permissible limit according to World Health Organisation (WHO), have beneficial for treating dental carries in children. The dental and skeletal fluorosis are irreversible in which no treatment is available.

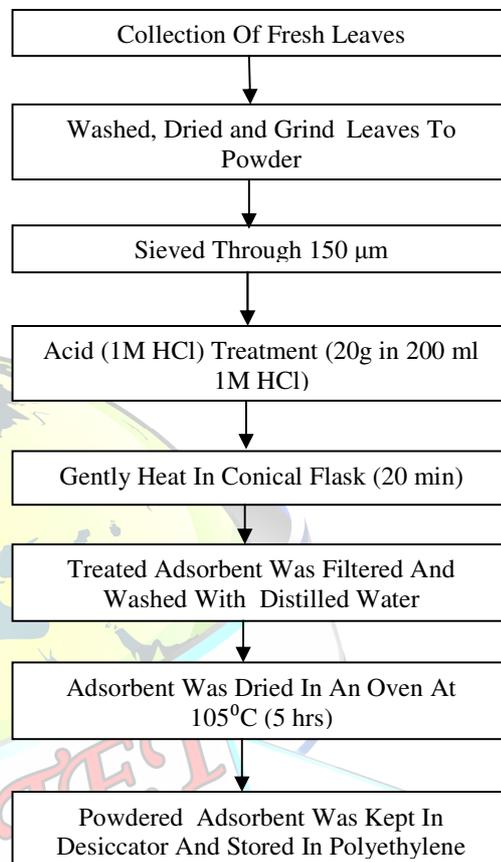
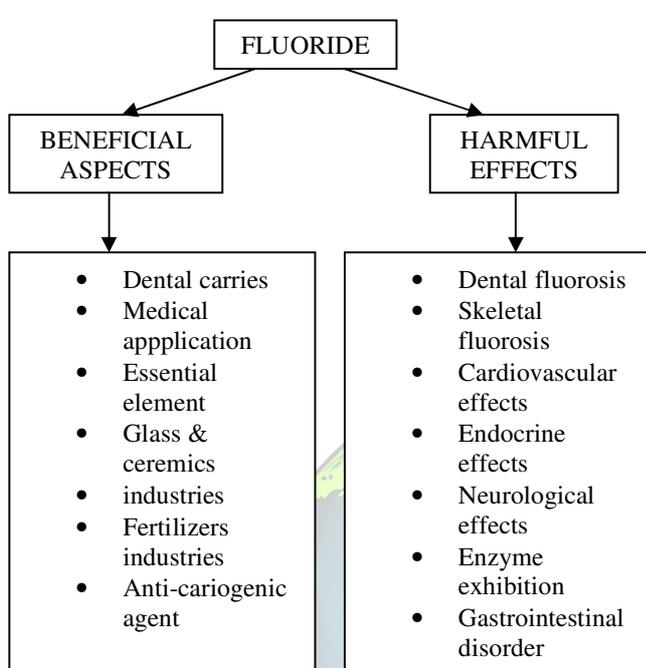
According to International Society for Fluoride Research (ISFR) has implement that increasing rate of fluoride leads to Down's Syndrome, sleeping disorder and Chronic fatigue Syndrome (A.V.Jamode et al. 2004).

To overcome the problem of excess fluoride in water, several researchers have focus on different types of defluoridation techniques. Various techniques have been developed which include membrane separation, natural zeolite, nano-filtration, reverse osmosis, ion-exchange fiber, granular red mud, carbon- nanotubes, precipitation, adsorption. Among several treatment for fluoride removal, adsorbent has been widely used because of its robust, simple and environmental friendly.

Cost-effective adsorbent widely used are tamarind shell, moringa oleifera, groundnut shell carbon, eggshell powder, walnut shell carbon, date palm, rice husk, neem leave, guava leave, activated alumina, lemon leave, Peepal Leave. Fluoride bearing rocks are abundant in India, as a result, fluoride leaches out and contaminates the soil resources and adjacent water. High concentration cause serious problem for human health, animals and may varied from country-to-country. Elemental fluoride is more toxic than its salts. Inteferece of halide with lipids, carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins and mineral metabolism is contributed to high concentration of fluoride which cause dental and skeletal pathology (Gong et al., 2012).

