

## ADSORPTION CHARACTERISTICS OF TANNIN FOR HEAVY METAL IONS

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## **ABSTRACT**

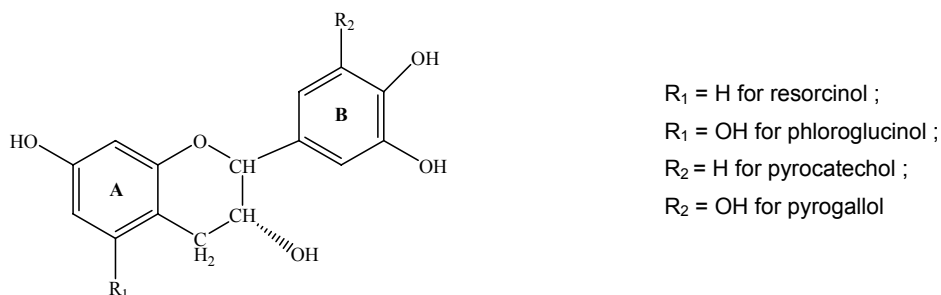
Tannins gel was investigated as an adsorbent for heavy metal ions, such as lead, cadmium, copper, and others. The gel used in the present work was made by Mitsubishi Nuclear Fuel Co. Ltd. (MNF). It was found that the gel showed high adsorption capacity of heavy metal ions and the adsorption isotherms were correlated well by the Langmuir equation. The maximum adsorption capacity was influenced by some factors, as following: initial pH of solutions, kinds of heavy metal ion species and counter ion species. These results suggest that the gel can capture a few heavy metal ion species selectively from their mixture.

## INTRODUCTION

Heavy metal ions, such as lead, cadmium and copper have been detected at high concentrations in wastewater of many industries and soil. It has been serious problems because they exist as contaminants and are accumulated in living organisms. It has been strictly prohibited to discharge these ions in many countries.

There are various methods, such as precipitation, ion exchange and membrane filtration, used to remove these ions from wastewater. However, those approaches are not efficient, because their treatment cost is comparatively high in the case of low concentrations and it is difficult to clear legal limits. Therefore, it needs to use low-cost materials for removal of those ions from waste water. There is tannin to leaves and bark in many kinds of plant. Tannin is usually extracted from them, it is used as a tanning agent in leather industry and a raw material in manufacturing of adhesives. Other than application above-mentioned, it investigated to apply tannin as an adsorbent to capture various kinds of chemical species. Randall *et al.* (1974, 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978) found that a certain bark including tannin adsorbed some heavy metal ions selectively and they were able to improve the adsorption ability by putting some process. The use of some bark including tannin have been reported: *Coniferous wood* (Fuji *et al.*, 1988), *peanut inner skin* (Nakajima *et al.*, 1990), *pinus pinaster* (Vazquez *et al.*, 2002), *pinus radiata* (Palma *et la.*, 2003) and *pinus sylvestris* (Taty-Costodes *et al.*, 2003 ). Yamaguchi *et al.* (1992) produced a resin from condensed tannin and found that copper ion ( $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ) was adsorbed on the resin by physical adsorption. Nakano *et al.* (2000) reported that a gel made by gelation of natural condensed tannin shown in **Fig. 1** is capable of adsorbing hexavalent chromium ions ( $\text{Cr}^{6+}$ ). Zhan *et al.* (2001, 2003) developed an adsorbent synthesized from condensed tannin including sodium ions ( $\text{Na}^+$ ) and found two  $\text{Na}^+$  ions in the gel were exchanged by one lead ion ( $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ ), as shown in **Fig. 2**. Mitsubishi Nuclear Fuel Co., Ltd. (MNF) (1997) produced a certain tannin gel (TANNIX) from cross-linking “wattle tannin” (condensed tannin) and formaldehyde and developed a liquid waste treatment system to remove uranium and the gel. MNF reported the gel had some following characteristics; during incineration, discharged elements were carbon, hydrogen and oxygen, the volume was dramatically reduced and the gases generated were harmless to the environment. The properties and the SEM photographs of the gel are shown in **Table 1** and **Phot. 1**, respectively.

In present study, a tannin gel including  $\text{Na}^+$  ions was used and the adsorption characteristics by the gel for removal of heavy metal ions, such as lead, cadmium, copper and zinc were investigated.



