



# Low cost biosorbents of phenolic compounds from olive mill wastewater: Kinetic and equilibrium studies

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# Olive oil production

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- The extraction of olive oil consists of three steps:
  - Olive **crashing**, where the fruit is broken down and the oil is extracted
  - **Mixing**, where the remaining paste is slowly mixed to increase the oil extraction
  - Oil **separation** from the remaining wastes
    - i. Traditional pressing
    - ii. 3- phases centrifugal extraction system
    - iii. 2- phases centrifugal extraction system



# Olive oil extraction



## 1. Traditional pressing

- A solid fraction, “olive husk”, is obtained as a by-product with an emulsion containing the olive oil
- The olive oil is separated from the remaining olive mill wastewater by decanting

## 2. Three – phase extraction process

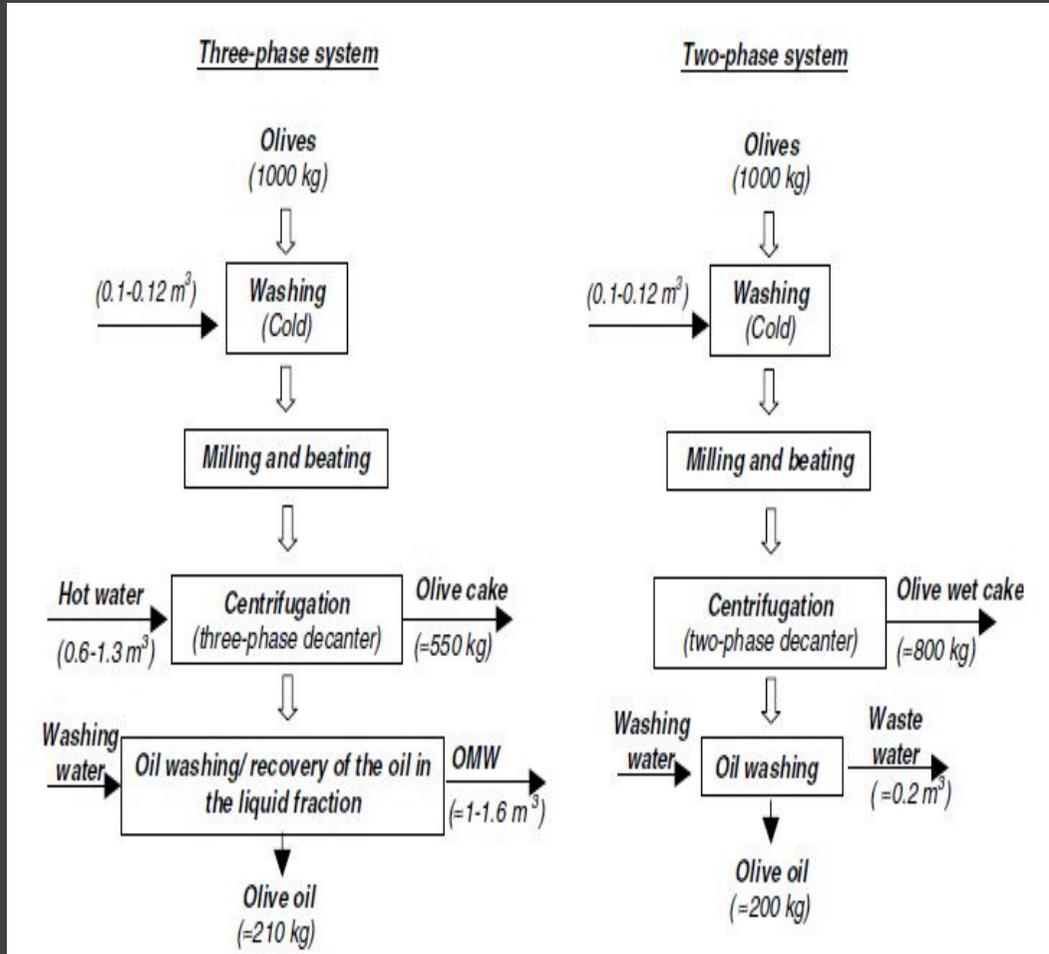
- Predominant process in modern olive mills
- Two streams of waste
  - i. a wet solid cake (~30% of raw material weight) called “olive cake”
  - ii. a watery liquid (50% of raw material weight) called “olive mill wastewater” (OMW)

## 3. Two – phase extraction process

- “Ecological” method, reduces the olive mill waste by 75%
- Two fractions
  - i. a solid called “alperujo” or “olive wet husk” or “wet pomace” or “two-phase olive mill waste” (TPOMW)
  - ii. a liquid (olive oil)

# Olive oil extraction

Olive oil extraction by- products (Goula et al., 2016)



Comparison of the three and two-phase centrifugation systems for olive oil extraction (Albuquerque et al., 2004)

Production system	Inputs	Outputs
Traditional pressing	Olives (1000 kg) Washing water (100-120 kg)	Oil (200 kg) Solid waste (400 kg) Wastewater (600 kg)
Two-phase system	Olives (1000 kg) Washing water (100-120 kg)	Oil (200 kg) Solid waste (800-950 kg)
<b>Three-phase system</b>	<b>Olives (1000 kg)</b> Washing water (100-120 kg) Mixing water (500-1000 kg)	<b>Oil (200 kg)</b> Solid waste (500-600 kg) <b>Wastewater (1000-1200 kg)</b>

# The management of waste from olive mills

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## Olive cake

- Solid fuels
- Animal feed supplement
- Return to the olive grove as mulch



## Olive mill wastewater (OMW)

- Disposal of OMW in nearby aquatic receivers
- Physical and physicochemical processes
- Biological processes
- Coupled physicochemical and biological treatments



# Characterization of OMW

## OMW

- Aqueous, **dark**, foul **smelling**, turbid liquid, includes emulsified grease, easily fermentable
- High **organic content** (57.2-62.1%)
- **Acidic** character (pH 2.2 -5.9)
- High concentrations of **phenolic** compounds (up to 80 g/L)
- High content of **solid matter** (total solids up to 20 g/L)

- high **phytotoxicity** with strong negative impact on soil quality and plant growth, due to phenolic compounds and toxic fatty acids

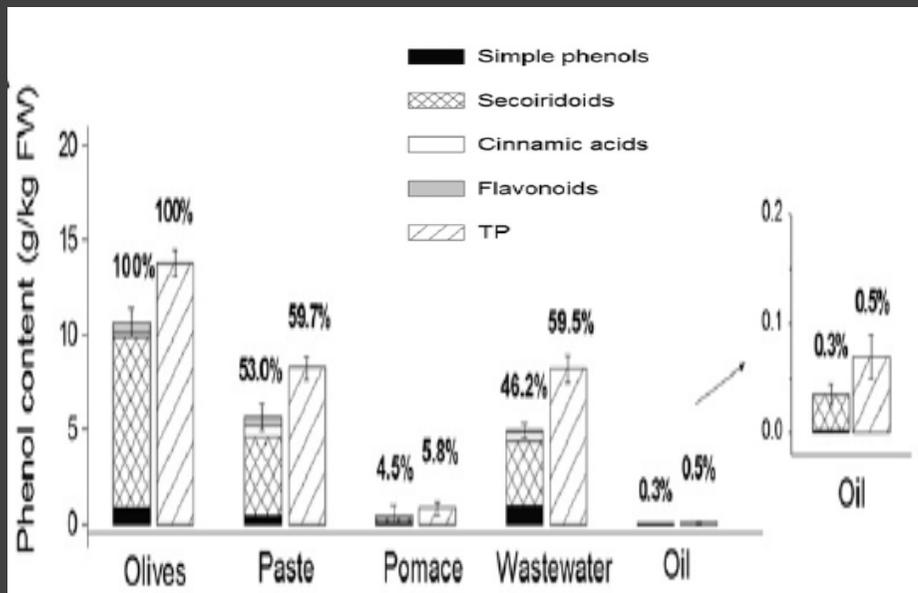
Potential source of phenolic compounds and other natural antioxidants