Skeletal pathology affects youngsters. Halide gets deposited within the joints of neck, knee, girdle and shoulder bones and make it troublesome to move or walk. The early symptoms include unpredictable pain, back stiffness, burning like sensation, muscle weakness. Whereas dental pathology characterized by white, opaque areas on the tooth surface, discoloration, spots or horizontal streaks [33].

Psidium guajava leave is a tropical plant belonging to Myrtaceae family easily available in India. Raw leaves contain compounds namely resin, volatile oil, tannin and properties like antioxidant, antidiabetic, antibacterial and anticough used for treatment purpose [24]. *Mimosa pudica* also have properties of anticancer alkaloid, antimalarial, antidepressant, antiparasitic, antimicrobial.



II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. Adsorption study

In all the experiment, 100 ml measuring flask were used containing 50 ml fluoride solution of known concentration (9 mg/l) common to 5 measuring flasks at different pH, contact time and adsorbent dosage. The filtrate was then filtered by whatmann filter paper and was used for fluoride analysis using Fluoride Kit.

B. Stock solution preparation

Fluoride stock solution was prepared by taking 221.01 mg of sodium fluoride (NaF) dissolved in 1L distilled water. 100 ppm of fluoride contain in the stock solution.

C. Adsorbent preparation

Psidium guajava and *Mimosa pudica* leaves were collected in and around Melvisharam area, Vellore District.

Fig. 1 PREPARATION OF ADSORBENT

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE 1
 CHARACTERIZATION OF ADSORBENTS

Parameters	Guava Leaves	Touch-Me-Not
Bulk density (g/cm ³)	0.43	0.45
Particle density (g/cm ³)	0.48	0.50
Water soluble (%)	1.32	1.00
Acid soluble (%)	3.00	1.80
Moisture content (%)	2.46	2.00

Note: Adsorbents were characterised according to European Council of Chemical Manufacturer's Federation (CEFIC).



Table 3 Effect of pH

	pH	Initial Fluoride Conc. C ₀ (mg/l)	Final Conc. C _e (mg/l)	Removal % Of Fluoride
Guava Leaves	2	9	1.80	80
	4	9	1.62	82
	5	9	1.10	87
	6	9	0.54	94
	7	9	0.59	93
Touch-Me-Not	2	9	4.00	55
	4	9	2.10	76
	5	9	0.90	90
	6	9	1.44	84
	7	9	1.44	84

A. Effect of pH

A known amount of adsorbent dosage 0.55 mg were added to each 50 ml fluoride solution in a measuring flask containing 9 mg/l of initial fluoride concentration and then agitated on a orbital shaker at a speed of 120 rpm for 150 min contact time with varying pH 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 as shown in Fig. 2. One of the controlling factor of adsorption is pH of aqueous solution which denotes the hydrogen (H⁺) ion concentration in solution. This experimental work is similar with Sheo Prasad *et al.*, (2016) [24] work, when pH is above 6.5, percentage of fluoride removal decreased. Thus, pH-6 was proceed for further experiment.

B. Effect of Contact time

A known amount of adsorbent dosage 0.55 mg were added to each 50 ml fluoride solution in a measuring flask containing 9 mg/l of initial fluoride concentration and then agitated on a orbital shaker at a speed of 120 rpm at pH-6 with varying contact time 30, 60, 90, 120 and 150 min. Optimum time is obtained at 150 min (Fig. 3) contact time which specific time needed to obtained an equilibrium between solution and surface adsorbents, to ensure the end of adsorption process (Abas *et al.*, 2013) [31].

C. Effect of Adsorbent Dosage

With varying adsorbent dosage 0.15, 0.35, 0.55, 0.75 and 0.95 mg were added to each 50 ml fluoride solution in a measuring flask containing 9 mg/l of initial fluoride concentration and then agitated on a orbital shaker at a speed of 120 rpm for 150 min contact time at pH-6. From Fig. 4 fluoride increase with increase in adsorbent dosage and attains equilibrium at 0.75 and 0.95 mg. Shashikant R.Mise *et al.*, (2014) [32] investigated for fluoride removal efficiency on Phoenix Dactylifera which is similar with this experimental work.

