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Valorization of crude olive stone in the removing of polyphenols from crude olive mill wastewater: kinetic, isotherm and mechanism study



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ABSTRACT

Removal of polyphenols from crude olive mill wastewaters (COMWW) is vital to the development of olive industries. In addition, the exploitation of the residue of the olive oil industry such as crude olive stone (COS) constitutes a valorization of this substance and makes a contribution to the fight against environmental pollution. For this purpose, this study concerns the utilization of COS as an adsorbent of polyphenols from COMWW. The characterization of COS was realized by FTIR, XRD, SEM, PZN, BET and TGA-DTA. The adsorption kinetics and isotherms of polyphenols was analyzed by pseudo-first-order (PFO), pseudo-second-order (PSO), intraparticle diffusion models (MW) and nonlinear models of isotherms Langmuir (LM) and Freundlich (FM) respectively. This study goal at understanding the adsorption mechanism of polyphenols on COS by FTIR and XRD study. The results of adsorption kinetics demonstred that the adsorption capacity of polyphenols 'PP' onto COS is decreased from 381 mg g⁻¹ to 235 mg g⁻¹, with the increasing of the temperature, from 25 °C to 45 °C, indicating an exothermic process, which is confirmed by the negative values of enthalpy ΔH° . Moreover, the negative values of free energy ΔG° and entropy ΔS° indicate the spontaneous and ordered adsorption phenomenon. Kinetic and isotherms studies showed that polyphenols adsorption onto crude olive stone followed PSO kinetic, the FM and LM models were the best fitted. Consequently, this study indicates that crude olive stone could be used as a cheap adsorbent for removing of polyphenols from crude COMWW.

1. Introduction

The region of Fez-Meknes is famous for olive oil production in Morocco. This production generates considerable volumes of liquid residue named "crude olive mill wastewater (COMWW)" and solid residue as "crude olive stone". COMWW is dark effluent rich in matter organic, tannins, lipids, and polyphenols in a high concentration [1] but the problem is that most industries store the COMWW into ponds and small industries reject the COMWW directly in the soil without any treatment, causing a negative ecological effect and a harmful to certain plants and microorganisms [2, 3].

Recently many technologies are proposed for the treatment of COMWW such as membrane separation, Fenton's reaction [4],

photocatalysis [5], liquid-liquid or solid-liquid extraction [6]. These technologies are highly expensive, subsequently, a simple, inexpensive, efficient and sustainable method is needed for reducing COMWW pollution. Adsorption is one of the most able methods used to eliminate pollutants from aqueous solutions [7]. In addition, the utilization of natural adsorbent such as the agriculture byproducts presents many advantages: valorization of this material, reduction of pollution and remain sustainable chemistry and green.

Crude olive stone (COS) is a solid residue of the olive-producing industry. It is regarded a source of pollution not only in Morocco but also in Mediterranean countries for centuries. Around 90% of the olive pulp comprises of woody material, which is rich in cellulose [8]. The use of COS like adsorbent not only creates a helpful material for depollution of

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the environment contaminated from phenolic derivatives, but it also helps to decrease and value this solid waste. Most pollutants can be removed by the utilization of crude olive stone, for example the adsorption of iron on COS showed the maximum removal of iron was about 70% [9].

The present study intends to test the performance of COS as an adsorbent to reduce the pollution of COMWW to discharge standards. The COS was analyzed by XRD, FTIR, BET, TGA-DTA, zero charge point, and SEM. Following, foresee the experimental kinetics and isotherms data for the adsorption of polyphenols (PP) onto COS, The nonlinear and linear forms of various isotherm and kinetics models were utilized and compared with one another to obtain their corresponding parameters. The current study also concentrate on the characterization after adsorption by X-ray and FTIR analyzes.

2. Experimental

2.1. Material

The crude olive stone was obtained by Olea-Food Company in the Fez-Meknes region (Morocco). This material was cleaned with hexane, dried, and sieved with size $<63\mu$ m. The natural material was called COS by reference to a crude olive stone.

