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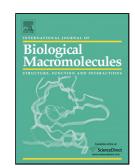
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Adsorption of Zn(II) ions by chitosan coated diatomaceous earth

Suhaib S. Salih^{1,2}, Tushar K. Ghosh³

- 1-Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Missouri, United States.
- 2- Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Tikrit, Iraq.
- 3- Department of Nuclear Science & Engineering Institute, University of Missouri-Columbia, 416 S. Sixth Street, E 2434 Lafferre Hall, Columbia, Missouri 65211, United States.

Abstract

In this work, chitosan coated diatomaceous earth (CCDE) beads were synthesized by a dropwise method and characterized by FTIR, BET, SEM, EDS, and zeta potential for Zn(II) ion
removal from aqueous solution in batch and continuous processes. Several parameters have
been studied such as solution-pH, initial Zn(II) ion concentration, temperature, flow rate, and
contact time to investigate the Zn(II) ion uptake. The maximum adsorption capacity of Zn(II)
ion onto CCDE beads was 127.4 mg/g in batch studies. The adsorption followed Pseudo
second order and was well fitted to Langmuir model, indicating monolayer adsorption
behavior. The continuous adsorption studies showed decreasing breakthrough and exhausted
time with increasing flow rate of solution. The breakthrough points were 220 and 115 min at
flow rate 3 and 6 mL/min, respectively. Loaded CCDE beads with Zn(II) ions were
successfully regenerated by 0.2M NaOH without damaging the adsorbents and up to 87 %
recovery in the fourth cycle. Anions in the solution had an insignificant effect on Zn(II) ion
uptake by CCDE beads. Overall results suggested that the prepared adsorbents could be

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