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Adsorption of Bismarck Brown R Dye Onto Multiwall Carbon Nanotubes

Ahmed M. Kamil, Firas H. Abdalrazak, Ahmed F. Halbus and Falah H. Hussein*

Department of Chemistry, College of Science, Babylon University, Hilla, Iraq

Abstract

In this work, Multiwall carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) were used in the adsorptive removal of Bismarck Brown R (BBR) dye from an aqueous solution. The effects of contact time, MWCNT dosage, dye concentration, pH and temperature on adsorption of BBR dye by MWCNTs were investigated. The adsorption study was analyzed kinetically, and the results revealed that the adsorption followed pseudo-second order kinetics with good correlation coefficients.

The equilibrium adsorption data was analyzed using three common adsorption models: Langmuir, Freundlich and Temkin. Gibbs free energy change values showed that the adsorptions of BBR dye on MWCNTs is spontaneous. The results also indicate that the adsorption is physisorption.

Keywords: Adsorption; MWCNTs; Bismarck brown R; Kinetics, Isotherms

Introduction

Dyes have long been used in different types of industries such as, dyeing, textiles, paper, plastics, leather and cosmetics [1]. Color stuff discharged from these industries pose hazards and has an environmental impact [2]. The presences of dyes in water are causing problems, such as, reducing oxygen levels in water; interfering with penetration of sunlight into waters; retarding photosynthesis and interfering with gas solubility in water bodies [3].

Azo dyes are divided according to the presence of azo bonds (-N=N-) in the molecule; these include mono azo, diazo, triazoetc [4]. Azo dyes resist the effect of oxidation agents and light, thus they cannot be completely treated by conventional methods of anaerobic digestion [5]. It is necessary to find an effective method for the treatment of Bismarck Brown R. The degradation of Bismarck brown R dye in the presence of aqueous zinc oxide suspension has been reported before [6]. The adsorption technique proved to be an effective and attractive process for removing dyes from aqueous solutions in term of initial cost, ease of operation, insensitivity to toxic substance, high efficiency, easy recovery and simplicity of design [7,8]. Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are relatively new adsorbents that can absorb organic pollutants from wastewater [9,10]. CNTs were discovered in 1991 as a minor byproduct of fullerene synthesis. CNTs are made up of concentric rolled graphene sheets. CNTs include single wall (SWCNTs) and multiwall (MWCNTs) depending on the number of sheets comprising them [11]. They have many applications because of their various properties such as high thermal and electrical conductivities, strength, mechanical and special adsorption properties [12].

In this work, commercial MWCNTs were used as an adsorbent to remove Bismarck Brown R from aqueous solution. The main objective of this research was to evaluate the adsorption ability of carbon nanotubes for the removal of Bismarck Brown R as a model compound for basic dyes. The effects of contact time, MWCNTs dosage, initial dye concentration, pH and temperature on adsorption capacity were studied. Kinetic and equilibrium models were used to fit experimental data and the adsorption thermodynamic parameters.

Experimental

Materials and methods

Adsorbent: Multiwall carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) with diameter of 20-30nm and length of 10-30µm was purchased from NANOSHEL.MWCNTs were used without further treatment.

Adsorbate: Bismarck Brown R, having molecular formula $C_{21}H_{24}N_{8}$ -2HCl was chosen as the adsorbate. Bismarck Brown R was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich with water solubility as 11 g L⁻¹ (25°C) and molecular weight as 461.39g mol⁻¹. The dye stock solution was prepared by dissolving Bismarck Brown R in distilled water to the concentration of 0.01M. The experimental solutions were obtained by diluting the dye stock solution in accurate proportions to required initial concentrations. The IUPAC name of the Bismarck Brown R is 4-[5-(2, 4-Diamino-5-methylphenyl) diazenyl-2-methylphenyl] diazenyl-6-methylbenzol-1, 3-diamin. The structure of Bismarck Brown R is shown in figure 1.

Adsorption equilibrium experiments

For equilibrium studies, solutions of 5×10^{-5} M Bismarck Brown R, at the initial concentration, were treated with 25 mg of MWCNTs. The mixtures were agitated on shakers (Gemmy orbit, van 480 Gemmy Industrial Corp-Taiwan) continuously for 60 min, as the equilibrium time, at different temperature and pH. All adsorption experiments were done in dark to avoid illuminations effects [13]. After 60 min, the suspensions were filtered using a centrifuge and the filtrates were analyzed for residual Bismarck Brown R concentration by UV-visible spectrophotometer (PG instruments Ltd- Japan) at 459 nm. The amount of Bismarck Brown R uptake by CNTs in each flask was calculated using the mass balance equation:



*Corresponding author: Falah H. Hussein, Department of Chemistry, College of Science, Babylon University, Hilla, Iraq, Tel: 009647804009236; E-mail: abohasan hilla@yahoo.com

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$$q_e = \frac{\left(C_o - C_e\right)}{w} \times v \tag{1}$$

Where q_e is the amount of Bismarck Brown R adsorbed by CNTs at equilibrium, C₀ and C₂ are the initial and final dye concentrations (M), respectively, V is the volume of solution (L), and W is the adsorbent weight (g).

