

WEJ_Efficiency of a pilot hybrid wastewater treatment system comprising activated sludge and constructed wetlands

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Submission date: 09-Dec-2020 05:06PM (UTC+0700)

Submission ID: 1469645258

File name: Water_and_Environment_Journal_full_paper.pdf (766.79K)

Word count: 6390

Character count: 35052

Efficiency of a pilot hybrid wastewater treatment system comprising activated sludge and constructed wetlands planted with *Canna lily* and *Cyperus papyrus*

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Keywords

activated sludge; *Canna lily*; constructed wetlands; *Cyperus papyrus*.

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doi:10.1111/wej.12658

Abstract

Combination of constructed wetland with activated sludge (AS) is one of the application of sustainable development for dealing with environmental pollution. The objective of this study was to compare the performance of three system of domestic wastewater treatment, namely AS, combination AS with constructed wetland containing *Canna lily* (AS-CWC), combination AS with constructed wetland containing *Cyperus papyrus* (AS-CWP) for treating domestic wastewater. Mini pilot scale of treatment system was built under continuous flow. Samples were taken at outlet in each unit for measuring water quality parameters, such as BOD, TSS, PO_4^{3-} , NH_4^+-N and $NO_3^- -N$. The results indicated that AS-CWC performed a higher removal of BOD, PO_4^{3-} and TSS than AS-CWP and AS. AS-CWC and AS-CWP showed a statistically insignificant difference removal of NH_4^+-N and $NO_3^- -N$, though the former performed a higher removal than the later. This study revealed that TOC increased in the highest percentage in AS and the lowest increasing in AS-CWP. Constructed wetlands should be integrated with primary treatment to enhancing effluent quality and reduce organic matter, a precursors of carcinogenic compound.

Introduction

Constructed wetlands have been increasingly used as an alternative treatment for wastewater, such as domestic sewage (Abou-Elela and Hellal, 2012; Yadav *et al.*, 2018), industrial effluent (Haddis *et al.*, 2019), agricultural (Kasak *et al.*, 2018), polluted river water (Wei *et al.*, 2020), landfill leachate (Dan *et al.*, 2017) and storm water (Meng *et al.*, 2018). Constructed wetlands have been developed based on ecological principles, plants in the constructed wetlands system could utilize organic and nutrient compound, such as nitrogen and phosphorus compounds, which are naturally needed by plants (Wu *et al.*, 2015; Vymazal, 2018). Wastewater can be associated as natural liquid fertilizers, because wastewater contain nutrient and organic, which could be utilized for plant growth (Chazarenc *et al.*, 2015). Previous studies have shown that wastewater treatment by using constructed wetlands can remove organic pollutants in high percentage (Haritash *et al.*, 2017; Akizuki *et al.*, 2018; Sandoval *et al.*, 2019), remove inorganic pollutants (Abdel-Shafy and Al-Sulaiman, 2014; Boog *et al.*, 2014), reduce pathogens (Abdel-Shafy and El-Khateeb, 2012; Donde *et al.*, 2020) and metals including some heavy metals by

vascular plants as well (Abdel-Shafy *et al.*, 1994). If the constructed wetlands system is arranged properly then it can became a garden, which has an aesthetic benefit for environmental landscape. Effluent from constructed wetlands could be used for gardening, for recharging groundwater, for reclaimed water through the role of macrophyte under various mechanism of phytotechnology, such as phytodegradation, phytovolatilization and phytoextraction, and for more purposes (Wu *et al.*, 2015; Vymazal, 2018). In addition, constructed wetlands is a natural treatment, without chemicals, with low-cost and easy for operation and maintenance (Vymazal, 2018; Ansari and Golabi, 2019).

Constructed wetlands have some issues that give limitation to its application for long-term process. Sludge accumulation due to high total suspended solid (TSS) and organic caused substrate blocking in the influent and pore bed spaces of constructed wetlands (Liu *et al.*, 2015). Nitrification is often limited in constructed wetlands due to oxygen deficiency and creating predominantly anaerobic conditions in the wetland system. Thus, suitable conditions for nitrification can seriously limit the treatment potential of these systems (Akizuki *et al.*, 2018; Su *et al.*, 2018).