The crude olive mill wastewater (COMWW) was supplied by system 2 phase in the same region. Before use, the liquid was bubbled with nitrogen in order to avoid the degradation of polyphenols, filtered by centrifugation, and diluted at 80% to reduce suspended matter. The characterization of COMWW was already done in the precedent study [10].

2.2. Characterization of COS

The characterization of COS was realized before and after adsorption of PP from COMWW by:

- X ray diffraction (XRD) spectra was obtained by Philips PW 1800 apparatus equipped with a diffracted beam monochromator (K α copper line, 40 kV, 20 mA and $\lambda = 1.5418$ Å). The 2 θ angle was scanned in an interval of 2 θ (5°–70°) with an angular increment of 0.04°.
- FTIR spectra of COS were realized utilizing Shimadzu IRAffinity-1S in absorption mode from 400 to 4000 $\rm cm^{-1}$ with the resolution of 4 $\rm cm^{-1}.$
- COS surface morphology was seen by the FEI Quanta 200 device.
- The determination of specific surface area was carried by apparatus ASAP 2010 with Brunauer–Emmett–Teller (BET) method.
- Thermal degradation of COS was performed in a TA60 SHIMADZU simultaneous TGA-DTA thermal analyzer at a linear heating rate of 10 $^{\circ}$ C min⁻¹ and in the range of temperature from 25 $^{\circ}$ C to 600 $^{\circ}$ C.

2.3. pH of point zero charge (PZN)

The point of zero charge (pzc) is determined by potentiometric titrations. These latter titrations were carried out at 25 \pm 1 °C using the experimental device presented in Figure 1. The titration cell was filled with 100 \pm 1 mL of a NaCl electrolyte solution (10⁻³ mol L⁻¹) more 0.5 \pm 0.01 mL of HCl (0.5 mol L⁻¹) and 0.018 g of solid. Using a micropipette, the mixture was titrated (100 mL NaCl + solid +0.5 mL HCl) with a volume of 50 \pm 0.005 μ L of NaOH titrant (0.2 mol L⁻¹), noting each times the pH value until the titration curve reaches pH around 12. The PZC was determined by plotting the pH as a function of NaOH volume. The same experimental protocol was followed for the titration of the blank (without solid).

2.4. Adsorption experiments

The adsorption kinetics study of polyphenols (PP) onto COS was made by mixing 50 mg of adsorbent with 50 mL of crude olive mill wastewater solution with a concentration of polyphenols $C_0 = 0.3$ g L⁻¹ into 50 mL black flasks. The mixture was agitated at regular times t_{ads} (30 min, 1, 1.5, 2, and 3 h) at temperature (25, 35 and 45 °C) utilizing a thermostatic water bath. In the same experimental conditions, the adsorption isotherms were carried out by increasing initial concentrations (CO) of PP from 0 to 0.58 g L⁻¹. After each adsorption test, the solid was separated of the liquid phase by centrifugation for 30 min. The concentration of polyphenols for each supernatant was determined by Folin-ciocalteu technique [11]. At equilibrium, the residual concentration of PP C_e was determined from the equation of calibration curve (equation 1) from the UV/Visible spectrometer (Shimadzu, UV-1240) at $\lambda = 760$ nm. The following Eq. (2) was used to determine the amount adsorbed:

$$A = 4.8153 C_e, R^2 = 0.99$$
(1)

$$q_e = \frac{(C_0 - C_e) \times V}{m} \tag{2}$$

where, R^2 is the coefficient of determination, A is the absorbance, C_e and C_0 are the residual and initial concentration of PP respectively, which are expressed by mg L^{-1} ; m (g) is the mass of COS; V (mL) is the volume of COMWW solution.