The dye percent removal (%) was calculated using the following equation:

$$Removal\% = \frac{(C_o - C_t)}{C_o} \times 100$$
(2)

Adsorption kinetic experiments

For kinetic studies, solutions of 1, 3, 5, 7 and 10×10^{-5} M Bismarck Brown R, as the initial concentration, were treated with 25 mg of MWCNTs at a constant temperature of 298.15K. The mixtures were then subjected to agitation using a shaker. In all cases, the working pH of solution was not controlled. Mixtures were taken from the shaker at appropriate time intervals (10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60min) and the remaining concentration of the Bismarck Brown R solution was determined.

Results and Discussion

Effect of contact time

The effect of contact time on the adsorption capacity of Bismarck Brown R onto MWCNTs is shown in figure 2, When the initial Bismarck Brown R concentration is increased from 1×10⁻⁵ to 10×10⁻ ⁵M the amount of Bismarck Brown R adsorbed onto MWCNTs, at 60min contact time, pH value 5, 25mg adsorbent dose and the constant temperature 298.15 K, increased from 3.9 to 30.0 mg g⁻¹. The increase of loading capacity of CNTs with increasing initial Bismarck Brown R concentration may be due to higher interaction between Bismarck Brown R and adsorbent [14]. These results show that rapid increase in adsorbed amount of Bismarck Brown R is achieved during the first 10 minutes. Similar results were reported before for removal of hazardous contaminants from wastewater [15].

Effect of MWCNT dosage

To determine the effect of adsorbent dosage on the adsorption of BBR, a series of adsorption experiments were carried out with different adsorbent mass at initial dye concentration of 5×10-5M. Figure 3 shows the effect of adsorbent dose on the removal of BBR. The increasing of adsorbent dosage from 10to50 mg, the percentage of dye adsorbed increased from 48.61to 98.15% after 60min of adsorption time. This





result was expected as that the number of available adsorption sites increases by increasing the adsorbent amount [16-18].

Effect of initial concentration of BBR dye

Different concentrations of BBR1, 3, 5, 7 and 10×10⁻⁵M, were selected to study the effect of initial concentration of dye onto MWCNTs. The amounts of dye adsorbed at pH 5, adsorbent dosage 25mg and 298.15K are given in figure 4. With increasing initial concentration of BBR from 1 to 10×10⁻⁵M, the removal of dye molecules decreases from 97.87 to 75.15% after 60min of adsorption time. These results agree with adsorption of heavy metal ions on carbon nanotubes [19].

Effect of pH

The pH of the dye solution plays an important role in the whole adsorption process, particularly on the adsorption capacity. The solution pH can affect the surface charge of the adsorbent and the degree of the ionization of different pollutants [20]. The effect of pH on the BBR dye adsorption capacities of the MWCNTs was studied at varying pH (2-10) with 5×10⁻⁵M fixed initial dye concentration and adsorbent dosage 25mg for 60min. Figure 5 shows that the adsorption capacity of BBR dye increases with increasing the pH of solution from 2 to 5 and decrease slightly when solution pH is above 5. The maximum adsorption capacity of MWCNTs was 17.87 mg/g at pH 5. It is well known the MWCNTs surface contains carboxylic and hydroxyl groups after purification method by acid treatment. The change in solution pH will effect on the ionization of these functional groups [21,22].

Effect of temperature

To study the effects of temperature on the adsorption of dye by MWCNTs, the experiments were performed at temperatures from 278.15 to 298.15 K. Figure 6 shows the influence of temperature on the adsorption of dye on MWCNTs. As it was observed, the equilibrium adsorption capacity of BBR onto MWCNTs was found to increase with increasing temperature. This fact indicates that the mobility of dye molecules increased with the temperature, additionally the viscosity of dye solution reduces with rise in temperature and as a result, it increases the rate of diffusion of dye molecules. The results were in agreement with the effect of the solution pH, ionic strength, and temperature on adsorption behavior of reactive dyes on activated carbon [23].