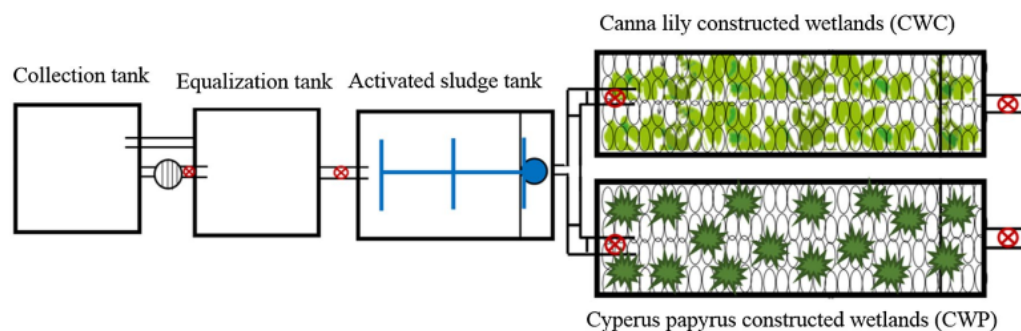


Fig. 1. Layout of mini pilot scale constructed wetlands.

Therefore, combining constructed wetlands with other additional technologies, such as membrane bio-reactor (MBR) (Mim et al., 2012), electrochemical oxidation (Anglada et al., 2010) and microbial fuel cells (MFCs) (Mohan et al., 2008) have emerged in recent years for enhancing the individual advantages in terms of wastewater treatment. These technologies have been known to be powerful treatment for removing the specific pollutants and implementation an eco-green process for energy recovery, though these technologies have some limitations, regarding cost and maintenance system. A conventional activated sludge (AS) processes has been widely used technology in wastewater treatment for reducing organic pollutant, however, it needs to be upgraded to meet the effluent standards. A combination of AS system with constructed wetlands has a high potential to be applied in wastewater treatment. This will improve the treated water quality in order to meet effluent wastewater quality standard (Liu et al., 2015).

Different types of plants can be grown and easily for adapting in the system constructed wetlands. Aquatic macrophytes plants are known as the main source of oxygen in the constructed wetlands through the root zone. Many microorganisms exist in the roots of plants, because roots provide a source of microbial attachment, release carbon that supported to the denitrification process. Roots could reduce the velocity of wastewater flow rate on the constructed wetlands system as well (Vymazal, 2018; Sandoval et al., 2019). *Canna lily*, an ornamental plants that have an aesthetic value, has a large root system and strong enough to absorb organic matter, therefore, *C. lily* can absorb more nutrients for growth and store the excess nutrient in its tissue than other aquatic plants (Hassan et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2018; Yadav et al., 2018). *Cyperus papyrus* has the porous structure of the stems, does not develop deep roots and forms a kind of networks that helps a greater coverage of the root area, which in turn allows a greater oxygenation of the system (Abou-Elela et al., 2017; Haddis et al., 2019; Avila et al., 2019). Therefore, *C. papyrus* has a great efficiency in removing nutrient and

organic pollutants. Many studies have reported the high performance of those plant for treating wastewater. Combination between AS with constructed wetland containing *C. lily* (AS-CWC) and combination AS with constructed wetland containing *C. papyrus* (AS-CWP) has been scarce information. The objective of this study was to compare the performance of three system of domestic wastewater treatment, namely AS, combination AS with constructed wetland containing *C. lily* (AS-CWC), combination AS with constructed wetland containing *C. papyrus* (AS-CWP) for treating domestic wastewater.

Materials and methods

The study was conducted in mini pilot scale of constructed wetlands in the area of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) New Delhi during April–October 2019. The climate was generally warm with an average high temperature of 35°C and an average low temperature of 30°C. Domestic wastewater was taken from Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) JNU. The system of constructed wetland is comprised by: collection tank to stock domestic wastewater; AS, including aeration tank and clarifier (capacity 9L); two constructed wetlands with horizontal sub-surface horizontal (dimension: 0.6 m long × 0.6 m wide × 0.4 m deep) filled with 0.3 m gravel, as shown in Fig. 1.

Constructed wetlands was planted with *C. lily* (CWC) and the other was planted with *C. papyrus* (CWP) under considering density 4 plants/m² (Wu et al., 2015). Preliminary experiment was conducted in term of range finding test in 7 days, plant acclimation for 3 weeks (Vymazal, 2018) and microorganism acclimation. The AS was operated with sludge recirculation from clarifier tank, under F/M = 0.05–0.1 kg BOD/kg and SVI = 50–100 mL/gr (Metcalf and Eddy, 2002). Domestic wastewater was fed continuously from collection tank to the AS 20 L/day. Further, treated effluent from clarifier was discharged into CWC and CWP at each flow rate 10 L/day and detention time 2 days. Detention time was measured at starting time inflow

wastewater filled the CW for the first time, then, wastewater filled the CW, until wastewater passed through the CW to the outlet. Samples were collected in the effluent of each operation unit, including raw wastewater, AS, CWC and CWP unit twice per week.

Collected samples were analysed for $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$, $\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$ and PO_4^{3-} by using 100 Bio UV-Visible Spectrophotometer, and total suspended solid (TSS) was determined by using gravimetric methods, all were following standard methods (APHA, 2012). BOD was measured after 5 days incubation at 20°C with DO metre (Hach, USA). Dissolved organic matter surrogates was quantified through total organic carbon (TOC) using TOC Analyser 5000A Shimadzu, ultraviolet absorbance at 254 nm (UV_{254}) using 100 Bio UV-Visible Spectrophotometer, and specific ultraviolet absorbance (SUVA) by dividing UV_{254} value to TOC concentration (Edzwald and Tobiasson, 2011). Dissolved oxygen (DO) and pH were measured in situ using HQ40D portable (Hach, USA). Statistical data analysis, such as Kolmogorov–Smirnov, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and Kruskal–Wallis, was applied by using Minitab 16.1. (Minitab, LLC, Pennsylvania). Kolmogorov–Smirnov was used for testing normal distribution data, while ANOVA and Kruskal–Wallis were used for knowing differences mean efficiencies removal all parameters. ANOVA was applied if data follow the normal distribution, while Kruskal–Wallis was applied for failed normal distribution data. Further, statistical box plot analysis was performed using SigmaPlot 10.0 (Systat Software, Inc.) in order to present the performance of treatment efficiencies among three system of domestic wastewater treatment. Box plot is non-parametric analysis because it display variation in samples of a statistical population without making any assumptions about its population distribution. Box plot graph was used to compare the efficiency performance of AS, AS-CWC and AS-CWP in removing BOD, TSS, $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$, PO_4^{3-} , TOC and $\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$.

Results and discussion

Characteristic of raw and treated domestic wastewater quality

Characteristic of raw domestic wastewater and its treatment quality is shown in Figs 2 to 3. Figure 2a, the pH value, describe a decreasing trend of the pH in the effluent of treatment process, especially a significant decrease in effluent of AS-CWC. The pH values decreased is probably due to effect of nitrification, because during nitrification, H^+ ions will be released (Vymazal, 2018), as shown consistency result with the decreasing $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ in AS-CWC. Plants utilize nitrogen can cause to the pH lowering due to respiration and litter decomposition processes (Collins *et al.*, 2004). In addition, effect of increasing metabolite

microorganism in wetlands and in AS might cause the acidification of effluent (Chen *et al.*, 2017). Heterotrophic microorganism existed in the AS, and probably these microorganism contributed in the constructed wetland. Therefore, decreasing of pH in that systems is might be due to production of lactic acid, acetic acid and butyric acid during degradation of organic matter by heterotrophic microorganism (Paredes *et al.*, 2007).

The DO value in the AS increased significantly, and it shows the highest DO value among others, as shown in Fig. 2b, due to air was injecting to the system for aeration purposes. The air distributed to aeration tank by aerator allows the oxygen to be transferred from the air to the wastewater in term of liquid phase. It has been well known that DO concentration in the activated sludge process is an important parameter to achieve a high efficiency of treatment and system stability (Du *et al.*, 2018). AS-CWC and AS-CWP indicates sufficient DO value in the systems, though it shows a lower DO value than that of AS processes. Oxygen supply in constructed wetlands are probably obtained from influent oxygen, radial oxygen loss (ROL) and atmospheric reaeration (AR) (Liu *et al.*, 2016).

Influent oxygen in the constructed wetlands is supplied from AS process, as the figure shown an oxygen deficits after constructed wetlands. ROL mechanism is oxygen, which is produced by photosynthesis, go through the aerenchyma from stems and plant leaves to plant roots, and then, released into the surrounding environment from the roots under wastewater logged conditions (Liu *et al.*, 2016; Iri and Shiono, 2019). AR mechanism describes that oxygen transfer process between air and wastewater through molecular diffusion, though existing substrate and environmental factors probably hindered the mechanism (Boog *et al.*, 2014).

Sufficient DO value in both constructed wetlands seems supporting microbial communities for degrading and up-taking organic pollutants, as in accordance with decreasing of BOD concentration (Fig. 2c). Domestic wastewater or RW showed a higher BOD because domestic wastewater mainly contains organic substances, such as carbohydrate, lignin, proteins and their decomposition products, nutrients and trace elements (Nath and Sengupta, 2016). There was a significant reduction of BOD in AS process, and slightly deficit BOD concentration in both constructed wetlands. It has been reported well that microorganism in AS process consume organic matter, in term of BOD, from the wastewater using oxygen for respiration. Microorganism existed as suspended growth in the aeration tank. Supernatant, which might has lower BOD than raw wastewater, was separated from the sludge in the settling tank, excessive settled sludge will be discharged according to the F/M and SVI value (Metcalf and Eddy, 2002). Microbial and biological degradation of BOD is a high possibility mechanism

