



Removal of Cationic Dye in Aquatic Medium by Using a New Composite Material

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Abstract: In this study, a new composite material containing polyacrylamide (PAA) and diatomite (D) was developed and characterized for effective removal of Methylene Blue (MB) dye in aquatic medium. The obtained new composite material, polyacrylamide-diatomite (PAA-D) was characterized by point zero charge (PZC), FTIR analysis. The adsorption properties of new composite material were investigated comprehensively and experimental variables were optimized such as concentration, pH, temperature, time and ionic strength. Experimental data were evaluated by using theoretical adsorption models. The maximum adsorption capacity of material was calculated as 0.019 mol kg⁻¹ by considering Langmuir equation. The constants calculated from Freundlich and DR model were found as 0.075 and 0.034, respectively. Adsorption kinetic was also explained with pseudo second order and intra particular diffusion models. Experimental studies were showed that adsorption was endothermic and occurred spontaneously. New developed material can be used as potential adsorbent in order to removal of methylene blue from various medium such as wastewater.

Keywords: Methylene blue, adsorption, polyacrylamide, diatomite, composite

Yeni Bir Kompozit Malzeme Kullanılarak Sulu Ortamdaki Katyonik Boya Giderimi

Özet: Bu çalışmada, Poliakrilamid (PAA) ve diatomit (D) içeren yeni bir kompozit materyal sentezlendi ve bir katyonik boya olan metilen mavisinin (MB) sulu ortamdaki gideriminde kullanıldı. Elde edilen yeni kompozit, poliakrilamid-diatomit (PAA-D) sıfır yük noktası (SYN), FTIR analizleriyle karakterize edildi. Yeni kompozit materyalin adsorpsiyon özellikleri kapsamlı olarak ve deneysel değişkenler derişim, pH, sıcaklık, zaman ve iyonik şiddet gibi optimize edilerek araştırılmıştır. Deneysel veriler teorik adsorpsiyon modelleri kullanılarak hesaplandı. Kompozit materyalin adsorpsiyon kapasitesi Langmuir eşitliğinden 0.019 mol kg⁻¹ olarak hesaplandı. Freundlich ve DR modellerinden hesaplanan sabitler 0.075 ve 0.034 olarak bulundu. Adsorpsiyon kinetiği yalancı ikinci derece kinetik ve parçacık içi difüzyon modelleriyle de açıklandı. Deneysel çalışmalar adsorpsiyonun endotermik olduğunu ve kendiliğinden meydana geldiğini gösterdi. Yeni geliştirilen materyal çeşitli ortamlardan atık sular gibi, metilen mavisi katyonik boyasını gidermek için potansiyel bir adsorban olarak kullanılabilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Metilen mavisi, adsorpsiyon, poliakrilamid, diatomit, kompozit

1. INTRODUCTION

Methylene Blue, is a cationic dye having the $C_{16}H_{18}N_3SCl \cdot 3H_2O$ structure. Methylene blue is an important organic dye widely used in textile, dyeing, printing, pesticide, and coating for paper stock [1]. Due to its aromatic ring, methylene blue is highly toxic and very difficult to degrade [2].

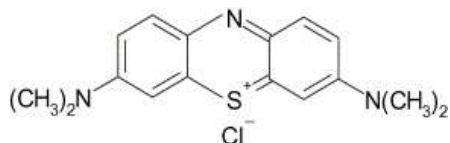


Figure 1. Molecular structure of Methylene Blue.

Various diseases (cancer, mutation, dermatological diseases, etc.) can be seen in case of contact with methylene blue dye. Consequently, the removal of such pollutant matters is exceedingly important for human life and the protection of the environment [3, 4].

Several physical, chemical and biological methods are used for the removal of dye [5]. Adsorption is the method of choice and gives the best result as it can be used to remove different types of dye [6, 7]. A great deal of low-cost adsorbents, including natural minerals, biosorbents, and waste materials from agriculture and industry, have been used by several researchers. These materials could be used as adsorbents for the removal of dyes from solution [8]. The most used adsorbents are carbon [9], zeolite [10], clay [11], diatomite [12], composites [13] and natural polymers [14] and synthetic polymers [15, 16, 17]. Polymers are mainly preferred due to changeable structural properties according to target species. Selectivity of polymer adsorbents can be increased by using specific molecules having functional groups. Selectivity of polymer adsorbents can be increased by using specific molecules having functional groups [18].

