

UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE
TECHNICAL FACULTY BOR

**52nd International October Conference on
Mining and Metallurgy**



PROCEEDINGS

Edited by

Saša Stojadinović

and

Dejan Petrović

November 29th – 30th 2021

Bor, Serbia

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Aleksandra Milosavljević	
THE COMPLEXITY OF SEM-EDS – WHAT AFFECTS THE QUALITY OF OBTAINED RESULTS?	1
Zoran Karastojković, R Perić, M Srečković	
LASER QUENCHING OF CUTTING TOOL STEELS - A REVIEW	5
Slavica Miletić, D Bogdanović, E Požega	
IMPACT OF EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY MEASURES TO EMPLOYEES DURING THE PANDEMIC COVID-9	15
Daniela Grigorova, R Paunova	
KINETIC STUDY OF SOLID-PHASE REDUCTION OF POLYGRADIENT IRON-CONTAINING MATERIAL	19
Emina Požega, D Simonović, S Marjanović, M Jovanović, L Gomidželović, M Mitrović, Z Stanojević Šimšić	
PART I: WHAT MAKES A GOOD THERMOELECTRIC	23
Emina Požega, D Simonović, S Marjanović, M Jovanović, L Gomidželović, M Mitrović, S Miletić	
PART II: WHAT MAKES A GOOD THERMOELECTRIC	27
Dragan Manasijević, Lj Balanović, I Marković, M Gorgievski, U Stamenković, K Božinović, D Minić, M Premović	
STUDY OF MICROSTRUCTURE AND THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY OF THE Ag–Bi–Sn ALLOYS	31
Vladimir S. Topalović, S Matijašević, S Grujić, J Stojanović, J Nikolić, V Savić, S Zildžović	
THE INFLUENCE OF THE PARTICLE SIZE ON CRYSTALLIZATION OF GLASS POWDERS FROM THE SYSTEM $\text{Li}_2\text{O}-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{GeO}_2-\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$	35
Vesna Marjanović, R Marković, V Krstić	
TECHNOLOGIES FOR PHYSICAL TREATMENT OF WATER CONTAINING SELENIUM: A REVIEW	39
Vesna Marjanović, R Marković, V Krstić	
TECHNOLOGIES FOR BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF WATER CONTAINING SELENIUM: A REVIEW	43
Milenko Jovanović, M Mikić, M Maksimović, D Kržanović, R Rajković, E Požega	
USAGE SPECIFICS OF GEOGRIDS	47

Srećko Manasijević, Z Zovko Brodarac, N Dolić, M Djurdjević, R Radiša	
INTERMETALLIC BONDING BETWEEN A RING CARRIER AND AN ALUMINUM PISTON ALLOY	51
Snežana Šarboh	
PATENTED INVENTIONS OF LJUBOMIR KLERIĆ	55
Miomir Mikic, M Jovanović, R Rajković, D Kržanović, E Požega	
DEGRADED AREA OF VELIKI KRIVELJ QUARRY RECULTIVATION	59
Dragana Adamović, D Ishiyama, H Kawaraya, O Yasumasa	
EFFECTS OF TAILINGS ON GROUNDWATER ALONG BOR AND BELA RIVERS IN THE BOR MINING AREA, EASTERN SERBIA	63
Ana Kostov, Z Stanojević Šimšić, A Milosavljević,	
CHARACTERIZATION OF ALLOYS CuAlAu0.5	67
Marija Milenković, V Jovanović, J Paunković, V Krstić	
MULTICRITERIA ANALYSIS OF THE LEVEL OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOPLICA DISTRICT USING THE ELECTRE METHOD	71
Daniel Kržanović, R Rajković, D Stevanović, M Mikić, M Jovanović, S Petrović	
LONG-TERM PLANNING OF MINING THE LEAD AND ZINC ORE DEPOSIT IN THE BRSKOVO ORE FIELD, THE REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO	75
Radmilo Rajković, D Kržanović, M Mikić, M Jovanović	
CALCULATION OF SAFETY DISTANCE FOR THE OPERATION OF MINING EQUIPMENT IN THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT WITH WEAKENED CHARACTERISTICS AT THE OPEN PIT "NORTH MINING DISTRICT" OF THE COPPER MINE MAJDANPEK	79
Zdenka Stanojević Šimšić, A Kostov, A Milosavljević, E Požega	
HARDNESS, MICROHARDNESS AND ELECTROCONDUCTIVITY OF ALLOYS WITH VARIABLE Cu CONTENT IN Cu-Al-Ag SYSTEM	83
Miodrag Banješević	
STRATIGRAPHY AND AGE OF ROCK UNITS AND MINERALIZATION IN THE TIMOK MAGMATIC COMPLEX AND THE BOR METALLOGENIC ZONE – A REVIEW	87
Milan Radivojević, Z Stević, M Tanasković	
DUALPHASED FOURWAY INTERSECTION REGULATED BY TRAFFIC LIGHTS WITH FIXED AND ADAPTIVE MOD OF OPERATION	93
Filip Gramić, N Rančić, S Filipović, J Đorđević	
USE OF COPPER TAILING AND COPPER SLAG IN 3D PRINTED CONCRETE PROCESSES	97
Filip Gramić, N Rančić, S Filipović, J Đorđević,	
POSSIBILITY OF USING MINING WASTE IN THE PRODUCTION OF BRICK PRODUCTS	101