**Fig. 1** An example of molecular formula of condensed tannin

Table 1 Properties of tannin gel

Functional group	Na
Water content [%]	74
True density [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ]	1.1
Particle size [mm]	1.2-0.5

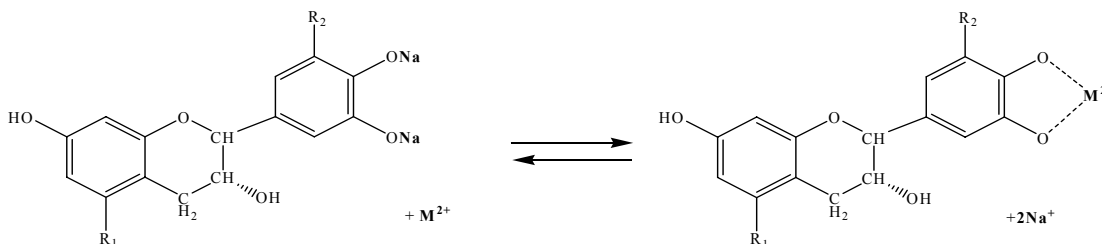
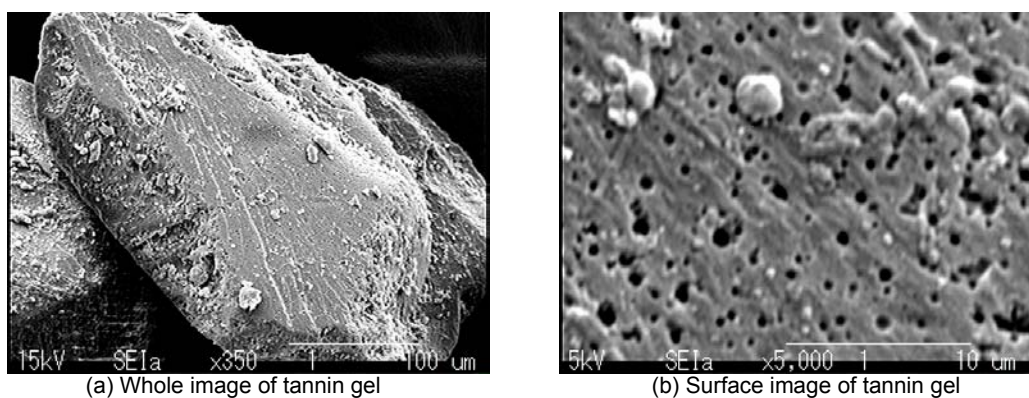


Fig. 2 Ion exchange of 2 Na<sup>+</sup> and M<sup>2+</sup> (divalent metal ions) on condensed tannin



Phot. 1 SEM photograph of tannin gel

## METHODS AND MATERIALS

Effect of initial pH and ion species on adsorption of heavy metal ions, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup> and Zn<sup>2+</sup> ions were investigated as follows. The prescribed amount of the gel (with wet base) was weighed, and 50 ml of a heavy metal ion solution was added. These ion aqueous solutions were prepared using nitrates, respectively. The pH of each solution was adjusted to desired values with HNO<sub>3</sub> solution or NH<sub>4</sub>OH solution and measured with a pH meter (HM-30V, TOA Electronics Ltd.). The batch wise adsorption test was performed in a thermostat with a shaker for 48 hours, 100 rpm at 298 K. The supernatant was collected and the ion concentration in solutions was analysed with an atomic absorption spectrophotometer (AAnalyst-100, Perkin Elmer Ltd.). The amount of adsorption on the gel was determined from the difference in concentration before and after the test as the following equation.

$$q^* = V(C_0 - C^*) / m \quad (1)$$

where  $q^*$  is the amount adsorbed at equilibrium [mmol/g-dry gel],  $C_0$  and  $C^*$  are initial and equilibrium concentration [mmol/l],  $V$  is the volume of aqueous solution [l] and  $m$  is the weight of the gel [g-dry gel].

Effect of temperature on adsorption for Pb<sup>2+</sup> ions was determined as follows. Manner of adsorption test was almost the same above-mentioned except that the pH values were adjusted to 4.0 and experimental temperatures were 298 K, 308 K and 318 K.

