



SOME DURABILITY ASPECTS OF AMBIENT CURED BOTTOM ASH GEOPOLYMER CONCRETE

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The present study examines some durability aspects of ambient cured bottom ash geopolymer concrete (BA GPC) due to accelerated corrosion, sorptivity, and water absorption. The bottom ash geopolymer concrete was prepared with sodium based alkaline activators under ambient curing temperatures. The sodium hydroxide used concentration was 8M. The performance of BA GPC was compared with conventional concrete. The test results indicate that BA GPC develops a strong passive layer against chloride ion diffusion and provides better protection against corrosion. Both the initial and final rates of water absorption of BA GPC were about two times less than those of conventional concrete. The BA GPC significantly enhanced performance over equivalent grade conventional concrete (CC).

Keywords: bottom ash, alkaline activators, ambient curing, accelerated corrosion, sorptivity, water absorption

1. INTRODUCTION

Concrete usage has spiked in the past few decades due to quickly-growing construction activity across the world. Cement is the main ingredient of the concrete matrix which gives binding properties, which is inevitable in concrete. But, mass production of cement releases huge amounts of CO₂ into the atmosphere which leads to an increase in environmental degradation ((Malhotra (2002); Mohammed Ba-Shammakh et al. (2008); Emad Benhalal et al. (2012)). In order to reduce the usage of cement and carbon emissions, cement less concrete known as geopolymer has emerged in the past few decades ((Davidovits 1970 & 1991; Rangan (2005, 2006 & 2008)).

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Subsequently, abundant studies were carried out on geopolymer concrete using fly ash, which is enriched with silica and alumina. Silica and aluminium react with alkaline liquids to form a geopolymer binder (Fernandez-Jimenez and Palomo, 2003; Duxon et al, 2005; Fernandez-Jimenez et al 2006). Apart from fly ash, many other materials like GGBS, rice husk ash, metakaolin, etc. are evaluated in promoting geopolymers. Still, very little research is available on the use of bottom ash in geopolymers. Bottom ash is a dark gray, granular, porous material which is collected during the process of burning coal in a furnace. Several studies were done on the use of bottom ash as a cement replacement material and as a fine aggregate in cement concrete ((Milagre Martins et al. (2010); Diana Bajarea, et al. (2013); Kim and Lee (2011); Malkit Singh and Rafat Siddique (2014); Aggarwal et al.(2007); Ghafoori and Bucholic (1997)). Additionally, bottom ash use has been attempted in geopolymers after making its coarser particles into finer ones ((Chindaprasirt et al. (2009); Apha Sathansaowaphak et al. (2009); Ilker and Mehmet (2011); Caicharn Chotetanorm et al. (2013); Revathi et al.2014; Logeshkumar and Revathi. (2016)). In fact, fine ground bottom ash geopolymer concrete achieved remarkably higher strength under heat curing when a higher sodium hydroxide concentration was used ((Si-Hwan Kim et al, (2012); Vanchai Sata et al (2012); Caicharn Chotetanorm et al. 2013)). However, Revathi et al. (2014) found that bottom ash geopolymer mortar attained appreciably higher compressive strength under ambient curing. Also, a study on bottom ash blended with fly ash was reported by Tianyu Xie and Togay Ozbakkaloglu (2015 and 2015a) as a method of making geopolymer concrete.

Caicharn Chotetanorm et al. (2013) found that fine bottom ash geopolymer mortar attained a low sorptivity rate and voids are very little to take up the water. Tianyu Xie and Togay Ozbakkaloglu (2015) stated that coarse bottom ash blended with fly ash reached lower geopolymerisation than fly ash based geopolymer concrete. Due to its larger particle size, this blend reached maximum water absorption. The water absorption rate of low calcium fly ash geopolymers was very low in all aspects. Geopolymer concrete has less CaO in comparison with conventional concrete. Therefore, naturally, geopolymer concrete has the tendency to perform well against durability aspects, and hence delaying the accelerated corrosion rate ((Bastidas et al (2008); Monita Olivia and Nikraz (2011 and 2012); Reddy et al. (2011)).

