

Cartagena, Colombia, mayo 08, 2017

Revista de la Academia Colombiana de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales

Dear Editors

We are submitting the original paper “EXTRACTION OF HUMIC ACIDS FROM OXIDIZED COAL USING A FRACTIONAL FACTORIAL DESIGN” by Adolfo A. Pájaro-Payares, Eduardo A. Espinosa-Fuentes, Fredy Colpas-Castillo, Johana Rodriguez-Ruiz, Roberto Fernandez-Maestre and Edgardo Meza-Fuentes to be considered for publication in the Revista de la Academia Colombiana de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales.

In this original article, we used the factorial design and surface response methods to determine the degree of coal oxidation and the influence of variables on the percentage of extraction of humic acids. The values used in this study were obtained from deconvolution of bands in infrared spectra assigned to carbonyl, aliphatic and aromatics groups.

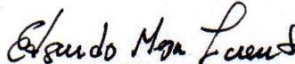
The importance of this investigation is based in the combination the infrared spectroscopy technique with designing experiments to minimize reaction time enabling the simultaneous correlation of variables using response surface methodology.


The manuscript has not been published previously (or any part of it) and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. This is an original manuscript from our authorship and its publication is approved by all authors.

We hope you will consider this article for publication in the Revista de la Academia Colombiana de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales.


Sincerely,

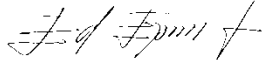
Edgardo Meza Fuentes, MSc and DSc  
Professor of Chemistry, Universidad de Cartagena, Colombia,  
[emezaf@unicartagena.edu.co](mailto:emezaf@unicartagena.edu.co)  
Phone: 57-5-3008755350.

  
**Edgardo Meza Fuentes**  
Universidad de Cartagena

  
**Johana Rodríguez Ruiz**  
Sena-Centro para la Industria  
Petroquímica

  
**Roberto Fernández Maestre**  
Universidad de Cartagena

  
**Adolfo Pajaro Payares**  
Sena-Centro para la Industria  
Petroquímica

  
**Eduardo Espinosa Fuentes**  
Corporación Universidad de la Costa