

Research Article

Removal of Drugs by Cuttlefish Bone Powder: Equilibrium, Kinetics and Thermodynamic Study

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Abstract

This study aimed to describe the adsorption of three pharmaceuticals which represents a source of environment contamination. The adsorption of three drugs: ibuprofen (IBU), naproxen (NAP) and carbamazepine (CBZ) from river water onto cuttlefish bone powder (CFPB) as adsorbent material were carried of various parameters such as contact time, the effect of pH, the varying of the concentration and the temperature.

Adsorption kinetic data were modeled using the Lagergren first order and the pseudo-second order kinetic equations. The kinetic results of adsorption are described better by using the pseudo-second order model. Freundlich and DR equations provided better compatibility than Langmuir equation. The thermodynamic parameters obtained indicate that the adsorption of pharmaceuticals on the cuttlefish bone powder is a spontaneous and endothermic process.

Keywords: Drugs; Cuttlefish bone powder; Adsorption; Kinetics; Isotherms; Thermodynamics

Introduction

In recent years, the occurrence, and adverse effects of pharmaceutical residues in aquatic organisms have become an issue for the whole world [1,2]. The presence of these products in wastewater and surface water has been proven for many years by several studies [3-6]. They are detected at low concentrations, ranging from l μ g to ng.L⁻¹ but the continuous release and fugitive emissions of these residues make micro-persistent contaminants [7]. Only a few studies have been carried out using (CFBP) as adsorbent Ben Nasr et al. studied the efficiency of cuttlefish bone in removing fluoride from water. The removal efficacy of the reactive blue dye using cuttlefish bone [8]. The innovation of this research was to study the effectiveness of using bone meal cuttlefish as adsorbent in removing pharmaceuticals doped in an aqueous matrix.

Materials and Methods

Presentation of materials

Cuttlefish are generally within a size range from 15 to 25 cm, containing within bone 10 to 20 cm in size. Cuttlefish bone is a hard, brittle material and structured internally. The adsorbent was prepared in the laboratory. Cuttlefish bone was rinsed with deionized water, boiled for 10 min. To desorb any impurities, dried at 103-105°C for 24 h and allowed to cool in a desiccator. In our study, cuttlefish bone was crushed and pulverized, by standard ASTM sieves (range being 60 to 100 meshes), into 150-250 µm particles to get uniform size of (CFPB) and used as an adsorbent in the following experiments.

Cuttlefish bone has been characterized in an earlier study [9], it has a well crystallized form. It is mainly composed of $CaCO_3$ (86%), its specific surface area is about 5.6 m² g⁻¹ and the experimental pHzpc is about 9.6. When the pH used in the adsorption process was equal to the fzpc, the surface of the cuttlefish bone powder was neutral.

The surface morphology of the (CFPB) before and after sorption was studied with scanning electron microscope (SEM) with (SEM, JSM.6300) model. To gain further insight into the microstructures, TEM investigations were performed using a Tecnai ultra Twin G2- Philips. Samples for analysis were prepared by air-drying a drop of a sonicated suspension of the dried precipitate in ethanol onto copper grids.

Three pharmaceuticals were selected in this research as target compounds: carbamazepine (an antiepileptic), ibuprofen and naproxen (analgesics), the molecular structure and physicochemical properties of these pharmaceuticals are summarized in Table 1.

Drugs solutions with different concentrations were prepared by diluting the stock solution in ultra-pure water. The naproxen, Ibuprofen and Carbamazepine concentration were determined using the absorbance at 230 nm, 220 nm and 271 respectively of the solutions after getting the UV spectra of the solution with a Spectrophotometer (model of SP-3000 Plus).

The adsorption experiments were performed using a kind of aqueous matrice, namely Medjerda river water who is a source of life for farmers and promoted the development of irrigation farming. The main physicochemical and biological of aqueous matrice are summarized in Table 2.

