



## Phosphonium Grounded Ionic Liquid Influenced in Graphene Oxide Enabled to Magnetic Polysulfone (GO/Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@PSF) for the Elimination of 2,4-Dichlorophenol

M.S. MANOJKUMAR<sup>1,\*</sup> and B. SIVAPRAKASH<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Biotechnology, Vivekanandha College of Engineering for Women (Autonomous), Namakkal-637205, India

<sup>2</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar-608002, India

\*Corresponding author: E-mail: msmanojkumar1987@gmail.com

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The phase separation technique was used to create magnetic polysulfone facilitated to graphene oxide (GO/Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@PSF) entrapped with the phosphonium-based ionic liquid which removes the phenolic content from aqueous medium. Scanning electron microscopy, Brunauer-Emmett-Teller, Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy and thermogravimetric analysis were used to characterize the supplement and the immobilization of trihexyltetradecylphosphonium decanoate as ionic liquid in magnetic polysulfone assisted GO was ascertained to be 83.3%. Adsorbent analysis revealed that the established granules have the ability to remove a wide range of phenolic compounds. The strongest expulsion of 2,4-dichlorophenol (2,4-DCP) has been accomplished among pH 2.0 and 11. At 25-70 °C had no substantial influences on adsorbent, displaying the adsorbent's suitability for use with genuine effluents. Sorption capacity evidenced that the pathway takes place in second order and the Weber-Morris template constrained the adsorbent limiter as adsorbate molecules. The Redlich-Peterson concept was indeed the great candidate for the experimental evidence, with a significance of 0.82 approaching the Langmuir isotherm model, which also acquired a  $q_{max}$  of 404.50 mg/g. As a method of gathering data, these supplements have the great promise to be used in the treatment of phenolic compound caused environmental contamination.

**Keywords:** Phosphonium ionic liquid, 2,4-Dichlorophenol, Weber Morris model, Langmuir isotherm.

### INTRODUCTION

Environmental damage from phenolic elements in aquatic ecosystems encompasses a wide array of sources, including industrial effluents from various sectors, including gasoline, petroleum products, fuel transformation, varnishes, synthetic polymer epoxy and the paper industry [1-4]. Such additives harm the health by adversely impacting the nervous system, digestive tract, eye-lids, cardiovascular system, respiratory system, and spleen, as well as causing toxic effect, histological changes, genotoxicity and carcinogenic effects [5-7].

Effluent containing phenolic compounds should be addressed before it can be used or disposed into accepting waterways. In addition to the inherent substances, use of pesticide 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) across many agro based crop production results in the formation of 2,4-dichlorophenol (2,4-DCP) substance during degradation. Unquestionably, there is a significant environmental factor while looking for alternatives to phenolic component reduction approaches. Several methods

used to remove these phenolic compounds from the aqueous phase, including disintegration adsorbents, separation and purification, enzyme degradation and photocatalytic degradation [8].

Adsorption is a technique for removing contaminants from aqueous phase. Charcoal, recycled fibers and polyurethanes have mostly been studied as adsorbent materials. The features of these adsorbents are their convenience of separation, uptake capacity and supplemented [9]. Even though, there are huge obstacles, including such intraparticle diffusion strength and inadequate adhesion. Fluid separation, on the other hand, has a high adsorption capability. Polymeric membrane, encapsulating feature extraction methods have been employed to combine multiple areas [10].

Graphene is also being used as an adsorption process inside the basic premise of this methodology, due to its extreme large surface area, outstanding chemical reliability and good thermal stability [11]. The graphene oxide polymeric hybrid catalyst, which had fascinated the attention of many researchers due to

their excellent achievement and wide range of applications [12]. Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/graphene composites, as one category of graphene hybrid material, were used as governed targeted drug carriers [13], toxic elements and colourant separation [14], magnetic resonance imaging [15], *etc.*

Due to their superior chemical and thermal stability, porous structural arrangement in their morphological features, and biocompatibility, polysulfone polymer (PSF) has an advantage in many industries of feedstocks [16]. In order to fully participate, neither the finding of phosphonium-based immobilised in membranes nor the existence of shells has been revealed. As a result, with the goal of incorporating the intriguing features in addition to phenolic compound discharge and the convenience of detachment of polymeric capsules facilitated graphene oxide along magnetite in reactors (GO/Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@PSF), the primary objective of this research has been to immobilize a phosphonium based ionic liquid, trihexyl tetradecyl phosphonium decanoate ([P<sub>66614</sub>][C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>19</sub>COO]), in highly permeable magnetic polysulfone capsules facilitated graphene oxide to appraise the discharge of phenolic compounds in aqueous solution, with a focus on 2,4-dichlorophenol, predicated on the adsorption-desorption assertion.