Diatomite ($SiO_2 \cdot nH_2O$), a siliceous sedimentary rock available in abundance in various locations around the world, has admitted such as large surface area, porosity, high permeability, high small particle size, low thermal conductivity and chemical inertness. Diatomite can use as low cost mineral for the removal of pollutants from wastewater [19, 20].

The aim of the present investigation, a new composite material, PAA-D, was to develop as adsorbent for the removal of methylene blue from an aqueous solution.

2. EXPERIMENTAL

2.1. Reagents

The raw diatomite used in this study was supplied as a natural mineral from Akmin Mining, Ankara (Turkey). Methylene blue, acrylamide monomer, N,N,N',N'-tetramethylethylenediamine, N,N'-methylenebisacrylamide, were purchased from Sigma. $UO_2(NO_3)_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ and the remaining of the chemicals were obtained from Merck. Ultra-pure water was used during all experiments. All chemicals used were of analytical reagent grade.

2.2. Characterization and instrumentations

The fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) analysis were done to study the functional groups in the range of $400-4000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ using modified FT-IR spectrophotometer (Bruker, Tensor II) in KBR pellets. The concentration of methylene blue was determined using of a UV-vis spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, Japan). A pH meter with a glass-calomel electrode (Selecta, Spain) was used to measure the pH values. A centrifuge (Hettich Universal) was used to accelerate the phase separation. A thermostated water bath (NuveNT 120, Turkey) was used in order to keep constant the temperature.

2.3. Preparation of new composite, PAA-D

For synthesis of PAA-D, a aquatic solution containing 2 g of D in 40 mL was added on to 10 mL of 10 g acrylamide monomer solution and 0.2 g of dissolved crosslinker (N,N'-methylenebisacrylamide) in 10 mL of water and then stirred vigorously for 30 second. Then, 100 mg of ammonium persulphate was added as starter agent. Polymerization reaction was sustained by adding 200 μ L of N,N,N',N'-tetramethylethylenediamine at room temperature. The obtained new composite was washed with ultra-pure water for several times in order to remove non-grafted reagents. After then, it was dried, ground, and sieved by obtaining a homogeneous material.

2.4. Determination of methylene blue in the solution and Adsorption studies

The concentration of methylene blue was determined by absorbance measurement of UV-vis spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, Japan) at 665 nm. After a calibration graph was plotted, the concentration of methylene blue was determined in the supernatants.

Adsorptive features of the developed adsorbent were investigated for MB. For this purpose, 0.1 g of the adsorbent were equilibrated with 10 mL of MB in the concentration range of $(0.78 - 7.8) \times 10^{-4}$ mol L⁻¹. The adsorbent-solution systems were equilibrated for 24 h at 298 K in a thermostatic water-bath and equilibrium solutions aqueous phase were obtained by centrifuging at

2.500 rpm for 5 min. The concentration of MB was determined by absorbance measurement.

2.5. Point of zero charge and pH dependence of adsorption

Points of zero charge (PZC) of new composite material were determined by following the change of pH at initial and final solutions in presence of 0.1 M KNO₃. 0.1 g of adsorbent was interacted with 10 mL of 0.1 M KNO₃ solutions having a pH in the range of 1–12 for 24 h. 0.1 M of HCl or NaOH were used for pH adjustments. Final pHs of samples solutions were measured by using a pH meter. The graph was plotted using initial versus final pH_f and point of zero charge was determined by the obtained experimental results. For determination of pH effect on adsorption of 4.7×10^{-4} mol L⁻¹ MB pH_i of solutions was adjusted in the range of 1–9. The equilibrium concentrations of the samples were determined by absorbance measurement.

3. RESULT and DISCUSSION

3.1. Characterization of new material

The characterization of new material was carried out by FTIR technical. The FTIR spectra of PAA, D, PAA-D and PAA-D-MB structures were compared in Fig.2. When it was analyzed the FT-IR spectra belong to PAA, D, PAA-D and PAA-D-MB structures, it can be seen that the desired PAA-D material was obtained successfully.