To evaluate influence of counter ion species in association with heavy metal ions on the adsorption, adsorption test of Pb<sup>2+</sup> ions in the form of PbCl<sub>2</sub>, Pb(CH<sub>3</sub>COO)<sub>2</sub> and Pb(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> were performed with initial pH = 4.0. Also, before and after the adsorption of Pb<sup>2+</sup> ions, the gel was dried and

identified atomic species on the surface of the gel by X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS, JPS-9000SX, JEOL Ltd.).

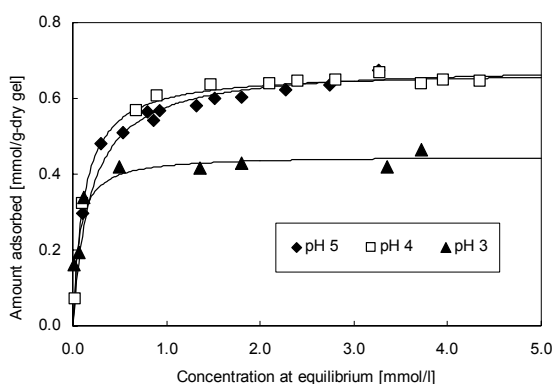
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Relationships between the concentrations and the amount adsorbed by the gel for  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  ions were well correlated with Langmuir equation, as shown in **Fig. 3** and **4** to **6**, respectively.

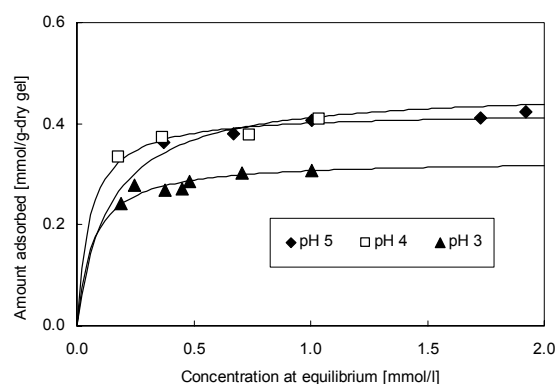
$$q^* = K q_{\infty} C^* / (1 + KC^*) \quad (2)$$

where  $K$  and  $q_{\infty}$  are Langmuir parameters and indicate an affinity [l/mmol] and the maximum adsorption capacity [mmol/g-dry gel], respectively. Langmuir equation is usually used for homogeneous surfaces. Those adsorption isotherms showed different results for four heavy metal ion species, respectively. Langmuir parameters for each ion at each initial pH value are shown in **Table 2**. The adsorptivity for these ions was found to be  $\text{Pb}^{2+} > \text{Cu}^{2+} > \text{Cd}^{2+} > \text{Zn}^{2+}$ . These results partially show the effect of electronegativity because heavy metal ions which have the bigger one might be more attractive to  $\text{O}^-$  ions in the gel.

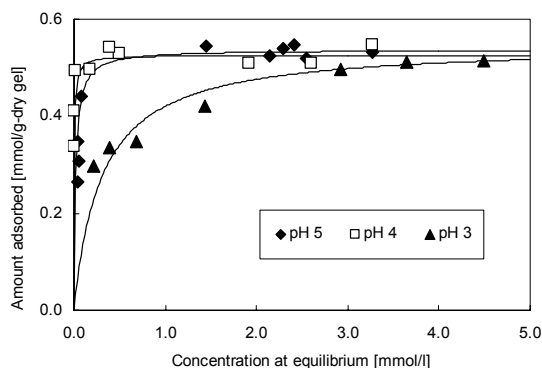
For all ion species, it was found that the maximum adsorption capacity obtained from each isotherm was increased with initial pH values. These results indicate that the adsorption for these ions on the gel was performed by ion exchange reaction. When the initial pH values were low, electric repulsion between  $\text{H}^+$  ions in solutions and  $\text{Na}^+$  ions in the gel would occur and adsorption would be inhibited.