## EXPERIMENTAL

**Synthesis of graphene oxide:** Augmented graphite was used for the synthesis of graphene oxide using the Hummer's static method. The procedure that was used is as follows: sodium nitrate (0.5 g) and potassium permanganate (0.3 g) were added to 98% sulphuric acid in an ice-cold basket. By constantly stirring, the expanded graphic substances was added and the rate of adding will be at normal so that the temperature will not increase suddenly. The resulted solution was sustained in an ice cube tray at 40 °C and stored in the refrigerator for over 24 h. Then the obtained result was placed in an oil bath at 350 °C for 30 min. Following that deionized water was added progressively to the mixture and the temperature was raised up to 98 °C for over 15 min. Then, 30% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> has added a dropwise under the observing the appearance of bubbles. Then the supernatant was kept aside and washed with 5% HCl and the deionized water is used to dissolve the excess acid. Then the results of substances were air-dried at room temperature.

**Graphene oxide assisted with magnetic polysulfone capsules:** By using the phase inversion precipitation method, GO/Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@PSF capsules were prepared [17]. In brief, a 15 mL of DMF solution containing polysulfonate capsules were prepared in a dispersed solution using ultrasonication process. Then 10 mg of ferrous oxide nanoparticles was added along with 10 mg of S-IPBA. Then at room temperature, the mixture is mixed well for over 2 h. By mixing the SDS aqueous solution with ethanol, the continuous phase was prepared. In the continuous phase, the dispersed solution was added with the help of a 0.45 mm diameter needle and a cylinder shaped capsule was obtained. And the obtained capsules were separated from the continuous phase with the help of a magnetic stirrer and washed lightly with distilled water and ethanol, 3 times for each capsule and then desiccated at 50 °C.

**Adsorption experiments:** The phenolic compound was organized in a reaction mixture containing 50 mg L<sup>-1</sup>. The supplements were being mixed into 100 mL of sample and continued to keep at 200 rpm for 5 h. The experiment was done in triplicate to estimate the accumulation at the beginning and at the finish of the test. The number of harmful substances in the adsorption experiment per gram of capsule, as per exponential function:

$$q_e = \frac{(C_o - C_e)V}{M} \quad (1)$$

where  $q_e$  = amount of phenolic substances adsorption per gram of capsule;  $C_o$  = original concentration of phenolic substances;  $C_e$  = steady-state concentration of phenolic substances;  $V$  = volume of solution;  $M$  = number of capsules.

The influences of solution pH and temperature have been examined in triplicate experimental tests, as well as the procured mean value has been differentiated using a Tukey test. The primed capsules (20 mg) were incubated for 5 h at 200 rpm in the mechanical shaker and then mixed with 2, 4-DCP solution. The evidence gathered in triplicate experimental tests were used to study the adsorption characteristics and isotherm evaluation.

**Influence pH of solution:** A suspension of 1000 mg L<sup>-1</sup> of 2,4-DCP was made and afterward separated into individual pieces through the use of fluids containing NaOH and HCl to maintain pH from 2 and 11. A pH meter was used to evaluate the pH. Then an oscillator was held at 21 °C with 5.0 mL of fluid and 20 mg of capsule.

**Influence of temperature:** The assessment with the microsphere containing 800 mg L<sup>-1</sup> 2, 4-DCP was used. The backing temperature has been used in this investigation were 25, 30, 40, 50 and 60 °C.

**Kinetic model of adhesion:** To examine the adsorption behaviour, a 1000 mg L<sup>-1</sup> 2,4-DCP was 30 mL, 125 mg of capsule was applied to measure the quantities of phenol contaminants were assessed at pre-determined time periods in standardized settings is 5 h for 200 rpm at 21 °C. The variables have been employed to develop pseudo-first and second-order, along with Weber-Morris's kinetics characteristics of adhesion.

