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## Journal of Hazardous Materials Volume 351, 5 June 2018, Pages 63-70

# Multiparameter analysis of activated sludge inhibition by nickel, cadmium, and cobalt

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https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhazmat.2018.02.032

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# Highlights

- <u>Activated sludge</u> inhibition by Ni, Cd, and Co was quantified by microrespirometry.
- Several kinetic and stoichiometric parameters were determined.
- Heavy metals showed a complex uncompetitive inhibition.
- Inhibition depended on the inhibitor, substrate, and biomass concentrations.
- Inhibition also depended on the exposure time.





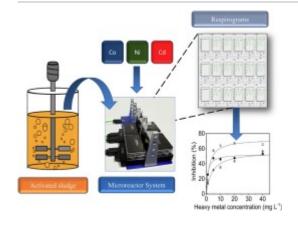


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rate (OUR<sub>max</sub>). The results indicated that, in a range of concentration from 0 to 40 mg L<sup>-2</sup>, the three heavy metals exerted an uncompetitive and incomplete inhibitory effect, with a maximum inhibition of 67, 57, and 53% for Ni, Co, and Cd, respectively. An increase of the biomass concentration by 620% resulted in a decrease of the inhibition by 47 and 69% for Co and Cd, respectively, while no effect was observed on Ni inhibition. An increase of the substrate concentration by 87% resulted in an increase of the inhibition by 24, 70, and 47% for Ni, Co and Cd, respectively. In the case of nickel and cadmium, an increase in the exposure time to the heavy metals also increased the inhibition.

## Graphical abstract



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# Keywords

Microrespirometry; Models; Kinetic parameters; Exposure time; Toxicity

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