Adsorption experiments: All the adsorption experiments were carried out at (298 \pm 0.2 K), by batch adsorption. Stock solution of pharmaceuticals were prepared as 50 mg.L⁻¹ by dissolved in aqueous matrix. Individual batch adsorption experiments were carried out by shaking 25 mg of (CFBP) with 25 mL of pharmaceuticals solution in a series of reagent flasks at a Constant speed (250 rpm) in a mechanical shaker for 6 h and centrifuged at 6000 rpm, after samples were separated with the aid of a syringe nylon micro filter (0.22 μ m) and the concentration of each solution was measured by spectrophotometer at the corresponding wavelength and the concentrations were calculated by using calibration curves prepared initially. The pH of pharmaceuticals solution was adjusted with (0.1M) HCl or (0.1M) NaOH.

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 Table 1: Molecular structure and main physicochemical properties of studied pharmaceuticals.

Parameter	Medjerda river base
Conductivity (S/cm)	480
Turbidity (NTU)	142
Total Solids (mg/L)	506
Ammonium (mg N/L)	1.7
Nitrate (mg NO ₃ ⁻)	4.1
Nitrite (mg N/L)	0.07
Chloride (mg Cl-/L)	36.2
Oxidability to KMno ₄ (mg O ₂ /L)	44
Bacterial Content (CFU/100ml)	874
Phosphate (mg P/L)	0.01

Table 2: Physicochemical and biological characteristics of Medjerda River

Adsorption isotherm

In order to identify the mechanism of the adsorption process, the adsorption isotherm values were evaluated and analyzed. Different isotherm models are available in the literature. Simple, reliable, and widely used models, such as linear, Langmuir, and Freundlich isotherms, were used in this present study. The chosen isotherm models were applied to establish the relationship between the amount of pharmaceuticals adsorbed by the (CFBP) and its equilibrium concentration in the actual sample. The equilibrium studies were carried out using 25 mg of (CFBP) in 25 mL of pharmaceuticals aqueous at different concentrations. The sorption capacity of the (CFBP) was evaluated by the amount of pharmaceuticals aqueous adsorbed using the following expression:

$$Q_t = \frac{(C_0 - C_e).V}{M} \tag{1}$$

Where, Q is the amount of solute retained per mass unit of the adsorbent (mg g⁻¹),, C_0 and C_e are the initial and equilibrium concentration of pharmaceuticals in the matrice aqueous (mg.L⁻¹). M is the amount of sorbent (g), and V is the volume of the solution (L).

The percentage of the pharmaceuticals was evaluated as follows:

$$R(\%) = \frac{(C_0 - C_e).100}{C_0}$$
(2)

The Langmuir model assumes that the adsorbent surface is homogeneous and contains only one type of binding site, so the energy of adsorption is constant, which is presented by the following equation:

$$Q_e = \frac{K_L Q_e C_e}{\left(1 + (K_L C_e)\right)}$$
(3)

The linear form of Langmuir adsorption isotherm can be expressed as follows:

$$\frac{C_e}{Q_e} = \frac{1}{Q_0.K_L} + \frac{1}{Q_0}.C_e$$
(4)

Where $Q_0(mg.g^{-1})$ is the Langmuir constant related to the maximum monolayer adsorption capacity and K_L (L.mg⁻¹) is the constant related to the free energy or net enthalpy of the adsorption [10]. The Freundlich model can be applied for multilayer adsorption on a heterogeneous adsorbent surface, with sites that have different energies of adsorption. The Freundlich model is given by the following equation [11].

$$Q_e = K_F \cdot \left(C_e^{\frac{1}{n}} \right)$$
(5)

This expression can be linearized to give the following equation:

$$Ln Q_e = LnK_F + \frac{1}{n} LnC_e$$
(6)

Where " K_F " (mg.g⁻¹) and "n" are Freundlich constants related to adsorption capacity and intensity, respectively. Dubinin-Radushkevich (DR) isotherm has been used to describe the sorption of drugs onto (CFBP) and helps in understanding the type of adsorption [12,13]. DR equation can be written as Eq. (7).

