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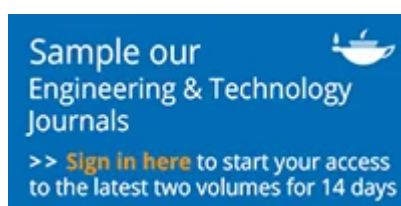
Research Article

Greywater treatment using constructed wetlands modified with biochar and ceramic media

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Received 10 Jan 2025, Accepted 02 Jul 2025, Published online: 29 Jul 2025

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/09593330.2025.2530790>



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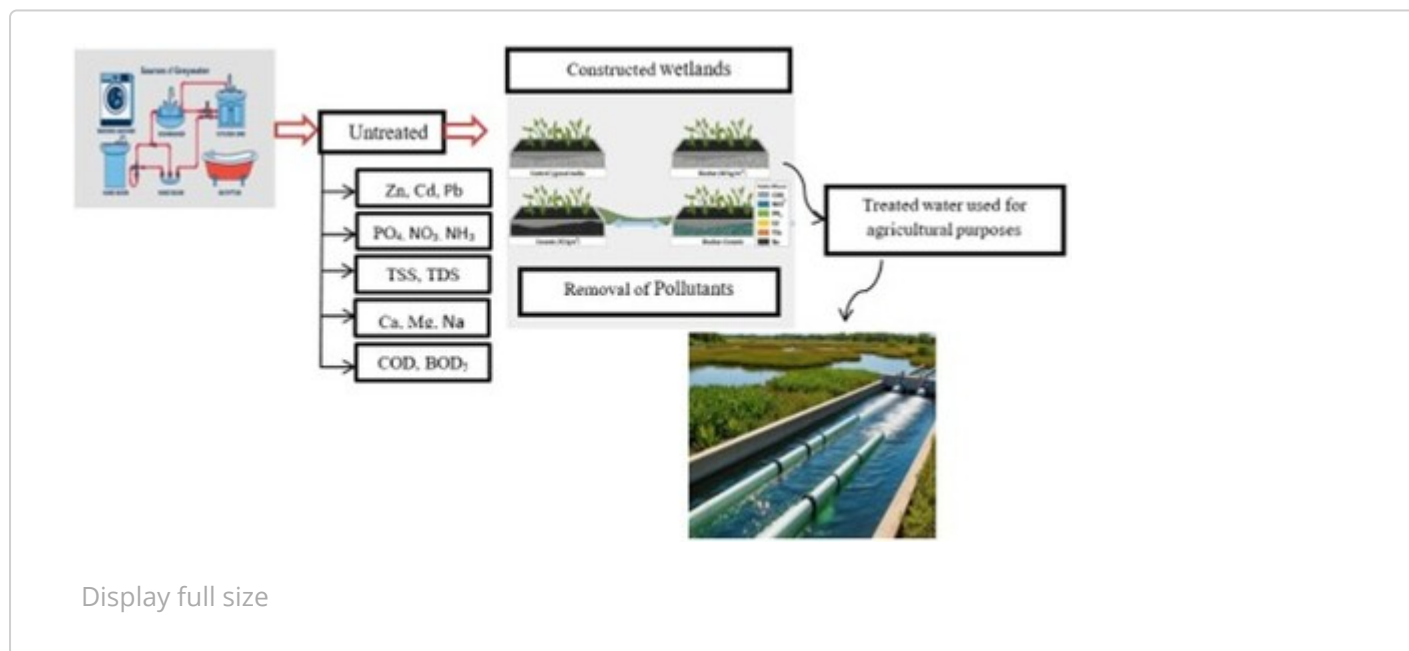
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ABSTRACT

Constructed wetlands (CWs) offer an affordable and sustainable solution for decentralized wastewater treatment. This study assessed horizontal subsurface flow CWs (HSSFCWs) supplemented with charcoal and ceramic media for greywater treatment in Basra, Iraq. This novel approach demonstrates significant advancements in the removal efficiency of contaminants from greywater. Four pilot-scale wetlands were run for 182 days. *Bacopa monnieri* was planted in the wetlands. Regular sampling of influent and effluent analyzed organics, nutrients, and heavy metals. Biochar significantly improved the removal of chemical oxygen demand (COD),

(TSS), TDS (TSS), Zn (Zn) and Cd (Cd), while ceramic media enhanced total suspended solids (TSS) and total dissolved solids (TDS) removal. The combined biochar-ceramic wetland showed the highest reduction in calcium (Ca), and magnesium (Mg). Plant growth was unaffected by amendments. The treated greywater met irrigation reuse standards, highlighting the efficacy of these amendments in improving greywater quality. Biochar and ceramic media CWs exhibited superior pollutant removal compared to the control, with biochar achieving removal efficiencies of 75.60% for COD, 22.61% for NO₃-N, 90.37% for PO₄-P. Ceramic media recorded the highest removal of TSS (66.99%) and TDS (50.50%). The mixed media wetland achieved the highest removal of BOD₅ (54.96%) and hardness ions. The study concludes that biochar and ceramic media are cost-effective amendments that enhance CWs for greywater treatment, supporting sustainable water reuse in small communities. These findings support the implementation of enhanced CWs for improving greywater quality and meeting irrigation guidelines.

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



KEYWORDS:

[Greywater treatment](#) [constructed wetlands](#) [filter](#) [pollutant removal](#)
[environmental sustainability](#)

The Department of Ecology at the University of Basrah, along with the Department of Civil Engineering, is acknowledged by the authors for providing the resources and support needed to conduct this study.

Data availability statement

The authors confirm that the data supporting the findings of this study are available within the article and its supplementary materials.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

Supplemental Material

Supplemental data for this article can be accessed
<http://doi.org/10.1080/09593330.2025.2530790>.

Additional information

Funding

The author(s) reported there is no funding associated with the work featured in this article.

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