**Adsorption equilibrium:** While dissolving capsule (50, 100, 200 and 300 mg) in 1000 mg L<sup>-1</sup> 2,4-DCP, the adsorbent has been established (15 mL). For 5 h, the adsorbed procedure was carried out at constant temperatures of 21 °C, with a pH of 6.50 and agitating at 200 rpm. The equilibrium adsorption modeling Langmuir, Freundlich and Redlich-Peterson have been used. An experiment was performed alone without ionic liquid to investigate the capsules' adhesion in 2,4-DCP solution, which served as an unreadable assay for the capsules.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Morphology:** Procured capsules were seen in Fig. 1a, with reliability in morphology and an estimated value size of 2, 74 mm and 0.17 mm, respectively. The SEM micrographs of the capsules either with or without ionic liquid are shown in Figs. 1a and b, respectively. Its first framework in Fig. 1a has a porous structure because when the encapsulated sub-

tance is examined, it has a smoother texture. The image of crosssection can be used to examine the internal morphology. Fig. 1c interprets a plain supplement with high porosity, whereas Fig. 1d depicted the encapsulated substance with morphological characteristics related to the plain capsule, which is fairly close to the encapsulated molecule's core structure, and thus improving the accessibility of the founded porous structure. Other researchers have also reported the similar polysulfone capsule surface characteristics [18].

**FTIR studies:** Fig. 2a illustrates the infrared spectra of polysulfone capsules revealed characteristic bands at  $1636\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The  $\text{GO}/\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{PSF}$  showed band appears at  $2346\text{ cm}^{-1}$  where the C-H stretching of carbonyl groups observed,  $1416\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1299\text{ cm}^{-1}$  shows stretching vibrations of O-S-O. Hence, the encapsulated substances produced an FT-IR spectral range that was similar to the genuine capsule in Fig. 2b but with an increase in binding affinity of  $1416\text{ cm}^{-1}$  of stretching in C-O,  $1299\text{ cm}^{-1}$  as stretching mode of P+O, whereas  $769\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is the frequency in stretching of P-C [19,20] is also observed.

**BET analysis:** Fig. 3a proves the approach of ionic liquid immobilization. The exterior region of the encapsulated ionic liquid was 95 times lower than the genuine capsule, indicating that the pore spaces have been filled, which would be respon-

sible for the decrease in the exterior region. This statement was supported by the pore space, which was reduced during the immobilization phase from  $0.0751\text{ cm}^3\text{g}^{-1}$  to  $0.0016\text{ cm}^3\text{g}^{-1}$ . And the pore diameter, on the other hand, expanded about two-fold, indicating that fairly small pore spaces have been packed during immobilization. The surface area, as per the fiction, is strongly attributable to the adsorption process. Even so, the capsule aspires to comprise the ionic liquid while having performed fluid retrieval, although, with different size relevance, the capsule with immobilization would then perform much better than the genuine capsule [21].

**Effect of pH:** The effect of pH in the solution is shown in Fig. 4a, upon the adsorbent of 2, 4-DCP toxicant produced by the capsule. It was probable to see that fluid was unfavorable for the adsorption process in an alkaline environment with a  $\text{pH} > 10$ . This is due to the negative ionic form of 2,4-DCP being ineffective for adsorption; the interparticle hydrogen adhesion among the -OH groups of 2,4-DCP as well as the phosphonium class in ionic liquid. Adsorbent surface volumes for them were comparable to  $220\text{ mg L}^{-1}$ , which was still nearer to some other mean values, which attained around  $240\text{ mg L}^{-1}$ . One such decrease could be attributed to the high electron at the studied pH values [22].

