

Removal of Some Heavy Metals from Polluted Water Using New Schiff Base for Polyacrylamide with Zeolite Nanocomposites

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Abstract

This work involved the preparation of a new Schiff base ligand derived from poly acrylamide and glutaraldehyde $[(2S, 2S) - N, N' - (pentane-1, 5-divclidean)$ bis (2- methylbutan amide)] (PAAG) with some heavy metals (Cr +3, Mn + 3, Fe + 3, Co + 2, Ni + 2, Cu + 2, Zn + 2, Cd + 2) to produce corresponding complexes. Schiff bases and their metal complexes are characterized using FTIR spectral, Uv-Vis spectroscopy, conductivity, magnetic moments, Thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA), x-ray diffraction, scanning electron microscope (SEM) and atomic force microscope (AFM). The prepared polymer was used with zeolite to form composite material to remove some of the elements from polluted water that were drawn from industrial water of the electric power plants in Dora and South Baghdad. Also, estimate the elements trace concentrations before and after using the prepared base by atomic absorption spectroscopy.

Keywords: Acrylamide, Composite materials, contaminated water, Schiff base, Zeolite.

Introduction

The health risks associated with contaminated water continue to be an international concern¹. Due to their toxicity, non-biodegradability, and bioaccumulation in the food chain, metal poisoning poses a significant threat². Heavy metal pollution in water supplies is mainly caused by industrial garbage. Negative and direct effects on flora and fauna make the successful removal of harmful ions from wastewater an urgent and essential issue³. The carcinogenic effects of heavy metals are exacerbated in animals and humans through the food chain, where they are ingested by those species⁴. Plants absorb these metals and pass them on to animals and humans. Many industries use acrylamide (AA), a highly reactive chemical molecule that may be polymerized to generate polyacrylamide. Research on AA has intensified over the past 20 years because of the toxicity it poses to people and animals. Food sources are significant in the production of AA; the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) designated acrylamide as a possible human carcinogen in 1994⁵ . At least four decades have passed since polymers were first used in water purification techniques. Utilizing them has several benefits, including less sludge production, a decrease in the ionic load of the treated water, less aluminum in the water, and lower costs. Polymers used for water purification are soluble and may be classified into three main ionic groups: cationic, anionic, and non-ionic⁶. Polyamides (PAs) are a widely used type of synthetic polymer with significant economic significance. In particular, the hydrogen bonding between the amide groups and the

other atoms in the chain gives them their usefulness. Higher glass transition temperatures and melting points can be attributed to these hydrogen-bonding interactions. The bulk of PAs is made by either a condensation polymerization method involving the reaction of diamines with dicarboxylic acid derivatives or a chain growth method involving the ring-opening polymerization of cyclic amides⁷. The carboxyl group on polyacrylamide is complexed with inorganic cross-linking systems, whereas the amide group is primarily reacted with by organic cross-linking systems, leading to a water-insoluble three-dimensional network structure⁸. Polyacrylamide is one of the most versatile polymers available, having uses varying from sub-dermal filler in cosmetic surgery, wastewater treatment of oil recovery⁹, , soil conditioning, agriculture, biochemistry, and medicinal applications¹⁰. Zeolite, an aluminosilicate mineral, is widely used in the chemical industry as a surfactant. Swedish

Materials and Methods

Acrylamide was provided by (Riedel-De Haen Ag Seelze- Hannover), Absolute Ethanol (B.D.H), glutaraldehyde was provided by (SIGMA), and $(CrCl₃.H₂O, MnCl₂.4H₂O, FeCl₃, CoCl₂.6H₂O,$ $NiCl₂.6H₂O$, $CuCl₂.2H₂O$, $ZnCl₂$, and $CdCl₂.H₂O$) was provided by (B.D.H).