- **problems** with offensive odors

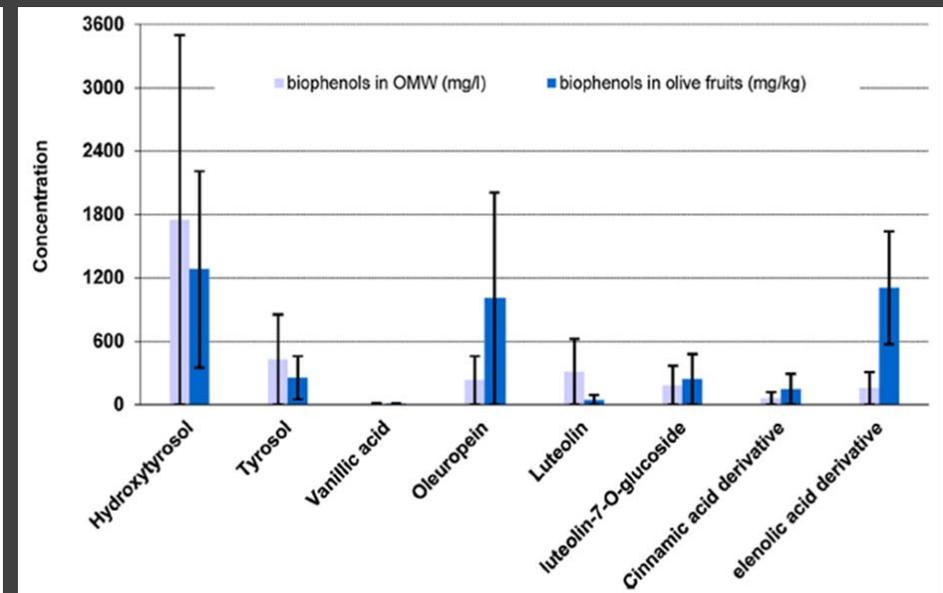
# Composition of olive mill wastewaters and solid residues

Characteristic	Olive mill by-product			Reference
	OMW	Olive cake	TPOMW	
pH	2.2-5.9		4.9-6.8	Galiatsatou et al., 2002; Dermeche et al., 2013
Total carbon (%)	2.0-3.3	29.0-42.9	25.4	Vlyssides et al., 1998; Garcia-Castello et al., 2010
Organic matter (%)	57.2-62.1	85.0	60.3-98.5	Aktas et al., 2001; Vlyssides et al., 2004
Total nitrogen (%)	0.63	0.2-0.3	0.25-1.85	Saviozzi et al., 2001; Di Giovacchino et al., 2006; Dermeche et al., 2013
Ash (%)	1.0	1.7-4.0	1.4-4.0	Vlyssides et al., 1998; Di Giovacchino et al., 2006; Lafka et al., 2011
Lipids (%)	0.03-4.25	3.50-8.72	3.76-18.00	Vlyssides et al., 1998; Paredes et al., 1999; Di Giovacchino et al., 2006; Dermeche et al., 2013
Total sugars (%)	1.50-12.22	0.99-1.38	0.83-19.30	Vlyssides et al., 1998; Caputo et al., 2003; Vlyssides et al., 2004
Total proteins (%)		3.43-7.26	2.87-7.20	Vlyssides et al., 1998; Albuquerque et al., 2004
Total phenols (%)	0.63-5.45	0.200-1.146	0.40-2.43	Vlyssides et al., 1998; Caputo et al., 2003; Dermeche et al., 2013
Cellulose (%)		17.37-24.14	14.54	Vlyssides et al., 1998
Hemicellulose (%)		7.92-11.00	6.63	Vlyssides et al., 1998
Lignin (%)		0.21-14.18	8.54	Vlyssides et al., 1998

# Comparison of phenolic concentration between olive fruit and OMW



Phenols transfer rates between individual olive matrices in three-phase centrifuge. (Klen et al., 2012)

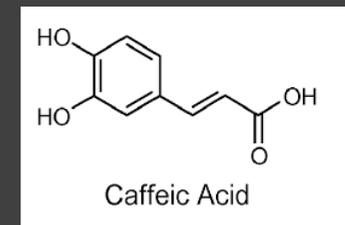
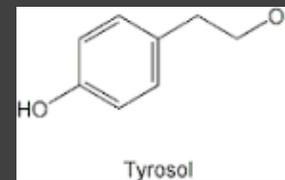
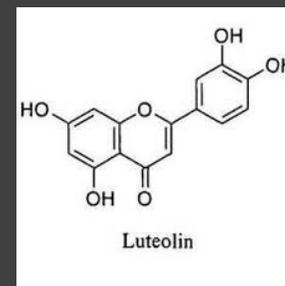
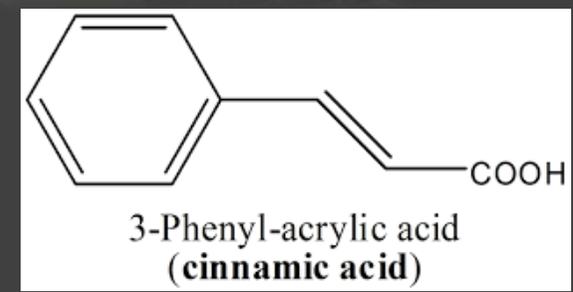
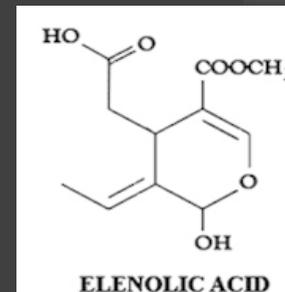


Reported concentrations of biophenols in OMW and olive fruits. (Kaleh et al., 2016)

# Phenolics of OMW

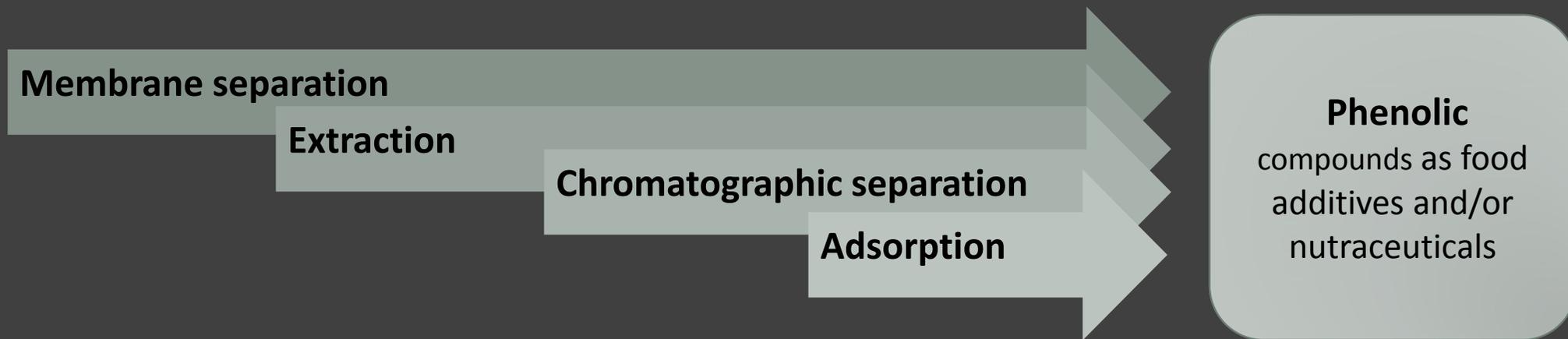


Phenolic compound	Content (mg/L)	Reference
Hydroxytyrosol	35-1600	Navrozidis, 2008 Kaleh et al., 2010 Allouche et al., 2014
Tyrosol	35-1200	
Caffeic acid	4-498	
Elenileic acid	17-1430	
Luteolin	2-623	
Cinnamic acid	1-118	

