

## Removal Of Fluoride Ions From Drinking Water Using Organic Matrix “OM” (Date Seeds-Deglet Nour) : Analyze The Effect Of Experimental Conditions

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### Abstract:

The purpose of this study is to Défluoruration of groundwater in the region of Ouargla south-east Algeria whose concentration of fluoride ions increased more than 2.78 mg/l that exceeded WHO standards. Procedure involves adsorption of organic matrix were prepared from a new lignocellulosic biomass source: date seeds without the addition of any chemicals and analyze the effect of experimental conditions (contact time -temperature- granular diameter diversity -PH- adsorption dose) in enhancing the adsorption capacity of fluoride ions. The best results were conducted using spectrophotometer type DR 6000, ( $\lambda = 580\text{nm}$ ) The effect of the reaction time was observed from 5 to 1440 minutes, temperature and adsorption dose between raw water and the organic matrix. Indicated a maximum removal percentage (98.56 %) with an initial concentration of F ions 2.78 mg/l and the fluoride removal temperature appeared to be between 105–400 °C was 200 m, 60 min, 6 and 1 g/40 mL, respectively, may be used of organic matrix as sustainable, low-cost and efficient adsorbents for F- removal from aqueous solution. Overall, the results conducted in the present research indicated that the water treatment in the region of Ouargla may favorably affect the water availability, lifestyle and Public health of the population in this Saharan region.

**Keywords:** Defluorination, Ouargla, Fluorosis, Northern Sahara, Date seeds

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### 1. Introduction

Unwanted metal ions are classified as micro-elements present in the environment in different concentrations in the environment Humans, animals and plants, where fluoride is classified as an essential substance because it contributes to the development and maintenance of dental health.

This element is very useful in the mineralization of bones and teeth endemic to calcified tissues with a concentration of up to 99% in the body (Liu et al. 2017) and its advantage in the attraction to calcium in teeth and bones due to its electronic strength (Susheela et al. 1993) Its concentration ranges from 0.05 to 2 mg/l It is considered vital for the human body (Bhatti et al. 2010) and contributes to the cohesion of bone tissue and teeth (Acharya, 2005) when its concentration is between 0.5 to 1.5 mg/l according to the World Health Organization (WHO. 2006), it can be acquired through water fluoridation when fluoride (NaF) is added to drinking water (Fouskaki et al. 2003; Konieczka, Zygmunt, and Namieśnik, 2000). As it is found in the food chain, water ( $\text{CaF}_2$ ), air, rocks and soil ( $\text{Na}_5\text{Al}_3\text{F}_{14}$ ) are in the form of compounds. However, it is toxic in high concentrations, and exposure to fluoride may lead to effects on teeth (Warren and Levy, 2003) and infection with dental fluorosis (Chavaissieux and Meunier, 1995) to extend the effect to bone density and deformation (Onyango et al. 2004) and may have a longer effect. From this it reaches paralysis (Veressinina et al. 2001) and in cases of toxicity is fatal (Tokalioglu, Kartal, and Şahin 2004). Pollution with fluoride in the environment occurs naturally in the earth's crust and in the waters of the planet (Goyer, 1981). They are released into the environment when minerals in the soil are exposed to climatic factors (rain, erosion, etc.); Most of the natural resources have a geological origin (Travi, 1993). This is the case with groundwater from granite reservoirs and some sedimentary basins as well as geothermal water that concentrates high levels of fluoride ions. volcanic activity According to a UNICEF report, tens of millions of people are infected with fluorosis, which is endemic in 25 countries worldwide; Especially countries in volcanic regions (Petroni et al. 2013) the abundance of fluoride in the environment is increasing. This is due in particular to the increased use and improper disposal of waste products by various industries, including nickel smelting, steel, aluminum and magnesium mining, copper, iron and steel, zinc and lead, production of boron, glue and adhesives, phosphate fertilizers, petroleum and Handicrafts, ceramics, pottery, cement and brick factories, fluoride factories, coal combustion, storage of fluoroapatite in leak sheds and use of fluorinated pesticides (Environnement Canada et Santé Canada, 1993; Goyer 1981; World Health Organization, 2002; Santé Canada, 2007; Marier, 1977) and industrial manufacturing of building materials, ceramics, semiconductors, phosphate fertilizers and glass (Cai et al. 2018; Rasool et al. 2018); Tovar-Gómez et al. 2013); Waghmare et al. 2015). Given the adverse effects of such metals, their concentrations should be limited to levels acceptable by environmental regulatory agencies. Over the past decades, many works have adopted several Removal of fluoride ions from drinking water using organic matrix "OM" (date seeds-Deglet Nour)