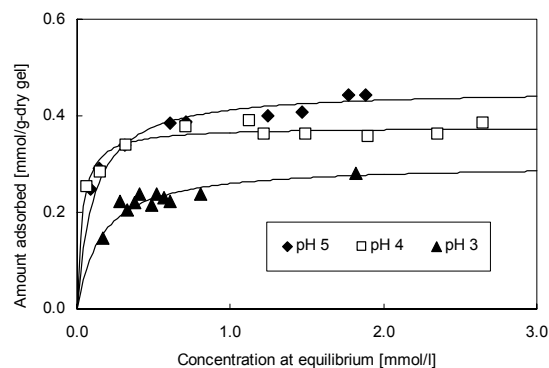
**Fig. 3** Adsorption isotherms for  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  (at 298 K)



**Fig. 4** Adsorption isotherms for  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$  (at 298 K)



**Fig. 5** Adsorption isotherms for  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  (at 298 K)



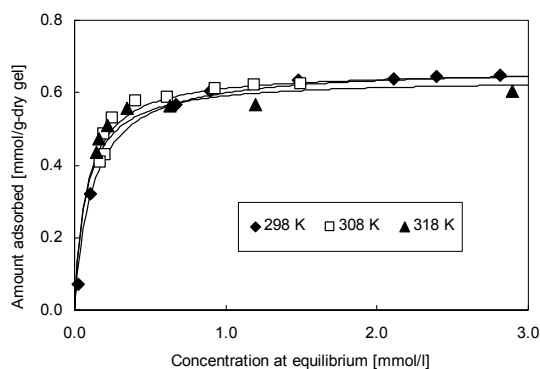
**Fig. 6** Adsorption isotherms for  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  (at 298 K)

**Table 2** Langmuir parameters (at 298 K) and electronegativity

Metal ion species	Initial pH [-]	$K$ [l/mmol]	$q_{\infty}$ [mmol/g]	Pauling electronegativity
Pb(II)	5	5.3	0.69	2.33
	4	8.5	0.67	
	3	16	0.45	
Cu(II)	5	50	0.54	1.90
	4	214	0.53	
	3	3.3	0.55	
Cd(II)	5	7.3	0.47	1.69
	4	18	0.42	
	3	15	0.33	
Zn(II)	5	9.7	0.45	1.65
	4	32	0.38	
	3	6.5	0.30	

When initial pH values were over 6.0 for each ion, precipitation of hydrate was observed in their solutions because of their small solubility, so that it was impossible to evaluate amount adsorbed.

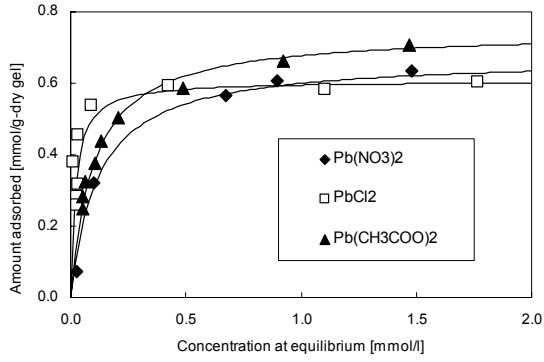
Adsorption isotherms and Langmuir parameters for  $Pb^{2+}$  ions at 298 K, 308 K and 318 K are shown in **Fig. 7** and **Table 3**. It was found that effect of temperature was a little throughout the range of adsorption at 298 K, 308 K and 318 K. It suggests that the adsorption for heavy metal ions on the gel is performed by ion exchange.

**Fig. 7** Adsorption isotherms for  $Pb^{2+}$  (at 298 K, 308 K and 318 K)**Table 3** Langmuir parameters for  $Pb^{2+}$  ions (at 298 K, 308 K and 318K)

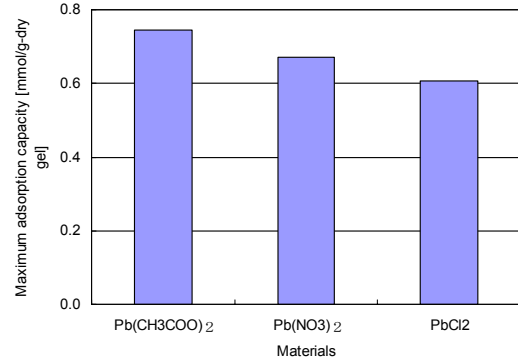
Temperature [K]	$K$ [l/mmol]	$q_{\infty}$ [mmol/g]
298	8.45	0.671
308	12.3	0.661
318	12.7	0.638

**Fig. 8** and **9** show effect of counter ion species in association with  $Pb^{2+}$  ions on the maximum adsorption capacity. It was found that the adsorptivity for  $Pb^{2+}$  ions was  $Pb(CH_3COO)_2 > Pb(NO_3)_2 > PbCl_2$ . It was thought that maximum adsorption capacity of  $Pb^{2+}$  ions was improved by buffer action of materials and ion species were adsorbed more efficiently.