2.5. Kinetic, isotherm models and thermodynamic parameters

In order to determine the adsorption mechanism of PP onto COS, the experimental data were fitted using linear kinetics models of pseudo-first order (PFO), pseudo-second order (PSO) and intraparticule diffusion using equation of Weber and Morris (WM) [12, 13, 14, 15]. The non-linear isotherm models were analyzed by Langmuir (LM) and Freundlich models (FM) [16, 17]. The thermodynamic parameters as enthalpy (ΔH^0), free energy (ΔG^0) and entropy (ΔS^0) [18] were determined by the corresponding relations represented in Table 1.where: q_m and q_e are the maximum amount and the equilibrium amount of polyphenols onto COS respectively, expressed in mg g⁻¹. Ce (mg L⁻¹) is the equilibrium polyphenols concentration of the solution. K₁ (min⁻¹) and K₂ (g mg⁻¹ min⁻¹) are the speed constant of PFO and PSO respectively. C and K_d are the thickness of the boundary layer and the intra-particle diffusion rate constant respectively, K_F (L mg⁻¹) and n are the Freundlich constant. K_L is Langmuir constant (L mg⁻¹).

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Physicochemical characterization of COS

3.1.1. X-ray of COS

The X-ray of COS powder presents a crystalline structure (Figure 2), in agreement with the results of Zhang and Lynd [19], which have found



Figure 1. Experimental device for potentiometric titrations. 1: Agitation motor; 2: Thermometer; 3: Micropipette; 4: Combined glass ball electrode; 5: pH meter; 6: Thermostat bath; 7: Propeller agitator; 8: Solution to titrate.

Table 1. The parameters of kinetic, isotherm, and thermodynamic models.

	Kinetic Models	
	Linear	Ref
PFO	$\ln(q_e - q_t) = \ln q_e - K_1 t$	[<mark>12</mark>]
PSO	$rac{t}{q_t}=rac{1}{K_2 imes q_e^2}+rac{t}{q_e}$	[13, 14]
WM	$q_t = K_{id} \times t^{1/2} + C$	[15]
	Isotherms models	
	Non-linear	Ref
LM	$rac{q_e}{q_{ ext{max}}} = rac{(K_L imes C_e)}{(1+K_L imes C_e)}$	[<mark>16</mark>]
FM	$q_e = K_F \times C_e^{1/n}$	[17]
	Thermodynamic parameters	Ref
(ΔG^0)	$\Delta G^\circ = -RT \ln(K)$	[<mark>18</mark>]
(ΔH^0) and (ΔS^0)	$\ln K = -\frac{\Delta H^{\circ}}{RT} + \frac{\Delta S^{\circ}}{R}$	[18]

that the crude olive stone contained the cellulose. This last has a crystalline structure due to hydrogen bonding interactions or van der Waals forces between adjacent molecules [20]. Similar result found the presence of peak at $2\theta = 11.45^{\circ}$, due to the traces of hemicellulose or lignin [21].

3.1.2. FTIR analysis

As indicate in Figure 3, the large band at 3422 cm^{-1} correspond to O–H of carboxyl, phenols and alcohols groups of cellulose and lignin in agreement with X-ray observations and also with the previous study's [22, 23]. Besides, the band at 2926 cm⁻¹ is attributed to C–O of aliphatic alcohols, and a peak at 1739 cm⁻¹ indicates the presence of lactones, aldehydes or ketones in cellulose and lignin. Both bands at 1439 and 1639 cm⁻¹ present the elongation vibration of the C=C olefinic structure. Also, the bands between 1041 and 1383 cm⁻¹ assigned to links C–O indicate the presence of lignin, hemicellulose, and cellulose groups [22, 24, 25, 26]. Finally the band at 601 cm⁻¹ is intended of C–H aromatic ring [22, 25]. In the literature, the bands of OH, C–O and carboxylic acid groups were detected at 3301.54 cm⁻¹, 1078.01cm⁻¹ and 1725.98 cm⁻¹ respectively [27, 28].

3.1.3. SEM and BET analysis

Figure 4 shows the various porosity states of the surface of COS which has a macro porous structure. The area of this latter is an irregular porous structure with average well-developed deep cavities and pores of different size and shape, the area of COS is $0.89 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$. The surface area of COS is very important compared to this obtained in the literature [29, 30], whose found values are of the order of $0.60 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ and $0.163 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ respectively.



Figure 2. COS X-ray diffraction patterns.

