

## **Determination of Organic Compounds in Landfill Leachates Treated by Coagulation-Flocculation and Fenton-Adsorption**

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**Abstract:** *The objective of this study was to identify the organic compounds removed from the leachates when treated with coagulation-flocculation and Fenton-Adsorption by gas chromatography coupled to mass spectrometry (GC-MS) in order to identify toxic compounds that could be harmful for the environment or human health.*

*Physico-chemical characterization of the raw leachates (RL) was carried out before and after the aforementioned combined treatment process. The effluent from each stage of this process was characterized: pH, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD<sub>5</sub>), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), turbidity and Total Suspended Solids (TSS). The organic compounds were determined by GC-MS.*

*The removal of COD and BOD<sub>5</sub> reached over 91% in compliance with the Tunisian Standards (NT 106.002-1989), which establishes the maximum permissible limits for contaminants present in wastewater discharges to urbanized streams. The chromatographic analysis from the Adsorption effluent proved that this treatment removed more than 99% of the organic compounds present in the initial sample. The phytotoxicity test showed that combined treatment process allowed a significant toxicity removed (92.2%). The mono (2-ethylhexyl) ester 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid persisted, although it is not considered as toxic compound by the NT 106.002-1989) Therefore, the treated effluent can be safely disposed of into the urbanized streams.*

**Keywords:** *Adsorption; Coagulation-Flocculation; Fenton; Landfill leachates; Organic compounds; phytotoxicity*

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### **I. Introduction**

In Tunisia, 1700 tones of domestic garbage are collected daily [1]. Landfilling is a fundamental step in any waste management strategy. Landfill leachates have been identified as potential sources of ground and surface waters contamination, as they may percolate through soils and subsoils, causing extensive pollution and toxicity. It generate a large amount of refractory organic compounds such as phenols [2], polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons [3] alkanes, ketones, esters, alcohols [4] and Phthalates [5]; therefore, their treatment is complicated and generally requires the application of various process [6]. The ability of anaerobic and aerobic biological processes to reduce the organic load of landfill leachates has been studied, and these processes are quite effective when applied to acetogenic leachates containing mainly volatile fatty acids. However, these processes are less efficient for the treatment of methanogenic leachates [7]. Many physico-chemical techniques have been proposed for the treatment of wastewaters that contain high concentrations of refractory organic matter. These techniques include ozonisation, ultrasound treatment, coagulation-flocculation, Fenton and adsorption processes; among these, the Fenton processes are very effective [8,9,10]. These treatment makes possible the transformation of recalcitrant compounds into biodegradable products. The Fenton process is an advanced Oxidation process (AOP) that is effective, simple and inexpensive and is based on the use of ferrous salts that activate H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> from highly oxidizing OH radicals. This system promotes the formation of the highly reactive hydroxyl radicals, able to oxidize a wide range of compounds [11]. High H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> doses lead to a higher amount of HO<sup>•</sup>, however, when in excess, hydrogen peroxide reveals a radical scavenging capacity, decreasing the treatment efficiency once then hydroperoxyl radicals (HO<sub>2</sub><sup>•</sup>). Generally, the Fenton reactant doses are determined as a function of the leachate organic content ([Fe<sup>2+</sup>]/ [H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>] and [COD]/ [H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>], the oxidation time and the pH [12].

The Fenton process generates high volumes of light sludge which is difficult to remove by decantation. The filtration process has been tested successfully, microfiltration reached removal 75 % in COD and 95 % in color [13].

Another physicochemical process that has been used to treat leachates is adsorption [14,15]. It is a process by which a substance is transferred from the liquid phase to the surface of a solid and becomes bound by physical and/or chemical interactions. Because of its large surface area, microporous structure and surface reactivity, powder activated carbon adsorption is one of the most attractive methods for the removal of recalcitrant compounds from leachates [16]. The adsorption of pollutants provides great reduction in COD levels, whatever the initial organic matter concentration [17]. On the other hand, the adsorption process can

reduce the residual metal ions and ammonia nitrogen. However, the main drawbacks are the need for frequent regeneration and high consumption of adsorbent.

