

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2020.912.389>

Wastewater Treatment of Artificial Sugar Mill Effluent through Medicinal Plant Sweet Flag and Water Hyssop on Floating Wetland Systems

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Constructed wetlands, Sweet flag, Water hyssop, Biological oxygen demand, Dissolved oxygen

Article Info

Accepted:

25 November 2020

Available Online:

10 December 2020

Jiggery cake has been introduced into aquatic ecosystem, which could lead to potential negative consequences for the BOD and DO of that aquatic ecosystem. An artificial floating wetland planted with Vachha (*Acorus calamus*) and Brahmi (*Bacopa monnieri*) was evaluated. Brahmi and vachha also known as water hyssop and Sweet flag respectively. pH, EC, BOD and DO were monitored continuously for every 15 day interval on 2 months. In this study we assured the contaminant removal potential of two plant species Vacha (*Acorus calamus*) and Brahmi (*Bacopa monnieri*) from wastewater in artificial floating wetland system. Sweet flag and water hyssop removal wastewater BOD from 63-75%, and 67-81% respectively.

Introduction

Potable water is the most essential natural resources for life. Water is the only natural resource that exist in all three states (solid, liquid, and gas). This precious resource is consumed by human, plants, livestock, and many others directly. Consumption and discharge rate of water abruptly upsurge after

industrialization, and modernization of agriculture. Discharging of untreated wastewater into environment leads to contaminations of fresh water resources (Kumar *et al.*, 2019; Malyan *et al.*, 2019). Wastewater discharged from households, industries, storm runoff, agricultural runoff, mining activity, etc., have high level of organic matter load, nitrogen, phosphorus,

heavy metals, pesticides, antibiotics, etc. (Singh *et al.*, 2018, 2012) and they should be removed before discharged in to any external water bodies. High organic and nutrient load, have negative impact of water bodies and they change the microbial and macro population. Pesticides and heavy metals are carcinogenic in nature and have adverse effect on human health (Kumar *et al.*, 2019). Presently, many wastewater treatments methodologies such as coagulation (Kumar *et al.*, 2018), phytoremediation (Kumar *et al.*, 2017a), microbial fuel cells (Kumar *et al.*, 2017b), reverse osmosis (Zhao *et al.*, 2020), etc. were used for the treatment of wastewater globally. Chemical treatments systems are not cost effective and their application have limitations especially in developing countries. Therefore, biological treatments system such as constructed wetlands can be efficiently used for the onsite wastewater treatment in economical manner.

Constructed wetlands are decentralized, low-energy, low-cost systems which are used for improving the water quality. They rely on natural wetland function which includes plants and microorganisms which uptake and breakdown the wastewater nutrients either aerobically or an aerobically. These systems are responsible for providing multiple benefits like improvement in water quality, water security & reuse, CO₂ reduction, provides habitat for many plants and animals. It also acts as a source for recreation, education, aesthetic/amenity value. Plants (free- floating, emergent or submergence vegetation) are the part of constructed ecosystem to remediate contaminants from municipal, industrial wastewater, metals, acid mine drainage. The performance of CW depends on many factors including its type and design, organic loading rate and hydraulic retention time (Vymazal, 2010). Selection of plant species for treatment of wastewater by CWs always remains a difficulty to scientists working in this area

because metabolism of the macrophytes affects the treatment processes to different extents depending on the type of the CW. The plants species used in CWs designed for wastewater treatment should therefore: (1) be tolerant of high organic and nutrient loadings, (2) have rich below-ground organs (i.e. roots and rhizomes) in order to provide substrate for attached bacteria and oxygenation (even very limited) of areas adjacent to roots and rhizomes and (3) have high above-ground biomass for winter insulation in cold and temperate regions and for nutrient removal via harvesting. The aim of this study is to the removal efficiency assessment of constructed wetlands for wastewater treatments.

Materials and Methods

Description of study site and experimental design

The present study was carried out in the experimental area of Environmental Hydrology Division, National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, India (Fig. 1) to assess wastewater treatment by Vacha (*Acorus calamus*) and Brahmi (*Bacopa monnieri*). Other common name of Vacha and Brahmi are sweet-flag and water hyssop respectively.

Healthy plant of both sweet-flag and water hyssop were collected from commercial botanical garden of Roorkee, Uttarakhand, India. Before using in experiment both the plants species are acclimatized in fresh water for the period of two weeks.

