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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Adsorption of Cadmium (II) from solution onto activated carbon prepared from *Madhucalongifolia* Fruit Shell

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Abstract

Activated carbon derived from *Madhucalongifolia* Fruit shell has been used for the adsorption of Cd(II) from solution. Cadmium is toxic to living systems and therefore it is essential to remove it from wastewater. Activated carbon was characterized using techniques like FTIR and SEM. Adsorption capacity of *Madhucalongifolia* fruit shell activated carbon (MLFSAC) for Cd(II) abatement was investigated employing batch equilibration method. The effects of various parameters like contact time, initial adsorbate concentration, pH and MLFSAC doses have also been studied and reported. The adsorption data were found to fit well with the Freundlich and Langmuir isotherm models. The percent removal of Cd (II) was found to be increase with adsorbent doses from 1 to 8 gm. And maximum efficacy was found at 8 gm. At optimum condition nearly 92% abatement of Cd(II) has been noted using MLFSAC. Thus the self-prepared activated carbon under investigation has been proved to be an excellent economical adsorbent material for Cd(II) removal from contaminated water/wastewater.

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Introduction:-

Different industrial discharge effluents which containing toxic metals can cause severe contamination of ground water and surface water. However environment become polluted not only by rapid industrialization, deforestation and unplanned urbanization, but also some natural phenomenon of anthropogenic activities such weathering of rock and volcanic activities also play a crucial role for enriching the water reservoirs with heavy metals (Jonathan, 2009 and Kamruzzaman, 2010). Cadmium is rare and uniformly distributed element in the earth crust with an average concentration of 0.15 to 0.20 mg/kg. It occurs in the form of inorganic compounds and complexes with chelating agent (Hiatt et al., 1975). Cadmium is one of the most toxic environmental and industrial pollutant because it can damage almost all important organs (ATSDR, 2008). Cadmium and its compounds are also used in paints, pigments, plastics, electroplating, equipments, machineries, baking channels and photography (Csuros et al., 2002). Even small quantity of Cd assimilation by the body can cause severe high blood pressure, heart disease and can lead to death (Pan et al., 2010). The acute over exposure to Cd fumes can cause pulmonary diseases while chronic exposure causes renal tube damage and prostate cancer (Jarup et al. 2009). The commonly used methods for removing metal ions from waste water include chemical reduction (Chen et al., 2007), nano filtration (Ahmed et al., 2006), bioaccumulation (Preetha et al., 2007), ion exchange (Cvaco et al., 2007) and adsorption on silica composites (Kumar et al., 2007 and Arenas et al., 2007) / activated carbon materials (Mohan et al., 2005). Bio-sorption a technically feasible and economical process, has gained increased credibility during recent years (Loukidou et al., 2004). A number of biosorbent have been used such as tree barks, saw dusts, activated rice husk, coconut shell, almond shell etc. for the adsorption of heavy metals. Use of surface modified/chitosan coated bio-sorbent as low cost material for abatement of Cr(VI) has been reported in the literature (Hunge et al., 2014) The low cost activated carbon derived from *Cassia fistula* has also been reported as an excellent adsorbent for removal of Cr(VI) (Vilayatkar et al., 2015).

The objective of the present study is to investigate the possible use of activated carbon derived from *Madhuca longifolia* Fruit Shell as an alternative adsorbent material for removal of Cd(II) employing batch experiments.

Materials and Methods:-

All the chemicals used were of analytical or chemically pure grade. Distilled water was used throughout the investigation.

Preparation of Activated Carbon from the *Madhuca longifolia*:-

Madhuca longifolia fruit shell was collected from local area and cut into small pieces and washed several times with tap water followed by distilled water. The clean biomass so obtained was sun dried for 5 days. The biomass was subjected to pyrolysis process using Muffle Furnace. During slow carbonization of raw material in absence of air at temperature range 600-700°C, volatile products were removed and residue was converted into char. The char was then subjected to chemical activation process using 25% zinc chloride solution. This activated carbon was then washed with distilled water and dried at 105°C for 2hrs. and stored in air tight bottle. The material has been characterized by FTIR and SEM studies.

