Effect of Rice Husk Biochar on Cadmium Immobilization in Soil and Uptake by Wheat Plant Grown on Lacustrine Soil

Amal H. Mahmoud¹, Maher E. Saleh² and Abdel-Salam A. Abdel-Salam²

¹Soil Salinity and Alkalinity Research Laboratory, Institute of Soil, Water and Environment Research, Agricultural Research Center, Bakous, Alexandria.

²Department of Soil & Water Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Alexandria University, postal code 21545 El-Shatbi, Alexandria, Egypt

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ABSTRACT

Production of biochar from crop residues using pyrolysis technology is considered one of the recent technologies to use the pyrolized residues as recalcitrant adsorbent materials to remove heavy metals from wastewater and immobilize metalic contaminants in soils. Rice husk biochar (RHB) was produced by pyrolysis of rice husk (RH) at 450 °C for 15 min. in the laboratory. Surface area, pore volume and FTIR techniques were used to characterize both RH and RHB. Adsorption isotherm experiments were carried out to measure the adsorption of Cd2+ (875 mg Cd2+ kg-1) on RH and RHB for 96h. Greenhouse experiment was conducted to investigate the effect of biochar application (by rate of 30t ha⁻¹) to soil in presence of Cd2+ (0, 5 and 35 mg kg-1 soil) on the yield and Cd2+ uptake by wheat plants. Produced biochar had higher surface area and total pore volume by about 10 and 2.73 times, respectively, than the feedstock (RH). Adsorption Isotherm showed that about 97.3 and 63.2% of Cd²⁺ were removed within the first 2 h of reaction by RHB and RH, respectively. There was increase in pH values only associated to RH adsorption of Cd2+ which reflects an increase in electronegativity or changing in the status of surface functional groups of RH. The high values of adsorption and stable pH values during Cd2+ adsorption on RHB reveals the stability of active surfaces and surface groups of biochar with time. There was a significant increase in concentrations of DOC with reaction time only in RH treatment and it was not observed in RHB treatment. DOC results pointed out the potentiality of degrading and decaying the RH adsorption system with time, and reflects the recalcitrant feature of RHB system. The Results of greenhouse showed a significant reduction in grain and straw yield and high rates of Cd2+ uptake with increasing concentrations of added Cd2+. Application of RHB greatly reduced the hazardous effect of Cd2+ on the growth and yield and significantly diminished the accumulation of Cd2+ in both wheat grain and straw.

Key words: rice husk, rice husk biochar, cadmium, wheat, FTIR, surface area, lacustrine soils

INTRODUCTION

Biochar is a product of thermal decomposition of biomass produced by the process called pyrolysis. Biochar has been found to be biochemically recalcitrant as compared to un-charred organic matter and possesses considerable potential to enhance long-term soil carbon pool (Lehmann et al., 2006). Biochar has been shown to improve soil structure and water retention, enhance nutrient availability and retention, ameliorate acidity (Glaser et al., 2002), and reduce heavy metals toxicity to plants and soil microorganisms (Park et al., 2011 and Beesley et al., 2010). Biochar possesses organic functional groups on its surfaces and the negatively charged organic functional groups increase over time during its oxidation in soil (Cheng et al. 2008). The formation of surface functional groups and adsorption sites on biochar could influence its retention capacity (Liang et al., 2006) and consequently the capacity of biochar amended soils to form complexes with metal ions.

Presence of heavy metals in several wastes, added to the cultivated soils today, has imposed a need for a better understanding of the processes of

soil-heavy metal interactions, in particular, their mobility and retention. The waste disposal, whether in sanitary landfill or, when processed for agricultural use demands understanding of the adsorption phenomena and pollutant mobility in soil profiles, since these are essential factors that control groundwater contamination (Krishnani and Ayyappan, 2006 and Bittell and Miller, 1974).

Cadmium (Cd) is one of the most toxic trace metals found in sewage sludge-treated soils and extensively phosphate fertilized soils (Logan et al., 1997 and Merrington et. al., 1997). When sewage sludge is used on farmland, it generally dominates the fluxes of several trace metals, including Cd2+ (Andersson, 1992). Cadmium has been linked to negative health effects, so it is desirable to reduce its concentrations in crops entering the human diet. Due to high Cd²⁺ mobility in the soil-plant system, it can easily enter into food chain and can create risk for human and environmental health (Grant et al., 1998). Therefore, significant research attention addresses the mechanisms of Cd2+ translocation and grain accumulation, especially in crops having ability to accumulate high Cd²⁺, such as wheat, sunflower and some others (Hariss and Taylor, 2001). Cadmium concentration in crops is influenced by a wide range of factors, including crop genotypes, soil characteristics such as texture, pH and salinity, weather, crop sequence, crop management practices and soil Cd²⁺ concentration (Grant *et al.*, 1998).

