



Cellulose Schiff Base as a Bio-based Polymer Ligand: Extraction, Modification and Metal Adsorption Study

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Abstract

Cellulose was initially extracted from Safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius* L.) stem wastes and used for the preparation of a fully bio-based adsorbent polymer Schiff base (Sch) using oxidation reaction of the extracted compound. A safe cross-linked cellulose dialdehyde (CC-DA) was subsequently synthesized through epichlorohydrin (ECH) and sodium metaperiodate followed by Sch formation with *p*-phenylenediamine (*p*-PDA). All of the reactions carried out including cross-linking, oxidation, and Sch formation of the extracted cellulose were confirmed via Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) study. The microstructure of the modified products was also investigated using scanning electron microscopy (SEM). The prepared modified cellulose was further characterized by X-ray powder diffraction (XRD), mapping, energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX), CHNS, and thermogravimetric analysis (TGA). Furthermore, it was used in the removal of Pb(II) from wastewater. The effect of some factors such as pH, contact time, and adsorbent dosage was additionally examined in batch mode experiments. Maximum removal efficiency of Pb(II) reached 98.5% at pH 6 and the contact time of 15 min. The kinetic analyses revealed that the adsorptions of Pb(II) on the cellulose Sch adsorbent followed with a pseudo-second order model ($R^2 > 0.99$). Moreover, the adsorption isotherms were well fitted with the Langmuir isotherm, suggesting that homogeneous monolayer surface adsorption that had occurred. The spontaneous and endothermic nature of the adsorption process was further settled by thermodynamic parameters.

Keywords Extracted cellulose · Cellulose oxidation · Cellulose Schiff base · Metal biosorbent

Introduction

As the population grows, global demands of fresh-water for food preparation and agricultural operations are steeply rising [1]. On the other hand, water pollution is one of the most important threats to human health [2]. Accordingly, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, lead and mercury, even

in minor quantities, are the most inorganic water pollutant [3]. Among these ions, Pb toxicity also called lead poisoning is an important environmental disease, which can affect human existence and even animals if consumed above certain threshold concentrations [4]. Various industries including paint, batteries, metal plating, insecticides, cosmetics, alloys, and mining are also among the most significant sources releasing heavy metals into water [5]. As it is not possible to prevent the improvement of these industries and their resulting wastes, it seems necessary to make use of approaches towards removing the mentioned heavy metals as much as possible. Numerous research studies have been conducted in this area. In this regard, the safety of applied methods and materials as well as their high efficiency, due to the vastness of industries, has been required [6–8]. In general, the adsorption technique is one of the widely used processes for removal of heavy metals, since it is highly effective and reasonably inexpensive [9]. Various materials such as activated carbon and carbon based materials [10–16] natural zeolite [17–20], bentonite clay [21, 22], red mud

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[23], polymers and biopolymers [24–27], fly ash [28], bio-masses [29] and metal oxid nanoparticles [30–39] have been accordingly evaluated for removal of the heavy metals and other pollutants. Due to their high surface area and environmentally friendly properties, biopolymers can be similarly found the best choice for this process [40].

Cellulose is known as the most attractive one, among other bio-based polymers, found naturally. It is renewable, environmentally friendly, efficient and cost-effective, sustainable, and biodegradable [41]. This organic compound can be also easily derived from plant sources and the most abundant biological macromolecules with numerous hydroxyl groups that are receptive to chemical modifications [42–44]. Therefore, it can be a good substrate for adsorption reactions. However, its poor reactivity and slow removal rate are the main limitations facing its adsorption applications [45, 46]. Chemical modification of the molecular structure of cellulose to improve its physical and adsorption efficiency has been accordingly drawing researchers' attention in recent years [47].

Modification of cellulose chains via division of the C₂–C₃ bond between vicinal hydroxyl groups has resulted in the formation of two aldehyde groups per glucose unit [48–50]. Periodate oxidation also relies on a one-pot synthesis in aqueous solutions which can be easily stopped using some ethylene glycol [51]. The synthesized polymer containing aldehyde groups can be further converted into other functionalities such as carboxylic acid, sulfonic acid, amino acid, hydroxyl, or can be reacted with a primary amine to form a Schiff base [47]. The chelating groups on the cellulose chains can also act as active sites for removal of the heavy metal ions from aqueous solutions [52]. This study reflected on the extraction cellulose from dried stem powder of Safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius* L.).