Preparation of stock solution:-

Synthetic stock solution of Cd(II) was prepared by dissolving required quantity of cadmium sulphate salt in the distilled water. This solution was diluted to proper proportions to obtain various standard solutions ranging their concentrations 10-100 mg l⁻¹. pH adjustment was done using 0.5N HCl and 0.5N NaOH solution.

Batch Experiment:-

Batch equilibrium studies were conducted with different parameters such as pH, agitation time, initial concentration of Cd(II) solution and effect of adsorbent doses. The systems were agitated on rotary shaker at 200 rpm, filtered through Whatman no.42 filter paper and filtrate was analyzed for Cd(II) concentration using UV-Visible Spectrophotometer. From experimental data, the applicability of Freundlich and Langmuir model were judged. Linear regression coefficient (R²) and isotherm constant values were determined from the model.

Characterization of MLFSAC:-

SEM Studies of MLFSAC:-

Fig.1 shows the SEM image of MLFSAC which is obtained using an accelerating voltage of 20 KV at x 1000 magnification. SEM micrographs clearly revealed that wide variety of pores are present on the surface of activated carbon (MLFSAC) accompanied with fibrous structure. It can also be noticed that there are holes and caves type opening on the surface of the adsorbent, which would have create greater surface area available for adsorption.

FTIR Studies of MLFSAC

FTIR spectrum of MLFSAC has shown in **Fig.2** The peak at 3838 cm⁻¹ indicates N-H stretching. The band at 3628 cm⁻¹ indicates the presence of dissociated or associated -OH on the adsorbent surface. The band at 2343 cm⁻¹ shows more strongly hydrogen bonded -OH group. The weak peaks appeared in range 1450 cm⁻¹ to 1580 cm⁻¹ indicate the presence of C=C bond stretching and N-O stretching. The weak peaks appear in range 540 cm⁻¹ to 700 cm⁻¹ shows presence of carbon-bromine stretching in alkyl halide.

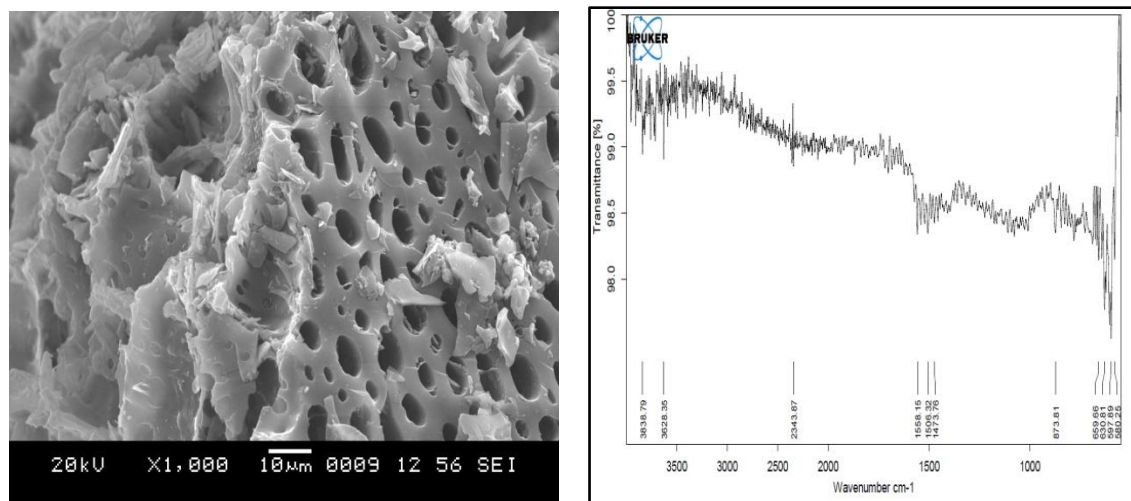


Fig. 1:- SEM of MLFSAC Fig. 2:- FTIR Spectrum of MLFSAC

Results and Discussion:-

Effect of pH on adsorption

Effect of pH on Cd(II) adsorption using MLFSAC as an adsorbent has been studied in the pH range 1 to 10 and presented in Fig.3. It is seen that solution pH plays a very important role in the adsorption of Cd(II). The percentage removal increases steadily from 64 to 91% when pH is increased from 1 to 5 in Cd(II) adsorption and slowly decreases on further increases in pH.

