



HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

Title	Performance of hybrid subsurface flow constructed wetland system used for high content wastewater treatment [an abstract of dissertation and a summary of dissertation review]
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Degree Grantor	北海道大学
Degree Name	博士(農学)
Dissertation Number	甲第12436号
Issue Date	2016-09-26
Doc URL	https://hdl.handle.net/2115/63753
Rights(URL)	https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.1/jp/
Type	doctoral thesis
File Information	Zhang_Xiaomeng_abstract.pdf, 論文内容の要旨



学位論文内容の要旨

博士の専攻分野名称：博士（農学）

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学位論文題名

Performance of hybrid subsurface flow constructed wetland system used for high content wastewater treatment

（高濃度排水の浄化処理を行うハイブリッド伏流式人工湿地システムの性能に関する研究）

Hybrid subsurface flow constructed wetland (CW) system that consists of vertical flow subsurface CWs and horizontal flow subsurface CWs has begun to be used practically in world wide to treat various wastewater, with the advantages of low cost, low energy consumption, low maintenance requirement, and environmental benefit. But its performance especially when treating high concentration and/or high load of organic wastewater is still left unknown. High content piggery urine wastewater and milking parlor wastewater could cause environmental problems, such as surface water and groundwater pollution, water eutrophication, and odors. Hence, three hybrid subsurface flow CWs have been built to treat wastewater discharged from a piggery farm and two dairy farms. In this study, over several years of operation, the pollutants treatment efficiencies of hybrid subsurface flow CWs were assessed, and N transformations in hybrid CWs were also indicated.

1. Treatment efficiencies of hybrid subsurface flow CWs in Hokkaido, Japan

The raw wastewater discharged from piggery and dairy farms contained total N (T-N) of $159 \pm 60 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ to $433 \pm 342 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, and chemical oxygen demand (COD) of $3,752 \pm 2,071 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ to $10,961 \pm 3,146 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$. With the aim of treating high content wastewater, hybrid subsurface flow CWs named Piggery-O, Dairy-G, and Dairy-S were constructed in 2009, 2001, and 2006, respectively.

The average inflow loads of T-N were 11.2 ± 7.5 , 3.4 ± 1.7 , and $1.2 \pm 0.5 \text{ g} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$, in Piggery-O, Dairy-G and Dairy-S, respectively. After six, four, and nine years of operation, the total removal efficiencies (REs) was around $71 \pm 19\% \sim 82 \pm 15\%$ in these hybrid systems. Compared with other researches, these hybrid CW systems

performed well for T-N treatment. REs of T-P were 90 ± 10 , 70 ± 11 , and $64 \pm 25\%$ in Piggery-O, Dairy-G, and Dairy-S, respectively. The different REs might be attributed to the bed material used in these systems that had different P absorption ability. All systems received high COD loads, especially in Dairy-G, where the inflow load was $124.0 \pm 58.5 \text{ g} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$. Although these hybrid CW systems received high loads, they all performed high COD REs of around $93 \pm 7\%$ to $95 \pm 3\%$. The hybrid CW systems also performed high REs in biochemical oxygen demand (BOD_5), suspended solid, and total coliform removal.

After years of operation, Piggery-O presented an increasing T-N RE year by year, and provided stable and high T-P RE. Dairy-G had high RE of T-N from the beginning of construction, and it was stable after years of operation. T-P RE decreased from $80 \pm 6\%$ in the first year to $69 \pm 11\%$ in the fourth year. Similar T-P removal tendency was also observed in Dairy-S. This may be due to saturation of the bed material adsorption capacity over time. All these hybrid CW systems had high and stable annual REs of COD and BOD_5 since the beginning of construction. Overall, these hybrid CW systems could be recognized as useful and effective methods for piggery and milking parlor wastewater treatment over years of operation.

2. N transformations in the hybrid subsurface flow CWs

With the aim of a better understanding of N transfer cycles in hybrid CW systems, bed material samples were taken from Piggery-O and Dairy-S systems for analysis.

In Piggery-O, the amount of N stored in bed materials was 1,358 kg. This amount accounted 9 % of N removed (15,579 kg) by whole system. At each bed of Piggery-O, only 1 % to 2 % of received N was stored in bed materials. Meanwhile, 8 % to 37 % of received N was converted into gaseous N and released into the atmosphere. This illustrated that the denitrification is an important process of N transformation in Piggery-O. In Dairy-S, N stored in bed materials was 869 kg, and the total amount of N removed by this system was 1,795 kg. Among them, nearly 51 % of received N was removed in form of gaseous N. In addition, nearly 9 % to 35 % of received N was stored in each bed material. In the 1st bed, nearly 690 kg of N was stored in the surface organic matter layer covering the bed surface. This indicated that the organic matter layer on the surface might be an indispensable part of N removal in hybrid CW system treating milking parlor wastewater.