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Removal of Tiemoniummethylsulfate, from aqueous solutions using activated carbon prepared from date stones

Fazia Agueniou

Département de Génie des Procédés, Laboratoire de Génie des Procédés Chimiques (LGPC),
Faculté de Technologie, Université Ferhat Abbas, Sétif, Algérie

Derradji Chebli

Département de Génie des Procédés, Laboratoire de Génie des Procédés Chimiques (LGPC),
Faculté de Technologie, Université Ferhat Abbas, Sétif, Algérie

Abdallah Bouguettoucha

Département de Génie des Procédés, Laboratoire de Génie des Procédés Chimiques (LGPC),
Faculté de Technologie, Université Ferhat Abbas, Sétif, Algérie

Abdelbaki Reffas

Département de Chimie, Laboratoire des Matériaux inorganiques (LMI), Faculté des Sciences,
Université Mohamed BOUDIAF-M'sila, M'sila, Algérie

Mohammed Lamine sekirifa

Département de Chimie, Université de Ouragla

Lotfi Baameur

Département de Chimie, Université de Ouragla

Abdeltif Amrane

Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Rennes, Université de Rennes 1, CNRS, UMR 6226,
Rennes, France

ABSTRACT

The retention of a pharmaceutical compound, Tiemoniummethylsulfate (TIM), from aqueous solutions by adsorption onto activated carbon prepared from date stones (AC-DS) was investigated. Physical and chemical characteristics of this material were also determined. Results showed that pH 8 was optimal for TIM adsorption. Among the kinetic models considered, the pseudo-second order model was the most appropriate to describe experimental data. Regarding adsorption isotherms, it was shown that the Sips model accurately describe the sorption of TIM onto AC-DS with a correlation factor $R^2 > 0.98$. The adsorption capacity of (AC-DS) was found to be 42.2mg g^{-1} at 10°C and 60.5mg g^{-1} at 25°C , confirming its efficiency for the removal of this compound from aqueous solutions. The values of ΔG^0 and ΔH^0 confirmed that the adsorption of TIM onto AC-DS was spontaneous and endothermic in nature, and hence more effective at high temperatures. An irregular increase in the randomness was suggested at the AC-DS–solution interface during the adsorption process for positive values of ΔS^0 .

KEYWORDS: activated carbon, adsorption, date stones, isotherm, kinetic, Tiemoniummethylsulfate

Introduction

The main water contaminants are generated by human and industrial activities. Note that almost all pharmaceutical products used for human or veterinary purpose are spread in nature and

particularly in water (Barceló and Petrovic 2007; Diana and Aga 2008; Garcia-Galan, Silvia Diaz-Cruz, and Barcelo 2008). The presence of pharmaceutical contaminant products in waters has pushed the scientific community to propose purification and decontamination techniques of these waters. Among the techniques available, the resistance and the recalcitrant nature of certain contaminants should be taken into account in the choice of the appropriate technique of treatment, which include flocculation, oxidation, adsorption, electrolysis, etc. (Ghaedi, Hassanzadeh, and NaciriKokhdan 2011; Wangpradit and Chitprasert 2014). Current research focuses on efficient methods to lower costs; thus, adsorption using activated carbon of vegetable origin appears to satisfy the scientific needs and completely fulfill the conditions requested for both efficiency and cost. Adsorption is an attractive technique owing to the high removal yields achieved, to its ease of implementation, since it does not require complex equipment and/or advanced technology, as well as to the plenty of adsorbents available in nature. However, adsorption is often implemented in complementary to other conventional purification methods, because adsorption is effective in the retention of soluble chemical compounds in water unmodified (Magriotis et al. 2014; Wang, Zhang, and Yao 2015), and hence a destructive post-treatment method is often needed. A wide range of adsorbents is used in water treatment, including activated carbon, biomass from agricultural waste, clays, polymeric resins, etc. (Hamzeh et al. 2012; Olushola et al. 2015). The use of natural adsorbent materials is a promising alternative due to their abundance and their relatively low price (Ramakrishnaiah and Arpitha 2014; Jin et al. 2015). In this work, activated carbon based materials obtained from date stones were considered and used as a potential adsorbent for a pharmaceutical compound. Indeed, this class of adsorbents shows some interesting chemical and physical characteristics, such as a high developed porous structure, good thermal stability, low cost and accessibility. Date stones are among the most common agricultural by

products available in palms growing in the Mediterranean countries like Algeria, which is one of the largest producers in the world. Date stones constitute more or less than 10% of the date weight. This lignocellulosic based agricultural waste is a very good precursor for preparing activated carbon owing to its excellent natural structure and low ash content (Bouchenafa-Saïb et al. 2005; Merzougui and Addoun 2008; Kim et al. 2015). As it is well known, two methods are commonly used for the preparation of activated carbon: physical and chemical activations. Compared with physical activation, the chemical activation presents some advantages like low activation temperature, short activation time, high surface area, well developed microporosity of the activated carbon, simple operation and low energy consumption (Deng et al. 2009; Pereira et al. 2014). For this purpose, date stones can be activated with chemical agents such as KOH, ZnCl₂, H₃PO₄, K₂CO₃ and NaOH, to obtain activated carbons with well-developed textural characteristics. Therefore, the main objective of this work was to prepare activated carbon having high surfaces area from date stones by thermochemical activation with CO₂. To our knowledge, no work has been reported in the literature regarding the removal of Tiemoniummethylsulfate from aqueous solutions by means of adsorption, neither onto activated carbon nor onto other adsorbents; it was therefore also examined in this study.

Materials and Methods

Preparation of the adsorbent

After separation of the cores of dates from their pulp, they were washed, placed in an oven at 130°C for 24hours and then ground. The ground material fractions were then stored in tightly closed bottles for subsequent use as raw material of the activated carbon. The separation of fractions representative of the crushed sample was performed by a Fritsh type sifter. Pyrolysis of

samples was carried out in a vertical furnace BGVA12-300b, Carbolite, United Kingdom) connected to the inlet and outlet devices; the system allowed to take into account the upward gas flow by the sample, as well as the evacuation and the trapping of exhaust gas and liquid condensates respectively. In this furnace, about 75g of dates stones were placed in a cylindrical quartz cell (40mm diameter) comprising a sintered at half height disk. The different pyrolysis conditions considered are shown in **Table 1**.