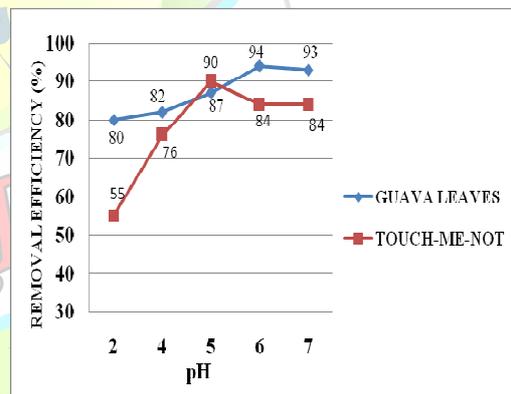


Fig. 2 pH vs Removal % of fluoride

Table 4 Operating condition for effect of contact time

Adsorbent dosage	0.75 mg (Guava Leave and Touch-Me-Not)
pH	6
Volume of sample	50 ml

Table 2 Operating condition for effect of pH

Adsorbent dosage	0.75 mg (Guava Leave and Touch-Me-Not)
Time of contact	150 min
Volume of sample	50 ml



Table 5 Effect Of Contact Time (min)

	Contact Time (min)	Initial Fluoride Conc. C ₀ (mg/l)	Final Conc. C _e (mg/l)	Removal % Of Fluoride
Guava Leaves	30	9	4.5	50
	60	9	2.7	70
	90	9	1.8	80
	120	9	1.23	86
	150	9	1.00	90
Touch-Me-Not	30	9	4.00	55
	60	9	3.20	64
	90	9	2.40	73
	120	9	1.28	86
	150	9	0.80	91

Table 7 Effect of adsorbent dosage

	Adsorbent Dosage (mg)	Initial Fluoride Conc. C ₀ (mg/l)	Final Conc. C _e (mg/l)	Removal % Of Fluoride
Guava Leaves	0.15	9	4.50	50
	0.35	9	3.60	60
	0.55	9	1.62	82
	0.75	9	0.32	96
	0.95	9	0.32	96
	Touch-Me-Not	0.15	9	5.60
0.35		9	4.00	55
0.55		9	0.56	94
0.75		9	1.28	86
0.95		9	1.28	86

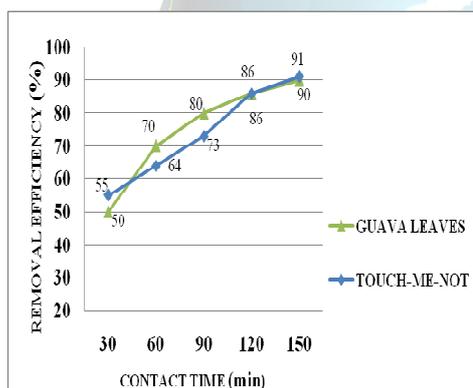


Fig. 3 Contact Time vs Removal % of fluoride

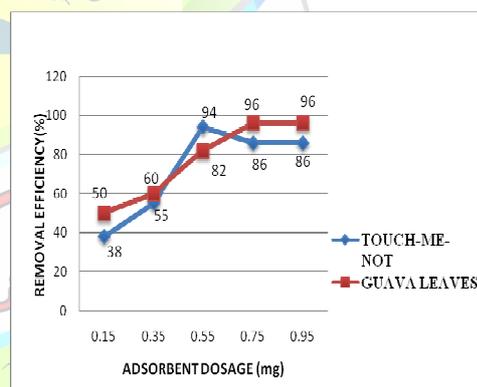


Fig.4 Adsorbent dose vs Removal % of fluoride

Table 6 Operating condition for effect of Adsorbent dosage

Time	150 min
pH	6 (Guava Leave and Touch-Me-Not)
Volume of sample	50 ml

IV. CONCLUSION

- From the overall pH study, using Guava leaves powder adsorbent the percentage of fluoride removal increase as pH increase from 2 to 6, the maximum was obtained **94% at pH 6**. Touch-Me-Not maximum was obtained 90% at pH 5.
- From the overall contact time study, using Guava leaves powder adsorbent the percentage fluoride removal increase with increase in time from 30 to 150 min, the maximum was obtained **90% at 150 min**. Touch-Me-Not maximum was obtained 91% at 150 min.



- From the overall dosage study, Guava leaves maximum was obtained 96% at 0.75 mg, Touch-Me-Not maximum was obtained 94% at 0.55 mg.

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