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methods for removing fluoride in water, including the classic chemical treatment (Paulson, 1977; Maxime P, 1996; Comte, 2004; Rabosky J.K, 1975) or the use of lime (Achour and Youcef, 2001; Scott et al. 1937; Boruff, 1934). In Algeria the few experimental works carried out on southern waters showed the effectiveness of water defluoridation by chemical precipitation with lime. However, this technique results in the use of high doses of lime to reach acceptable levels of fluoride (Achour and Youcef, 2001). or by fusion-coagulation technique (sintering), as many studies have shown (Achour and Youcef, 2001; Scott et al. 1937; N'DAO, Lagaude, and Travi, 1992; Mazounie and Mouchet,

1984)The efficacy of aluminum sulfate in a specific treatment such as defluoridation of water. The process is based on the hydrolysis of aluminum sulfate and the formation of a precipitate of  $Al(OH)_3$  with the ability to adsorb fluoride ions. The fluoride binding capacity of aluminum hydroxide, determined by mg of fluoride bound per mg dose of aluminum, increases with the fluoride content of raw water for constant aluminum concentration (Mazounie and Mouchet,1984). Ion exchange (Desjardins, 1997) and electrocoagulation (Mameri et al. 1998). These are classic techniques. As for the modern physical methods (Yang and Dluhy, 2002) such as membrane techniques (Farcy M, 2008; Mazet ,2002) electrodialysis (Hichour et al. 1999) and microfiltration (Pontie et al. 2003; Tahaikt et al. 2007).However, most of these techniques It consumes high energy and chemicals, in addition to producing large quantities of sludge making it expensive and difficult to handle. Adsorption is one of the most widely used methods. Adsorbents, such as activated carbon (AC) are the most popular adsorbent, but they are still very expensive and also require regeneration and this limits their use in developing countries. Which represents a real challenge motivating the search to explore more economical alternatives (Inyang et al. 2016; Pelleria et al. 2012)Recently research has turned to treatment methods using cheaper, potentially environmentally friendly natural materials for water and wastewater purification (Pelleria et al. 2012; Chen et al. 2011) including plant and animal wastes, but the preparation of activated carbon from organic waste is very exciting from an economic point of view of environmental importance because we take advantage of simple transformations, a way to value and manage unwanted waste into a value-added product, and the direct application of these raw materials. It can be used to remove organic and inorganic pollutants, to improve its adsorption power and its ability to remove mineral pollutants from aqueous solutions. It can be prepared from various organic sources, including agricultural waste, Biochars prepared from anaerobically digested sludge (Jinet al. 2016),canola straw and soybean straw, Peanut straw (Tong et al. 2011)

date seed (Mahdi Yu, and El Hanandeh,2018),rice husk (Masih, Anthony, and Siddiqui, 2018), orange pomace (Santos et al. 2015), animal manure (Wang et al. 2020), macroalgae (Park et al. 2016) hermaphrodite and wheat-straw (Bogusz, Oleszczuk, and Dobrowolski, 2015),walnut (Ding et al. 2016),orange droppings and olive pomace (Pelleria et al. 2012) Most of the previous studies showed that the biomass of turmeric seeds showed remarkable adsorption abilities to remove methyl bromide and  $Cu^{2+}$  and  $Ni^{2+}$  ions in aqueous solution (Mahdi, Hanandeh, and Yu, 2017;Mahdi, El Hanandeh, and Yu, 2017; Mahdi, Yu, and El Hanandeh, 2018), which included several aspects of sorption