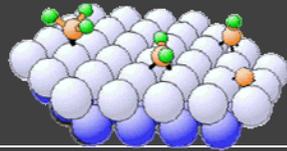


# Recovery of functional components from OMW

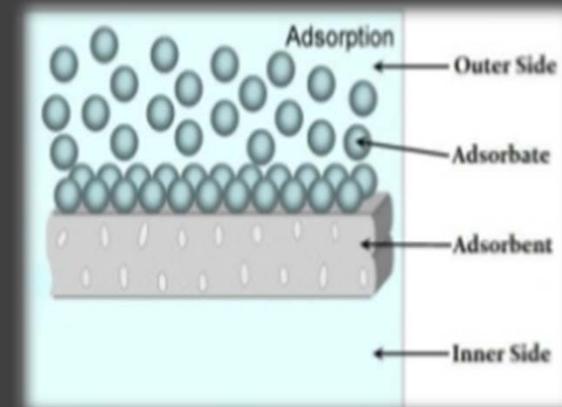
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# Adsorption



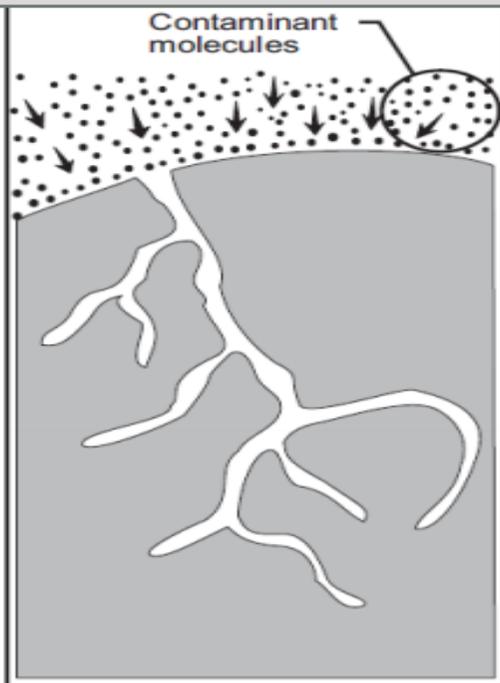
- Adsorption is generally considered to be the best, effective, low-cost and most frequently used method for the removal of phenolic compounds
- The profitability of an industrial process for the adsorptive purification and concentration of phenolic compounds from OMW depends mainly on the adsorption efficiency and on the recovery rates during desorption



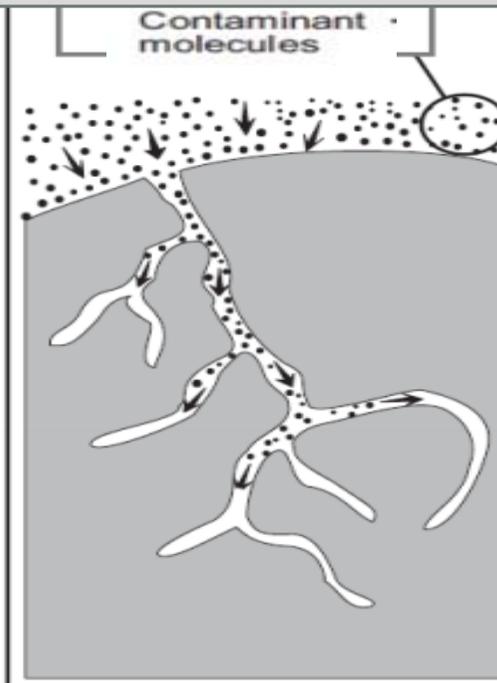
Transfer of a solute from either a gas or liquid/solution to a solid. The solute is held to the surface of the solid as a result of intermolecular attraction with the solid molecules.

# Stages of adsorption

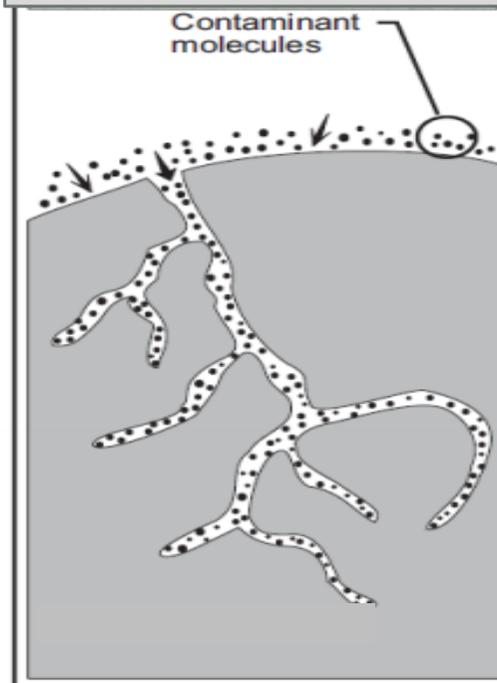
**Stage 1: Diffusion on the sorbent surface**



**Stage 2: Transfer in the sorbent pores**



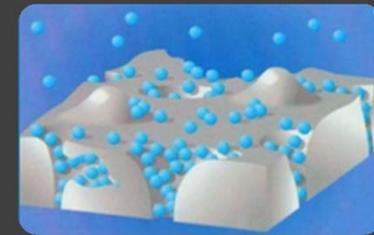
**Stage 3: Creation of monolayer of adsorbate**



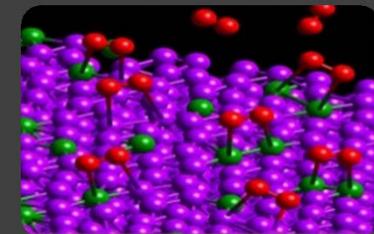
# Mechanisms

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- **Exchange adsorption (ion exchange):** electrostatic due to charged sites on the surface
- **Physical adsorption:** Van der Waals attraction between adsorbate and adsorbent
- **Chemical adsorption:** Some degree of chemical bonding between adsorbate and adsorbent characterized by strong attractiveness. Adsorbed molecules are not free to move on the surface.



*Physical adsorption*



*Chemical adsorption*

# Commercial adsorbents



Silika gel



Activated alumina



Clay



Polymers & resins



Zeolites



Activated carbon

## *Polymer Based Compounds*

*Polar or Non polar functional groups in a porous polymer matrix  
Examples : Polymers & Resins*

## *Oxygen Containing Compounds*

*Typically Hydrophilic & Polar  
Examples : Silica Gel & Zeolites*

## *Carbon Based Compounds*

*Typically Hydrophobic & Non Polar  
Examples : Activated Carbon & Graphite*

## Commercial adsorbents used for recovery of phenolics from OMW

Adsorbent	Yield(%)	Reference
XAD-4	3.5- 97.5	Kaleh et al., 2016
XAD-16	4.5- 99.0	
XAD-761	2.1- 87.2	
XAD-7hp	3.1- 98.0	
FPX-66	4.5- 98.0	
PVPP	0.9-100	
AF5	31.7-91.4	
AF6	90- 100	
AF7	92.4- 100	
GAC	71- 100	
PAC	93.5- 100	
Val d' Orsia soil	27- 67	Santi, 2007
Zeolite	37- 45	
Betonite	29-45	
Banana peel	34 -66	Achaka et al., 2009
Wheat bran	12-63	Achak et al., 2014

## Biosorbents used for recovery of various components

Adsorbent	Recovery	Yield (%)	Reference
Pine wood char	Pb, Cd, Ar from water	3-54	Dinesh Mohan et al., 2007
Oak bark char		26-98	
Banana peel	Cd from water	77.0- 89.2	Jamil et al., 2010
	Pb from water	76.0 -58.3	
	Cr from leather tanning	99.1- 100	Jamil et al., 2008
Coir pith carbon	Congo red	30.5-66.5	Namasivayam et al., 2002
Banana pith	Direct red from water	55-80	Namasivayam, 1998
	Acid brilliant blue from water	65-95	
Apple pomace	Textile dye effluent	91-100	Robinson et al., 2001