The DR equation has the following form

$$lnqe = lnqs - k\varepsilon^2 \tag{7}$$

where q_{ϵ} is DR monolayer capacity (mg g⁻¹), k is a constant related to adsorption energy; q_s is the amount of drugs adsorbed per unit weight of adsorbent (mg g⁻¹) and ϵ is the Polanyi Potential, which can be expressed as:

$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \boldsymbol{RTln} \left(1 + \frac{1}{Ce} \right) \tag{8}$$

Where C_e is the equilibrium concentration of drug in aqueous matrix (mg.L⁻¹), *R* is the gas constant and *T* is the temperature (K), the slope of the line makes it possible to calculate the value of k and the intercept gives the adsorption capacity, q_m

Adsorption kinetics: Kinetic models are helpful in understanding the mechanism of molecule adsorption and in evaluating the performance of the adsorbents. A number of kinetic models have been developed to describe the kinetics of heavy molecule adsorption. In this present study, the kinetic of pharmaceuticals adsorption on the (CFBP) were determined with different kinetic models such as the first-order and the pseudo-second-order models.

The period of time necessary to reach the equilibrium, previous kinetic experiments were performed. Fixed amounts of adsorbent (25 mg) and volumes of adsorptive the aqueous matrix (25 mL) of initial concentration equal to (50 mg.L⁻¹) were kept in contact under shaking (250 rpm) and at constant temperature (T=298 \pm 0.2 °K) for different

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preset time intervals (0 min to 360 min). Whenever varies in time we take a sample and make it past the centrifuge.

Finally the supernatant was analyzed by spectrometer. The firstorder rate equation of the Lagergren is one of the most widely used kinetic models for the adsorption of a solute from a solution [14]. The model has the following form:

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = K \left(Q_e - Q_t \right) \tag{9}$$

Where Qe (mg.g⁻¹) is the amount of the metal ions adsorbed on the adsorbent at equilibrium, and K_1 (min⁻¹) is the rate constant of the first-order adsorption. After integration and application of boundary conditions $Q_t=0$ at t=0 and $Q_t=Q_t$ at t=t, the integral form of Eq (8) becomes the following:

$$Ln(\boldsymbol{Q}_{e}-\boldsymbol{Q}_{t})=\ln \boldsymbol{Q}_{e}-\boldsymbol{K}_{1}.t \tag{10}$$

The second-order kinetic model, on the basis of the adsorption equilibrium capacity, is as follows [13].

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = K_2 \left(Q_e - Q_t \right)^2 \tag{11}$$

Where K_2 (g.mg⁻¹.min⁻¹) is the rate constant of the second-order equation and q (mg.g⁻¹) is the maximum dye adsorbed. After definite integration through the application of boundary conditions $Q_t=0$ at t=0 and $Q_t=Q_t$ at t=t, Eq (10) becomes the following:

$$\frac{\boldsymbol{t}}{\boldsymbol{Q}_{t}} = \frac{1}{2\left(\boldsymbol{Q}_{e}^{2}.\boldsymbol{K}_{2}\right)} + \frac{\boldsymbol{t}}{\boldsymbol{Q}_{e}}$$
(12)

If the second-order kinetic model is applicable, then the plot of $\frac{1}{Q_e}$ versus t should give a straight line, and Q_e and K_2 could be obtained from the slope and intercept of the straight line, respectively.

Sorption thermodynamics: Thermodynamic parameters, including changes in the free energy (ΔG°), enthalpy (ΔH°), and entropy (ΔS°) associated with the adsorption process, can be determined by using the following equations [15,16].

$$\Delta G^{\circ} = -RTlnKc \tag{13}$$

$$\Delta \boldsymbol{G}^{\circ} = \Delta \boldsymbol{H}^{\circ} - \boldsymbol{T} \Delta \boldsymbol{S}^{\circ} \tag{14}$$

The plot of LnK_c , as a function of $\frac{1}{T}$, yields a straight line, from which ΔH° and ΔS° can be calculated from the slope and intercept, respectively.

Results and Discussion

Characteristics of the cuttlefish bone powder

The chemical composition in weight percentage for the raw material denoted as (CFPB) is given in Table 3. The chemical composition in weight percentage for the raw material of (CFPB) is given in Table 3.

The textural structural examination of (CFPB) and (CFPB) after the adsorption can be observed from the TEM photographs which are shown in Figure 1.