It can be deduced from the past studies that no sufficient work has been carried out on the durability aspects of bottom ash geopolymer concrete. Particularly, the sorptivity and acceleration corrosion rates under ambient curing temperatures have not been examined. Accordingly, the present study has taken up to assess the performance of bottom ash geopolymer concrete based on acceleration corrosion, sorptivity and water absorption.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1. MATERIALS

2.1.1. ORDINARY PORTLAND CEMENT (OPC)

Ordinary Portland cement (OPC) (53 grade) was used as a binder for casting conventional concrete. Cement used was conforming to IS 12269-2013 and the specific gravity of the cement was found to be 3.15, according to IS 4031 (Part 11): 1988.

2.1.2. BOTTOM ASH

In this study, bottom ash which was collected from the Mettur Thermal power plant in a wet condition was used as a source material in the geopolymer concrete matrix. It was properly dried and grinded as much as possible to obtain particles a size lower than 45 μ m. The specific gravity of the bottom ash was found to be 2.17. The chemical composition in wt % of the bottom ash was: 51.50% SiO₂, 32.58% Al₂O₃, 5.92% Fe₂O₃, 0.21% MgO, 5.19% SO₃, 0.50% CaO, 1.35% Na₂O, 0.58% K₂O and 1.50% LOI.

2.1.3. ALKALINE ACTIVATORS

The chemical solution responsible for the polymerisation process is known as an alkaline activator. A combination of sodium silicate and sodium hydroxide as alkaline activators was used in this experiment. The sodium silicate solution and sodium hydroxide flakes were procured from a local supplier in bulk. The sodium hydroxide flakes were dissolved in water to make a solution based on the required molarity (Rajamane and Jeyalakshmi 2015).

2.1.4. AGGREGATES

River sand conforming to zone III classification was used as the filler material for the present study and it was tested as per IS 383-1987. The specific gravity of the river sand was 2.65. Coarse aggregates 12 mm and 6 mm in size were used. The specific gravity of the coarse aggregates was 2.8

2.2. MIX PROPORTIONS, MIXING, AND CURING

Mix proportions were calculated for both conventional concrete and bottom ash geopolymer concrete. The geopolymer concrete mix design was followed according to the guide lines proposed by Rangan (2008). Conventional control concrete (CC) mix proportions were attained per IS 10262: 2009. The alkaline ratio of sodium silicate to sodium hydroxide was used as 2. The sodium hydroxide concentration as 8 M and molar ratio of Si_2O to Na_2O as 1 was used in this work. The amount of alkaline solution was taken as 0.5 times the weight of source material. The mix design of the concrete was made at a density of 2400 kg/m^3 . In both the BA GPC and cement concrete, CC mix proportions were made for a grade of 40MPa. Control concrete with cement as binder was made for comparison purposes. The complete mix proportions are displayed in Table 1. Mixing of all ingredients was done in a pan mixer in order to attain a homogeneous mix, and afterwards it was cast into moulds. The casted specimens were compacted in a table vibrator and then the cube surface was perfectly finished. The specimens were demoulded after 24 hours and allowed to cure until testing time. Water curing was used for conventional concrete and ambient curing was used for the geopolymer concrete specimens.

Table 1. Mix proportions of BAGPC and CC

Materials	CC	BAGPC
Cement (kg/m^3)	394	-
Bottom ash (kg/m^3)	-	400
Sodium hydroxide (kg/m^3)	-	66.7
Sodium silicate (kg/m^3)	-	133.3
Fine aggregate (kg/m^3)	629.6	540
Coarse aggregate (kg/m^3)	1216.1	1260
Water (kg/m^3)	157.6	-
Super plasticizer (kg/m^3)	7.88	8

2.3. COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH

The compressive strength of BA GPC and CC was determined using 150 mm cubes as per IS 516 – 1959 (reaffirmed 2004). The specimens were tested at 3, 7, and 28 days of curing using a hydraulic digital compression testing machine with a capacity of 2000 kN. A total of 9 specimens of BA GPC and another 9 specimens of control concrete were made to determine the compressive strengths of both the BA GPC and control concrete. The test results were compiled from the average of three specimens.

