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Studying Physical-Chemical Properties of Mountain Water from Bulgaria Influenced by a Fullerene Containing Mineral Shungite and Aluminosilicate Mineral Zeolite by IR, NES, and DNES Methods

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Abstract

We studied the physical-chemical properties of mountain water from Bulgaria influenced by the fullerene analogous, carbon containing natural mineral shungite from Zazhoginskoe deposit in Karelia (Russian Federation) and the microporous crystalline aluminosilicate mineral zeolite (Most, Bulgaria) for evaluation of the mathematical model of interaction of these minerals with water. The data about the structure and composition were obtained with using of gas-chromatography, transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and IR-spectroscopy. For evaluation of the mathematical model of interaction of these minerals with water, the methods of non-equilibrium spectrum (NES) and differential non-equilibrium spectrum (DNES) of water were applied. The average energy ($\Delta E_{H...O}$) of hydrogen H…O-bonds among individual molecules H_2O after treatment of shungite and zeolite with water was measured at -0.1137 eV for shungite and -0.1174 eV for zeolite. The calculation of $\Delta E_{H...O}$ for shungite with using DNES method compiles +0.0025±0.0011 eV and for zeolite -1.2±0.0011 eV. The obtained results indicated on the different mechanisms of interaction of these minerals with water, which is determined by their structure and the composition of constituent components, resulting in a different physical-chemical behavior when interacting with water.

Keywords: shungite, zeolite, structure, IR-spectroscopy, NES, DENS

1. Introduction

Shungite and zeolite are minerals refer to new generation of natural mineral sorbents (NMS). Shungite is an intermediate form between the amorphous carbon and the graphite crystal containing carbon (30%), silica (45%), and silicate mica (about 20%) (Khavari-Khorasani & Murchison, 1979). Shungite carbon is a fossilized organic material of sea bottom Precambrian sediments of high level of carbonization containing the fullerene-like regular structures. Shungite got its name after the village of Shunga in Karelia (Russian Federation), located on the shore of Onezhskoe Lake, where is located the only one mineral Zazhoginsky deposit of shungites on the territory of the Russian Federation. The total shungite reserves of Zazhoginsky deposit amount to approximately 35 million tons of shungite. The plant production capacity for the mining and processing of shungite makes up 200 thousand tons of shungite per year.

Zeolites are the alumosilicate members of the family of microporous solids known as "molecular sieves", named by their ability to selectively sort molecules based primarily on a size exclusion process. Natural zeolites form when volcanic rocks and ash layers react with alkaline groundwater. Zeolites also crystallize in post-depositional environments over periods ranging from thousands to millions of years in shallow marine basins. Naturally occurring zeolites are rarely pure and are contaminated to varying degrees by other minerals, metals, quarts, or other zeolites. For this reason, naturally occurring zeolites are excluded from many important commercial applications where uniformity and purity are essential.

As natural minerals shungite and zeolite has unusually broad scope of application in industry. Shungite was used initially, mainly as a filler and substitute of the carbon coal coke (fuel) in blast furnace production of high-silicon cast iron, in ferroalloys melting, in the production of non-stick heat-resistant paints and coatings, and as filler in rubber production. Subsequently there were discovered other new valuable properties of shungite – adsorptional, bactericidal, catalytic, reduction-oxidation properties, as well as the ability of shungite minerals to screen off electromagnetic and radio radiations. These properties have made the use of shungite in various branches of science, industry and technology, for creating on its basis a variety of new nanotechnological materials with nano-molecular structure. On the basis of shungite have been created new conductive paints, fillers for plastic materials, rubber and carbon black substitutes, composite materials, concrete, bricks, stuccoing plasters, asphalts, as well as materials having bactericidal activity, and materials shielding off the radio and electromagnetic radiation. Adsorptional, catalytic, and reduction-oxydation properties of shungite favored its use in water treatment and water purification technologies, i.g. in treatment of sewage waters from many organic and inorganic substances (heavy metals, ammonia, organochlorine compounds, petroleum products, pesticides, phenols, surfactants, etc.). Moreover, shungite has a strongly marked biological activity and bactericidal properties.

Zeolites as shungites are widely used in industry as a desiccant of gases and liquids, for treatment of drinking and sewage water from heavy metals, ammonia, phosphorus, as catalyst in petrochemical industry for benzene extraction, for production of detergents and for extracting of radionuclides in nuclear reprocessing. They are also used in medicine as nutritional supplements having antioxidant properties.

A wide range of properties of shungite and zeolite defines the search for new areas of industrial application of these minerals in science and technology that contributes to a deeper study of the structure with using the modern analytical methods. This paper is a continuation of our studies aimed at the investigation of physical-chemical properties of mountain water from Bulgaria influenced by shungite and the zeolite for evaluation of the mathematical model of interaction of these minerals with water.

2. Material and Methods

2.1. Material

The study was performed with samples of shungite obtained from Zazhoginsky deposit (Karelia, Russia) and zeolite (Most, Bulgaria). Samples were taken *and* analyzed in solid samples according to National standard of the Russian Federal Agency of Technical Regulation and Metrology. Samples were put into 100 cm^3 hermetically sealed glass tubes after being washed in dist. H_2O and dried in crucible furnace, and homogenized in homogenizer by mechanical grinding. For the decomposition of the shungite samples a system of microwave decomposition was used. Other methods of samples processing were washing with dist. H_2O, drying, and homogenization on cross beater mill Retch SK100 (“Retsch Co.”, Germany) and Pulverisette 16 (“Fritsch GMBH”, Germany).

2.2. Analytical Methods

The analytical methods were accredited by the Institute of Geology of Ore Deposits, Petrography, Mineralogy and Geochemistry (Russian Academy of Sciences). Samples were treated by various methods as ICP-OES, GC, and SEM.

2.3. Gas-Chromatography

Gas-chromatography (GC) was performed at Main Testing Centre of Drinking Water (Moscow, the Russian Federation) on Kristall 4000 LUX M using Chromaton AW-DMCS and Inerton-DMCS columns (stationary phases 5% SE-30 and 5% OV-17), equipped with flame ionization detector (FID) and using helium (He) as a carrier gas.

2.4. Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometry (ICP-OES)

The mineral composition of shungite was studied by inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES) on Agilent ICP 710-OES (Agilent Technologies, USA) spectrometer, equiped with plasma atomizer (under argon stream), MegaPixel CCD detector, and 40 MHz free-running, air-cooled RF generator, and Computer-optimized echelle system: the spectral range at 167–785 nm; plasma gas: 0–22.5 l/min in 1.5 l/min; power output: 700–1500 W in 50 W increments.