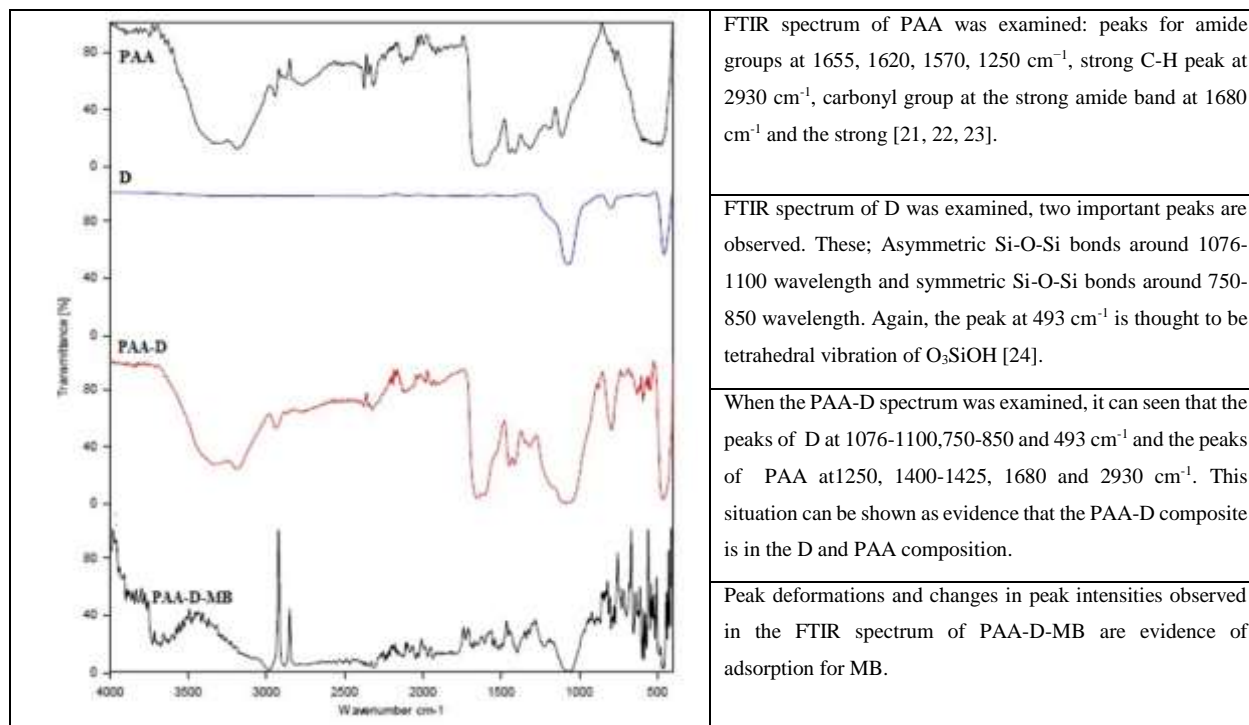


Figure 2. FTIR Spectra of PAA, D, PAA-D and MB adsorbed PAA-D.

3.2. Influence of pH to adsorption

A series of solutions having different pH in the range of 1–7 were prepared by using diluted HCl and NaOH. Test tubes including 100 mg of PAA-D and 150 mg L^{-1} MB were treated with these solutions. pH is one of the main parameters effecting the achievement of adsorption process. Because, both surface charge of adsorbent and ionic charges of species in the medium are depend on pH. The mobility of the other ions in the medium is affected by concentration of H_3O^+ ions. Moreover, it also affects interest and capacity of adsorbent for target species. As seen in Fig.3., the MB removal with PAA-D strongly depends on the pH change of the solution. As can be seen, the most suitable pH for MB was pH:7. At low pH, MB^+ and H_3O^+ ions have a competitive substitution between -OH and other functional groups on PAA-D, resulting in a decrease in MB^+ adsorption as H_3O^+ ions predominate. As a result, there is an interaction

between the OH^- groups and the negative groups on the adsorbent. Due to the negative charge increases on the adsorbent, there is an electrostatic attraction between MB^+ and negatively charged groups, as a result of which adsorption is increased. Point of zero electric charge (PZC) experiments also showed that surface charge of adsorbent is negative beyond pH 4.97 and positive the pHs below 4.97 Fig. 4. So, surface charge is going to negative by increasing pH. Then, as expected adsorption of cationic dye increased in these pH values. This cationic dye can compete with H_3O^+ ions and this competition is more at low pHs. This affect decreases with increasing pH.

