

Studies on the Characterization of *Azadirachta indica* L. Bark Activated Carbon and *Vigna unguiculata* L. Seed Shell Activated Carbon

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ABSTRACT

The attempt was made to study a number of characterizations for *Azadirachta indica* L. Bark Activated Carbon and *Vigna unguiculata* L. Seed Shell Activated Carbon. The number of parameters of characterization such as pH, conductivity, bulk density, moisture content, volatile matter, fixed carbon, ash content, solubility in 0.25 M HCl, solubility in water, porosity, specific gravity, phenol adsorption capacity, particle size and surface area. The instrumental studies are done by using Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopic Study and Scanning Electron Microscope Study for activated carbons. Based on the above studies, predict the efficiency of activated carbons to use for removal of dyes and impurities present in aqueous solution.

Keywords:- Activated carbons, Characterization, Adsorption, FTIR, SEM.

I. INTRODUCTION

Contamination intended for generous threats worldwide for equally biotic creature and surroundings. Peroxides are unique significant and elementary contaminants in H₂O contamination. Hastened method of industrialization growth, supplementary and added wastewater comprising peroxides is liquidated several social deeds and bases stern extortions to the surroundings [1-3]. Principally, the peroxide wastes release in the H₂O indications adversative, Owing to relief as a fine collapse of produces with toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic

constituents to biotic creature counting composites such as aromatic element, benzidine and naphthalene[4].

An extensive range of photo catalytic process, ozonation, membrane filtration and flocculation have been working to marshal of the waste[5-9]. Amongst these numerous distillation handlings, liquid-phase adsorption is held to remain furthestmost operative manner to confiscate organic peroxides from wastewater by using activated carbons. There are certain activated carbons such asyam peels[10], almond shell[11],oil palm shell[12] , coconut shell[13,14],coconut coir[15], pistachio shells[16], walnut shell[17], hazelnut shell[18], palm shell[19],chickpea husks[20] apple pulp[21], rice husk[22], Banana shells[23] adsorbents for confiscation of dyes from water.

Based on the above literature review, Our results validate that the carbonized *Azadirachta indica* L. Bark Activated Carbon(AIBAC), *Vigna unguiculata* L. Seed Shell Activated Carbon (VUSSAC)are economical and low cost material obtained from the local area and found to have great potential to adsorb dyes from aqueous media; hence these materials was used in this work.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Preparation of Activated Carbons

Activated carbons primed from *Azadirachta indica* L. Bark and *Vigna unguiculata* L. seed shell. The uncooked quantifiable acquired from native purveyor. The material was eroded in hot distilled water to confiscate down-to-earth, scratch into slight smithereens and dehydrated up. For carbonization, above materials permeated with concentrated sulphuric acid, a proportion of 0.5:1 of acid volume and weight of the material employed for 24 hours. Subsequently that, the scorched material carries away numerous numbers of times by using distilledwater until the pH of washing develops impartial. Formerly the material was dehydrated and carbonized at 500⁰C expending dampen kiln. Lastly, it crushed and shifted to obtain activated carbons by using ball mill technique.

2.2. Methods of Characterization

Using standard procedure, the various parameters of characterization such as pH, conductivity, solubility in H₂O, solubility in 0.25 M HCl, moisture content, bulk density, volatile matter, fixed carbon, ash content specific gravity, porosity, phenol adsorption

capacity, particle size and surface area. The instrumental studies are also done by using FTIR Spectroscopic studies and SEM studies for activated carbons [24].

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Characterization of Activated Carbons

Physico-chemical characteristics of *Azadirachta indica* L. Bark Activated Carbon(AIBAC), *Vigna unguiculata* L. Seed Shell Activated Carbon (VUSSAC) were studied and given in Table 3.1. pH values were indicated that the activated carbons are merely neutral medium. Conductivity standards mean that cations and anions in activated carbons might be accountable intended the conductivity. Moisture content of activated carbons were found to be below 1 % and devises no outcome on adsorptive capacity, but it reduces the activated carbons which needs the usage of surplus mass of carbon through the dealing progression. The lesser bulk density value indicated the highly cleft and leaky structure of activated carbons with additional annulled space. Acid solvable substance was originated marginally greater than the solubility in water in the activated carbons because of amalgamated carbonate clusters in the holes of activated carbons.