2.5. Elemental Analysis

The total amount of carbon (C_{total}) in shungite was measured according to the ISO 29541 standard using elemental analyzer CHS-580 (“Eltra GmbH”, Germany), equipped with electric furnace and IR-detector by combustion of 200 mg of solid homogenized sample in a stream of oxygen at the temperature 1500 ^{0}C.

2.6. Transmission Electrom Microscopy (TEM)

The structural studies were carried out with using JSM 35 CF (JEOL Ltd., Korea) device, equipped with X-ray microanalyzer “Tracor Northern TN”, SE detector, thermomolecular pump, and tungsten electron gun (Harpin type W filament, DC heating); working pressure: 10^{-4} Pa (10^{-6} Torr); magnification: 300.000, resolution: 3.0 nm, accelerating voltage: 1–30 kV; sample size: 60–130 mm.

2.7. IR-Spectroscopy

IR-spectra of shungite were registered in KBr pellet on IR spectrometer Brucker Vertex ("Brucker", Germany) (a spectral range: average IR – 370–7800 cm^{-1}; visible – 2500–8000 cm^{-1}; the permission – 0.5 cm^{-1}; accuracy of wave number – 0.1 cm^{-1} on 2000 cm^{-1}).

2.8. NES- and DNES-methods

NES- and DNES-methods were used for the estimation of energy of hydrogen bonds of shungite and zeolite solutions in water in order to evaluate the mathematical model of interaction of these minerals with water. The device measured the angle of evaporation of water drops from 72 ^{0} to 0 ^{0}. As the main estimation criterion was used the average energy ($\Delta E_{H...O}$) of hydrogen O...H-bonds between individual H_2O molecules in aqueous samples. NES-and DNES spectra of shungite and zeolite solutions in water were measured in the range of the energy of hydrogen bonds 0,08–0,387 eV or λ = 8,9–13,8 μm with using a specially designed computer program.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1. The composition and the structure of shungite and zeolite

According to the last structural studies shungite is a metastable allotropic form of carbon with high level of carbonization (carbon metamorphism), being on prior to graphite stage of coalification (Volkova & Bogdanov, 1986). Along with carbon the shungite, obtained from Zazhoginsky deposit in Karelia (Russian Federation) contains SiO_2 (57.0%), TiO_2 (0.2%), Al_2O_3 (4.0%), FeO (0.6%), Fe_2O_3 (1.49%), MgO (1.2%), MnO (0.15%), K_2O (1.5%), S (1.2%) (Table 1). The product obtained after the thermal firing of shungite (shungizit) at 1200–1400 ^{0}C contains in small amounts V (0.015%), B (0.004%), Ni (0.0085%), Mo (0.0031%), Cu (0.0037%), Zn (0.0067%), Co (0.00014%) As (0.00035%), Cr (0.72%), Zn (0.0076%) and other elements.

In comparison with shungite zeolite comprises a microporous crystalline aluminosilicate mineral commonly used as commercial adsorbents, three-dimensional framework of which is formed by linking via the vertices the tetrahedra $[AlO_4]^{2-}$ and $[SiO_4]^{2-}$ (Panayotova & Velikov, 2002). Each tetrahedron $[AlO_4]^{2-}$ creates a negative charge of the carcasses compensated by cations (H^+, Na^+, K^+, Ca^{2+}, NH_4^+, etc.), in most cases, capable of cation exchange in solutions. Tetrahedrons formed the secondary structural units, such as six-membered rings, five-membered rings, truncated octahedra, etc. Zeolite framework comprises interacting channels and cavities forming a porous structure with a pore size of 0.3–1.0 nm. Average crystal size of the zeolite may range from 0.5 to 30 μm.

Table 1: The chemical composition of shungites from Zazhoginsky deposit (Karelia, Russian Federation), in % (w/w)

№	Chemical component	Content, % (w/w)
1	C	30.0
2	SiO_2	57.0
3	TiO_2	0.2
4	Al_2O_3	4,0
5	FeO	0.6
6	Fe_2O_3	1.49
7	MgO	1.2
8	MnO	0.15
9	CaO	0.3
10	Na_2O	0.2
11	K_2O	1.5
12	S	1.2
13	H_2O	1.7

The empirical formula of zeolite can be represented as:

$$M_{2/n}OAl_2O_3{\cdot}\gamma SiO_2{\cdot}wH_2O,$$

where n – the cationic charge (n = 1–2), γ – the molar ratio of oxides of silicon and aluminum in the zeolite framework, indicating the amount of cation exchange positions in the structure (y = 2–∞), w – the amount of water.

The composition of zeolite is analogous to that of shungite (Table 2), except for carbon which does not occur in zeolite. The amounts of core elements (SiO_2, TiO_2, Al_2O_3, FeO, Fe_2O_3, MgO, CaO, Na_2O, K_2O, S) constituting these minerals differ from that of shungite: their content is higher than that of shungite except for TiO_2 and K_2O, the contents of which in zeolite were decreased (Table 3). The content of microelements as V (0.0272), Co (0.0045%), Cu (0.0151%), Mo (0.0012%), As (0.0025%), Ni (0.0079%), Zn (0.1007%), Zn (0.1007%) was somewhat increased in zeolite, while the content of Ba (0.0066%) and Cr (0.0048%) was increased (Table 2).

Table 2: The chemical composition of zeolite (Most, Bulgaria), in % (w/w)

№	Chemical component	Content, % (w/w)
1	SiO_2	22.14
2	TiO_2	0.01
3	Al_2O_3	17.98
4	FeO	23.72
5	Fe_2O_3	1.49
6	MgO	14.38
7	MnO	0.61
8	CaO	0.36
9	Na_2O	0.5
10	K_2O	0.4
11	S	0.32
12	P_2O_5	0.06
13	Ba	0.0066
14	V	0.0272
15	Co	0.0045
17	Cu	0.0151
18	Mo	0.0012
19	As	0.0025
20	Ni	0.0079
21	Pb	0.0249
22	Sr	0.0021
23	Cr	0.0048
24	Zn	0.1007
25	H_2O	1.43

Physical and chemical properties of shungite have been sufficiently studied (Parfen'eva, 1994). Density of shungite 2.1–2.4 g/cm^3; porosity – up to 5%; the compressive strength – 1000–1200 kgf/cm^2; conductivity coefficient – 1500 SI/m; thermal conductivity coefficient – 3.8 W/m·K, the adsorption capacity up to 20 m^2/g.
Shungites differ in composition of mineral matrix (aluminosilicate, siliceous, carbonate), and the amount of carbon in shungite samples. Shungite minerals with silicate mineral basis are divided into low-carbon (5% C), medium-carbon (5–25% C), and high-carbon shungites (25–80% C) (Kasatochkin et al., 1978). The sum (C + Si) in shungites of Zazhoginsky deposit (Karelia, Russian Federation) is varied within 83–88% as shown in Figure 1.