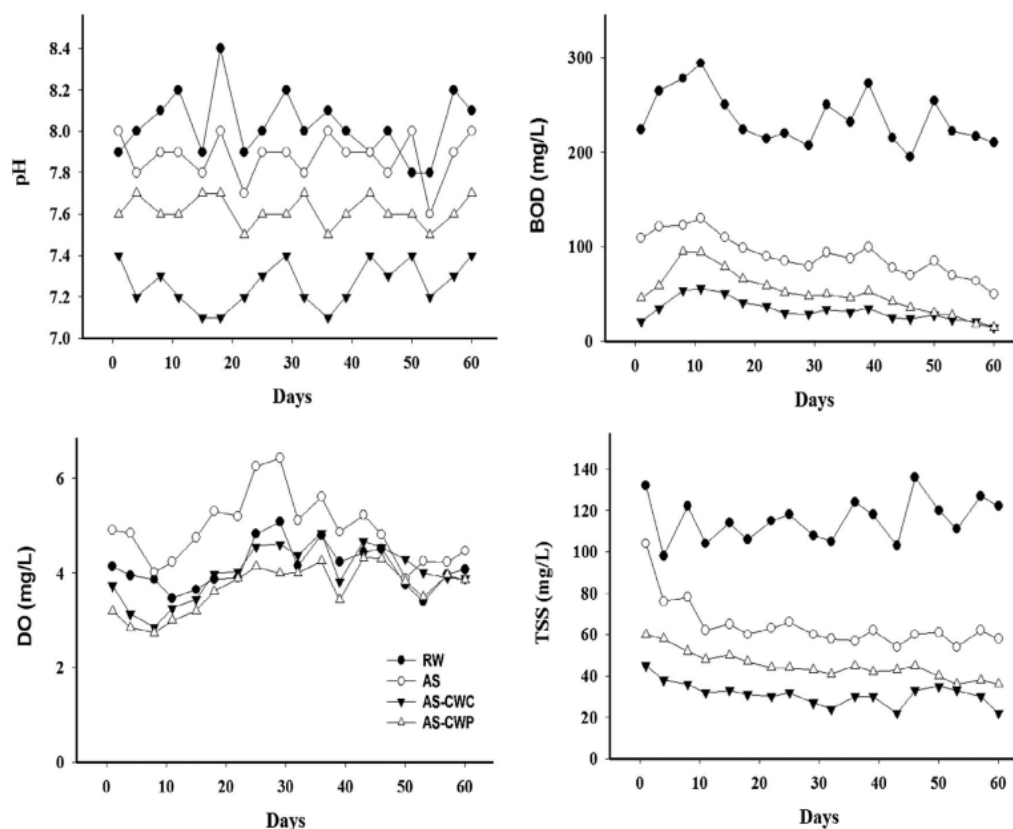


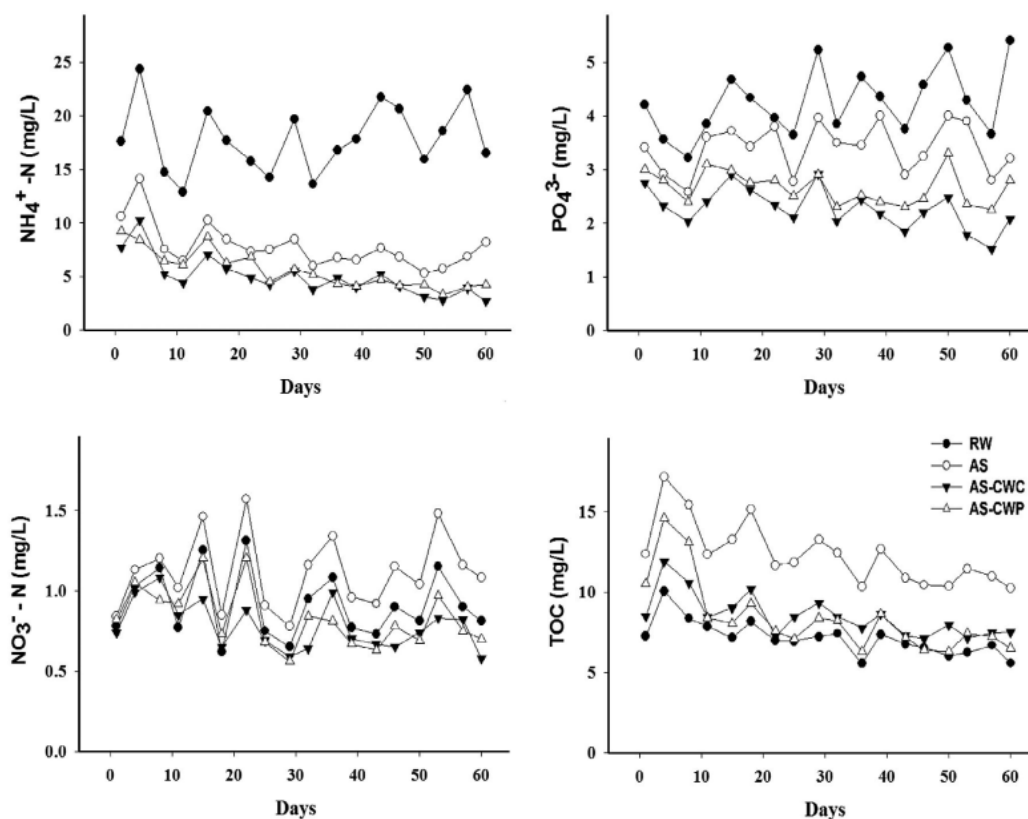
Fig. 2. Concentration of (a) pH, (b) DO, (c) BOD and (d) TSS of raw and treated domestic wastewater through activated sludge and combination of constructed wetlands with activated sludge.