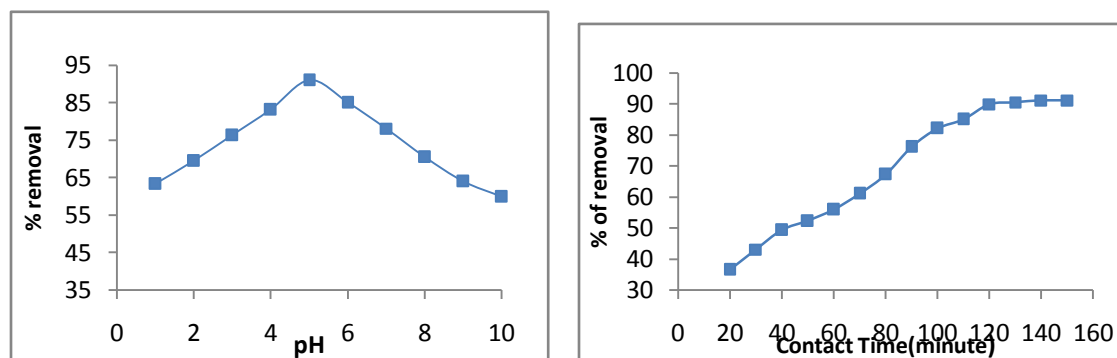


Fig.3:-Effect of pH on Cd(II) removal by MLFSAC Fig.4:- Effect of Contact time on Cd(II) removal by MLFSAC

Effect of contact time on adsorption:-

Adsorption experiments were conducted as a function of contact time and results have shown in Fig.4. The rate of Cd(II) binding with adsorbent was greater in the initial stages then gradually increases and remains almost constant, after optimum period of 140 min.

Effect of adsorbent doses:-

The effect of adsorbent (MLFSAC) doses on percent removal of Cd(II) in the range 1 to 10 gm is represented in Fig.5. The initial Cd(II) concentration was taken to be 30 ppm. However after certain adsorbent dose it becomes constant and it is treated as an optimum adsorbent dose, which is found to be 8 gm/lit. for the MLFSAC adsorbent.

Effect of the Initial concentration of Cd(II) solution:-

The Experimental studies were carried with varying initial concentration of Cd(II) ranging from 10 to 100 ppm using 8 gm/lit. of adsorbent dose. The results have shown in Fig. 6. The results demonstrate that at a fixed adsorbent dose the percentage of Cd(II) removal decreases with increasing concentration of adsorbate.

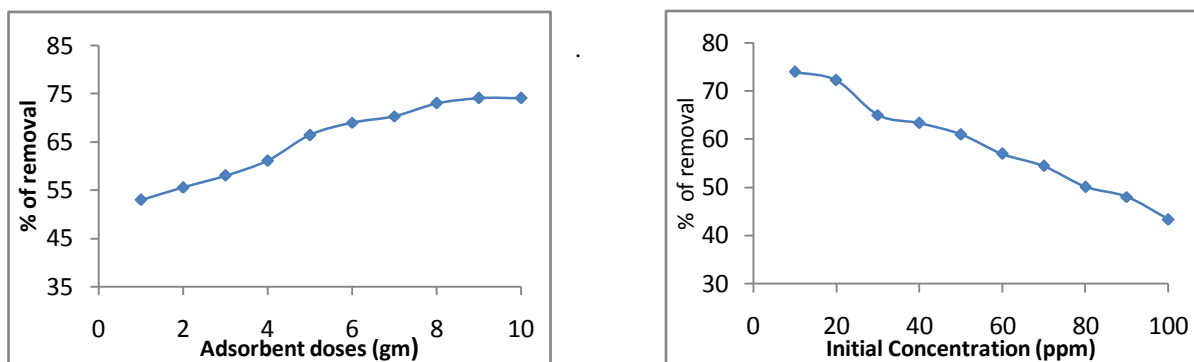


Fig.5:- Effect of adsorbent doses on Cd(II) adsorption. Fig 6:- Effect of initial concentration on Cd(II) adsorption.

