

## Adsorbent Materials in Environmental Remediation



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#### Environmental application of adsorbent materials



### Environmental application of adsorbent materials

Study of the absorption (interaction) and kinetics (mobility/diffusion) of organic compounds on different adsorbent materials:

- o To measure the adsorption capability of adsorbent materials with respect to aqueous dilute solutions of contaminants
- o To quantify aspects of the adsorption process for potential use of adsorbent materials in environmental applications
- To investigate the adsorption mechanisms and to evaluate the factors that can affect the adsorption process, pH, lonic strength, hydrophobicity.



Volatile Organic Compouds (VOCs) Dichloroethane (DCE) Toluene (TOL) Methyl tert-ButylEther (MTBE) **VOC Mixture PFAs** Drugs Floxacin (FLX) Erythromycine (ERY) Carbamazepin (CBZ) Atenolol (ATN) Hydrochlorotiazide (HTC) Ketoprofen (KTP)

Zeolites (zeolites Y, mordenite, ZSM-5, Beta), Carbonaceous materials, bioadsorbents

#### Sources of organic contaminants in surface waters



#### Increase of antibiotics resistance





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#### Removal of drugs from water



Martucci, A., Pasti, L., Marchetti, N., Cavazzini, A., Dondi, F., Alberti, A. Adsorption of pharmaceuticals from aqueous solutions on synthetic zeolites (2012) Micropor. & Mesopor. Mat. , 148 (1), 174-183.



Zeolites: Constant SAR 200 – variable pore size and structure

#### Removal of drugs from water

Filtration 0.45 µm	50 x 2.1 mm C18 3 μm Injection volume 5 μL.	100 <sup>-</sup>
SPE (Strata-X cartige)	MS : spray voltage 4 kV, capillary temperature 350 C, capillary voltage 29 V and, tube lens 55 V	50
HPLC/MS	positive ESI condition	0 -
		100 



	WW (µg/L)	WW + Y (µg/L)	% removal
CBZ	7.13	< lod	100%
ERY	1.10	< lod	100%
FLX	8.46	0.34	96%

#### Factors affecting adsorption onto BETA and Y zeolite

Analyte	Formul	а	Water Solubility	рК <sub>а</sub>	Log K <sub>ow</sub>
<b>Ketoprofen</b> (Non-steroidal anti- inflammatory)	O CH <sub>3</sub>		0.5 mg/ml [1]	4.45 [2]	3.12 [2]
<b>Atenolol</b> (β-blocker)	OH H <sub>2</sub> N O H <sub>2</sub> N O OH H <sub>1</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>		13.3 mg/ml [3]	9.6 [3]	0.16-0.50 <sup>[3]</sup>
Hydrochlorothiazide <sub>2</sub> (Diuretic)	$H_2N$		0.6-1 mg/ml [4]	pK <sub>a1</sub> =7.9 pK <sub>a2</sub> =9.2 [2]	-0.07 [2]
		Bet	a (BEA)		Y

Pasti, L., Sarti, E., Cavazzini, A., Marchetti, N., Dondi, F., Martucci, A. Factors affecting drug adsorption on beta zeolites (2013) J. Sep. Sci., 36 (9-10), 1604-1611.

Variable SAR (25, 38, 360), thermal treatment, Solution: pH, ionic strength

#### Beta zeolite: SAR effect



Both SAR 25 and SAR 360: Saturation capacity ATN > HCT > KTP

Saturation capacity SAR 25 > SAR 360

#### Y zeolite: SAR effect



- Saturation capacity Y > Beta
- **\***Y SAR 30: saturation capacity ATN > KTP > HTC
- Y SAR 30 > Y SAR 200 (ATN)

#### Y zeolite: Structural investigation

Comparison of the X-ray powder diffraction patterns of Y zeolite before and after drugs adsorption:

peak intensities in the patterns are markedly different mainly in the low  $2\theta$  region. position of diffraction peaks in the two patterns are slightly different. spatial symmetry distortion after adsorption

Effective location of host molecules was obtained from Rietveld refinements.