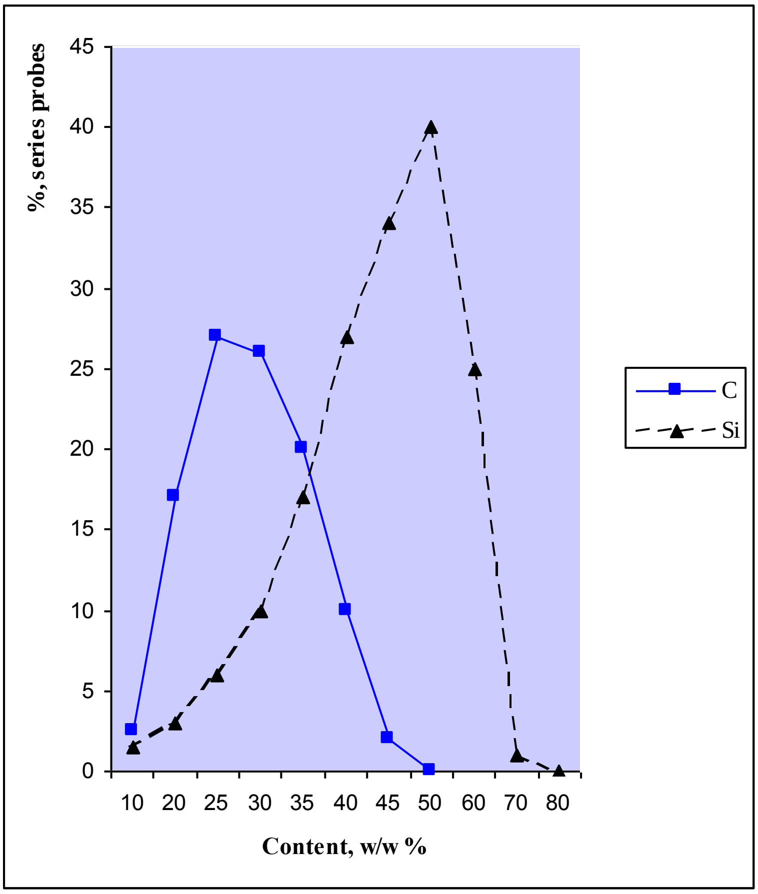

Figure 1: The distribution (%) of carbon (C) (solid line) and silicon (Si) (dotted line) in shungite samples from Zazhoginsky deposit (Karelia, Russian Federation) according to atomic emission spectrometry (AES)

The crystals of crushed, fine ground shungite possess strong bipolar properties. This results in a high adhesion, and the ability of shungite to mix with almost all organic and inorganic substances. Besides, shungite has a broad spectrum of bactericidal properties; the mineral is adsorptive active against some bacterial cells, phages, and pathogenic saprophytes (Khadartsev & Tuktamyshev, 2002).

The unique properties of the mineral are defined by nanostructure and composition of its constituent elements. Shungite carbon is equally distributed in the silicate framework of fine dispersed quartz crystals having the size of 1–10 μm (Kovalevski, 1994; Mosin & Ignatov, 2013a), as confirmed by studying of ultra-thin sections of shungite by transmission electron microscopy (TEM) in absorbed and backscattered electrons (Figure 2).

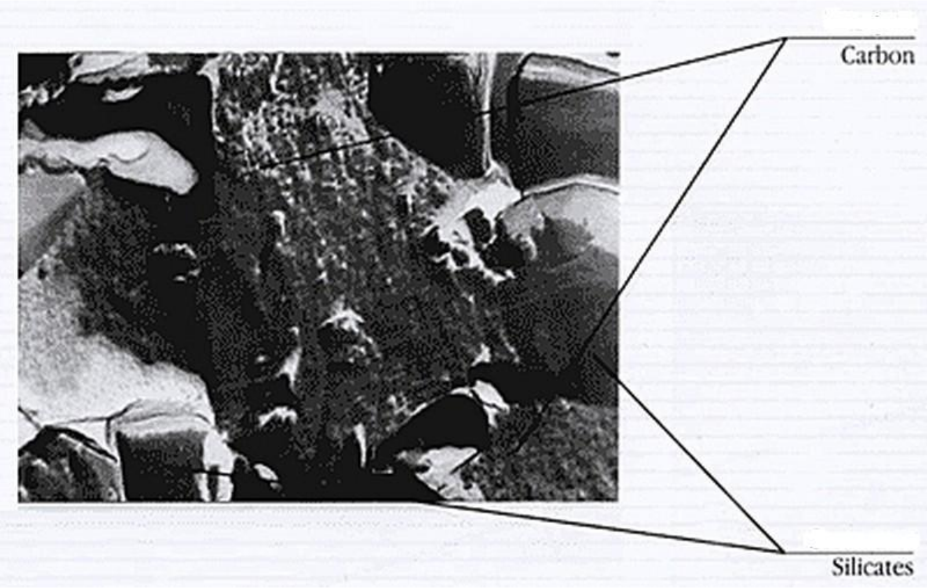

Figure 2: Structure of shungite rock obtained by TEM method. Scanning area 100×100 mm, resolution 0.5 nm, magnification 300.000 times. The arrows show the silicate framework of fine dispersed quartz with the size 1–10 μm, and uniformly distributed carbon

The carbonaceous material of shungite is the product of a high degree of carbonization of hydrocarbons. Its elemental composition (%, w/w): C – 98.6–99.6; H – 0.15–0.5; (H + O) – 0.15–0.9 (Golubev, 2000). With virtually constant elemental composition of shungite carbonaceous matter is observed variability in its structure – molecular and supramolecular, as well as surface, and porous structure. X-ray studies showed that the molecular structure of shungite carbon is represented by a solid uncrystallized carbon, which components may be in a state close as to graphite and carbon black and glassy carbon as well, i.e. the maximally disordered (Kovalevski *et al*., 2001). Carbonaceous matter of shungite having a strongly marked structural anisotropy shows a significant increase in the diamagnetism at low temperatures that is characteristic for fullerenes (Jushkin, 1994).

The basis of shungite carbon compose the hollow carbon fullerene-like multilayer spherical globules with a diameter of 10–30 nm, comprising inclusive packages of smoothly curved carbon layers covering the nanopores (Figure 3). The globule structure is stable relative to shungite carbon phase transitions into other allotropic carbon forms. Fullerene-like globules (the content of fullerenes makes up 0.001%) may contain from a few dozen to a several hundred carbon atoms and may vary in shape and size (Reznikov & Polehovsky, 2000).