2.4. ACCELERATED CORROSION TEST

An accelerated corrosion test was performed according to the Florida test method (FM 5-522 - 2000). In order to determine the accelerated corrosion of BA GPC, a cylindrical specimen of 100 mm dia and 200 mm height was used. In the cylindrical specimen, a steel rod 16 mm in diameter was embedded at the centre into a depth of 30 mm from the bottom of the surface. The 28 day-cured specimens were placed in a container filled with 3.5% NaCl solution, reaching two-thirds of the height of the cylinder. The steel rebar acted as an anode. One end of the insulated wire was attached to the exposed steel rebar placed in the container, and its other end was connected to a DC power supply. An external stainless steel plate kept in the container acted as a cathode. A constant potential of 12 V was applied to the specimens. This arrangement would penetrate the chlorine ion into the concrete. The current passing through the specimen was observed at regular intervals. Sudden change in current indicates corrosion initiation. The measurements were recorded continuously until failure of the concrete specimen. Thus, test time was extended until the specimen had undergone failure. After observations made during testing, a graph was plotted between current passed and time, which clearly shows how much time is required for effecting corrosion. A total of 6 specimens were tested to understand the behaviour of BA GPC and CC in corrosion conditions. The test results were obtained for an average of three specimens.

2.5. SORPTIVITY TEST

The rate of sorptivity of the test specimens was obtained in accordance with ASTM C 1585 – 2013. Concrete discs 100 x 50 mm in size cut from the parent sample were used for determining the rate of sorptivity. The test was conducted on 28-day-cured specimens. The side surface of the specimen was sealed with waterproof sealant to permit the water from penetrating through the bottom surface via capillary action. The top surface, which was not exposed to water, was covered with a plastic sheet.

The initial mass of the sealed specimen was measured and recorded. The supporting device was placed at the bottom of the container. The container was filled with water in such a way that the water level was 3 mm above the top of the support device upto the duration of the tests. The

specimen was placed on the supporting device and the time of first contact with water was immediately recorded. The mass of the specimen was recorded at the intervals mentioned in the code. The amount of absorbed water was calculated using the following equation 2.1.

$$(2.1) \quad I = \Delta m / a \times d$$

Where

I	- absorption in mm
Δm	- the change in mass of the specimen in gm at the time t
a	- the exposed area of the specimen in mm ²
d	- the density of water in gm/mm ³ .

2.6. WATER ABSORPTION TEST

In this study, water absorption was determined as per ASTM C 642-13 standards. For determining the water absorption of BA GPC, specimens 100 x 100 x 100 mm in size were used. The 7- and 28-day-cured specimens were dried in an oven at 100°C for 24 hours. The oven-dried specimens were allowed to air cool at room temperature and their mass was then determined. The initial mass of each specimen was noted as (A). The specimens were then immersed in water for a period of 24 hours to record saturated mass. Then final mass of the specimen was then noted (B). Water absorption was calculated from equation 2.2 given below.

$$(2.2) \quad \text{Water absorption \%} = [(B - A) / A] \times 100$$

A total of 12 specimens were tested to examine the water absorption of BA GPC and CC. The test results were obtained from an average of six specimens.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH

The compressive strengths of BA GPC and CC are presented in Table 2. The strength results indicate that BA GPC achieved notable improvement when compared to conventional CC. It is

clear that BA GPC exhibited 18.8%, 11.1%, and 5.7% higher compressive strengths than the control concrete at the ages of 3, 7, and 28 days, respectively. Fine bottom ash contributes to an increase in the geopolymerisation process, thereby resulting in higher compressive strength (Vanchai Sata et al, 2012). High strength was also attributed to highly reactive silica present in bottom ash (Fernandez-Jimenez and Palomo, 2003). Another important parameter in the geopolymer reaction is the amount of alumina present in the starting material. A minimum of 20% of reactive alumina is required to achieve better strength development (Fernandez-Jimenez et al (2006). In the present study, bottom ash contains 32.58% alumina, which greatly contributes to strength enhancement. Performance of aluminosilicate activation is favorable when sodium hydroxide concentration is 8M. At higher alkalinity, primarily sodium hydroxide simulates the ionic strength in the binder activating the solution and dissolves the silicon and aluminum present in the source material (Duxon et al, 2005). It can also be emphasized here that BA GPC achieved strength under ambient curing, while heat curing is recommended for activation in geopolymer concrete (Rangan and Wallah, 2008). In fact, this finding gives geopolymer concrete an avenue for its acceptance to produce similar to conventional cement concrete onsite.

Table 2 Test Results for Compressive Strength

Sl.No	Age (days)	Compressive strength (N/mm ²)	
		CC	BA GPC
1.	3	21.7	24.1
2.	7	28.7	34.1
3.	28	47.6	50.3

3.2 ACCELERATED CORROSION

Corrosion of steel reinforcements has a strong impact on the life of concrete structures. In fact, steel which is embedded in an alkaline environment develops a thin protective coating on its surface which provides adequate protection against corrosion. However, over time, this protective layer may disintegrate due to the ingress of chloride ions resulting in a decrease of alkalinity, leading to corrosion. Therefore, an accelerated corrosion test was carried out in the present study to understand the behaviour of BA GPC against corrosion. In the accelerated corrosion test, the current passed through the specimens was observed over a specified duration. Typically, two observations were made in the corrosion study including corrosion initiation time and time at which first crack was noticed. Corrosion initiation is noted by visual observation when rust appears on the top surface of

the specimen. When an abrupt increase in the current reading is noticed, it indicates the time of crack. Current variation over time is illustrated in Fig. 1. It can be seen that the profile is characterised with an initial decrease in current manifesting the formation of an iron oxide layer which represents the slow process of corrosion. Further, the current rate becomes constant until the first crack appears on the specimens. During this stage, the corrosion initiation time was observed at 312 hrs for CC and 552 hrs for BA GPC by visual observation alone. The corrosion initiation time of BA GPC was 1.76 times delayed in comparison with CC. After reaching constant current values, current shot up due to the rapid invasion of chloride ions into the specimen indicating the time of first crack. After the first crack, the current reading progressed slowly until the specimens ruptured. The time of crack was noted at 552 hrs for CC, while for BA GPC it was 742 hrs. This result reveals that BA GPC exhibited 25% higher longevity than conventional concrete. The onset of corrosion is visualized by the appearance of brown patches on the surface of the specimens when their reinforcement starts corroding. The appearance of brown patches was severe in CC specimens, while it was relatively less in BA GPC. This tendency confirms that BA GPC creates a strong passive layer against chloride ion diffusion in the cell and provides better protection against corrosion. Similar findings were reported by Monita Olivia and Nikraz, 2011; Xie and Ozbakkalogu, 2015 in their studies on geopolymer concrete made with fly ash. Furthermore, pH value is a key factor influencing the durability of concrete. Steel reinforcement in concrete can be protected when the pH value is maintained in the range of 12.5 to 13.5 (McPolin, 2007). When pH value falls below 11, it causes a loss of the passive oxide layer in the rebar. Also, the ingress of chloride salts into the concrete gradually reduces the pH value and rapidly increases corrosion reactions. Yodmune and Yodsujai (2006) reported that GPC has a very low rate of corrosion, as the matrix has a high pH value after the reaction because of its high alkaline content. Bastidas et al (2008) stated that activated fly ash mortars passivate steel reinforcements similarly to conventional cement concrete. Thus, the longer corrosion resistivity of BA GPC indicates that it has maintained a high pH value and can passivate steel reinforcements effectively. Moreover, the passive state stability depends strongly on the compounds used to activate the start material (Monita Olivia and Hamid Nikraz, 2012). In the present study, the higher the amount of both bottom ash and alkaline solution in GPC, the more increased the cathodic reaction and decreased corrosion activity.

