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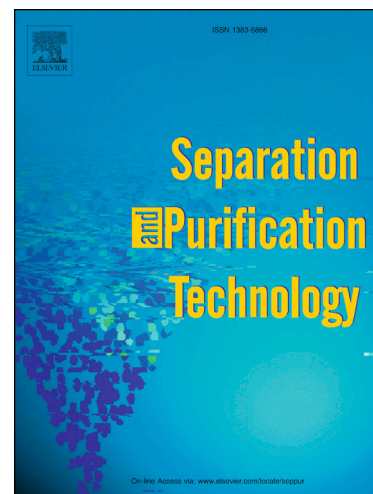
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Underwater superoleophobic/underoil superhydrophobic corn cob coated meshes for on-demand oil/water separation

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Abstract

The separation of water/oil mixtures is extensively required due to the expanding industrial oily wastewater and frequent oil spill accidents, exciting the development of facile and efficient oil/water separation technologies. In this study, corn cob powders (CCPs) coated meshes with underwater superoleophobicity and underoil superhydrophobicity were successfully fabricated by a facile spraying-coating method, which can be used for on-demand immiscible oil/water mixtures separation without any additional chemical treatment. Thus, both separation modes (oil-blocking or water-blocking) in one single device were achieved for selective oil/water separation regardless of the heavy oil or light oil involved in the mixtures. The oil-blocking mode with underwater superoleophobicity allows water in light oil/water mixtures to permeate, while the water-blocking mode with underoil superhydrophobicity letting heavy oil to permeate. In addition, the high separation efficiencies larger than 99.9 % for a series of oil/water mixtures were achieved in the single device with the driving-force only its gravity. Moreover, the coated meshes showed robust

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