Y zeolite: pH





#### Sample preparation: Enrichment



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## Parameters influencing the extraction efficiency such as:

- 1) Desorption time,
- 2) Desorption solvent
- 3) Extraction volume

$$%R = \frac{C_f V_f}{C_i V_i} 100$$

**KTP-Y200** 









**Desorption time** 



#### Sample preparation: Enrichment

	Zeolite	Solvent	рН	<b>R</b> %
<u>HCT:</u>	Y 200	H <sub>2</sub> O	5.5	2 %
	Y 200	H <sub>2</sub> O	10	75 %
	Y 200	MeOH/H <sub>2</sub> O (70) / (30)	5	95 %
	Zeolite	Solvent	рН	R %
<u>KTP:</u>	Y 200	H <sub>2</sub> O	5.5	0.10 %
	Y 200	H <sub>2</sub> O	10.5	<b>79</b> %
	Y 200	MeOH/H <sub>2</sub> O (70) / (30)	3	94 %
	Zeolite	Solvent	рН	<b>R</b> %
<u>ATN:</u>	Y 200	H <sub>2</sub> O	5.5	0.10 %
	Y 200	H <sub>2</sub> O	10.5	2 <b>9</b> %
	Y 200	MeOH/H <sub>2</sub> O (70) / (30)	10.5	<b>94</b> %

<u>HC</u>

Sarti, E.; Chenet, T.; Stevanin, C.; Costa, V.; Cavazzini, A.; Catani, M.; Martucci, A.; Precisvalle, N.; Beltrami, G.; Pasti, L. High-Silica Zeolites as Sorbent Media for Adsorption and Pre-Concentration of Pharmaceuticals in Aqueous Solutions. Molecules 2020, 25, 3331. https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules25153331

#### **Contaminants Degradation**



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Vito Cristino, Gelsomina Longobucco, Nicola Marchetti, Stefano Caramori, Carlo Alberto Bignozzi, Annalisa Martucci, Alessandra Molinari, Rita Boaretto, Claudia Stevanin, Roberto Argazzi, Maurizio Dal Colle, Renzo Bertoncello, Luisa Pasti, Photoelectrochemical degradation of pharmaceuticals at β25 modified WO3 interfaces, Catalysis Today, 340, 2020, 302-310,

#### Adsorption of organic contaminants in ground water





#### TOLUENE MTBE DCE MTBE-TOL DCE-TOL MTBE-DCE HEXANE CI-BENZENE





L. Pasti, A. Martucci, M. Nassi, A. Cavazzini, A. Alberti, R. Bagatin, The role of water in DCE adsorption from aqueous solutions onto hydrophobic zeolites, Microporous and Mesoporous Materials, 160, 2012, 182-193, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.micromeso.2012.05.015.

#### Competitive Adsorption of organic contaminants





#### TOL-DCE su ZSM-5



	TOL	DCE
q <sub>s</sub> (mg/g)	79	116
b (L/mg)	2.11	0.21
R <sup>2</sup>		0.9122

Saturation capacity ZSM-5 DCE > TOL

B ZSM-5 TOL > DCE

$$q_{s,1} = \frac{q_s b_1 C_{e,1}}{1 + b_1 C_{e,1} + b_2 C_{e,2}}$$

Pasti, L., Rodeghero, E., Sarti, E., Bosi, V., Cavazzini, A., Bagatin, R., & Martucci, A. (2016). Competitive adsorption of VOCs from binary aqueous mixtures on zeolite ZSM-5. RSC advances, 6(59), 54544-54552.

#### Natural Organic matter

Natural organic matter (NOM) is present in surface and ground waters 40-80% of which is

composed of humic substances with a concentration range of 1-25 mg L<sup>-1</sup>). Monomers of humic substances have molecular dimensions similar to those of some organic contaminants could compete with contaminants in the adsorption process.



Chenet, T., Mancinelli, M., Sarti, E. et al. Competitive Adsorption of 4-Hydroxybenzaldehyde and Toluene onto High Silica Zeolites. Environ. Process. 11, 49 (2024). https://doi.org/10.1007/s40710-024-00726-2

Thank you !!!