Adsorption Isotherm:-

Freundlich adsorption isotherm-The plot of $\log C_e$ versus $\log Q_e$ for Cd(II) is presented in Fig.7 which show linear curve and hence the adsorption process obeys Freundlich adsorption isotherms. Freundlich constants 'n' and k_f for Cd(II) were found to be 1.20 and 1.74 mg/g respectively. The square of the correlation coefficient (R^2) values was found to be 0.9727 for Cd(II) which shows well-fitting of the Freundlich isotherm. The 'n' values are in between 1 to 10 which indicate the favorable adsorption of Cd(II) on MLFSAC.

Langmuir adsorption Isotherm- The results obtained from Langmuir model for the removal of Cd(II) by MLFSAC has been represented in Fig.8. The values of square of the correlation coefficient (R^2) is found to be 0.9943 for Cd(II), which show the best fitting of equilibrium data. The adsorption efficiency ' Q_m ' value for Cd(II) was found to be 11.73 mg/g while values of 'b' was 0.054. The lower values of b (less than one) implies an excellent the affinity between solute and sorbent sites. To confirm the adsorbility of the adsorption process, the equilibrium parameter also called separation factor ' R_L ' for Cd(II) was calculated which were found to be 0.3808.

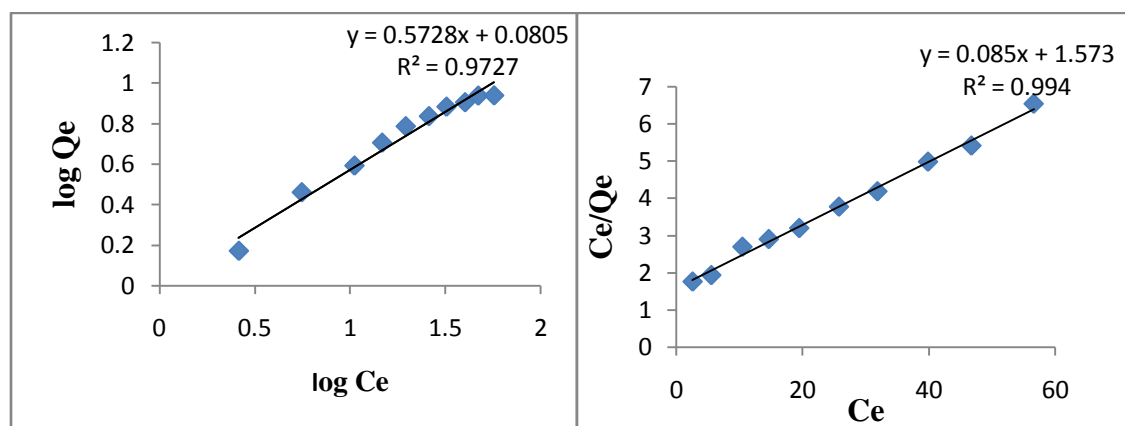


Fig.7:- Freundlich isotherm for the adsorption of Cd(II) Fig.8:- Langmuir isotherm for the adsorption of Cd(II)

Conclusion:-

- ❖ Activated carbon (MLFSAC) has been obtained and activate successfully.
- ❖ The activated carbon derived from the Fruit Shell of *Madhuca longifolia* has been characterized by FTIR and SEM studies.
- ❖ MLFSAC was most effective for Cd(II) removal. At pH 5, 92 % of Cd(II) was removed from aqueous solution and adsorption was found to be pH dependent.
- ❖ The increase in percent removal capacity was observed with increased adsorbent doses and contact time. Maximum Cd(II) removal is 75 % for 8.0 gm/lit. dose and 91% at 140min. of contact time respectively.
- ❖ The newly obtained activated carbon under present investigation can be successfully employed for Cd(II) abatement from contaminated water and thus can be used for water/ wastewater treatment and pollution control.

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