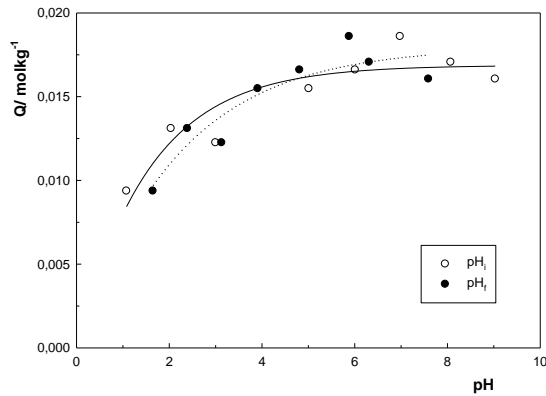


Figure 3. pH dependence of MB adsorption.

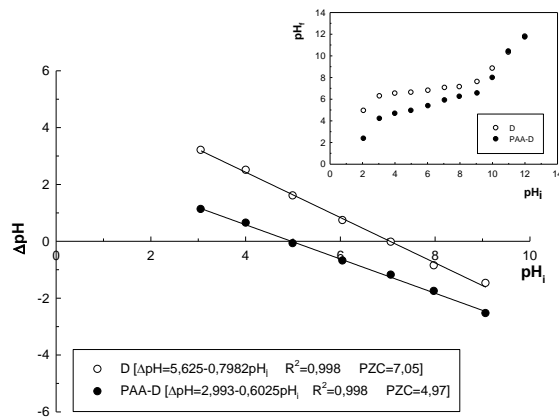


Figure 4. PZC plots of D and PAA-D.

3.3. Adsorption isotherms

The adsorption isotherms obtained from experimental results and harmony of this data with theoretical adsorption models (Langmuir, Freundlich, and DR) were illustrated in Fig.5. The required equations and calculated parameters for these models were given in Table 2. Non-linear regression method was applied to

results in order to see the harmony between experimental results and theoretical models. From the Langmuir model, the monolayer adsorption capacity was found to be $0.019 \text{ mol kg}^{-1}$ and the K_L , which is a measure of adsorption desirability, was found to be 1620 L mol^{-1} . As a results of this study, the experimental results are suitable with L-Type adsorption isotherm by considering Giles classification. In view of R^2 values which show the harmony of results to adsorption model, the best explanation for adsorption can be given with Freundlich model. Freundlich model explains the tendency of adsorption as hyperbolic plot and submits important information about heterogeneity of surface. n value which in the range of 0 and 1 is accepted as a measure of this heterogeneity [25]. From the Freundlich model, K_F 0.075 , which is a measure of the adsorption capacity, and n surface heterogeneity were 0.176 . If n is less than 1, surface heterogeneity is increased and the adsorbent is suitable for dye removal.

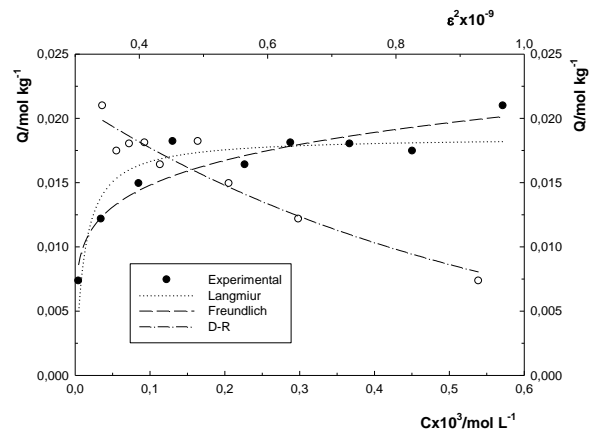


Figure 5. Experimentally obtained adsorption isotherms MB and their compatibility to Langmuir, Freundlich and D-R models.

