

Effect of anionic surfactant on mesoporous particles for removal of methylene blue

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ABSTRACT

ZnO-SiO₂ (ZSnc) nanoadsorbent was prepared by sol-gel method in the presence of SDS as anionic surfactant (10^{-3} , 6×10^{-4} , and 10^{-4} mol/l), for removing methylene blue (MB) from wastewater. The prepared nanomaterials were characterized by XRD, TEM and surface area analysis. The factors affecting adsorption were thoroughly investigated and optimized. The mechanisms and kinetics of adsorption were explored.

Keywords: ZnO-SiO₂; Cationic dyes; Thermodynamic; surfactant; Adsorption.

INTRODUCTION

Many countries needed access to clean and safe water for municipal use and other usages^[1]. Recently, the scientists are starting to use the nanomaterial in the adsorption process for wastewater treatment. Adsorption considered an effective methodology for the elimination of organic and inorganic pollutants and dyes from wastewater^[2]. The Adsorption method affords also majority resilience in the styling of the attempt adsorbent for the intention pollutant as ease and high operational elasticity. MB is used in some medical uses, it can also be vastly used in coloring paper, dyeing cotton, wools, coating for paper stocks, etc. Although MB is few hazardous, it can reason some harmful effects. Sharp exposure to MB will cause altitude heart rate and tissue necrosis in humans. Nonetheless, MB can reason eye burns which likely responsible for perpetual infection to eyes of human and animals^[2,3]. ZnO-SiO₂ as example of composite material have utilized in several applications, e.g. to eliminate H₂S from gas inflow^[4]. These physic-chemical properties can modify different techniques like doping and prep ration methods. The preparation method can be modified using a different additive like the surfactant. Surfactant molecules are forming each hydrophilic (water-loving polar) and hydrophobic moieties (water-repelling group) the hydrophobic group containing of aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon chain.

The hydrophilic group has perhaps ionic or nonionic in nature. Negative charges tote by the solid ionic surfactant particles due to a strong repulsive force for each the particles; raise the solvency of the hydrocarbon chain and hydrophilic group. Surfactants that don't dissolve structure micelles, which are spherical aggregates between the ionized and non-ionized surfactant particles. These micelles form the cause of an affinity between the hydrocarbons tails appropriate according to van der Waals forces^[5]. Structural difference in three surfactants leads to different hydrophobicity and an increase in aggregation number of surfactant molecules in a micelle caused by the decrease in hydro-phobicity^[6,7] results in increasing the number of binding sites and the tendency of MB to attach with nanoparticles. The spectral changed which regard to dye, [8,9] observed in its the arrival to aggregate surfactants are varying monomers, micelles and dye combinations^[10]. This research aims to study the effect of (ZSnc) on the physic-chemical properties for removal dye application.

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

1-Synthesis of ZnO-SiO₂ (ZSnc)

All chemicals were supplied by Sigma and Aldrich and used as adduced. ZSnc prepared by sol-gel and modified using a different concentrations of SDS [CH₃(CH₂)₁₁SO₄Na]. This method has been done in three steps. Firstly, different concentrations of surfactant at [10⁻⁴, 6x 10⁻⁴ and 10⁻³ mol/l] are dissolved in the lowest proportion of distilled water. The second step, a variety of the concentrations of surfactant solution are placed on an aqueous solution of 50% wt., of Zn (Ac₃)₂.6H₂O. That step results in its formation nanocomposite of ZnO to SDS. At last step, the preparation of SiO₂ at a collide suspension particles according to the following process, 2 ml (TEOS) Tetraethyl orthosilicate was mixed with 23.5 ml (CH₃OH)methylene alcohol, 14.5 ml deionized water and (HNO₃) nitric acid 0.08 ml beneath vigorous stirring for 1 hr. After that, the latter solution was kept under vigorous stirring for 60 min. The reaction was achieved at room temperature. The prepared samples have left for 24 hr at last, the samples precipitates were dried in the oven at 80 °C, pursue by calcination at 550 °C for 2 hr in air. In comparison, 50% wt., of ZSnc is prepared by sol-gel without modification surfactants.