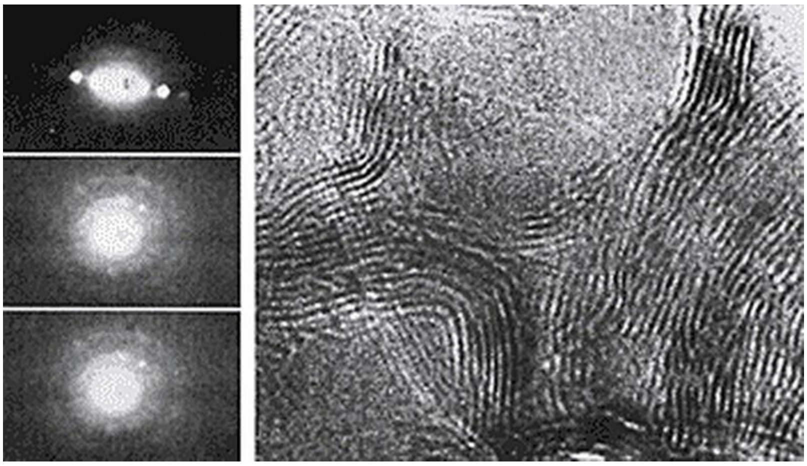

Figure 3: Electron diffraction of nanopattern of shungite carbon in the form of spherical multilayer fullerene globules with a diameter 10–30 nm, obtained by TEM method (probe 0.5–0.7 nm, the energy of the electron beam 100–200 kV, the beam radius 10 nm, the range of the goniometer rotation -27 ... +27 ^{0}). On the left are shown fluorescent spherical fullerene-like globules, on the right – the multi-layered spherical fullerene-like globules with packets of carbon layers, recorded at a higher resolution

3.2. IR-spectroscopy of shungite

A convenient method to obtain information on the composition and the structure of a mineral is IR spectroscopy. IR spectra can usually be obtained with the amount of 0,5–3,0 mg of the sample, i.e. significantly less than required for NMR. In contrast to the NMR the measuring of IR-spectra is possible for solid compounds, which allows the study even insoluble solid substances.

By the method of IR-spectroscopy in the range of vibrations in the crystal mineral framework it is possible to obtain the information:

a) on the composition of the mineral and its components;

b) on the structure of the framework, particularly the lattice ratio type C/SiO_2 or SiO_2/Al_2O_3;

c) on the nature of the surface of the structural groups, which often serve as adsorption and catalytically active sites.

The wave absorption in the infrared region (400–4000 nm) is caused by the vibrational motion of the molecules associated with changes in bond lengths (stretching vibrations, ν) or bond angles between the atoms (deformation vibrations, δ). IR spectrum of the carbon containing organic compound ranges from 400–4000 cm^{-1} and allows identify these compounds. However, often the interpretation of natural carbon-containing minerals is difficult due to their multi-component composition and as the result numerous oscillations in samples. Furthermore, the number of absorption bands in the IR spectra may differ from the number of normal molecular vibrations due to the occurrence of additional bands: overtones, component frequencies, and overlapping lines due to the Fermi resonance.

Studying of shungite by the method of IR-spectroscopy revealed the presence at least seven main maxima in the IR-spectrum of shungite, detected at 2,90; 3,18; 3,32; 6,13; 7,14; 8,59; 9,21 μm, or 3448; 3141; 3016; 1630; 1400; 1164 and 1086 cm^{-1} corresponding to oscillations of various organic group types in shungite (Fig. 4).

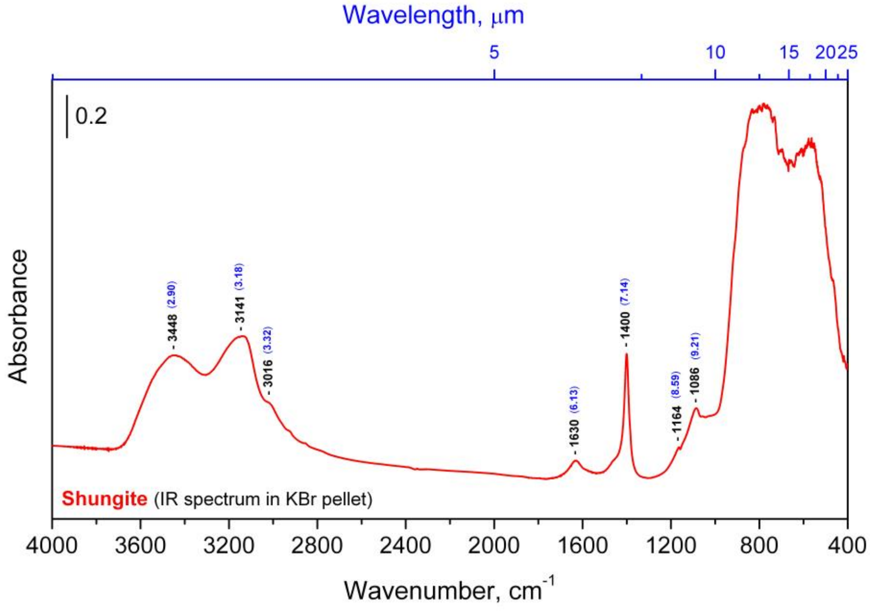

Figure 4: IR-spectra of shungite in KBr pellet (spectral range: average IR – 400–4000 cm^{-1}; visible – 2500–8000 cm^{-1}; the permission – 0,5 cm^{-1}; accuracy of wave number – 0,1 cm^{-1} on 2000 cm^{-1})

The average IR region is the most informative and marked as fundamental. In turn, this area is divided into the “fingerprint” region (700–1500 cm^{-1}) and the region of characteristic bands (1500–4000 cm^{-1}).

When interpreting the IR spectra the most informative are the region at 2500–1500 cm^{-1} and the region at 4000–2500 cm^{-1}. Analysis of the first of these allows determine the presence in the sample the unsaturated compounds: C=C, C≡C, C=O, C=N, C≡N, as well as the aromatic and heteroaromatic nucleus. The absorption bands in the region at 4000–2500 cm^{-1} can identify functional groups as O–H, N–H, S–H, as well as various types of carbon-hydrogen C_{sp3}–H, C_{sp2}–H, C_{sp}–H, (O=) C–H-bonds.

The IR spectra of organic compounds can be divided into three main areas: 1) 4000–2500 cm^{-1} – a region of stretching vibrations of single bonds X–H: O–H, N–H, C–H, S–H; 2) 2500–1500 cm^{-1} – a region of stretching vibrations of multiple bonds X=Y, X≡Y: C=C, C=O, C=N, C≡C, C≡N; 3) 1500–500 cm^{-1} – a region of stretching vibrations of single bonds X–Y: C–C, C–N, C–O and deformation vibrations of single bonds X–H: C–H, O–H, N–H.