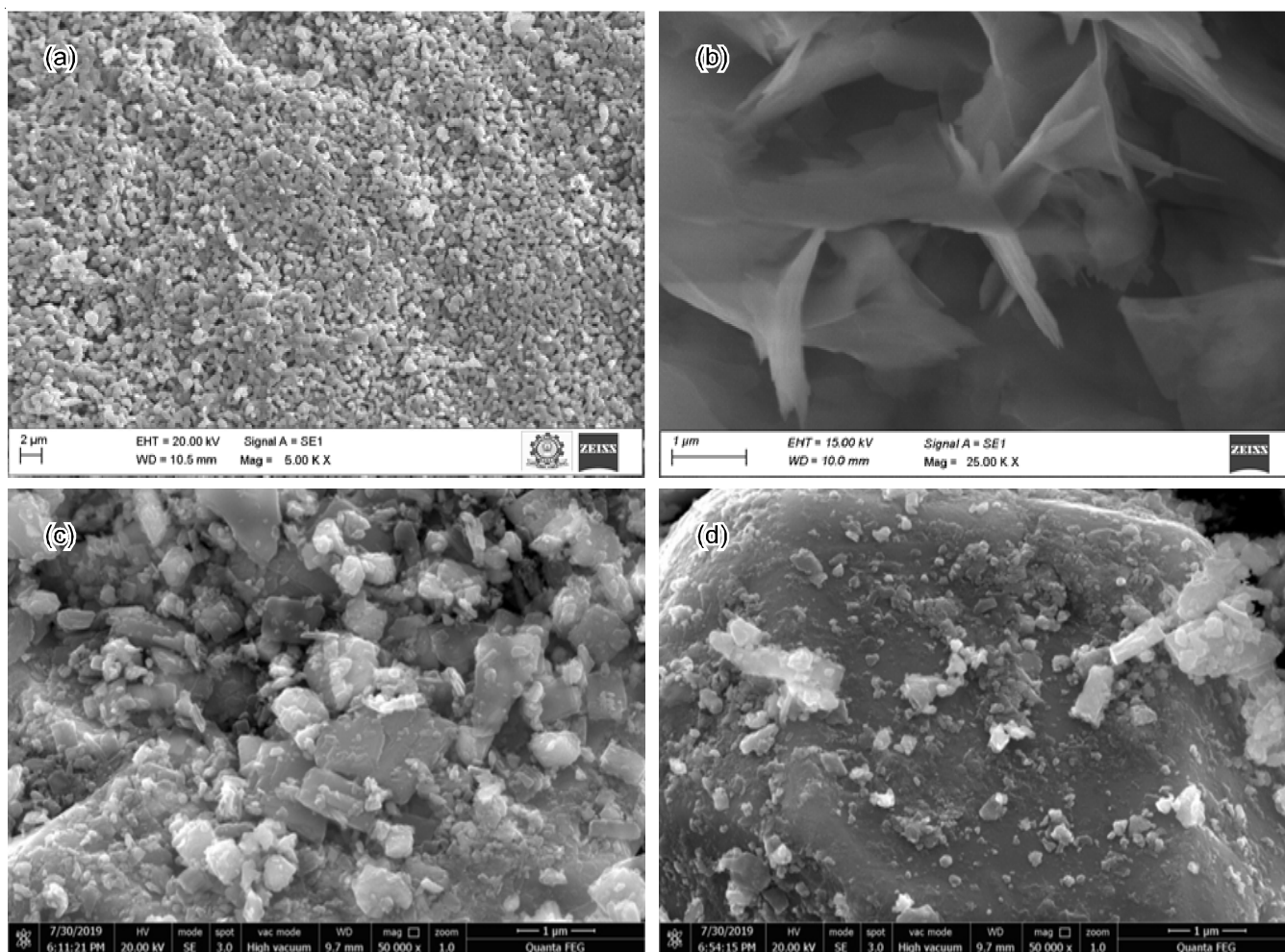


Fig. 1. SEM profile (a) polysulfone capsules, (b) graphene oxide/polysulfone, (c) graphene oxide/c, (d) graphene oxide/ $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ @polysulfone capsules