The novelty of this study is that it highlights the possibility of integrated use of extracted biopolymer from biomass in the heavy metal adsorption from wastewater. A simple, efficient, and new method have been developed for the extraction of cellulose from dried stem powder Safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius* L.). To prepare an efficient new high surface biosorbent for metal ions, the extracted cellulose was cross-linked, periodate oxidized, and then functionalized with *para*-phenylenediamine (*p*-PDA) to develop chelating sites between the polymeric chains. The produced cross-linked cellulose (CC)-Sch was then evaluated as a biosorbent for lead(II) nitrate ions from contaminated water. The effects of pH, contact time, and adsorbent dosage were subsequently investigated in batch mode experiments. This novel biosorbent exhibits high efficiency for lead adsorption and the values of TOF and TON are found to be within the range of millions which are ideal cases for the industrial-scale applications.

Experimental

Materials

Glacial acetic acid and potassium hydroxide were purchased from Panreac Quimica S.A.U (Spain) and Merck Co. (Germany); respectively. Epichlorohydrin (ECH) came from Riedel De Haen AG Seelze Hannover (Germany). Sodium metaperiodate was bought from BDH Chemicals Ltd. Poole (UK). Sodium chlorite (80%) and *p*-PDA were obtained from the technical grade of Sigma-Aldrich Co. (Germany). Moreover, distilled water was used in this study.

Cross-Linking of Extracted Cellulose

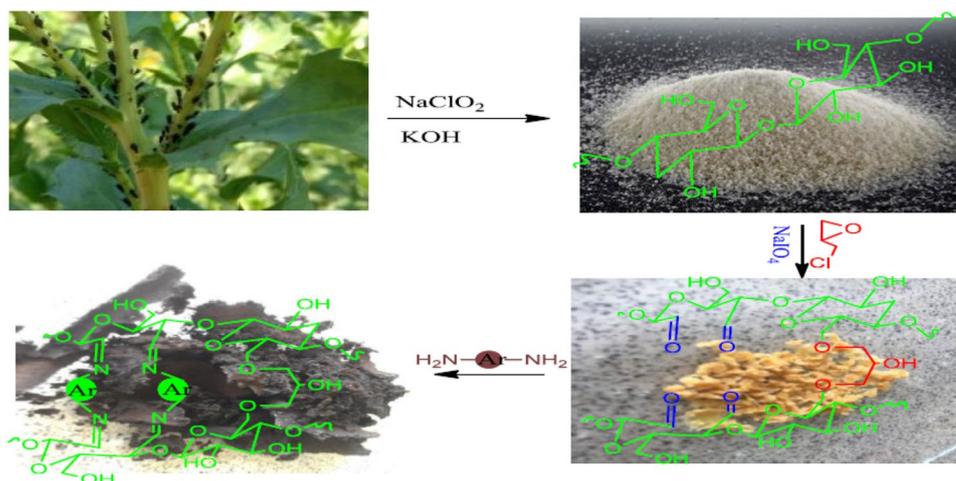
Safflower stem wastes were washed, sun-dried, powdered and then cellulose extraction process was implemented following instructions in authors' previous work [53]. The extracted cellulose (6 g) was dispersed into water (100 mL) under sonication and continuously stirred at room temperature (30 min). Subsequently, an aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide (50 mL, 22%) was added to the reaction container. After mixing (for 50 °C, 2.5 h), ECH (40 g) and ammonium hydroxide (45 g, 25% solution) were added and the reaction mixture refluxed (for 4.5 h, at 55 °C). The product was washed (three times) with ethanol and distilled water and dried for 15 h (at 60 °C) [54].

Preparation of CC-Sch

CC (4 g) was immersed in distilled water (100 mL) and oxidized with NaIO₄ (6 g) in a dark atmosphere. After 3-h stirring (at 55 °C), oxidation was stopped by adding an excess of ethylene glycol followed by filtering and washing of C-DAC with ethanol and water. The prepared C-DAC (6 g) reacted with *p*-PDA (6 g) at 70 °C for overnight (Fig. 1). The product was filtrated and washed with toluene and dried (for 12 h, at 50 °C).