including kinetics, isotherms, ability of Adsorption, and the effect of the pH of the solution. Also, some studies focused on the adsorption efficiency of biochar, such as pyrolysis conditions, particle size, and reaction temperature. Many of the published literature has used very popular isothermal variables such as Langmuir and Freundlich models for their simplicity and ease of application. This paper presents the removal of fluoride ions from the drinking water of the inhabitants of southeastern Algeria, Ouargla region, using the organic matrix "OM"(date seeds - Deglet Nour) and an analysis of the effect of experimental conditions. What was confirmed by the National Institute of Public Health in 1980, In general, the groundwater of the Northern Sahara of southeastern Algeria is highly mineralized with high levels of fluoride, which led to a high rate of dental fluoride poisoning among the inhabitants of the northern desert. The problem of fluoride in drinking water affected a large part of the population of the region, where 44% (mondiale de la Santé Bureau régional de

l'Europe Copenhagen, 1981) of fluoride (Achour and Youcef, 2001) is endemic. Among the reasons for the difference in fluoride concentrations, the geological composition in the study area, and the nature of the population's diet for their excessive consumption of tea and dates (Baouia K. 2017; Belmabdi A, 2014; Messa'itfa 2008) are rich in fluorine, and the concentrations of this water in fluorine are considered high and require treatment. Dental and skeletal problems, associated with the presence of fluoride ions in excess of the recommended standard from the World Health Organization (1.5 mg/L), affect many areas of the northern Sahara. The high concentration of fluoride ions in drinking water represents a real public health concern and problems for the population of the area (Fig. 1). The concentration of fluoride in drinking water was determined for the most important areas of the city of Ouargla in terms of population density and the exploitation of date seeds in the drinking water treatment process, after converting their seeds into an organic matrix. The main objectives of the current study were (1) to remove fluoride ions from drinking water (2) Determination of optimal conditions for preparing an organic matrix including pyrolysis temperature (100, 200, 400 °C), and particle size (< 50µm 200µm 500µ > 1mm); (3) to determine the optimal operating conditions including solution pH, initial metal concentration, temperature and contact time using batch adsorption experiments; Through the physical adsorption of fluoride ions, we use waste raw materials that are widely available in southeast Algeria as an effective alternative way to remove fluoride ions. We have taken into account the possibility of defluoridation, the availability of the product, economical and biotechnological, easy to apply, without risk to health and an acceptable yield.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### Study area

The study area comprises the wilaya of Ouargla, which is situated in the north-east of the Algerian Grand Sahara. It is 850 km from the capital Algiers between the latitudes 31.95 North and the longitudes 5.33 East, at the Sahara desert- the largest hot desert and the third largest desert in the world. The basin drains an area of 99 thousand hectares for a perimeter of 45 km.

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**Figure 1.** A sample from a resident of the study area infected with dental fluorosis

### Raw materials

Degla Nour date seeds, natural lignocellulosic residues from palm waste, the raw material used in this study, and the process of preparing these materials include the stages of washing, drying, calcination, grinding, and sieving. The amount of raw material from date kernel collected from the study area starting from October and continuing until January when the dates harvest season. 6 kg were collected (Fig. 2) and washed well with boiling water in the range of 60°C until the wash water became colorless. The main characteristics of date seeds are presented in (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Physiological and physiological properties of Deglet-Nour date seeds

