

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement	i
ABSTRACT	ii
Abstrak	iv
Table of Contents	vi
List of Tables	xi
List of Figures	xiii
List of Plates	xv
Notations	xvi

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background	1-1
1.2 Heavy Metal Pollution in Malaysia	1-2
1.3 Conventional Treatment Methods for Heavy Metal Removal	1-5
1.3.1 General Background	1-5
1.3.2 Precipitation	1-6
1.3.3 Reverse Osmosis	1-7
1.3.4 Ion-exchange	1-8
1.3.5 Electrodialysis	1-9
1.3.6 Solvent Extraction	1-10
1.4 Biologically Based Treatment Technologies	1-11
1.5 Objectives and Scope of Research	1-12

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	General Background	2-1
2.2	Heavy Metals	2-2
2.3	Copper	2-5
2.3.1	General Background	2-5
2.3.2	Copper Toxicity	2-7
2.4	Biological Treatment Methods for Heavy Metal Removal	2-8
2.4.1	Living Biomass as Biosorbent	2-9
2.4.2	Dead Biomass as Biosorbent	2-11
2.5	Algal Biomass as Biosorbent	2-13
2.5.1	pH Effect on the Biosorption Process	2-18
2.5.2	Regeneration of Algal Biomass	2-19
2.6	Immobilisation of Biomass	2-22
2.6.1	General Background	2-22
2.6.2	Methodologies of Immobilisation	2-23
2.6.3	Regeneration of Immobilised Biomass	2-26
2.6.4	Reactor Design for Heavy Metal Removal	2-27

CHAPTER THREE

KINETICS AND EQUILIBRIA OF COPPER BIOSORPTION

3.1	General Background	3-1
3.2	Equilibrium Isotherms	3-3
3.3	Materials and Methods	3-7
3.3.1	Materials	3-7
3.3.2	Methods	3-9

3.4	Results and Discussion	3-11
3.4.1	Immobilisation of <i>S. baccularia</i>	3-11
3.4.2	Kinetics of Copper Biosorption	3-15
3.4.3	Equilibria of Copper Biosorption	3-19
3.5	Conclusions	3-30

CHAPTER FOUR

DESORPTION CHARACTERISTICS OF COPPER ON IMMOBILISED ALGAL BIOMASS

4.1	General Background	4-1
4.2	Materials and Methods	4-3
4.2.1	Materials	4-3
4.2.2	Methods	4-4
4.2.2.1	Copper Desorption Kinetics	4-4
4.2.2.2	Evaluation of Desorbents	4-4
4.2.2.3	Multiple Cycles of Copper Adsorption- Desorption	4-5
4.3	Results and Discussion	4-6
4.3.1	Copper Desorption Kinetics	4-6
4.3.2	Evaluation of Desorbents	4-9
4.3.2.1	Hydrochloric Acid as Desorbent	4-9
4.3.2.2	EDTA as Desorbent	4-16
4.3.3	Multiple Cycles of Copper Adsorption-Desorption	4-18
4.4	Conclusions	4-26

CHAPTER FIVE

BIOSORPTION OF COPPER BY IMMOBILISED ALGAL BIOMASS IN FIXED-BED COLUMN

5.1	General Background	5-1
5.2	Mathematical Modelling of Breakthrough Curves	5-3
5.3	Materials and Methods	5-6
	5.3.1 Materials	5-6
	5.3.2 Methods	5-7
5.4	Results and Discussion	5-9
	5.4.1 Loading of Copper in Fixed-Bed Column	5-9
	5.4.2 Desorption of Copper in Fixed-Bed Column	5-12
	5.4.3 Effect of Flow Rate on the Behaviour of Fixed-Bed Column	5-17
	5.4.4 Effect of Influent Copper Concentration on the Behaviour of Fixed-Bed Column	5-20
	5.4.5 Modelling Breakthrough Data by A Two Parameter Fixed-Bed Model	5-24
5.5	Conclusions	5-28

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1	Summary	6-1
6.2	Recommendations for Future Studies	6-7