The experiment consist of three treatments namely 1- control (wastewater), 2-sweet-flag, and 3-water hyssop (Fig. 2). The experiment was carried out in complete randomized design (CRD) with triplicate of each treatment. The experiment was continuously run 60 days (from-1 March, 2019 to 30 April 2019).

Characterization of artificial sugar mill effluent

When we mixed 250gram of bad quality jiggery on 1000liters fresh water then we notice water quality parameters were changed as compare to fresh water we found BOD level of this wastewater was ranges from 140 to 170 mg/l, pH value was ranges from 6.14 to 7.24, electrical conductivity was ranges from 500 to 710 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ and dissolved oxygen was ranges from 0.6 to 1.38 mg/l.

Sampling, chemical analysis and analytical methods

In this study synthetic wastewater is used and it was analyzed for physico-chemical parameter such pH, EC ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$), dissolved oxygen (mg/L), and biological oxygen demand (mg/L). During the experiment, wastewater sample was taken out from each replication on 0, 15, 30, 45, and 60 days after experiment. Sampling and analysis were done as prescribed by APHA (2012).

pH, and EC were measured on site using pH electrode (Model no-WTW Mutli 3320) and electrical conductivity meter (Model no-Hach HQ30d) respectively. DO, BOD, were measured in laboratory of the Division as per APHA (2012) standard protocol.

Calculation of removal efficiency

The removal efficiency of sweet flag and water hyssop for the reduction of contaminated was calculated using equation given below:

$$\text{Reduction (\%)} = \frac{(\text{Cin} - \text{Cout})}{\text{Cin}} * 100$$

Where, Cin =pollutant concentration in inlet wastewater, and Cout =pollutant concentration in outlet wastewater.

Statistical analysis

Data collected from the experiment on various aspects were tabulated and analyzed statistically by using the technique of analysis of variance for randomized block design and analyzed by the method of analysis of variance as described by Gomez and Gomez (1984).

In order to compute the mean value of treatments, standard error and critical values were calculated as follow:

1. Standard error of mean $\text{SEm} \pm = \sqrt{\text{Ve}}$
2. Critical difference (CD) = $\text{SEm} (d) \times t$ value at 5% error (df)
3. Coefficient of variation (CV)= $(\text{Ve} / \text{gm}) \times 100$

Where,

df = degree of freedom,
ss = sum of squares,
mss = mean sum of squares,
Ve = error variance,
r = replication,
gm = general mean,
t = treatments

Results and Discussion

Trends of pH and electrical conductivity (EC)

Figure 3 a shows the variations of pH and EC in the control, sweet flag, and water hyssop treatments in this study. pH in control, sweet flag and water hyssop treatments were 6.42, 6.53, and 6.67 respectively, on 0 days after experiment (DAE) (Fig. 3a). In this study, wastewater pH, in control, sweet flag, and water hyssop treatments rise slight on 15 DAE, and then reduced slight on 30 DAE (Fig. 3a). pH at the end of experiment (60, DAE) was 6.73, 6.54, and 6.67 in control,

sweet flag, and water hyssop treatment respectively. This variation in pH may due to the change environmental factors such temperature, and rainfall. The change in temperature change the microbial population in constructed which may responsible for this trends of pH(V. Kumar *et al.*, 2019).

The EC trends of in control, sweet flag, and water hyssop were represented in Fig. 3b. EC in control, sweet flag and water hyssop treatments ranged from 514 to 649 ($\mu\text{s}/\text{cm}$), 580-645($\mu\text{s}/\text{cm}$), and 542-637($\mu\text{s}/\text{cm}$) respectively, in study (Fig. 3b). In this study, wastewater EC was highest in the beginning of the study and it start drop with the progress in experiment. Irrespective to treatments, EC on 60 DAE is lower than the EC on 0 days DAE (Fig. 3b).