Adsorption study

Adsorption of Tiemoniummethylsulfate (TIM) (**Figure 1**) from aqueous solutions was studied in batch mode. The effects of the mass of adsorbent, pH, contact time and temperature were considered. After optimizing the operating parameters, kinetic, equilibrium and thermodynamic studies were conducted in 100mL conical flasks containing 50mL TIM solution of different initial concentrations in the range 5 to 50mg L⁻¹ for AC-DS under the optimal conditions. The flasks were agitated in a temperature controlled stirrer at 200rpm for a fixed time until equilibrium was established. After filtration of the samples taken from the flasks at the equilibrium adsorption time, the residual dye concentration was measured using an SP-8001 UV/VIS Spectrophotometer of Axiom, Germany (Shimadzu); it was measured at a wavelength of 234 nm with respect to a calibration curve prepared prior to the analysis. The thermodynamic study was carried out in 100mL conical flasks containing 200mL TIM solution of different initial concentrations in the range 50 to 200mg L⁻¹ and by varying the temperature from 10 to 40°C. All sets of experiments were performed in duplicate under the optimal conditions and the mean values are given.

The amount of Pharmaceutical adsorbed onto AC-DS at time t , Q_t (mg g^{-1}), was determined according to the following equation:

$$Q_t = \frac{(C_0 - C_t)V}{m} \quad (1)$$

Where C_0 and C_t are respectively the initial concentration and the concentration of dye at a given time t (mg L^{-1}), m is the mass of AC-DS and V is the volume of solution.

Equilibrium modeling

Usually equilibrium data are known as adsorption isotherms, describing how adsorbates interact with adsorbents and consequently are necessary in optimizing the use of adsorbents; they also provide information on the capacity of the adsorbent. To analyze AC-DS interaction with TIM, experimental data points were fitted to two-parameter isotherm models, namely Langmuir and Freundlich, and three-parameter isotherm models, namely Sips and Redlich–Peterson, which are the most frequently used in the literature to describe the non-linear equilibrium between the target molecules adsorbed on the adsorbent material (Q_e) and the target molecules concentration (C_e) at equilibrium in solution and at a constant temperature.

Two parameter isotherms

In the Langmuir isotherm model, it is assumed that the energies of adsorption onto the adsorbent surface are uniform. In addition, the Langmuir equation support the assumption of the existence of identical sites on the outer surface of the adsorbent, and therefore only a single layer of pollutant covers the surface of the adsorbate. The Langmuir equation (Langmuir, 1918) is given as follows:

$$\frac{Q_e}{Q_m} = \frac{K_L C_e}{1 + K_L C_e} \quad (2)$$

Where Q_e and C_e are the equilibrium dye concentration on the adsorbent ($\text{mg}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$) and the equilibrium dye concentration in solution respectively (mg L^{-1}); Q_m is the monolayer capacity of the adsorbent (mg g^{-1}); and K_L is the Langmuir constant. A non-linear fit was performed by using the Origin Software in order to obtain the Langmuir model parameters. The parameter statistic “adjusted R-square” were also determined to identify the most accurate model to describe the experimental results.

The Freundlich isotherm model (Freundlich, 1906) assumes neither homogeneous site energies nor limited levels of adsorption. The Freundlich model is a very old empirical equation, showing that it is compatible with an exponential distribution of the active sites of the adsorbent material; it is a characteristic of heterogeneous surfaces:

$$Q_e = K_F C_e^{1/n} \quad (3)$$

Where Q_e is the equilibrium dye amount on the adsorbent (mg g^{-1}); C_e is the equilibrium dye concentration in solution (mg L^{-1}); K_F and $1/n$ are empirical constants indicative of adsorption capacity and adsorption intensity, respectively. The Freundlich parameters were obtained by performing a non-linear fit (Origin software).

Three parameter isotherms

The Sips isotherm is a combination of the Langmuir and Freundlich isotherms (Sips 1948):

$$\frac{Q_e}{Q_{mS}} = \frac{(K_S C_e)^m}{1 + (K_S C_e)^m} \quad (4)$$

Where Q_{ms} is the maximum monolayer adsorption (mg g^{-1}), K_s is the Sips constant solution (mg L^{-1}) and m the exponent of the Sips model.

The Redlich–Peterson isotherm model (R-P) (Prasad and Srivastava 2009) is a hybrid isotherm that approaches the Freundlich model at high concentrations (g tends to zero) and the Langmuir model at low concentrations (g tends to one); this isotherm is therefore often used as a compromise between the Freundlich the and Langmuir models. The R–P isotherm equation is expressed by the following equation:

$$Q_e = \frac{K_R \cdot C_e}{1 + a_R \cdot C_e^g} \quad (5)$$

where K_R and a_R are the R–P constants (L g^{-1}); the ratio of K_R/a_R indicates the adsorption capacity is an exponent which lies between 0 and 1, C_e is the equilibrium concentration of the adsorbate (mg L^{-1}) and Q_e is the equilibrium adsorbate onto the adsorbent (mg g^{-1}).

In addition, three different error functions were employed in order to find the most appropriate isotherm to describe experimental data. Relationships for error analysis, namely, chi-square test (χ^2), hybrid fractional error function (HYBRID) and average relative error (ARE) are represented as follows:

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(Q_{e,\text{exp}} - Q_{e,\text{cal}})^2}{Q_{e,\text{exp}}} \quad (6)$$

$$\text{HYBRID} = \frac{100}{n - p} \sum_{i=1}^n \left[\frac{(Q_{e,\text{exp}} - Q_{e,\text{cal}})^2}{Q_{e,\text{exp}}} \right]_i \quad (7)$$

$$\text{ARE} = \frac{100}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left[\frac{(Q_{e,\text{exp}} - Q_{e,\text{cal}})^2}{Q_{e,\text{exp}}} \right]_i \quad (8)$$

Where $Q_{e,exp}$ is the experimental value, $Q_{e,calc}$ is the calculated value, n is the number of data points in the considered experiment, and p is the number of parameters of the model.