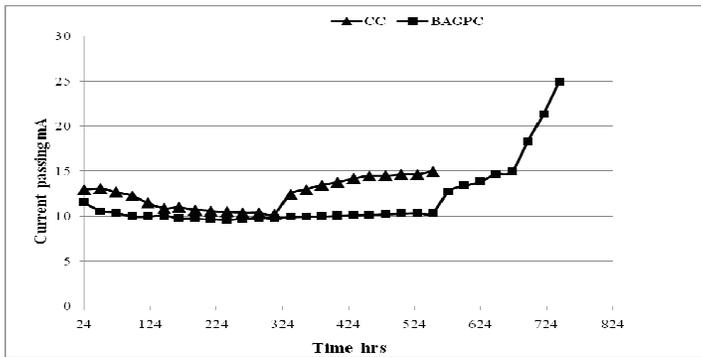


Fig.1 The Relationship Between Current Passed and Duration of Time

3.3 SORPTIVITY TEST

Damage to concrete structures occurs due to the migration of aggressive substances from the adjacent areas into the concrete. In fact, many construction materials are porous in nature and are affected by the ingress of moisture. The presence of moisture in the structure becomes the source of several durability issues; Hall (1977 and 1989) suggested studying the uni-directional flow of water through a given material. It is also said that concrete with low absorption properties is of good quality. The quality of concrete improves with curing age and depends on the source and type of material used. Ho and Chirgwn (1996) state that the use of admixtures as a replacement for cement concrete greatly improves the quality of the concrete. Consequentially, it is also essential to assess the absorption properties of BA GPC.

As per the guidelines of ASTM C 1585 –2013, observations were made upto 8 days (i.e. up to 11520 min) and the test results of the sorptivity of the concrete are presented in Table 3. The initial absorption of CC and BA GPC for the first 6 hrs was found to be 0.921 and 0.455 mm/ $\sqrt{\text{min}}$, respectively. The final absorption measured from day 1 to day 7 was 0.206 and 0.099 mm/ $\sqrt{\text{min}}$ for CC and BA GPC. It can be stated that the initial and final rates of water absorption of BA GPC were nearly two times less than those of CC. BA GPC exhibited a lower absorption of water (due to the capillary rise action of water) than the control concrete made with cement, CC. The low sorptivity value of BA GPC endorses the good quality of the concrete. Also, the higher compressive strength of BA GPC imparted a lower absorption of water. The reasonably lower sorptivity

indicates that BA GPC was much denser, more homogeneous, and less permeable compared to conventional concrete. This is mainly attributed to the filler effect of bottom ash microparticles and also to the geopolymerisation reaction between bottom ash and alkaline activators. This physical and chemical effect causes a reduction of pore sizes in the BA GPC thereby preventing the aggressive liquid from ingressing into the pore system. This observation confirms the findings of Caicharn Chotetanorm et al, (2013) on the study of BA GP mortar. The increased sorptivity of CC may be due to the presence of calcium hydroxide. In fact, the calcium hydroxide formed during the hydration of cement has a poor microstructure and thereby causes higher sorptivity (Esam Elawady et al, 2014).

Fig. 2 shows a plot of absorbed water vs the square root of time (in min). The absorption curves are steeper during the early period and gentle at the later period for both CC and BA GPC. The steeper curve signifies that the rate of water absorption was higher early on, and the gentle curve indicates that capillary suction was remarkably decreased as time went on. It can also be noted that the rate of water absorption with respect to time was relatively less for BA GPC, while it was sharply increased for CC. Moreover, ASTM C 1585 – 2013 code specifies that the correlation coefficient value (R) between the square root of time and absorption be no less than $R=0.98$. This condition was satisfied in both control concrete made with cement (CC) and BA GPC.

