



# Oyster Shell Waste (*Crassostrea Gigas*) as A Cheap Adsorbent for Adsorption Of Methylene Blue Dyes: Equilibrium and Kinetics Studies

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## Abstract

In this study, Oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) shell powder which contains calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) was converted into calcium oxide ( $\text{CaO}$ ). The Oyster shell powder that had been activated was utilized for the adsorption of the methylene blue (MB) dyeing material, which is one of waste water concerns. Oyster shells were crushed and sieved into 100 mesh sized powder and then calcinated at a temperature of  $600^\circ\text{C}$  and  $800^\circ\text{C}$  both for 4 hours period. To determine the adsorption equilibrium, methylene blue (MB) solution was used with varying concentration from 10 to 50 mg/L in which the adsorbent weighing 3 g was put into a conical flash and shaken until the adsorption equilibrium was reached. As for the adsorption kinetics, 250 mL MB solution was used with initial concentrations of 10, 20 and 30 mg/L, with an adsorbent weight of 3 g and a solution at pH 11 for each concentration. The evaluation of the experimental data from the adsorption process is well explained by the Freundlich equation, with the correlation coefficient value ( $R^2$ ) found to be 0.9999, where the value of the adsorption intensity ( $n$ ) is close to unity; this shows that the adsorption is multilayer or in other words the adsorption energy is heterogeneous. The kinetics study also shows that pseudo second-order model is the most applicable to the adsorption process. From the pseudo-second-order model, with the correlation coefficient between 0.9984 - 0.9999 can explain that the methylene blue (MB) adsorption process is chemically based sorption or in other words termed as chemisorption.

**Keywords:** Adsorption, Oyster Shell, Equilibrium, Kinetics, Methylene Blue.

## 1. Introduction

Indonesia has huge potency in fisheries sector. The sea biodiversity is also varied, among them is Oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) and bivalve species as one of the commodities that potentially increases Indonesia foreign exchange. There has been oyster exporting countries from Indonesia such as Japan, China, Singapore and other countries. Oyster is also highly demanded both in local and international markets [1]. Oyster has unique taste that later developed as processes food. Processed oyster only utilizes its meat, while its shell goes as waste. Oyster processing in Indonesia is identical to Tiban island due to local people utilize it to sell both uncooked and processed. From the oyster processing, it also generates shell waste that can pollute the environment [2].

Hence it is necessary to handle the oyster shell waste. Like the waste from squid (*Sepia officinalis*), it has potential to be utilized to be added value product [3]. Considering the content of Oyster shell, it is potential source of calcium as it consists more than 60%  $\text{CaO}$  compound and chitin, thus it is a good adsorbent source [4] [5]. Chitosan as adsorbent has been used for waste water treatment for heavy metal adsorbent, dyeing waste water and aquaculture waste water [6] [9]. Dyes is a great concern as waste water effect, since it may suppress bacterial growth in water, causing insufficient bacterial level that acts in biological degradation [10] [11].

Groundwater is the main source of drinking water. At big cities, groundwater is often polluted with waste that mostly contaminated with dyeing material containing poisonous organic and inorganic acid, base and also heavy metals. Consequently, it is big challenge to remove dyeing material from waste that flows to rivers due to complexity of waste water treatment with chemical oxidation and biological methods. Adsorption technique is proved to be an efficient and economical process to adsorb dyeing material [12] [13] [14]. The process efficiency is based on the appropriate preference of adsorbent. An ideal adsorbent should be widely available, cheap and economically not valuable. In this research oyster shell powder was used as adsorbent and methylene blue as the adsorbate. Methylene blue is thiazine dyeing material with chemical formula  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{S}_2$  that has properties of basic or cationic and soluble in water [15]. Methylene Blue is one of simulated dye wastewater beside Methyl Orange [16].

The aim of this research was to evaluate the adsorption mechanism, using Langmuir and Freundlich isotherm models on Methylene Blue (MB) adsorption using oyster shell as the adsorbent. Besides, adsorption kinetical reaction rate constant was also calculated using second order model, pseudo second order and Ritchie model [17].



## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1. Oyster

Oyster is a member of scallop group that has calcium and plain shaped shell. Oyster is bivalvia type that is in the family of Ostreidae. In general, Oyster has several names such as Giant Oyster, Giant, Pacific Oyster, Gigas, Portuguese Oyster, Immigrant Oyster, Japanese Oyster [18]. Chemical composition of oyster shell is 94.78 % ash, 0.11% ± 0.03 water, 1.69 % ± 0.40 N-Total and fat 1.43 % ± 0.26 [19].