TABLE 3.1.CHARACTERIZATION OF ACTIVATED CARBONS

S.No.	Parameter	AIBAC	VUSSAC
1	pH	6.75	6.56
2	Conductivity (mS/cm)	0.25	0.21
3	Bulk density (g/mL)	0.38	0.56
4	Moisture content (%)	0.16	0.63
5	Volatile matter (%)	5.34	6.12
6	Ash content (%)	4.07	4.96
7	Fixed carbon (%)	90.43	88.29
8	Solubility in water (%)	0.83	1.25
9	Solubility in 0.25 M HCl (%)	5.32	8.17
10	Specific gravity	1.14	1.02
11	Porosity (%)	66.67	45.09
12	Phenol adsorption capacity (%)	63.24	56.04
13	Particle size (nm)	525	460.1
14	Surface area (m ² /g)	795.57	692.22

The order of porosity and surface area was found to be AIBAC greater than VUSSAC, it showed that these materials are more useful for removal of impurities such as heavy metals, dyes etc present in the industrial wastewater. Higher specific gravity showed that the activated carbons were castoff as a virtuous column stuffing drive for the exclusion of contaminants from wastewater. The lower ash content and explosive matter accredited to inferior inorganic content and higher fixed carbon. Higher value of fixed carbon showed that the activated carbons are more efficient for fit in column package. Higher phenol adsorption percentage showed that the activated carbons have higher adsorption of organic components existent in the aqueous solution and wastewater. The lower particle size and high surface area is deliberated to be the most appropriate for adsorption of dyes in aqueous solution and wastewater [25].

3.2. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopic (FTIR) Studies

The adsorption capability of activated carbons are depends upon porousness and the chemical reactivity of functional groups at surface. This reactivity makes an imbalance amongst forces at surface as equated within the frame and consequently foremost to molecular adsorption by the vanderwaals force. Novelty of the nature and sort of adsorption, the FTIR spectra of AIBAC are taken which are exposed in Figure 3.1.

The AIBAC spectrum at 3783 cm^{-1} identified the existence of -OH group presented in activated carbon. The N-H stretching of amines presented at 3409 cm^{-1} and -CH stretching of alkanes observed from the region 2922 cm^{-1} and 2853 cm^{-1} . A peak at 2023 cm^{-1} identified indicated the presence of $\text{-C}\equiv\text{C}$ triple bond group of adsorbent. The region at 1704 cm^{-1} specified the C=O stretching of carbonyl group and 1612 cm^{-1} shown the N-H bending of primary amine. The region at 1364 cm^{-1} specified -CH rock of alkanes group. The regions at 1229 cm^{-1} , 1160 cm^{-1} and 1116 cm^{-1} indicated C-N stretching of aliphatic amines. Therefore, the presence of these active groups are shown that the participation of adsorption of dyes on AIBAC [26].

