agroindustrial wastewaters: A new olive oil production scheme with almost zero wastes

A. G. Pantziaros, X. A. Trachili, A. D. Zentelis, V. Sygouni, C. A. Paraskeva

Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Patras & Institute of Chemical Engineering Sciences, FORTH/ICE-HT, Patras



## Olive oil extraction processes to produce extra virgin olive oil





## water + Olive Mill solid wastes

- Olive oil is a major agroindustrial product for all Mediterranean countries
  - > Olive fruits
  - Extra virgin olive oil
- Unfortunately, large quantities of olive mill wastewater (OMW) or semi-solid wastes are produced during the olive oil extraction process.
- Treatment of liquid or solid waste is difficult and expensive

## Olive oil semi-solid wastes (pomace or alperujo)

Residual from the 2-phase olive oil extraction process 60-70% moisture





# Treatment of the three-phase olive mill wastewater, OMW (or

Pollution of cultivated or uncultivated fields and of the surface waters (rivers, lakes, sea)

## Treatment of the two phase, pomace or



#### **Treatment of Wastewaters and Solid Wastes-**

Isolation, Recovery and Purification of phenolic compounds from agricultural by-products (wastes)



## Membrane Filtration of OMW

## Scope

The main objective of the present study is to develop a new scheme for olive oil production process with almost zero wastes, utilizing all the ingredients of the olive fruits to produce useful products and by-products, such as

- extra virgin olive oil,
- •olive pomace oil,
- various antioxidants,
- •animal feed,
- solid fuels
- and water for irrigation.

## <u>Olive fruit</u>

Olive fruits can be separated in three parts:

- Kernel
- Pulp
- Skin

If a perfect separation could be made, then each part can be exploited separately

		Onve mult content per kg of mult		
		Skin- pulp	Kernel	
Woody	Weight (g)	846	154	
	Humidity (g)	528	69	
Endoca rp	Total organic carbon (g)	231	69	
Massacht (seed)	Total organics (COD) (g)	161	19	
p (pulp or flesh) Epicar p (skin)	Inorganic substances (g)	77	16	



#### **OLIVE KERNEL REMOVAL**



New proposed scheme Step No 1: Extraction of kernels

The produced olive oil produced is 'softer' and tastier, since it does not contain microparticles from the kernel. The microparticles are sites of oxidation of

10

These new devises are machines that remove the pulp from the olives and push the pulp to the malaxation tank to extract the olive oil from the olive pulp



New proposed scheme Step No 2: Malaxation of the pulp only (30-45 min)



From the grinder, the paste enters a tank for malaxation. Malaxation usually lasts from 30 to 45 minutes depending on the quality of the paste. In the mixture, the olive paste is stirred slowly with paddles and **the small droplets of olive oil are coalesced into larger droplets** to help the oil-paste separation process.

11

new proposed scheme Step No 3: **Olive oil** extraction **Product 1 Extra virgin** olive oil

Separation of olive oil is done in seconds in a centrifugal decanter at high speeds where different parts are obtained: solids (heaviest),vegetable water and olive oil (lightest).

The olive oil is pulled out of the decanter and sent for a final cleaning in the vertical Separator (polishing) for the





#### scheme

Step No 4: **Extraction of** phenolics from the rest part of the pulp **Product 2 Phenolic** compounds

> **Phenolics** ~ 380 g/L



### New proposed scheme, Step No 4: Extraction of phenolics Product 2: Phenolic compounds



Phenols, Carbohydrates and COD concentrations as a function of volume of water used during the extraction of 10 g olive pulp.

## 2: Phenolic compounds



Concentrations of phenols and carbohydrates and COD as function of stirring duration used for the extraction of 20g of olive pulp in 200mL of water

15

#### New proposed scheme, Step No 4: Extraction of phenolics, Product 2: Phenolic compounds



Concentrations of phenolics and carbohydrates obtained from the extraction of 20g of olive pulp using 200mL of distilled water at 150 rpm for stirring rates ranging between 50 and 200rpm.

16

#### New proposed scheme, Step No 4: Extraction of phenolics, Product 2: Phenolic compounds



Concentrations of carbohydrates, phenolics and COD as function of temperature for the range 25-60 °C

#### New proposed scheme, Step No 4: Extraction of phenolics, Product 2: Phenolic compound



Samples from the (a) extracted (2gr/L), (b) distillate and (c) concentrated solutions (50 gr/L) after rotary evaporation

Phenolics obtained in the form of powder after the freeze drying of the concentrate (10 % Ph, 20 % sugars, 65% different organics and inorganics)

With membrane filtration, resin adsorption/desorption, evaporation,

## New proposed scheme Step No 5: Exploitation of the remaining pulp

- Olive paste is a smooth puree made from ground olives frequently dressed with an extra virgin olive oil and offered with herbs and spices or plain (spread on melted cheese sandwich, toasted slices of baguette etc).
- Olive paste can also be used as animal feed







#### Step No 6: Exploitation of kernel residuals Product no 4: Pomace oil Product no 5: Pellets and briquettes

Extraction of pomace olive oil with hexane

(in extraction and distillation units) This pomace olive oil is suitable for frying









Conclusions	Solid/wate r	Extraction time		Temperatu re		Re- extraction		RPM			
	1:10	60 min		2	25°C		L	150			
Olive fruits: 1000 kg											
Olive oil: 200kg											
	Olive f	ruit	Pulp		Kernel		2-phase semi solid waste				
Weight kg	1000	)	810	810		190		800			
TOC kg	300		231	231		69		200 (25%)			
Humidity kg	607	,	538		69		480 (60%)				
Phenols kg	6.3		4.7		1.6		4 (0.5%)				
Separation											
		Olive oil		organics		200 kg					
Dulp + akin	Phenols		5 kg								
Puip + skin		Animal feed Edible paste		organics		25 kg					
				inorganics		580 kg					
Vornal	Pe			organics		70 kg					

Pomace oil

inorganics

120 kg

Kernel



Process Flow Diagram (PFD)of the proposed scheme for the complete exploitation of olive fruits with almost zero wastes. Techno economical study and

## Thank you for your attention Acknowledgements

We acknowledge support of this work by the project "Innovative **Actions in Environmental Research** and Development (PErAn)" (MIS 5002358) which is implemented under the "Action for the Strategic **Development on the Research and** Technological Sector", funded by the Operational Programme "Competitiveness, **Entrepreneurship and Innovation**" (NSRF 2014-2020) and co-financed by Greece and the European Union





Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης

