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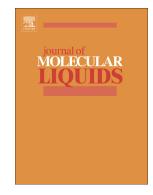
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Optimization of humic acid removal by adsorption onto Bentonite and Montmorillonite nanoparticles

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Abstract:

Nanoclays are low cost and non-toxic materials with high adsorption capacity for the removal of various contaminants from water. In this study the efficiency of two nanoclays was examined for the adsorption of humic acid under batch conditions. The effect of various parameters such as pH_{zpc}, pH, contact time, humic acid initial concentration and adsorbent dosage was studied. The adsorption data regarding compliance with pseudo first and pseudo second order kinetics was studied. The thermodynamically aspects of adsorption was also investigated. Characterization of the adsorbents was determined by the analytical methods including Field Emission-Scanning Electron Microscopy (FE-SEM), Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) and X-ray Diffraction (XRD).

The results of this study showed that the nanoparticles examined were proven most effective in removing humic acid from aqueous solutions at pH=3. Adsorption capacity increased by increasing the humic acid concentrations so adsorption capacity of bentonite and montmorillonite nanoparticles at humic acid concentration of 40 mg/L, reached to 58.21 and 48.20 mg/g, respectively. The results showed that adsorption process follows the Freundlich isotherm as well as pseudo-second order kinetics. The results of temperature and thermodynamic process showed that ΔS° values were positive for both absorbents and ΔH° values were negative, but the values of ΔG° became more negative with temperature decrease. The results lead to the conclusion that nanoclays are appropriate adsorbents for removing humic acid from aqueous solutions.

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