In Figure 1a, (CFPB) had a very porous structure which could easily absorb pharmaceuticals. Also, the surface change in the TEM photograph of the (CFPB) after adsorption of pharmaceuticals indicates the structural changes in the sorbent which is depicted in Figure 1b.

The point of zero charge (pZC) of the (CFPB) used in this study is presented in Figure 2.

Effect of contact time

The CFPB have a point of zero charge (pZC) at a pH=9.8, When the pH used in the adsorption process was equal to 9.8, the surface of the cuttlefish bone powder was neutral.

Figure 3 shows pharmaceuticals removal at different contact times using (CFPB) as an adsorbent. Pharmaceuticals removal increased rather rapidly with the increase of contact time, but then gradually

	CaCO ₃	Na ₂ O	P ₂ O ₅	FeO ₃
Wt (%)CFPB	86	8.275	0.218	1.128

Table 3: Chemical composition of cuttlefish bone powder.



Figure 1: TEM images of (CFBP) and (CFBP) after adsorption of pharmaceuticals.







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approached a more or less constant value denoting attainment of equilibrium. The fast kinetics of adsorption during the first minutes of the reaction, can be interpreted by the fact that at the beginning of adsorption, the pores available on surface of the adsorbent material is important than that remaining after a certain time [17,18]. In addition a specific chemical interaction, diffusion and other driving forces. Besides, the sorption rate decreased due to the non-availability of sorption sites result of the migration of pharmaceuticals to the pore surfaces. The maximum adsorption of pharmaceuticals onto (CFPB) was observed at 180 min for CBZ, 120 min for NAP and IBU.

Modeling of adsorption isotherm

According to the results shown in Figures 4 and 5, we note that the pseudo second order model is the most reliable way to determine the order of adsorption kinetics for all pharmaceuticals by CFPB, which is reflected by the extremely high determination coefficients (R_2 >0.999).

Well and after values Q_e shown in Table 4, we note that the values calculated by the pseudo second order model are close to that determined experimentally; as a result the adsorption kinetics of pharmaceuticals used by (CFPB) are a pseudo second order.

Adsorption Isotherms

Figure 6 shows the influence of the concentration in the ability of pharmaceuticals amount adsorbed which increases with the rise of equilibrium concentration. As can be seen, the adsorption efficacy ranking is as follows: carbamazepine ($Q_e=43.9 \text{ mg.g}^{-1}$), ibuprofen ($Q_e=37.6 \text{ mg.g}^{-1}$) and naproxen ($Q_e=36.5 \text{ mg.g}^{-1}$). This could be due to the fact that, at pH 7, carbamazepine is in its neutral form. On the contrary, naproxen and ibuprofen are both deprotonated and thus negatively charged, as they are acidic drugs, as the surface(CFPB) of the adsorbent close to its neutral form, it is reasonable thinking that carbamazepine will be absorbed in a more favorable manner than the remaining molecules.









						Pseudo-second order rate parameters		
PPs	Sorbent	Q _{exp} (mg. g⁻¹)	Q _{cal} (mg. g⁻¹)	K₁ (min¹)	R ²	Q _{cal} (mg. g ⁻¹)	K ₂ (g.mg ⁻¹ . min ⁻¹)	R ²
IBU		36.85	1.004	1.083	0.899	40	0.004	0.999
NAP	CFPB	36.64	1.002	0.368	0.299	38.43	0.0046	0.999
CBZ		32	1.006	1.067	0.968	40	0.0041	0.999

Table 4: Kinetic parameters for the adsorption of pharmaceuticals onto (CFBP).

The shape of the isotherm pharmaceuticals at pH 7 is S-type according to the classification of Giles. Who indicates a growth of the adsorption with the concentration of the adsorbate. This is due to the interactions between the molecules which are attracted to Vander Waals forces.

Sorbent isotherms

The linear, Langmuir and Freundlich equations are commonly used in describing the adsorption equilibrium of wastewater treatment application.

Figures 7 and 8 show the Freundlich and Langmuir equation obtained by the adsorption of pharmaceuticals onto (CFPB).