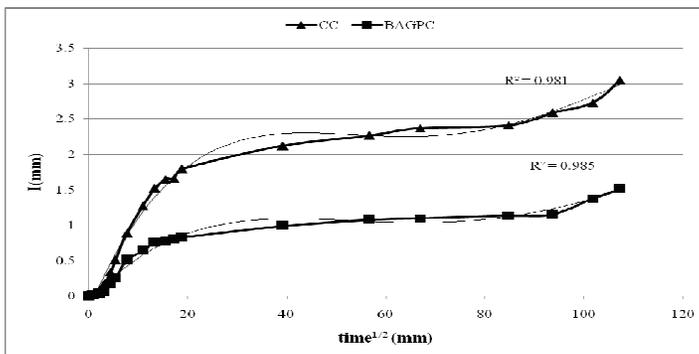


Fig. 2 Sorptivity of CC and BA GPC

Table 3 Details of sorptivity results

Time 't' (min)	Square root of time (t ^{1/2})	ΔMass (g)		Absorption I =ΔMass/area/ density of water (mm)		Sorptivity mm/ t ^{1/2}	
		CC	BAGPC	CC	BAGPC	CC	BAGPC
1	1.00	0.157	0.079	0.02	0.01	0.020	0.010
5	2.24	0.628	0.314	0.08	0.04	0.036	0.018
10	3.16	1.335	0.550	0.17	0.07	0.054	0.022
20	4.47	2.670	1.335	0.34	0.17	0.076	0.038
30	5.48	4.005	1.963	0.51	0.25	0.093	0.046
60	7.75	6.989	4.005	0.89	0.51	0.115	0.066
120	10.95	9.973	5.026	1.27	0.64	0.116	0.058
180	13.42	11.937	5.968	1.52	0.76	0.113	0.057
240	15.49	12.957	6.125	1.65	0.78	0.107	0.050
300	17.32	13.036	6.282	1.66	0.80	0.096	0.046
360	18.97	14.135	6.518	1.80	0.83	0.095	0.044
1537	39.20	14.921	7.774	2.12	0.99	0.054	0.025
3220	56.75	17.826	8.481	2.27	1.08	0.040	0.019
4475	66.90	18.612	8.638	2.37	1.10	0.035	0.016
7200	84.85	18.926	8.952	2.41	1.14	0.028	0.013
8793	93.77	20.339	9.109	2.59	1.16	0.028	0.012
10370	101.83	21.439	10.837	2.73	1.38	0.027	0.014
11520	107.33	23.952	11.858	3.05	1.51	0.028	0.014

3.4 WATER ABSORPTION TEST

Table 4 summarizes the water absorption of CC and BAGPC. The water absorption of CC and BAGPC were found as 3.23% and 2.06%, respectively, for a 7-day-cured specimen. The 28-day-cured specimen reported 1.89% and 0.95% water absorption for CC and BAGPC. As expected, BAGPC presented a lower percentage of water absorption than CC. It stands to reason that the higher compressive strength of BAGPC is responsible for low water absorption due to the enhanced geopolymeric reactions. Moreover, the pore refinement of the BAGPC matrix becomes denser due to the fine particles of bottom ash, thereby reducing water absorption. This outcome is in agreement

with a previous study carried out by Tianyu Xie and Togay Ozbakkaloglu (2015) on geopolymer concrete made with a bottom ash/fly ash blend. Monita Olivia and Nikraz (2011a) found that the water absorption of low calcium fly ash geopolymer concrete was less than 5%. However, in the present study, water absorption was much lower, indicating a higher degree of geopolymerisation.