Elements	Ca <sup>++</sup>	P	Mg <sup>+</sup>	K <sup>+</sup>	ABDUL
Date seeds (100mg/g)	38.8	68.3	51.7	22.9	et al. (2013)
Physiological	weight (g)	Ø(cm)	pH	length (cm)	Ash( %)
Value (ranges)	0.6 -1.69	0.58-1	5.76 -6.12	2.9 -3.15	0.80 - 1.08
ingredients %	Water	Fibers	Fatty substances	Protein	sugars
	6.37-12.42	13.54 - 16.27	8.72-10.39	6.51 - 8.59	6.02 - 7.41
	KHALI et al. (2014)				

### Prepare the organic matrix

The biomass (date seeds) was washed with distilled water several times to remove dirt particles and water soluble materials. The washed materials were then completely dried in an oven at 105°C, 200°C and 400 °C for 24 hours. They were crushed using a rotary jaw crusher. The latter was ground using a ball mill and then sieved using two sieves to retain only particles with a particle size between 50µm and 1 mm respectively. without the addition of any chemicals (Fig 3).



**Figure 2.** Photographs of organic matrix preparation The raw material (a) After the carbonization process (b) organic matrix (c)

### Procedures

The initial concentration of fluoride ions solution was 2.79 mg/l for all experiments. For fluoride ions removal kinetic experiments, the batch method was used because of its simplicity. About 1 g to 6 g of organic matrix was contacted with 40 mL of fluoride ions at PH = 7.49 solution in a sealed flask agitated vigorously by a magnetic stirrer controlled shaker at a speed of 150 rpm. At predetermined intervals of time, samples filtrate of the mixture was withdrawn analysed by a UV–Vis spectrophotometer in  $\lambda = 580\text{nm}$  for the concentration of fluoride ions. The adsorption capacity was calculated by using the following equation:

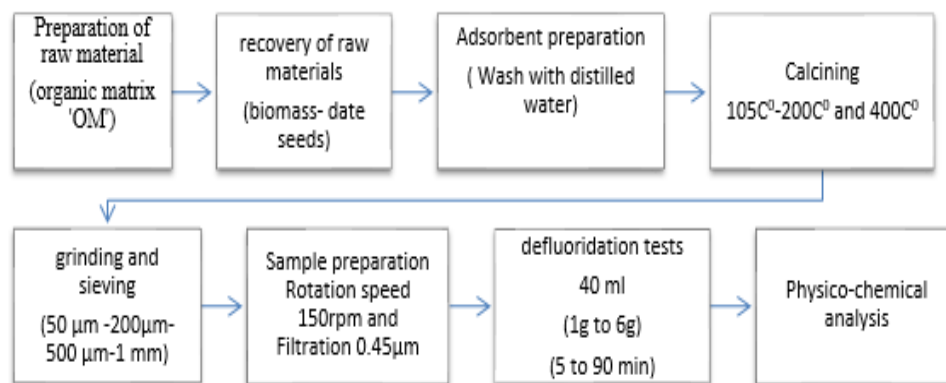
$$q_e = \frac{(C_0 - C_e) \cdot V}{m} \quad (1)$$

Where  $q_e$  (mg/g) is the adsorption capacity,  $C_0$  and  $C_e$  (mg/l) are the initial and equilibrium concentrations of  $F^-$ , and any time, respectively,  $V$  (L) is the volume of the solution and  $m$  (g) is the weight of used biosorbent. For the calculation of fluoride ions rate adsorption (R %), the following expression was used Al (Sagheer et al. 2009; Balarak et al. 2016):

$$R(\%) = \frac{(C_0 - C_e) \cdot 100}{C_0} \quad (2)$$

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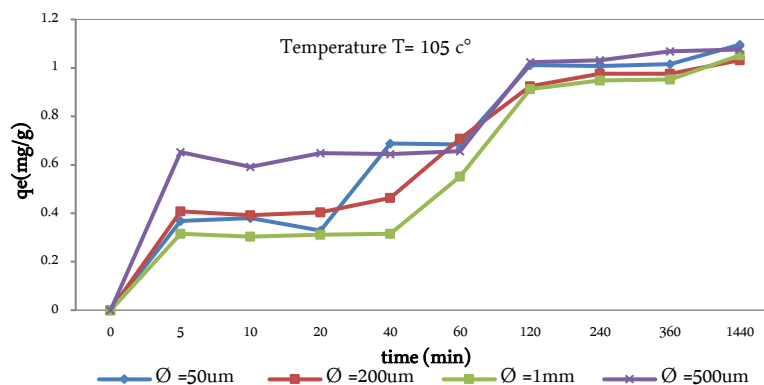