Adsorption Experiments

The metal ion adsorption study of CC-Sch base adsorbent was evaluated using an aqueous solution of Pb(II). All the experiments were performed in a glass container (100 mL) under shaking (at 200 rpm). The effect of different parameters such as adsorption dosage (0.2–4 mg/mL), pH value (2–10) adjusted by addition of hydrogen chloride (0.1 M) or NaOH (0.1 M), metal ion concentration (30–100 ppm), and contact time (5–25 min) were then investigated. After each adsorption experiment, the adsorbent was separated from the reaction mixture by

Fig. 1 Scheme of green polymer CC-Sch preparation process

centrifuging and the residual solution analyzed for metal ion concentration through an atomic adsorption spectrophotometer (AAS) (Perkin Elmer Analyst 400). Removal efficiency (R) and equilibrium adsorption efficiency (Q_e) of heavy metal ions (mg heavy metal ion/g adsorbent) were ultimately determined according to Eqs. 1 and 2 [52]:

$$R(\%) = \frac{(C_0 - C_e)}{C_0} \times 100 \quad (1)$$

$$q = \frac{(C_0 - C_e)V}{m} \quad (2)$$

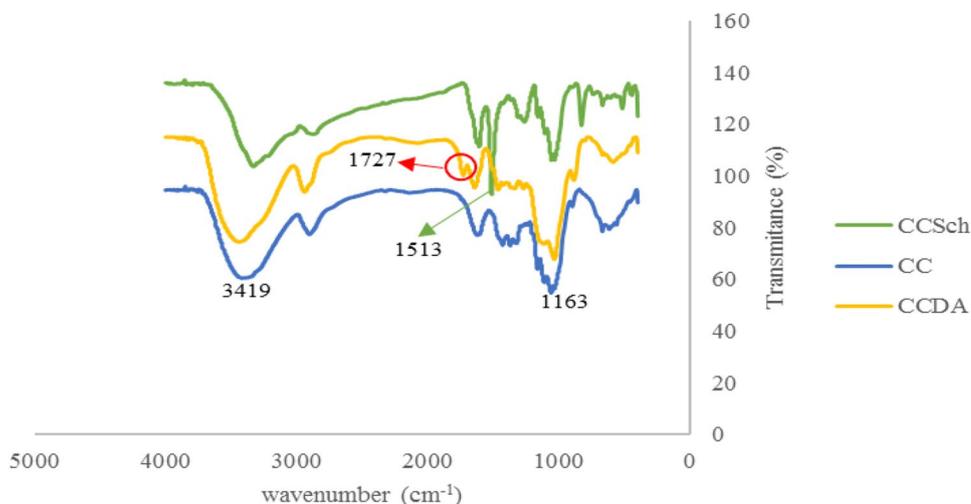
wherein C_e and C_0 (mol. L⁻¹) represent equilibrium and initial concentrations; respectively. V also shows solution volume and m indicates weight of adsorbent (g).

Results and Discussion

Characterization of Cellulose Adsorbent

The FT-IR spectra of CC, CCDA and CCS-ch are shown in Fig. 2. The index bands of the modified cellulose extracted spectra at 3419, 1727, 1163, and 1060 cm⁻¹ were attributed to hydrogen bonded of -OH groups, C=O stretching, C-O vibration, and C-O-C stretching; respectively. Upon *p*-PDA treatment, the spectrum of CC-Sch presented a new peak at approximately 1513 cm⁻¹ and 1260 cm⁻¹, which could be ascribed to C=N and C-N bending vibration of Sch formed between aldehyde groups of the oxidized cellulose and the amino groups of the *p*-PDA [54].

Microstructure and surface morphology of the synthesized product surface was further investigated from SEM images (Fig. 3). The image of the extracted cellulose exhibits arranged cellulose chains due to the strong intramolecular hydrogen bonding (Fig. 3a). Surface morphology also