Instruments

GM Mallen Kampm was used to measure the melting points of the synthesized compounds. MF-370 devised electro-thermal at the University of Baghdad, College of Sciences for Women. Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectra were obtained using a SHIMADZUE FT-IR 8400S Fourier transform within the wavenumber region between 4000-400 cm⁻¹ using a KBr disc and 4000-200 cm⁻¹ using a CsI disc. Electronic spectra for compounds in the (UV-Visible) region (200-1100) nm were recorded using a SHIMADZUE 1800 Double Beam UV-Visible spectrophotometer; all were done at the University of Baghdad.¹H-NMR performed using a Bruker Ultra Sheild 300 MHz NMR in Taban Lab, Iran. Thermal analyses (TGA) of samples were performed under nitrogen atmospheres at a heating range of 25-900˚C and a heating rate of 20˚C/min. using SDT Q600 V20.9 Build 20 in Taban Lab, Iran. Molar conductivity measurements $(\mu s.cm^{-1})$ for metal complexes $(10^{-3}$ M) in Ethanol at room temperature were carried out using LASSCO Digital Conductivity Meter. Magnetic moments (eff. B.M)

mineralogist Axel Fredrik Cronstedt coined the term "zeolite" in 1756; the word "zeolite" comes from the Greek zéo, which means "boiling," and lithos, which means "stone."¹¹. The widely known chemical formula for synthetic sodium cation zeolite A is:

Na₁₂ [AlO₂. SiO₂] 12. 27H₂O

Type A of zeolite is subdivided into three classes, 3A, 4A, and 5A, all share the same public formula but contain distinctive cation compositions. It is considered zeolite when 75% of sodium is replaced by potassium (3A). Instead, zeolite (5A) is formed when calcium is exchanged¹². Zeolites' cationic exchange negative charge features and inexpensive production make them promising for eliminating many contaminants, including toxic metals, chemical compounds, dyes and pigments, reagents, and nitrogen compounds ¹³.

for the prepared complexes in the solid state at room temperature were measured according to Faraday's method using Bruker Magnet B.M-6, Atomic Absorption measurements were performed using BUCK Scientific model 210 VGP USA Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer.

Synthesis

Synthesis of [(2S, 2'S) – N, N' - (pentane-1, 5 diylidene) bis (2- methylbutan amide)] (PAAG) ligand

Around the bottom flask, 10gm of Acrylamide was mixed with (0.5gm di-benzoyl peroxide as an initiator at 70℃. The mixture was heated in a water bath and continuously stirred for 6 h to separate the homo polymer of PAAm^{14, 15}. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to ambient temperature; the product was washed with diethyl ether and dried in an oven at 50℃ for 1 hr. The vicious white polymer was obtained with 55%. The steps of polymerization are shown in Scheme 1. In the second step, a Schiff base was prepared by dissolving polyacrylamide (1.0 g, 0.0142 mol) in absolute ethanol (99.95%) (5mL), then adding three drops of glacial acetic acid and stirring continuously at room temperature 25°C. After diluting with absolute ethanol (5 mL), glutaraldehyde (2 mL, 0.0149 mol) was added, and the mixture was refluxed with constant stirring at 45 $\rm ^{\circ}C$ for 12 hrs. in a water bath^{16, 17}. The product was then dried at room temperature for a whole night before being washed with diethyl ether Scheme 1.

glutaraldehyde (PAAG) ligand

Results and Discussion

FTIR Spectra of ligand and its metal complexes

Specific vibrations of chemical bonds or functional groups within molecules were reflected as peaks in FTIR spectra 18 . It is shown in Fig. 1. that KBr FTIR spectroscopy in the range of $4000-400$ cm⁻¹ and CsI FTIR spectroscopy in the range of $4000-250$ cm⁻¹ were used to determine the experimental and theoretical structure of the (PAAG) polymer complexes.

In the prepared ligand, several peaks that belonged to the C=O and C=N groups at the wave numbers 1639 and 1558 cm-1 , respectively, appeared. When the complexes were formed, a change occurred in these wave numbers to lower frequencies with limits from 18-35 cm⁻¹ for v (C=O) and to higher frequencies with limits from 4-46 cm⁻¹ for v (C=N)^{19, 20}. That was because the band mentioned previously was shifted

Synthesis of (2S, 2'S) – N, N' - (pentane-1, 5 diylidene) bis (2- methylbutanamide) (PAAG) ligand complexes