2- Characterization

Powder X-ray diffraction analysis (XRD) process was achieved by Shimadzu XRD-6000 besides Cu radiation $\lambda=1.54056 \text{ \AA}$ with a scan rate of 4° in 2 θ /min. The morphology of nanoparticles was measured using transmission electron microscope (TEM) Hitachi 7500. The surface properties of the nanomaterial were determined by Quanta chrome Instruments, NOVA Touch LX4 (USA). UV-visible spectroscopy (UV-vis/DR) was fulfilled on JASCO V-550 spectrophotometr (Japan) supported with an integrating sphere accessory.

3. Adsorption experiments

The methylene blue was used as a model dye example in the adsorption experimental. Solution of MB of different concentrations were stirred at room temp was 0.1 gm of the adsorbent (ZSnc) for 2 hr. At several time intervals, the solutions separate utilize a centrifuge at 4500 rpm for 5 min. The residual concentration of MB was anatomized by UV-Vis spectrophotometer. The absorption band of MB was found at a maximum wavelength (λ_{max}) of 664 nm.

Many of arithmetical models can be utilized to depict experiential data of adsorption isotherms. Namely, isotherm equations, the Langmuir and Freundlich, have characterized to fit the experiential isotherm data of MB adsorption by modified nanoparticles (ZSnc). Furthermore the kinetic experimental data were examined by pseudo first order kinetics, pseudosecondorder kinetics and intra-particle diffusion. As in all equations parameter listed in Table (1).

Table 1. Data Processing parameters Tools.

No	Parameters		Formula
1	Isotherms	Langmuir Separation factor	$C_e/Q_e = 1/Q_0b + C_e/Q_0$ $R_L = 1/(1+bC_0)$
		Freundlich	$\ln q_e = \ln k_f + \frac{1}{n} \ln C_e$
2	Kinetics	Pseudo-first order	$\ln (q_e - q_t) = \ln q_e - k_1 t$
		Pseudo-second order	$\frac{t}{q_t} = \frac{1}{k_2 q_e^2} + \frac{t}{q_e}$
		The intra-particle diffusion model	$q_t = k_{id} t^{\frac{1}{2}} + C$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Physico-chemical Characterization

1.1. XRD

Figure (1) shows the XRD pattern of (ZSnc) of unmodified and modified in the presence SDS at 10^{-3} mol/l, as a representative example. The unmodified sample characterized with an amorphous structure (Fig.1 a). The mean diffractions peaks of hexagonal wurtzite ZnO at $2\theta = 31.71^\circ, 34.48^\circ, 36.23^\circ, 47.53^\circ, 56.47^\circ$ and 62.78° were observed in case of ZSnc sample (Fig.1b). These are related to (100), (002), (101), (102), (110) and (103) planes of the $\text{ZnO}^{[11]}$. Therefore, ZSnc interacts with the SDS-bilayer installation and affects their packing and degree of ordering. This is due to varying degrees of preferred growth orientation along c-axis of the ZnO phase[12,13]. The Scherrer formula is used to calculate crystalline size.

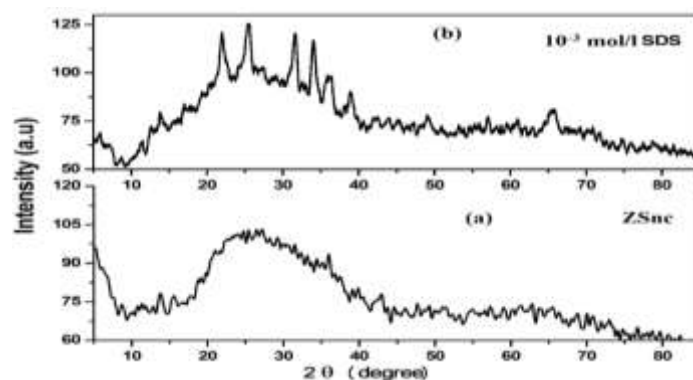


Fig.2: (a) XRD Patterns of ZSnc unmodified, (b) modified with 10^{-3} mol/l SDS.

1.2 TEM

Figure (2 a) elucidates the influence of surfactant on aggregation of nanoparticles using TEM images. 50% ZSnc unmodified evident high aggregation of particles as appeared in Fig 2(b). However, SDS (10^{-3} mol/l) has a low aggregation hybrid morphologies (spherical, nano sheets) particles with mean diameter 6nm. The low aggregation behavior in case modified samples due to space steric effect, which produced by the organic groups located on the surface of adsorbant decrease the agglomeration of silica^[14].