Fig. 2 FTIR spectrum of modified cellulose

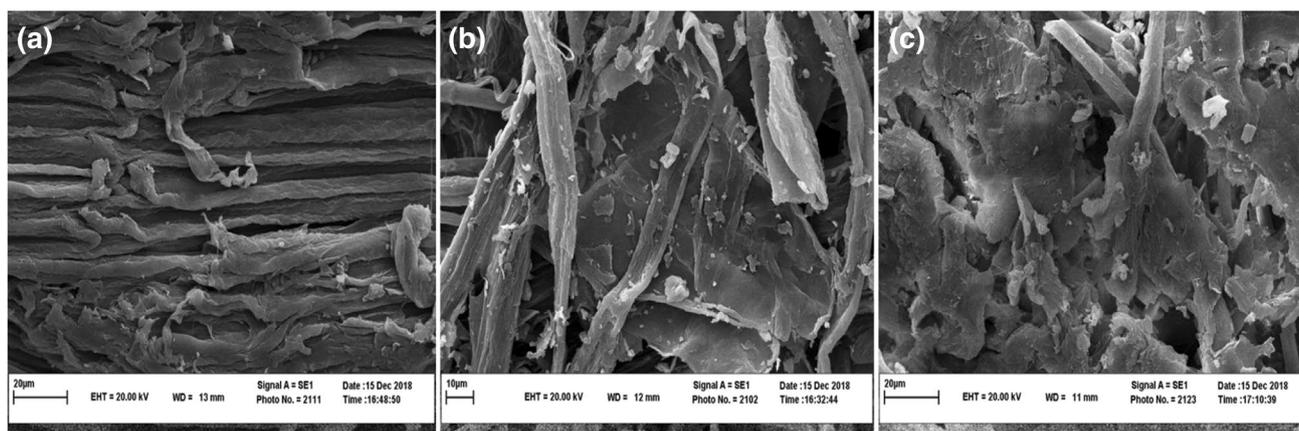


Fig. 3 SEM images of **a** cellulose, **b** CC, and **c** CC-Sch

resulted from the proximity of different cellulose chains after cross-linking (Fig. 3b). However, the surface of CC-Sch seemed rougher and wider compared with CC-DA following *p*-PDA grafting (Fig. 3c) [55]. The presence of C, N and O in the CC-Sch has been proved by EDX analysis and mapping (S1, S2).

And also, The CHNS analysis of the CC-Sch is presented in Fig. S3. Wherein the element composition of carbon is (56.69%) and hydrogen (5.33%) and an additional peak due to N (8.79%) which also confirms functionalization of CCDA with *p*-PDA.

The thermal behavior of the CC-Sch was analyzed (Fig. S4). Thermal analysis of the CC-Sch has proved to be useful in determining the structure of cellulose and thermal stability as well as the decomposition mode under controlled heating rate [56]. As observed, the peak with 3.6% mass loss at 63 °C about the loss of moisture. Two main degradation steps with 16.2% weight loss in the CC-Sch are observed and produced at 200 °C and 312 °C because of dehydration and depolymerization-tar-forming processes in cellulose. The

CC-Sch showed relatively higher stability that could be due to the crosslinking and the inclusion of phenyl groups in the structure. And also CC-Sch did not show any degradation below 200 °C, and therefore, can act as an effective resistant biodegradable adsorbent in heavy metal adsorption reaction.

The X-ray diffraction (XRD) pattern of the CC-Sch indicated low intensity and a broad diffraction peak (Fig. S5), which clearly confirmed an amorphous structure [57, 58]. However, the XRD pattern of crystalline cellulose used in previous reports was showed sharp peaks at $2\theta = 15^\circ$, 20.3° , and 22.2° , corresponding to the (1 $\bar{1}$ 0), (110), and (200) planes, respectively, something that is absent in the XRD spectra of our synthesized cellulose [57].

Cellulose Adsorbent for Removal of Heavy Metals

Effect of Adsorbent Dosage

Figure 4 shows the effect of adsorbent dosage on Pb(II) removal by CC-Sch adsorbent. In this study, adsorbent

