NEW METHODS FOR COPPER AND SULPHIDE IONS RETAINING FROM WASTEWATER

Silvia Patachia*, Luminita Isac, Mihaela Rinja

“Transilvania” University of Brasov, Chemistry Department, 29 Eroilor Str., Brasov, Code 500036, Romania

Abstract

This paper presents a study of the poly(vinyl alcohol) hydrogel [PVA-HG] capacity for retaining the cupper and sulphide ions from the waste water. PVA-HG-s have been obtained by the freezing-thawing repeated cycles method, starting from the aqueous solution of a PVA with 900 polymerization degree and 98% hydrolysis degree. Opaque, heterogeneous, white membranes of PVA hydrogel have been obtained. These have been immersed in a basic solution of CuSO₄, and a green complex of PVA-HG has been obtained. The distribution constant of cupper ions between the hydrogel and the aqueous solution has been determined as approximately 14. The complexed hydrogel has been immersed in ammonium sulphide solutions, with different concentration, and the sulphide ions have been retained in the hydrogel membranes. Black nano-particles of CuS have been obtained and retained in the hydrogel matrix. The distribution constant of the sulphide ions between the hydrogel and the aqueous solution has been determined to be approximately 14, that is mean that the amount of the cupper ions from the membrane determines the amount of the sulphide ions retention. Taking into account that PVA is a non-toxic, non-carcinogenic, biocompatible, biodegradable and non-expensive material, its capacity of cupper and sulphide ions retention from the waste water could be an alternative solution to water purification.

Keywords: poly(vinyl alcohol) hydrogel, retention of Cu²⁺ and S²⁻, waste water