The Mediterranean countries are characterized by a severe water imbalance, mainly in the summer months [18]. Moreover, increasing agricultural reuse of treated effluent serves goals such as promoting sustainable agriculture, preserving scarce water resources, and maintaining environmental quality; therefore, the aim of this study was to identify organic compounds removed by applying the combination of coagulation-flocculation and Fenton-Adsorption process to the leachates from the landfill of the city of Bizerte, Tunisia, using gas chromatography coupled to mass spectrometry (GC-MS) in order to assess the potential risk of pollution that raw and treated leachates pose.

## II. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Site description

The site used for this study was the sanitary landfill site of Bizerte, North Eastern Tunisia (37°16'N; 9°52'E) (Fig.1).



**Figure 1.** Localization site

A leachate management program has been applied, involving the collection of leachates through a drainage network and the continuous re-circulation through the deposited landfill. At the lowest point of landfill, leachates exits to the surface, forming an evaporation pond. About 60 m<sup>3</sup> day<sup>-1</sup> of leachates are transferred to the main wastewater treatment plant for further treatment.

### 2.2. Sampling campaigns

Four samplings were carried out in the evaporation pond of the landfill between July and October 2012. In each sampling, 40 L of leachates were collected in four different points of the evaporation pond. Samples were transported to the laboratory, stored at 4 °C and analyzed within 2 days.

Physico-chemical characteristics of leachate samples were validated according to French standard NF XPT 90-210 [19]. Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD<sub>5</sub>) was determined by the manometric method with a respirometer (BSB-Controlled Model OxiTop (WTW)) and the chemical oxygen demand (COD) was estimated using the method described by Knechtel [20]. Total nitrogen contents (TN) were measured by the Kjeldhal method using an automated apparatus (Buchi, Switzerland). Phosphorus was determined colorimetrically at 430 nm using a Shimadzu U 1000 spectrophotometer [21]. The phosphorus content (TP) was measured calorimetrically by atomic absorption (ICE, 3000 model). The pH was measured using pH meter (INOLAB WTW 720). Electrical conductivity (CE) was determined with an electronic conductivity meter (TACUSSEL, CD 6NG) equipped with an immersion measurement probe (cell constant Ks L<sup>-1</sup> = 1 cm). The total suspended solid content (TSS) was assessed by drying at 105 °C for 12 h [22].

The removal efficiency (RE) was determined as the percentage of decrease in influent with respect to effluent for each parameter measured.

### 2.3. Treatment process

#### 2.3.1. Application of the Coagulation-flocculation process

Coagulation-flocculation experiments were carried out in a conventional jar-test apparatus, equipped with 6 beakers of 1000 mL volume at room temperature (around 18 °C). Leachate samples were removed from the refrigerator and were remained for about 2 h under ambient temperature. Then, sample bottles were thoroughly shaken, for re-suspension of possibly settling solids and the appropriate volume of sample was transferred to the corresponding jar test beakers. The pH of raw leachates (RL) was adjusted to the level of 5.5 by the addition of appropriate amounts of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the coagulation-flocculation was applied with 0.6 g L<sup>-1</sup> of

$\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The experimental process consisted of three subsequent stages: the initial rapid mixing stage took place for 6 min at 200 rpm, followed by a slow stage for 60 min at 60 rpm. Stirring was then discontinued and the sludge was left to settle for 2 h. After the settling period, the supernatant was withdrawn from the beakers by using a plastic syringe (50 mL) from a point located about 2 cm below the top of liquid level at the beaker.

### 2.3.2. Application of the Fenton process

Fenton experiments were conducted in a 1000 mL glass beaker. 400 mL of leachates treated by coagulation-flocculation process ( $\text{TL}_{\text{CF}}$ ) was acidified to pH 3 using  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  and introduced into the reactors and agitated in an orbital shaker at 10 rpm. Fenton oxidation was applied by addition of Fenton reagents ( $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) and Hydrogen peroxide ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (30 % W/W)) with dose of  $1200 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  and  $2.4 \text{ g L}^{-1}$ , respectively. The molar ratio of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  to  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  was 2. The leachate was then filtered using a filter press (ULVAC, SINKUKIKO; G-20D), using a filter (Schleicher and Schuell of  $25 \mu\text{m}$  pores).