Kinetic modeling

The study of adsorption dynamics describes the solute adsorption rate on the adsorbent; this rate controls the residence time of adsorption at the solid-solution interface. Among the numerous models available to describe adsorption kinetics, pseudo-first-order, pseudo-second-order and Elovich models were applied to fit experimental data.

Pseudo-first-order model

The pseudo-first-order kinetic model based on the adsorption capacity is the first equation for the adsorption of solid/liquid system. The linear form of the pseudo-first-order equation (Lagergren 1898) is given by Eq. (9):

$$\ln(Q_e - Q_t) = \ln Q_e - k_1 t \quad (9)$$

Where Q_e (mg g^{-1}) and Q_t (mg g^{-1}) are the amount of dye adsorbed at equilibrium and at time t (min), respectively; k_1 (min^{-1}) is the equilibrium rate constant of pseudo-first-order equation. The rate constants are obtained from the straight line plots of $\ln(Q_e - Q_t)$ versus t .

Pseudo-second-order model

The pseudo-second-order model is based on the assumption of chemisorption of the adsorbate on the adsorbent (Srivastava, Mall, and Mishra 2008). This model is given by Eq. (10):

$$\frac{t}{Q_t} = \frac{1}{k_2 Q_e^2} + \frac{1}{Q_e} t \quad (10)$$

Where k_2 ($\text{g mg}^{-1}\text{min}^{-1}$) is the equilibrium rate constant of pseudo-second-order equation.

The straight line plot of t/Q_t against t allows to obtain the rate constants.

Elovich model

The Elovich model (Önal 2006) results in the linear equation (11).

$$Q_t = \frac{1}{\beta} \ln(\alpha \cdot \beta) + \frac{1}{\beta} \ln(t) \quad (11)$$

Where α is the initial adsorption rate constant ($\text{mg (g}^{-1}\text{min}^{-1})$) and the β is related to the activation energy for chemisorption and also to the extent of surface coverage (g mg^{-1}). The values of α and β can be derived from plotting Q_t as a function of $\ln(t)$.

Intraparticle diffusion model

Intraparticle diffusion model is commonly used to identify the adsorption mechanism for design purpose. According to Weber and Morris (1963), for most adsorption processes, the uptake varies almost proportionately with $t^{1/2}$ rather than with the contact time and can be represented as follows:

$$Q_t = k_{id} t^{0.5} + C \quad (12)$$

Where Q_t is the amount adsorbed at time t and $t^{0.5}$ is the square root of the time, C is the intercept, and k_{id} ($\text{mg g}^{-1}\text{min}^{-0.5}$) is the rate constant of intraparticle diffusion.

Results and Discussion

Characterization

Elemental analysis

Table 2 shows that AC-DS contained mainly carbon (87.41%) and oxygen (8.40%), with few amount of nitrogen (2.40%), hydrogen (0.99%) and sulfur ($< 0.10\%$). As the activation of native date stones, N-DS, the carbon content increased with the activation, from 50.51% to 88.77% and 87.41% after calcination and chemical activation, respectively; whereas the oxygen content decreased from 38.81% for N-DS to 8.40% for AC-DS. The content of hydrogen and sulfur also decreased with the activation. Since AC-DS (**Table 2**) contained a higher amount of carbon and a lower content of heteroatoms (8.40% of O for instance) if compared to N-DS, its surface was less acidic.

Nitrogen sorption

The N_2 adsorption–desorption isotherm of the activated carbons (AC-DS) is shown in **Figure 2**. The isotherm for AC-DS was typical of microporous materials where the micropore filling takes place in the wider micropores (type Ib) over a range of high pressures P/P_0 (Rouquerol, Rouquerol, and Sing 1999). Nevertheless, for AC-DS, a plateau was not clearly reached, indicating a widening of pores. The isotherm exhibited a type H4 hysteresis loop, characteristic of slit-shaped pores. Finally, the AC-DS isotherm showed an important adsorption at low P/P_0 and a type H4 hysteresis loop, corresponding to the simultaneous presence of micropores and mesopores. The less pronounced hysteresis loop for AC-DS indicated that its mesoporous volume was the smallest if compared to the native date stones (N-DS). The BET surface area of C-DS and AC-DS, were 865.59 and 1295.20 m^2g^{-1} respectively (**Table 3**), which can be favorably compared with other activated carbons produced from vegetal materials (Nakamura et al. 2003; Namane et al. 2005; Reffas et al. 2010). Contrarily to the SBET, the diameter of pores was lower for AC-DS, 1.39 nm

if compared to C-DS, 2.62 nm. The C-DS was microporous and mesoporous according to the values of the total pore volume, measured by the BJH and the BET methods (**Table 3**). **Table 4** illustrates the textural parameters according to the Dubinin-Radushkevich (D-R) model, showing that AC-DS mainly exhibited pores of diameter lower than 2 nm; while C-DS presented a distribution shifting towards larger pore sizes (>2 nm), as confirmed by the BJH value of C-DS (**Table 3**). Owing to its high mesopore content, C-DS might be an excellent adsorbent for organic pollutants of middle molecular size (>2 nm).

pH_{PZC} and surface functional groups

The pH_{PZC} as well as the oxygenated group contents obtained by titrations are reported in **Table 5**. The pH_{PZC} value of AC-DS was 7.7 (**Figure 3**), namely rather an alkaline carbon in agreement with its low oxygen content. The rather alkaline value of the pH_{PZC} for AC-DS (7.7) compared to other GACs (prepared for instance from vegetal material, pH_{PZC}< 3.7 (Reffas et al. 2010) can be attributed to the conditions of pyrolysis (**Table 1**), namely the increase of the time and temperature of calcination under inert gas flow, resulting in a decrease of the oxygen content at the surface (**Tables 1 and 5**). The “Boehm” titration of AC-DS (**Table 5**) showed less basic than acidic groups, which did not confirm its alkaline character. Thus, the pH_{PZC} of AC-DS can be attributed to the presence of oxygenated surface groups with high pK_a values.