Table 1. Mathematical equation of isotherm models and adsorption parameters.

Model	Equation	Parameters		
Langmiur	$Q_e = Q_L K_L C_e / (1 + K_L C_e)$	$Q_L / \text{mol kg}^{-1}$	$K_L / \text{L mol}^{-1}$	R^2
		0.019	1620	0.843
Freundlich	$Q_e = K_F C_e^n$	K_F	n	
		0.0752	0.18	0.892
D-R	$Q_e = Q_{DR} e^{-K_{DR} \epsilon^2}$	Q_{DR}	$K_{DR} \times 10^9$	$E_{DR} / \text{kJ mol}^{-1}$
		0.0336	18.0	18.0
				0.909

Q_L : Langmuir monolayer adsorption capacity, (mol kg^{-1}), K_L : Langmuir adsorption equilibrium constant (L mol^{-1}), K_F : Freundlich constants, Intensity of adsorption, n : (n represents the heterogeneity of the adsorptive surface), Q_{DR} : DR adsorption capacity (mol kg^{-1}), DR constant related to the sorption energy, K_{DR} ($\text{mol}^2 \text{K J}^{-2}$), ϵ : Polanyi potential given with, $\epsilon = RT \ln(1 + 1/C_e)$, T : absolute temperature, (298 K), R : Ideal gas constant ($8.314 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$), Free energy change (E : J mol^{-1}) required to transfer one mole of ion from the infinity in the solution to the solid surface was then derived from $E = (2 K_{DR})^{-1/2}$.

3.4. Adsorption kinetics

The kinetics results for MB adsorption on PAA-D are shown in Fig.6. Adsorption kinetic models were used to analyze the adsorption rate and determine the rate-controlling mechanism of the adsorption process. Kinetic data were analyzed by using pseudo first order (Lagergren Equation), pseudo second order and Weber Morris diffusion models to evaluate the adsorption mechanism and characteristics and the derived parameters are presented in Table 2.

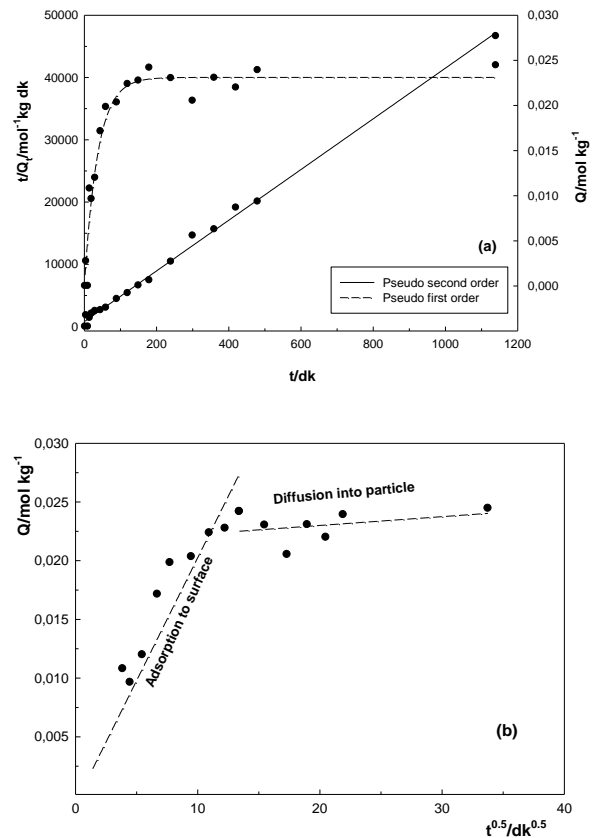


Figure 6. Experimentally obtained adsorption kinetics (a) pseudo first order model and pseudo second order model (b) Weber Morris model.

Table 2. Mathematical equations of kinetic models and kinetic parameters of adsorption.

