

*Supplementary Material*

**Mechanism of calcium hydroxide-reinforced magnesium-loaded  
clinoptilolite/phosphoric acid-modified biochar for NH<sub>3</sub>-N removal  
from rare earth element tailings wastewater**

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**Table A1** Basic properties of wastewater samples

	pH	NH <sub>3</sub> -N (mg/L)	COD (mg/L)	Sc (μg/L)	Y (μg/L)	La (μg/L)	Ce (μg/L)	Pr (μg/L)	Nd (μg/L)	Sm (μg/L)
Simulated wastewater	5.60	210.90	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Wastewater 1	3.62	13.14	ND	0.33	1087	1429	579	300	898	218
Wastewater 2	4.40	55.50	ND	1.10	2400	3554	1340	736	2242	501
Wastewater 3	4.37	138.16	0.58	0.65	2841	3947	1346	854	2411	623
	Eu (μg/L)	Tb (μg/L)	Dy (μg/L)	Ho (μg/L)	Er (μg/L)	Tm (μg/L)	Yb (μg/L)	Lu (μg/L)	REEs (μg/L)	
Simulated wastewater	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
Wastewater 1	16.70	42.30	210	43.50	111	18.30	102	17.80	5287.93	
Wastewater 2	38.50	95	469	92.90	234	35.30	194	30.10	12475.9	
Wastewater 3	41.10	103	474	104	241	40.40	204.60	34.60	13874.35	

Table A2 The content of elements in the composite

	NC-Mg	BC-PC
O	42.26	29.76
Al	5.92	0
Si	45.89	0
Ca	1.73	2.01
Mg	4.2	0.98
P	0	2.95
H	0	3.9
N	0	1.4
K	0	0.36
C	0	56.63
Na	0	2.01

**Table A3** NH<sub>3</sub>-N removal rate by the composite and equivalent adsorption materials

	Removal efficiency (%)
NC/BC/Ca	64.6 ± 1.5
NC/BC 2	10.6 ± 0.6

**Table A4** The relationship between the amount of alkaline material and the pH

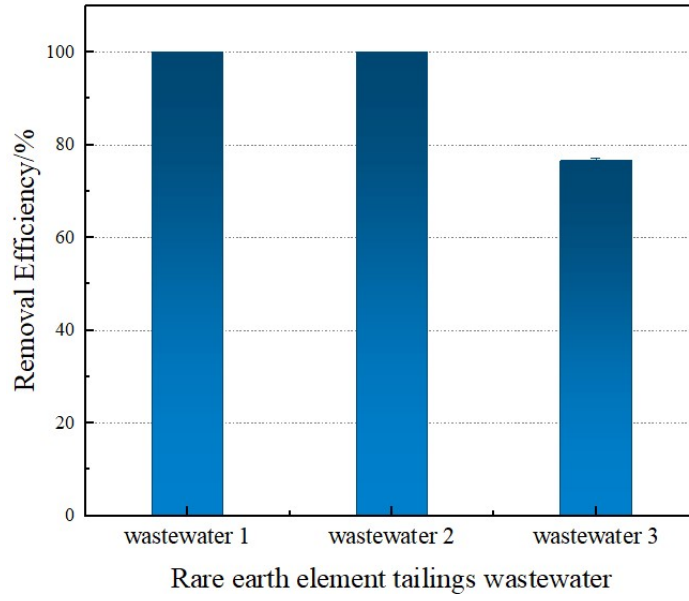
Ca(OH) <sub>2</sub> dosage (g)	pH	NaOH dosage (g)	pH
0	3.88	0	3.88
0.010	6.26	0.0084	6.06
0.020	8.02	0.013	8.03
0.032	9.00	0.031	8.97
0.050	10.74	0.040	9.97
0.10	12.15	0.073	11.07
0.15	12.40	0.10	11.90
0.20	12.50	0.25	12.50

**Table A5** Contribution rate of NH<sub>3</sub>-N removal of NC/BC/Ca in different ways

	Removal rate/%	Contribution rate / %			
		% Volatilization	% Adsorption	% Struvite precipitation	% Other precipitation
Volatilization experiment	2.8%	4.3%	----	----	----
Adsorption experiment (NC/BC 2)	10.6%	----	16.4%	----	----
NC/BC/Na	33.3%	4.3%	16.4%	30.8 %	----
NC/BC/Ca	64.6%	4.3%	16.4%	30.8%	48.5%

**Table A6** Effects of plant yield and soil pH in farmland by application of the sediments

	Rice ( <i>Oryza sativa L</i> )		Amaranth ( <i>Amaranthus tricolor L</i> )	
	Grain yield (g/plant)	Soil pH	Biomass (g/plant)	Soil pH
CK	10.71	5.00	38.2	5.97
Sediments application	12.35	5.53	44.0	6.35



**Fig. A1.** NH<sub>3</sub>-N removal efficiency with NC/BC/Ca from REEs wastewaters. Dates represent the mean  $\pm$  standard error of the mean (n=3).