in constructed wetlands. Microbial communities might existed, in term of biofilm or attach growth, on the all surfaces of the plant including leaves, stems and roots (Vymazal, 2018; Clairmont and Slawson, 2019). Higher surface area of stems and root will produce high removal of organic. Substrate could be used as attached media growth for microbial, therefore, microbial allows to reduce BOD₅ concentration.

The concentration of TSS in the treated wastewater of all processes was higher than in the raw domestic wastewater, as shown in Fig. 2d. Significant removal of TSS in the effluent of activated sludge is due to effect of settling tank, which separated the sludge and supernatant. A slight decreasing of TSS in AS-CWP over to AS indicated that constructed wetlands system contributed to reduce TSS concentration. The lowest TSS concentration in AS-CWC indicated that the system has higher performance in removing TSS concentration. Constructed wetland system are able to remove suspended solids due to adsorption on the submerged parts of the plant and wetlands media,

sedimentation due to slow flow velocity, filtration mechanism through impaction of particles in the roots and stem of plants (Priya and Selvan, 2017; Avila et al., 2019). Substrate, such as gravel, play the role of filtration, as the voids and media structure has remarkable impact on suspended solids and trapping suspended solid during the flow path. Low flow rate and longer hydraulic detention could improve settling retention of suspended solid (Wu et al., 2015; Noh et al., 2016).

Figure 3 represents the concentration of nutrient, including NH₄⁺-N, NO₃⁻-N and PO₄³⁻, and dissolved organic (TOC) in raw and treated domestic wastewater. The results shows NH₄⁺-N concentration decreased significantly after activated sludge, and a slightly decrease after constructed wetlands (Fig. 3a). Concentration of NH₄⁺-N after AS-CWC and AS-CWP treatment results a similar reducing concentration. Activated sludge obviously shows an increasing NO₃⁻-N concentration (Fig. 3b), an opposite results with NH₄⁺-N concentration. However, effluent of AS-CWC and AS-CWP shows a slightly reducing NO₃⁻-N concentration over raw wastewater and



24 **Fig. 3.** Concentration of (a) $\text{NH}_4^+ - \text{N}$, (b) $\text{NO}_3^- - \text{N}$, (c) PO_4^{3-} and (d) TOC of raw and treated domestic wastewater through activated sludge and combination of constructed wetlands with activated sludge.

activated sludge. Comparison between 25 concentration of $\text{NH}_4^+ - \text{N}$ and concentration of $\text{NO}_3^- - \text{N}$ reflected the 17 conditions existed for nitrification (Wu *et al.*, 2015; Su *et al.*, 2018). In nitrification, $\text{NH}_4^+ - \text{N}$ is oxidized to $\text{NO}_3^- - \text{N}$ by nitrifying bacteria in aerobic zones, which have been proved by adequate dissolved oxygen in all systems (Fig. 1b). DO concentration greater than 1.5 mg/L are needed for nitrification to take place (Ye and Li, 2009), thus, denitrification might not be 9 existed in the constructed wetlands system. Composition, structure and diversity of denitrifying bacteria is affected by organic carbon consumption and DO concentrations. It has been studied that variation of denitrifying community structure formed significantly at hypoxic (0–0.5 19 mg/L) and anoxic (0 mg/L) DO layers (Hong *et al.*, 2020). Carbon utilization ability of different denitrifiers on each DO layers were generally different from each other. Further, this study conjectured the 33 nutrient uptake could be a possible mechanism of reducing $\text{NH}_4^+ - \text{N}$, $\text{NO}_3^- - \text{N}$ and PO_4^{3-} as well (Fig. 3c). Previous studies have reported that plants nutrients uptake accounted for a higher proportion of 51 removal and P removal in the wetlands system (Zheng *et*

21 2016; Avila *et al.*, 2019). Presence of macrophytes could provide surfaces and oxygen for microorganism growth in the rhizosphere, and provide carbon from root exudates due to photosynthetically fixed carbon (Saeed and Sun, 2012).