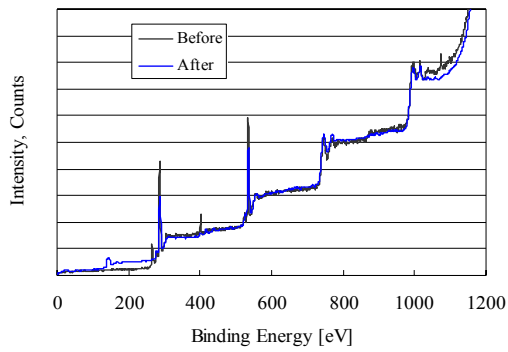
XPS spectra (wide scan) obtained before and after adsorption for  $Pb^{2+}$  ions are shown in **Fig. 10**. **Fig. 11** (narrow scan) shows that doublets characteristics of lead appear at 141.8 eV (assigned to  $Pb 4f_{7/2}$ ) and at 146.6 eV (assigned to  $Pb 4f_{5/2}$ ) after adsorption for  $Pb^{2+}$  ions. On the other hands, **Fig. 12** (narrow scan) shows the sodium peak at 1073.4 eV (assigned to  $Na 1s$ ) before and after adsorption for  $Pb^{2+}$  ions. Peak of sodium was decreased after adsorption for  $Pb^{2+}$  ions. These results suggest that  $Na^+$  ions in the gel are taken part in  $Pb^{2+}$  ions.



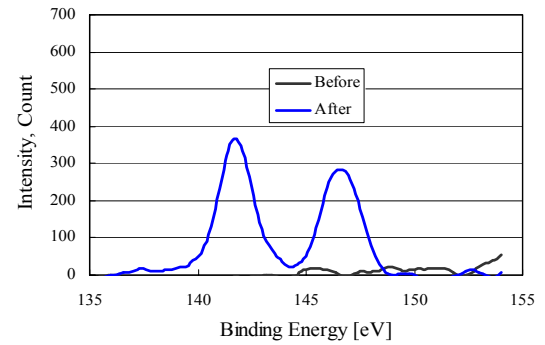
**Fig. 8** The adsorption isotherms for each material (at 298 K)



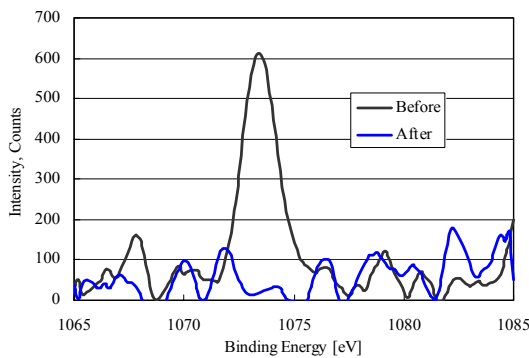
**Fig. 9** Maximum Adsorption capacity for each materials (at 298 K,)



**Fig. 10** XPS spectra of tannin gel before and after adsorption for Pb<sup>2+</sup> ions



**Fig. 11** XPS spectra of tannin gel before and after adsorption for Pb<sup>2+</sup> ions (135-155 eV)



**Fig. 12** XPS spectra of tannin gel before and after adsorption for Pb<sup>2+</sup> ions (1065-1085 eV)

## CONCLUSIONS

Adsorption mechanism for heavy metal ions with the tannin gel including Na<sup>+</sup> ions was ion exchange reaction. Adsorption equilibrium could be correlated with Langmuir equation. Adsorption capacity was higher in the order of Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup> and Zn<sup>2+</sup> ions. Adsorption for these ions was

strongly influenced by initial pH in solutions and heavy metal ion species. It is concluded that the use of tannin gel as an adsorbent for heavy metal ions is useful.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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