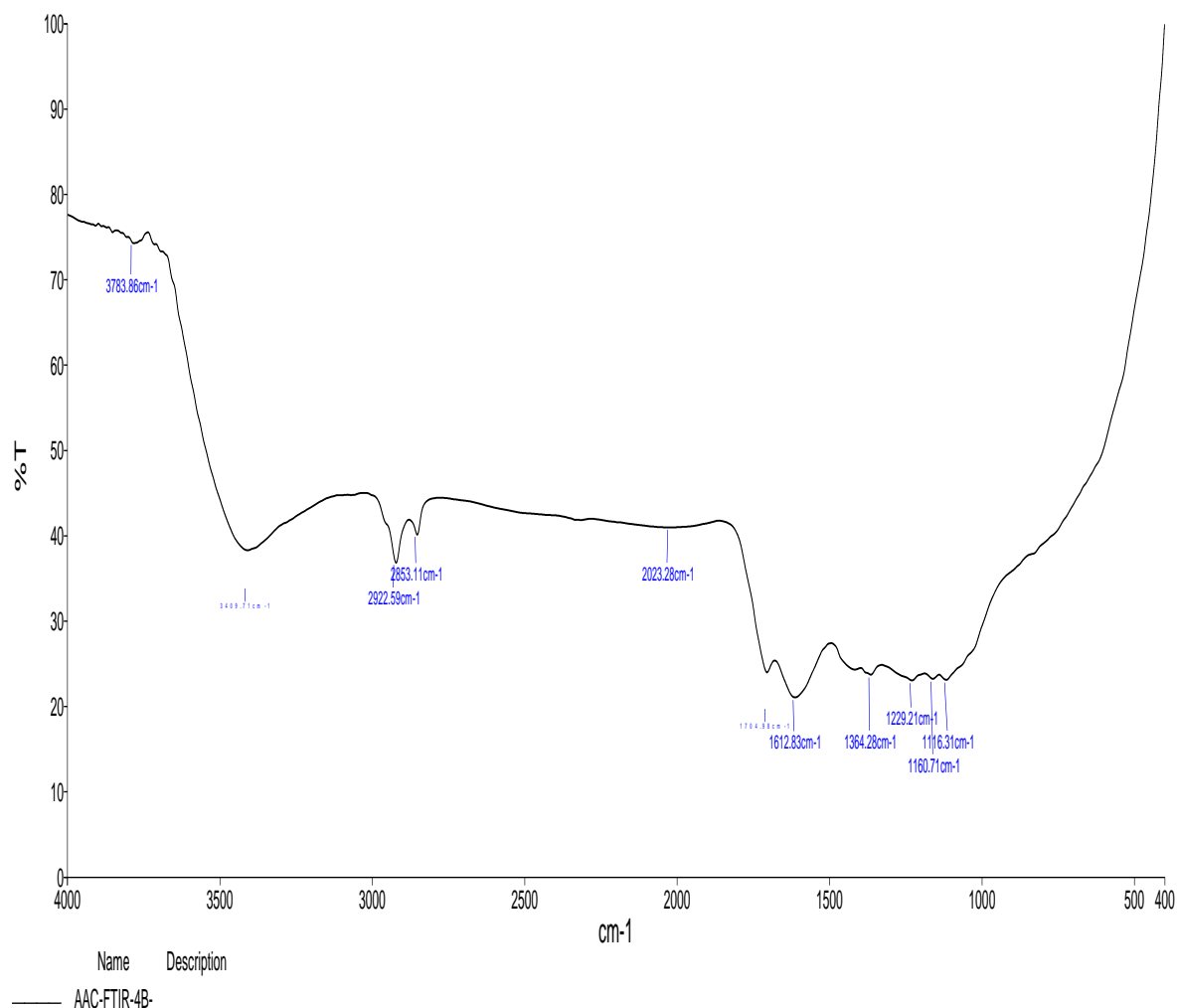


Figure 3.1. FTIR Spectra of AIBAC before adsorption

FT-IR spectra of VUSSAC are taken before adsorption and shown in Figure 3.2. The VUSSAC spectrum at 3794 cm^{-1} indicated the existence of --OH group. The N-H stretching of amines indicated at 3361 cm^{-1} ; a peak at 2923 cm^{-1} and 2852 cm^{-1} identified the existence --CH of alkanestretching group. The region at 1702 cm^{-1} specified the C=O carbonyl stretching group and 1591 cm^{-1} indicated the N-H bending of primary amine. The region at 1383 cm^{-1} specified --CH rocking of alkane group. The regions at 1236 cm^{-1} , 1154 cm^{-1} and 1112 cm^{-1} shown to be C-N stretching of aliphatic amines. The peak at 760 cm^{-1} indicated the presence of N-H wagging of amines and 676 cm^{-1} shown to be C-H stretching of aromatics. The region 594 cm^{-1} and 610 cm^{-1} indicated the C-Br alkyl halides stretching group. Therefore, the presence of these active groups are shown that the participation of adsorption of dyes onto VUSSAC [27].