**Figure 3.** Step-by-step procedure followed for Adsorbent Preparation and Defluoridation Tests

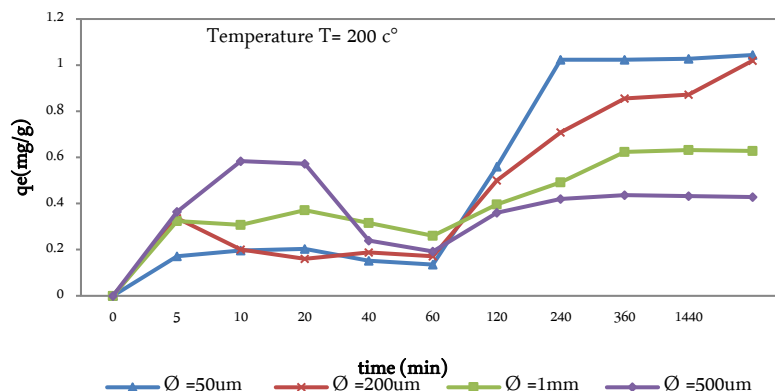
### 3. Results and Discussion

#### Effect of granular diameter diversity

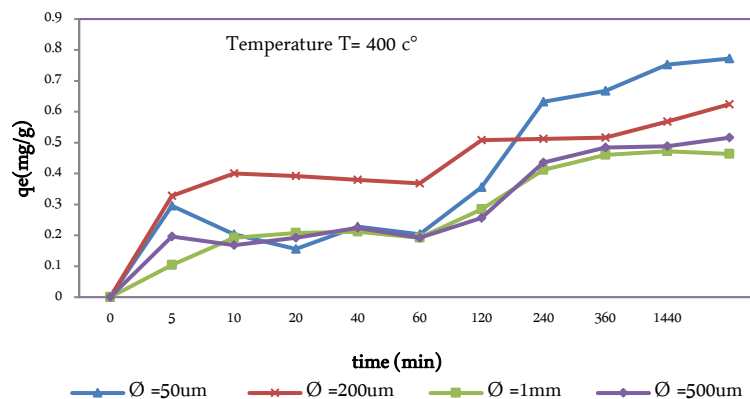
As for the difference in the granular diameter diversity of the date seeds at the diameters (50μm, 200μm, 500μm and 1 mm ).The ( Fig. 4-5-6 ) , it did not have a clear effect in this process, although the increase in the specific area of the matrixis related to the granular diameter , where the lower the granular diameter, the higher the specific area and accordingly the number of active sites increases and thus increases the efficiency of adsorption, (Abe et al. 2004) but in this case weconsider it unimportant So that the diameters converge from each other, and thismeans convergence in the specific space of the adsorbent, and the convergence of the specific behavior of the matrix made our experiments possible to reach minimum levels of fluoride ions less than the limit recommended by the WHO. And the polarization of fluoride in the reaction medium, where it is possible to take the particle diameter  $\varnothing = 50\mu\text{m}$  selected for the (OM) in this study.