Infrared Spectroscopy

Generally, the IR spectrum of activated carbon comprises stretching vibration and deformation bands of the OH, C-H, C≡O, C=O, C=C and C-O functions, belonging to the phenolic, lactones and carboxylic acids groups. **Figure 4** shows an intense and broad band between 3300 and 3600 cm⁻¹ with a maximum at about 3445 cm⁻¹ corresponding to the stretching vibrations of

the hydroxyl groups OH (hydroxy, phenolic or alcohols groups) and physisorbed water. The band at 2920 cm^{-1} characterized the stretching vibrations of C-H; that at 1630 cm^{-1} can be assigned to C = C band vibrations of the benzene ring. The band at 650 cm^{-1} can be assigned to the deformation vibration of C-H bonds. It should be noted that the same bands as those before adsorption were observed after adsorption. The weak band at 3100 cm^{-1} corresponded to the N-H bond and the bands at 3020 cm^{-1} and 1450 cm^{-1} corresponded to the C-H and C = C bonds, respectively. Bands between 1000 and 1250 cm^{-1} were characteristic of C-C bonds, and those at 750 and 600 cm^{-1} were characteristic of C-H bonds.

Scanning electron microscopy

Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) of C-DS and AC-DS absorbent before adsorption were visualized by using Hitachi tabletop Microscope TM-1000. The SEM analyzes were measured without EDS because the contents of C, H, N, O and S (w%) of C-DS and AC-DS were measured by elemental analysis. The scanning electron microscopy image (obtained by diffusion of the secondary electrons at a scale of approximately $100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$) of C-DS prepared from a lignocellulosic material (N-DS) shows a more smooth surface morphology (**Figure 5a**). In addition, the SEM image of AC-DS shows some supermicropores and cracks (diameter in the range of 1.39 nm). The surface of the activated carbon (AC-DS) observed by SEM (**Figure 5b**) displays few microspores and a relatively heterogeneous surface morphology.

Effect of the adsorption parameters

Effect of pH

Adsorption of Tiemoniummethylsulfate (TIM) cation is favorable at $\text{pH} > \text{pH}_{\text{pzc}}$ due to electrostatic interactions. In aqueous solution, Tiemoniummethylsulfate is dissociated and converted to cationic ion whatever the pH of the solution. This means that the adsorption of TIM on the activated carbon is only dependent on the charge of the activated carbon surface. The data presented in **Figure 6** indicate change of adsorption with the pH. The evolution of the adsorption in the investigated range of pH shows that the adsorption was optimal at pH 8, namely slightly above the point of zero charge ($\text{pH}_{\text{pzc}} = 7.7$). Adsorption can be envisaged by an electrostatic interaction between the positive groups of Tiemoniummethylsulfate and the negative charge of activated carbon. This interaction decreased with decreasing pH, due to an electrostatic repulsion between the TIM molecule (positive) and the negatively charge of the activated carbon surface when the pH was below $\text{pH}_{\text{pzc}} = 7.7$.

Effect of the contact time and the initial concentration

The results obtained in this study are shown in **Figure 7**. It can be seen that irrespective of its initial concentration, the TIM removal was very fast during the first few minutes of adsorption, which can be explained by the availability of active sites on the surface of the adsorbent. Then, decreasing rates can be observed until reaching equilibrium after the occupation of the majority of the active sites by TIM ions, in accordance with the related literature (Shukla et al. 2002). It was also observed that an increase of the initial TIM concentration led to an increase in the adsorption of TIM by AC-DS. The maximum adsorption of TIM at equilibrium increased from 15 to 35 mg g^{-1} for increasing concentrations from 5 to 20 mg L^{-1} ; while no further increase of the amount adsorbed was observed beyond this concentration. It is also shown in **Figure 5** that about 120min were needed to reach equilibrium for 5 and 10 mg L^{-1} initial TIM concentrations; while for higher initial concentrations, 250min were necessary to achieve equilibrium.

Isotherm analysis

In **Figure 8**, the fitted experimental data obtained at different temperatures showed that the temperature has a positive effect on the adsorption capacity of TIM. Q_e values were 42.2, 50.6, 56.4 and 60.5 mg g⁻¹ for 10, 25, 35 and 40 °C, respectively.

An increase in temperature improved therefore TIM absorption on the material, showing an impact of the thermodynamic phenomena on the process. The isotherm parameters obtained experimentally for all temperatures are shown in **Table 6**. The constants isotherms models, namely, statistical tests χ^2 , average relative errors (ARE), hybrid and (R^2) based on the difference between the values predicted by the models and the experimental points are also given. All the R^2 values were lower than 0.97, indicating an accurate fit for both two and three parameters models; with however slightly lower R^2 values for the two-parameter isotherms. Based on the R^2 and low χ^2 values, the models can be classified as follows: Sips > Redlich Peterson > Langmuir > Freundlich. The superiority of the three-parameter isotherms over the two-parameter ones was in agreement with the related literature (Gunay, Arslankaya, and Tosun 2007). The Sips isotherm model gave the highest R^2 value and the most accurate estimation of the maximum adsorption capacity (Q_m) compared to the experimental value. However, the adsorption capacity Q_m obtained from the Langmuir equation appeared more realistic than that obtained from the Sips equation compared to the experimental values, Q_{exp} (**Table 6**). Statistical values (ARE) confirmed that the Sips model was the most relevant to describe experimental data (**Table 7**).

Kinetics analysis

According to Canzano et al. (2007) the data at or near the equilibrium could be omitted because high t values lead to extremely high errors. For the AC-DS adsorbent, it may be noted that

except for 5mg L⁻¹TIM, adsorption kinetics appeared to be more accurately fitted by the pseudo-second-order model (**Figure 9b, Table 8**), compared to the pseudo-first-order model (**Figure 9a, Table 10**). Similar tendencies were found by Larous and Meniai (2016) for the removal of Diclofenac onto olive stones. Regarding the Elovich model, it did not result in an accurate description of experimental data, owing to the low correlation coefficients (R^2) observed for 5 and 50mg L⁻¹TIM (**Figure 10 and Table 8**). Furthermore, the Q_e values estimated from the pseudo-second-order kinetic and pseudo-first-order models were also in agreement with experimental data for all tested concentrations (**Table 8**).

