

A REVIEW ON PHYTOREMEDIATION POTENTIAL OF CANNA SPECIES FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT

ASHUTOSH KUMAR CHOUDHARY

*Department of Applied Sciences & Humanities, Himalayan School of Science and Technology,
Swami Rama Himalayan University, Dehradun 248 140, India*

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ABSTRACT

Globally, contamination of water is a serious environmental issue which necessitates continuous attention and remediation. The demand for good quality water is increasing so it becomes essential to promote the cost effective and sustainable wastewater treatment technologies like phytoremediation by using constructed wetlands (CWs). This review focused to investigate the phytoremediation efficiency of *Canna* species for the treatment of wastewater originated from different sources, by using different type of CWs around the world. It includes 33 research studies reported in the literature, for the phytoremediation of wastewater. *Canna* species performed well under different experimental conditions and recommended for the remediation of water and wastewater.

KEY WORDS : *Canna* species, Constructed wetland, Phytoremediation, Water pollution, Wastewater treatment

INTRODUCTION

Water pollution is indeed a global environmental challenge that affects the environment, human health and most of the aquatic ecosystems. It needs continuous attention and effective remediation. It affects the entire biological community in the biosphere. The most significant sources of water pollution are industrial wastes, mining activity, agricultural runoff, domestic sewage, solid waste, and accidental oil spills. The conventional remediation requires high energy inputs and is a cost intensive practice which further generates a large quantity of sludge as waste. In emerging nations, a large quantum of wastewater is discharged with a diversity of pollutants. The secondary treated wastewater has been found to still contain significant levels of organic load and toxic pollutants that seriously degrade the environment (Choudhary *et al.*, 2014). To further enhance the wastewater quality, tertiary treatment is required for the reduction of nitrogenous, and phosphorus compounds, which is again a challenging task as it

requires additional energy input and chemicals (Kivaisi, 2001). To overcome all these challenges, the only solution is to promote sustainable and environment friendly approaches to treat wastewater and minimize the adverse effects on the environment. Phytoremediation by using constructed wetlands (CWs) is an emerging technology for the remediation of water pollution. It is a technique which utilizes the potential of macrophytes (emerging plants) to remove the pollutants from water, sewage and wastewater. It involves a combination of processes like plant uptake (Choudhary *et al.*, 2011, 2013), degradation by plants (phytodegradation), stabilization by plants (phytostabilization), and volatilization from surface of plants (phytovolatilization), for the remediation of organic contaminants (Sandermann, 1992). It has been proved to be more eco-friendly than to advanced wastewater treatment processes (Xiao *et al.*, 2018).

This review is aimed to investigate the effectiveness (phytoremediation potential) of *Canna* species for the reduction of pollutants from

wastewaters of different origin, by using different type of CWs around the world.

***Canna* species**

It is a perennial plant that is a member of the Cannaceae family and genus *Canna*. According to Kessler (2007), it is the only genus in the family to contain 19 flowering plant species. It originated in Central and South America, and has since spread to tropical and subtropical regions of the world including Europe, India and North America. It grows well in different types of soil preferably in loamy soils. Its habitat includes areas under shade, wet places, savannah, wetlands, marshes and swampy areas with plants height vary from 0.75 to 3.0 m (Jayakumari, 2009). Many species grow well in nitrogen rich moist soils, near streams (Chate, 1867). *Canna* species can be easily propagated by seeds and cuttings of root. The seeds are small, globular and resemble to shotgun pellets that's why named as Indian shot (common name) (Jayakumari and Stephen, 2009; Tanaka, 2009). The general characteristics of *Canna* species are summarized in Table 1.