### 2.2. Adsorption

Adsorption is both physical and chemical process that binds matter on to another matter's surface. The process takes place either on solids or liquids and multilayered based process. Adsorption takes place between solids and liquids, and solids and gas [20]. Adsorption is determined from the concentration change on surface due to accumulation of interfacial unbalanced tension resulting from physisorption processes such as Van der Waals and hydrogen bond, or chemisorption. The energy needed by chemisorption is relatively higher compared to physisorption. There are factors affecting adsorption such as concentration, surface area, temperature, particle size, pH solution and contact time [20].

### 2.3. Adsorption Isotherm

Adsorption isotherm shows equilibrium relation between bulk adsorbate concentration and inside particle adsorbent concentration at constant temperature. Equilibrium takes place when adsorbent to adsorbate binding rate equals to its unbinding rate. Adsorption isotherm can be used to study chemical adsorption mechanism. There are models describing adsorption isotherm such as Langmuir and Freundlich isotherm models [20].

The followings are assumptions for Langmuir approach:

1. The adsorbed gas behaves ideally.
2. The adsorbed gas covers monolayer area.
3. Homogeneous adsorbed surface; binding affinity for every gas molecule is the same.
4. Absence of lateral interaction between adsorbate molecules.
5. Static position of adsorbed molecules.

Freundlich isotherm equation is based on monolayer formation of adsorbate molecules on adsorbent. Freundlich isotherm describes relations between adsorbed molecules in adsorbent units and concentrations at equilibrium.

### 2.4. Adsorption Kinetics

Adsorption kinetics shows presence of adsorption process by adsorbent as function of time. It refers to rate of adsorbate adsorption on adsorbent. Its application in waste treatment is essential to comprehend the chemical reactions and adsorption mechanism. Empirical approaches are first, second, pseudo-first and pseudo-second orders. First order reaction depends on only one of the reactants [21]. Second order reaction has rate which is proportional to product of both of the reactants or in quadratic form [22]. Pseudo first order adsorption kinetics equation is based on the adsorbate capacity on adsorbent with the assumption of adsorbate concentration is more than active sites of adsorbent surface [23]. Pseudo second order model is one of the most recent proposed models and generally describes adsorption process dynamics.

### 2.5. Methylene Blue

Dyeing material is organic compound that contains chromophore groups as auxochromes to bind the colors. It is classified into anionic, cationic and nonionic. Among them anionic is usually used as Batik dyeing material [20]. Methylene blue is one of thiazine dyeing material that is easy to find and economics. This basic material is usually used as paper, hair, clothes, and wool dyeing material. This dyeing material negatively affects health if swallowed and irritating on skin.

Methylene blue has been utilized to study adsorption process of organic impurities in liquids and its adsorption kinetics also well understood on chitin and chitosan that follows second order reaction [24].

## 3. Methods

### 3.1. Materials

The utilized oyster shell waste was collected from Ujong Blang village in Lhokseumawe district-Aceh, which then calcinated to be adsorbent. The used material in this research was oyster shell powder with size 100 mesh that had been calcinated at 600°C and 800°C for 4 hours. Methylene blue (MB) solution as the main solution with 50 mg/L (50 ppm) concentration was prepared by dissolving distilled water for this research. The MB solution 10 to 40 mg/L was prepared from 50 mg/L main solution. The solution of HCl and NaOH 0.5 N was used to adjust the pH solution for adsorption process.

### 3.2. Methods

The adsorbate adsorption by adsorbent experiment was conducted to determine the best pH condition in a 250 mL Erlenmeyer flask filled with 100 mL 50 mg/L concentration of MB solution; varying pH from 2 to 11 then 3 grams of adsorbent was poured into conical flask. After that one set of samples filled in 250 mL was placed in a shaker, shaken with 250 rpm speed at room temperature for 2 hours. After that the samples were filtrated with centrifuge and tested using UV/Vis at 660 nm wavelength.