### 2.3.3. Application of Adsorption process

Adsorption experiments were performed in erlenmeyer flasks where 200 mL of treated leachates by Fenton process ( $\text{TL}_{\text{F}}$ ) was mixed with  $20 \text{ g L}^{-1}$  of powdered activated carbon (Kanto chemical Co. INK. Cica reagent) and then shaken for a period of 3 h at 150 rpm. The temperature of adsorption was  $20 \pm 1 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . The samples were centrifugated at 6000 rpm for 20 min.

## 2.4. Chromatographic analysis

Samples of the RL,  $\text{TL}_{\text{CF}}$ ,  $\text{TL}_{\text{F}}$  and the effluent from the adsorption ( $\text{TL}_{\text{A}}$ ) were collected and analyzed by GC-MS in order to identify organic compounds.

The sample processing and analysis is a modification method of the previously described method of Sang et al. [23]. Briefly, the pH of 500 mL of the collected samples was adjusted to 12 using NaOH 10 N and three liquid-liquid extractions (LLE) were made using volumes of 50 mL of chromatographic grade  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The organic extract was separated in a flask. Then the pH of the aqueous fraction from the extraction was adjusted to 2 with  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  10 N. The LLE was repeated with three volumes of 50 mL of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The separated acidic and alkaline organic phases were mixed and condensed to 5 mL with a Buchi rotoevaporator in a water bath at  $42 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  vial for GC-MS analysis.

The GC-MS analyses were carried out with gas chromatography (GC, Hewlett-Packard 6890 Series, Agilent Technology) equipped with a mass spectrometer (MS, Hewlett-Packard 5973 Mass Selective Detector, Agilent Technology). A HP-5MS fused silica capillary column ( $60 \text{ m} \times 0.25 \text{ mm}$  i.d.,  $0.25\text{-}\mu\text{m}$  film thickness, Agilent Technology) was used. The GC oven temperature was programmed as follows:  $100 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  hold for 2 min, raised at  $5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$  to  $290 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  (held for 20 min). Helium was the carrier gas at a flow rate of  $1.07 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$ . The injection was set on a split less mode at  $250 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . The volume injected was  $1.0 \mu\text{L}$ , the solvent delay was 10.00 min and total run time was 60 min. Detection was conducted by a mass selective detector with electron impact ionization at 70 eV, in selected ion monitoring mode. MS transfer line temperature was at  $280 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . The MS was operated in full scan in electron ionization mode with an electron multiplier voltage of 2200V. The mass scanning ranged from  $m/z$  50 to 550. Mass spectra were compared to the reference compounds in Wiley 275 L mass spectral library.

The semi-quantification and the removal of persistent compounds in each stage of the process were performed by comparing the corrected areas of specific peaks to the peak area.

## 2.5. Toxicity test

The phytotoxicity was assessed on seed germination of tomato (*Lycopersicon. esculentum*). According to a modified Zucconi test [24] by measuring seed germination. Prior to test, the seeds were surface-sterilized in 3% (v/v) hydrogen peroxides for 15 min and then rinsed with deionized water. Ten undamaged seeds with identical size were placed uniformly in 90 cm petri dishes, in a filter. Five dilutions of the sample and one control were prepared with three replicates. Each dish contained 5 ml sample dilution or 5 ml of distilled water (control). Three replicates were carried out for each sample, including the control. Dishes were then covered and incubated in the dark at  $20 \pm 2 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 5 days. A germination index (GI) was calculated by counting the number of germinated seeds and the average root length observed in each sample compared to control seeds. Seeds were considered to have germinated when the radical penetrates the seed coat [25].

The median effective concentration ( $\text{EC}_{50}$ ) was calculated from the dose relationship between GI and leachates concentration by the brain cousens model [26]. The evaluation of toxicity was performed by transforming the  $\text{EC}_{50}$  values into toxic units according to the following formula:  $\text{TU} = 100/\text{EC}_{50}$ .