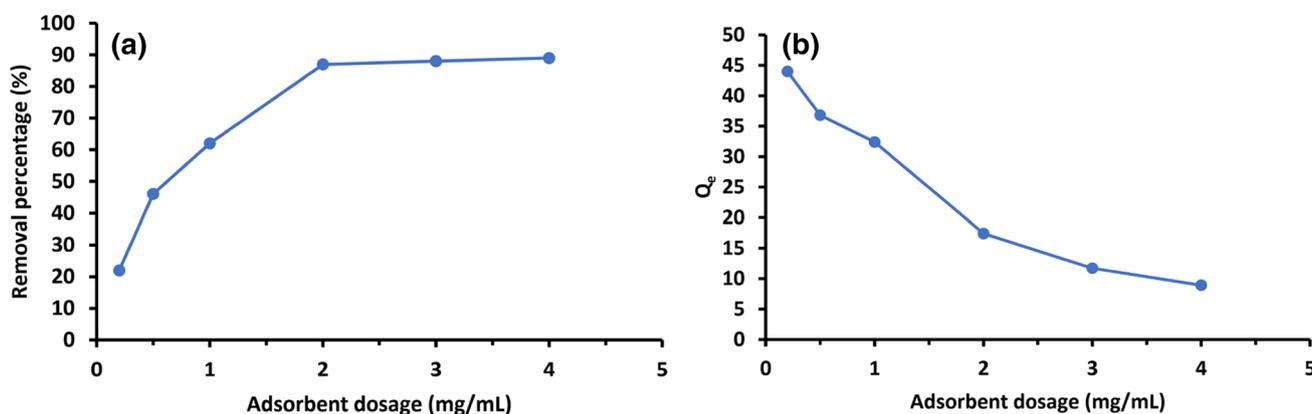


Fig. 4 Effect of adsorbent dosage on Pb(II) adsorption

dosages of 0.2–4 mg/mL were added to Pb(II) solution (50 mL, 20 mg/L) and shaken (for 10 min, at room temperature). As observed in Fig. 4a, the amount of R increased with increasing of CC-Sch base adsorbent dosage (from 0.2 to 2 mg/mL), due to the growth in the number of available adsorption sites for metal ion binding and it reached to 87% by using of adsorbent dosage higher than 2 mg/mL. The behavior could be as a result of the equilibrium of the metal ion concentration on the surface of the adsorbent and in the solution [59]. On the other hand, the adsorption efficiency decreased dramatically as the adsorbent dosage was augmented (Fig. 4b). The reason was mainly connected to unsaturated adsorption sites through adsorption reaction and particle interactions, such as aggregation, resulting from high adsorbent concentration [60]. In addition, such aggregations would lead to a decrease in the total surface area of the adsorbent [61].

Effect of pH

pH is typically a parameter affecting the adsorption of heavy metal ions in its process. The experiments were accordingly conducted with adsorbent dosage (2 mg/mL) in aqueous solution (50 mL) containing Pb(II) (40 ppm) which was shaken at room temperature (for 10 min) over the pH range of 2–10. Based on Fig. 5, the R (removal efficiency) of Pb (II) significantly increased as the pH of the solution was raised. Maximum R also reached 98.5% at pH 6.5. Under acidic conditions, the predominant metal species M^{2+} and $M(OH)^+$ were positively charged and the imine and other functional groups of adsorbents were protonated and the charge on the surface of the adsorbent became positive. Therefore, there was a significant electrostatic repulsion between the cationic Pb(II) ions and positively charged functional groups on the surface of the adsorbent, inhibiting the adsorption of Pb(II). In addition, the competitive uptake of

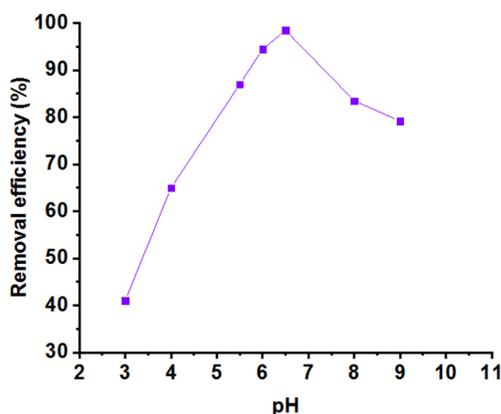


Fig. 5 Effect of pH on R of Pb(II) onto CC-Sch adsorbent: 2 mg/mL; concentration of metal ions: 40 mg L⁻¹; temperature: 298 K

H^+ cations was considered to be the reason for the lower up taken of the metals in more acidic environments. On the other hand, a subsequent decrease in R at a pH value higher than 6.5 could be due to the formation of Pb hydroxides in the solution. Thus, an optimum pH value of 6.5 was chosen for further batch adsorption studies.

Effect of Contact Time

Adsorption of Pb(II) onto the cellulose-based adsorbent as a function of time was studied under pH of 6.5, initial Pb(II) concentration of 40 ppm, adsorbent dosage of 2.0 mg/mL at room temperature as shown (Fig. 6). The results indicated that the adsorption rate was very initially fast (the amount of Pb adsorption in 5 min was about 69%) could be due to the availability of coordination sites, and reached a limiting value (98.5%) after 15 min of the reaction. Hence, it was chosen for further studies.

Adsorption Kinetics

The kinetics of the adsorption data was analyzed using pseudo-first-order and pseudo-second-order models to investigate physical–chemical aspects of the adsorption process of Pb(II) onto the CC-Sch adsorbent. The linear form of both the pseudo-first-order reaction and the pseudo-second-order model are expressed as reported [62–65].