The intraparticle diffusion model could be used to investigate the mass transfer mechanism in the TIM- activated carbon system. The intercept gives an idea about the thickness of the boundary layer, i.e. the larger is the intercept the greater is the boundary layer effect (Özer, Akkaya, and Turabik 2006). The intraparticle diffusion plots are displayed in **Figure 11** and the parameters are summarized in **Table 9**. This figure showed that irrespective of the considered concentration, the intraparticle diffusion of TIM within activated carbon occurred in two steps. The first straight portion could be attributed to macropore diffusion (step 1), namely the transport of TIM molecules from the bulk solution to the surface of the adsorbent, and the second linear portion could be attributed to micropore diffusion (step 2), namely the binding of the TIM molecules on the active sites of adsorption. Intraparticle diffusion appeared therefore to be the limiting step for the adsorption of TIM onto AC-DS adsorbent.

Thermodynamic analysis

The thermodynamic parameters reflect the spontaneous nature and the feasibility of a sorption process. Parameters such as the free energy change (ΔG), the enthalpy change (ΔH) and

the entropy change (ΔS) can be estimated from equilibrium constants varying with temperature. The free energy variation of the adsorption reaction is illustrated by Eq. (12) as reported by Milonjic (2007):

$$\Delta G^{\circ} = -RT \ln(\rho K_C) \quad (12)$$

Where ΔG° is the free energy change ($\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$), R the universal gas constant ($8.314 \text{ J}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$), T the absolute temperature (K), K_C the thermodynamic equilibrium constant ($\text{L}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$) (Eq. 14) and ρ the water density ($\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$). ΔH° and ΔS° values of the adsorption process were calculated from the Van't Hoff equation (13):

$$\ln(\rho K_C) = -\frac{\Delta H^{\circ}}{RT} + \frac{\Delta S^{\circ}}{R} \quad (13)$$

$$K_C = \frac{Q_e}{C_e} \quad (14)$$

ΔH° and ΔS° can be then determined from the slope ($\Delta H^{\circ}/R$) and the intercept ($\Delta S^{\circ}/R$) of the plot of $\ln(\rho K_C)$ versus $1/T$. The obtained thermodynamic parameters are collected in **Table 10**. The change in free energy for physisorption is between -20 and 0 kJ/mol and in a range of -80 to -400 kJ/mol for chemisorptions (Chiou and Li 2003). The results obtained were slightly below $-20\text{kJ}/\text{mol}$ for AC-DS at all tested temperatures, namely characteristics of a spontaneous physisorption process; it was in agreement with the low impact of the temperature on TIM adsorption. The values of ΔH° confirmed that the adsorption of TIM onto AC-DS was endothermic in nature. A random increase at the solid-solution interface during adsorption of the TIM on AC-DS was probably linked to the positive change of entropy.

Conclusion

In this study, Date stones wastes have been considered to prepare activated carbon by a classical method and Tiemoniummethylsulfate was used as a model compound. It was observed that activation of the adsorbent material with carbon dioxide promotes the increase of the surface.

Experimental data were found to follow a Langmuir model in the case of two parameter isotherms and the Sips isotherm model in the case of three parameter isotherms. Batch studies showed that a simple model such as a pseudo-second-order kinetic equation can adequately predict the adsorption of TIM onto AC-DS at all studied concentrations. These results imply that physisorption mechanism may play an important role in dye adsorption.

This study demonstrated therefore that AC-DS showed to be a promising adsorbent, owing to its efficiency for the removal of a pharmaceutical product, Tiemoniummethylsulfate, from wastewater.

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Table 1. Conditions of pyrolysis of native date stones (N-DS).

Sample	Furnace type	Calcination temperature (°C)	Duration of calcination (min)	Flow of N ₂ (ml/min)	Ramp (°C/min)
N-DS	Vertical	700	120	250	15

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Table 2. Elemental analysis of dates stones, native (N-DS), calcined (C-DS) and activated respectively (AC-DS).

Sample	C (%)	H (%)	N (%)	O (%)	S (%)
N-DS	50.51	6.99	1.34	38.81	0.12
C-DS	88.77	1.01	2.45	6.09	<0.10
AC-DS	87.41	0.99	2.40	8.40	<0.10

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Table 3. Textural characteristics calculated from the N₂ adsorption isotherms at 77.35K for the considered sample.

Calcin ed precur sor	Specific area (m ² /g)			Pore diameter (nm)			Total pore volume (cm ³ /g)		
	By the BET meth od	BJH cumulat ive adsorpti on	BJH cumulat ive desorpti on	By the BET meth od	BJH adsorpti on	BJH desorpti on	By the BET meth od	BJH adsorpti on	BJH desorpti on
C-DS 9	865.5	179.54	266.28	2.62	4.31	3.75	0.56	0.19	0.25

Table 4. Textural properties according to the Dubinin-Radushkevich (D-R) model calculated from the N₂ adsorption isotherms at 77.35K for activated carbon.

Sample	W ₀ (cm ³ /g)	E ₀ (kJ/mol)	L (nm)	V (cm ³ /g)	S _{N2} (m ² /g)
AC-DS	312.60	17.30	1.39	0.46	1295.20

Table 5. Chemical characteristics of the activated carbon from date stones, AC-DS.

Adsorbent	Acidity (meq g/g)	Basicity (meq g/g)	pH _{PZC}
AC-DS	4.5	2.5	7.7

Table 6. Isotherm constants for the adsorption of TIM from aqueous solutions onto AC-DS at different temperatures.

