

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0167-7322(18)31851-8
DOI: doi:[10.1016/j.molliq.2018.06.055](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molliq.2018.06.055)
Reference: MOLLIQ 9253
To appear in: *Journal of Molecular Liquids*
Received date: 8 April 2018
Revised date: 10 June 2018
Accepted date: 13 June 2018

Please cite this article as: Mohamed E. Mahmoud, Maher M. Osman, Amr A. Yakout, Amir M. Abdelfattah , Water and soil decontamination of toxic heavy metals using aminosilica-functionalized-ionic liquid nanocomposite. Molliq (2018), doi:[10.1016/j.molliq.2018.06.055](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molliq.2018.06.055)

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Water and Soil Decontamination of Toxic Heavy Metals using Aminosilica-Functionalized-Ionic Liquid Nanocomposite

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Abstract

A chemical modification method is presented to establish a surface functionalization procedure of amino modified nanosilica (NS-amine) with 1-(3-cyanopropyl)-3-methylimidazolium-bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl) type of ionic liquid, $[\text{CN-C}_3\text{-MIm}]^+[\text{NTf}_2]^-$ for the formation of a novel NS-amine-IL nanocomposite. Based on the TEM analysis and DLS technique, the diameter of the proposed nanocomposite was found 25.4 ± 0.8 nm. The designed NS-amine-IL nanocomposite was additionally characterized using FT-IR, XRD, EDX, TGA, SEM and Zeta potential. The sequestration performance of NS-amine-IL was investigated for remediation of bivalent lead and cadmium ions from aqueous solutions. The effects of medium acidity, contact time, NS-amine-IL dosage, interfering ions, temperature and initial adsorbates concentrations on the removal processes of investigated cations were excessively studied. The maximum extraction values of Pb(II) and Cd(II) were recorded at pH 4-5 and pH 7, respectively. The thermodynamic profiles of the adsorption process were searched at optimal conditions. The adsorption processes were feasibly endothermic and fitted well with the Langmuir isotherm and *pseudo*-second-order kinetics equation. The experimental data indicated that the novel nanocomposite was a promising material for the extraction of both metal ions from wastewater and soil samples with determined recoveries $98.0\text{-}99.0\% \pm 4.9$.

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