Constructed wetland

Constructed wetlands (CWs) are simple engineered setups constructed to treat wastewater that relies on natural processes and phytoremediation potential of plants (macrophytes). It consists of shallow bed, having substrate (gravels, sand and soil), wastewater flow control devices, macrophytes, and a variety of microorganisms (EPA, 2004). Since 1950s, CWs have been successfully utilized in Germany to treat industrial and municipal wastewaters (Vymazal *et al.*, 1998). Over the past 30 years, CW systems have rapidly developed and are now widely used as an option to treat wastewater. These systems are suitable for treating industrial

wastewater as it requires low energy, and are simple to maintain (Choudhary and Kumar, 2020). CWs systems are aesthetically more attractive in comparison to conventional treatment setups used for wastewater treatment (Kadlec *et al.*, 2000; Langergraber, 2008). The plant species commonly used in different types of CWs include free-floating, submerged, and emergent plants (Vymazal, 2013). CW treatment efficiency primarily depends on the wetland design, type and concentration of pollutants in wastewater, hydraulic retention time (HRT), microbial reactions, plant species and the surrounding environmental conditions (EPA, 2000).

According to EPA (2004), CWs can be categorized into two sub-categories based on wastewater flow into the system: (i) surface flow (SF) wetlands, in which wastewater flows horizontally over the wetland substrate; (ii) subsurface flow (SSF), in which the wastewater flows horizontally or vertically through the substrate; and (iii) hybrid CWs, in which a combination of both horizontal subsurface flow (HSSF) and vertical subsurface flow (VSSF) is used. SF CWs typically use submerged and floating plants, while SSF CWs commonly use plant species such as *Canna indica*, *Colocasia esculenta*, *Phragmites australis*, *Typha spp.*, and *Schoenoplectus* species (Choudhary and Kumar, 2020).

CWs effectively reduce inorganic and organic pollutants, toxic compounds, heavy metals, and pathogens, from wastewater. The primary processes involved in pollutant removal are physical (adsorption, filtration and sedimentation), chemical (oxidation, reduction, precipitation), and biological interactions (microbial reactions, uptake or transformation by plants) (Watson *et al.*, 1989; Choudhary *et al.*, 2013). Inorganic nutrients present in wastewater, get converted into organic matter to maintain the plant growth, and support the food chain in CW (Brix, 1993).

Table 1. Characteristics of *Canna* species (Khoshoo and Mukherjee, 1969, 1970; Kirtikar and Basu, 1970; Pullaiah, 2006; Jayakumari and Stephen, 2009; Ciciarelli, 2012)

Part of plant	Characteristics
Stem	Light green in color, herbaceous pseudostem, cylindrical, reaches up to 1.5–2 m.
Leaves	Dark green, simple, alternate, and spiral, lanceolate or ovate large, 30–35 cm in width and length up to 6570 cm.
Rhizomes	Yellowish white or pinkish
Root	Whitish (diameter 2–5 mm), with numerous root hairs, tubular, thick.
Flower	Generally, red, yellow, orange; paired or solitary, 4–10 cm in diameter, about 1.3 cm long bracts.
Fruit	Capsules bright green in color, covered by green to purple tubercles, spiny, 2–2.5 cm long.
Seeds	Small (size of a pea), globular, black, and resemble shotgun pellets.

CWs rely mainly on two mechanisms to reduce the pollutants present in wastewater: (i) solid/liquid separation and (ii) transformation of constituents present in wastewater (EPA, 2000). Separations mainly include filtration, sedimentation, absorption, and adsorption, ion exchange, leaching, and stripping. Transformations include oxidation and reduction reactions, flocculation, precipitation, and biochemical reactions facilitated by the root zone environment. Wetland soil provides favorable conditions for plant and microbial growth, and fine gravel has been reported to promote higher plant growth and increased pollutant removal (Garcia *et al.*, 2005).