Model			T (°C)			
Two parameters	Langmuir	Parameters	10	25	35	40
		Q _{ex} (mg/g)	42.23	50.62	56.41	60.52
		Q _m (mg/g)	45.44	49.92	56.42	57.37
		K _L (L/mg)	0.191	0.320	0.197	0.709
		R ²	0.983	0.962	0.988	0.953
	Freundlich	1/n	0.2500	0.2190	0.2538	0.1811
		K _F (mg/g)(L/mg) ^{1/n}	15.96	21.20	19.39	29.99
		R ²	0.949	0.978	0.971	0.978
Tree parameters	Sips	Q _m (mg/g)	50.25	69.98	67.31	78.39
		K _S (L/mg)	0.154	0.112	0.125	0.249
		m	0.76	0.50	0.70	0.45
		R ²	0.988	0.991	0.997	0.994
	Redlich Peterson	K _R	10.85	44.02	17.56	124.13
		a _R	0.30	1.58	0.50	3.41
		g	0.94	0.85	0.88	0.87
		R ²	0.987	0.987	0.998	0.989

Table 7. Statistical Analysis of adsorption data.

	T (°C)	Model			
		Two parameters		Three parameters	
		Freundlich	Langmuir	Sips	Peterson
HYBRID	10	20.50	15.79	8.09	12.64
	25	13.36	32.66	5.57	6.65
	35	39.27	44.44	1.77	0.59
	40	19.99	30.69	4.91	1.38
	Average	23.28	30.90	5.09	5.32
APE	10	0.73	1.50	0.31	0.75
	25	0.31	1.47	0.08	0.02
	35	2.34	1.07	0.43	0.27
	40	0.14	1.82	0.02	0.03
	Average	0.52	1.47	0.06	0.11
χ^2	10	1.85	1.42	0.65	1.01
	25	1.20	2.94	0.45	0.60
	35	3.54	4.00	0.14	0.05
	40	1.80	2.76	0.39	0.12
	Average	2.10	2.78	0.41	0.45

Table 8. Parameters from kinetic models for the adsorption of TIM (T = 23 °C, pH = 8).

AC - DS	Pseudo-first-order					Pseudo-second-order			Elovich model		
	C (mg/ L)	Q _{exp} (mg/ g)	Q _e (mg/ g)	k ₁ *10 ⁻² (min ⁻¹)	R ²	Q _e (mg/ g)	k ₂ *10 ⁻⁴ (g/mg . min)	R ²	α (mg/g.mi n)	β (g/m g)	R ²
	5	16.72	19.21	1.93	0.95 9	26.49	3.89	0.92 7	0.65	0.19	0.88 5
	10	25.41	25.17	2.29	0.98 3	27.85	9.70	0.99 7	1.66	0.16	0.96 7
	20	36.14	16.45	1	0.98 0	36.66	32.95	0.99 9	5.57	0.21	0.96 1
	30	37.02	18.34	1	0.95 7	37.94	15.99	0.99 6	3.94	0.20	0.98 0
	50	37.23	38.71	4.9	0.97 4	38.34	15.48	0.99 7	4.51	0.11	0.89 9

Table 9. Intraparticle diffusion model Parameters for the adsorption of TIM onto AC-DS adsorbent (T = 23 °C, pH = 8).

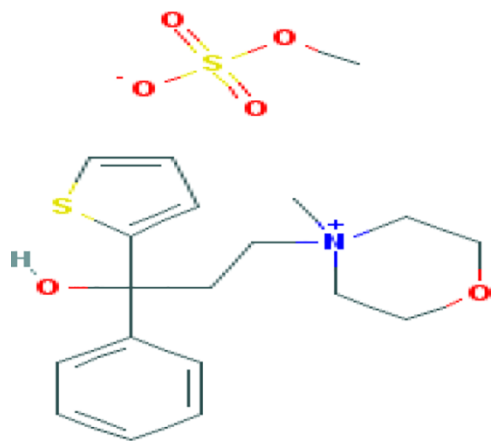
Intraparticle diffusion model						
C(mg/g)	First step			Second step		
	k _{id}	C	R ²	k _{id}	C	R ²
10	2.99	3.83	0.978	0.52	15.63	0.986
20	1.95	16.28	0.977	0.25	31.28	0.89
30	2.59	10.55	0.978	0.88	21.17	0.959

Table 10. Thermodynamic parameters for the adsorption of TIM on AC-DS.

T (K)	K_c	ΔH (KJ/mol)	ΔS (J/mol. K)	ΔG (KJ/mol. K)	R^2
283	0.52	10.121	87.82	-14.73	0.998
298	0.66			-16.40	
308	0.74			-16.92	
313	0.79			-17.37	

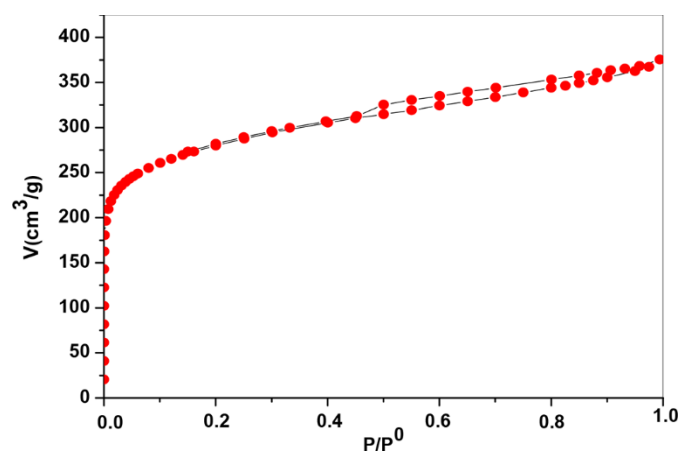
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Figure 1. Tiemoniummethylsulfate chemical structure. (3-(4-methylmorpholin-4-ium-4-yl)-1-phenyl-1-thiophen-2-ylpropan-1-ol; methyl sulfate).



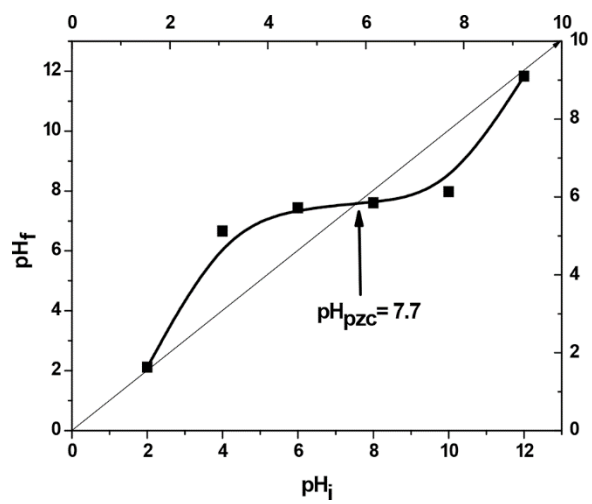
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Figure 2. Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms of AC-DS at 77.35°C.