For equilibrium adsorption, MB solution was used from 10 to 50 mg/L with 100 mL and pH 11. Then 3 grams of adsorbent was poured into conical flask, shaken until equilibrium reached. The MB concentration at the equilibrium,  $q_e$  (mg/g) can be calculated with Eqn. (1)[25].

$$q_e = \frac{V(C_0 - C_e)}{m} \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{C_e}{q_e} = \frac{1}{q_m K} + \frac{C_e}{q} \quad (2)$$

Where  $C_o$  (mg/L) is initial MB concentration in liquid phase,  $C_e$  (mg/L) is MB equilibrium concentration in liquid phase,  $V$  (mL) is total MB solution volume and  $m$  (g) is mass of adsorbent.

Where  $q_e$  (mg/g) is adsorption density in solute equilibrium concentration.  $C_e$  is adsorbate equilibrium concentration in the solution (mg/L).  $q_m$  (mg of adsorbed solute per g adsorbent) is monolayer adsorption maximum capacity.  $K$  is Langmuir constant that is related to adsorption energy (L/mg).

$$\ln q_e = \ln K_F + \frac{1}{n} \ln C_e \quad (3)$$

Where  $q_e$  (mg/g) is adsorption density in solute equilibrium concentration.  $C_e$  is adsorbate equilibrium concentration in the solution (mg/L).  $K_F$  is Freundlich constant related to adsorption capacity, and  $n$  is adsorption intensity.

Adsorption kinetics shows the presence of substance adsorption process by adsorbent in time function ( $t$ ). Adsorption kinetics used solution with initial MB concentration 10, 20 and 30 mg/L with volume 250 mL, with adsorbent mass 3 grams, solution pH 11 at room temperature. Then shaken with speed 250 rpm in certain time interval, sample was taken and tested with UV/Vis. Adsorption kinetics testing was evaluated using three kinetic models; pseudo second order model (4), second order model (5) and Ritchie model (6) linearized that as follows.

$$\frac{t}{q_t} = \frac{t}{q} + \frac{1}{k_1 q_e^2} t \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{1}{C_e} = k_2 t + \frac{1}{C_o} \quad (5)$$

$$\frac{q_e}{q_e - q_t} = \beta + k_3 t \quad (6)$$

Where  $k_1$  is pseudo second order reaction rate constant ( $\text{g mg}^{-1} \text{min}^{-1}$ ),  $k_2$  is second order reaction rate constant ( $\text{L/mg min}$ ),  $k_3$  is Ritchie modeled reaction rate constant ( $\text{min}^{-1}$ ), and  $\beta$  is Ritchie model constant or in other words can be described as adsorbent concentration when adsorption takes place.

## 4. Results and Discussion

### 4.1. Oyster Shell Calcination

Calcination was conducted in order to eliminate the water content,  $\text{CO}_2$ , other gases including organic compounds bounded with  $\text{CaCO}_3$  in the oyster shell powder. The  $\text{CaCO}_3$  deformation to be  $\text{CaO}$  is shown in equation (7).



Figure 1 shows color difference from different calcination temperatures. Oyster shell powder produced from  $800^\circ\text{C}$  calcination process has brighter (slightly white) color compared with calcination process in temperature  $600^\circ\text{C}$  that has silver color. This was also reported that in egg shell calcination at temperature below  $700^\circ\text{C}$ , the slightly silver color proves that not perfectly  $\text{CaO}$  was formed[26]. On the other hand,[2] conducted oyster shell calcination too at  $900^\circ\text{C}$  for 4 hours and it was reported that the formed powder was white, indicating that  $\text{CaO}$  was formed perfectly.



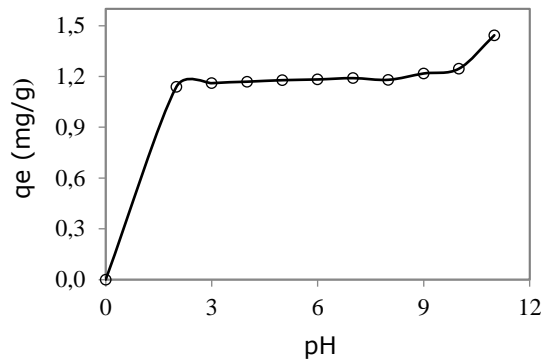
**Fig 1.** Color difference of oyster shell powder calcinated at  $600^\circ\text{C}$  and  $800^\circ\text{C}$

According to the research results, the pre-calcinated mass at  $600^\circ\text{C}$  and  $800^\circ\text{C}$  were 84.8006 gr and 101.3494 gr or 15,16% dan 21,05% mass reduction percentage. This was due to the high temperature calcination process at  $600^\circ\text{C}$  and  $800^\circ\text{C}$  for 4 hours was able to decompose  $\text{CaCO}_3$  to be calcium oxide ( $\text{CaO}$ ) and carbon dioxide gas ( $\text{CO}_2$ ).