Table 3: Characteristic vibrational frequencies of organic compounds

Groups and types of oscillations	**The range of frequencies (cm^{-1}), the intensity of the absorption bands**
Covalent C–H bond	
Alkanes	
C_{sp3}–H	
stretching, v	2975–2860 (intensive)
deformational (I)	1470–1430 (average)
deformational (II)	1380–1370 (intensive)
O–CH_3	
stretching	2820–2810 (intensive)
CH_3Hal (F, Cl, Br, I)	
stretching, v	3058–3005 (intensive)
Alkenes	
C_{sp2}–H	
stretching, v (=CH_2)	3095–3075 (average)
deformational, δ (–CH=CH_2)	1420–1410 (intensive)
stretching, v (=CH–)	3040–3010 (average)
deformational, δ (–CH=CH–)	1310–1295 (average)
trans-	970–960 (intensive)
cis-	~690 (average)
Aromatic hydrocarbon	
$C_{arom.}$–H	~3030 (intensive)
stretching, v	900–690 (intensive)
deformational, δ	
Aldehydes	
stretching, v (I)	2900–2820 (not intensive)
stretching, v (II)	2775–2700 (not intensive)
Alkynes	
C_{sp}–H	
stretching, v (≡C–H)	~3300 (intensive)
deformational, δ (–C≡C–H)	680–610 (intensive)
Covalent bonds X–H	
O–H	
stretching, v	3650–3590 (average, narrow)
deformational, δ	1450–1250 (average, wide)
H-linked bond	
stretching, v:	
alcohols, phenols, carbohydrates, carboxylic acids	3550–3200 (intensive, wide)
	2700–2500 (wide)
N–H	
Primary amines and amides (–NH–)	
stretching, v (2 bands)	3500–3300 (average)
deformational, δ (amid band II)	1650–1590 (intensive-average)
Secondary amines and amides (–NH–)	
stretching, v (I band)	3500–3300 (average)
deformational, δ (amide band II)	1650–1550 (not intensive)
Amino acids	
stretching, v (NH_3^+)	
amino acid band I	1660–1610 (not intensive)
amino acid band II	1550–1485 (average)
Imines (+NH–)	
stretching, v (I band)	3400–3300 (average)
S–H	
stretching, v	2600–2550 (average)
P–H	
stretching, v	2440–2350 (average, wide)

Si–H	
stretching, v	2280–2080 (average)
Covalent bonds X–Y	
C_{sp3}–C_{sp3}	
stretching, v	1250–1200 (intensive)
C–O	
stretching, v:	
primary alcohols	1075–1000 (intensive)
secondary alcohols	1150–1075 (intensive)
tertiary alcohols	1210–1100 (intensive)
phenols	1260–1180 (intensive)
Ethers	
di-alkyl (–CH_2–O–CH_2–)	1150–1060 (very intensive)
aromatic (Ar–O–Ar)	1270–1230 (very intensive)
C–N	
stretching, v:	
aliphatic amines	1220–1020 (average-not intensive)
primary aromatic amines	1340–1250 (intensive)
secondary aromatic amines	1350–1280 (intensive)
tertiary aromatic amines	1360–1310 (intensive)
aliphatic nitro compounds	920–830 (intensive)
aromatic nitro compounds	860–840 (intensive)
C–Hal	
stretching, v:	
C–F	1400–1000 (very intensive)
C–Cl	800–600 (intensive)
C–S	
stretching, v	710–570 (not intensive)
C–P	
stretching, v	800–700 (shifting)
C–O	
stretching, v	870–690 (shifting)
Double covalent bonds X=Y	
C=C	
stretching, v	
isolated double bond (C=C)	
alkenes	1670–1620 (shifting)
cumulated double bonds (C=C=C)	
allenes	~1950 (intensive)
	~1060 (average)
Conjugated double bonds	
(C=C–C=C or C=C–C=O)	
alkadienes and enones	1640–1600 (intensive)
benzene ring (multiple bands)	~1600 (shifting)
	~1580 (shifting)
	~1500 (shifting)
	~1450 (shifting)
C=O	
stretching, v	
saturated aldehydes, ketones, carboxylic acid esters	1750–1700 (intensive)
a-amino acids (COOH)	1755–1720 (intensive)
amino acids (COO^-)	1600–1560 (intensive)
unsaturated aldehydes and aromatic ketones	1705–1660 (intensive)
amides (amid band I)	1700–1630 (intensive)
C=N	
stretching, v	1690–1630 (shifting)
C=S	
stretching, v	1200–1050 (intensive)

N=O stretching, v nitrites (–O–N=O) (2 bands) nitroso (–C–N=O) nitrosamines (–N–N=O)	 1680–1610 (intensive) 1600–1500 (intensive) 1500–1430 (intensive)
C=S stretching, v	 1200–1050 (intensive)

In the sub-region (700–1500 cm^{-1}) are located the absorption bands of the skeleton of the organic molecules comprising C–C-bond, C–O, C–N (for this region are not characteristic oscillations belonging to separate bonds). The nature of the IR-spectrum in this frequency range varies significantly with small differences in the spectra of the organic compounds, as each compound has its unique distinctive set of absorption bands. It can be used to discriminate between the molecules having the same functional group.

In the spectral range of 1500–4000 cm^{-1} are located all fluctuations of the basic functional groups. These groups act as if being isolated and independently of the rest of the molecule, as their absorption frequencies little change at transition from one compound to another. The characteristic may be the bands corresponding to both the stretching and bending vibrations.

Absorption in the region at 1400–1300 cm^{-1} and 700 cm^{-1} is due to deformation oscillations of CH_3- and CH_2-groups. Stretching vibrations of the terminal C=C bond correspond to the average intensity of the band at 1640 cm^{-1}.

The position band of CH_2-group at 800–700 cm^{-1} is dependent on the carbon chain length and is used to detect the organic compounds containing the polymethylene chain.

In the region of 3095–3010; 2975; 3040–3010 cm^{-1} are located stretching vibrations of C–H aromatic, heteroaromatic, small cycles, halogenated alkyl groups.

The main range of characteristic bands of organic compounds changes from 3100–3000 cm^{-1} for H–C-; N–H-; O–H-bonds; 3100–2800 cm^{-1} – for C–H; –CH_3-bonds; 3040–3010 cm^{-1} – for ═CH-bonds; 1750–1700 cm^{-1} – for C=O bonds; 1690-1630 cm^{-1} – for C=N-bonds; 1670–1620 cm^{-1} – for C=C-bonds; 1420–1410 cm^{-1} – for CH_2═CH-bonds; 1310-1295 cm^{-1} – for –CH=CH-bonds; 1250–1200 cm^{-1} – for C_{sp3}–C_{sp3}-bonds; 1260–1000 cm^{-1} for C–O-bonds; 1220–1020 cm^{-1} – for C–N-bonds; 1400–1300 cm^{-1} – for CH_2-bonds; 1640–1600 cm^{-1} – for C═C–C═C or C═C–C═O-bonds; 1060–1950 cm^{-1} for conjugated double C=C=C-bonds (Table 3).