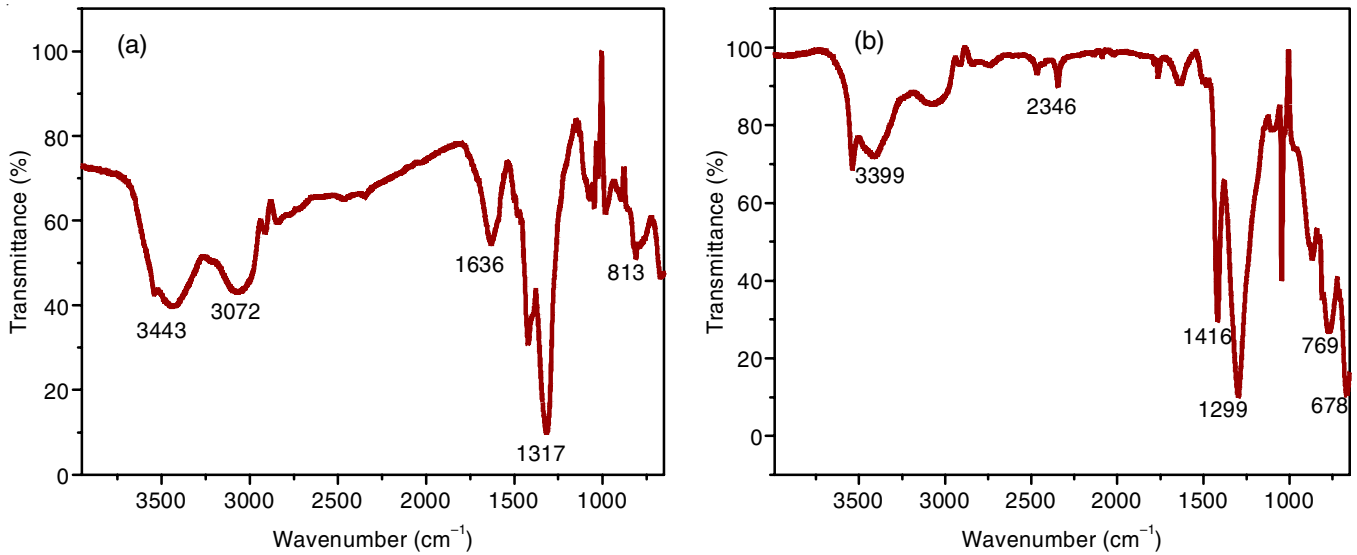


Fig. 2. (a) FTIR spectrum of poly-sulfone capsules (b) graphene oxide incorporate magnetic polysulfone capsules

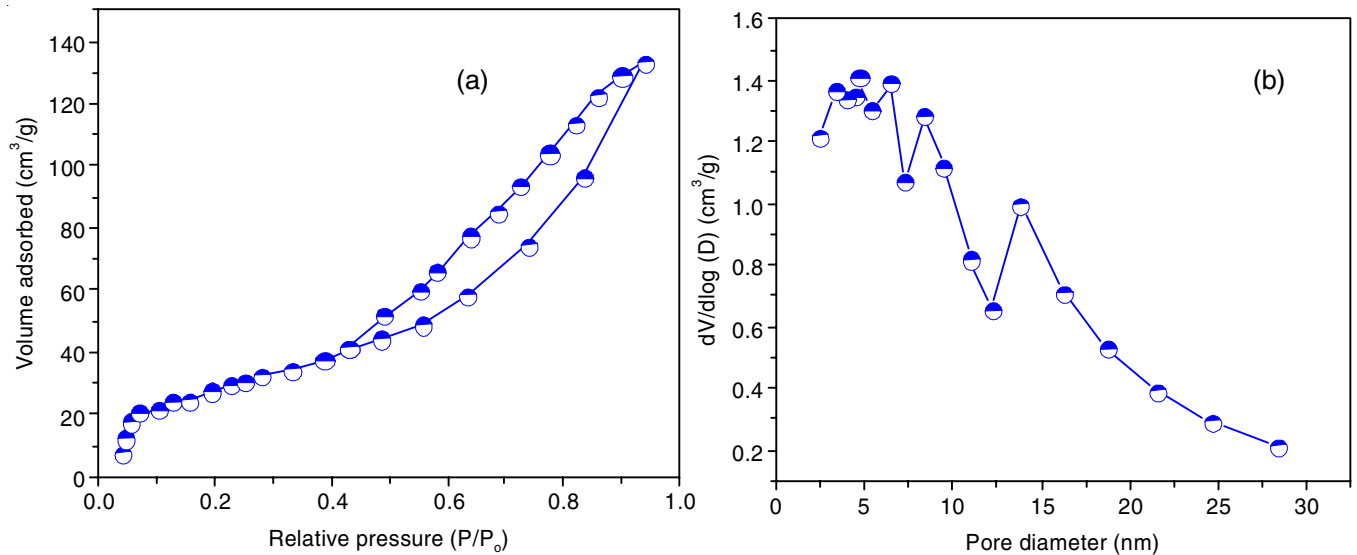


Fig. 3. (a) BET isotherm spectra (b) pore volume vs. pore diameter of graphene oxide incorporate magnetic polysulfone capsules