Model	Equation	Parameters				
Pseudo first order	$q_t = q_e [1 - e^{-k_1 t}]$	Q_{exp}	Q_e	k_1	R^2	$H \times 10^4$
Pseudosecond order	$q_t = t / [(1/k_2 q_e^2) + (t/q_e)]$	0.027	0.038	0.027	0.954	0.144
		Q_{exp}	Q_e	k_2	R^2	$H \times 10^4$
Intraparticle diffusion	$q_t = k_t t^{1/2}$	0.025	0.038	2.059	0.996	12.4
		-	-	k_i	R^2	
		-	-	2.093×10^{-3}	0.881	

q_t : The adsorbed amounts at time t , (mol kg^{-1}), q_e : The adsorbed amounts at equilibrium (mol kg^{-1}), k_1 (dk^{-1}), k_2 ($\text{mol}^{-1} \text{kg min}^{-1}$), and k_i ($\text{mol kg}^{-1} \text{min}^{-1}$) are the rate constants, initial adsorption rate, H ($\text{mol kg}^{-1} \text{min}$) for pseudo second order is also calculated from $H = k_2 Q_e^2$.

It was observed that R^2 values, which show the harmony of experimental data to model, greatly deviated from pseudo second order model. So, it is impossible to explain the adsorption kinetic with this model. The R^2 values belong the other model were more suitable to evaluate the kinetic mechanism of adsorption. Kinetic evaluation can also be performed by comparing the ratio of pseudo first and second rate constants (k_1/k_2) with the fill ratio $[\theta_e = (K_L C_0) / (1 + K_L C_0)]$, with Langmuir parameter (K_L) and initial concentration (C_0) [26]. The adsorption $k_1/k_2 \geq Q_e$ is defined as the first order, $k_1/k_2 \ll Q_e$ and the second order kinetics. According to the results of this research, adsorption kinetics is pseudo second order kinetic for MB; for MB, $Q_e = 0.432$ and $k_1/k_2 = 0.013$.

In order to deeply investigate the diffusion of MB onto the PAA-D composite, the intraparticle diffusion model was used to analyze the diffusion mechanism during the adsorption process. The adsorption of MB into PAA-D can be divided into two consecutive stages. The first stage is the external diffusion stage with interparticle diffusion. The second stage features more gradual adsorption and is controlled by intraparticle diffusion. Results showed that the adsorption of MB on PAA-D structure can be explained with

pseudo second order models. The surface of adsorbent is quickly filled at initial by chemical interactions and then intraparticle diffusion process starts slowly.

3.5. Adsorption thermodynamics

As shown in Fig.7., the adsorption capacity increased at higher temperature, implying adsorption was an endothermic process. In order to evaluate the effect of temperature on adsorption process, the thermodynamic parameters were calculated by the Van't Hoff equation [27]. The enthalpy change (ΔH^0) and entropy change (ΔS^0) can be calculated from the equation: The distribution coefficients (K_d) were derived from $K_d = Q/C_e$. $\ln K_d = -(\Delta H^0/RT) + (\Delta S^0/R)$. The Gibbs free energy change (ΔG^0) can be calculated from the following equation: $\Delta G^0 = \Delta H^0 - T\Delta S^0$.

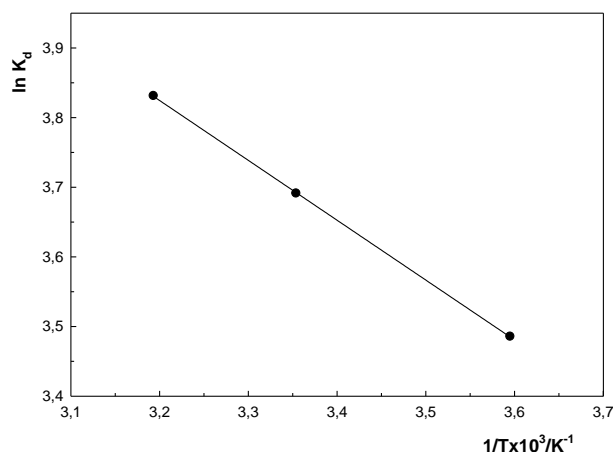


Figure 7. The effect of temperature on MB adsorption.

Table 3. Thermodynamic parameters of adsorption.