# Objective

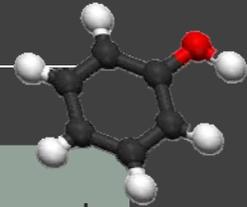
- In this work two food wastes
  - pomegranate peel
  - orange juice by-productwere used as biosorbents
- Adsorption isotherms
  - Langmuir
  - Freundlich
  - Temkin
- Kinetic models
  - pseudo-first-order
  - pseudo-second-order
  - intraparticle diffusion model



Development of a new, low cost method for removal of phenolic compounds from OMW

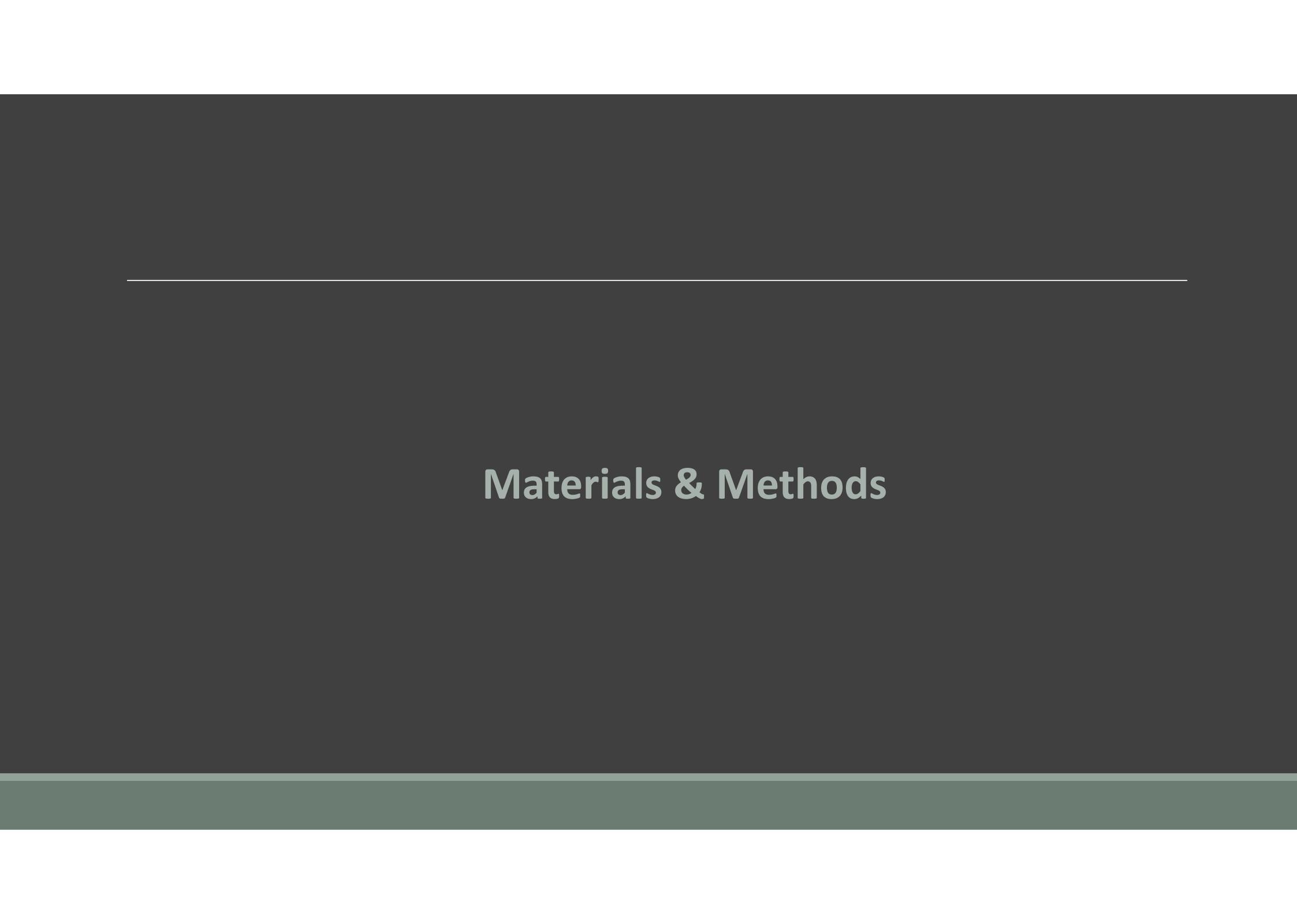


Models used for experimental data fitting



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# Materials & Methods



# Preparation of biosorbents

Pomegranate peel



Orange juice waste



# Composition of biosorbents

Pomegranate peel



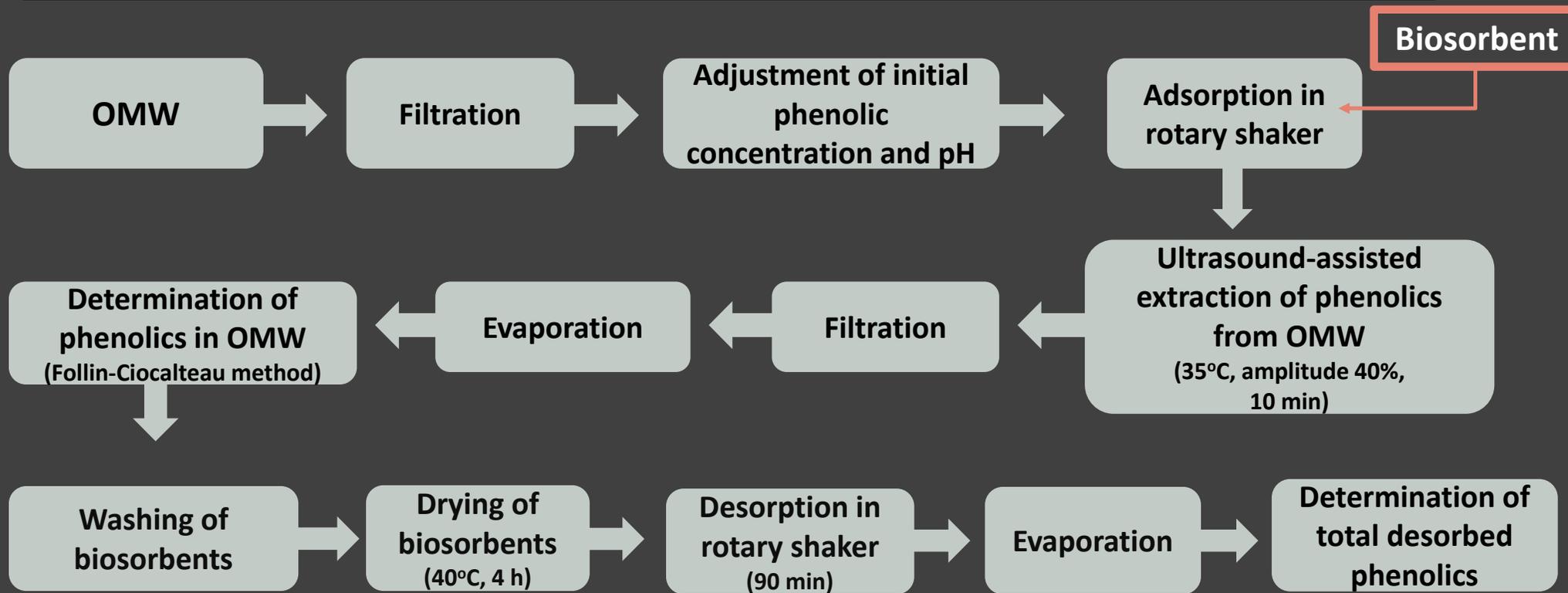
Component	Content (%)
Total solids	96.00
Moisture	4.00
Total sugars	31.38
Protein	8.72
Crude Fiber	21.06
Fat	9.40
Ash	5.00
Total phenolics	8.10