Kinetic parameters are shown in Table 1. Once the experimental data were plotted for both pseudo-first-order and pseudo-second-order kinetics in Fig. 7, the R^2 of the pseudo-second-order models (0.99) regarding Pb(II) adsorption was greater than that for the first–second-order models (0.95). In addition, the calculated q_e values from the pseudo-second-order model (q_e , cal) were very close to the experimental q_e values, indicating that the adsorption process of metal ions on the CC-Sch base adsorbent had followed the pseudo-second order. This confirmed that the Pb(II) concentration

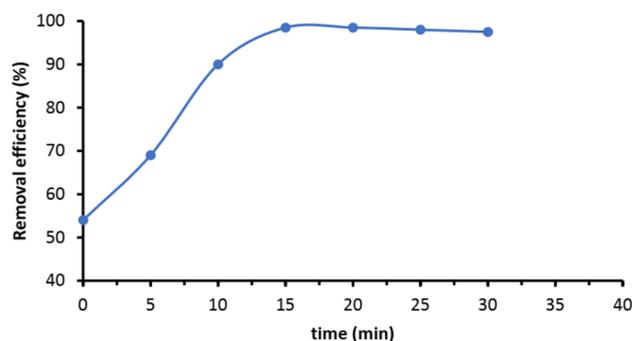


Fig. 6 Effect of time on adsorption of Pb(II); adsorbent: 2 mg/mL; concentration of metal ions: 40 mg L⁻¹; pH: 7.3; temperature: 298 K

had been affected in the rate-determining step in the adsorption process, which might be chemical adsorption [66, 67].

Adsorption Isotherms

Langmuir (Eq. 3) and Freundlich (Eq. 4) isotherm models were applied to describe the adsorption process of Pb(II) on the CC-Sch adsorbent. In this study, the effect of Pb(II) concentration on the adsorption capacity was investigated at different concentrations of 30–100 ppm under the obtained optimized conditions. The Langmuir model assumes that adsorption is monolayer on the homogeneous outer surface of the adsorbent and represents the equilibrium distribution of metal ions between solid and liquid phases [68].

$$\frac{C_e}{q_e} = \frac{C_e}{q_m} + \frac{1}{k_L q_m} \quad (3)$$

where C_e is the equilibrium concentration of metal ion (ppm), q_e refers to the amount of adsorbate adsorbed per unit mass of cellulose-based adsorbent at equilibrium (mg/g), q_{max} shows theoretical maximum monolayer adsorption capacity of the adsorbent (mg/g), and K_L represents the

Langmuir isotherm constant related to the adsorption energy (L/mg). As well, q_m and K_L were determined from the plots of C_e/t vs. C_e .

In contrast to the Langmuir model, the Freundlich model assumes that the adsorbent surface energy is heterogeneous with active sites having non-uniform energies (Eq. 4) [69].

$$\log q_e = \log k_F + \left(\frac{1}{n}\right) \log C_e \quad (4)$$

in which K_F is the Freundlich capacity constant and n shows adsorption intensity. q_e and C_e are also the same quantities used in the Langmuir isotherm [70]. This model is typically employed to describe multilayer adsorption on a heterogeneous surface.

The calculated parameters such as R^2 , K_L , Q_m , K_F , and n , corresponding to each model are summarized in Table 2. Based on the fitting results, all the R^2 values from the Langmuir model (0.9991) were much greater compared with those for the Freundlich isotherm model. Therefore, adsorption is a homogeneous monolayer process. Besides, the adsorption capacity of the present work is rather than other reported adsorbents that summarized in Table 3. These

Table 1 Calculated parameters for pseudo-first-order and pseudo-second-order models of Pb(II) adsorption on CC-Sch adsorbent (pH 7.35, $t = 25$, initial concentration of heavy metal ions: 40 ppm and 2 mg/mL adsorbent)

Metal ion	$q_{e,exp}$ (mg/g)	Pseudo-first-order kinetics			Pseudo-second-order kinetics		
		$q_{e,cal}$ (mg/g)	k_1 (1/min)	R^2	$q_{e,cal}$ (mg/g)	k_2 (g/mg min)	R^2
Pb(II)	19.7	7.73	0.11	0.95	19.84	9.4×10^{-2}	0.99

k_1 (g/mg min): the rate constant of the pseudo-first-order adsorption, k_2 (g/mg min): the adsorption rate constant of pseudo-second-order adsorption q_e and q_t (mg/g) are the amounts of adsorbate adsorbed at equilibrium e and at any time t (min), respectively