**Figure 4 Effect of granular diameter diversity at a temperature 105 C<sup>0</sup>**



**Figure 5 Effect of granular diameter diversity at a temperature 200 C<sup>0</sup>**



**Figure 6 Effect of granular diameter diversity at a temperature 400 C<sup>0</sup>**

**Effect of contact time**

Results depicted in (Fig. 7) clearly show that the adsorption of fluoride ions on the (OM) prepared at different temperatures and granular diameter diversity, One of the factors affecting adsorption. shows the effect of contact time on F- ionuptake by the selected adsorbent adsorption material (OM). Perform adsorption experiments to find the optimal time by varying the contact time from 5 to 1440 minutes.

When the (OM) is prepared at a temperature of 105 and 400 C<sup>0</sup>. Except(OM) prepared at temperatures of 200 C<sup>0</sup>,Equilibrium contact time was foundto be 120 min at a 105 C<sup>0</sup> Nearly 98 % of the fluoride ion was adsorbed within the 1440 min of contact and 69.42 % at a 400 C<sup>0</sup>, In the case of 200 C<sup>0</sup> that the polarization amount of fluoride ions increases and decreases 12.23 % was absorbed during the first hour of contact, and it may be due to the liberation of fluoride in the reaction medium and then an increase in the amount of polar- ization of fluoride ions with the passage of the reaction time, where the amount of polarization increases at 240 min to reach 92.08 % and then prove over time. As we note that the adsorption process is proportional to the reaction time

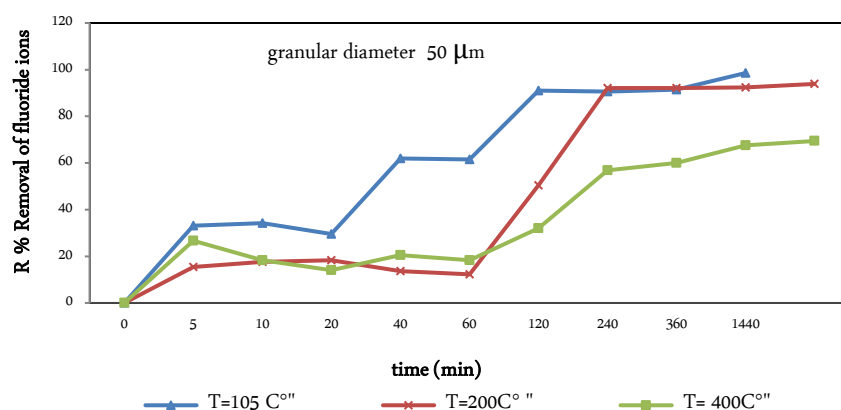


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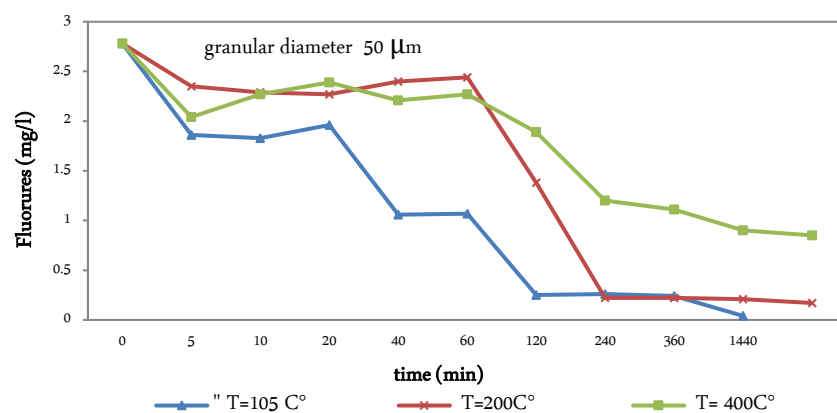
analyze the effect of experimental conditions.