The ligand of polyacrylamide-glutaraldehyde (PAAG) complexes were prepared at a ratio of 2:1 from the ligand to the element; ligand (0.106 g, 0.002 mol) was dissolved in distilled water 5 mL and ethanol 20 mL with continuous stirring in a condensation flask until it dissolved, and then was added solution of metal chloride salt (0.001 mol, 1.0 eq) in ethanol 10 mL. The mixture was refluxed for 3 hrs. The product was placed in a watch glass and let dry at room temperature.

to a lower wave number in all complexes indicating that the imine group was involved in complex coordination through the nitrogen atom $(C=N\rightarrow M)$ with the metal ion; new bands observed at 418-457 cm-1were appointed to the υ (M–N), and bands that emerge at $501-574$ cm⁻¹ were attributed to v (M-O) ²¹. The v(M-Cl) bands appeared at ~325 cm^{-1 22}, as seen in Table. 1 and Fig. 1. The coordination of the metal ion to the nitrogen of the Schiff base and the carbonyl oxygen of the carboxylate group could account for these frequency shifts relative to the bands of the polymeric Schiff bases. For polymeric Schiff bases, the bands at 1413 cm⁻¹ can be attributed to $(C-N)$ ²³; simultaneously, bands in the 3440–3442 cm^{-1} were assigned to v (OH) modes. The PAAG-Schiff base behaved as a neutral bidentate ligand, with metal (II) and metal (III) ions bonding with once nitrogen and once carbonyl oxygen.

Table 1. The FT-IR spectrum of the L synthesized ligand and its complexes.

Figure 1. The FTIR Spectra for (a) PAAG-L (b) CuL

The electronic spectra (UV-Vis) of ligands and their complexes:

Intense absorption at 273 nm (36630) cm⁻¹ in the UV-Vis spectrum of Schiff base (PAAG) - ligand is ascribed to the $(n \rightarrow \pi^*)$ transition, while intense absorption at $231,212$ nm (43290, 47170) cm⁻¹ was ascribed to the $(\pi \rightarrow \pi^*)$ transition Fig. 2. In Table 3 information on the spectra, molar conductivity of all metal complexes of the (PAAG) - ligand in ethanol, and the values of magnetic moments was described.

Cr (III): the first transition v_1 taken from the IR spectrum and found to be 3438 cm^{-1} Scheme 3 (b) Spectrum of Cr (III) complex olive color (CrL) showed three absorption bands at 820, 670, and 460 nm (12195,14925 and 21739) cm-1 were assigned to ${}^4A_2g \rightarrow {}^4T_2g$, ${}^4A_2g_{(F)} \rightarrow {}^4T_1g$ and ${}^4A_2g_{(F)} \rightarrow {}^4A_2g$ transitions. The magnetic moment was 3.8 BM, suggesting an octahedral geometry 24 .

For the Mn (II)-PAAG complex, three bands of complexes were uncultivated:

Three bands corresponding to ${}^{6}A_{1}g \rightarrow {}^{4}T_{1}g$ (G), ${}^6A_1g \rightarrow {}^4T_2g$ (G), and ${}^6A_1g \rightarrow {}^4A_2g$ +Eg (G) were seen at 11765, 19231, and 26316 cm^{-1 25}; the magnetic moment was 5.1 BM.

The spectrum of Fe (III) complex brown color (FeL) showed three bands at 701, 590, and 339 nm (14265, 16949, and 29499) cm⁻¹ were assigned to ${}^{6}A_{1}g\rightarrow$ ${}^{4}T_{1}g_{1}^{6}A_{1}g \rightarrow {}^{4}T_{2}g$, and ${}^{6}A_{1}g \rightarrow {}^{4}A_{1}g + {}^{4}Eg$ transition, the magnetic moment value was 5.72 BM suggesting an octahedral geometry.

Co (II)-PAAG complex, the greenish blue Cocomplex, showed three bands in the visible region with an average of 17391cm⁻¹. This value was assigned to transition ${}^4A_2 \rightarrow {}^4T_1$ (P) 26 . This transition was known to be triplet in the divalent cobalt of the Td system^{27, 28} Scheme 3b, while v_1 ⁴ $A_2 \rightarrow$ ⁴ T_2 and v_2 ${}^4A_2\rightarrow {}^4T_{2(F)}$ could not be seen in the range of this instrument scale, the second transition v_2 was calculated and found to be 5160 cm-1 from reference to Tanabe-Sugano Diagrams of Td geometry, the magnetic moment was 5.2 BM.