3.1.4. PZN of COS

Figure 5 shows that the $pH_{PZN} = 4.60$. This indicates that for the pH of the solution lower than 4.60, the surface of COS is positive and when the pH of the solution is superior to 4.60, the surface is negative. These outcomes are in concurrence with studies of A. Aziz et al. and T. Bohli et al., where they found that the pH_{PZN} equal to 2.7 and 3 respectively [31, 32].

3.1.5. Thermal analysis TGA-DTA

The TGA-DTA thermograms of COS in Figure 6 shows:

- An endothermic peak located at 108.50 $^\circ$ C, corresponding to the removal of adsorbed water molecules with a loss mass of stone olive is 7.07%
- Three exothermic peaks situated at 353.4 °C, 393 °C and 422.3 °C whose total mass loss is 66.325 %. The first peak was attributed to the degradation of cellulose and the two others were due to the degradation of lignin and hemicellulose.

These outcomes are in concurrence with crafted by A. Aziz et al. These authors found two weight losses, one between 200–335 °C and the other between 335 and 352 °C, which correspond to the thermal decomposition of hemicellulose with lignin and cellulose degradation respectively. The weight loss of 3.5 % between 20 and 200 °C, was attributed to departure of water [28].

3.2. Adsorption kinetics

Figure 7 portrays the experimental points of adsorption kinetics of PP onto COS at various temperatures. The amount adsorbed of polyphenols







Figure 4. SEM image of COS.



Figure 5. PZN of COS

increases rapidly at t > 20 min until achieved equilibrium at 120 min, thereafter it becomes constant.

The adsorption is very fast during a contact time which does not exceed 3h for all temperatures. The adsorption quantities for COS at T = 25, 35, and 45 °C are 381 mg g⁻¹, 336 mg g⁻¹ and 235 mg g⁻¹ respectively. It is noted that the increase in temperature decreases the adsorbed quantity, which can be explained by an exothermic process. We remark, that the treatment of industrial waste of olive oils requires a low temperature, and consequently no energy consumption.

In addition, the comparison of the adsorbed amounts of PP at equilibrium with that realized in our previous work for the adsorption of PP onto Ghassoul (Gh-B) [33], show that as an example, at equilibrium for T = 25 °C, $q_{ads} = 381 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$ for COS and $q_{ads} = 161 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$ for Gh-B. This behavior can be linked to the presence of an irregular structure of COS, that favors the retention of PP on different parts of biosorbent, also in the cavities of COS [29]. Contrarily, the pH of the solution is superior to



Figure 6. Thermogravimetric analysis of COS.

pHpzn of COS favors the adsorption of polyphenols from COMWW contrariwise of Ghassoul, the pH of solution is lower than pHpzn of Ghassoul. The obtained q_{ads} value in this study is near of these obtained by A. Mounia et al. who found the adsorbed quantity equal to 487.3 mg g^{-1} [34] in the removal of phenolic compounds from olive mill wastewater.

In order to explain the kinetics and the mechanism of PP adsorption onto COS (Figure 8), the experimental data were confronted to PFO and PSO kinetic models given in Table 1 whereas, the equations corresponding to PFO (Figure 8a) and PSO (Figure 8b) are represented in Figure 8. To recognize the most suitable model, the experimental data were analyzed comparing the R^2 and the adsorption capacity, also, the kinetic parameters of PFO and PSO. As shown in Figure 8, a perfect agreement between the theoretical curves and the experimental points were obtained for the PSO model. According to these parameters (Table 2), we found that the model of pseudo second-order describes well the experimental points for the three adsorption temperatures. These outcomes are in concurrence with those found in the literature [33, 35, 36].

The intra-particle model show two diverse straight lines in Figure 9, which may show two-venture control of the adsorption of PP onto COS. The first step is fast where the adsorption of PP molecules was carried out onto the surface of COS. Nevertheless, the second step demonstrates that the rate of intra-particle diffusion of PP is fast, due to the increase of the number of active sites for PP adsorption on COS. Thus, the values of C are different to 0 (Table 3), which demonstrates that the intraparticle diffusion is not the only step that controls the adsorption kinetics of PP onto COS. This outcome is in concurrence with those acquired by Valderrama et *al.* and Lavinia et *al.* [37, 38].