The oyster shell powder that was calcinated at  $600^\circ\text{C}$  and  $800^\circ\text{C}$  with values of 84.8006 g and 101.3494 g produced 71.9400 g and 80.0122 g  $\text{CaO}$  respectively. Therefore, 13.4512 g and 21.3372 g oyster shell powder decomposed into  $\text{CO}_2$  gas.

### 4.2. pH Effect

Before adsorption research was conducted, the adsorption capacity testing by pH effect was needed to be done. The optimum pH variation was set to comprehend oyster shell adsorbent's adsorption capability of methylene blue dye material; thus, the adsorbent's function could be utilized optimally. As it is shown in Figure 2, the adsorption was not significant in the range of pH 2 to 10, which was (1.2 mg/g). The maximum adsorption is clearly shown at the condition pH 11, which was 1.5 mg/g.

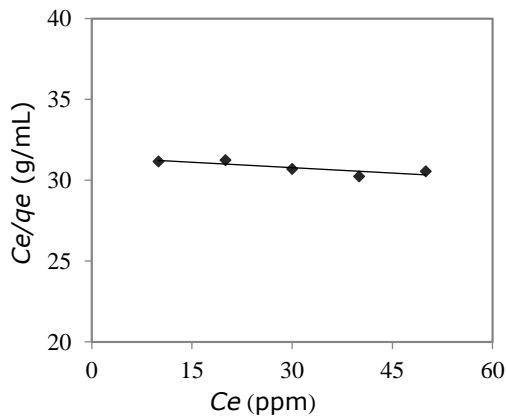


**Fig 2.** pH and adsorption capacity ( $q_e$ ) correlation curve with initial MB concentration 50 mg/L and adsorbent mass 3 gr

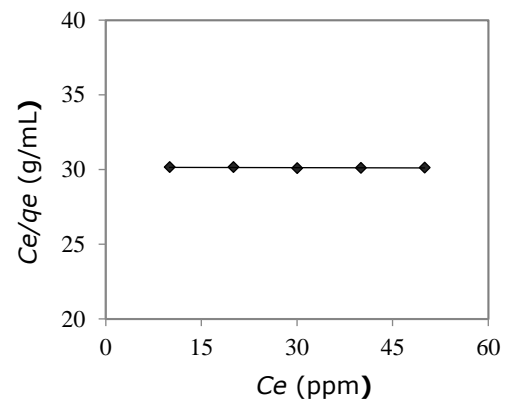
Figure 2 shows that the more acidic the solution was, the less adsorption value ( $q_e$ ), meanwhile the adsorption value was higher in more basic solution; this implies that the maximum adsorption took place in basic condition. Hence, oyster shell powder adsorbed MB optimally at pH 11. Examining the adsorption percentage, it is clear that the adsorption percentage at pH 11 was 86.59%. The same phenomenon was reported by [27] that the MB adsorption was at the highest percentage at pH 12 with value 98.97%.

### 4.3 Adsorption Equilibrium

Adsorption rate testing was conducted to determine the duration for equilibrium to take place by the utilized adsorbent. The equilibrium has been utilized based on Langmuir for adsorption of dye material in wastewater [28]. The adsorption isotherm according to Langmuir equation based on MB adsorbate with different initial concentrations and varying calcinated adsorbent is shown in Figures 3 and 4. Figures 3 and 4 were based on equation (2). In Langmuir equation if  $0 < RL < 1$  then the adsorption is said to be favorable,  $RL > 1$  expresses unfavorable,  $RL = 1$  is linear adsorption and  $RL = 0$  implies irreversible process.