Absorption in the region at 3000–2800 cm^{-1} appears as complex band absorption. The position of bands in this area is preserved in all types of aliphatic hydrocarbons. The intensity of the bands depends on the number of CH_2- and CH_3-groups in the molecule. Accumulation of CH_2-groups increases the intensity of the absorption band of 3000–2800 cm^{-1}, whereas the intensity of the band of the CH_3–group changes little. This property is used for quantitative analysis of hydrocarbons. Thus, the composition of shungite is complex; this mineral contains in its composition many functional groups of organic compounds with different types of bonds, which is due to its complex organic composition.

3.3. Influence of shungite and zeolite on physical-chemical properties of deionized water

Other convenient method for obtaining information about the average energy of hydrogen bonds in an aqueous sample is measuring of the spectrum of the water state. It was established experimentally that at evaporation of water droplet the contact angle θ decreases discretely to zero, whereas the diameter of the droplet changes insignificantly (Antonov Yuskesseliva, 1983). By measuring this angle within a regular time intervals a functional dependence f(θ) can be determined, which is designated by the spectrum of the water state (Antonov Yuskesseliva, 1983; Ignatov, 2005; Ignatov, 2012; Ignatov & Mosin, 2013). For practical purposes by registering the spectrum of water state it is possible to obtain information about the averaged energy of hydrogen bonds in an aqueous sample. For this purpose the model of W. Luck is used, which consider water as an associated liquid, consisted of O–H…O–H groups (Luck *et al.*, 1980). The major part of these groups is designated by the energy of hydrogen bonds (-E), while the others are free (E = 0). The energy distribution function f(E) is measured in electron-volts (eV^{-1}) and may be varied under the influence of various external factors on water as temperature and pressure.

For calculation of the function f(E) experimental dependence between the water surface tension measured by the wetting angle (θ) and the energy of hydrogen bonds (E) is established:

$$f(E) = \frac{14{,}33 f(\theta)}{[1-(1+bE)^2]^2}$$

where $b = 14.33\ eV^{-1}$; $\theta = arcos(-1-bE)$

The energy of hydrogen bonds (E) measured in electron-volts (eV) is designated by the spectrum of energy distribution. This spectrum is characterized by non-equilibrium process of water droplets evaporation, thus the term “non-equilibrium energy spectrum of water” (NES) is applied.

The difference Δ*f(E) = f (samples of water) – f (control sample of water)*

– is designated the “differential non-equilibrium energy spectrum of water” (DNES). (Antonov, 1990; Ignatov, 1998)

DNES calculalated in milielectron volts (0.001 eV or meV) is a measure of changes in the structure of water as a result of external factors. The cumulative effect of all other factors is the same for the control sample of water and the water sample, which is under the influence of this impact.

We studied the distribution of local extremums in water solutions of of shungite and zeolite regarding the energies of hydrogen bonds. The average energy ($\Delta E_{H...O}$) of hydrogen H…O-bonds among individual H_2O molecules was calculated for water solutions of shungite and zeolite by NES- and DNES-methods.

The research with the NES method of water drops received after 3 days stay with shungite and zeolite in deionized water may also give valuable information on the possible number of hydrogen bonds as percent of H_2O molecules with different values of distribution of energies of hydrogen bonds (Table 4, Fig. 5). These distributions are basically connected with restructuring of H_2O molecules with the same energies.

Table 4: Characteristics of spectra of water after 3 day infusion with shungite and zeolite obtained by the NES-method

-E(eV) x-axis	Shungite [%,(-E_{value})/ (-$E_{total\ value}$)]	Zeolite [%,(-E_{valu}e)/ (-$E_{total\ value}$)]	-E(eV) x-axis	Shungite [%,(-E_{value})/ (-$E_{total\ value}$)]	Zeolite [%,(-E_{value})/ (-$E_{total\ value}$)]
0.0937	2.85	6.3	0.1187	0	12.4
0.0962	8.8	6.3	0.1212	5.9	6.3
0.0987	5.9	0	0.1237	0	0
0.1012	11.8	12.4	0.1262	0	0
0.1037	11.8	6.3	0.1287	0	18.7
0.1062	0	6.3	0.1312	8.8	6.3
0.1087	0	0	0.1337	2.85	0
0.1112	5.9	0	0.1362	0	0
0.1137	11.8	0	0.1387	11.8	2.4
0.1162	11.8	6.3	–	–	–

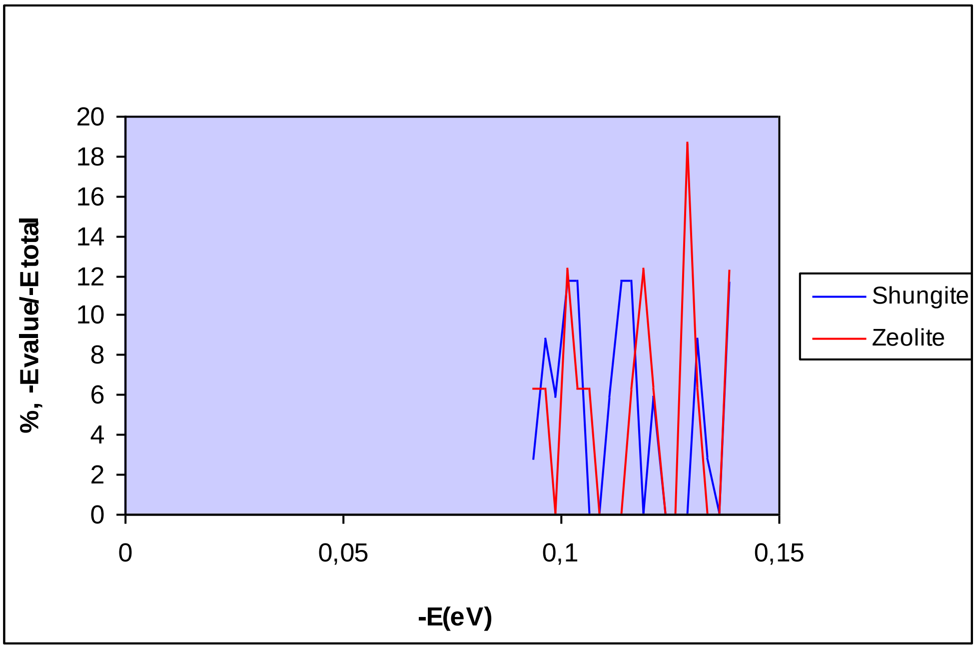

Figure 5: The distribution [%, (-E_{value})/(-$E_{total\ value}$] of water molecules in water solution of shungite/zeolite according to energies of hydrogen bonds (-E_{value}) to the total result of hydrogen bonds energy