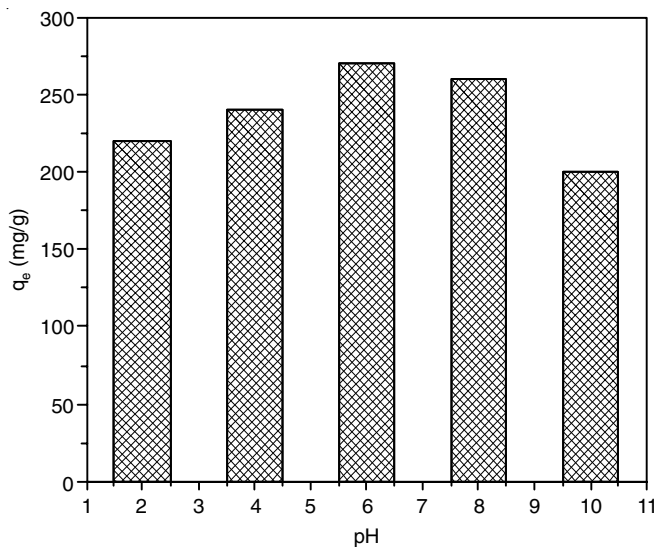


Fig. 4a. Effect of pH containing 2,4-DCP concentration

**Effect of temperature:** Fig. 4b shows that no substantial variations in the adsorbent’s mean values have been observed, exhibiting the validity of the system to polysulfone capsules in the range of temperature described. Since, when statistics are linearly regressed, the curve coefficient is lower, indicating that indeed greater the surface temperature, the lesser the quantity of charge in the capsules. It also demonstrated that the adsorption process is exothermic in nature.

**Adsorption kinetics:** A kinetic model has been assessed to examine the adsorption capability by using Lagergren linear model for PFO which would be the first-order, and characterizes the adhesion in liquid and solid arrangement depending upon the adsorption capabilities:

$$\frac{d(q_1)}{d(t)} = k_1(q_e - q_1) \tag{2}$$

where  $q_1$  is the amount of 2,4-DCP adsorbed on ionic liquid;  $q_e$  is the capacity of adsorption and  $k_1$  is the rate constant.

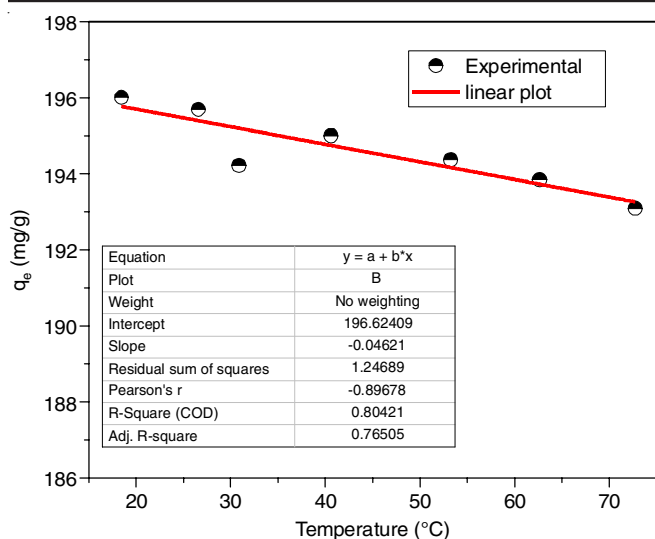


Fig. 4b. Influence of temperature in 2,4-DCP solution

Hence, the  $q_e$  is determined as  $0.0558 \text{ min}^{-1}$  and  $232.68 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$ , respectively for  $q_e$  and  $k_1$ , here  $R^2$  is 0.9261. Fig. 5 is used to identify the model by red lines and this shows the unsatisfactory results of a pseudo first-order reaction for the adsorption [22].

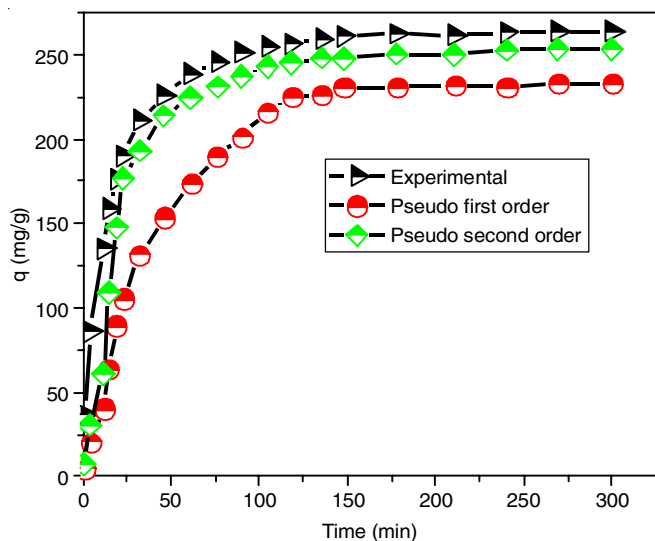


Fig. 5. Fitting of pseudo first order and pseudo second order model

Since the pseudo first-order model does not have any good relations with the experimental models, then the pseudo second-order kinetic model has been used, which is represented as follows:

$$\frac{d(q_t)}{d(t)} = k_2(q_e - q_t)^2 \quad (3)$$

where  $q_t$  is the amount of 2,4-DCP adsorbed on ionic liquid;  $q_e$  is the capacity of adsorption and  $k_1$  is the rate constant.

Using Fig. 5, the obtained parameter values of  $4.895 \times 10^{-4} \text{ min}^{-1}$  and  $263.16 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$ , respectively for  $q_e$  and  $k_2$ , and  $R^2$  is 0.9877, which signifies successful 2,4-DCP adsorption in the ionic liquid immobilization based on phosphonium.

**Weber-Morris design:** The adsorbent is known to facilitate the three phases: permeation through the porous medium, intraparticle permeation as well as adsorbents on the adsorbate molecules. The Weber-Morris design simplifies the pathway explained by exterior mass transport (boundary layer diffusion) as well as surface diffusion (eqn. 3):

$$q_t = K_D t^{0.5} + C \quad (4)$$

where  $k_D$  denotes the partition correlation ( $\text{mg g}^{-1} \text{ min}^{1/2}$ ) and  $C$  is the texture of flow separation. In fact, the larger  $C$  value, the stronger the influence of the fluid layers [23].

The Weber-Morris model can be utilized to perform this experiment and divided into two phases, as shown in Fig. 6. The linear regression model is designated to the province of molecular diffusion in the first step, which is deeply engaged in the control of the adsorption process and to the steady-state stage at the moment. In the linear regression, the first step is planned when the starts to close to the origin, which indicates that the intraparticle is starting to control the stage. The  $R^2$  value is equal to 0.9797 in phase 1, the  $K_D$  seem to be comparable to  $35.48 \text{ mg/g min}^{-1/2}$  and  $C$  to 9.031. After knowing that this phase is ruled by the adsorbed molecules the permeability might be calculated by using Weber Morris model (eqn. 5):

$$D = \frac{k_D r}{6q_e} \times \pi \quad (5)$$

where  $r$  = particle circle (cm),  $D$  = coefficient of adsorption. It was conceivable to see that they are from the same intensity when compared to the value corresponding to  $D$ , which is determined by the prototype of a pseudo-second-order model.

**Isotherm studies:** Three isotherm approaches *viz.* Langmuir, Freundlich and Redlich-Peterson were applied to analyze the adsorption behaviour in this study and are as follows: Langmuir's isotherm is represented as:

$$q_e = \frac{q_{\max} K_L C_e}{1 + K_L C_e} \quad (6)$$

where  $q_e$  represents the steady-state adsorption capability ( $\text{mg g}^{-1}$ ),  $q_{\max}$  represents the higher adsorbent capability ( $\text{mg g}^{-1}$ ), and  $C_e$  represents the equilibrium state of 2,4-DCP ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ ), and  $K_L$  represents the Langmuir constant ( $\text{L mg}^{-1}$ ).

A significant characteristic of Langmuir isotherm is the assessment of the mean difference ( $R_L$ ), which is defined as:

$$R_L = \frac{1}{1 + K_L C_e} \quad (7)$$

As a result, for desirable adsorbent,  $0 < R_L < 1$ ; for undesirable adsorbent,  $R_L > 1$ ; for regression adsorbent,  $R_L = 1$ ; and for irrecoverable adsorbent,  $R_L = 0$ . The diffusion coefficient of this study was found to be 0.0231, which indicate that the process was efficient and beneficial.

Freundlich isotherm model is described as:

$$q_e = K_F C_e^{1/a} \quad (8)$$

where  $q_e$  is adsorption isotherm's ability ( $\text{mg g}^{-1}$ ),  $K_F$  is sorbent strength index,  $C_e$  is an optimum concentration of 2,4-DCP and observable factor is  $n$ . According to this assertion, the process is referred to as physical adsorption.