Quantification of TOC are used to represent dissolved organic matter in raw and treated domestic wastewater (Fig. 3d). The result shows that raw wastewater contains of low level of TOC concentration, then, the value increased to the highest concentration in activated sludge process. Increasing TOC is probably 18 due to effect of microbial activities, as identified into three components of fluorescence organic: fulvic acid-like, soluble microbial products-like and humic acid-like, in the previous study (Hidayah *et al.*, 2020). It has been reported that microorganisms released its metabolite by-products during growth and decay or it is known as soluble microbial product and extracellular polymeric substances, which 14 been characterized in the biological processes (Xie *et al.*, 2012; Xie *et al.*, 2016; Ding *et al.*, 2017). TOC concentration decreased in constructed wetlands system, though TOC concentration is still

higher than that of raw wastewater. Decreasing TOC concentration in constructed wetlands is attributed to the refractory organic matter, which could be degraded by microorganism through mechanism phytodegradation and phytostabilization process in constructed wetland. Previous studies have mentioned that most of removed pollutants in wetlands has been attributed primarily to the existence of microorganism (Saeed and Sun, 2012; Su et al., 2018; Clairmont and Slawson, 2019). Those microorganisms could be characterized as refractory organic matter and recalcitrant organic matter, which is derived from microbial activities during growth and decay phase (Ni et al., 2010; Shon et al., 2012). In addition, root zone of plants could adsorbed and absorbed the organic contaminant through rhizofiltration and phytoremediation, which has occurred in the constructed wetlands (Wu et al., 2015; Vymazal, 2018).

Performance of activated sludge and its combination with *C. lily* and *C. papyrus* constructed wetlands

Kolmogorov–Smirnov was used to reveal the distribution data, and the results showed that distribution data of efficiencies removal for BOD ($P > 0.15$), PO_4^{3-} ($P > 0.15$), TSS ($P > 0.15$) and NH_4^+-N ($P > 0.15$) was normal. Efficiencies removal of TOC and $NO_3^- -N$ were failed to follow a normal distribution as $P < 0.01$ and $P < 0.01$, respectively. For

normal distribution data, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) testing was performed to know differences mean efficiencies removal of BOD, PO_4^{3-} , TSS and NH_4^+-N among three system of domestic wastewater treatment. The results showed that there was statistically significant differences mean efficiencies removal of BOD, PO_4^{3-} , TSS and NH_4^+-N among three system of domestic wastewater treatment, as P value = 0.000, respectively. Nonparametric Kruskal–Wallis testing was performed for failed normal distribution data, and the results indicated a statistically significant differences mean efficiencies removal of TOC and $NO_3^- -N$. Further, performance of treatment efficiencies among three system of domestic wastewater treatment were presented by statistical box plot analysis. Figure 4 presents box plot of efficiency removal BOD, TSS, nutrients NH_4^+-N and PO_4^{3-} , while Fig. 5 shows box plot of efficiency removal and increasing of $NO_3^- -N$ and TOC in AS, and its combination with constructed wetlands, that is AS-CWC and AS-CWP processes. The results shows that combination of constructed wetlands with activated sludge showed a better performance than activated sludge for removing organic, TSS and nutrients. First, performance of AS process in removing of organic BOD, nutrients NH_4^+-N , PO_4^{3-} and TSS has been well known in wastewater treatment process (Fig. 4). Microorganism existed as suspended growth in the aeration tank conducted biodegradation of organic matter in the aerobic state