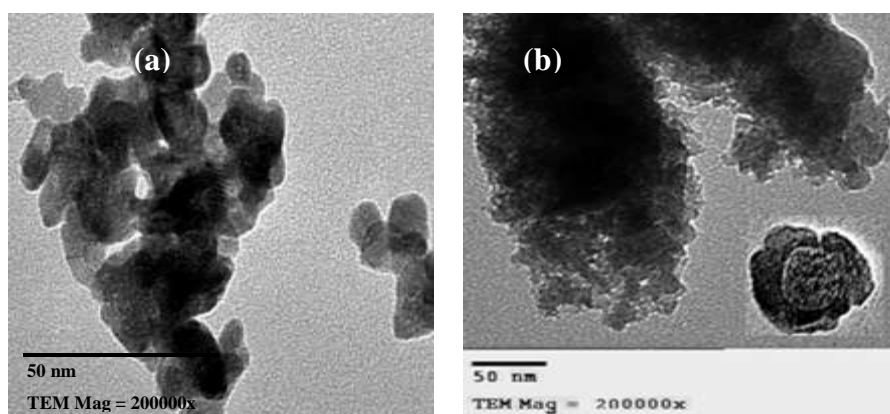


Fig.2: (a) TEM image of modified with 10^{-3} mol/l SDS, and (b) pure nanoparticles.

1.3. Surface area measurements

The nitrogen adsorption/desorption isotherms was given in Figure (3a). All prepared samples exhibited type IV isotherm, which is the typical adsorption profile for mesostructure^[15]. The pore size distribution obtained from the desorption branch of the isotherms elucidated in Figure (3b). The textural properties, including specific surface area (S_{BET}), monolayer volume (V_m), total pore volume (V_p), mean pore diameter derived from the N_2 adsorption/desorption isotherms and pore size distributions of all binary oxides are summarized in Table (2).

Table 2. Surface area and pore size distribution analysis of (ZSnc) pure nanoparticle and modified with 10^{-3} % mol/l SDS.

Samples	S_{BET} (m^2/g)	V_m (cm^3/g)	V_p (cm^3/g)	r^* (nm)	Mean pore diameter (nm)
ZSnc	188.15	0.05	0.24	2.5	2.1
SDS	119.6	0.03	0.22	3.6	3.2

The addition SDS leads to decrease the S_{BET} value of ZSnc (Table 2). V_m and V_p are conversant with the behavior of (S_{BET}). The pore size distribution curves of unmodified and modified ZSnc show a relatively narrow distribution in mesopores range with an average pore diameter of 2.1 nm and 3.2 nm, respectively. The highest pore diameter is found in SDS modified nanoparticles and this result is compatible with (S_{BET}) so. The surface modifications provided newly available sites for MB adsorption. The surface modifications caused ruptures on nanoparticles, and opened new possible paths for the influent flow, thus reaching new places for adsorption. The nano-particles porosity was changed, therefore, the influent flow pattern and the mass transfer rate were modified.

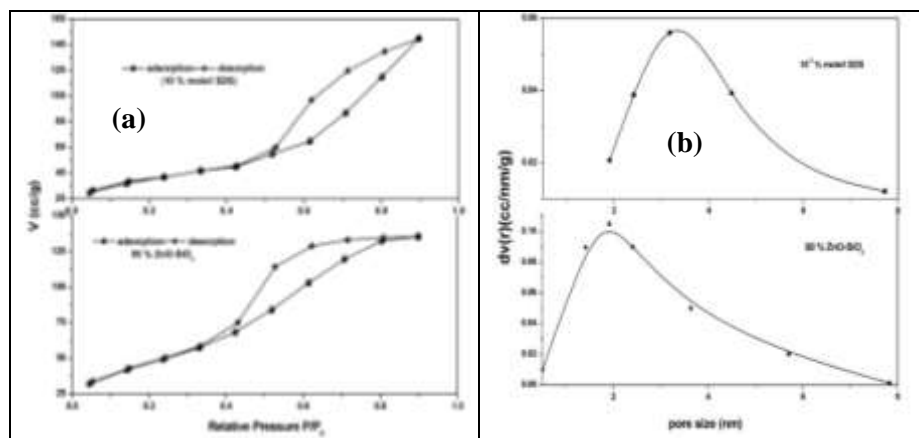


Fig.3: (a) Nitrogen adsorption–desorption isotherms of pure nanoparticles and modified with 10^{-3} mol/l SDS (b) Pore size distribution as the latter.