Table 4 Results of water absorption

Mix ID	Dry weight (kg)	Wet weight (kg)	% of water absorption
7 days			
CC	2.445	2.524	3.23
BA GPC	2.476	2.527	2.06
28 days			
CC	2.492	2.539	1.89
BA GPC	2.518	2.542	0.95

4.CONCLUSION

Focusing the study on some durability properties such as accelerated corrosion, sorptivity, and water absorption of BA GPC, the following conclusions are drawn:

- i) Due to enriched geopolymeric reactions, BA GPC showed a 25% delay in the appearance of the first crack due to accelerated corrosion when compared to conventional concrete. BA GPC imparted excellent resistance against corrosion.
- ii) It is visible in the sorptivity test that the initial and final rate of water absorption of BA GPC was nearly two times less than that of equivalent grade control concrete made with cement. BA GPC demonstrated lower absorption of water due to the capillary action of water.
- iii) BA GPC presented remarkably lower water absorption than equivalent grade control concrete.
- iv) The rapid consumption of silica and alumina of bottom ash within the alkaline activators proves BA GPC as a highly durable compound.

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Received 21.11.2016

Revised 02.10.2017

NIEKTÓRE ASPEKTY TRWAŁOŚCI BETONU GEOPOLIMEROWEGO NA BAZIE POPIOŁU DENNEGO UTWARDZANEGO W TEMPERATURZE OTOCZENIA

Słowa kluczowe: popiół denny, aktywatory alkaliczne, utwardzanie otoczenia, przyspieszona korozja, sorpcja, chłonność wody

Streszczenie:

W przypadku proponowania oraz dostosowywania popiołu dennego jako materiału źródłowego w betonie geopolimerowym, ważne jest, aby oprócz jego właściwości wytrzymałościowych, zapewnić jego wydajność w odniesieniu do aspektów trwałości. Jak wynika z poprzednich badań, należy rozumieć, iż istnieje luka w pewnym wykorzystywaniu betonu geopolimerowego na bazie popiołu dennego. W związku z tym, w niniejszej pracy zbadano wydajność betonu geopolimerowego na bazie popiołu dennego pod kątem przyspieszonej korozji, sorpcyjności oraz absorpcji wody. W odniesieniu do proporcji mieszanki, klasa betonu została zaprojektowana dla 40 MPa. Do wywołania reakcji geopolimerycznych zastosowano aktywatory chemiczne na bazie sodu. Ilość roztworu chemicznego została przyjęta jako 0,5-krotność masy materiału źródłowego. Zachowanie betonu geopolimerowego na bazie popiołu dennego porównano z typowym betonem cementowym. Badania wytrzymałościowe wskazują, że beton geopolimerowy na bazie popiołu dennego wykazał większą wytrzymałość niż beton cementowy. Podczas gdy kilku badaczy zaleca utwardzanie termiczne w celu aktywacji betonu geopolimerowego, na tym etapie można stwierdzić, że beton geopolimerowy na bazie popiołu dennego osiągnął wytrzymałość przy utwardzaniu w temperaturze otoczenia. Ze względu na przyspieszoną korozję, czas rozpoczęcia korozji betonu geopolimerowego na bazie popiołu dennego został wydłużony 1,76 razy w porównaniu z betonem cementowym. Beton geopolimerowy na bazie popiołu dennego tym samym zwiększył bardziej katodową reakcję oraz zmniejszył aktywność korozyjną ze względu na wzmocniony proces reakcji polimerowej. Ze względu na efekt wypełniacza mikrocząsteczek popiołu dennego, a także reakcję geopolimeryzacji pomiędzy popiołem dennym a aktywatorami alkalicznymi, betonowi geopolimerowemu na bazie popiołu dennego przypisano wyraźnie niższą sorpcyjność. Natomiast wyższa wytrzymałość na ściskanie betonu geopolimerowego na bazie popiołu dennego wykazała niższą absorpcję wody. Można zatem stwierdzić, że beton geopolimerowy na bazie popiołu dennego utwardzony w temperaturze otoczenia jest uznawany za wysoce wytrzymały materiał kompozytowy.