

**REMOVAL OF POLLUTANTS IN  
PARBOILED PADDY WASTEWATER**



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**H.W.G.I. KARUNARATNE**

**UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA  
SRI LANKA**

**JULY 2010**

# **REMOVAL OF POLLUTANTS IN PARBOILED PADDY WASTEWATER**

By

**H.W.G.I. KARUNARATNE**



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

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THIS THESIS WAS SUBMITTED TO THE

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL AND PROCESS ENGINEERING

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL AND PROCESS ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA

MORATUWA

SRI LANKA

**JULY 2010**

## DECLARATION

I certify that this dissertation does not incorporate any material previously submitted for any degree or diploma in any university without stating the references to the best of my knowledge and belief and it does not contain any material previously published, written or orally communicated by another person without acknowledgement.

.....

H.W.G.I. Karunaratne

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I endorse the declaration by the candidate.

.....

Supervisor

Dr. M.Y. Gunasekera

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is a great pleasure to acknowledge several people and institutions without whose support, my research would not have been successful. First, I would like to offer grateful thanks to my supervisor Dr. (Ms.) Manisha Gunasekera, Senior Lecturer, Department of Chemical & Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa who guided and supervised me throughout the research beyond my perspectives. Then my sincere thanks are due to Prof. Ajith De Alwis and Dr. Shantha Walpalage, Professor and Senior Lecturer, Department of Chemical & Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa for their valuable comments, suggestions and encouragement as my progress review committee members.

I must specially thank Dr. Jagath Premachandra and all the lecturers of Department of Chemical & Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa for helping me in various aspects. I am glad to mention that my research interest was promoted by approval of my research project by Post Graduate Division and the funding from Senate Research Grant of University of Moratuwa.

All the staff of Environmental Engineering, Food & Microbiology, Chemistry, Latex Technology and Energy Engineering laboratories specially Ms. Dinusha Martino, Ms. Amali Wahalathanthri, Mr. Hughwale Fernando are gratefully acknowledged for their support in various occasions.

I offer my sincere gratitude to Rohana Rice Mills, Marandagahamula for giving me an opportunity to visit their rice mill and providing wastewater samples. Mr. Arthur Jayawardena and Mr. Yashan Wickramasinghe, who engaged in paddy industry, are reminded with heartfelt thanks for helping me in various ways.

The encouragement and support from my beloved family members are invaluable, making this research successful. Finally, my warm thanks are due to all post graduate colleagues specially, Ms. Dilini Dhanusekara, Ms. Gayani Jayatunga, Ms. Irosha Kularathna, Ms. Kavitha, Ms. Mihiri Gunathilake, Ms. Nimalika Perera, Ms. Sudeepama Walliwala, Ms. Thanuja Pathiraja and Mr. Dinuka Hewawalpita for giving me their best support.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| BOD   | Biological Oxygen Demand                        |
| COD   | Chemical Oxygen Demand                          |
| FAU   | Formazin Attenuation Units                      |
| GAC   | Granular Activated Carbon                       |
| RPRDC | Rice Processing Research and Development Centre |
| TKN   | Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen                         |
| TOC   | Total Organic Carbon                            |
| TSS   | Total Suspended Solids                          |
| VSS   | Volatile Suspended Solids                       |



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# ABSTRACT

Parboiling is a widely used paddy processing method where paddy is soaked in water to hydrate before the subsequent steaming, drying and milling operations. A significant amount of water is used in this soaking operation which is then discharged as wastewater. The continuous discharge of this wastewater has become an environmental concern in the paddy parboiling industry in Sri Lanka.

In this study important characteristics of the effluent generated from two existing paddy soaking operations practiced in Sri Lanka namely hot soaking and cold soaking were initially determined. This analysis was done for wastewater resulting from soaking two rice varieties available locally, namely LD 356 a red rice and BG 300 which is a white rice. Characterization study showed pollutant levels higher in paddy soak wastewater than the stipulated local discharge standards (Appendix C). Wastewater generated from both hot soaking and cold soaking of red rice variety showed relatively higher COD and BOD values compared to those of wastewater from white rice variety. Hot soaking wastewater had higher COD and BOD values than cold soaking wastewater. The wastewater generated from hot soaking of red rice which showed higher pollutant strength is further studied for pollutant removal methods.

Biological treatment methods such as aerobic, anaerobic and physical treatment methods such as coagulation and adsorption were investigated. Removal of pollutants by aquatic plants and biological treatment using various microbial seeding sources such as cow dung, rice straw, pond water and paddy field soil were also studied. Results show that microbial sources from pond water and paddy field soil were able to reduce COD in soak wastewater by 96% and 94% respectively at pH 8 under aerobic and dark conditions. Combined treatment of anaerobic digestion and coagulation was able to reduce 94% COD while the combination of adsorption and coagulation reduced COD by 92%. Treatment of a wastewater sample collected from a paddy parboiling rice mill in Marandagahamula area using pond water as the microbial source showed a 93% COD reduction.