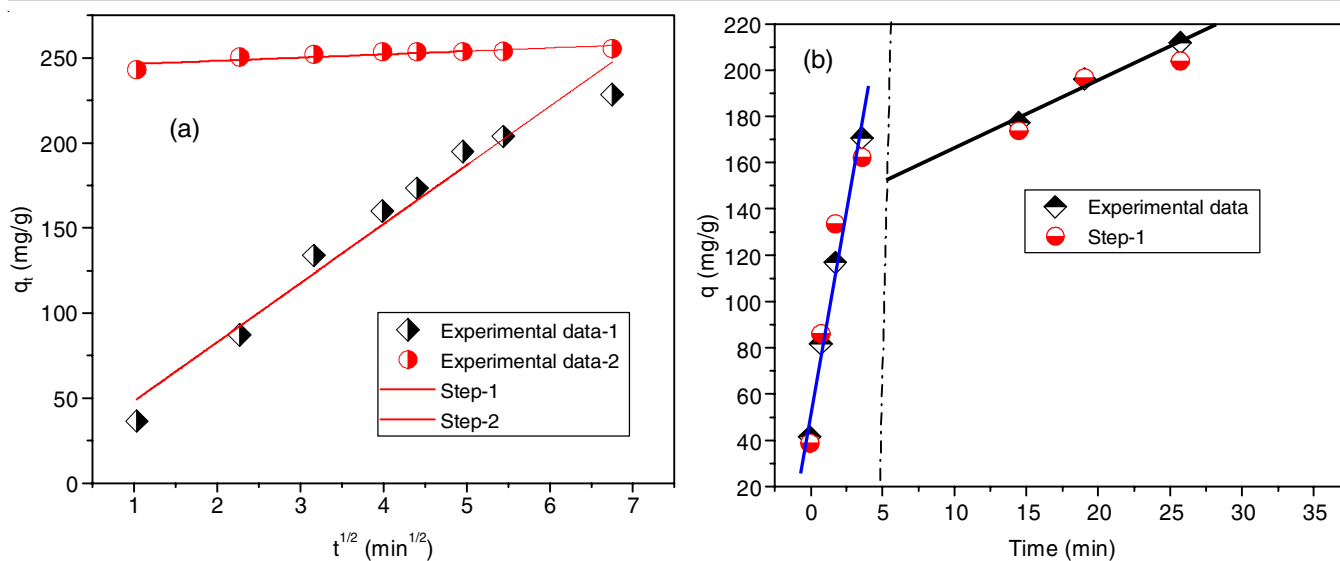


Fig. 6. Fitting of weber Morris model (a) linear plot (b) normal plot

The Redlich-Peterson model is the one that combines three parameters and is represented as follows:

$$q_e = \frac{KRP.C_e}{1 + \alpha.C\beta_e} \quad (9)$$

The final concentration of 2,4-dichlorophenol ranges from 15.68 to 45.57 mg g<sup>-1</sup>. Based on these findings, it is clear that capsule which are regarded as pure or original have modest adsorption rates and their capacity for adsorption will only stabilize or grow at equilibrium concentrations higher than 729 mg L<sup>-1</sup>. Ionic liquid-based membranes therefore contain the ingredients needed for the phenolic compound's removal.

As shown in the adsorption experiments, the effectiveness of the membrane developed for the elimination of phenolic compounds assists in a several treatments of effluents. The variety of industrial effluent types is demonstrated by the variance in the adsorption, primarily at different temperatures and pH levels. The PSO kinetics model can be regarded as one of the suitable models because the study's findings were compared to those predicted by the Weber-Morris model, which had revealed a process restriction associated to the intraparticle diffusion.

## Conclusion

This study revealed that the adsorption process of GO/Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@PSF entrapped in the phosphonium-based ionic liquid (trihexyltetradecylphosphonium decanoate) have the excellent capacity to remove 2,4-dichlorophenol with an efficiency of 83.33%. The treated wastewater adsorption performance was demonstrated and its kinetic attitude was verified by using the pseudo-second-order and the Weber-Morris kinetic models. According to the Langmuir isotherm, which has adsorption capacity of 404.50 mg g<sup>-1</sup>, is comparable to Redlich-Peterson isotherm, which is especially adapted to evidence with an equivalent level to one. Finally, this work can begin to contribute to the implementation of innovative strategies for treating large quantities of wastewater samples, such as membranes

that can be adhered to stationary, minimizing the toxic chemical environmental impacts.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this article.

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