Orange juice waste



Component	Content (g/100 g DM)
Moisture	8.52
Protein	13.25
Lipid	2.12
Ash	4.25
Carbohydrate	80.38
Total dietary fiber	65.7
Insoluble dietary fiber	48.9
Soluble dietary fiber	16.8

# Integrated process for adsorption of phenolics from OMW with biosorbents



# Factors Affecting the Adsorption Process

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- Adsorption temperature
- pH
- OMW/sorbent ratio
- Initial concentration of phenolics in OMW
- Particle size of biosorbent



# Levels of variables

T (°C)	pH	Sorbent/OMW ratio (r) (g/mL)	Initial phenolic concentration in OMW (C <sub>o</sub> ) (mg/L)	Sorbent particle size (d) (mm)	Biosorbent type
20	4.00	0.010	50.0	0.149	Pomegranate peel
30	4.75	0.015	162.5	0.373	
40	5.50	0.020	275.0	0.515	
50	6.25	0.025	387.5	0.847	Orange juice wastes
60	7.00	0.020	500.0	1.180	

**Response  
Surface  
Methodology  
(32 experiments  
for each  
biosorbent)**

# Desorption



Water (pH 7)



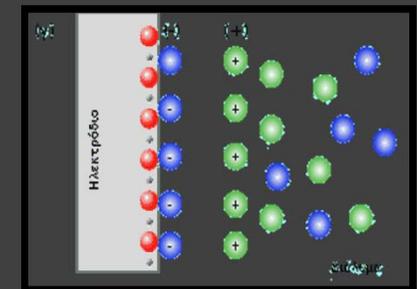
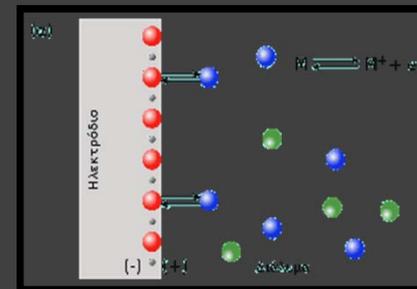
50% acetic acid (pH 1.2)



Alkaline water (pH 12)

$$\text{Yield desorption} = \frac{C_1}{C_0 - C}$$

$C_0$ : concentration of phenolics in OMW before adsorption  
 $C$ : concentration of phenolics in OMW after adsorption  
 $C_1$ : concentration of phenolics in solvent after desorption



# Regeneration

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## ➤ Thermal regeneration

Heating biosorbent (after desorption) for 2 h at:

- 100 °C
- 150 °C
- 200 °C
- 250 °C



## ➤ Chemical regeneration

Stirring biosorbent (after desorption) for 2 h with 20% methanol and drying at 50 °C



# Adsorption Isotherms

- Isotherm **Langmuir**

$$\frac{C_e}{q_e} = \frac{1}{bQ_m} + \frac{C_e}{Q_m}$$

- Isotherm **Freundlich**

$$\ln q_e = \ln K_F + \frac{1}{n \ln C_e}$$

- Isotherm **Temkin**

$$q_e = \frac{RT}{B_T} \ln K_T + \frac{RT}{B_T} \ln C_e$$

- $C_e$  (g/L): the amount of the unadsorbed phenolic compounds concentration in solution at equilibrium
- $q_e$  (mg/g): the amount of adsorbed phenolic compounds per unit weight of adsorbent at equilibrium.
- $b$  (L/g): the equilibrium constant or Langmuir constant related to the affinity of binding sites
- $Q_m$  (mg/g): represents a particle limiting adsorption capacity when the surface is fully covered with phenolic compounds and assists in the comparison of adsorption performance
- $K_F$ : Freundlich constant that shows adsorption capacity of adsorbent
- $n$ : constant which shows greatness of relationship between adsorbate and adsorbent
- $B_T$  (kJ/mol): heat of sorption
- $K_T$ : Temkin isotherm parameters

# Kinetics of the adsorption

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- Pseudo-first-order

$$\ln(q_e - q_t) = \ln(q_e) - k_1 t$$

- Pseudo-second-order

$$\frac{t}{q_t} = \frac{1}{k_2 q_e^2} + \frac{t}{q_e}$$

- Diffusion model

$$q_t = k_p t^{\frac{1}{2}} + C$$

- $q_e$  (mg/g): the amount of phenolic compounds adsorbed at equilibrium
- $q_t$  (mg/g): the amount of phenolic compounds adsorbed at any time,  $t$  (min)
- $K_1$  ( $\text{min}^{-1}$ ): the equilibrium rate constant of pseudo-first-order sorption
- $K_2$  (g/g min): the rate constant for pseudo-second-order kinetics
- $q_t$  (mg/g): the amount of phenolic compounds adsorbed at equilibrium at time,  $t$  (min)
- $k_p$  (g/g  $\text{min}^{\frac{1}{2}}$ ): is the intraparticle diffusion rate constant
- $C$  (mg/g): the intercept

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# Results

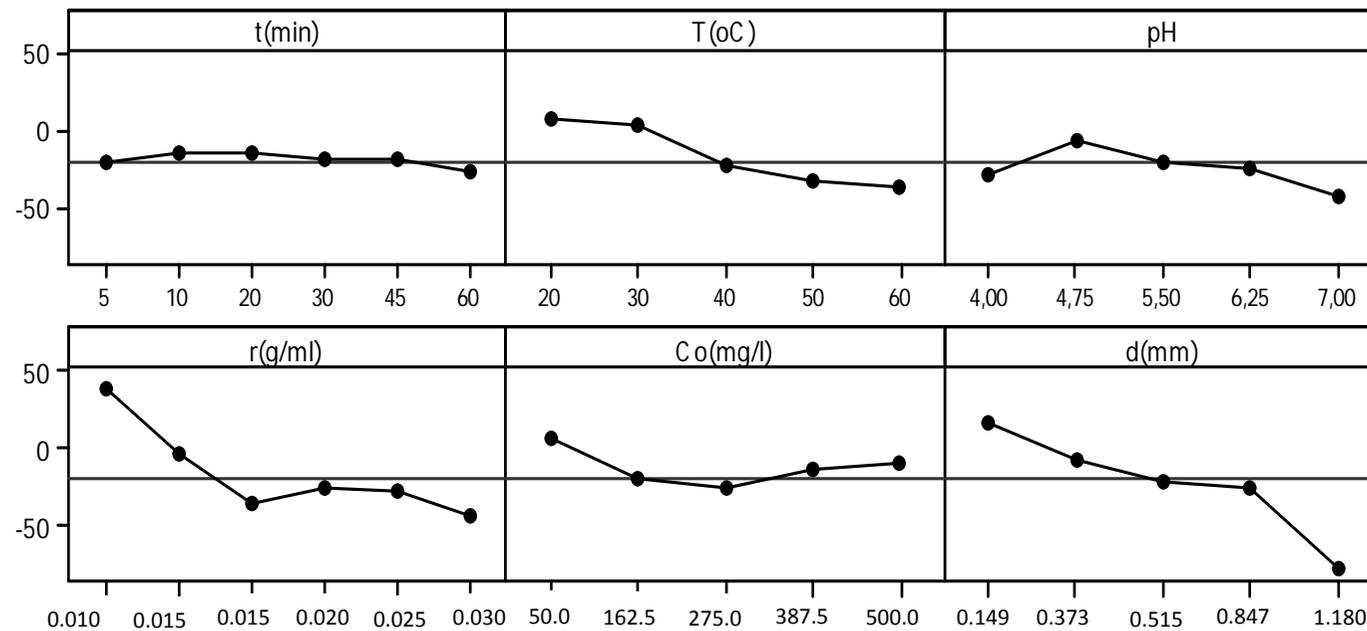




# Factors Affecting the Adsorption Process

## Main Effects Plot for Y(%)

Data Means



Max adsorption yield:

