

## Testing the efficiency of *Phragmitus australis* in reduce Nickel(ii) chloride and Cobalt(ii) chloride concentrations

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### Abstract

The present study was conducted to determine the ability of *Phragmitus australis* plant to reduce the concentration of metals in its solutions, where *Phragmitus australis* plant was exposed to three different concentrations (10, 20, 30) ppm of Nickel(II) chloride and Cobalt(II) chloride concentrations for 30 days. The results of the study showed an increase in the concentration of zinc and iron in *Phragmitus australis* tissues at the end of the study compared to the control.

**Keywords:** Nickel(II) chloride, Cobalt (II) chloride, physiological, and response plants

### Introduction

The ability to absorb and accumulate heavy metal pollutants in waterbodies is possessed by a number of macrophytes, or aquatic plants, that thrive in ponds and streams [1]. A greater concentration of heavy metals in water supplies has deleterious consequences on all living things, even though aquatic plants need them to develop [2]. By removing heavy metals from contaminated water sources, macrophytes function as a natural filter, or biofilter. Contaminated water is biofiltered by the macrophytes' bioaccumulation and biomagnification of heavy metallic ions [3]. Bioaccumulation and biosorption are the methods by which heavy metals are absorbed by plant species. The affinity of aquatic plants for heavy metals determines their absorption capacity. Accumulates the absorbed metal ion in various parts of it. The process is simple and cost-effective [4]. The plants are also suitable for usage in soils and water that have been tainted by chemicals, organic solvents, radioactive materials, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, etc. Using *Azolla caroliniana*, a cultured solution of chromium and mercury ions was treated [5]. The heavy metals were easily captured in an environmentally responsible manner using the phytoremediation procedure. Plant tissues or roots are where heavy metals accumulate and break down innocuously [6]. Therefore, a large amount of heavy metals are stored using botanical organisms in phytoremediation processes. Changing the pH causes the active metal–ligand complex to be destroyed, which removes the heavy metals that have been absorbed from beetroot fibers. This led to the effective removal of the metal from aquatic biomass [7]. Benefits of beetroot fiber biofilters include their inexpensive cost, ability to function throughout a broad pH and temperature range, effectiveness in treating hardness and salt in water, and removal of low concentration metal pollutants [8]. The greater humic acid content of these plant parts is thought to be the cause of their ability to bind metals and retain water. In the acquisition of heavy metals from polluted water, *Phragmites australis* and *Typha latifolia* have demonstrated synergistic effects [9]. A viable sustainable method for wastewater treatment is the use of macrophytes to facilitate the bioaccumulation and natural biodegradation of heavy metals [10]. According to this strategy, heavy metals should be completely removed by plant species. Furthermore, the

research demonstrates that consumers may be impacted by greens cultivated in contaminated water [11].

### Materials and Methods

The purpose of the experiment was to determine whether the *Phragmitus australis* plant could lower the concentrations of lead and cadmium chloride by weighing 50 g of the plant. Each plant was planted separately in four ten-liter plastic pots. According to the necessary test, growth monitoring and sampling continued for four weeks. Weekly plant samples were taken from the ponds to estimate the concentrations of heavy metals in aquatic plant tissues and the rate at which nickel (II) chloride and cobalt (II) chloride concentrations were removed.

### Results & Discussion

The results showed that *Phragmitus australis* was accumulating the element. Ni Figure 1, due to the fact that aquatic plants take heavy elements from sediments and water for the purpose of growth and development, and they also work to accumulate some toxic elements that have no importance in the plant, the Figure (2) showed that *Phragmitus australis* is accumulating the element Co. These findings support the hypothesis put forth by Guo-Xin *et al.* (2005) that the ability of aquatic plants to tolerate varying concentrations of heavy elements and to continue growing is due to the potential for a balance in the levels of both molecular and enzymatic antioxidants, including proline, peroxidase, total phenols, and others, as well as the potential for an increase in the secretion of cellular metabolic products like glutamine and cysteine. In contrast, Al-Wahaibi (2007) reported that when plants absorb heavy elements, they promote the production of plant compounds called plant chelates, which encircle the polluting element atoms and hold them in vacuoles found in plant tissues' cells or through the cells of plants and animals. These compounds are crucial in eliminating toxicity because they bind to the elements inside the cell. These components can be kept from building up at the target areas by being transformed into inert forms (harmless salt crystals) and then stored in insensitive locations like vacuoles or transformed into other non-toxic forms that can be dispersed and utilized once more in metabolic processes (Memon *et al.*, 2000).

The results showed that the highest removal rate of Ni was at a concentration of 10 ppm compared to other concentrations as in Figure (3), and the highest removal rate of Co was at a concentration of 10 ppm also compared to other concentrations as in Figure (4), and the removal rate of lead was higher than cadmium by *Phragmitus australis*, which means that plant tissues affect the adsorption and absorption processes and the ability of aquatic plants to accumulate heavy elements, The hazardous elements are attached to the cell walls in the roots or leaves, which stops them from moving through the plant sap. Alternatively, they are ejected to insensitive locations within the cell or stored in the gaps by a unique process. This is how the elements build up inside the plant body. According to research on the

*papyrus Typha domingensis*, the thousand-leaf *Myriophyllum verticillatum*, and *Ceratophyllum dimerism*, the quantities of these elements in aquatic plants are higher than those in water (Alkam 2002, Salman 2006). In addition to variations in the physiological, chemical, and molecular mechanisms of the accumulation process, the bioaccumulation of heavy elements in plant tissues is contingent upon the species of the plant, the physical and chemical characteristics of the soil and water, and the specificity of element absorption and transfer (Scheers, 2013). Because plant tissues undergo adsorption and absorption processes, they are more suited to represent pollution than water (Guo-Xin *et al.*, 2005).

