

PRELIMINARY STUDIES ON WATER
SOFTENING BY A NATURAL PROCESS

C.M. Arewgoda and N.A.K.J.P. Seneviratne
Dept. of Chemistry, University of Kelaniya.

In areas with very hard water, household pipes become choked with deposited scale and also deposit incrustations on kitchen utensils as well as increasing soap consumption¹. Hard water can thus be both a nuisance and an economic burden to the consumer.

It is reported that barks of Terminalia Species are rich in Calcium oxalate.^{2,3} Also Calcium and Magnesium Salts have been isolated by several workers from the Terminalia Arjuna (Kumbuk)⁴.

In Sri Lanka, Kurunegala is known to have ground hard water. This area was selected to investigate the effect of Kumbuk plant on the hardness of water. In this study water samples from wells in the area were analysed for Calcium and Magnesium. The total hardness of water in the wells close to Kumbuk plants was significantly lower than the other wells in the area.

EDTA titrimetric analysis was employed to estimate Calcium and Magnesium using Eriochrome Black T and Patton and Reeder's indicators.

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