### III. Result and Discussion

#### 3.1. Physico-chemical characteristics of leachates

The RL had a high COD content of 16.200 g L<sup>-1</sup> and low biodegradability index (BI) expressed as the ratio of BOD<sub>5T</sub> and COD<sub>T</sub> (Table 1), making it unsuitable for treatment by biological process. Ramirez et al. [27] reported similar values to those obtained in this study. Additionally, the amount of ammonia was approximately 2.35 g NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>; compared with this value, P contents can be considered negligible (Table 1). The pH was 8.11 and only small concentrations of metal ions were observed. The pH value, the low biodegradability and the high ammonia concentration detected in the samples are typical of methanogenic leachates.

**Table 1.** Physico-chemical characterization of leachate sample and legal limits for discharge throughout the local sewage

Parameters	Raw leachate	<sup>a</sup> LLD
pH	8.11	6.5-9
Turbidity (NTU)	422	nd
Total COD (mg O <sub>2</sub> L <sup>-1</sup> )	16200	1000
Soluble COD (mgO <sub>2</sub> L <sup>-1</sup> )	15900	-
BOD <sub>5</sub> (mgO <sub>2</sub> L <sup>-1</sup> )	2430	400
TKN (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	2350	100
N-NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	2120	100
Total P (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	13.64	10
TSS (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	491	-
TDS (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	1953	-
DBO <sub>5</sub> /DCO	0.15	-
Absorbance (at 460 nm)	1.192	<sup>b</sup> nd
Mn (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	0.15	1
Cu (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	0.0871	1
Zn (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	0.00251	5
Cd (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	<sup>b</sup> nd	0.1
Fe (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	6.87	5
Al (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	1.73	10
Cr (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	1.64	2
Pb (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	n. d	1

<sup>a</sup>LLD: legal limits for discharge throughout the local sewage; <sup>b</sup>nd: not detected

The effluent from the combined treatment process reached over 98 % removal for total COD (COD<sub>T</sub>) and soluble COD (COD<sub>S</sub>) and 90 % for BOD<sub>5</sub> (Table 2). The value of COD<sub>S</sub>/COD<sub>T</sub> for raw leachates was close to 1, indicating that most of the organic matter was dissolved [28]. The effluent from the adsorption process reached COD and BOD<sub>5</sub> values lower than the maximum allowed by the existing legislative guidelines for the discharge of treated wastewaters in the urbanized streams (NT 106.002 1989) (1000 and 400 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, respectively).

**Table 2.** Physico-chemical characterization of treated leachate and legal limits for discharge throughout the local sewage

Parameters	<sup>a</sup> TL <sub>CF</sub>	<sup>b</sup> TL <sub>F</sub>	<sup>c</sup> TL <sub>A</sub>	LLD
pH	5.5	3	8.6	6,5 < PH < 9
Turbidity (NTU)	42.2	27	0.61	
Total COD (mgO <sub>2</sub> L <sup>-1</sup> )	9102	2912.64	398	1000
Soluble COD (mgO <sub>2</sub> L <sup>-1</sup> )	8920	2246	357	-
DBO <sub>5</sub> (mgO <sub>2</sub> L <sup>-1</sup> )	1895.4	786.41	220	400
DBO <sub>5</sub> /DCO	0.22	0.27	0.55	
Absorbance (at 460 nm)	1.168	0.053	0.023	-
TSS (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	1915	87	
TDS (mg L L <sup>-1</sup> )	-	28150	920	
Soluble COD/total COD	0.98	0.77	0.89	
% Total COD removal	44	82	98	
% Total BOD removal	22	67	91	

