Accepted Manuscript

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PII:	S0960-8524(18)30348-1
DOI:	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2018.03.010
Reference:	BITE 19649
To appear in:	Bioresource Technology
Received Date:	29 January 2018
Revised Date:	28 February 2018
Accepted Date:	1 March 2018



Please cite this article as: Zhang, J., An, Y., Borrion, A., He, W., Wang, N., Chen, Y., Li, G., Process characteristics for microwave assisted hydrothermal carbonization of cellulose, *Bioresource Technology* (2018), doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2018.03.010

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Process characteristics for microwave assisted hydrothermal carbonization of cellulose

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1. Introduction

Hydrothermal carbonization (HTC) as a promising technology for biomass enhancement (Kambo and Dutta, 2014; Kim et al., 2016; Lynam et al., 2014), and organic waste treatment (Berge et al., 2011; Goto et al., 2004; Lu et al., 2012) has gained significant attention in recent years. HTC is a novel thermal conversion process under relatively low temperature(180-350°C) for conversion of waste streams to valueadded products (Berge et al., 2015). During this process, energy is maintained within solid product known as 'hydrochar' (Lu et al., 2012) to obtain better energy properties and maximize the added value of recovery products (Fava et al., 2015). Cellulose as the most copious natural raw material and one of the basic constituents of lignocellulosic materials(Suhas et al., 2016), has been studied widely as an ideal feedstock for process analysis(Lu et al., 2013) and kinetics study(Álvarez-Murillo et al., 2016) of HTC treatment.

The early mechanism of HTC proposed by Sevilla and Fuertes (2009) indicated that the formation of hydrochar from HTC of cellulose generally followed a series of reactions,

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