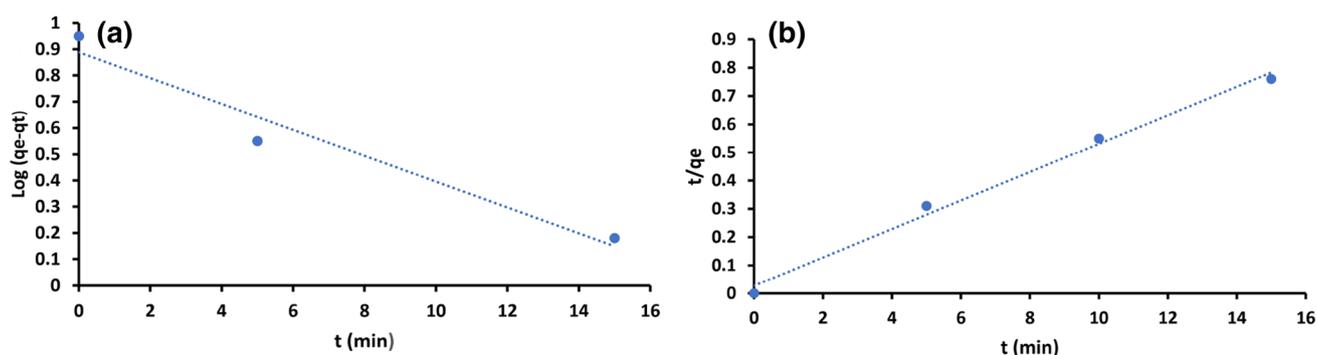


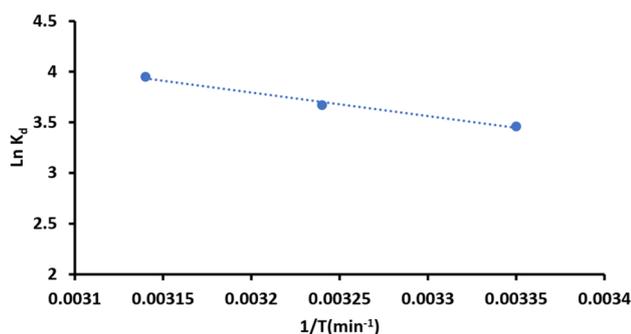
Fig. 7 Pseudo-first-order (a) and pseudo-second-order models (b) for Pb(II) ion on CC-Sch adsorbent

Table 2 Parameters of the Langmuir and Freundlich models of Pb(II) adsorption on CC-Sch adsorbent

Metal ion	Langmuir isotherm parameters			Freundlich isotherm parameters		
	q_m (mg/g)	K_L (L/mg)	R^2	n	K_F (g/g)	R^2
Pb(II)	33.33	0.583	0.9991	5.56	18.83	0.8412

Table 3 Comparison of adsorption capacities of various adsorbents for removal of heavy metal ions

Adsorbent	q_m (mg g ⁻¹)	Concentration of adsorbent (g L ⁻¹)	Contact time (min)	Refs.
Cellulose/GO composite	39.22	2.5	60	[71]
Nanocellulose fiber	9.42	10.35	40	[72]
Chitosan beads	39	5	80	[73]
Cross-linked chitosan–clay beads	7.930	10	80	[74]
Dyed cellulose materials (coir)	26.29	20	4 h	[75]
Cellulose–g-GMA-imidazole	75	3.64	2 h	[76]
MWCNTs/PAAM	29.71	0.4	24	[77]
CC-Sch adsorbent	33.33	2	15	Present study

**Fig. 8** Linear plot of $\ln K_d$ vs. $1/T$ for adsorption of Pb(II) ion on CC-Sch adsorbent**Table 4** Thermodynamic parameters of Pb(II) ion adsorption on the cellulose Schiff base adsorbent

Metal ions	T (K)	ΔG (kJ/mol)	ΔS° (J (K ⁻¹ /mol))	ΔH° (kJ/mol)	R ²
Pb(II)	298	- 8.65	93.43	19.39	0.99
	308	- 9.55			
	318	- 10.61			

results demonstrated that the CC-Sch adsorbent could be a promising adsorbent for removing Pb(II) from wastewater.

Adsorption Thermodynamics

To assess adsorption thermodynamics, the impact of temperature on R was evaluated at various temperatures (298 K, 303 K, and 318 K) under the optimized obtained conditions. The thermodynamic parameters (Gibbs energy (ΔG°), enthalpy (ΔH°), and entropy (ΔS°)) were further considered [78].

The thermodynamic parameters for the adsorption process are determined from the slope and the intercept of the plot of $\ln K_d$ vs. $1/T$ (Fig. 8) and the results are reported in Table 4. The endothermic nature of the adsorption process

was correspondingly confirmed by the positive value of ΔH° [79]. Furthermore, the positive ΔS was observed as temperature increased, indicating a higher degree of metal ion freedom at the solid/solution interface driven by the adsorption process [80].

The negative values of ΔG° showed that the adsorption reaction was spontaneous. The growth in the negativity of ΔG° with higher temperature confirmed that favorability had boosted with temperature [81].