Figure 7. Kinetic of PP adsorption at different temperatures onto COS.



Figure 8. PFO (a) and PSO (b) models for the adsorption kinetics of PP onto COS.

Table 2. Parameters of	PFO and PSO models.
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T (°C)	Pseudo-first order model				Pseudo-second order model		
	$q_{ads(exp)} (mg g^{-1})$	$K_1 (min^{-1})$	$q_{ads(theorique)} (mg g^{-1})$	R^2	$q_{ads(theorique)} (mg g^{-1})$	$K_2 (g mg^{-1} min^{-1})$	\mathbb{R}^2
25	381.54	0.03	40.44	0.73	390.62	$8.33 \ 10^{-4}$	0.99
35	336.20	0.04	94.63	0.77	341.29	9.68 10^{-4}	0.99
45	235.21	0.05	85.62	0.51	242.13	$8.90 \ 10^{-4}$	0.99



Figure 9. Intra-particle diffusion model for PP adsorption onto COS.

Fable 3. Parameters of the intra-particle diffusion.								
T (°C)	Etape 1	Etape 1			Etape 2			
	С	$K_d (g mg^{-1} min^{-1/2})$	R ²	С	$K_d (g mg^{-1} min^{-1/2})$	\mathbb{R}^2		
25	0.24	67.67	0.99	362.77	1.58	0.74		
35	6.02	61.38	0.94	297.07	3.08	0.84		
45	0.31	40.61	0.99	210.19	2.02	0.88		

3.2 1. Activation energy

Figure 10 shows, the tracing of Ln (k_2) versus 1/T for the determination of activation energy Ea from the slope of the equation line Arrhenius. The activation energy which was 2.75 kJ mol⁻¹ and the adsorption energy was 2.21 kJ mol⁻¹. These values are far less than 40 kJ mol⁻¹, which suggests that the polyphenols are physically adsorbed onto COS. This result is in agreement with the bibliography study [39, 40].

3.3. Adsorption isotherms

The experiments of adsorption isotherms of PP on the solid were carried out in the concentration range 0–0.58 g L^{-1} Figure 11 shows the experimental points of adsorption isotherms data obtained for Langmuir (LM) and Freundlich models (FM) at various temperatures (25–45 °C), using origin 2015. This software allows determining exactly the



Figure 10. Arrhenius slope for adsorption of polyphenols onto COS.

parameters of the isotherm models. These parameters are represent in Table 4. The comparison of the values of R² predicted by the two models, show the values of R² are close to 1 and the values of n are higher than 1 in the FM, for different temperatures. This uncovers that the adsorption of PP is done according this model. Also, for the Langmuir model, the theoretical adsorption amount of polyphenols is close to the experimental value for various temperatures. Therefore, the both LM and FM are well adapted for this study, with a possibility of mono and multilayer polyphenols formation on the adsorbent surface. This observation is not uncommon because the comparable results have already been reported [41, 42, 43]. This phenomenon can be better explained by the chemical composition of the surface of COS used in this study. The presence of active functional groups of different strength and irregular porous structure of the material may cause differences in the energy level of the



Figure 12. LnK as a function of 1/T corresponding to the adsorption of PP onto COS.

active sites that are to say, in a higher energy level, the active sites form a blanket of multi-layered polyphenols using a strong support and with a strong chemical bond. On the other hand, active sites with lower energy levels will induce monolayer coverage due to electrostatic forces [41].

3.3.1. Thermodynamic study

Figure 12 shows the tracing of lnK_F according to 1/T and allows to deduce the values of ΔH° and ΔS° which given in Table 5. The $\Delta H^{\circ} =$ -22.35 kJ mol⁻¹ is a negative worth, demonstrating the adsorption process is exothermic in concurrence with the possibility of physical adsorption. The negative value of ΔG° for all temperatures indicates that the adsorption is thermodynamically favorable and spontaneous. A negative value of ΔS° translate the adsorption of PP is ordered or else irregular at the solid-solution interface. These outcomes are identical to



Figure 11. Adsorption isotherm for polyphenols onto COS.