There are two conclusions from the DNES spectra of shungite and zeolite. For the value -0.1387 eV there is local maximums with positive values of shungite and zeolite. A. Antonov earlier demonstrated that in the aqueous suspension of tumor cells there was detected a decrease of local maximums; DNES-spectra of aqueous solution containing Ca^{2+} cations have a local minimum of energy at -0,1 eV and a local maximum at -0,11 eV. The interesting fact is that due to the present of calcium in shungite, the aqueous solution of shungite has a local minimum of energy at -0,0987 eV and a local maximum at -0,1137 eV that closely corresponds with the DNES-spectrum of aqueous solution containing Ca^{2+} cations. It was established that the solution of shungite has local minimum of energy at of -0.0987 eV and a local maximum at an -0.1137 eV. The results of shungite may be connected with improvement of the conductivity of nervous tissue.

Table 5: Distribution of energies of hydrogen bonds of local extremums in NES and DNES spectra of water solutions of of shungite and zeolite

-E(eV) x-axis	NES Shungite	NES Zeolite y-axis (eV^{-1})	NES Control sample y-axis (eV^{-1})	DNES Shungite y-axis (eV^{-1})	DNES Zeolite y-axis (eV^{-1})	-E(eV) x-axis	NES Shungite y-axis (eV^{-1})	NES Zeolite y-axis (eV^{-1})	NES Control sample y-axis (eV^{-1})	DNES Shungite y-axis (eV^{-1})	DNES Zeolite y axis (eV^{-1})
0.0937	11.8	25.0	0	11.8	25.0	0.1187	0	50.0	30.8	-30.8	19.8
0.0962	35.3	25.0	30.8	4.5	-5.8	0.1212	23.5	25.0	30.8	7.3	5.8
0.0987	23.5	0	0	23.5	0	0.1237	0	0	0	0	0
0.1012	47.1	50.0	0	47.1	50.0	0.1262	0	0	30.8	-30.8	-30.8
0.1037	47.1	25.0	30.8	16.3	-5.8	0.1287	0	75.0	0	0	75.0
0.1062	0	25.0	0	0	25.0	0.1312	35.3	25.0	0	35.3	25.0
0.1087	0	0	76.9	-76.9	-76.9	0.1337	11.8	0	30.8	-19.0	-30.8
0.1112	23.5	0	15.4	8.1	-15.4	0.1362	0	0	15.0	-15.0	-15.0
0.1137	47.1	0	30.8	16.3	-30.8	0.1387	47.1	50.0	15.0	32/1	35.0
0.1162	47.1	25.0	61.5	-14.4	-36.5	–	–	–	–	–	–

The distribution [%, $(-E_{value})/(-E_{total\ value})$] of water molecules in water solution of shungite/zeolite according to energies of hydrogen bonds and local extremums in NES and DNES spectra of water solutions of of shungite and zeolite is shown in Table 5. The average energy ($\Delta E_{H...O}$) of hydrogen H…O-bonds among individual molecules H_2O after the treatment of shungite and zeolite with water was measured to be at -0.1137 eV for shungite and -0.1174 eV for zeolite. The result for the control sample (deionized water) was -0.1162 eV. The results obtained with the NES method were recalculated with the DNES method. Thus, the result for shungite measured with the DNES method was +0.0025±0.0011 eV and -1.2±0.0011 eV for zeolite. This difference may indicate on the different mechanisms of interaction of these minerals with water, but also may has been the result of the different composition and the structure of these two minerals, resulting in different physical-chemical behavior while the interaction with water. Thus, by the analyzing the NES- and DNES-spectra of aqueous solutions of shungite and zeolite in water it is possible to evaluate the base of the mathematical model of interaction of these minerals with water, judging by the structural properties, the energies of of hydrogen H…O-bonds and the distribution the individual H_2O molecules in samples with different values of energies.

3.4. Influence of shungite on physical-chemical properties of mountain water

Table 6 shows the local extremums of different samples of mountain water sources in spectra, as well as ions of Ca^{2+}, Na^{+}, Mg^{2+}, Fe^{2+}, SO_4^{2-} and pH values. For all these types of water is applied a new parameter in Table 6 – the local extremum, measured at -0,1362...-0,1387 eV. Its value in the NES-spectrum is measured as the function of distribution of individual H_2O molecules in water samples according to energy *f(E)* of hydrogen bonds. The function of distribution of individual H_2O molecules according to energy *f(E)* of hydrogen bonds for tap water from Teteven (Bulgaria) is measured up at 23.8±1.2 eV^{-1}.

Table 6: The composition of Mountain water sources from Teteven (Bulgaria) and the pH values

Water sources	Ca^{2+}	Na^{+}	Mg^{2+}	Fe^{2+}	SO_4^{2-}	pH	Local extremum* at (-0.1362… -0.1387 eV)	Local extremum* with shungite (-0.1362… -	Differenc between (2) and (1

							(1)	0.1387 eV) **(2)**	
	mg/dm^3 norm (<150)	mg/ dm^3 norm (<200)	mg/ dm^3 norm (<80)	mg/ dm^3 norm (<200)	mg/ dm^3 norm (<250)	norm (6.5–9.5)	eV^{-1} norm (>24.1)	eV^{-1} norm (>24.1)	eV^{-1} norm (>24.1)
1. Deionized water control)	–	–	–	–	–	–	15.4±0.8	47.1±2.8	31.7±1.6
2. Klindiovo	89.9±9.0	4.1±0.4	6.98±0.7	40.2±4.0	17.7±1.8	8.0±0.1	44.4±2.2	63.2±3.2	18.6±0.9
3.Gorna cheshma	103.6±10.4	4.2±0.4	15.5±1.6	9.6±0.96	89.9±9.0	7.3±0.1	51.6±2.6	80.0±4.0	28.4±1.4
4.Dolna cheshma	94.4±0.94	2.5±0.3	12.10±1.21	9.0±0.9	15.99±1.6	7.9±0.1	34.2±1.7	51.6±2.6	17.4±0.9
5. Sonda	113.6±11.4	7.3±0.7	15.99±1.60	5.00±0.5	57.2±5.7	7.3±0.1	54.4±2.7	70.6±3.5	16.2±0.8
6.Ignatov izvor	40.44±4.04	0.6240±062	2.46±0.25	13.0±1.4	17.9±1.8	6.82±0.1	48.0±2.4	85.7±4.3	37.7±1.9
7. Gechovoto	66.0±6.0	1.46±0.15	2.1±0.2	11,4±1.1	15,9±1.6	7.94±0.1	41.7±2.1	84.2±4.2	42.5±2.1

Notes: *The function of distribution of individual H_2O molecules according to energy *f(E)* of hydrogen bonds for tap water in Teteven (Bulgaria) is 23.8±1.2 eV^{-1}; results refer to the influence of shungite on different sources of mountain water according to energy *f(E)* of hydrogen bonds.