Adsorption isotherm

The isotherm provides a relationship between the concentration of dye in solution and the amount of dye adsorbed on the solid phase when

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Figure 4: Effect of initial concentrations on the adsorption percentage of BBR on MWCNTs.



Figure 5: Effect of initial solution pH on the adsorption amount of BBR on MWCNTs.



both phases are in equilibrium. The equilibrium of experimental data for adsorbed BBR on MWCNTs was studied by using the Langmuir, Freundlich and Temkin isotherm models. In this study, the best fit isotherm models to the experimental data were determined using the value of correlation coefficient R^2 [24].

Langmuir isotherm

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The Langmuir adsorption isotherm assumes that adsorption takes place at specific homogeneous sites within the adsorbent and has

found successful application in many sorption processes of monolayer adsorption [25]. Figure 7 shows the Langmuir isotherm for adsorption BBR on MWCNTs. The following equation is the Langmuir isotherm:

$$q_e = \frac{q_m K_L C_e}{1 + K_L C_e} \times 100 \tag{3}$$

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Where q_m is the maximum amount of BBR adsorbed per unit mass of MWCNTs and K_L is the Langmuir constant related to rate of adsorption.

For the Langmuir equation the favorable nature of adsorption can be expressed in terms of dimensionless separation factor of equilibrium parameter (R_1) [26], which is defined by:

$$R_L = \frac{1}{1 + K_L C_o} \tag{4}$$

where R_L is the dimensionless equilibrium parameter and C_0 is the initial BBR concentration. The values of R_L indicates the type of isotherm to be irreversible (R_L = 0), favorable ($0 < R_L < 1$), linear (R_L =1) or unfavorable ($R_L > 1$) [27]. The values of the dimensionless separation factor are given in table 1.

Freundlich isotherm

The Freundlich isotherm is an empirical equation employed to describe heterogeneous systems [28]. The Freundlich model [29] is based on the distribution of adsorbate between the adsorbent and aqueous phases at equilibrium. Figure 8 shows the Freundlich isotherm for adsorption BBR on MWCNTs. The basic Freundlich equation is:

$$q_e = K_F C_e^{1/n} \tag{5}$$

where K_F and n are Freundlich constants, which give a measure of adsorption capacity and adsorption intensity, respectively.

Temkin isotherm

This isotherm takes into accounts of indirect adsorbate-adsorbate interactions on adsorption isotherms and suggested that because of these interactions the heat of adsorption of all the molecules in the layer would decrease linearly with coverage [30]. Figure 9 shows the Temkin



Figure 7: Langmuir isotherm for BBR adsorption onto MWCNTs.

Con./M	RL		
1×10 ⁻⁵	0.9348		
3×10-5	0.6827		
5×10-5	0.3646		
7×10 ⁻⁵	0.1929		
10×10 ⁻⁵	0.1095		

Table 1: Dimensionless separation factor for BBR adsorption on MWCNTs.





isotherm for adsorption BBR on MWCNTs. The Temkin isotherm has been used in the form given below

$$q_e = B_1 ln C_e + B_1 ln K_T \tag{6}$$

where K_T and B_1 are the Temkin constants (K_T is the equilibrium binding constant (L/g) and B_1 is related to the heat of adsorption). The values of the isotherm parameters are given in table 2.

Adsorption kinetics

Three kinetic models: Pseudo-first order, pseudo-second order and Intra particle diffusion kinetic models were used to fit experimental data to examine the adsorption kinetics. Equations 7,8 and 9 represent the linear forms of the pseudo-first order, pseudo-second order models and Intra particle diffusion kinetic model respectively

$$ln\left(q_{t}-q_{e}\right) = ln\left(q_{e}\right) - k_{1}t \tag{7}$$

$$\frac{t}{q_i} = \frac{1}{k_2 q_e^2} + \frac{t}{q_e} \tag{8}$$

$$q_t = k_3 t^{1/2} + C \tag{9}$$

The straight-line plots of ln (q_e-q_t) versus t for the pseudo-first order reaction (Figure 10), t/q_t versus t for the pseudo-second order reaction (Figure 11) and q_t versus $t^{1/2}$ for the Intra particle diffusion reaction (Figure 12) for adsorption of BBR onto MWCNTs. The values of the kinetic parameters and correlation coefficient were calculated from these plots are given in table 3. The pseudo-second order model best

represents this experimental data. Similar results have been observed before [31,32].

