# **Dear Editors and Reviewers,**

We have thoroughly read the reviewer’s comments and did our best to answer each one. We hope the paper will now be found suitable for publication in Journal of Serbian Chemical Society. In order to facilitate the reading of our reply, the reviewer’s comments were numbered. We have checked all the general and specific comments provided by the reviewers and have made necessary changes accordingly to their indications. The changes that we made in the manuscript are marked red and to render the meaningful the original text from our submission was kept black.

**Reviewer A:**

Commentsː

1. My recommendation is to determine the pectin content in lemon peel if possible. I think this analysis would improve the quality of paper.

It is not possible to evaluate exact amount of pectin in the lemon peel without its extraction. The yield of pectin component depends on extraction method, which requires optimization process and is part of completely new research, and we don’t have resources right now to perform these experiments. However, we provided the details about the amount of carboxylic and basic groups in lemon peel in manuscript, which is directly related to surface groups included in adsorption process.

1. The concentrations of all investigated metal ions were measured by ICP-OES. Please provide the number of samples analyzed and errors if available for Fe, Zn and Mn.

Page 5, line 127, the following sentences have been added: “Each experiment was repeated three times under the same controlled conditions and the mean values are reported. The reproducibility and the relative standard deviation were of the order ± 3 % and ± 5 % respectively.”

**Reviewer C:**

Comments:

1. In abstract section, try to mention about desorption process and its results.

Page 1, line 19, the following sentences have been added: “In addition, the potential reusability of the lemon peel as sorbent was investigated through desorption study in 0.1M of CH3COO4, HCl and HNO3 solution. The highest rate of desorption was achieved in 0.1 M HCl solution, reached a value of 55.19 % for Mn2+ and 37.24 % for Zn2+, while for Fe2+ the highest value of 25.82 % was achieved in 0.1M HNO3 solution. “

Page 13, line 331, the following sentences have been added: “Поред тога, могућност поновне употребе коре лимуна као сорбента је испитана проучавањем десорпције у 0,1 М раствору CH3COO4, HCl и HNO3. Највећа стопа десорпције постигнута је у 0,1 М раствору HCl, достигла је вредност од 55,19 % за Mn2+ и 37,24 % за Zn2+, док је за Fe2+ највећа вредност од 25,82 % постигнута у 0,1 М раствору HNO3.”

1. Why author has added polysaccharides as a keyword? I think they should use some other appropriate keyword.

Thank you for the comment. We replaced polysaccharide keyword by “citrus peel” and “biosorbent”.

1. Why authors have not used FTIR technique to determine surface functional group on the sorbent?

We have reported in our previous paper data related to the surface functional groups on the lemon peel sorbent by FTIR (Meseldzija, S., Petrovic, J., Onjia, A., Volkov-Husovic, T., Nesic, A., & Vukelic, N. (2019). Utilization of agro-industrial waste for removal of copper ions from aqueous solutions and mining-wastewater. *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, *75*, 246–252. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jiec.2019.03.031)