Stepan O. Vidysh

GOLD-SILVER ALLOYS ANODIC DISSOLUTION RESEARCH IN HYDROCHLORIC ACID ELECTROLYTES 105

Milan Gorgievski, M Marković, D Božić, Vr Stanković, N Štrbac, V Grekulović, M Zdravković

ADSORPTION ISOTHERMS FOR COPPER IONS ADSORPTION ONTO WALNUT SHELLS 109

Miljan Marković, M Gorgievski, N Štrbac, V Grekulović, A Mitovski, K Božinović, M Zdravković

pH AND CONDUCTIVITY CHANGE DURING THE RINSING AND ADSORPTION OF COPPER IONS ONTO WALNUT SHELLS 113

Vesna Grekulović, A Mitovski, M Rajčić Vujasinović, N Štrbac, M Zdravković, M Gorgievski, M Marković

ELECTROCHEMICAL BEHAVIOR OF COPPER IN CHLORIDE MEDIUM IN THE PRESENCE OF WALNUT SHELL MACERATE 117

Marija Šljivić-Ivanović, S Dimović, I Jelić,

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN APPROACH IN RADIONUCLIDE SORPTION 121

Ivana Jelić, A Savić, M Šljivić-Ivanović, S Dimović

INFLUENCE OF SILICA FUME ON SCC CONCRETE PROPERTIES 125

Milan Radovanović, A Simonović, M Petrović Mihajlović, Ž Tasić, V Nedelkovski, M Antonijević

L-LYSINE AS CORROSION INHIBITOR OF STAINLESS STEEL IN RINGER'S SOLUTION 129

Dragana Marilović, M Trumić, M Trumić, Lj Andrić

THE INFLUENCE OF CALCIUM IONS ON DEINKING FLOTATION RECOVERY UNDER DIFFERENT CONDITIONS 133

Dragana Medić, S Milić, S Alagić, M Nujkić, S Đorđević, A Papludis

OPTIMIZATION OF CATHODIC MATERIAL LEACHING PROCESS IN ACID-SULPHATE SOLUTION 137

Milijana Mitrović, D Gusković, S Marjanović, B Trumić, E Požega, U Stamenković, J Petrović