Rice husk, as one of the major crop residues, showed a great ability to remove various heavy metal pollutants from aqueous solution and wastewater (Kumar and Bandyopadhyay, 2006 and Ajmal et al., 2003). It is considered one of the potentially bio-sorbents of heavy metal ions. Lui and Zhang (2009) demonstrated the feasibility of biochars as adsorbents for lead removal from aqueous solution based on the irregular surfaces and much more oxygen-containing functional groups. Rice husk and rice husk biochar showed a great ability to remove and retain Cd²⁺ from both municipal and industrial waste waters (Krishnani et al., 2008; Srivastava et al., 2006; Ajmal et al., 2003).

This investigation was conducted to determine the ability of rice husk and rice husk biochar to remove Cd²⁺ from water, immobilize it in soils enriched by Cd²⁺ and reduce Cd²⁺ accumulation in wheat grains and straw.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Soil and rice husk:

Lacustrine soil samples were collected from the top 20 cm of soil layer from Abis area located southeast Alexandria Governorate. Some soil properties are listed in Table (1). The soil samples were air dried, crushed and sieved using 4-mm polypropylene sieve and 25 kg soil were transferred to the Mischerlish pots (40-cm height and 25 cm diameter) for experimental purposes.

Rice husk (RH) was obtained from a private sector rice mill located in Housh Isa City, Behairah Governorate. The RH samples were washed several times by distilled water and oven-dried at 70 °C for 48 hr then stored in plastic jars. Part of RH was crushed and passed through 0.5-mm stainless steel sieve then stored in plastic jars for subsequent experiments.

Preparation and characterization of rice husk biochar

To prepare the rice husk biochar (RHB), the oven-dried RH was put into aluminum sheet envelops and was completely closed with making few small holes. Envelops were transferred to muffle furnace and heated to a temperature of 450 °C for 15 min. After cooling to ambient temperature, the product of RHB was crushed and sieved using 0.5-mm stainless steel sieve then stored in plastic jars. Elemental analysis (Si, P, K, Fe, Mn, Zn, Cd and Cu) of RH and RHB were carried out using dry ashing method according to Jones and Case (1990). Measurement of metals was conducted by ICP-OES Spectrometer Thermo Model ICAP 6000 Series,

Thermo Scientific, UK. Total organic carbon was determined using the dichromate oxidation method (Walkley-Black procedure, Schumacher, 2002). Total nitrogen in RH and RHB was determined using Kjeldahl methods in both digestion and distillation of samples according to Nelson and Sommers (1973).

Surface characterization and reactivity of Biochar

Surface area and FTIR measurement techniques were used to explore the surface properties of both RH and RHB. The surface area and pore volume of the RH and RHB was determined using N₂ sorption isotherms run on Beckman Coulter SA(TM) 3100 Surface Area and Pore Size Analyzer and the Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) method was used to determine mesopore-enclosed surfaces. Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectra of the adsorbent were recorded in the range 400-4000 cm⁻¹ using SHEMATZU infra red spectrophotometer; model FT/IR-5300, JASCO Corporation, Japan.

Adsorption Isotherm of Cd

In The present investigation, batch mode of operation was selected in order to measure the progress of Cd adsorption isotherm for intervals extended to 96 h. Four gm of RH or RHB (≤ 500 µm particles) as adsorbents with 800 ml aqueous solution of adsorbate (cadmium chloride with concentration of 875.0 mg Cd2+ kg-1 adsorbent in the presence of 0.01M KCl solution as background electrolyte) were continuously stirred at 400 rpm at temperature of 30 °C. At the completion of predetermined time intervals, the adsorbate and adsorbent were separated by filtration using 0.45µm membrane filter (Gelman Science, MI, USA) and Cd2+ was measured in part of the supernatant by ICP-OES Spectrometer. The adsorbed Cd2+ was calculated by subtraction of remained Cd2+ in solution from the total added Cd²⁺. In another part of supernatant, the concentration of dissolved organic carbon (DOC) was determined by wet digestion method according to EPA (2009).