Removal efficiency of sweet flag and water hyssop in constructed wetland

Variations in the biological oxygen demand (BOD), dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration were represented in Fig. 4. BOD and DO are generally inversely proportional in wastewater and they are affected by environmental parameters such as temperature, rainfall, etc. (Ansari *et al.*,

2015). BOD in the control treatment was significantly higher than sweet flag and water hyssop (Fig. 4a). Irrespective of treatments, the BOD in this reduced with time and it was higher on 0 DAE than the 60 DAE (Fig. 4a). BOD was significantly removed by sweet flag and water hyssop (Fig. 4a). Removal efficiency of BOD with control ranged from 19 to 31% (Table 1). The averaged performances (complete experiment) with control for the BOD removal were 23% (Table 1). Wastewater itself has microbial population which consumed organic matter as carbon source and therefore results in this reduction in even control treatment. The BOD removal efficiency with sweet flag, and water hyssop treatment was significantly higher than control and it ranged from 63 to 75%, and 67 to 81% respectively (Table 1). The average BOD removal was 66% and 71% with sweet flag and water hyssop in this study (Table 1). Mean BOD removal in sweet flag, and water hyssop was 43% and 48% higher than control (Table 1). Sweet flag and water hyssop uptake several nutrient from wastewater including organic carbon for its growth and development(Noor *et al.*, 2017) which had resulted in higher BOD reduction in this treatments.

Table.1 Removal efficiency (%) of sweet flag and water hyssop in constructed wetlands

Parameters	Time (days)					
	0	15	30	45	60	Average
Control						
BOD	18.75	20.00	25.00	21.43	31.25	23.29
DO	25.00	44.44	40.54	50.00	35.00	39.00
Sweet flag						
BOD	62.50	67.0	63.0	64.0	75.00	66.19
DO	-75.00	-56.00	-89.00	-92.00	-120	-86.28
Water hyssop						
BOD	68.75	66.67	68.75	71.43	81.25	71.37
DO	-62.50	-44.44	-71.17	-108.33	-140.00	-85.29
-sign indicate higher than control						

Fig.1 Map showing study site (National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, India)