OBTAINING MULTILAYER COPPER STRIPS BY ARB (ACCUMULATIVE ROLL BONDING) ROLLING PROCESS 141

Nataša Đorđević, S Mihajlović, N Obradović, A Peleš, S Filipović

THE INFLUENCE OF HIGH COMPACTION PRESSURE ON CORDIERITE-BASED CERAMICS 145

Nataša Đorđević, S Mihajlović, M Sokić, B Marković

SEM AND X-RAY ANALYSES OF SINTERED MgO / Bi₂O₃ BINARY SYSTEM 149

Ivana Ilić, J Sokolović, M Trumić, Z Stirbanović	
COMPARATIVE RESULTS OF COPPER FLOTATION FROM SLAG BEFORE AND AFTER THE PROCESS OF MAGNETIC CONCENTRATION	153
Daniela Grigorova	
FERROSILICON OBTAINING USING IRON-SILICATE –FAYALITE	157
Slavica Mihajlović, M Jovanović, N Đorđević, A Patarić, M Vlahović, V Kašić	
THE CLAY PRELIMINARY TESTING FROM MUNICIPALITY AREA OF REKOVAC	161
Milan Milosavljević, M Premović, D Minić, Dn Mansijević, Ar Đorđević, M Kolarević	
EXPERIMENTAL AND THERMODYNAMIC STUDY OF ISOTHERMAL SECTIONS AT 600 °C AND 400 °C OF TERNARY Bi-Cu-Ge SYSTEM	165
Aleksandar Đorđević, D Minić, M Premović, D Mansijević, M Milosavljević, V Ristić	
STUDY OF TEMPERATURE PHASE TRANSFORMATION OF THE TERNARY Bi-Cu-Ge SYSTEM	169
Aleksandar Savić, I Jelić, M Šljivić-Ivanović, S Dimović, N Pudar, A Pfandler	
RECYCLED COARSE AGGREGATE AND FLY ASH EFFECT ON COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF SELF-COMPACTING CONCRETE	173
Vladan Kašić, D Životić, V Simić, A Radosavljević-Mihajlović, J Stojanović, S Mihajlović, M Vukadinović	
FORECAST RESOURCES OF ZEOLITHIC TUFFS OF SERBIA	177
Vladan Kašić, A Radosavljević-Mihajlović, S Radosavljević, J Stojanović, S Mihajlović, M Vukadinović	
GEOLOGICAL AND MINERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ZEOLITHIC TUFF TOPONICA DEPOSITS NEAR KOSOVSKA KAMENICA	181
Konstantin Petkov, V Stefanova, P Iliev	
METHOD FOR UTILIZATION OF THE SULFURIC ACID OBTAINED DURING AUTOCLAVE DISSOLUTION OF PYRITE CONCENTRATE	185
Stefan Đorđević, D Ishiyama, Y Ogawa, Z Stevanović, O Osenyeng, D Adamović, V Trifunović	
MONITORING OF pH VALUE AND CONCENTRATION OF COPPER IN RIVERS DOWNSTREAM FROM BOR MINE IN PERIOD 2015-2021	189
Viša Tasić, M Cocić, B Radović, T Apostolovski-Trujić	
CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF PARTICULATE MATTER IN THE INDOOR AIR AT THE TECHNICAL FACULTY IN BOR (SERBIA)	193
Snežana Ignjatović, I Vasiljević, M Negovanović	
DEFINING STRUCTURAL CORRELATION USING OF TOTAL HORIZONTAL GRADIENT	197

Velizar Stanković, M Janošević

**INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF THE COPPER SMELTING COMPANY IN THE COMPANY
"SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER" - CHALLENGES AND CONSEQUENCES TO THE ENVIRONMENT** 201

Vladimir Jovanović, D Todorović, B Ivošević, D Radulović, S Milićević, D Nišić

**CHARACTERIZATION OF PELLET SAMPLES OBTAINED BY PELETIZATION OF LIMESTONE
AND SEAWEED** 205

Vanja Trifunović, L Avramović, R Jonović, S Milić, S Đorđievski, M Jonović

**HYDROMETALLURGICAL TREATMENT OF ELECTRIC ARC FURNACE DUST IN AIM OF ZINC
SEPARATION** 209

Jovana Bošnjaković, N Knežević, N Čutović, M Bugarčić, A Jovanović, Z Veličković, S
Manasijević

**EVALUATION OF ADSORPTION PERFORMANCE OF PHOSPHATES REMOVAL USING CELL-
MG HYBRID ADSORBENT** 213

Dragan Radulović, Lj Andrić, D Božović, V Jovanović, B Ivošević, D Todorović,

**POSSIBILITY OF USING LIMESTONE FROM "PJEŠIVAČKI DO"-DANILOVGRAD DEPOSIT AS
FILLER IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY BRANCHES** 217