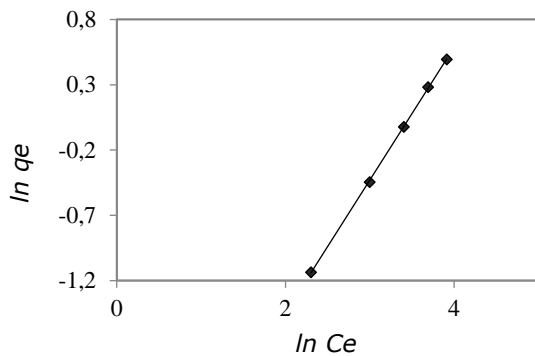


**Fig 3.** Adsorbent Langmuir equation at calcination temperature 600°C

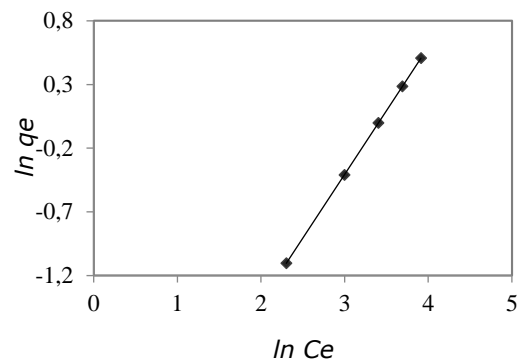


**Fig 4.** Adsorbent Langmuir equation at calcination temperature 800°C

For Freundlich equation in Figures 5 and 6; when  $0 < n < 1$  then the adsorption is favorable and shows cooperative adsorption. The  $n$  values are in the range of 1-10[29].



**Fig 5.** Adsorbent Freundlich equation at calcination temperature 600°C



**Fig 6.** Adsorbent Freundlich equation at calcination temperature 800°C

Table 1 tabulates model parameters that were used in adsorption process using calcinated adsorbent at different temperatures. The adsorption process is well described by linear equation of Freundlich isotherm with correlation coefficient  $R^2 = 0.9999$  and adsorption intensity  $n$  close to one; this shows that the adsorption was multilayer or in other heterogeneous adsorption energy.

According to Langmuir equation that shows that the adsorption process by oyster shell was higher at 800°C compared to 600°C for the calcination temperatures. This shows the rise in activation temperature raises the surface area of adsorbent pores, hence increases the maximum adsorption capacity.

#### 4.4 Adsorption Kinetics Study

A well-known adsorption kinetics mechanism undergoes through three consecutive steps[29].

1. Adsorbate transfer from bulk to film around the adsorbent
2. Adsorbate transfer film the adsorbent surface with the direction to adsorption surface.
3. Adsorbate diffusion form surface to internal site followed with adsorbates binding with active sites.

**Table 1.** The Langmuir and Freundlich equations parameters using adsorbent at different calcination temperatures

Adsorbent	Isoterm Langmuir				Isoterm Freundlich		
	$q_{max}$ (mg/g)	$K_L$ (L/mg)	$R_L$ (L/g)	$R^2$	$K_F$ (L/g)	$n$	$R^2$
T = 600°C	0.0318	-7.1×10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.0365	0.6978	0.0307	0.9826	0.9999
T = 800°C	0.0331	-3.97×10 <sup>-5</sup>	1.0019	0.3511	0.0331	0.9989	0.9999

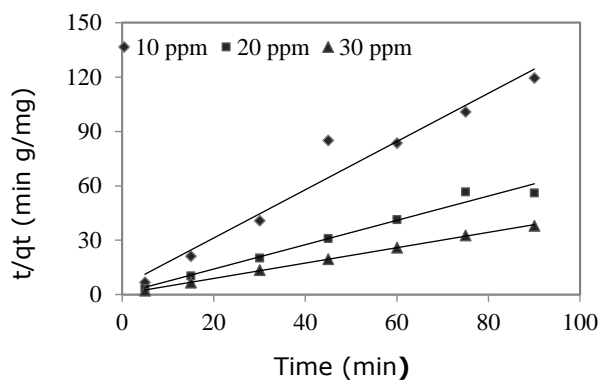
#### 4.4.1 Pseudo Second Order Model

Pseudo second order equation was analyzed in order to assume that adsorption value was proportional to number of adsorbents active sites (shown in figures 7 and 8). Pseudo second order was evaluated according to adsorption values at different solution concentration. MB adsorption kinetics followed pseudo second order where  $q_{e,exp}$  and  $q_{e,calc}$  was close to each other as tabulated in Table 2.