According to Madigan *et al.* (1997) and Hoppe *et al.* (1998), microorganisms such as bacteria, yeasts, fungi, protozoa, and algae are crucial for biogeochemical nutrient transformation. Moreover, aerobic or anaerobic degradation processes performed by microorganisms, including the removal of toxic organic compounds, have been reported by Kadlec and Knight (1996) and Reddy and D'Angelo (1997). Physical mechanisms involved in the removal of suspended solids (SS) include flocculation/sedimentation and filtration (EPA, 2000). Nitrogenous compound removal from wastewaters occurs through processes such as adsorption and plant uptake, volatilization, ammonification, nitrification, and denitrification in the root zone. According to Vymazal (2007), the primary mode of phosphate removal in constructed wetlands is sediment retention. However, plants can also uptake soluble reactive phosphorus or it can be adsorbed to the substrate of the wetland bed (Vymazal, 1995). Biological oxygen demand (BOD) and chemical oxygen demand (COD) removal mainly occur by sedimentation and entrapment of suspended solids in the spaces between the substrate media of wetland bed (EPA, 1993). The removal of soluble organic compounds is carried out by the microorganisms attached to plant roots and on the media surfaces. Similarly, the removal of metals from industrial wastewater, also involve multiple mechanisms such as filtration, sedimentation, precipitation, adsorption, and uptake by plants & microorganisms (Stottmeister *et al.*, 2003; Debusk, 1999). Several studies have reported the efficient removal of pathogens in CWs (Gersberg *et al.*, 1987; Stottmeister *et al.*, 2003).

In summary, CWs efficient systems for wastewater treatment involving various complex interactions processes. Plants have a crucial role in

the reduction of pollutants from wastewater in CWs (Choudhary *et al.*, 2013). The plants offer attachment sites to microorganisms and generate dead organic matter to support microbial growth and metabolism (Vymazal, 2011). Moreover, plants directly uptake the nutrients particularly nitrogenous and phosphorus compounds and also release oxygen in the root zone for the degradation of pollutants. The uptake of organic compounds by plants is affected by several factors like concentration, acidity constant (pKa), octanol-water partition coefficient, and physicochemical characteristics (Wenzel *et al.*, 1999; Stottmeister *et al.*, 2003). Pollutants metabolism in plants comprises three phases, namely compartmentation, conjugation, and transformation (Sandermann, 1992). Similarly, the removal of heavy metals depends on several factors, including heavy metals concentration in wastewater, growth of plants, and selected plant species (Sheoran and Sheoran, 2006).

Performance of *Canna* species

Wastewater treatment using *Canna* species has been carried out in different studies worldwide. Table 2 summarizes the phytoremediation potential of *Canna* species in different types of CWs. A review based on the available literature (33 different studies) showed that *Canna* species have been effectively used to remove biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), total dissolved solids (TDS), total suspended solids (TSS), total solids (TS), inorganic nitrogen (ammonia, nitrate, nitrite (NO₂⁻), fluoride (F⁻), chloride (Cl⁻), calcium (Ca), aluminum (Al), iron (Fe), magnesium (Mg), total phosphorus (TP), phosphate (PO₄³⁻), sulphate (SO₄²⁻), heavy metals like arsenic (As), chromium (Cr), nickel (Ni), zinc (Zn), cadmium (Cd)), total coliform, pathogens like *Vibrio*, *E. coli*, *Pseudomonas*, and *Aeromonas*; dye, organic compounds including adsorbable organic halides (AOX), chlorophenols, acetaminophen, atrazine, carbamazepine, B-hexachlorocyclohexane (β-HCH), 2,4-bis (Isopropylamino)-6-methylthio-s-triazine, chlorinated resin and fatty acids (cRFAs), oil and greese, from the water, fortified water solutions, and wastewaters of different origins including synthetic dairy wastewater, domestic sewage, institutional wastewater, secondary treated wastewater, storm water runoff, piggery effluent, batik wastewater, biomethanation plant wastewater, aquaculture wastewater, stillage treatment, pulp and paper mill wastewater, petroleum refinery's effluent,

Table 2. Phytoremediation of wastewater by using *Canna* species in CWs.