Predrag Stolić, J Ivaz, D Petrović, Zoran Stević

**ADVANTAGES OF MINING ENGINEERING CURRICULUM REALIZATION USING
SOLUTIONS BASED ON FREE SOFTWARE** 221

Slađana Krstić, E Požega, S Petrović, S Magdalinović, D Urošević, S Miletić, Z Stojanović
Šimšić

**QUALITY INVESTIGATION OF SAND FOR THE PRODUCTION OF AGGREGATES ON
VINOGRADI LOCALITY (DELIBLATSKA PEŠČARA)** 225

Saša Marjanović, D Gusković, M Mitrović, E Požega, B Trumić, U Stamenković

**INFLUENCE OF COLD ROLLING AND ANNEALING ON HARDNESS OF BIMETALLIC STRIP
Cu– Al** 229

ELECTROCHEMICAL BEHAVIOR OF COPPER IN CHLORIDE MEDIUM IN THE PRESENCE OF WALNUT SHELL MACERATE

Vesna Grekulović¹, Aleksandra Mitovski¹, Mirjana Rajčić Vujasinović¹, Nada Štrbac¹,
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Abstract

The use of plant extracts to inhibit the corrosion of copper and its alloys has been the subject of numerous scientific studies. This paper presents the results of research on the electrochemical behavior of copper during oxidation in a solution of 0.5 mol/dm³ NaCl in the absence and presence of walnut shell macerate in different concentrations. The electrochemical behavior of copper was investigated by method of open circuit potential measurement and cyclic voltammetry method. The results of measuring the open circuit potential show that the values obtained in the presence of walnut shell macerate are more positive in relation to the value recorded without the addition of walnut shell macerate. Three current peaks that correspond to copper chloride and copper oxide formation appear on the anode polarization curve obtained without the presence of walnut shell macerate. The value of current peaks decreases with increasing concentration of walnut shell macerate in the electrolyte. Lower current values in the presence of walnut shell macerate indicate that walnut shell macerate has got an inhibitory effect on processes resulting with these current peaks.

Keywords: copper, electrochemical behavior, chloride medium, walnut shell macerate.

1. INTRODUCTION

Due to its properties, copper is one of the most important metals used in industry. First of all it has good electrical and thermal conductivity, good mechanical workability and partly noble properties. It has found wide application in the electronic industry, in the production of wires, sheets, pipes for households, in the computer and microelectronic industry, as well as in the production of a large number of alloys [1]. Copper corrosion and its inhibition in different environments, especially those containing chloride ions, have been subject of numerous scientific studies [2-4]. The possibility of protecting copper from corrosion is attracting the attention of numerous researchers, so that a large number of possible inhibitors have been tested to date. Inhibitors are substances that are added in various concentrations to a given solution that contains aggressive ions. They can have organic or inorganic origin. However, many inhibitors have shown negative effects like damaging the environment, so the discovery and development of new environmentally friendly inhibitors and the study of the mechanism of their action is the subject of many actual scientific studies [5, 6].

Plant extracts as potential corrosion inhibitors have become the subject of numerous scientific studies in recent years. Extracts of various parts of plants, such as seeds, bark and flowers can be used as metal corrosion inhibitors.

2. EXPERIMENTAL

The experiments were performed on a system consisting of:

- electrochemical cell with three electrodes (working, reference and auxiliary),
- hardware (PC, AD/DA converter PCI-20428W manufactured by Burr-Brown and analog interface developed at the Technical Faculty in Bor) [7],

- measurement and control software (LabVIEW platform and specially developed application for electrochemical measurements) [7].

Experiment testing electrochemical behavior of copper in 0.5 mol/dm³ NaCl without and with the addition of walnut shell macerate (in further text: w.s.m) were performed by measuring the open circuit potential in relation to the saturated calomel electrode (SCE) during 60 seconds, and recording anode polarization curves in the potential range of -0.4 V vs. SCE up to 1 V vs. SCE with a scan rate of 20 mV/s.

The substances used for the preparation of working solutions are NaCl a purity, manufactured by d.d. "ZorkaPharma" Šabac, chopped walnut shells and distilled water. The macerate was prepared as follows: 100 g of chopped walnut shells were added to 1000 mL of distilled water and heated to 60 °C. The mixture was stirred four hours on a magnetic stirrer at a mixing speed of 400 min⁻¹. After four hours, the obtained macerate was filtered on a Bihner apparatus and stored in the refrigerator.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of measuring the open circuit potential for pure copper in 0.5 mol/dm³ NaCl with and without the presence of w.s.m. during 60 seconds are shown in Figure 1.

