# Adsorption of Selected Synthetic Organic Compounds in Aqueous

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### Introduction

Synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs) are organic compounds that

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Instrumentation: e instrument used were HI83099 COD and multiparameter photometer, HI 839800 COD reactor, COD test kits, COD standard reagents and set of titration equipment

e COD was measured using Standard methods for water and wastewater Analysis, Part D5220, APHA (1995). e COD measurement instruments were supplied through an IFS Grant [Grant No: W5574-1] by the International Foundation for Science (IFS) Sweden [4,5].

Carbonization of Biomass: e dried Nipa palm biomass from the fronds wer carbonized by taking about  $25 \pm 0.01$  g of the Nipa palm leaves biomass (< 110 mesh size) was introduced into a clean and preweighed crucible containing 25 ml of distilled water in a 1:1 ratio to form a paste. e paste was transferred to a clean and pre-weighed crucible and placed in a mu er furnace (Carbolite She eld England, LMF4) and was heated gradually to 550 °C for 10 min. e mixture was allowed to remain at this temperature in the oven for 2 hrs, a er which it was poured from the crucible into a bowl containing some ice block crystals. e excess water was drained and the samples were sun dried.

e carbonized sample was washed, using 10% HCl to remove surface ash, followed by hot water wash and rinsing with distilled water to remove residual acid. e solids were then sun dried, followed by oven drying at 100 °C for one hour and then weighed. e dried sample was sieved through a 106- $\mu$ m mesh Tyler sieve and the fractions < 106  $\mu$ m were collected for use. is is the carbonization step which produced the physically carbonized carbon (PCC). e sealed oven provided an oxygen-de cient condition under which the biomass was thermally decomposed to porous carbonaceous materials and hydrocarbon compounds [6].

Activation of Biomass: e activated carbons were prepared by a one-step pyrolysis method. e activated carbons produced were called (i) Acidic reagent activated carbon (AAC) and (ii) Basic reagent activated carbon (BAC)

Acidic Reagent Activated Carbon (AAC):  $25 \pm 0.001$  g Nipa palm leaves biomass was placed in a beaker containing 25 ml of 10 % (3.27 M) H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> solution. e content of the beaker was thoroughly mixed and heated to form a paste. e paste was transferred to a clean and pre-weighed crucible and placed in a furnace and was heated gradually to 500 °C for 10 min. A er activation, the mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and weighed [7]. e pyrolyzed carbons were washed, using 10% HCl to remove surface ash, followed by rinsing with distilled water to remove residual acid until a neutral pH was achieved.

e sample was then dried in an oven at 110  $^{\rm o}C$  overnight. e nal product was ground and sieved through a 106  $\mu m$  mesh Tyler sieve. Fractions < 106  $\mu m$  were collected and kept in an air-tight container for use.Washing was complete when a pH of 7  $\pm$  0.5 was ascertained.

Basic Reagent Activated Carbon (BAC):  $25 \pm 0.001$  g Nipa palm leaves biomass was placed in a beaker containing 25 ml of 10 % KOH solution. e 0.9 M standard solution was made by adding 49.93 grams of KOH into 1000ml distilled water. e content of the beaker was thoroughly mixed and heated to form a paste. e paste was transferred to a clean and pre-weighed crucible and placed in a furnace and was heated at 500 °C for 10 min. A er activation, the mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and weighed. e pyrolyzed carbons were washed, using 10% HCl to remove surface ash, followed by rinsing with distilled water to remove residual acid until a neutral pH was achieved.

e sample was then dried in an oven at 110 °C overnight. e nal product was ground and sieved through a 106  $\mu$ m mesh Tyler sieve. Fractions < 150- $\mu$ m were collected and kept in an air-tight container for use. Washing was complete when a pH of 7 ± 0.5 was ascertained [8].

COD Reduction of SOCs Solutions: e chemical oxygen demand (COD) concentrations play an important role in the use and re-use of wastewater. COD reduction from solutions of known concentrations (mg/L) of DMABA, kerosene and n-propanol was investigated using PCC, AAC, BAC and CAC under optimum conditions. e process conditions used were 12.3 grams of carbon, 17.62 cm bed height, ambient temperature, pH = 6.5 and ow rate 15 ml/min. e COD concentration decreased signi cantly in the treated SOC solution as compared to the raw SOC solution (Table 1).

#### Result

e results showed that the physically activated carbons (PCC),

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86 % reduction in total nitrogen (Tot-N).

### Acknowledgment

None

## **Conflict of Interest**

None

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