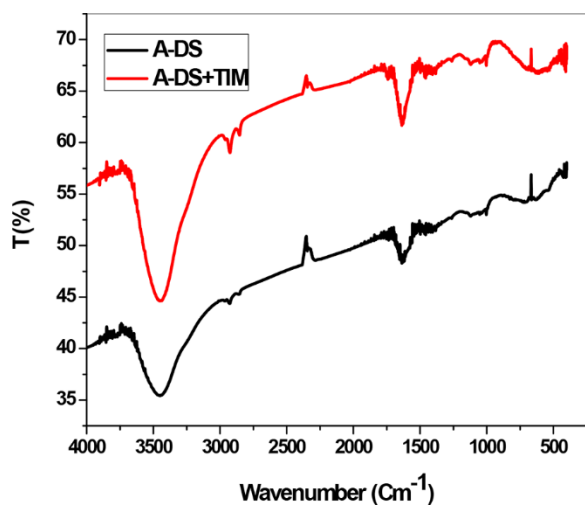
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Figure 3. The change in final pH as a function of the initial pH for solutions of AC-DS during the determination of the point of zero charge PZC.



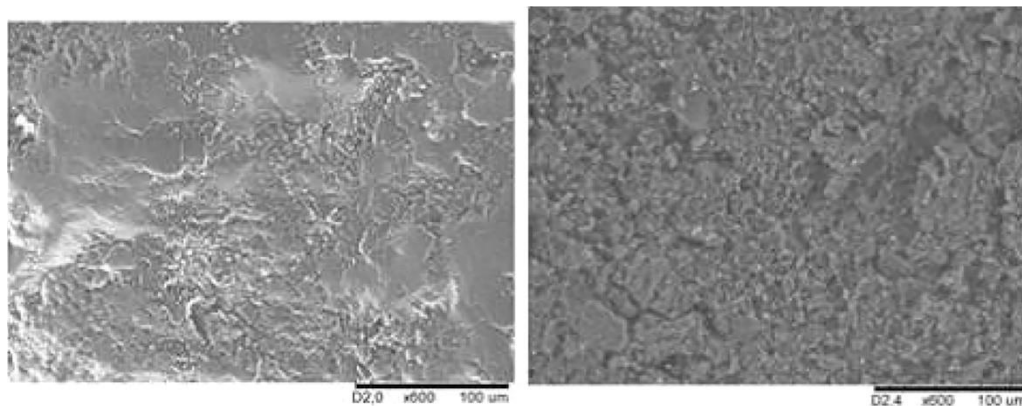
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Figure 4. FTIR spectra of AC-DS cones before and after adsorption in the range 4000–500 cm^{-1} .



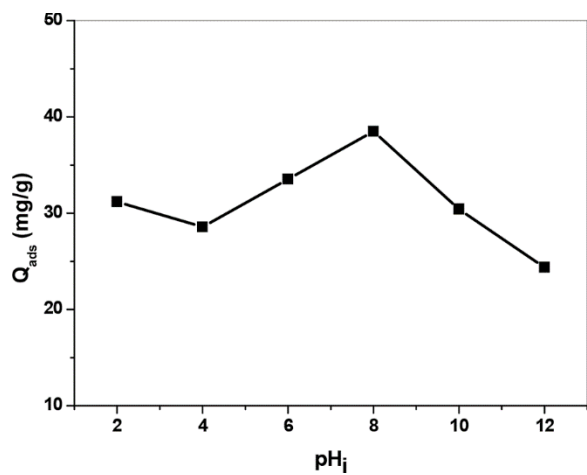
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Figure 5.



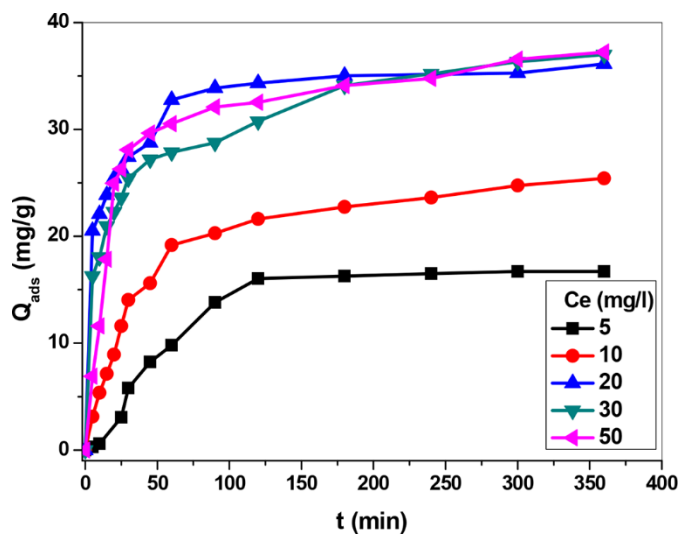
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Figure 6. Effect of pH on the adsorption capacity of TIM (T = 25°C, agitation speed = 250rpm).



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Figure 7. Effect of the contact time and the initial TIM concentration on the adsorption capacity of A-DS ($T = 25^{\circ}\text{C}$, agitation speed = 250 rpm, $\text{pH} = 8$).



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Figure 8. Equilibrium isotherms for TIM onto AC-DS adsorbent at different temperatures. Comparison between experimental data (symbols) and predictions of the Langmuir (continuous line) and Freundlich (a) (dash line), and Sips (continuous lines) and P-R models (dash lines) (b) (agitation speed = 250 rpm , pH = 8).