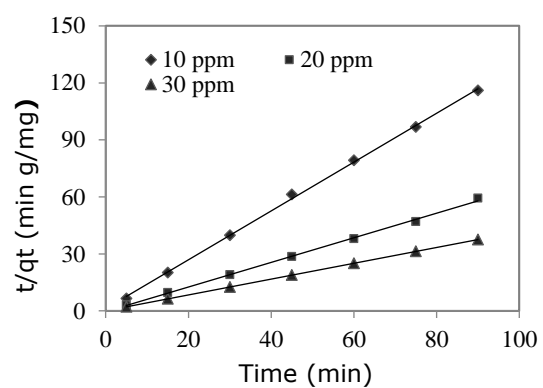
The data in Table 2 also explains that the overall adsorbent calcination correlation coefficient experimental results ( $R^2$ ) at 800°C is higher compared with 600°C calcination process, in the range of 0.9984-0.999. The pseudo second order could also explain the adsorption rate was controlled by chemisorption in the MB adsorption to oyster shell adsorbent affected by valence force through electron transfers between MB and oyster shell adsorbent.

**Table 2.** Pseudo Second Order Parameters using Calcinated Adsorbent at Different Temperatures

Conc (mg/L)	600°C Adsorbent Parameters				800°C Adsorbent Parameters			
	$q_{e,exp}$ (mg/g)	$q_{e,calc}$ (mg/g)	$k$ (g/mg min)	$R^2$	$q_{e,exp}$ (mg/g)	$q_{e,calc}$ (mg/g)	$k$ (g/mg min)	$R^2$
10	0,7530	0,2172	0,0628	0,9534	0,7754	0,8575	0,9456	0,9991
20	1,6043	1,6469	1,8216	0,9782	1,5190	-2,6247	-4,4566	0,9984
30	2,3658	2,212	2,0761	0,9991	2,4017	13,072	71,169	0,9999



**Fig 7.** Pseudo Second Order Curve at 600°C Calcination



**Fig 8.** Pseudo Second Order Curve at 800°C Calcination

#### 4.4.2 Second Order Model

Second order model is affected by the two reacting reagents' concentrations. The applied second order equation on solid-liquid system describing oyster shell adsorbent and methylene blue are shown in Figures 9 and 10. The parameters from order equation are tabulated in

Table 3. From Table 3, it can be understood that second order equation could not explain the adsorption process and description of the entire contact time, especially the adsorbate at low concentrations.

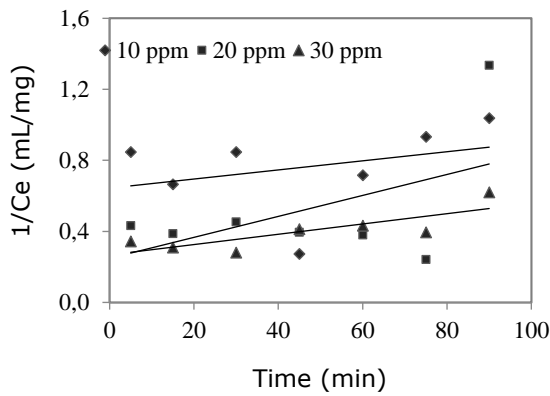


Fig 9. second Order Curve at 600°C Calcination

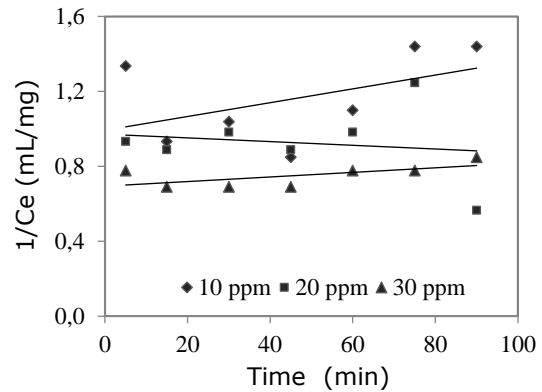


Fig 10. Second Order Curve at 800°C Calcination

Table 3. Second order parameters using calcinated adsorbent at different temperatures

Conc (mg/L)	600°C Adsorbent Parameters				800°C Adsorbent Parameters			
	$C_{0,exp}$ (mg/L)	$C_{0,calc}$ (mg/L)	$k$ (L/mg min)	$R^2$	$C_{0,exp}$ (mg/L)	$C_{0,calc}$ (mg/L)	$k$ (L/mg min)	$R^2$
10	0.964	1.5542	0.0026	0.104	0.695	1.0067	0.0037	0.2248
20	0.749	4.0323	0.0059	0.254	1.772	1.0289	-0.001	0.0238
30	1.610	3.7383	0.0029	0.654	1.179	1.4415	0.0012	0.3961