T : 20°C  
 pH : 4.75  
 r : 0.01 g/mL  
 C<sub>o</sub> : 50mg/L  
 D : 0.149 mm

$$\text{Yield adsorption} = \frac{C_0 - C}{C_0}$$

Biosorbent	Max Yield
Pomegranate peel	93.13%
Orange-juice waste	89.60%

# Desorption

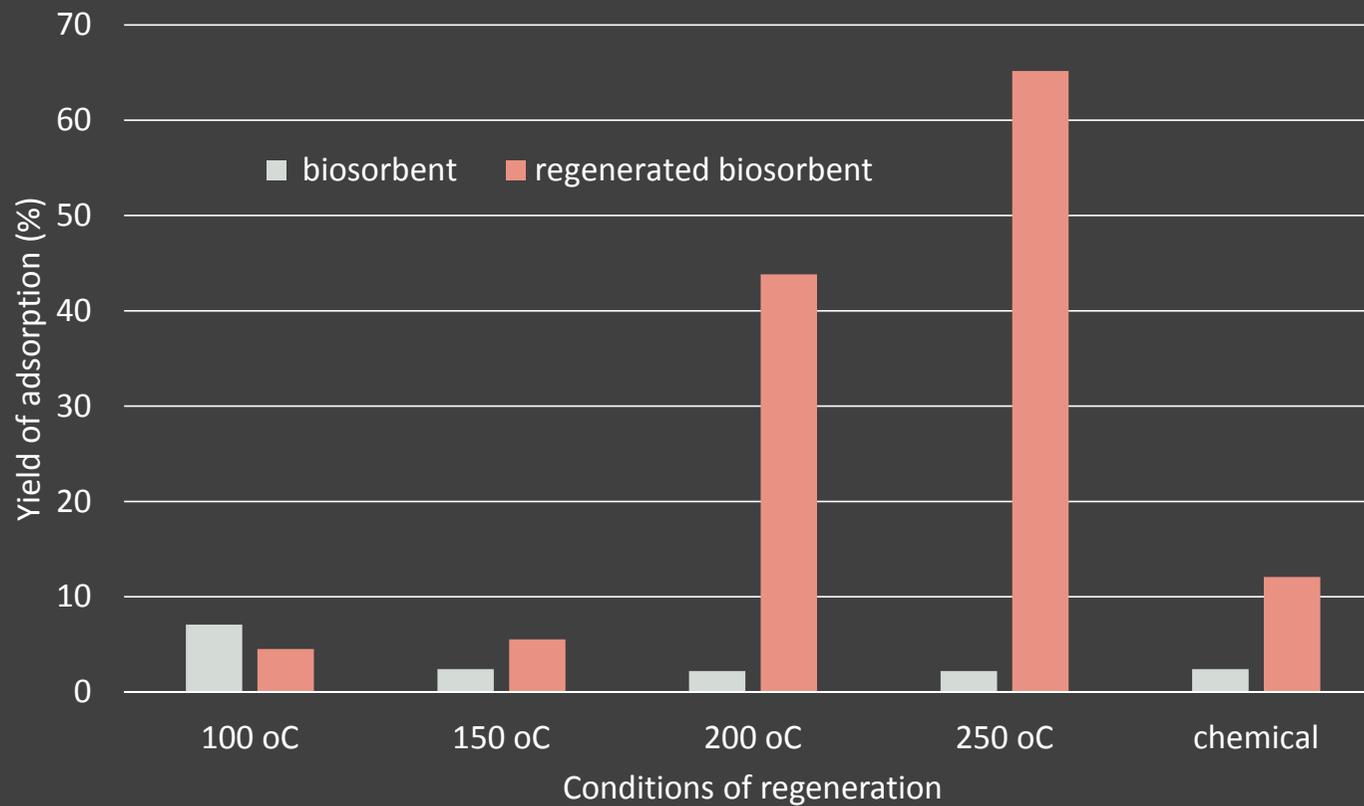
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	Pomegranate peel	Orange juice waste
50% acetic acid	59.34%	5.33%
Water	13.04%	2.17%
Alkaline water	67.31%	1.33%

