REMOVAL OF MALATHION USING SELECTED GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBONS

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The usage of malathion pesticide and a subsequent release into the environment was a major concern worldwide due to detrimental effect and their toxicity to ecosystem. Some studies showed that granular activated carbon (GAC)becomes the most effective adsorbents for the removal of pesticides. Therefore, a study was carried out to investigate the potential and effectiveness of four different types of granular activated carbon (GAC) namely coal base, coconut shell, palm shell and peat base to remove pesticides particularly malathion. All the GACused for this study were physically and chemically characterized by the BET surface area, SEM morphology, pH, moitsure contents and ash contents analysis, respectively. The adsorption process of malathion onto GAC had been studied through a batch test and fixed bed column test.

In batch test, the adsorption of malathion using granular activated carbon with different parameters such as particle size, dosage of carbon, temperature and agitation time (contact time) were investigated. Batch test were carried out to determine the potential and the effectiveness of GAC in removal of pesticide from agricultural run off. The Langmuir and Freundlich adsorption isotherm models were applied to describe the characteristics of adsorption behaviour. It was found that coal base activated carbon (CBAC) produced the best with maximum adsorption capacity of 909.9 mg/gand equilibrium data fitted well with the Langmuir isotherm, followed by coconut shell activated carbon (CSAC) with 909.1 mg/g of adsorption capacity, palm shell activated carbon (PSAC) and PBAC with the value of adsorption capacity 555.6 and 178.6 mg/g respectively. This is due to the better characteristic of CBAC compared to the other three GAC used fot this study.

For column test, six different empty bed contact time (EBCT) with the range of 2.95, 3.93, 4.91, 11.76, 15.7 and 19.6 minutes were used to evaluate their effects on the column performance where different breakthrough curve were obtained. It is clear that the efficiency of all types of GAC used in this study increased proportionally with the EBCTs. The highest EBCT of 19.6 minutes gives the best

performance in terms of adsorption efficiency, percentage removal and longer contact time. Then, the bed depth service time (BDST) breakthrough curve equation was used to predict the breakthrough curve and found fitted the experimental data well.

Frequently, the maximum malathion percentage removal efficiency was achieved 90%. CBAC is ranked first with the value of 88%, followed by CSAC with the value of 80%, PSAC and PBAC with the value of 78 and 75% respectively. As the adsorbent is derived from agricultural waste, it can be concluded that activated carbon is one of the potential in treating pesticide contaminants from agricultural runoff.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada senat Universiti Malaysia Terengganu sebagai memenuhi keperluan ijazah Master Sains.

PENYINGKIRAN RACUN PEROSAK MALATHION MENGGUNAKAN KARBON TERAKTIF BERGRANUL

HAJJAR HARTINI BINTI WAN JUSOH SEPTEMBER 2013

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Penggunaan racun perosak yang mengandungi malathion dan perlepasan tanpa rawatan ke alam sekitar adalah satu kebimbangan utama di seluruh dunia kerana kesan bahaya dan ketoksikan kepada ekosistem. Beberapa kajian menunjukkan bahawa dengan menggunakan karbon teraktif bergranul sebagai bahan penjerap adalah antara teknik berkesan untuk penyingkiran racun perosak. Oleh itu, satu kajian telah dijalankan untuk mengkaji potensi dan keberkesanan empat jenis karbon teraktif yang berbeza iaitu karbon kayu arang, karbon tempurung kelapa, karbon tempurung kelapa sawit dan karbon kulit buah keras untuk menyingkir racun perosak terutamanya malathion. Karbon-karbon teraktif bergranul yang digunakan untuk kajian dikaji ciri-cirinya menggunakan analisis luas permukaan BET, morfologi SEM, analisis pH, analisis kandungan sisa bakar (abu) dan analisis kandungan kelembapan. Proses penjerapan malathion dari larutan akues menerusi karbon teraktif butiran telah dikaji melalui ujian berkelompok dan ujian ruang katil tetap(ujian kolum).

Dalam ujian kelompok, penjerapan malathion dengan menggunakan karbon teraktif berbutir berdasarkan parameter yang berbeza seperti saiz zarah, dos karbon, suhu dan kapotensi dan keberkesanan karbon teraktif bergranul dalam penyingkiran racun perosak dalam air larian daripada sisa pertanian. Langmuir dan Freundlich model isoterma penjerapan telah digunakan untuk menggambarkan ciri-ciri kelakuan penjerapan. Keputusan diperolehi menunjukkan karbon kayu arang mendahului dengan nilai kapasiti penjerapan 909.9 mg/g dan data keseimbangan sesuai dengan baik dengan model Langmuir, diikuti oleh karbon tempurung kelapa dengan nilai kapasiti penjerapan sebanyak 909.1 mg/g, karbon tempurung kelapa sawit dan karbon kulit buah keras masing-masing dengan nilai kapasiti penjerapan sebanyak 555.6 dan 178.6 mg/g. Keadaan ini disebabkan oleh karbon kayu arang mempunyai ciri-ciri yang lebih baik berbanding ketiga-tiga jenis lain karbon teraktif yang digunakan untuk kajian ini.

Bagi ujian kolum, enam EBCT berbeza dengan had nilai 2.95, 3.93, 4.91, 11.76, 15.7 dan 19.6 minit telah digunakan untuk menilai kesannya terhadap prestasi ruang di mana lengkung penemuan yang berbeza diperolehi. Di sini dapat dijelaskan

bahawa keberkesanan bagi semua jenis karbon teraktif bergranul yang digunakan untuk kajian ini meningkat berkadaran dengan peningkatan EBCT. Nilai EBCT dengan masa 19.6 minit menunjukkan prestasi yang terbaik dari segi kadar penjerapan yang efisyen, peratusan keberkesanan penyahan dan peningkatan masa tindakbalas.Kemudian, persamaan lengkung penemuan BDST telah digunakan untuk meramal lengkung penemuan dan mendapati dipasang data eksperimen dengan baik.

Secara dasarnya, peratusan keberkesanan penyahan malathion yang maksimum adalah menjangkau kepada 90%. Karbon teraktif arang kayu (CBAC) mendahului dengan nilai 88%, diikuti karbon teraktif tempurung kelapa dengan nilai 80%, karbon teraktif tempurung kelapa sawit dan karbon teraktif buah keras dengan masingmasing 78 dan 75%. Oleh kerana karbon penjerap diperolehi daripada bahan daripada sisa pertanian, disimpulkan bahawa karbon butiran teraktif boleh digunakan untuk menjerap racun perosak (malathion) yang berkesan dari air larian pertanian.