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Adsorption thermodynamics

The thermodynamic parameters, namely Gibbs free energy change (ΔG°), enthalpy change (ΔH°) and entropy change ΔS° , for the adsorption processes were determined using the following equations [33-37]:

$$\Delta G^{\circ} = -RTlnK_{ad} \tag{10}$$

$$lnK_{ad} = \frac{\ddot{A}H^{\circ}}{RT} + \frac{\ddot{A}S^{\circ}}{R}$$
(11)

where R is universal gas constant (8.314J mol⁻¹K⁻¹), and T is the absolute temperature in Kelvin. Thermodynamic parameters were summarized in table 4.

The negative values of ΔG° indicate that the adsorption process was a spontaneous process. The decrease in ΔG° with the increase of temperature indicates more efficient adsorption at higher temperature. The positive values of ΔH° confirm that the sorption of BBR onto MWCNTs is endothermic in nature. Figure 13 shows the Van't Hoff plot for the adsorption of BBR on MWCNTs.

Isotherm	Parameters	Values
	Q _m	32.15
Langmuir	K	3.27
	R ²	0.9758
	K _F	3.81
Freundlich	n	2.39
	R ²	0.9799
Temkin	B ₁	5.24
	κ _τ	76.75
	R ²	0.9676
lsotherm	Parameters	Values
Langmuir	Q _m	32.15
	K	3.27
	R ²	0.9758
Freundlich	K _F	3.81
	n	2.39
	R ²	0.9799
	B ₁	5.24
Temkin	B ₁ K _T	5.24 76.75

Table 2: Isotherm parameters for BBR adsorption on MWCNTs.





Figure 11: Pseudo-second order kinetic model for the adsorption of BBR on MWCNTs.



Figure 12: Intra particle diffusion model for the adsorption of BBR on MWCNTs.



Conclusions

This study shows that MWCNT scan be used effectively for the removal of BBR from aqueous solution. 25 mg is the optimum dosage of MWCNTs to adsorb BBR. The adsorption capacity of the BBR on MWCNTs increased with the increasing of initial concentration of

0						
Con./M	q _{e.exp} (mg/g)	q _{e.cal} (mg/g)	k₁(min⁻¹)	R ²		
1×10⁻⁵	3.91	0.4964	-0.0549	0.9812		
3×10 ⁻⁵	11.43	1.5357	-0.0326	0.9826		
5×10⁻⁵	17.87	4.3150	-0.0586	0.9799		
7×10 ⁻⁵	22.88	5.2446	-0.0542	0.9595		
10×10⁻⁵	30.06	4.6140	4.6140 -0.0414 0			
O == /14	Pseudo second order model					
COIT./IVI	q _{e,exp} (mg/g)	q _{e,cal} (mg/g)	K ₂ (g/mg min)	R ²		
1×10⁻⁵	3.91	3.9761	0.8793	0.9999		
3×10 ⁻⁵	11.43	11.6279	0.5584	0.9992		
5×10⁻⁵	17.87	18.4162	0.4645	0.9997		
7×10 ⁻⁵	22.88	23.5849	0.4525	09995		
10×10⁻⁵	30.06	30.6748	30.6748 0.5563 0			
Con /M	Intra particle diffusion model					
COIT./IVI	q _{e,exp} (mg/g)	c(mg/g)	K ₃ (mg/g min ^{1/2})	R ²		
1×10⁻⁵	3.91	3.4893 0.0563 0.		0.9921		
3×10⁻⁵	11.43	9.6038	0.2268	0.9453		
5×10 ⁻⁵	17.87	14.367 0.4674 0.9		0.9885		
7×10 ⁻⁵	22.88	18.46	0.5817	0.9905		
10×10-5	30.06	25.24	0.6161	0.9956		

Table 3: Adsorption parameters of BBR adsorption on MWCNTs.

Con /M		ΔG	°/kJm	nol-1		AH [°] /k I molt	ΔS°/ J mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹
5°C	5°C	10°C	15°C	20°C	25°C		
5×10⁻⁵	-6.68	-7.05	-7.65	-8.18	-8.70	22.08	103.2

Table 4: Thermodynamic parameters of adsorption BBR on MWCNTs.

BBR. The equilibrium adsorption capacity of BBR increased with temperature. The optimum contact time and pH were 10 min and 5 respectively. The adsorption kinetics was fitted by a pseudo-second order kinetic model. The adsorption of BBR on MWCNTs has been described by the Langmuir, Freundlich and Temkin adsorption isotherm models. The equilibrium data were fitted with the Freundlich isotherm. R_L values for BBR adsorption onto MWCNTs indicate favorable adsorption. Adsorption of BBR was found to be spontaneous at the temperatures under investigation. The positive value of ΔH° confirmed the sorption process was endothermic.

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