Adsorption mechanism:  
ion exchange

Adsorption mechanism:  
chemisorption

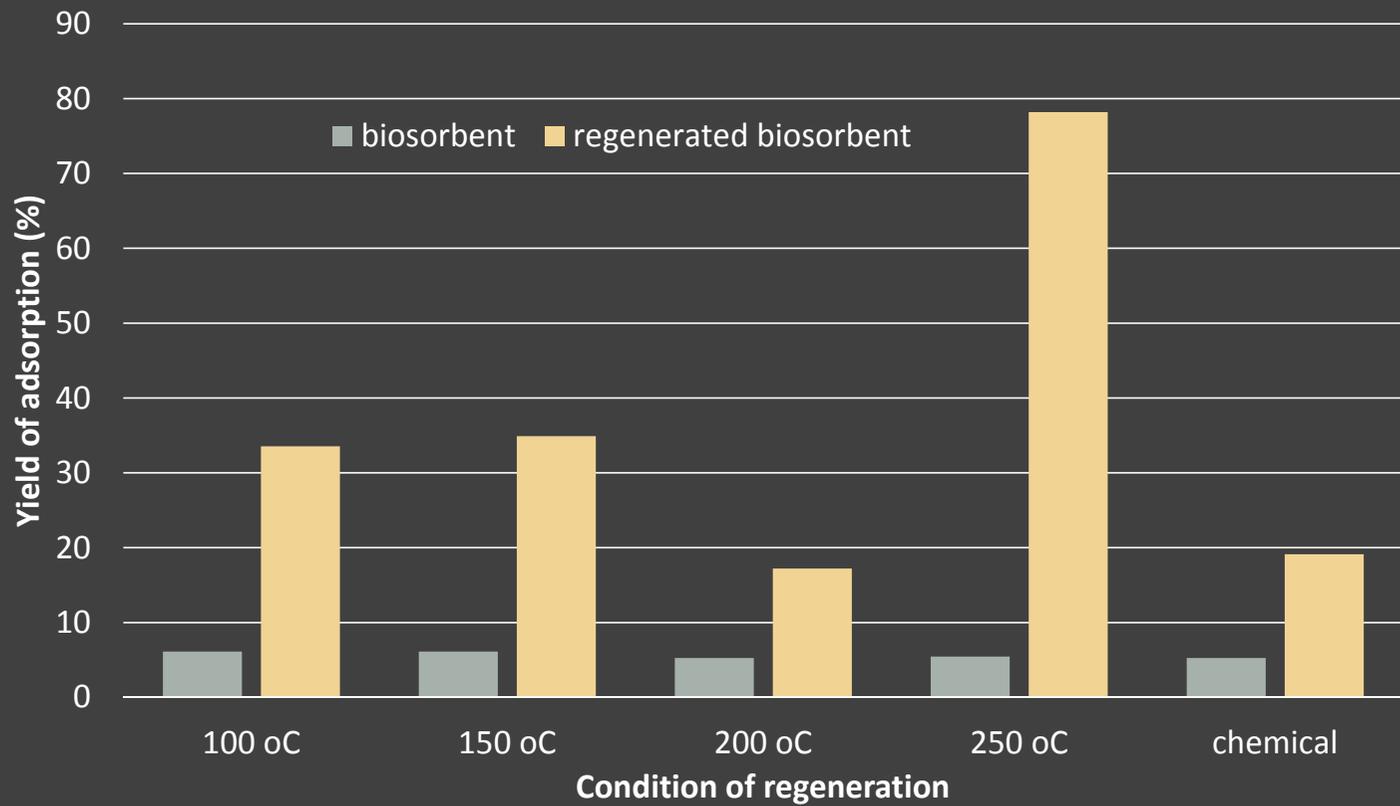
# Regeneration of pomegranate peel



The most effective method of regeneration

Thermal regeneration,  
**250° C for 2 h**

# Regeneration of orange juice waste



The most effective method of regeneration

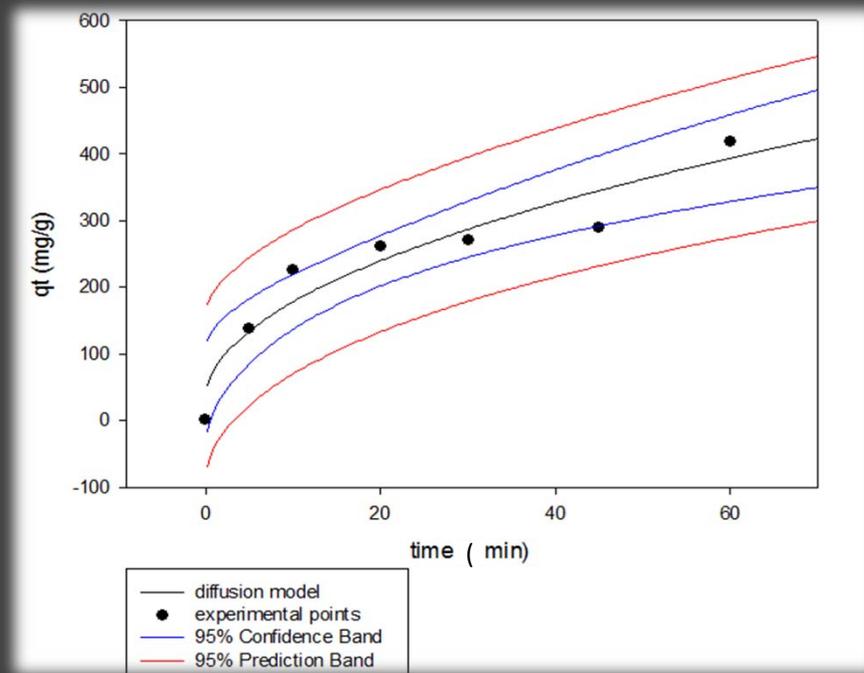
Thermal regeneration, 250° C for 2 h

# Kinetics models of adsorption

Model	Pomegranate peel		Orange juice waste	
	R <sup>2</sup>	SSE	R <sup>2</sup>	SSE
Pseudo-first order model	0.2251	155.3953	0.278	95.5524
Pseudo-second order model	0.7099	112.2772	0.5279	80.9984
Diffusion model	0.8129	91.9249	0.7956	70.6179

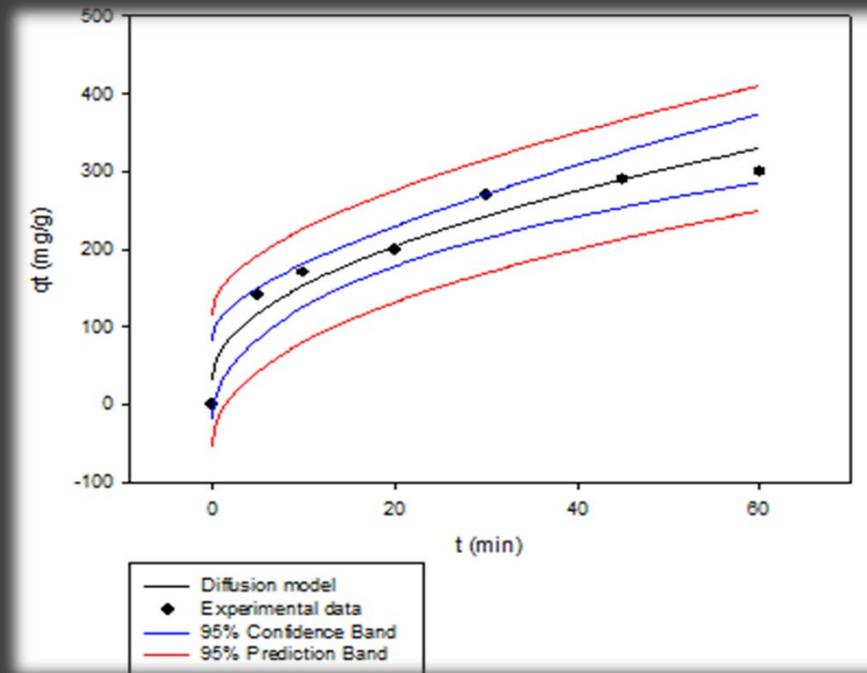
$$q_t = k_p t^{\frac{1}{2}} + C$$

# Fitting of Diffusion model for some adsorption experiments



## Pomegranate peel

pH = 4.75, T = 20°C, r = 0.015 g/mL, C<sub>0</sub> = 387.5 mg/L,  
D = 1.18 mm



## Orange juice waste

pH = 5.5, T = 40°C, r = 0.01 g/mL, C<sub>0</sub> = 275 mg/L,  
D = 0.847 mm

# Effect of process variables on kinetic model constants

$$q_t = k_p t^{\frac{1}{2}} + C$$

$\downarrow$                        $\downarrow$   
 $\alpha$                        $b$

## Diffusion model

- Adsorption with pomegranate peel

$$a = -61 - T + 98 Tr - 0.005 TCo + 0.012 pH Co - 17 pH d + 0.0004 Co^2 - 52 d^2 \quad R^2=48\%$$

$$b = 1285 - 27 T - 68286 r + Co - 200d + 5 T pH - 34 pH^2 + 13710 pH r - pH Co - 40 d^2 \quad R^2=62\%$$

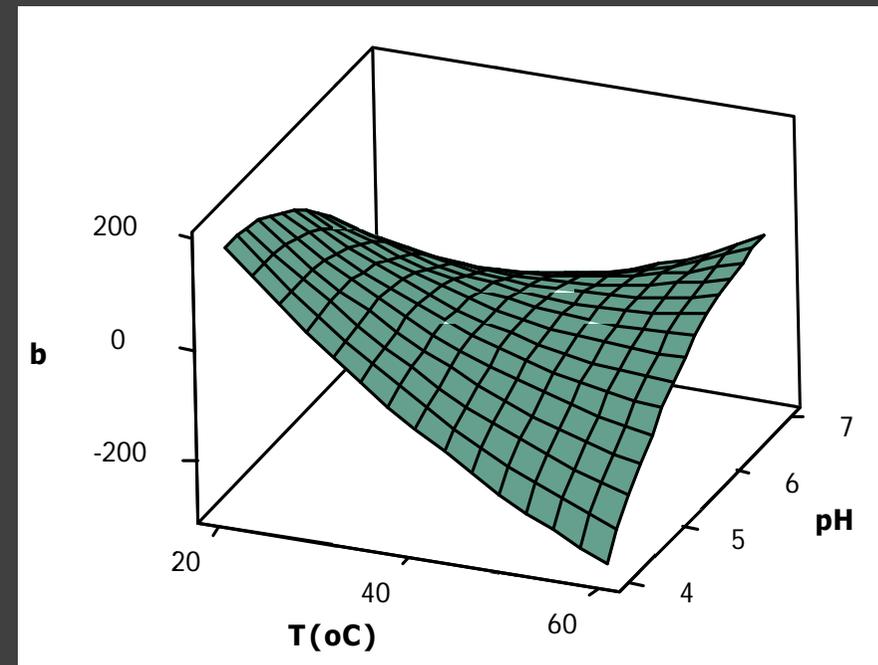
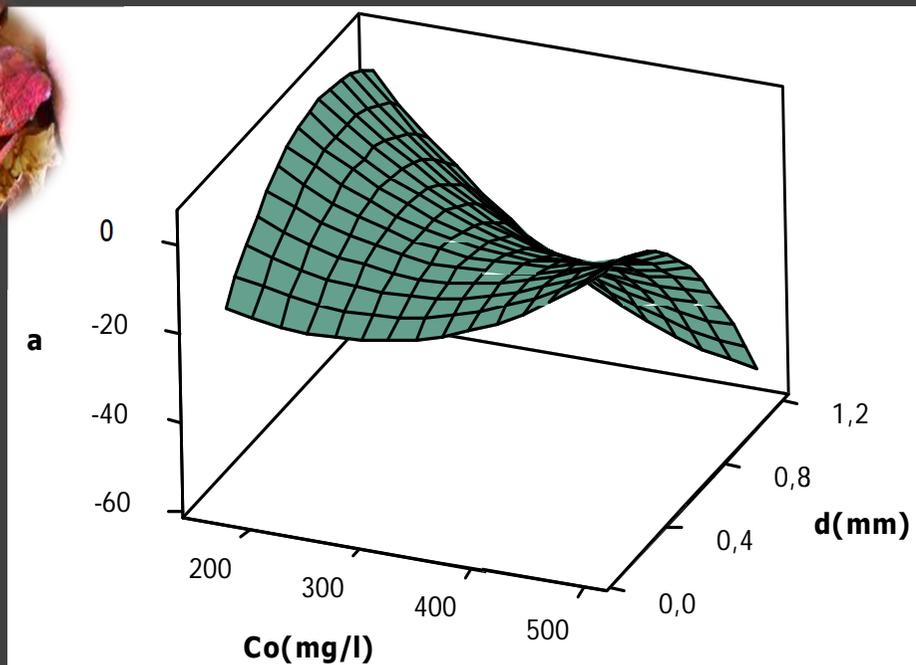
- Adsorption with orange waste

