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Hydroacid magnetic nanoparticles in forward osmosis for seawater desalination and efficient regeneration via integrated magnetic and membrane separations

Qingchun Ge ^{a,*}, Liming Yang ^b, Jiazi Cai ^a, Wenxuan Xu ^a, Qiaozhen Chen ^a, Minghua Liu ^{a,*}

^a College of Environment and Resources, Fuzhou University, Fujian 350116, China.

^b Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, National University of Singapore, 4 Engineering Drive 4, Singapore 117576, Singapore

qcge2015@fzu.edu.cn

mhliu2000@fzu.edu.cn

*Corresponding author. Tel.: +0086-0591-22866219; +0086-0591-22866087.

ABSTRACT

A series of novel magnetic nanoparticles (MNPs) with various sizes for forward osmosis (FO) applications were synthesized via a one-pot reaction under mild conditions. The newly developed MNPs are coated with three different hydroacids (citric acid, oxalic acid and EDTA) carrying abundant carboxylic groups which could make the hydroacid-MNPs highly dispersible and ionizable in water. These features enable the aqueous solutions of hydroacid-MNPs to produce osmotic pressures and FO water fluxes comparable to the traditional draw solutions yet with a negligible reverse flux. The experimental results indicate that better FO performance was achieved when the hydroacid-MNPs with smaller sizes were applied to the FO process. With the model seawater of 3.5 wt% NaCl as the feed solution, the citric acid coated MNPs produced a water flux of 8.5 LMH, which is much higher than those reported for MNPs draw solutes applied in FO for seawater desalination. Additionally, the hydroacid-MNPs were readily regenerated

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