The spectrum of Ni(II) complex yellowish green (NiL) showed three bands at 890, 640, and 407 nm

(11236, 15625, and 24570) cm⁻¹ was assigned to ${}^{3}A_{2}g$ \rightarrow ³T₂g,³A₂g \rightarrow ³T₁g_(F) and ³A₂g \rightarrow ³T₁g_(P) transition respectively, the magnetic moment value is 2.3, suggesting an octahedral geometry²⁹.

 The spectrum of Cu (II) complex yellowish green (CuL) showed two bands at 894, 315, and 229 nm $(11186, 31746,$ and 43668) cm⁻¹, was assigned to ²E g \rightarrow ²T₂g and C.T transition, the magnetic moment value is 1.2 BM suggesting an octahedral geometry Scheme 3a 30,31.

Zn (II) and Cd (II): finally, the magnetic moment value was diamagnetic for both Zn (II) and Cd (II) complexes (ZnL) and (CdL), which was attributed to the metal-to-ligand charge transfer, but the spectra showed no d-d electronic transitions in the visible region. The absorption bands were 350 and 291 nm $(28571, 34364)$ cm⁻¹ and 301, 260 nm³².

Figure 2. Electron spectrum of (a) PAAG ligand and (b) CoL complex

Table 3. Electronic spectra, spectral parameters, molar conductivity, and μ*eff* **of L- metal complexes**

Compounds	$M p^{\circ}C$	Color
	(dec) °C	
L	260-262	Yellowish brown
CrL	180-182	Olive
MnL	230-232	Pink
FeL	160-162	Brown
CoL	210-212	Blue
NiL	196-198	Yellowish green
CuL	120-122	Yellowish green
ZnL	220-222	Beige
CdL	250-252	Off-white

HNMR spectrum

Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (¹ H NMR)³³ is essential for studying substances and their structures. The ¹H-NMR technique was used to characterize the synthetic polymer. Fig. 3 and Table. 4 showed that the methylene protons in the PAAG structure corresponded to a signal at 1.16–1.8 ppm and 2.0–2.5 ppm proton of –CH group st 3.31-3.8 ppm ³⁴. For describing the influence of the solvent on

the N-H hydrogen NMR chemical shifts, amidecontaining compounds were among the best examples³⁵. The spectrum of the copper-ligand complex revealed this change to be true, namely at the amide group. In addition, the azomethine proton (CH=N) was moved up field in the Cu-PAAG complex spectrum, which is indicative of a bond being formed with the Cu center and can be seen as a signal in the region of 7.71 -8.34 ppm in the free Schiff base^{36, 37}. The presence of the acrylamide chain, and hence the occurrence of polymerization to generate the desired product, was confirmed by the ¹HNMR spectrum.

(b) Figure3. ¹HNMR spectrum (300 MHZ, DMSO-d6) of (a) L (PAAG) and (b) CuL

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Table 4. ¹H NMR spectral data of L-PAAG AND CuL complex

Chemical shifts (ppm) for ligand	Chemical shifts (ppm) for CuL complex	Assignments in DMSO	
1.16 - 1.8 ppm and	$1.03 - 1.59$ ppm	$-CH2$	
$2.0 - 2.5$ ppm	and $2.12 - 2.5$)methylene	
$3.8 - 3.31$ ppm 7.14 -8.25 ppm	ppm $4.0 - 4.8$ ppm 7.08 -8.34 ppm	protons -CH proton Izomethine proton $(CH=N)$	

Thermal Gravimetric Analysis (TGA)

Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) is frequently used to understand the effects of temperature and time on the weight of polymeric materials. Polymeric

materials can undergo weight changes due to decomposition, oxidation reactions, and physical processes, including sublimation, evaporation, and desorption³⁸. TGA-curve of two PAAG-complexes as illustrated in Fig. 4. and Table 5 Results of CuL's TGA presented a progression through three weightreduction stages. At 110 °C, a weight reduction was 10% in the first stage. This portion of the mass loss was thought to be attributable to water loss through evaporation. This could result from moisture removal or the loss of bound water³⁹.