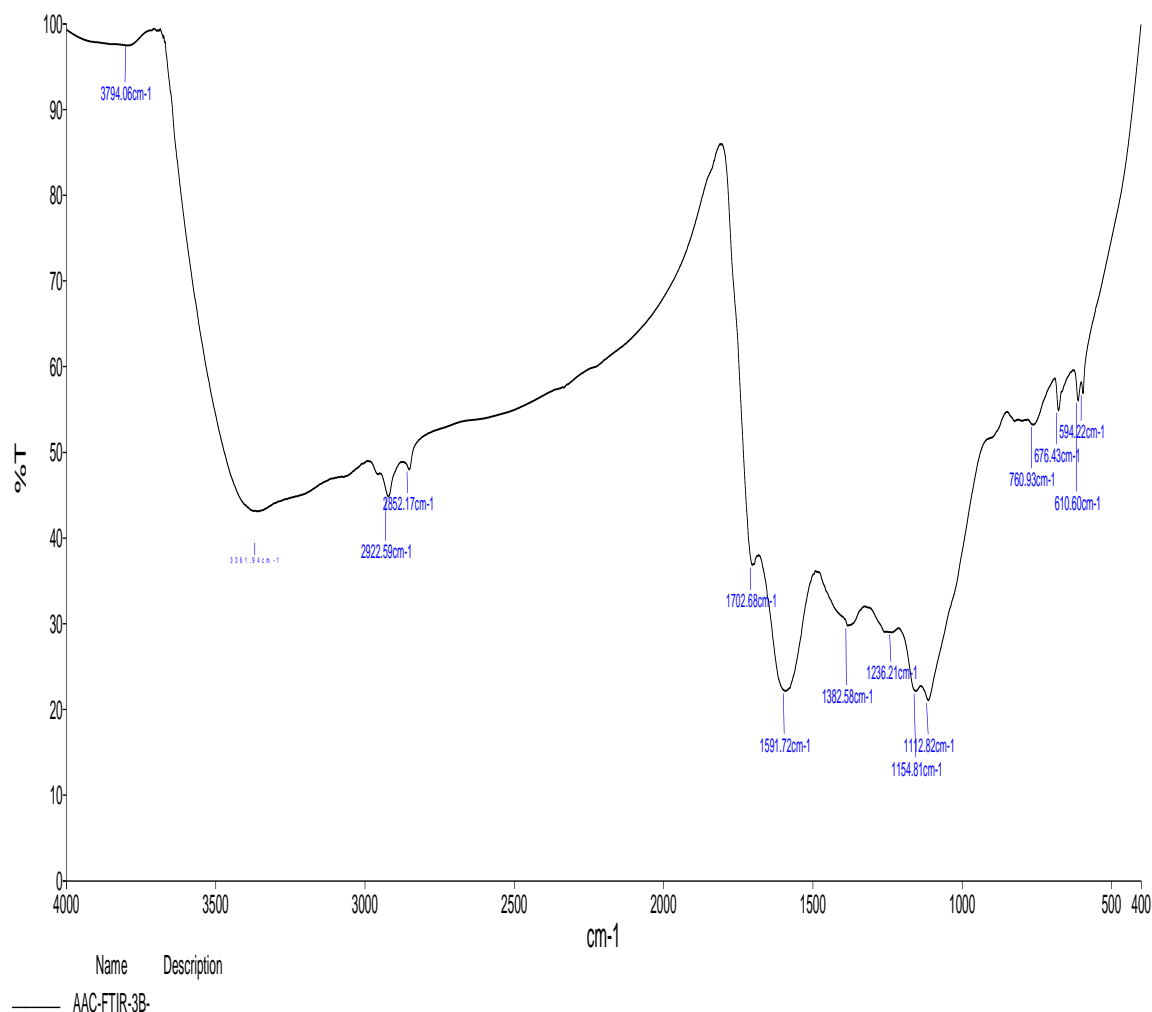


Figure 3.2. FTIR Spectra of VUSSAC before adsorption

After the adsorption of Methylene blue dye aqueous solution on AIBAC and VUSSAC, there was a small shift in wave number range and some of the wave number regions were not observed (figure not shown). It indicated that there was a good participation of adsorption of dye solution onto the activated carbons.