Water/Wastewater	Plant species	Type of CW	Removal efficiency (%)	Reference
Water	<i>Canna indica</i>	Lab scale	Fluoride-95	Khandare <i>et al.</i> (2021)
Aqueous solution	<i>Canna indica</i>	Microcosms	Chromium-98.3, Nickel-96.2	Yadav <i>et al.</i> (2010)
Fortified water	<i>Canna flaccida</i>	SF-mesocosms	Carbamazepine: 73-81.8, Atrazine:100 Acetaminophen:100	Hwang <i>et al.</i> (2020)
Artificial water	<i>Canna indica</i>	Lab scale VSSF	Â-hexachlorocyclohexane (â -HCH)-96.64	Chen <i>et al.</i> (2021)
Synthetic water	<i>Canna sps.</i>	Pilot VSSF	Fluoride-51, Arsenic-95	Li <i>et al.</i> (2014)
Synthetic water	<i>Canna indica</i>	-	COD-75, Dye: 70-90	Yadav <i>et al.</i> (2012)
Synthetic Dairy wastewater	<i>Canna indica</i>	Lab-scale VSSF vermifilter	BOD-80.6, COD-75.8, TSS- 84.8, TN-42.6	Samal <i>et al.</i> (2017)
Domestic wastewater	<i>Canna indica</i>	Lab-scale HSSF	BOD-76.36, COD-79.75 TS-86.18	Saxena <i>et al.</i> (2019)
Domestic wastewater	<i>Canna indica</i>	HSSF	TDS-67.8, BOD-87.3, COD-92.8, TKN-89, Nitrate-86, Phosphate-82.6	Haritash <i>et al.</i> (2015)
Domestic wastewater	<i>Canna indica</i>	Field scale SF	COD-65, Sulphate-60, Inorganic-N-67, Total coliform > 80	Datta <i>et al.</i> (2021)
Domestic wastewater	<i>Canna indica</i>	Lab scale HSSF	COD-89, BOD-81, TSS-86, TDS-81, Cl- 21	Layana and Abraham, (2020)
Domestic wastewater	<i>Canna indica</i>	SSF	COD-83	Konnerup <i>et al.</i> (2009)
Domestic sewage	<i>Canna indica</i>	Field scale VSSF	TDS-22.31, BOD ₅ - 81.79, TN-60.37, PO ₄ ³⁻ -P-80	Bary <i>et al.</i> (2020)
Domestic sewage	<i>Canna species</i>	SSF	BOD-92.3	Sirianuntapiboon and Jitvimolnimit (2007)
Municipal	<i>Canna indica</i>	SSF	BOD-86, COD-77, TN >45, TP >82	Shi <i>et al.</i> (2004)
Municipal	<i>Canna sps.</i>	HSSF and VSSF	BOD-92, COD-92, TSS- 92	Abou-Elela <i>et al.</i> (2013)
Municipal	<i>Canna iridiflora</i>	Floating treatment wetlands	BOD-66, NH ₄ -N-82, N-NO ₃ ⁻ -50, TP-89	Weragoda <i>et al.</i> (2012)
Domestic Institutional wastewater	<i>Canna indica</i> <i>Canna lily</i>	SSF Decentralized multistage	BOD-11, N-NH ₄ ⁺ -73 COD: 61.2- 85.6, NO ₃ ⁻ -N-47.3-63.4, NO ₂ ⁻ -N:62-75.4, NH ₄ ⁺ -N -56.6-71.6, PO ₄ ³⁻ - 52.1-64.4, TSS: 67.7-85.5, Pathogens: <i>Pseudomonas</i> -99, <i>Vibrio</i> >98, <i>E. coli</i> -95, <i>Aeromonas</i> - 63	Chyan <i>et al.</i> (2016) Muduli <i>et al.</i> (2022)
Storm water runoff	<i>Canna generalis</i>	Plant growth container	Nitrogen-98.7, Phosphorus-91.8	Chen <i>et al.</i> (2009)
Piggery effluent	<i>Canna indica</i>	HSSF	BOD-26.5, TN-66.4, TP-72, Al-41.8, Fe-59.2, Mg-66.9, Ca-66.4	Olawale <i>et al.</i> (2021)
Batik wastewater	<i>Canna indica</i>	VSSF	TSS-91.25, BOD-91.82, COD-89.15, Ammonia-96.2, Cr - 81.8	Rahmadyanti and Wiyono (2020)