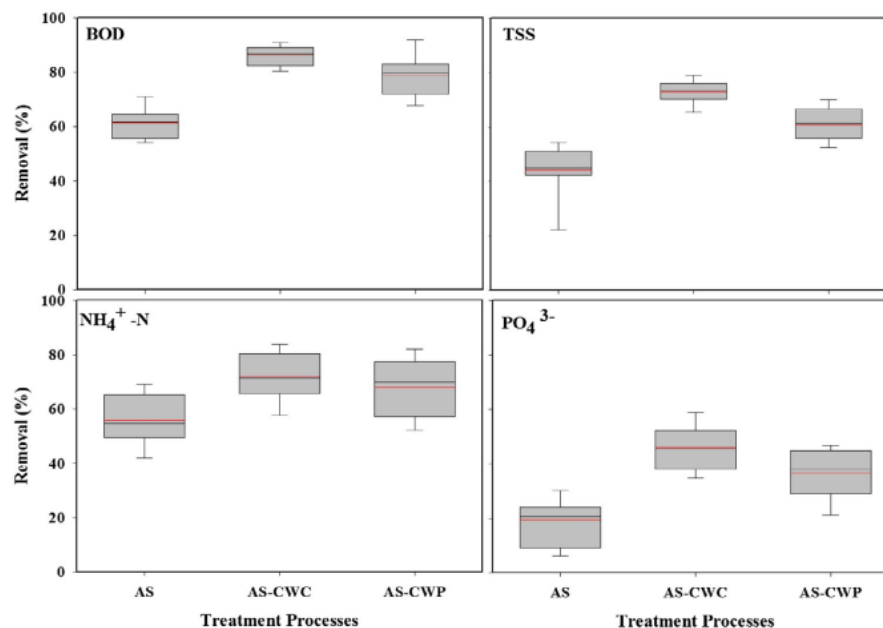


Fig. 4. Percentage efficiency of performance AS, AS-CWC and AS-CWP in treating BOD, TSS, nutrients NH_4^+-N and PO_4^{3-} (the red line indicates a mean percentage removal; the black line indicate a median percentage removal).

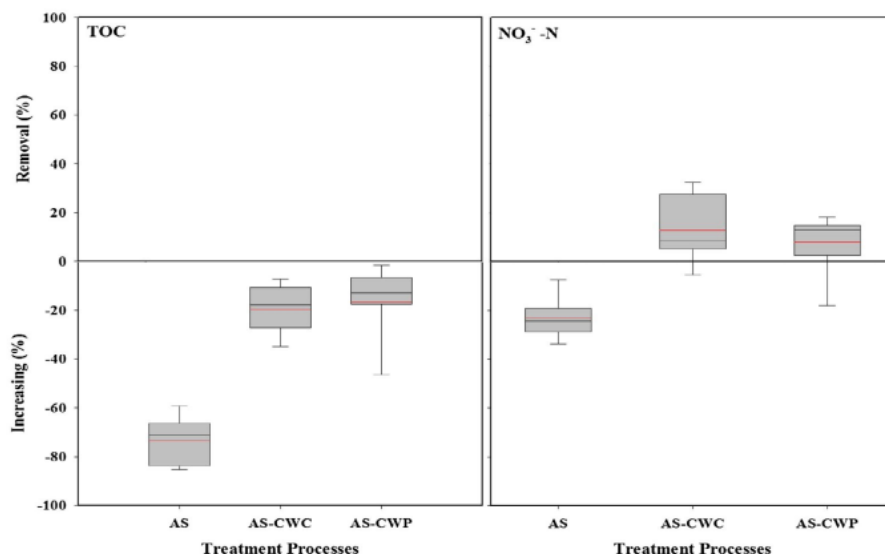


Fig. 5. Percentage efficiency of performance AS, AS-CWC and AS-CWP in treating NO_3^- -N and TOC (the red line indicates a mean percentage removal; the black line indicate a median percentage removal).

(Metcalf and Eddy, 2002). However, only biodegradable organic could be removed in the AS process, as indicated by BOD removal 61.50%. Another organic matter, such as refractory organic matter and recalcitrant organic matter might exist and accumulated in the system (Shon *et al.*, 2012).

In addition, source of organic matter from metabolite products of microorganism will contribute to the quantity and quality of organic matter in the AS system (Ni *et al.*, 2010; Xie *et al.*, 2016). As the results show a significant increasing of TOC concentration (73.49%) in the AS system (Fig. 5). Removal of NH_4^+ -N (55.93%) in activated sludge indicates nitrification process, a biological oxidation of NH_4^+ -N to NO_2^- -N followed by oxidation of NO_2^- to NO_3^- -N by nitrifying bacteria in aerobic zones (V₂₃ *et al.*, 2015; Su *et al.*, 2018). Denitrification process, microbial process of reducing nitrate and nitrite to gaseous forms of nitrogen, might not exist in the AS system due to aerobic state, thus, it caused an increasing NO_3^- -N (23.01%) in the effluent of activated sludge, as shown in Fig. 5. The AS system is distinguished by clarifier tank, instead of aeration tank, to reduce TSS concentration in the effluent of AS (44.12%), as shown in Fig. 4. Clarifier tank is used to separate the suspended solid, which is a heavier biomass, and recycle amount of suspended solid into aeration tank (Metcalf and Eddy, 2002).

