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Author: Chayan Banerjee Nilesh Dudwadkar Subhash Chandra Tripathi Pritam Maniklal Gandhi Vinita Grover Chetan Prakash Kaushik Avesh Kumar Tyagi



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Nano-Cerium Vanadate: A Novel Inorganic Ion Exchanger for Removal of Americium and Uranium from Simulated Aqueous Nuclear Waste

Chayan Banerjee^a, Nilesh Dudwadkar^a, Subhash Chandra Tripathi^{*a}, Pritam Maniklal Gandhi^a, Vinita Grover^b, Chetan Prakash Kaushik^c and Avesh Kumar Tyagi^{*b}

^aFuel Reprocessing Division, ^bWaste Management Division, ^cChemistry Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai 400 085, India. Fax: + 91 22 2550 5151; Tel: + 91 22 2550 5330;

E-mail: aktyagi@barc.gov.in, sctri001@gmail.com

Highlights

- Template free, low temperature synthesis of CeVO₄ nanopowders.
- Thermodynamically and kinetically favourable uptake of Am(III) and U(VI) exhibited.
- K_d and ΔG⁰ values for Am(III) and U(VI) uptake in pH 1-6 are reported.
- Interdiffusion coefficients and zeta potential values in pH 1-6 are reported.

Possible application in low level aqueous nuclear waste remediation.

Abstract

Cerium vanadate nanopowders were synthesized by a facile low temperature co-precipitation method. The product was characterized by X-ray diffraction and transmission electron microscopy and found to consist of ~ 25 nm spherical nanoparticles. The efficiency of these nanopowders for uptake of alpha-emitting radionuclides ²³³U (4.82 MeV α) and ²⁴¹Am (5.49 MeV α, 60 KeV γ) has been investigated. Thermodynamically and kinetically favorable uptake of these radionuclides resulted in their complete removal within 3 hours from aqueous acidic feed solutions. The uptake capacity was observed to increase with increase in pH as the zeta potential value decreased with the increase in pH but effect of ionic strength was insignificant. Little influence of the ions like Sr²⁺, Ru³⁺, Fe³⁺ etc in the uptake process indicated CeVO₄ nanopowders to be amenable for practical applications. The isotherms indicated predominant uptake of the radioactive metal ions in the solid phase of the

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