$$a = 104 + T - 3365r + 0,01 Co - 97Tr + 0,0014 - 0.2927Td + 52d^2 \quad R^2=32.1\%$$

$$b = 1066 - 25 T + 4 T pH - 18 Tr + 0.0052 T Co - 5pH^2 - 0.18 pH Co - 52 pH d + Co d \quad R^2=71.8\%$$

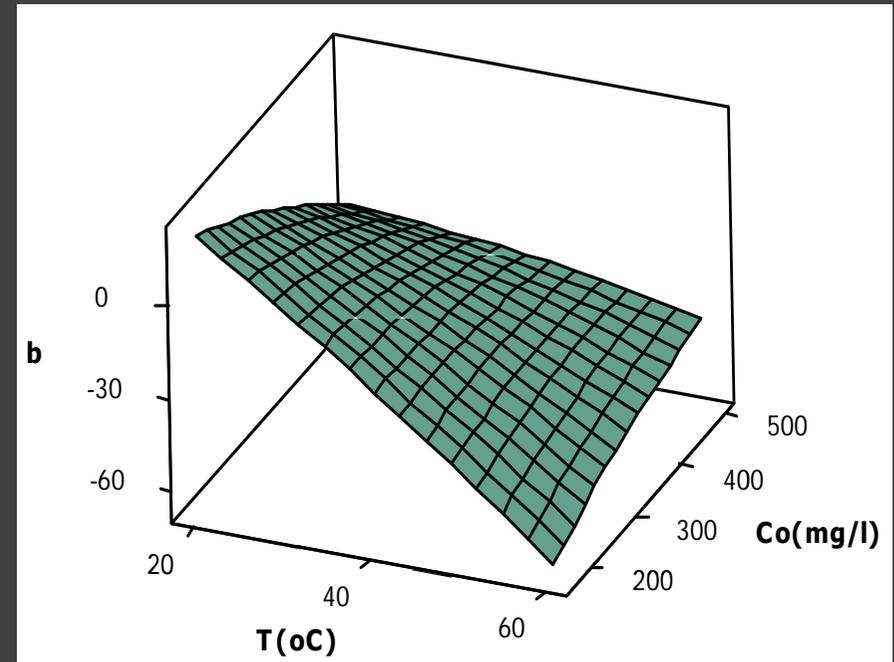
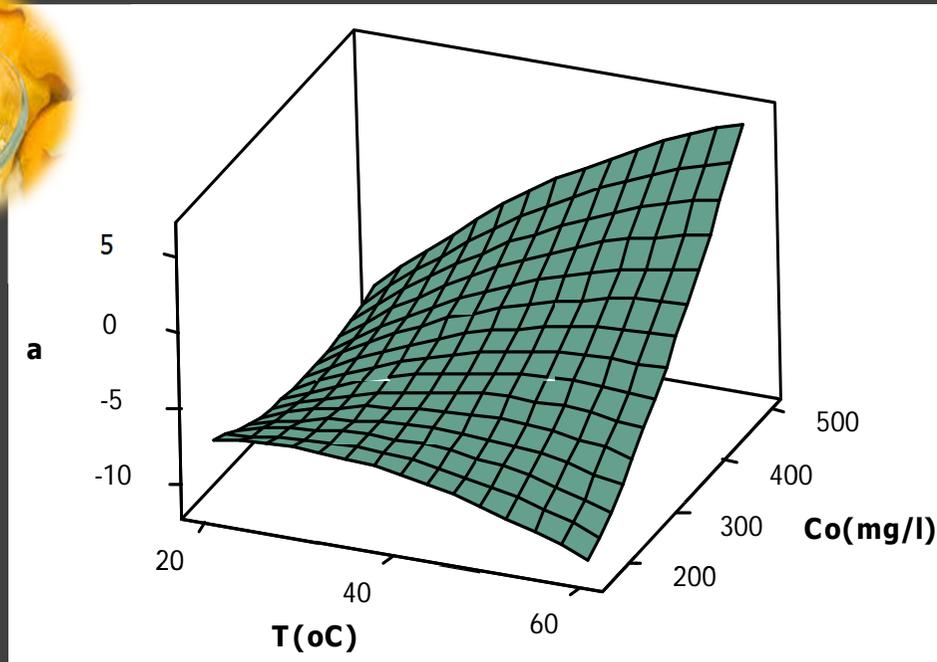
# Effect of process variables on diffusion model constants

- Adsorption with pomegranate peel



# Effect of process variables on diffusion model constants

- Adsorption with orange juice waste



# Adsorption Isotherms

Biosorbent	Langmuir		Freundlich		Temkin	
	$Q_m$ (mg/g)	$b$ (L/mg)	$n$ (-)	$K_F$ (mg <sup>1-n</sup> L <sup>n</sup> /g)	$B_T$ (kJ/mol)	$K_T$
Pomegranate peel	36.23	69.00	0.13	1096.63	-0.037	6.28
Orange juice waste	4.25	50.09	0.01	76 10 <sup>-10</sup>	0.018	93.69

Adsorbent	Adsorbate	$Q_m$ (mg/g)	$b$ (L/g)	$K_F$	$n$
Activated coal	Phenol	1.84	0.065	0.79	0.79
Resin AP-246		0.071	0.584	0.112	0.35
Resin OC-1074		0.043	0.445	0.0053	0.16
Carbonised beet pulp	Phenol	◇	◇	29.35	5.13
Hydroxyapatite	Phenol	◇	◇	0.37	1.66
Coconut shell	Phenol	205.84	3.91	37.11	3.66
Aged-refuse	Phenol	◇	◇	0.019	1.19
	2-Chlorophenol	◇	◇	0.042	1.22
	4-Chlorophenol	◇	◇	0.195	1.59
	2,4-Dichlorophenol	◇	◇	0.180	1.50
Palm pith carbon	2,4-Dichlorophenol	19.16	0.70	*	*
Paper mill sludge	2,4-Dichlorophenol	4.49	0.003	*	*
Banana peel	Phenolic compounds	688.9	0.24	0.13	1.13

◇ Does not follow Langmuir isotherm/not reported. \* Does not follow Freundlich isotherm/not reported.

(Achak et al., 2009)

# Conclusions

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- Pomegranate peel and orange juice waste have proven to be promising materials for the removal of contaminants from olive mill wastewaters
- **Adsorption mechanism**
  - ✓ pomegranate peel: ion exchange
  - ✓ orange juice waste: chemisorption
- More effective method of **regeneration** for both biosorbents
  - ✓ thermal process, 250°C for 2 h
- **Adsorption isotherms** showed that the adsorption with the studied biosorbents is favorable and removal with pomegranate peels is more favorable as compared with orange juice waste.
- **Diffusion model** describes better the adsorption, thus the overall rate of the adsorption appears to be controlled by the diffusion mechanism

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**Thank you for your attention.**