REFERENCES

R-1

APPENDIX I

Seaweed Biomass Collection Site

A-1

4
3
2
1
0

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1	Malaysia: Status of marine water quality, 1996.	1-3
Table 2.1	Classification of elements according to toxicity and availability.	2-3
Table 2.2	Maximum permissible concentration of various metals in natural waters for the protection of human health.	2-5
Table 2.3	Ionisable groups in biological polymers capable of participating in metal binding.	2-16
Table 3.1	Langmuir isotherm parameters at pH 3.0 and 6.0 for the native biomass of <i>S. bacularia</i> .	3-20
Table 3.2	Langmuir isotherm parameters at pH 3.0 and 6.0 for the immobilised biomass of <i>S. bacularia</i> .	3-25
Table 4.1	S/L ratio and CF values with HCl at pH 1.0 as desorbent.	4-11
Table 4.2	Desorption efficiency and reloading efficiency in five consecutive cycles of copper adsorption and desorption using HCl at pH 1.0 as desorbent.	4-22
Table 4.3	Desorption efficiency and reloading efficiency in five consecutive cycles of copper adsorption and desorption using 2 mM EDTA solution as desorbent.	4-23
Table 4.4	Total amount of copper adsorbed and desorbed and the recovery percentage over five cycles of adsorption-desorption.	4-24

Table 5.1 Estimated values of t_0 , σ , k_1 and k_2 .

5-25

7
4
3
7
1
2

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 3.1 Kinetics of copper biosorption by the native biomass of *Sargassum baccularia*. 3-16
- Figure 3.2 Kinetics of copper biosorption by the immobilised biomass of *Sargassum baccularia* and pure PVA beads. 3-17
- Figure 3.3 Effect of initial solution pH on the equilibria of copper biosorption on the native biomass of *Sargassum baccularia*. The solid lines are fitted curves using the Langmuir model. 3-21
- Figure 3.4 Effect of initial solution pH on the equilibria of copper biosorption on the immobilised biomass of *Sargassum baccularia*. The solid lines are fitted curve using the Langmuir model. 3-26
- Figure 3.5 Copper accumulation ratios in solution containing different amounts of copper at pH 3.0 and 6.0. 3-29
- Figure 4.1 Kinetics of copper desorption from immobilised biomass of *Sargassum baccularia*. Desorbents used were HCl at pH 1.0 and pH 2.0 and 8 mM EDTA solution. 4-8
- Figure 4.2 Effect of solid-to-liquid ratio on copper desorption efficiency. Desorbent = HCl at pH 1.0. 4-12
- Figure 4.3 Effect of desorbent volume on copper concentration in the desorbent. Desorbent = HCl at pH 1.0. 4-13

Figure 4.4	Copper desorption efficiency as a function of EDTA concentration.	4-17
Figure 4.5	Five consecutive cycles of copper adsorption-desorption using HCl at pH 1.0 as desorbent.	4-20
Figure 4.6	Five consecutive cycles of copper adsorption-desorption using 2 mM EDTA solution as desorbent.	4-21
Figure 5.1	Copper breakthrough curves at column outlet. Column size: 1.6 cm I.D. and 20 cm length. Flow rate: 1.0 mL/min.	5-10
Figure 5.2	Effluent pH for three copper loading experiments.	5-13
Figure 5.3	Copper desorption curves at column outlet. Column size: 1.6 cm I. D. and 20 cm length. Flow rate: 1.0 mL/min.	5-14
Figure 5.4	Effluent pH for three copper desorption experiments.	5-16
Figure 5.5	Breakthrough curves at two column flow rates. Inlet copper concentration = 0.3 mM (20 mg/L).	5-18
Figure 5.6	Breakthrough curves for copper loading at two inlet copper concentrations. Column flow rate = 1.0 ml/min.	5-21
Figure 5.7	Effect of inlet copper concentration on copper removal by immobilised <i>Sargassum bacularia</i> beads.	5-22
Figure 5.8	Theoretical and experimental column breakthrough curves at flow rate of 1.0 ml/min and influent copper concentration of 0.3 mM (20 mg/L).	5-26

Figure 5.9 Theoretical and experimental column breakthrough curves at flow rate of 1.5 ml/min and influent copper concentration of 0.3 mM (20 mg/L). 5-27

LIST OF PLATES

Plate 5.1 Laboratory set up for the fixed-bed column. 5-8