$\Delta H^0/\text{kJmol}^{-1}$	$\Delta S^0/\text{Jmol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$	$\Delta G^0/\text{kJmol}^{-1}$	R^2
7.15	54.7	-9.15	0.999

The thermodynamic parameters were calculated and are showed in Table 3. The positive value of ΔH^0 (7.15 kJmol^{-1}) indicates that the adsorption reaction is endothermic. The negative value of ΔG^0 suggests that adsorption is a spontaneous process and at higher temperature adsorption was more favorable. The value of ΔS^0 was 54.7

Table 4. Comparison of various composite adsorbent for removal of MB.

Adsorbent	Capacity (mol kg^{-1})	References
Bentonite/zeolite-NaP composite	0.113	[27]
Graphene/magnetite composite	0.137	[28]
Chitosan-clay composite	0.444	[29]
Attapulgit/bentonite composite	0.298	[30]
Graphene oxide/calcium alginate composite	0.568	[31]
Polypyrrole/ TiO_2 composite	0.854	[32]
Crosslinked Chitosan/Bentonite composite	0.298	[33]
Cross-linked chitosan/sepiolite composite	0.128	[34]
Polyaniline nanotubes base/silica composite	0.032	[35]
Polyacrylamide/diatomite composite	0.019	This study

J/molK^{-1} , indicating that the adsorption increased randomly at the solid-solute interface.

3.6. Effect of Ionic strength to adsorption

The effect of ionic strength on the MB adsorption of PAA-D was investigated for KNO_3 inclusions in the range of 0.1-1.0 mol L^{-1} concentration of 150 mg L^{-1} MB solution and the results are showed in Fig.8. The increase in ambient ionic strength due to KNO_3 concentration shows that MB adsorption does not affect much.

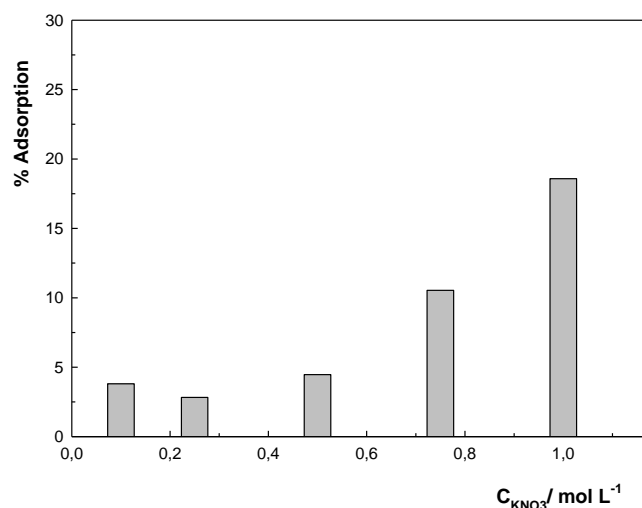


Figure 8. The effect of ionic strenght on MB adsorption.

4. CONCLUSION

In this study, polyacrylamide diatomite composite (PAA-D) were synthesized by crosslinking them with N,N'-methylenebisacrylamide and the material was used as a potential adsorbent for removal of MB. Adsorption of MB from aqueous solution as a function of MB concentration, pH, time, temperature and ionic strength of adsorbent was investigated. Then, the adsorption data were analyzed and evaluated by conventional model (Langmuir, Freundlich and D-R models). As a result of experimental studies, it was found that adsorption process goes with L-type adsorption model and the maximum adsorption capacity of adsorbent was calculated as $0.019 \text{ mol kg}^{-1}$ based on Langmuir model. The constants calculated from Freundlich and DR model were found as 0.0752 and 0.0336, respectively. The obtained results were explained in the related sections. The kinetic mechanism of adsorption was also studied by using various kinetic model such as pseudo second order, pseudo second order and intraparticle diffusion. Thermodynamic parameters were determined and commented in the related sections. Results showed that adsorption process is endothermic and spontaneously. A table was added in order to compare the proposed method with literature. As can be seen in Table 4, the adsorption capacity of new material is comparable with the other material. New developed material can be used as potential adsorbent to removal of MB from various medium such as, drinking waters, industrial wastewaters etc.

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