Second, the results show that *C. lily* in AS-CWC system has a higher removal of organic BOD, TSS, nutrients PO_4^{3-} and slightly higher removal of nutrient NH_4^+ -N and NO_3^- -N than *C. papyrus* in AS-CWP, as shown in Fig. 5. Comparison

between AS-CWC and AS-CWP is associated to the performance of *C. lily* and *C. papyrus*, which depends on the morphology, structure and eco-physiology of its roots. Both emergent plants *C. lily* and *C. papyrus* are identified as fibrous-root plants (Lai *et al.*, 2011). The fibrous-root plants had many fine and long lateral roots, a thin epidermis, higher root density, large cavities of aerenchyma, larger root biomass, longer root system and shorter root longevity, which were positively correlated with releasing oxygen through rhizosphere or it is known as radial oxygen loss (ROL) (Lai *et al.*, 2012; Wang *et al.*, 2018). These root properties were considered to enhance more oxygen transferring to the rhizosphere, be favourable in absorption of phosphorus, a greater attachment area for nitrifying bacteria and growth of organic-phosphorus, decomposing microorganism, and hence, support N and P removal. Nevertheless, it seems that *C. lily* has better anatomical and morphological traits that can promote higher efficiency removal of organic and nutrients. *Canna lily* has higher root longevity and below-ground biomass (i.e. various roots diameter) than *C. papyrus* (Lai *et al.*, 2011). In addition, Abou-Elala and Hellal (2012) had proved that *Canna* could uptake more nitrogen 30 g/m² and phosphorus 32.55 g/m² than *Cyperus* due to *Canna* roots were distributed more widely in the constructed wetland bed, while Haritash *et al.* (2017) conjectured that *Canna*-based constructed wetland can be an effective tool for phosphate removal from wastewater under tropical conditions through plant uptake with average removal 167 mg/m² day for total phosphate.

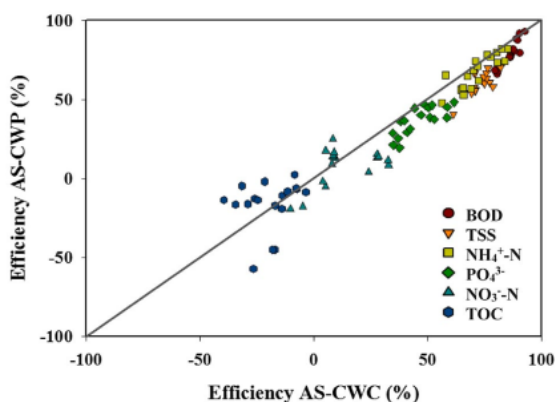


Fig. 6. Comparison of AS-CWC and AS-CWP performance in removing all organics, nutrients and TSS.

Figure 6 shows a comparison of efficiency performance of AS-CWC and AS-CWP for all parameters, including BOD, TOC, TSS, $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$, $\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$ and PO_4^{3-} . The solid line drawn at a 1:1 slope represents an equal percentage removal of all parameters. The figure shows that more parameters were removed by the AS-CWC than AS-CWP. This can be understood in combination with Figs. 4 and 5, which indicates that AS-CWC preferably removed most of all parameters over AS-CWP. It is thus conjectured that AS-CWC is suggested for further application emergent plants for constructed wetland. This study indicated that constructed wetland as post-treatment can undoubtedly improve the efficiency of domestic wastewater treatment, while the significant reduction of BOD, $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$, PO_4^{3-} and TSS in the activated sludge process can reduce the risk of high organic loading and constructed wetland clogging.

Conclusion

- (1) The performance among AS process, combination *C. lily* constructed wetland with AS (AS-CWC), and combination *C. papyrus* constructed wetland with AS (AS-CWP) for treating domestic wastewater has been compared according to its efficiency removal of organics, nutrients and TSS.
- (2) The AS process gives a significant contribution in removing BOD, NH_4^+ , PO_4^{3-} and TSS due to microbial activities for degrading organic carbon, for taking nutrient.
- (3) However, TOC and $\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$ increased in the AS system due to metabolite by-product and lack of denitrification, respectively.
- (4) AS-CWC and AS-CWP could enhance effluent of domestic wastewater quality, as indicated through removal of all organics, nutrients and TSS.

- (5) AS-CWC demonstrates a higher performance than AS-CWP due to characteristic of morphology, structure and eco-physiology of its roots.
- (6) This research reveal an insight that combining constructed wetlands with other additional technologies should consider the formation of by-products, which is generated from additional technologies, and post-treatment of constructed wetlands should be applied in order to meet effluent wastewater quality standard.

Acknowledgements

This work was financially supported by Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Federation Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), India through ASEAN-India Research Training Fellowship Programme (AI-RTF) with file No: RTF/2018/000021

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