Ammonia was released upon heating the PAAM to 244.37 °C, corresponding to the thermal degradation of the organic matter, where the second stage was noticed at 112-400°C with a weight loss of 39%, which may be attributed to the thermal decomposition of the amide and carboxylate side groups of the polyacrylamide⁴⁰. In the third phase, polymer breakdown caused a loss of 46% at 400-900 $\rm ^{\circ}C$ ⁴¹. TGA results for FeL demonstrated weight loss occurring in three distinct phases; the first stage, at 110°C, was associated with a weight reduction of 11%. The water loss at this point was thought to be due to evaporation. The second stage was at 200- 400°C with a weight-percent-loss 23 %. In this phase of the weight loss process, the imide group and the M-Cl link were broken down, resulting in the emission of both Co and Cl 42 . Weight loss equaling 46% of the initial total occurred in the third stage, which began at \sim 400 °C due to the disintegration of Imide groups and the degradation of the polymer main chains⁴³. At temperatures above 450° C, the copolymers completely broke down; however, at 900°C, 20% of PAM's mass remained, a result of the decomposition of the Schiff base bond accompanied by a loss of mass that pointed to the ongoing degradation of the polymer into its component monomers, acrylamide and glutaraldehyde $44,45$.

Scheme 2. Thermal behavior of a. CuL b. FeL complexes

X-Ray Diffraction analysis

X-ray diffraction helps investigate nanoparticles⁴⁶. X-ray diffraction studies were performed on a category of Schiff's base ligands. The Nanoscale feature of $Cd(II)$, $Cr(II)$, and $Ni(II)$ complexes was demonstrated by the sharp peaks they showed. Comparatively distinct peaks at 2Ө (16, 18.5, 21, 25, 30.5, 32, 34, 35.5, and 37.5) were observed for the

NiL Nano complex, but for the CdL and CrL Nano complexes, the spectra were entangled, and the unique peaks had vanished. Probably, X-ray spectroscopy cannot solve it because of the shielding effect of the represented polymer (ligand) molecules 47 Fig. 5.

Figure 5. XRD patterns of Nano NiL complex.

Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM)

This method measures the forces exerted by a sharp cantilever tip on a surface at a very close distance, yielding two- and three-dimensional pictures of the surface at the Nanoscale⁴⁶. 3D and two-dimensional pictures of Nano (CrL, NiL, and Cd) complexes were taken using SEM Fig. 6. For these complexes, the granularity accumulation distribution charts were displayed and shown in Fig. 7. The diameter dispersion of NiL with a mean diameter is ranging from 2.25-3.25 nm and an average diameter of 70 nm. The diameters of the particles making up the CrL Nano complex range between 60-100 nm, with an average diameter of 102 nm, and CdL Nano complex particles have a mean diameter ranging from 8-12 nm and an average diameter of 69.59 nm. as shown in table 6.

Table 6. Summary of the AFM information for CrL, FeL, and CdL nano complexes

Sampl e	Roughnes s Average (nm)	Root Mean Squar e (nm)	Averag e Hight (nm)	Average Diamete \mathbf{r} (nm)
CrL	5.7	7.7	38.55	102
NiL	1.11	1.57	9.1	70
CdL	1.32	2.05	11.58	60.59

Figure 6. AFM three-dimensional and tow dimensional image for (a) CrL (b) CdL nanoparticles complexes.

Figure 7. Granularity accumulation distribution of (a) CrL (b) CdL nanoparticles complexes

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) and Energy Distributed X-Ray Spectrometry (EDS)

Pictures of the NiL nano complex were taken using a scanning electron microscope (SEM), revealing particles with sizes ranging from around 15-51 nm Fig. 8. Similar results were seen for the CdL and CrL nano complexes. In addition, scanning electron microscopy (SEM) pictures of the CrL Nano complex were displayed, revealing particle sizes of around 35-46 nm. Moreover, scanning electron micrographs of the CdL Nano complex revealed around 20-147 nm particle sizes Fig. 9.