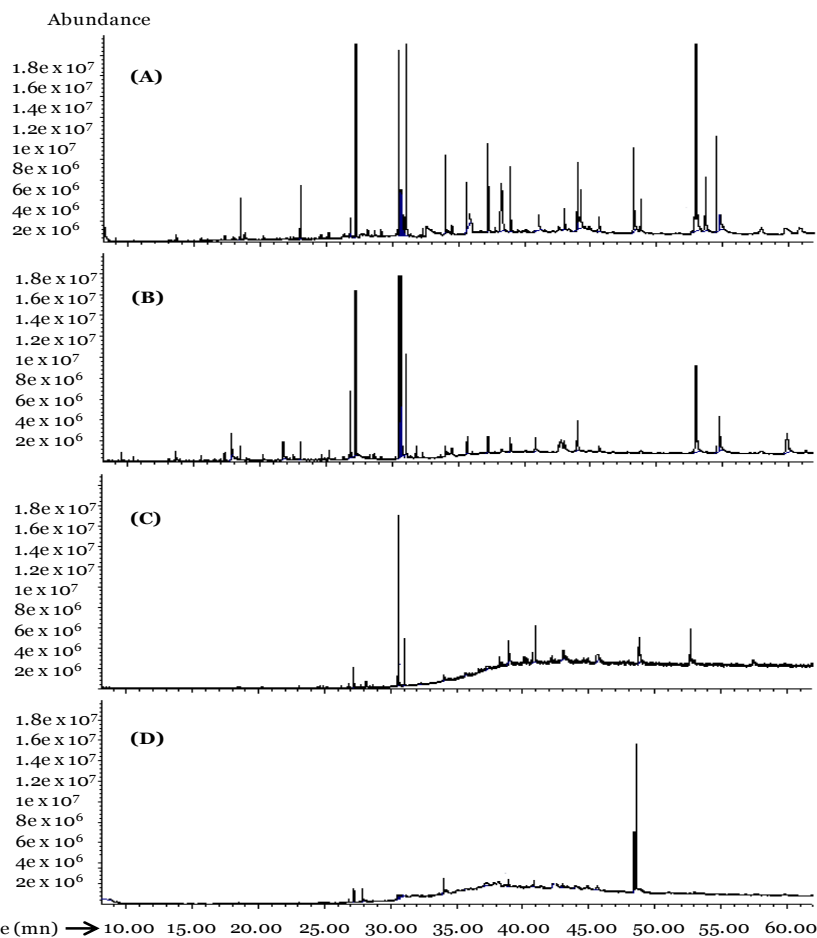
<sup>a</sup>TL<sub>CF</sub>: treated leachate by coagulation flocculation. 0.6 g L<sup>-1</sup> of Fe<sup>3+</sup>; pH5.5

<sup>b</sup>TL<sub>F</sub>: treated leachate by coagulation flocculation then Fenton-process. 2.4g H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> L<sup>-1</sup>; 1.2 g L<sup>-1</sup> of Fe<sup>2+</sup>; pH3

<sup>c</sup>TL<sub>A</sub>: treated leachate by coagulation flocculation, Fenton then adsorption. Powder Charbon: 20 g L<sup>-1</sup>

#### 3.2. Identification of organic compounds in leachates

The compounds present in the leachate samples, whose spectra signal quality was greater than 98%, were separated and identified by GC-MS. As an example, Figure 2 shows the chromatograms obtained for leachate sample 2.



**Figure 2.** Chromatograms of Raw leachates (A), leachates after coagulation-flocculation (B), leachates after fenton

It is observed that the chromatograms of RL, TL<sub>CF</sub> and TL<sub>F</sub> have a large number of peaks corresponding to the organic compounds found. These represent a source of contamination and could be harmful to the urbanized streams and aquatic environment if discharged without the proper treatment. The adsorption effluent chromatogram exhibits a smaller number of peaks compared to chromatograms 2 (A), (B) and (C).

The semi-quantification and the removal of persistent compounds in each stage of the process in the RL are shown in Table 3.

**Table 3.** List of predominant compounds in the raw leachates

No.	Compound	Samples			
		1	2	3	4
1	1-2-diphenylcyclobutane	x	x	x	x
2	2-4 Bisphenol	x	x	x	x
3	4 methyl phenol		x	x	x
4	Anthracene	x	x		x
5	Butylphtalate: DBP	x	x	x	x
6	4 phenyl cyclohexane	x	x	x	
7	1-2 benzenedicarboxylic acid	x	x	x	
8	Bis (2-methoxyethyl) ester: DMEP		x	x	x
9	2-Chlorocyclohexanol	x		x	x
10	Naphtalene	x	x	x	
11	Mono (2-ethylhexyl) ester 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid cholestanol		x	x	x
12		x	x	x	x

The total corrected area from the adsorption effluent in sample 2 decreased 99.93% compared to the total area of the RL; therefore, a high removal of organic compounds was observed after applying the combined treatment process. After adsorption, mono (2-ethylhexyl) ester 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid was found; its removal was 95.44%. The compounds not found in the effluent were considered as completely removed. The



average decrease in corrected areas of the raw leachate with respect to the adsorption effluent on the four samples was 98.2%.

