LEACHING OF ALGERIAN ZINC ORE BY ORGANIC ACIDS

Souad Bessila[a], Abdelhamid Zeghdaoui,[a] Djamal Eddine Akretche[b], Ouarda Merdoud[b], Nafila Zouaghi[c]

[a]Laboratoire N-Corps et structure de la matière High School of Teachers (ENS), Vieux Kouba, Algiers, Algeria
[b]Laboratory of Hydrometallurgy and Inorganic Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry, USTHB, bp32, El Alia, 16111 Bab Ezzouar, Algiers, Algeria
[c]High School of Teachers (ENS), Vieux Kouba, Algiers, Algeria

The use of complexing agents in the industrial environment is more and more important, because their properties are better and better known. It is possible to substitute the acids used to extract metals from certain ores with complexing agents.

The aim of this work was to study the extraction of zinc from an Algerian zinc ore by a hydrometallurgical technique which consists in leaching by complexing agents using organic acids (citric acid, oxalic acid) and EDTA as leaching agents. The effect of important variable parameters such as acid concentration, reaction time, on the zinc leaching yield has been studied and the results show that citric acid gives the best yields which exceed 60%.