The removal of the fluoride ion increases with the reaction time between the solution (water) and the (OM) granules. The sorption is first followed by the linear rise in the three samples together (Fig. 7) in which instantaneous, extremely fast uptake takes place in the first 5 minutes, Initially, The results obtained are in agreement with the kinetic models, where the system approaches equilibrium, moving from a higher absorption phase at the beginning, followed by a slower phase (Mahdi, Yu, and El Hanandeh, 2018; Naghizadeh et al. 2017) at a temperature of 105 and 400 C0. the rate of F- uptake was higher because all sites on the adsorbent were vacant and the F- concentration was high, The fast initial uptake was due to accumulation of metal ions on surfaces of OM adsorbents which is a rapid step (Mohan, Singh, and Singh, 2006; Abe et al. 2004) but then a decrease of sorption sites reduced the uptake rate. From this, it was concluded that 120 min were sufficient to reach 0.25 mg/l (Fig. 8) These results can be interpreted according to(Tripathy, Bersillon, and Gopal, 2006), By a cross reaction between the hydroxyl groups of the surface proteins and the fluoride ions according to

the following reaction  $-COH + F \leftrightarrow CF + OH$



**Figure 7 Effect of contact time on F- adsorption by OM (concentration: 2.79 mg/ Solution pH: 7.46 Agitation speed: 150 rpm, Dose 1 g/ 40 mL).**



**Figure 8 Evolution of fluoride concentration (mg / L) in treated water on date seeds calcined**  
**Effect of the temperature**

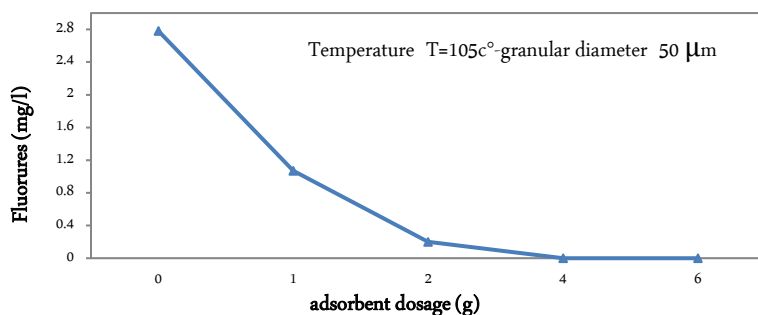
The effect of temperature It is possible to rely on the organic matrix in the natural state after the process of sterilization and drying at a temperature of 105 as a first stage in a treatment to reduce fluoride ions in the water of the region, which gave the highest removal rate of 98.56% in a time of 1440 minutes,

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according to (Fig 7). And we must take into account the organic matter produced in the reaction medium due to the use of the date seeds in its natural form, which must be removed.

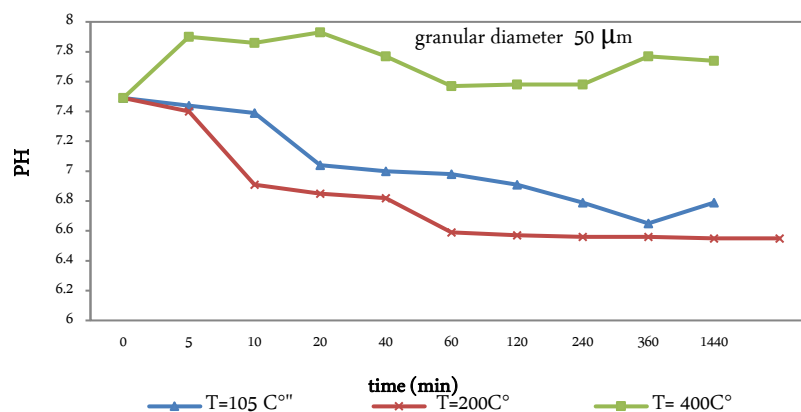
### Effect of adsorbent dosage

The effect of adsorbent dosage on removal of F<sup>-</sup> ion concentration was studied by varying dosage from 1 to 6 g as shown in Fig 9. Adsorbent dosage is one of the important parameters studied while conducting batch adsorption studies. It was found that adsorption increased with increase in mass of adsorbent (OM) That is, increasing the active sites and thus increasing the percentage of fluoride ions removed (Hanumantharao, Kishore, and Ravindhranath, 2012) Maximum removal efficiency of 100% for F<sup>-</sup> (from initial concentration of 2.79 mg/l ) was observed when 4g of (OM) was used.



