

REFERENCE

P184

Evaluation of constructed wetlands in series for wastewater treatment in the tannery industry

Calheiros, C. S., Rangel, A. O. and Castro, P. M.

Escola Superior de Biotecnologia, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Porto, Portugal

E-MAIL : mccalheiros@mail.esb.ucp.pt

The tannery wastewater treatment is always required due to the fact that this effluent can cause severe environmental problems. Biological processes offer a natural way of treating wastewaters, when compared to more aggressive types of treatment. The use of constructed wetlands to improve water quality is increasing. A study was carried out with the main objective of evaluating the applicability of constructed wetlands for the treatment of tannery wastewater. The characterization of the treatment efficiency for two constructed wetland systems, in series, with horizontal subsurface flow was carried out. They were operating with expanded clay filters and planted with *Typha latifolia* and *Phragmites australis*.

The authors thank to Dias Ruivo, Curtumes e Produtos Industriais, Lda. This work was supported by Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, Project- POCI/AMB/60126/2004, and a research grant to C. Calheiros (SFRH/BDE/15507/2004). The Filtralite was kindly offered by Maxit S.A.