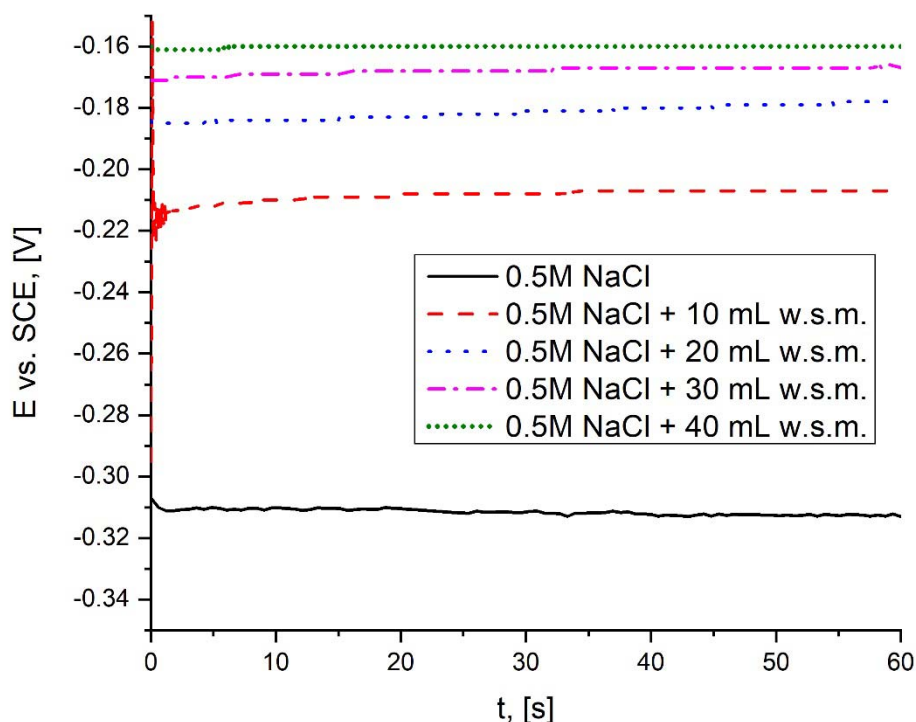


Figure 1. Open circuit potential of copper in 0.5 mol/dm³ NaCl, with and without the addition of walnut shell macerate; (w.s.m. - walnut shell macerate)

Based on the measurement of the open circuit potential, it can be noticed that the open circuit potential for copper in pure 0.5 mol/dm³ NaCl is the most negative with the value of -0.313 V vs. SCE. With the addition of 10 mL of w.s.m. the open circuit potential is -0.207 V vs. SCE, after stabilization. With the addition of 20 mL of w.s.m., the open circuit potential is -0.178 V vs. SCE. With the addition of 30 mL and 40 mL of w.s.m. the open circuit potential stabilizes very quickly and with the addition of 30 mL of w.s.m. the open circuit potential is -0.166 V vs. SCE, while with the addition of 40 mL the open circuit potential is -0.160 V vs. SCE.

Figure 2 shows the anodic polarization curves for pure copper without and in the presence of w.s.m. in different concentrations.