The persistent major components in the four samples in the raw leachate were 1,2-diphenylcyclobutane, 2-4 bis-phenol, butylphthalate and cholestanol with an average area of  $12.07 \pm 6$ ,  $20.42 \pm 8.2\%$ ,  $0.54 \pm 0.3$  and  $30.27 \pm 9.6\%$ , respectively. For the coagulation-flocculation, the major components found were 1,2-diphenylcyclobutane and 2-4 bis-phenol with an average area of  $13.1 \pm 6$  and  $30.51 \pm 9.3$ , respectively. For the Fenton-effluent, the major component found was 2-4 bis-phenol with an average area of  $27.5 \pm 11.5\%$ . For the adsorption effluent, the major component was mono (2-ethylhexyl) ester 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid with an average area of  $33.6 \pm 16.2\%$ .

Twelve predominant compounds were identified in at least three out of four samples from the raw leachates. Among them, there were two phenolic compounds (N° 2 and 3), three aromatic acids (N° 1, 6, and 7), one aliphatic acid and ester (N° 8), two polyaromatic hydrocarbon (PAHs) (N° 4 and 10), one phthalate ester (N° 5 and 11) and two alcohols (N° 9 and 12). These compounds are shown in Table 4. All of them have carcinogenic and mutagenic properties [29].

Among the phenolic compounds found, 4-methyl-phenol is corrosive to the eyes, skin and respiratory tract; also, it is corrosive if ingested, can affect the central nervous system and several organs [30]. It has been previously reported in wastewater, urban snow, runoff and landfill leachate [31-34].

Likewise, PAHs and phthalate ester were also found. The PAHs are emitted from combustion and petroleum sources whereas the phenols and phthalates are emitted mainly from consumer products and building materials [35,36]. As several of the selected PAHs, phenols and phthalates show acute toxic, carcinogenic and estrogenic effects on aquatic organisms, their occurrence in leachate and stormwater may pose a threat to receiving water quality [35-37].

Mono (2-ethylhexyl) ester 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid, which is a phthalate used in the manufacture of PVC and is regarded as a potential endocrine disruptor, was found as well [38,39] conclude that the possible origin of this compound in the leachate is the disposition of paints, varnishes, plasticizers, pesticides, insecticides, repellents, disinfectants, motor oil, etc. 2-chlorocyclohexanol was found in three samples. It is persistent to coagulation-flocculation, Fenton oxidation and to adsorption with activated carbon.

**Table 4.** Comparison between areas of persistent compounds identified by GC-MS of sample 2

Compounds	Raw leachates	Coagulation-flocculation effluent		Fenton effluent		Adsorption effluent	
	Corrected area	Corrected area	% Removal	Corrected area	% Removal	Corrected area	% Removal
	2-4 Bisphenol	16,937,447	15,190,458	10.31	13,203,342	22.04	-
4 methyl phenol	12,106,823	9,896,101	18.26	4,372,518	63.88	-	100
Anthracene	15,847,133	13,123,072	17.18	6,911,021	56.38	-	100
Butylphthalate: DBP	21,094,318	17,520,969	16.93	7,203,007	65.85	-	100
4 phenyl cyclohexane	19,154,821	15,763,542	17.70	4,921,233	74.3	-	100
Mono (2-ethylhexyl) ester 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid	19,198,395	14,003,951	27.05	3,815,274	80.12	874,237	95.44
2-Chlorocyclohexanol	19,842,193	16,000,873	19.35	698,915	96.47	-	100
Cholestanol	24,086,215	23,101,002	4.09	21,763,191	9.64	-	100
Total corrected area	9,925,198,944	7,898,942,118	20.41	3,289,732,982	66.85	6,680,850	99.93