Table 4.	Parameters	of adsor	ption	isotherms.
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T (°C)	Langmuir				Freundlich		
	q _{max} (mg g ⁻¹)	K _L (L mg ⁻¹)	R _L	R ²	n	K _F (L mg ⁻¹)	\mathbb{R}^2
25	477.37	0.013	0.99	0.98	3.34	69.62	0.99
35	310.83	0.010	0.99	0.97	2.48	23.52	0.98
45t	254.51	0.013	0.99	0.93	2.57	22.72	0.99

Table 5. Thermodynamic parameters of adsorption of polyphenols onto COS.

Température (K)	ΔG^0 (kJ mol ⁻¹)	ΔS^0 (J K ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹)	ΔH^0 (kJ mol ⁻¹)	R ²
298	-2.80	-65.26	-22.35	0.99
308	-2.23			
318	-1.58			



Figure 13. Infrared analysis of COS before and after adsorption.

W. Yassine et al. [40], who have found that $\Delta S^{\circ} = -72.91 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ and $\Delta H^{\circ} = -105.54 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$.

3.4. Adsorption mechanism of PP

3.4.1. Study by FTIR

The analysis FTIR of the solid before and after contact with PP from OMW has been carried out (Figure 13). Examination of the FTIR spectra of COS during the adsorption of PP from OMWW (Figure 13) shows no vanishing of groups initially detected for COS only but a new band situated at 2856 cm⁻¹ and 517 cm⁻¹ corresponding to C–O of polyphenols and C–H out the plane of aromatic cycles respectively appear. This indicates that the PP was adsorbed onto sites of COS by van der Waals interactions (Ea = 2.75 kJ mol⁻¹). The bands observed at 817 and 782 cm⁻¹ can be attributed to the formation of links between the crude olive stone and the polyphenols after adsorption on account of an increase in



Figure 14. X-ray of COS before and after adsorption.

the interaction between polyphenols and the negative surface of COS because the pH of the solution pH = 5.07 was higher than the point of zero charges of COS (pHpzc = 4.60).

3.4.2. Study by XRD

Figure 14 presents the X-ray diffraction of COS before and after contact with polyphenols. It is noted that the structure of the material is preserved with a diminishing in the intensity of the principal peak characteristic of the cellulose phase and the disappearance of the peaks at $2\theta = 10.75^{\circ}$, 15.25° and 34.7° probably due to a partial dissolution of the cellulose and a total dissolution of hemicellulose or lignin phases due to the acidity of the adsorption medium (pH \approx 5).

4. Conclusion

The XRD analysis showed the COS has a crystalline structure with the presence of cellulose phase and traces of hemicellulose or lignin which agrees with FTIR analysis.

The adsorption tests demonstrated that the COS has a high capacity to retain the PP. The adsorption was very fast during a contact time which does not overtake 3h for all temperatures and the amount adsorbed decrease with the increased temperature because of the exothermic interaction which was affirmed by the worth of $\Delta H^\circ = -22.35$ kJ mol-1. However, the adsorption follows the pseudo-second order kinetics and the isotherms of PP at different temperatures onto COS correspond both to the Freundlich, and Langmuir models. The parameters thermodynamic showed the adsorption of PP onto COS is exothermic ($\Delta H^\circ < 0$), ordered ($\Delta S^\circ < 0$), and spontaneous ($\Delta G^\circ < 0$). Therefore, the appearance of the new bands infra-red after adsorption confirmed that PP is adsorbed onto COS.

Declarations

Author contribution statement

Safae Allaoui: Conceived and designed the experiments; Performed the experiments; Wrote the paper.

Mohammed Naciri Bennani, Hamid Ziyat, Omar Qabaqous, Hamid Ziyat, Omar Qabaqous, Najib Tijani, Najim Ittobane, Gassan Hodaifa: Analyzed and interpreted the data; Contributed reagents, materials, analysis tools or data; Wrote the paper.

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Data availability statement

Data included in article/supplementary material/referenced in article.

Declaration of interests statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Additional information

No additional information is available for this paper.

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