Figure 9 shown the lnq_e against ϵ^2 ; the slopes of the line makes it possible to calculate the value of k and the intercept gives the adsorption capacity, q_m .

The constant k is used to calculate the mean free energy E (kJ mol⁻¹) defined as the free energy change when 1 mole of ion is transferred to the surface of the solid from infinity in solution [19,20]. The equation can be given as follows:

$$E = 2k^{(-1/2)}$$

We note that the linearization of adsorption isotherms of pharmaceuticals (CFPB) is satisfactory with good coefficients correlation. We can say that the Freundlich model is a good adequate for the description of the isotherms adsorption. However, from Figure 7, we deduce that the Langmuir model is not suitable for modeling the adsorption isotherms of pharmaceuticals cuttlefish bone powder throughout the concentration range. For drugs sorption onto CFPB, the mean free energy values obtained in this study are 0.973 (Table 5) of ibuprofen, 0.613 (Table 5) of naproxen and 0.648 (Table 5) kJ mol⁻¹ of carbamazepine at 298°K. This indicates the adsorption process is of a physical nature.

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Effect of pH

Figure 10 shows the effect of pH on the removal of pharmaceuticals, into the cuttlefish bone powder at different pH values. Generally, the adsorption of pharmaceuticals depends strongly on the pH of the solution [21].

From the figure, it may be concluded that the retention of pharmaceuticals is remarkably influenced by the pH. This parameter has a very important role in the adsorption process and in particular on the adsorption capacity.

In fact, the adsorption efficiency of naproxen and ibuprofen decreases when pH was increased from 4 to 11. For carbamazepine, the adsorption efficiency is as high as 81% in the tested pH range. The pKa of naproxen and ibuprofen are 4.2 and 4.96, respectively, when the pH is above the pKa, acidic pharmaceuticals have negative charge while surface of adsorbent becomes more negatively charged, leading to an electrostatic repulsion between them.

In addition, Lower pH effectively provides more Ca^{2+} due to dissolution of cuttlefish bone which increases the number of positive sites which electrostatically attract negatively charged acidic molecules% leading to an increase in the amount of acidic molecules removal from the solution. So, adsorption of acidic pharmaceuticals decrease gradually for basic pH values, the dissociation degree of the surface groups of the (CFPB) as well as that of the chemicals is high, so the adsorbent and the solutes occur in their negatively charged forms. The adsorption of pharmaceuticals onto cuttlefish bone powder can be leading to an electrostatic repulsion between them. This implies that the adsorption decrease. In the case of carbamazepine, it's a neutral compound in the pH tested range; its binding onto cuttlefish bone powder is solely attributable to a non-electrostatic interaction involving the hydrogen bonding probably through the oxygen groups of estersand Vander Waals interactions [22].

Effect of Temperature

Figure 11 depicts the adsorption isotherms of pharmaceuticals at different temperatures. The adsorption isotherms shown in Figure 11 indicate clearly that the increase of the temperature affects negatively at the adsorption process. Besides, as temperature raises the adsorption capacity decreases markedly. We noticed that the increase of temperature from 298 to 333 K induces a decrease of the adsorption capacity. The rise of temperature ensures the destabilization of the physical forces involved, so we concluded that there is an optimum value of temperature in order to promote the adsorption of pharmaceuticals.

In general, the adsorption is always accompanied by a thermal [23,24] which may be either exothermic (ΔH° <0) or endothermic (ΔH° >0). Measuring the heat of adsorption ΔH° is the main criterion that differentiates the chemisorption of physisorption.







Figure 11: Effect of temperature on the adsorption of pharmaceuticals onto cuttlefish bone powder (C_i =50 mgL⁻¹, pH=8).