3.3. Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) Studies

The SEM images of AIBAC and VUSSAC before adsorption are shown in the Figures 3.3 and 3.4. It is plainly specified that existence of adsorbent structure of activated carbons before adsorption. It has fleapits and cavern type openings on surface which could certainly enhance the surface area accessible for adsorption which increases the adsorption capacity [28].

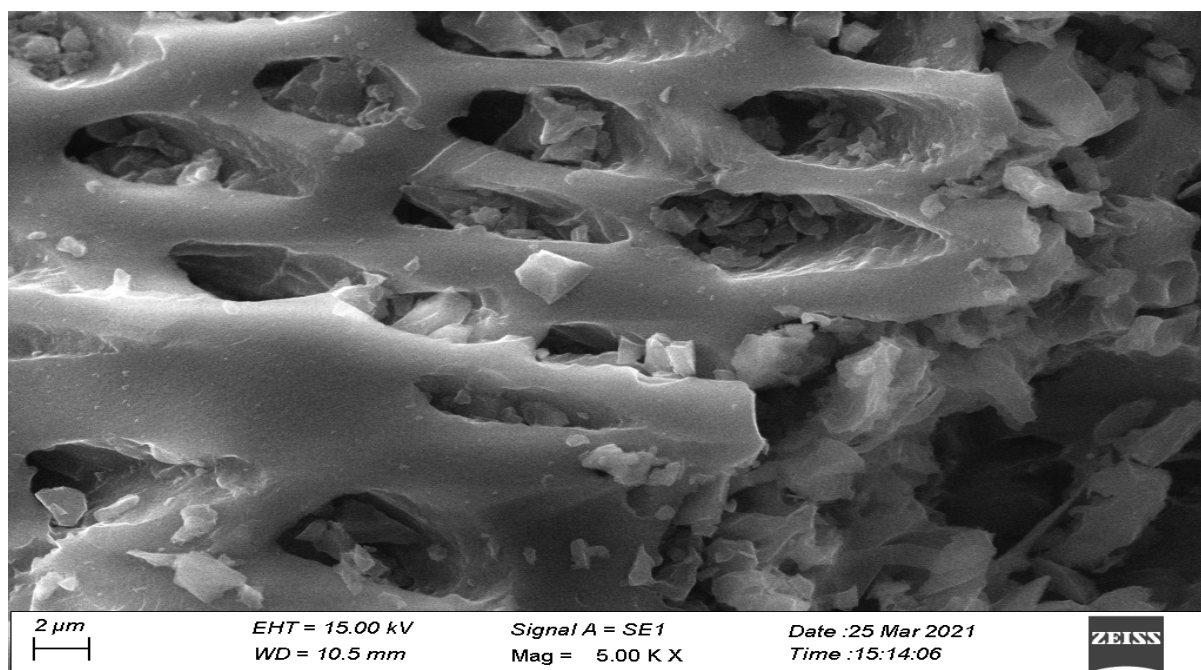


Figure 3.3. SEM Photograph of AIBAC before adsorption

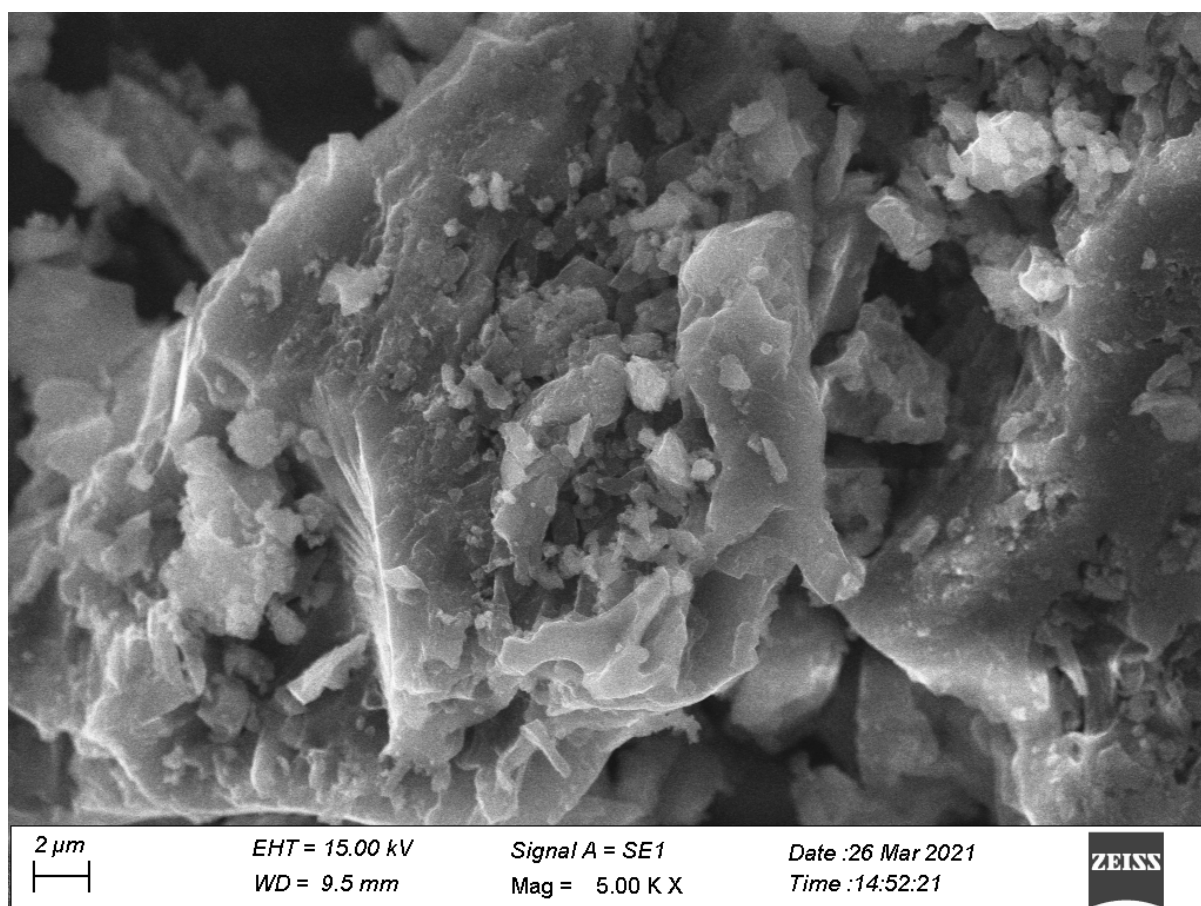


Figure 3.4. SEM Photograph of VUSSAC before adsorption

After adsorption of Methylene blue dye solution, SEM photographs are clearly shown that the surface AIBAC and VUSSAC are the caves, pores and surfaces of activated carbons enclosed by dye solution (figure not shown). It has clearly indicated that activated carbon structure is altered by the adsorption of Methylene blue dye solution.

IV. CONCLUSION

The adsorbents such as *Azadirachta indica* L. Bark Activated Carbon (AIBAC), *Vigna unguiculata* L. Seed Shell Activated Carbon (VUSSAC) is locally available, environmental friendly and low cost material. The values of fixed carbon, particle size and surface area values were shown that the AIBAC and VUSSAC are very powerful adsorbents for removing dyes from aqueous solution and wastewater. Based on FTIR and SEM study, shown that presence of active sites and porous structure of activated carbons which are responsible for removal of dyes present in aqueous solution.

V. REFERENCES

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