## Desalination and Water Treatment www.deswater.com

doi: 10.5004/dwt.2018.21931

## Biosorptive removal of cobalt from aqueous solution by using native and thiourea modified *Pennisetum glaucum*

Amna Yousaf<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Makshoof Athar<sup>a</sup>, Muhammad Salman<sup>a</sup>, Umar Farooq<sup>a</sup>, Nouman Makshoof<sup>c,d</sup>, Zoya Zaman<sup>b</sup>, Mahnoor Sohail<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Institute of Chemistry, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan, Tel. +92 321 4005225, Fax +92 42 920 3788,

email: amna.yousaf@kinnaird.edu.pk (A. Youasf), Tel. +92 42 99231269, Fax +92 42 99230998, email: makshoof.chem@pu.edu.pk (M. Athar), Tel. +92 333 4508912, Fax +92 42 99230998,

email: salman.chem@pu.edu.pk (M. Salman), Tel. +92 333 6388213, Fax +92 42 99230998, email: umar.chem@pu.edu.pk (U. Farooq)

<sup>b</sup>Department of Chemistry, Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan, Tel. 0345 4163584, Fax +92 42 920 3788,

email: Zoya909zaman@gmail.com (Z. Zaman)

<sup>c</sup>Lasonde School of Engineering, York University, Canada, Tel. +92 336 7037998, email: Nouman.bs.icet@pu.edu.pk,

Nouman95@yorku.ca (N. Makshoof), Tel. 0324 4060733, Fax +92 42 920 3788, email: Mahnooor33@hotmail.com (M. Sohail)

<sup>d</sup>Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan

Received 12 August 2017; Accepted 17 January 2018

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this investigative research is to find the acceptable solution for the removal of Co(II) by using native and modified *Pennisetum glaucum*. Comparison of biosorption parameters for native and modified material confirmed the promising efficiency of modified material due to active functionalities and exposed surface area. Physiological characteristics were observed by SEM, EDX and FT-IR analysis. Biosorption batch process was performed as function of biosorbent dose, contact time, initial Co(II) ion concentration, solution temperature and pH. Experimental data was investigated by known isothermal models. The Langmuir isotherm fitted well and the RMSE value was calculated using the non-linear approach. Kinetic studies followed the pseudo-second order and thermodynamic parameters ensured the appreciable biosorption behavior of thiourea modified Pennisetum glaucum.

Keywords: Pennisetum glaucum; Biosorption; Kinetic studies; Thermodynamic; Thiourea

\*Corresponding author.