The  $C_{0,exp}$  and  $C_{0,calc}$  values in Table 3, shows that 10 mg/L MB concentration at 600°C calcination process are very close to each other. This shows that at high concentration the adsorbate was not well adsorbed by whole area of adsorbent causing adsorption equilibrium is not in linear part. However, adsorbent at 800°C calcination process with MB adsorbate concentrations from 10 to 30 mg/L had  $C_{0,exp}$  and  $C_{0,calc}$  values not very from each other. This is due to the OS adsorbent was effective enough to adsorb MB in the solution.

#### 4.4.3 Ritchie Model

Ritchie model was first used to describe kinetic adsorption in gas-solid phase; despite its broad application to liquid-solid adsorption. This model was proposed by Ritchie as alternative to Elovich model. The essential assumption from Ritchie model is one adsorbate is adsorbed by both two sites surface[30]. In other words, Ritchie equation assumes every adsorbent surface has n surface site that depends one adsorbate molecule (ion). Through Ritchie equation as shown in Figures 11 and 12, OS adsorbent was able to describe MB adsorption at low concentration.

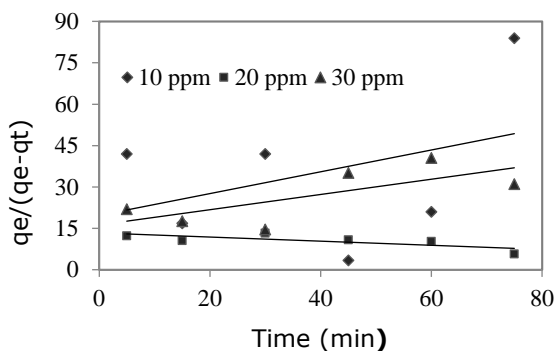


Fig 11. Ritchie Model Curve at 600°C Calcination

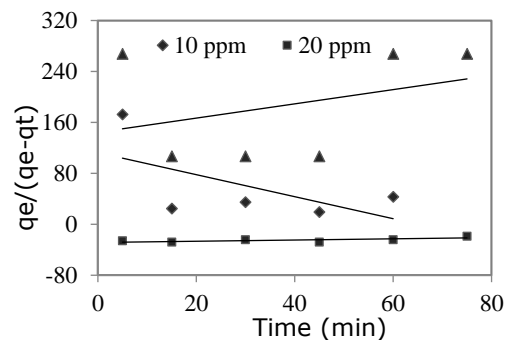


Fig 12. Ritchie Model Curve at 800°C Calcination

Table 4 presents the Ritchie equation parameters. The broad adsorbent surface made OS adsorbent took place in heterogeneous condition. As it can be seen, Ritchie explains adsorption mechanism as physical adsorption.

Table 4. Ritchie equation parameters using calcinated adsorbent at different temperatures

Conc (mg/L)	600°C Adsorbent Parameters	800°C Adsorbent Parameters
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	$k$ (min <sup>-1</sup> )	$\beta$	$R^2$	$k$ (min <sup>-1</sup> )	$\beta$	$R^2$
10	0,3945	19,695	0,1388	-1,17263	112,4	0,3545
20	-0,074	13,303	0,571	0,091	28,426	0,4838
30	0,2751	16,271	0,509	1,1202	144,38	0,1163

## 5. Conclusion

Oyster shell (OS) powder calcination as adsorbent was conducted convert CaCo<sub>3</sub> into CaO. Oyster shell powder that was calcinated at 800oC had brighter (slightly white) color due formation of calcium oxide more perfectly compared to calcination process at 600oC with silver color. Adsorption process at the equilibrium follows Freundlich isotherm model with constant (KF) value 0.0300 L/g using 600oC calcinated adsorbent and 0.0031 L/g using 800oC calcinated adsorbent with correlation coefficient value R<sup>2</sup>= 0,9999.

Oyster shell adsorption kinetics calcination at 600oC and 800oC to adsorb methylene blue (MB) tended to fit on pseudo second order equation with correlation coefficient (R<sup>2</sup>) ranges from 0.9534-0.9999. The reaction rate for this model was determined to be between -4,4566–71,169 g/mg min.

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