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Arsenic and Selenium removal from water using Biosynthesized Nanoscale zero-valent iron: A factorial design analysis

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ABSTRACT

Environmentally friendly method is reported for the synthesis of nanoscale zero-valent iron using plant extract as a reducing agent. The biosynthesized nanoparticles were characterized using FESEM, EDS, XRD, FT-IR and TGA. A factorial design analysis was conducted to determine the influence of different factors affecting the removal of arsenic (As) and selenium (Se) from water using biosynthesized nanoscale zero-valent iron. The factors investigated include; pH, adsorbent dosage, initial concentration, contact time and shaker speed. It was observed that the effect of adsorbent dosage was most significant for the removal of arsenic from water. At 95 % confidence level, dosage variation showed more than 30% increase in removal efficiency when it was varied between 10 mg and 100 mg. About 95 % of arsenic removal was recorded using 100 mg adsorbent at solution pH 3. For selenium removal, the effect of adsorbent dosage showed a relatively positive influence. About 90 % removal efficiency was recorded at Se solution of pH 3 which signifies the applicability of the material for real samples.

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