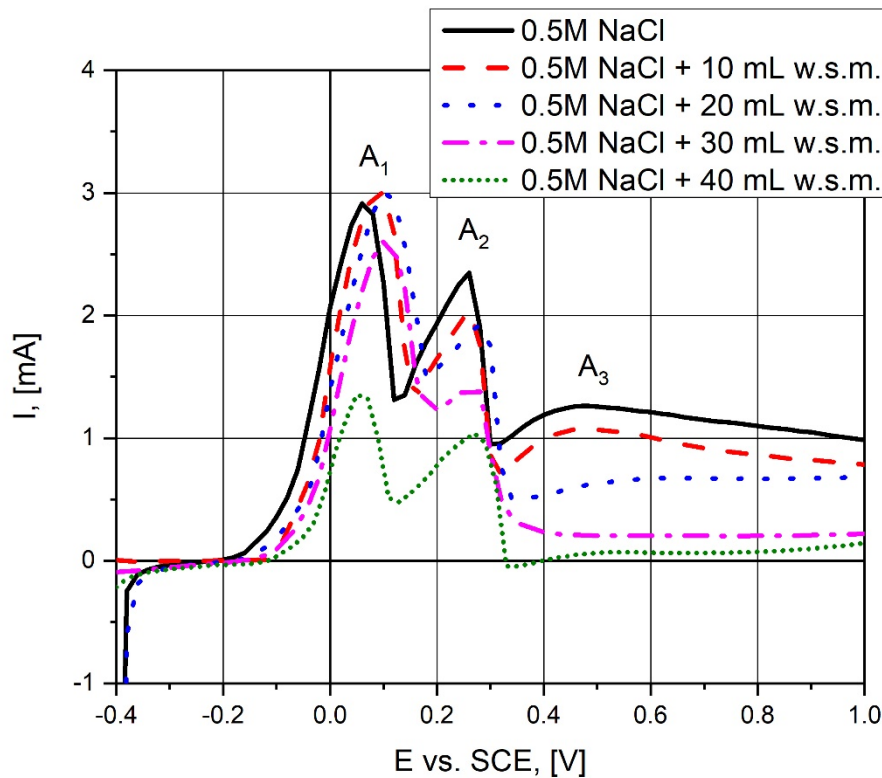


Figure 2. Anodic polarization curves for copper in 0.5 mol/dm³ NaCl, with and without the addition of walnut shell macerate; (w.s.m. - walnut shell macerate); scan rate 20 mV/s

Three current peaks were observed on the anode polarization curve recorded for copper in 0.5 mol/dm³ NaCl. Current peak A₁ appears at 0.06 V vs. SCE, current peak A₂ at 0.26 V vs. SCE, and the current peak A₃ at 0.46 V vs. SCE.

The current peaks A₁ and A₂ correspond to the formation of copper chloride by the following mechanism [8,9]:



The current peak A₃ corresponds to the formation of Cu₂O oxide according to the equation [10]:



With the addition of 10 mL and 20 mL of w.s.m., the current values for peak A₁ are higher than the current without the addition of w.s.m., while with the addition of 30 mL and 40 mL of w.s.m., the current values are lower than the current obtained in pure NaCl solution. In the potential range where current peaks A₂ and A₃ occur, the current values are lower at all w.s.m. concentrations than the current values in pure NaCl solution. Also, current peaks obtained in the presence of w.s.m. appear at more positive potentials. The results obtained by the cyclic voltammetry method show that w.s.m. acts as an anodic inhibitor of copper corrosion.

4. CONCLUSION

Increasing concern for the environment has led to stricter regulations regarding the use of chemicals that can have a detrimental effect on the environment, which has resulted with the reduction or complete suspension of the use of a number of highly effective copper corrosion

inhibitors. Recently, the focus of research has been put on the inhibitory effect of so-called green inhibitors.

Green inhibitors can be of animal or plant origin. They are biodegradable, cheap and do not harm the environment. The inhibitory effect of some plant extracts is achieved thanks to the presence of tannins, vitamins and natural polymers in their composition. The possibility of using walnut shell macerate to protect copper from corrosion was investigated in this paper.

Based on the performed experiments, the following conclusions can be made:

- According to the obtained results of measuring the open circuit potential for copper in 0.5 mol/dm³ NaCl without and with the addition of walnut shell macerate, it can be concluded that the open circuit potential values are more positive in the presence of the macerate than the open circuit potential without macerate addition.
- Examination of the electrochemical behavior of copper by the method of cyclic voltammetry in 0.5 mol/dm³ NaCl showed that three current peaks appear on the anode polarization curve. The current peaks A₁ and A₂ correspond to the formation of copper chloride, while the current peak A₃ corresponds to the formation of copper oxide on the surface. In the presence of walnut macerate, the inhibitory effect of macerate is achieved in the area of potential A₁ with the addition of more than 20 mL, while in the area of potentials A₂ and A₃, walnut macerate has an inhibitory effect at all tested concentrations of walnut macerate.

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