3.2 Adsorption evaluation

3.2.1. Effect of adsorbent concentrations

Figure (4) shows the effect of contact time on dye removal in the presence of ZSnc prepared at different concentrations from SDS. The dye removal percentage was increase by increasing the reaction time. The optimum dye removal percentage was observed in case ZSnc prepared in the present of 10^{-3} mol/l SDS. the equilibrium dye removal value was

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reached after 20 min from starting reaction. After that, the removal of dye was increased slowly due to particle aggregation resulting from high adsorbent mass^[16]. The high removal in case in modified samples was attributed to morphological, surface and low aggregations parameter.

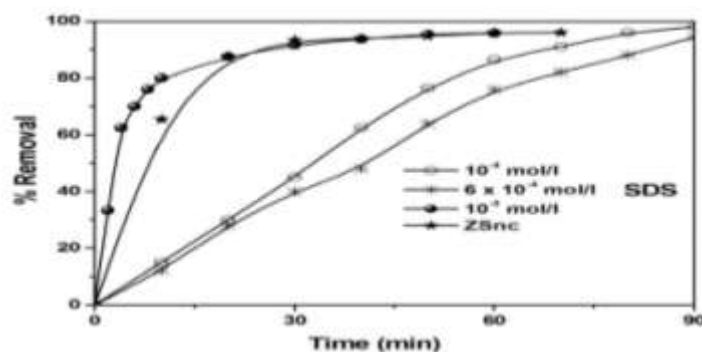


Fig.4.MB removal % as a function of time at pure ZSnc and different concentrations of SDS.

2.2. Langmuir isotherm.

The Langmuir adsorption isotherm was progressed to elucidate the adsorption of gas on the solid surface. The Langmuir equation was listed in Table (1). It evidences that the presence of monolayer as well the surface is strongly homogeneous^[17], whereas, Q_{max} is a constant indicates to adsorption capacity (mg/g) and b is Langmuir constant associated to energy of adsorption (Table 3). The fundamental chartered of Langmuir isotherm can be evident by dimensionless separation factor, separation factor, the value R_L indicates whether the isotherm is unfavorable ($R_L > 1$), linear ($R_L = 1$), favorable ($0 < R_L < 1$) or irreversible ($R_L = 0$)^[18]. Langmuir was adsorption isotherms for MB adsorption in Figure (5a).

2.3. Freundlich isotherm.

It is an ultimate trendy model for a single solute system, depends on the apportionment of solute between an aqueous phase and solid phase at the stable^[19]. Freundlich model depicts the adsorption within limited range only. Freundlich equation was listed in Table 1; 'n' values are among 1 and 10 that represent suitable adsorption^[16]. Freundlich isotherms adsorption for (MB) viewed as in Figure (5b).

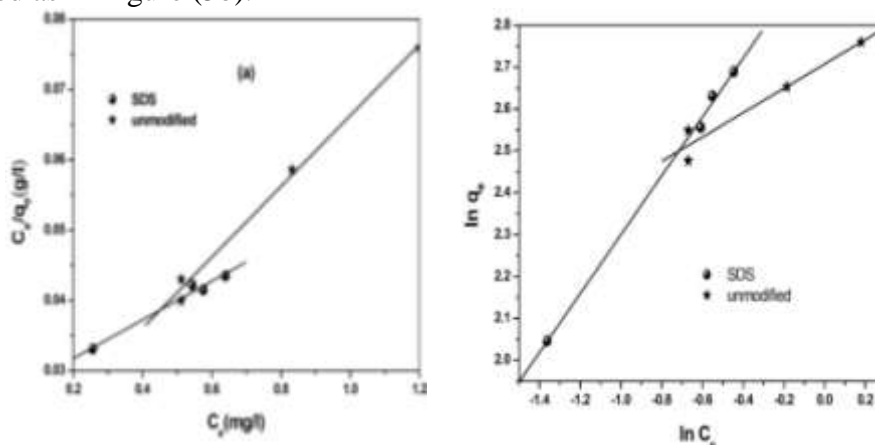


Fig.5: (a) Langmuir, (b) Freundlich, adsorption isotherms for MB adsorption over unmodified and modified by SDS.