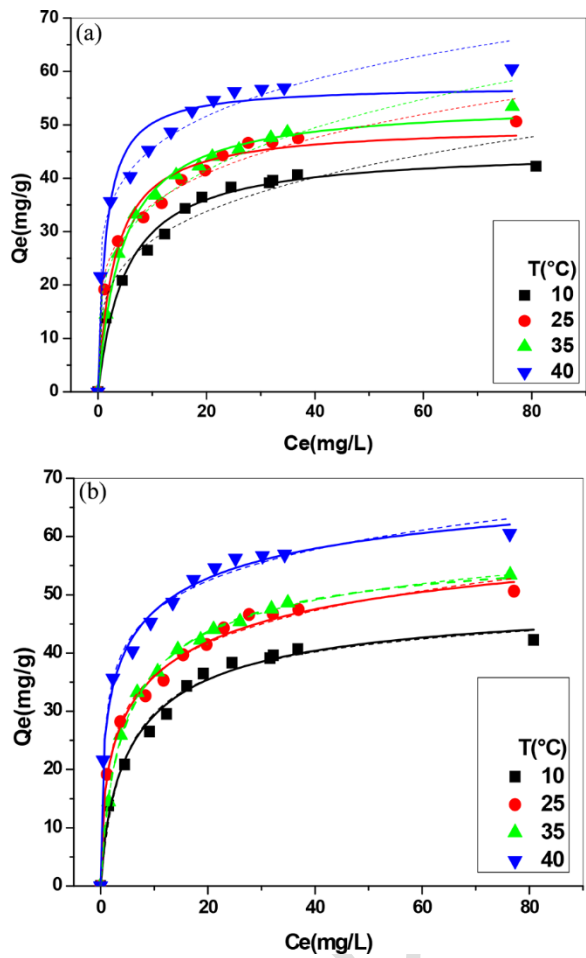


Figure 9. Experimental (symbols) and calculated data (continuous lines) by means of pseudo-first-order (a) and pseudo-second order kinetic models (b) for TIM adsorption onto AC-DS adsorbent at various concentrations. ($T = 25^{\circ}\text{C}$ agitation speed = 250 rpm , $\text{pH} = 8$).

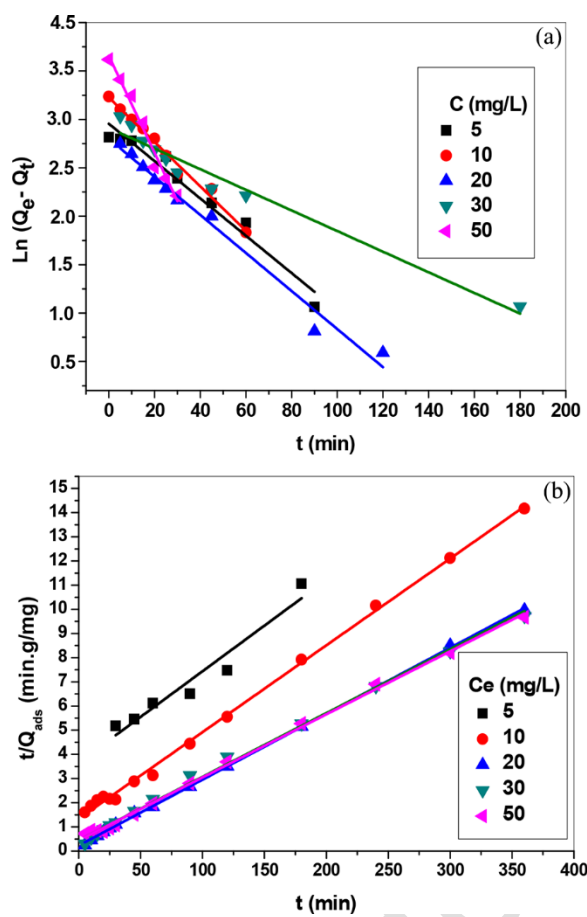
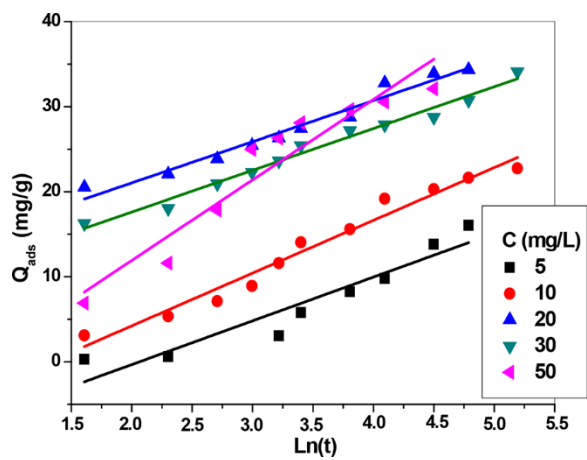
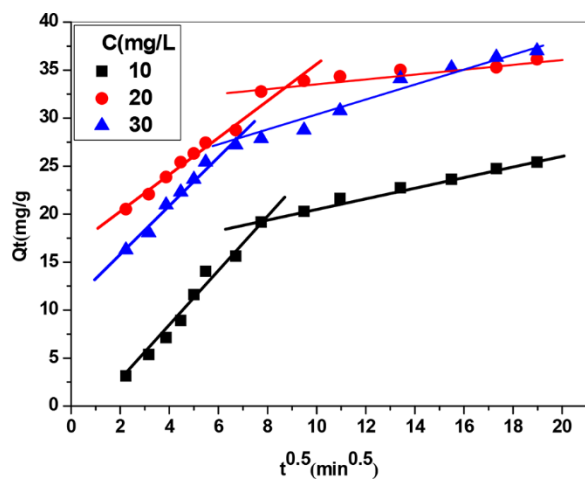


Figure 10. Experimental (symbols) and calculated data (continuous lines) by means of Elovich kinetic model for TIM adsorption onto AC-DS adsorbent at various concentrations. (T = 25°C agitation speed = 250 rpm , pH = 8).



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Figure 11. Experimental (symbols) and calculated data (continuous lines) by means of Intraparticle diffusion kinetic model for TIM adsorption onto AC-DS adsorbent at various concentrations. ($T = 25^{\circ}\text{C}$ agitation speed = 250 rpm , pH = 8).



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