**Figure 9 Effect of adsorbent dosage on F<sup>-</sup> adsorption by OM (concentration: 2.79 mg/L, Solution pH: 7.46 Agitation speed: 150 rpm, Temperature T=105c°, granular diameter 50 μm ).**

### Effect of PH



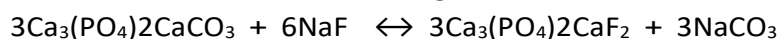
**Figure 10 The PH evolution of the reaction of date seeds calcined and treated water**

Monitoring of variations in (PH) During the reaction, (Fig 10) shows it. At the beginning of the reaction, the pH increases, which is logical due to the release of Hydroxide ions (OH<sup>-</sup>) from the carbon in the solution. As for its decrease, with the exception of (MO) prepared at a temperature of 400 °C, so with the difficulty of understanding this, this can be explained by the possibility of reaction of the hydroxide (OH<sup>-</sup>) released with minerals dissolved in water (Ca<sub>2</sub>, Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, . .) or to the reaction of hydrogen peroxide released with hydrogen potentially released from proteins, from the (MO) Since the fluoride ion has an affinity (Adler, Klein, and Lindsay, 1938) for tricalcium phosphate Ca<sub>3</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and is replaced by

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carbonate ions according to the reaction



Thus, the lower pH can be attributed to this reaction.

#### 4. Conclusion

From our tests, it appears that the granular diameter diversity and calcification temperature used had no clear effect of adsorption, under the conditions of the experiments carried out in this research. We concluded that the adsorption process is affected by the contact time from the ideal moment and adsorbent dosage to the degree of calcination of 105 °C. The results are very distinct, as the fluoride concentration was reduced by 98.56%, from 2.74 mg/l to 0.25 mg/l, within 1 h after the reaction using 1g of biomass source (OM), and 0 mg/l When increasing the adsorbent dosage to 4 g. The results are satisfactory in relation to the amount of adsorbent and the concentration of fluoride ions. Adsorption is one of the effective techniques used in the water treatment process despite the development of many methods and techniques in the process of reducing the concentration of fluoride in water, but its operation and maintenance costs are high, especially in less industrialized countries. In the current study, the limit already recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) has been reached. Taking into account several factors such as diet and climatic conditions, especially the effect of humidity, temperature and the amount of water consumed

per day, as the World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated that in hot regions, the appropriate concentration of fluoride in drinking water should be less than 1 mg/l and 1.2 mg/l in cold regions, and this is due to the consumption of large amounts of water in hot climates. And as specialists always we have made studies (research) to choose the best method requires for our project at the same time the least cost method, that is to say we have always estimated the technical- economic and environmental part. Thanks to this study, it was concluded that date seeds-Deglet Nour has a high efficiency as an easy to use, low cost, available and suitable for local use and not harmful to the environment. The adsorbent material to improve its effectiveness in the context of sustainable development. This product can be used as a radical solution to the high concentrations of fluoride in the desert regions of northern Algeria between the eastern and western regions.

### List of symbols

- $C_e$  — equilibrium metal ion concentration, mg/L
- $C_0$  — initial metal ion concentration, mg/L
- $m$  — mass of adsorbent, g
- $q_e$  — equilibrium solid-phase concentration, mg/g
- $V$  — liquid-phase volume, L

### Declarations

This study was funded by Water and Environmental Engineering in Saharan Milleau (GEEMS) Laboratory. Kasdi Merbah University, 30,000 Ouargla-Algeria.

### Conflicts of interest

All authors certify that they have no affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial interest or non-financial interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in this manuscript. Authors are responsible for correctness of the statements provided in the manuscript. See also Authorship Principles.

### Data availability statement

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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