Table 3. Isotherms models for the adsorption of MB (5×10^{-5} mol/l) at 10^{-3} mol/l SDS modified ZSnc (adsorbent mass: 10 mg and pH 7)

<u>Isotherm models</u>	<u>parameters</u>	<u>ZSnc</u>	<u>SDS</u>
<u>Langmuir</u>	$Q_{\max}(\text{mg/g})$	19.85	37
	$R_L (\text{L/mg})$	0.02	0.6
	$b(\text{L/g})$	3.2	1
	R^2	0.99	0.98
<u>Freundlich</u>	$K_f(\text{m/g})$	15	20
	$1/n$	0.29	0.7
	R^2	0.94	0.99

2.4. Analysis of isotherm results.

The analytical adsorption parameters and correlation coefficients R^2 calculated from isotherm equations Langmuir and Freundlich using different adsorbate were collected (Table 3). It can be seen that models provided a good fit (Fig. 5). The correlation coefficients calculated for the Langmuir equation fitting are similar to than the ones obtained in the case Freundlich equation. However that Langmuir describes better the experimental system. This is due to the experimental data reaches a saturation plateau at high C_e . This saturation tendency is not included in Freundlich model. Hence, it indicates that the surface area of the adsorbent is carried by the monolayer of the adsorbate. The R_L value obtained from Langmuir isotherm was 0.6 for modified. This is indicating a favorable adsorption. A value of $1/n$ below one indicates poor adsorption for Freundlich isotherm. Over and above, the value of slope equal to $1/n$ don't equal to the value of intercept $\log k$.

3.1. Adsorption Kinetics

The kinetics of adsorption of methylene blue on 50% ZSnc prepared in the presence different SDS concentration has been evaluated. The experimental data were examined by pseudo-first order kinetics, pseudo-second order kinetics and intra-particle diffusion to understand the dynamics of adsorption process Table (4). All kinetics of adsorption equations were listed in Table (1).

3.1.1. Pseudo-first order model

The pseudo-first order kinetic model known as the Lagergren kinetic equation is widely utilized to understand the kinetic behavior of the system^[20]. Whereas q_e and q_t are the amounts of dye adsorbed at equilibrium at time t (mg g^{-1}), k_1 is the pseudo first order rate constant (min^{-1}), as in Fig. 6a and Table (4).

3.1.2 Pseudo-second order model

The pseudo-second order model is based on the presumption that the rate limiting step perhaps chemisorption that involves valence forces through sharing or electron exchange with in the adsorbent and the adsorbate^[21]. Whereas q_t and q_e are the amount of dye adsorbed at equilibrium at time t . The equilibrium rate constant of pseudo-second order model (k_2) g/mol.min , as in Figure (6b) and Table (4).

3.1.3 Intra-particle Diffusion Model

The evaluation of the diffusion mechanism is not conceivable from pseudo first order and second order kinetic mode^[22]. The intra-particle diffusion model means that the plot of q_t versus $t^{1/2}$ should be linear, as in Fig 6d. Otherwise, the intra-particle diffusion is the controlling step if the lines pass by the origin otherwise some degree of boundary layer control exists then the extent of the thickness of boundary layer can be known from the values

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of intercept. The larger the value of intercept is, the greater the effect of boundary layer can be^[23].

Table 4: Kinetic models for the adsorption of MB (5×10^{-5} mol/l) at 10^3 mol/l SDS modified ZSnc(adsorbent mass: 10 mg and pH 7).

Kinetic	parameters	ZSnc	SDS at $q_{e.exp}=14.7$ (mg/g)
Pseudo-first-order model	$q_{e.cal}$ (mg/g)	8.7	7.7
	K_1 (min^{-1})	0.09	0.09
	R^2	0.96	0.93
Pseudo-second-order model	$q_{e.cal}$ (mg/g)	12.9	15.4
	K_2 ($\text{g mg}^{-1}\text{min}^{-1}$)	0.02	0.03
	R^2	0.99	0.99
Intra-Particle-diffusion	C	0.07	0.25
	K_{diff} ($\text{mg g}^{-1}\text{min}^{-1}$)	2.44	4.6
	R^2	0.99	0.98
Intra-Particle-diffusion	C	10.8	11.9
	K_{diff} ($\text{mg g}^{-1}\text{min}^{-1}$)	0.15	0.37
	R^2	0.96	0.96

Where k_p is the intra-particle rate constant ($\text{gmol}^{-1}\cdot\text{min}^{1/2}$) and C is the intercept.