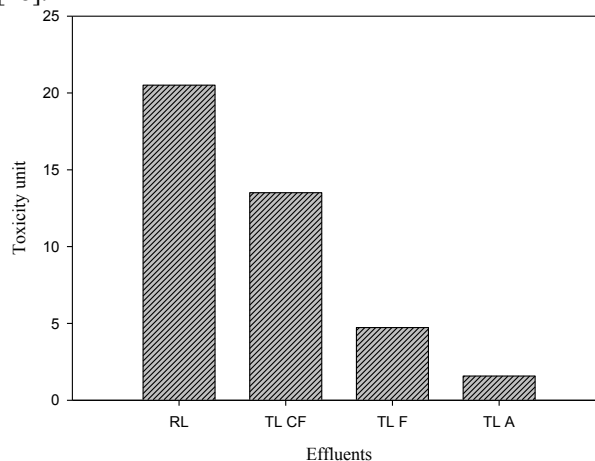
After the coagulation-flocculation process, all predominant compounds found in the raw leachate showed only a slow decrease. Urase and Miyashita [40] also found that a major fraction of organic matter in landfill leachates remained in the filtered samples.

The predominant compounds in the leachate found after the Fenton-filtration treatment in at least three out of four samples are listed as follows: 4-methyl-phenol; 2,4-bis-phenol; cholestanol and mono (2-ethylhexyl) ester 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid. This last compound was the only compound that remained in the leachate treated by the combined treatment but not show signs of high toxicity. This phthalate is highly hydrophobic and is expected to adsorb strongly to particles, hence can be removed by filtration and sedimentation. However, despite its hydrophobic character, mono (2-ethylhexyl) ester 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid was detected in the dissolved treated samples (Fig. 2). This indicates that the partition coefficient to the particulate organic content  $K_{OC}$  in the water samples of mono (2-ethylhexyl) ester 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid is decreased by components of the sample matrix, for example DOC as suggested by Lee and Kuo [41].

### 3.3. Toxicity reduction

The RL showed a toxic effect, since the raw effluent completely inhibited the germination of tomato (*Lycopersicon. esculentum*) (Fig. 3). The toxicity unit (TU) of RL was 20.51. The Phytotoxicity could be primarily attributed to the presence of toxic compounds such as  $N-NH_4^+$ , Hydrocarbons, phenolic compounds.

The combined physico-chemicals treatment process was very efficient. Therefore, the treated effluent reached over 90 % removal of toxicity [28].



RL: Raw leachates; TL<sub>CF</sub>: leachates treated by coagulation flocculation; TL<sub>F</sub>: leachates treated by Fenton; TL<sub>A</sub>: leachates treated by adsorption

**Figure. 3** toxicity along different treatment process

#### IV. Conclusion

Phenolic compounds, aromatic acids, aliphatic acid and ester, PAHs, phthalate ester and alcohols were detected in the raw and most of the treated leachates. Among these, 4-methyl-phenol and 2,4-bis-phenol have toxic properties.

Mono (2-ethylhexyl) ester 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid was the only compound that remained in the leachate treated by the coagulation-flocculation and Fenton-Adsorption process. It not shows signs of high toxicity.

The effluent obtained from the aforementioned treatment of leachates from the landfill of Bizerte city presented parameters within the maximum limits allowed by the existing legislative guidelines for the discharge of treated wastewaters in the public Tunisian canalizations [42]. In consequence, they may be safely discharged into urbanized streams without potential environmental risk (COD = 398 mg L<sup>-1</sup> and BOD<sub>5</sub> = 220 mg L<sup>-1</sup>) The COD and BOD<sub>5</sub> removal percentages achieved were greater than 91% in the treated leachate.

There was a decrease greater than 99% in the total corrected area from the chromatograms of the adsorption effluent compared to the raw leachate chromatograms. Therefore, the reduction of organic matter was high.

The proposed treatment, in addition to be effective for methanogenic leachate treatment, has lower phytotoxicity expressed as toxicity units of tomato (*Lycopersicon. esculentum*). Under these considerations, the treated effluent can be discharged in the urbanized stream.

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