Table 2. *Continued ...*

Water/Wastewater	Plant species	Type of CW	Removal efficiency (%)	Reference
Batik wastewater	<i>Canna indica</i>	Lab scale hybrid	COD-89, Oil and greese-89.53, TSS-98.74	Rahmadyanti and Audina (2020)
Biomethanation plant	<i>Canna indica</i>	VSSF experimental setup wastewater	BOD-91, P-25, (2016)	Wietlisbach <i>et al.</i>
Pulp & Paper mill	<i>Canna indica</i>	HSSF	Chloro resin and fatty acids (cRFAs): 92-96	Choudhary <i>et al.</i> (2011)
Pulp & Paper mill wastewater	<i>Canna indica</i>	HSSF	COD- 87.9, BOD ₅ -95.6, AOX -89, Chlorophenols -67-100,	Choudhary <i>et al.</i> (2013)
Secondary treated Petroleum refinery effluent	<i>Canna indica</i> <i>Canna indica</i>	VSSF Lab scale VSSF	COD: 35-47, NH ₄ - 52.99 TSS-85, TN-96.38, Zn-96.5, Cd-93.5	Sharma <i>et al.</i> (2014) Ghezali <i>et al.</i> (2022)
Aquaculture wastewater	<i>Canna indica</i>	Lab scale reactors	TN- 95, TP-77, COD-62	Zhimiao <i>et al.</i> (2019)
Stillage wastewater (2016)	<i>Canna indica</i>	-	COD-70, BOD-87	López-Rivera <i>et al.</i>
Fermented fish production	<i>Canna hybrid</i>	-	BOD ~ 97 COD ~ 97 TKN ~ 97	Kantawanichkul <i>et al.</i> (2009)
Tilapia production	<i>Canna spp.</i>	Submerged SSF	COD-12.5, NH ₃ -N-7.5, NO ₃ -N-76, NO ₂ -N-91, TSS-90	Zachritz <i>et al.</i> (2008)
Fish pond	<i>Canna generalis</i>	Recirculating HSSF and VSSF	COD: 25-55, BOD-50	Konnerup <i>et al.</i> (2011)

fermented fish production, tilapia production, fish pond.

Based on reported literature, Table 2 shows the CW’s wastewater treatment efficiency for the removal different wastewater parameters by utilizing the *Canna* sp. as plant and Table 3 summarizes the range of removal efficiencies for different parameters based on the reported results shown in Table 2. The removal efficiency varies widely might be due to the variation in

experimental setups, design of experiments and the characteristics of wastewater treated.

CONCLUSION

The use of *Canna* species in CWs has shown promising results in the removal of pollutants from wastewater. In present review, the use of *Canna* species has been identified in 33 studies for the phytoremediation of different types of wastewater. It generally grows well in tropical and subtropical regions of the world. In CWs, the pollutants removal depends on various significant parameters like design of CW, CW bed media, hydraulic loading of wastewater, retention time of pollutants in CW system, and the plant species selected. On the basis of above literature review, it is concluded that the plant species *Canna* grows well under different experimental conditions and effective for the removal of a different type of pollutants including heavy metals and toxic compounds like chlorophenols and chloro resin and fatty acids. Additionally, the use of ornamental *Canna* spp. can provide economic gains and enhance the aesthetic appearance of the environment. It is recommend

Table 3. Removal efficiency of CWs by using *Canna* spp.

Parameter	Removal efficiency (%)
BOD	11-96
COD	13-93
TSS	85-92
TN	37-96
TDS	22-81
Nitrate	47-86
cRFAs	92-96
Chlorophenols	67-100
Heavy metals	82-98
Pathogens	63-99
Fluoride	51-95
Dye	70-90

that *Canna spp.* can be efficiently used for the phytoremediation of domestic and industrial wastewaters. Overall, the phytoremediation potential of *Canna* species is significant and offers a cost-effective and sustainable solution for the treatment of contaminated water.

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