There are obtained new data for the influence of shungite on NES- and DNES-spectra of different mountain water sources and characteristics of spectra (Table 6). The peculiarities consist in the values of the local extremum measured at -0.1362…-0.1387 eV. It was detected the tendency of the increasing of local extremums in aqueous solution of shungite in water regarding the same mountain water samples as regard to the control sample. The dependence of local extremums detected at -0.1362…-0.1387 eV has an inversely character dependent for the ion content in water for difference at -0.1362…-0.1387 eV of the shungite solution in mountain water and the same water as a control sample. These results suggest the restructuring of energy values among the individual H_2O molecules with a statistically reliable increase of local maximums in DNES-spectra. The data obtained are very promising and need to be scrutinized seriously. The research will be continued in future with new experiments.

3.4. Adsorption properties of shungite

Owing to the unique porous structure the natural minerals shungite and zeolite are ideal absorbents and fillers (Gorshteyn *et al*., 1979), and as sorbents have a number of positive characteristics:

- High adsorption capacity, characterized by low resistance to water pressure;
- Mechanical strength and low abrasion resistance;
- Corrosion-resistance;
- Absorption capacity relative to many substances, both organic (oil, benzene, phenol, pesticides, etc.) and inorganic (chlorine, ammonia, heavy metals);
- Catalytic activity;
- Relatively low cost;
- Environmental friendliness and ecological safety.

According to the data on adsorption capacity shungite loses effectiveness before the activated carbon filter in the first stage of filtration, during the first 24 h, further shungite began purified water with a high and constant speed. This is explained by high catalytic properties of shungite and its ability to catalytically oxidize organic substances absorbed on the surface. The mechanism of interaction of shungite with water has not been completely understood. It is assumed that shungite can adsorb oxygen actively interacting with them as a strong reducing agent in water and in air (Cascarini de Torre *et al*., 2004). In this process is produced atomic oxygen, which is a strong oxidizing agent oxidizing adsorbed on shungite organic substance to CO_2 and H_2O, thus, freeing the surface of shungite for new acts of adsorption. Overexposure of shungite in respect to dissolved metal cations in water as Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, Fe^{2+} and Fe^{3+} is explained by the fact that the metals are transferred by the catalytically active shungite into the form of insoluble carbonates due to the oxidation of organic matter to CO_2.

The research of antioxidant properties of shungite in relation to organochlorine compounds, and free radicals have shown that shungite removes free radicals out of water in 30 times more effective than activated carbon (Mosin & Ignatov, 2013b). This is a very important factor, because the free radicals formed during water treatment with chlorine and its derivatives, have a negative impact on the human health that is the cause of many diseases (cardiovascular diseases, cancer, etc.).

These positive qualities allow using shungite as an effective filter material for wastewater treatment and purification from organic and chlorinated organic substances (oil, pesticides, phenols, surfactants, dioxins, etc.). Thus shungite is able to purify wastewater from oil up to threshold limit value (TLV) of water discharge into the water reservoir. Shungite adsorbs on its surface up to 95% of contaminants, including organochlorine compounds, phenols, dioxins, heavy metals, radionuclides, etc., removes turbidity and color, and gives the water good organoleptic qualities, additionally saturating it with micro-and macro-elements (Table 7). Thus, adsorption activity of shungite relative to phenol makes up 14 mg/g , while for thermolysis resins – 20 mg/g, for oil products – more then 40 mg/g. Model experiments showed that heavy metals (copper, cadmium, mercury, lead), boron, phenol and benzene contained in water in concentrations being in 10–50 times higher than the TLVs, after the treatment by shungite in stationary or dynamic conditions on the shungite filter units, the content of these pollutants in water is reduced below the established levels of regulatory documents. In this case into the water does not enter any toxic elements from shungite adsorbents.

Table 7: Indicators of performance of filters based of mineral shungite

№	Common water pollutants	The removal degree, %
1	Fe^{2+}/Fe^{3+}	95
2	Zn^{2+}	80
3	Pb^{2+}	85
4	Cu^{2+}	85
5	Cs^{2+}	90
6	St^{2+}	97
7	Radionuclides	90
8	Fluorine	80
9	Ammonia	90
10	Chlorine and organochlorine compounds	85
11	Phenols	90
12	Dioxins	97
13	Helminth's eggs	90
14	Smell	85
15	Turbidity	95

In addition, owing to adsorption activity of shungite against pathogenic microflora shungite has strong bactericidal properties that allow carrying out the efficient disinfection of drinking water by this mineral in water treatment and water purification technologies. It is observed the bactericidal activity of shungite against pathogenic saprophytes and Protozoa. There is evidence that after the passage of water containing bacterium *E. coli*, through shungite filter there is an almost complete removal of this bacterium (the viral titer varies from 2300 cells /l in initial water up to 3 cells/l in treated water) (Mosin & Ignatov, 2012). Of 1785 cells/l of protozoa (ciliates, rotifers and crustaceans) contained in the initial water after the treatment by shungite were observed only a few exemplars (5 cells/l). In addition to these qualities, shungite has biological activity.

Owing to all these positive properties shungite may find its application for the preparation of drinking water in flow-through systems of any capacity for industrial and domestic purposes, as well as in the wells in order to improve the quality characteristics of water to return water its beneficial properties.

Especially effective and technologically justified is the use of complex filter systems based of the mixtures of shungite with activated carbon or zeolite, with subsequent regeneration of the absorbents (Podchaynov, 2007). When adding to the treatment scheme to shungite other natural absorbents (zeolite, dolomite, glauconite) purified water is enriched to physiologically optimal levels by calcium, magnesium, silicon and sodium ions.

4. Conclusion

The fullerene-containing natural mineral shungite and microporous crystalline aluminosilicate mineral zeolite have a complex multicomponent composition. The efficiency of using and studying these two natural minerals is stipulated by the high range of valuable properties (absorption, catalytic, antioxidant, regenerative), high environmental safety and relatively low cost of filters based on shungite and zeolite as well as existence of the extensive domestic raw material base of shungite and zeolite deposits. All these factors contribute to the further studies. As the result of our studies the base of the mathematical model describing the interaction of these two minerals with water was established. It allows better understand, how these minerals interact with H_2O

molecules in water solutions in order to explain the physical-chemical and adsorption properties of these minerals.

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