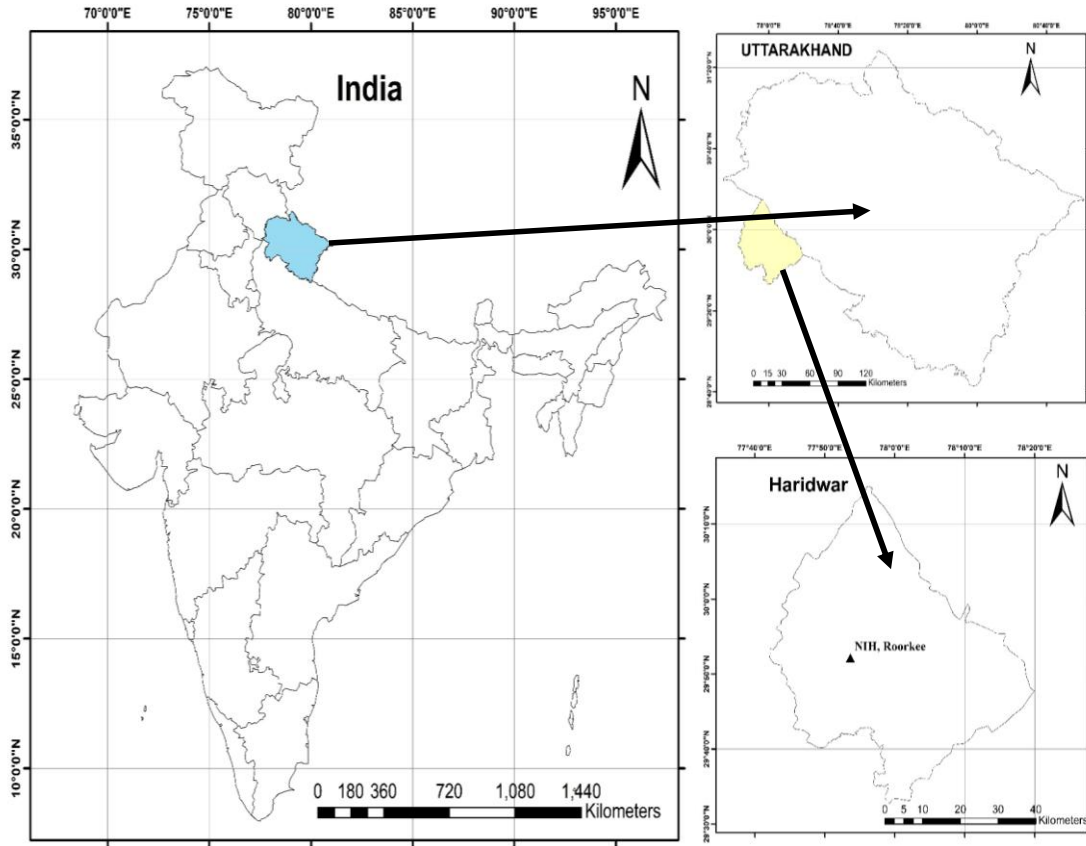


Fig.2 Experimental setup used in this study



Fig.3 Trends of pH and EC in the phytoremediation experiment

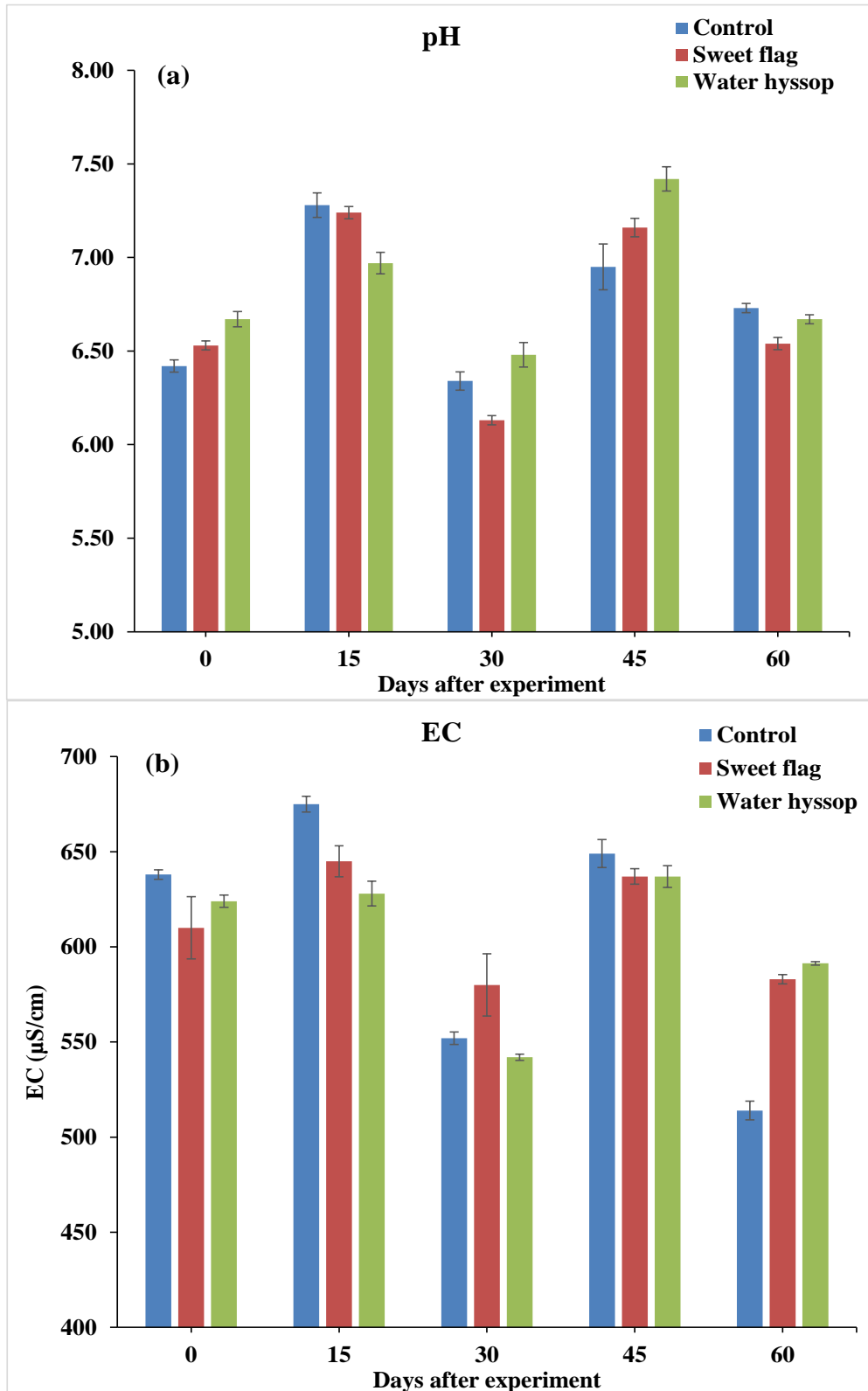


Fig.4 Variations of biological oxygen demand and dissolved oxygen

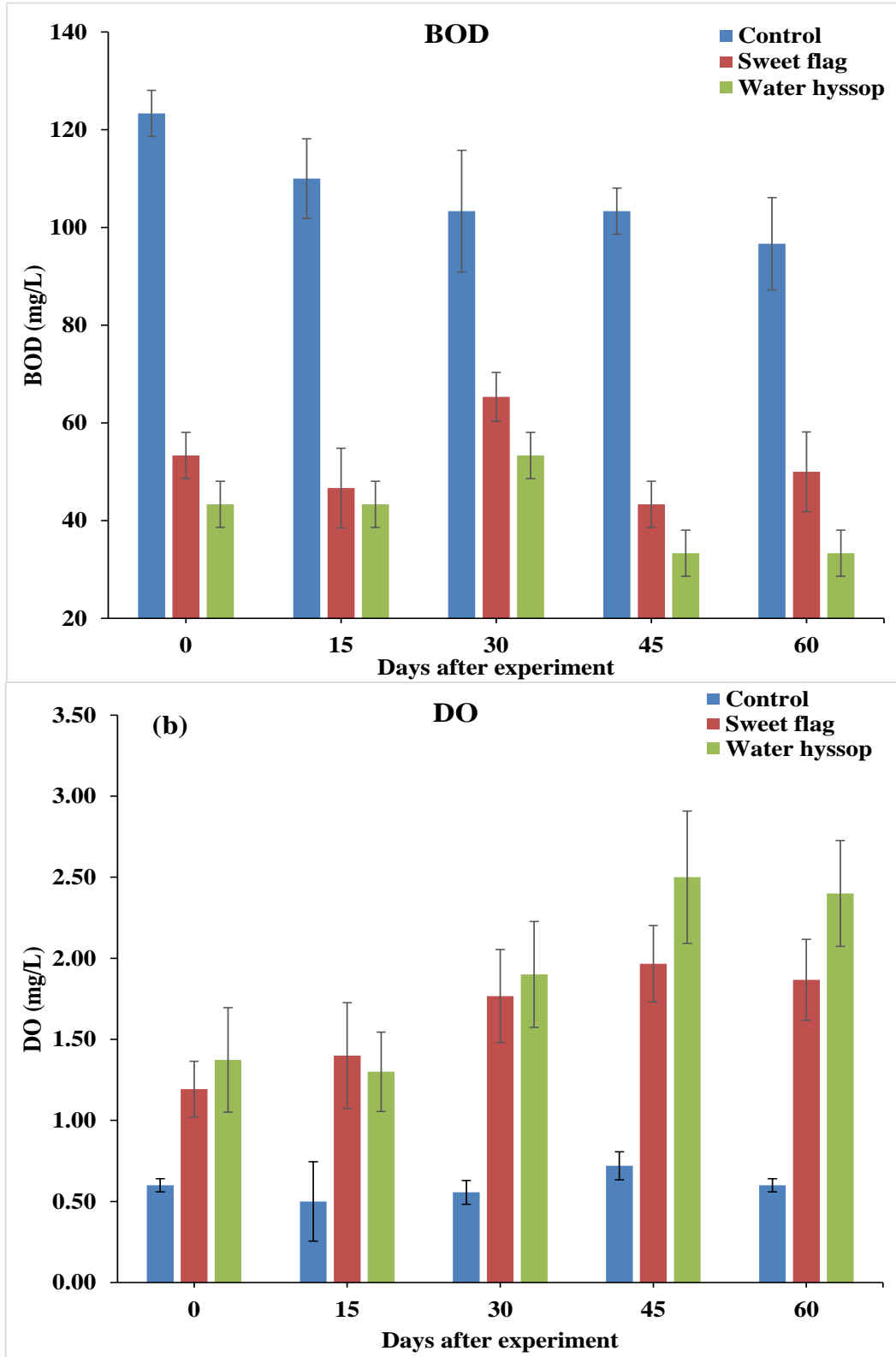
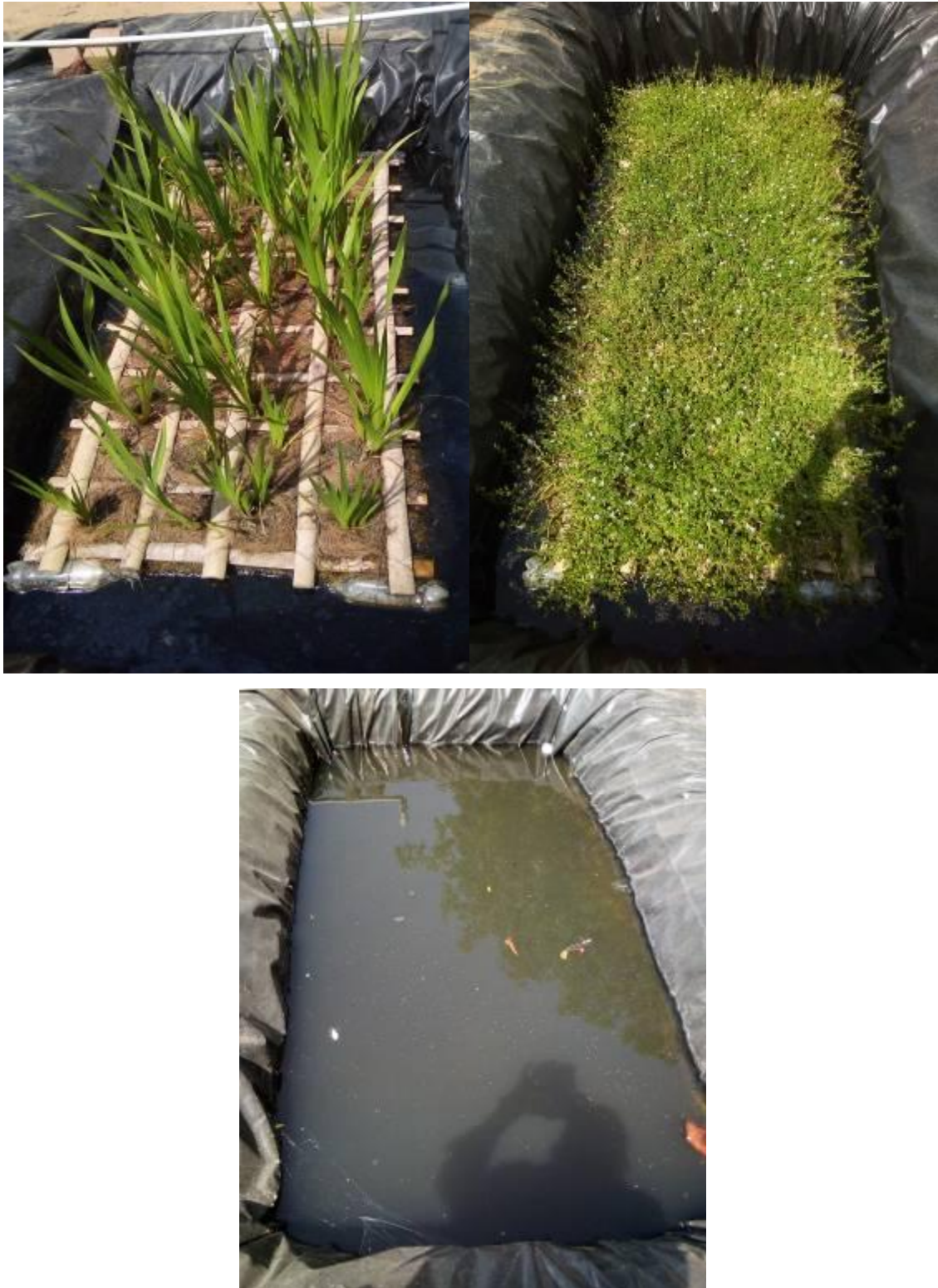


Fig.5



DO is one of the most crucial parameter which affect the microbial degradation in the bioremediation process. In this study, DO in control treatment was lowest (Fig. 4b). The concentration of DO increased with removal of organic pollution load. The concentration of DO at the end of experiment of higher then the DO concentration in the starting of experiment (Fig. 4b). The DO in this study increased with time (Table 1). The average DO in water hyssop increased by 85% (Table 1) which might be due to lower organic pollution load at this stage.

Hence concluded, this study of constructed wetland using water hyssop and sweet flag required as an effective and sustainable approach to treat wastewater. The result indicated high removal efficiency of BOD from wastewater in which water hyssop and sweet flag removed BOD by 67-81% and 63-75% respectively from wastewater and meet the standard regulation for clean water quality. Therefore the treated water can be used for gardening, groundwater recharging and direct discharge on stream.

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How to cite this article:

Jhalesh Kumar, Vinay K. Pandey, Rajesh Singh, Sandeep Singh and Sandeep K. Malyan. 2020. Wastewater Treatment of Artificial Sugar Mill Effluent through Medicinal Plant Sweet Flag and Water Hyssop on Floating Wetland Systems. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 9(12): 3266-3275. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2020.912.389>