(b)

Figure 8. SEM of (**a) NiL (b) CrL (c) CdL nanoparticles complexes.**

Figure 9. EDS of (a) NiL (b) CrL (c) CdL nanoparticles complexes.

(b) $M = Co$

Scheme 3. The geometrical structure of a. Octahedral [ML2 (Cl2)].XH2O b. Tetrahedral [ML2Cl].XH2O

Application of PAAG to remove elements from contaminated water

Various traditional and membrane approaches are available for removing heavy metal pollutants from wastewater. Contaminated Heavy metal must be removed to stop further contamination and gain economic benefit ⁴⁸. An internal standard method (In) and a multi-standard calibration method were used to analyze metals in water samples ^{49- 51} precisely.

PAAG was applied to remove some of the polluting elements of the water left over from the power stations, where very trace concentrations of the elements that had previously been detected in the samples taken from the liquid waste left over from two power stations were prepared, which were 20, 40, and 60 ppm using the atomic absorption technique to determine its percentage after the removal process, which conducted through the preparation of a polymeric composite of each prepared PAAG and zeolite; the results obtained were listed in Table 7.

Conclusion

The results presented above indicated the possibility of synthesizing Nanocomposites from complexation between polymeric-based ligand $[(2S, 2'S) - N, N']$ (pentane-1, 5-diylidene) bis (2- methyl butan amide)] with heavy metals, which were partially soluble in solvents including water, ethanol, and DMSO, and the ability of the PAAG-ligand to complex rapidly with metals, which allowed its application in a general way. It was successful in removing polluting elements from wastewater by two methods of complexation and adsorption; the first method was the direct interaction between the ligand and the metals in the water environment, while the adsorption method zeolite used with the PAAGligand to form composite materials. The results of the water examination before and after using the prepared compounds showed that the composite materials removal was many times better, as the concentration recorded was very low. In contrast, the concentrations of some metals completely disappeared from polluted water.

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Authors' Declaration

- Conflicts of Interest: None**.**
- We hereby confirm that all the Figures and Tables in the manuscript are mine. Besides, the Figures and images, which are not mine, have been permitted re-publication and attached to the manuscript.

Authors' Contribution Statement

This work has been done by collaboration between all authors. The above part was completed, the vehicles were prepared, the necessary tests were conducted to estimate them, samples were collected, and practical

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- Authors sign on ethical consideration s approval.
- Ethical Clearance: The project was approved by the local ethical committee at University of Baghdad.

applications were carried out, in addition to writing the work by Z. S. A, while the work was reviewed and the results checked by S. S.H and S. H.A.

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إزالة بعض المعادن الثقيلة من المياه الملوثة باستخدام قاعدة شيف جديدة للبولي أكريالميد مع مركبات النانو زيواليت

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الخالصة

تضمن هذا العمل تحضير ليكند قاعدة شيف جديدة مشتقة من مادة البولي أكريلاميد والكلوتر الديهايد-pentane) - N, N' – (pentane) Ni +2 ,Cu ,Co +2, Fe +3 , Mn +3 , Cr +3) مع بعض المعادن الثقيلة (3 + Cu ,Co +2, Fe +3 , Mn +3 , Cr مع بعض المعادن الثقيلة (3 + 2 \pm 1, 5-diylidene) bis (2- methylbutan amide)] + 2 , + 2 Cd)لتنتج المعقدات المقابلة. تم تشخيص قواعد شيف ومعقداتها المعدنية بأستخدام طيف األشعة تحت الحمراء واألشعة 2 + Zn , المرئية وفوق البنفسجية، والتوصيلية ,وقيم المغناطيسية والتحليل الحراري الوزني وحيود الأشعة السينية ومجهرالمسح الالكتروني ومجهر القوة الذرية. تم استخدام البوليمرات المحضرة في إزالة عدد من العناصر من المياه الملوثة المسحوبة من المياه الصناعية لمحطتي الطاقة الكهربائية في الدورة وجنوب بغداد وتقدير التراكيز الضئيلة لتلك العناصر قبل وبعد استخدام القاعدة المحضرة بواسطة مطيافية االمتصاص الذري.

الكلمات المفتاحية: اكريالميد, المواد المتراكبة , مياه ملوثة , قاعدة شيف, زيواليت .