The adsorption mechanism of Pb(II) ions on the CC-Sch adsorbent was studied. Reportedly, chemical adsorptions are the main factor of metal ions adsorption on the cellulose surface [82, 83]. The kinetics experiments in this research revealed that the adsorption of Pb²⁺ on the surface of CC-Sch sorbent is chemical adsorption by electrostatic attraction between heavy metal ions and CC-Sch sorbent. Electrostatic cationic attractions between metal ions and CC-Sch adsorbent were in “Effect of pH” section. Meanwhile, the isothermal study verified that the adsorption of Pb²⁺ onto CC-Sch is a homogeneous monolayer adsorption process. Formation of complexes between metal ions and functional groups is an important factor in metal ion adsorption on the adsorbent surface which is confirmed in this study (“Adsorption Isotherms” section).

The FT-IR analysis of modified cellulose for before and after adsorption of Pb²⁺ were compared to further identify the metal ion-functional group complexes (Fig. S6). Significant changes and shifts of characteristic peaks in FT-IR spectra of CCS-ch adsorbent after metal loading confirm that those functional groups-contained these bonds have involved in the complexes with metal ions.

TON and TOF

The turn over frequency (TOF) is a factor for investigation of the CC-Sch efficiency as a promising adsorbent material and estimated based on the derivative of the number of turnovers of the adsorption cycles in accordance to the time per active surface site on the surface of adsorbent. All the operational conditions which influence the adsorption

behavior of CC-Sch are properly declared and accounted for the estimation of the TOF [84]. In most cases a good approximation method for the estimation of TOF at a specified temperature can be obtained by applying the energetic span approximation (Eq. 5) [85, 86].

$$TOF = \frac{K_b T}{h} e^{\frac{\delta E}{RT}} \quad (5)$$

in which K_b , h , and δE represent the Boltzmann constant (1.38×10^{-23} J/K), Planck's constant (6.63×10^{-34} J s).

Note that δE (the energetic span), being the apparent activation Gibbs energy of the cycle, can be decomposed to $\delta E = \Delta H - T\Delta S$ and, similar to the van't Hoff equation. In the energetic span estimation, the entropy term from the van't Hoff's equation is removed and only the apparent activation enthalpy of the adsorption cycle remained which can be directed to the neglecting the influence of the reaction molecularity on the estimation of the energetic span. Additionally, to predict the maximum utilization of the CC-Sch for the Pb^{2+} adsorption under the defined specific operation conditions including the temperature and pressure by the number of the adsorption cycles up to the decomposition or decay CC-Sch for the efficient Pb^{2+} adsorption, the turnover number (TON) has been estimated by using the following equation (Eq. 6).

$$TON = \frac{TOF \times t_{1/2}}{\ln 2} \quad (6)$$

In which, $t_{1/2}$ represent the half time (sec.) of the adsorption cycle. The results of the TOF and TON are shown in (Table 5). From the findings, it can be seen that the values of both TOF, as well as TON, are found to be within the range of millions which are in accordance with the reported literature. These values are ideal cases for the industrial-scale applications [87, 88].

Conclusion

The present study assessed the process of obtaining new functional cellulose-based biosorbents from stem waste biomasses. The extracted cellulose was successfully cross-linked, simply periodate oxidized, and functionalized with

chelating agent (i. e. *p*-PDA). The chemical structure and the morphology of the materials were studied using FTIR, SEM. The prepared functional polymer was then evaluated as an adsorbent of the metal ion $Pb(II)$ from wastewater. By adding to the synthesized adsorbent dosage (from 0.2 to 2 mg/mL), the amount of R increased to 87% through adsorbent dosage of 2 mg/mL. As well, an excellent R (98.5%) was obtained at a pH value of 6.5 at room temperature. The thermodynamic data indicated that the adsorption process was exothermic and spontaneous in nature at various temperatures. The obtained results indicated that the chemically functionalized cellulosic products could be utilized as alternative adsorbents for the removal of lead ions in wastewater sewage.

Author Contributions All authors have participated in (a) conception and design, or analysis and interpretation of the data; (b) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and (c) approval of the final version.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of interest The authors have no affiliation with any organization with a direct or indirect financial interest in the subject matter discussed in the manuscript.

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Table 5 TON and TOF of $Pb(II)$ ion adsorption on the cellulose Schiff base adsorbent

Sample	Temperature (K)	TOF (min^{-1})	TON
CC-Sch	298	8.23×10^7	89×10^7
	308	8.50×10^7	92×10^7
	318	8.78×10^7	94×10^7

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