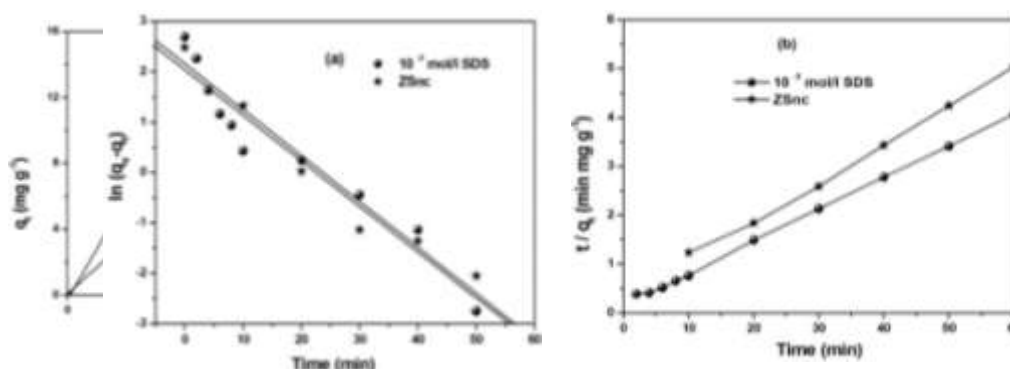


Fig.6. (a) Pseudo-first order, (b) Pseudo-second order, (d) Intra-particle diffusion model plot of dye adsorbed (MB) over unmodified and modified by SDS.

3.1.4. Analysis of Kinetic results

The first order models, the experimental q_e values did not agree with the calculated ones, obtained from the linear plots (Table 4). This is indicating that the first order model does not reproduce the adsorption kinetics of MB on the modified adsorbate. The correlation coefficients for the pseudo second order are close to 1.0 for MB. The pseudo-second order model is more likely to predict the behavior over the whole experimental range of adsorption. The calculated q_e values fit quite well with the experimental data. The pseudo first order kinetic curves do not fit with the experimental data in case of intra-particle diffusion model. Other processes may also control the adsorption process, as the lines do not pass through the origin and all the processes may occur simultaneously.

Conclusions

ZnO-SiO₂ (ZSnc) was prepared by sol-gel method in the presence of different SDS concentrations. The physicochemical properties have been studied using XRD, TEM, and S_{BET}. The adsorption efficiency of the nanoparticle was evaluated by adsorption of dye. The analyses of data by kinetic and isotherm model, the pseudo second order reaction is the best model and follows the Langmuir and Freundlich isotherm. Also, the Langmuir is a good model. The modified ZSnc in the presence of SDS is considered a promising advanced adsorbent in environmental pollution cleanup.

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تأثير ميسيلات سالبه الشحنة علي الجزيئات المساميه لازاله صبغ ازرق الميثيلين

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المستخلص

تم تحضير (ZnO-SiO₂) بواسطة طريقة السول جل في وجود تركيزات مختلفة من مذيلات ذات شحنة سالبه SDS (10⁻³، 6 × 10⁻⁴، و 10⁻⁴ مول / لتر). ومن خلال الخواص الفيزيائية والكيميائية باستخدام XRD وTEM وSBET. تم تقييم كفاءة الامتزاز للجسيمات متناهية الصغر عن طريق امتزاز الصبغة موجبه الشحنة من ازرق الميثيلين. واثبتت كفاءه الامتزاز عن طريق التحليل بقانون لانجمير وفرندش. وكذلك السلوك الحركي للتركيزات المختلفه من المذيل. وقد وجد ان نموذج لانجمير والدرجه الثابته من السلوك الحركي هما الافضل للتركيزات الثلاثه من المذيل.0. تعتبر (ZnO -SiO₂) المطعم بSDS الحالي مادة ماصة متقدمة واعدة في تنظيف التلوث البيئي.