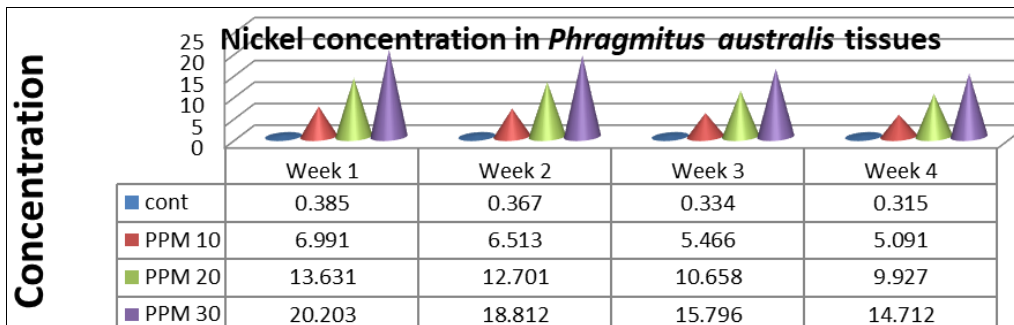


Fig 1: Variation in Nickel concentration during the experiment period in *Phragmitus australis* tissues (mg/g dry weight)

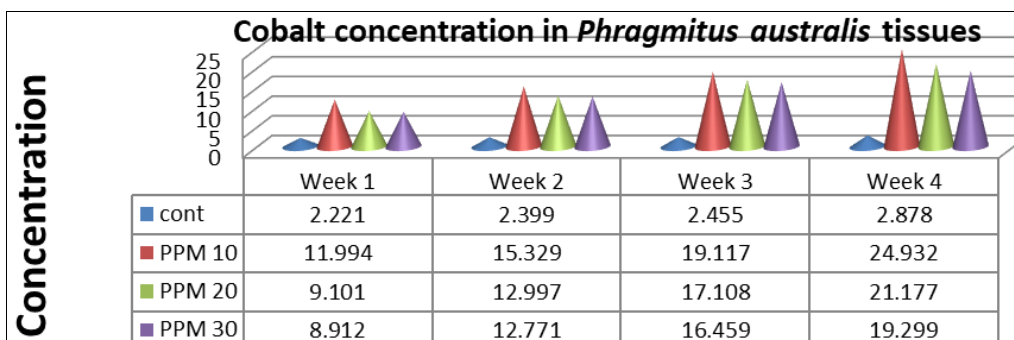


Fig 2: Variation in Cobalt concentration during the experiment period in *Phragmitus australis* tissues (mg/g dry weight)

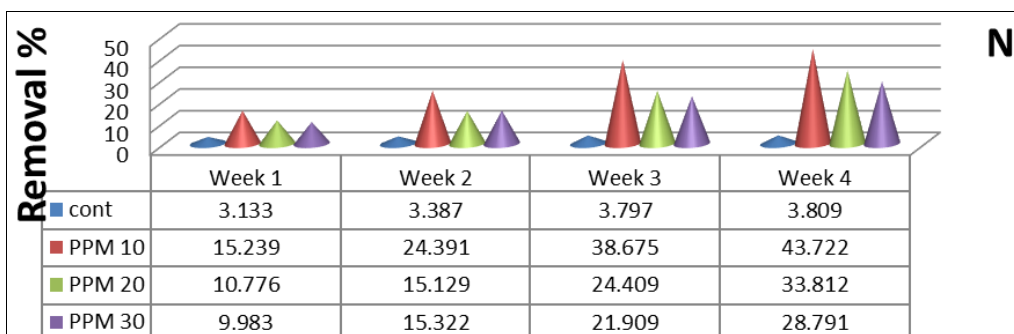


Fig 3: Percentage of removal nickel from its aqueous solutions by the *Phragmitus australis* plant

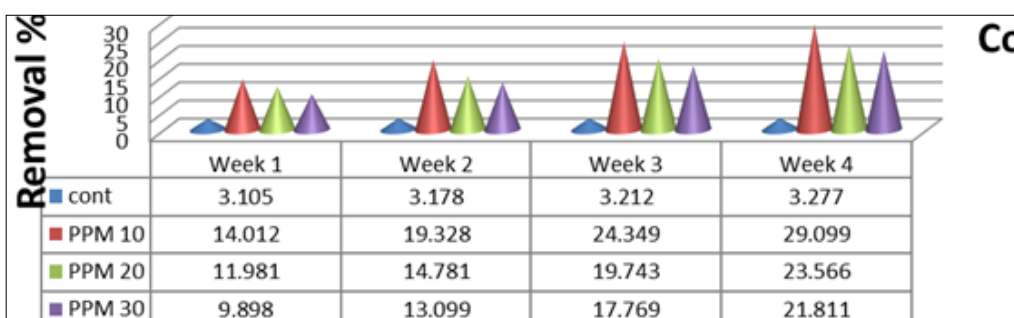


Fig 4: Percentage of removal of cobalt from its aqueous solutions by the *Phragmitus australis* plant

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