The heat of adsorption ΔH° is given by the Gibbs-Helmholtz relationship [25,26].

$$\Delta G^{\circ} = -RTlnKc$$

$$\Delta G^{\circ} = \Delta H^{\circ} - T\Delta S^{\circ}$$

$$LnK_{c} = \frac{\Delta S^{\circ}}{R} - \frac{\Delta H^{\circ}}{RT}$$

with: $K_{c} = \frac{C_{e}}{M_{e}(C_{0} - C_{e})}V$

Where, K_c =Equilibrium constant; ΔG° =Gibbs free energy (KJ. mol⁻¹); ΔH° =Enthalpy (KJ.mol⁻¹); ΔS° =Entropy (KJ.mol⁻¹.K⁻¹); T=absolute temperature (K); C_o=initial concentration of the adsorbate; C_e=equilibrium concentration of the adsorbate; V=volume of solution; m=mass of the sorbent; and R=gas constant (8.314 J.mol⁻¹.K⁻¹).

The heat of adsorption ΔH° and the entropy ΔS° adsorbate on (CFPB) was determined graphically by plotting LnKc in function of the inverse of the temperature in Kelvin of the medium as shown in the Figure 12.

The positive value of ΔH° (Table 6) confirms that the adsorption of pharmaceuticals on the cuttlefish bone powder is an endothermic process. Also, the low values of this heat (<40 KJ.mol⁻¹) indicate that this is a physical adsorption. The positive value of ΔS° (Table 6) corresponds to an increase in randomness at the solid solution interface. Also, some structural changes may have taken place as a result of interaction of molecules with active groups on CFPB surface [27]. The negative values of ΔG° (Table 6) at different temperatures for all samples indicate the spontaneous nature of the sorption process of drugs reagent on CFPB.

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Conclusion

Elemental analysis showed that cuttlefish bone consist of 86% of pure calcium carbonate. TEM and SEM studies reveal that cuttlefish bone has a well crystallized, uniform and porous structured. The kinetic data of pharmaceuticals followed the pseudo second-order kinetic model. Langmuir and Freundlich equations were used to describe adsorption of drugs onto (CFPB). The Freundlich equation is in good agreement with the experimental results. The adsorption isotherms pharmaceuticals of cuttlefish bone powder are satisfactorily described by the Freundlich model. The positive values of Δ H° confirm the endothermic nature of the adsorption. The increasing values of Δ G° with temperature show the spontaneity in the sorption processes pharmaceuticals reagent on (CFPB). For drugs sorption onto (CFPB),



Figure 12: Determination of the enthalpies and entropies of adsorption of pharmaceuticals onto cuttlefish bone powder.

	IBU	NAP	CBZ			
	Langmuir Parameters					
Q _e (mg.g-1) 7.042 10.86 6.09						
K,(mg.L⁻¹)	0.959	0.540	0.70			
R ²	0.573	0.573	0.693			
	Freundlich parameters					
K _r (mg.g-1)	K _r (mg.g-1) 2.025		1.887			
n _f	n _f 1.04		0.710			
R ²	0.989	0.972	0.987			
	Dubinin-Radushkevich parameters					
Q _。 (mg.g-1)	28.13	52.66	34.709			
K (mol2 J-2) 5.28210 ⁻⁷		1.33 10-6	1.19-6			
E (kJmol-1)	0.973	0.613	0.648			
R ²	0.921	0.958	0.984			

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 Table 5:
 Isotherm parameters obtained by fitting equilibrium data with the Langmuir, Freundlich and Dubinin-Radushkevich isotherms for the adsorption of pharmaceuticals on (CFBP).

T(K)	K _c	ΔH° (kJ.mol⁻¹)	ΔS° (kJ.mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹)	ΔG° (kJ.mol⁻¹)
293	1,30446927	22.889	0.081	-647,480248
313	2,17155214			-1953,44897
333	4,26735834			-4017,16956
293	1,554447662	27.41	0.097	-1058,89377
313	2,55080831			-2358,9505
333	6,17619603			-5040,7279
293	0,79587831	0.053	0.053	556,16113
313	1,22465354			-510,524223
333	1,84780579			-1699,89395

Table 6: Experimental results of thermodynamics of adsorption of pharmaceuticals.

the mean free energy values obtained in this study ($E<8 kJ mol^{-1}$), the adsorption process is of a physical nature. Finally, cuttlefish shows a remarkable adsorption capacity of drugs in the water of the river which can be a solution to minimize pollution as a result.

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