Effect of RH and RHB Application on Cd Uptake by Wheat

Using complete randomized design (CRD), a greenhouse experiment was conducted. Two levels of RH or RHB (0 and 30 ton ha⁻¹) were thoroughly mixed with the top 15-cm soil in the pots. Each pot (25-cm diameter x 40-cm height and containing 25 kg soil) was fertilized with a basal dose of N, P and K at 40, 40 and 50 mg kg⁻¹, as ammonium nitrate, single super phosphate and potassium sulfate, respectively. Three rates of Cd²⁺ (0, 5.0 and 35.0 mg kg⁻¹ soil) were added to soils, with the first irrigation water, in the form of CdCl₂. Wheat cultivar (Sakha 104) seeds were sown in each pot, and the germinated seedlings were thinned to five plants per pot. After 5 and 10 weeks of growth, additional doses of N were added by a rate of 30 mg kg⁻¹ soil each in the form of ammonium nitrate. At harvest,

the dry matter yield and yield parameters were recorded. Dried samples of wheat grains and straw were crushed and sieved on 0.5-mm sieves then were dry-ashed at 550 °C according to Jones and Case (1990). The digests were analyzed for Cd²⁺ using ICP-OES spectrometer. Cadmium uptake by wheat grains and straw were calculated. All data were statistically analyzed using Costat software (Costat, 1985).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Properties of Rice Husk Biochar

Table (1) showed that charring the RH increased the nutrients content in biochar. Sharp increase in silicon and carbon was observed in RHB (about 2.8 and 1.31 folds, respectively, over than occurred in RH). Cadmium contents in RH and RHB were generally similar.

The results of specific surface area analysis demonstrated that the pyrolysis of RH at 450 °C for 15 minutes increased surface area from 5.54 m² g⁻¹ for RH to 56.07 m² g⁻¹ for biochar (Table 2). On the other hand, transforming the RH to RHB increased the total pore volume by about 2.73 times (from 0.0147cc g⁻¹ for RH to 0.0402 cc g⁻¹ for RHB). Similar results were obtained by Lataye et al. (2009) where heating of RH at 700 °C increased the SA to 52.29 m² g⁻¹. In another study, after burning out of RH at 700 °C for 6 h, SA was increased to 54.0 m² g⁻¹ (Della et al., 2002). Specific surface area and pore volume are considered central values for the characterization of biochar. Both values depend on the type of pyrolysed biomass (feedstock) and the pyrolysis process used especially maximum temperature, residence time and particle size (Guerrero et al., 2008 and Lehmann and Rondon, 2006). Therefore, the values of SA and pore volume of RHB should be specified by 450 °C, 15 minutes and 500 micron particle size.

Infrared spectroscopy provides information on the chemical structure and surface functional groups of the RH and RHB samples. The different groups in which silicon exists, e.g. siloxane Si-O-Si and silanol Si-OH, are best observed in IR spectra. Figure (1) presents FTIR absorption spectra of raw feedstock (RH) and after pyrolysis (RHB). The IR spectra of rice husk gave typical bonds of Si-O-Si stretching (strong at 1035.7 for RH and 1091.63 cm⁻¹ and very strong at 794.62 cm⁻¹ for RHB) and bending vibrations (very strong at 457.1 cm⁻¹). The bands at 3392.55 and 2925.81 cm⁻¹ in RH spectrum and 3415.7 cm⁻¹ in RHB spectrum correspond to the O-H vibrations (Liou, 2004; Chaudhary and Jollands, 2004, Ibrahim et al., 1980). It can be observed from Fig. 1 (spectrum of RHB) that pyrolized rice husks are characterized by very broad band extended from 3965.37 to about 2000 cm⁻¹. The O-H stretching mode of hexagonal groups and adsorbed water can be assigned to this band. The position and asymmetry of this band at lower wave numbers indicate the presence of strong hydrogen bonds. The adsorption band observed at 2925 cm⁻¹ in RH spectrum was related to aliphatic C-H groups and the very small peak near 1710.74 cm⁻¹ in RHB spectrum was attributed to the C=O stretching vibrations of ketons, aldehydes, lactones or carboxyl groups. Further description of surface functional groups characterized both RH and RHB are illustrated in Table (3). The predominant absorbance peak at 1320 cm-1 was due to stretching vibrations and the one at 457 cm⁻¹ was due to bending vibration of siloxane bonds (Si-O-Si). The peaks at 1035.7 cm⁻¹ in RH spectrum and 1091 and 794 cm⁻¹ in RHB spectrum are attributed to vibration modes of the Si-O network. After the pyrolysis of rice husk, the IR spectrum of the biochar obtained did not differ significantly from that of raw rice husks, except for the quite higher intensities of the bands at 1091 and 457 cm⁻¹. This can be explained with the decrease of organic matter content and its transformation into active carbon. In other words, FTIR emerged the importance of both organic and inorganic groups located on RH and RHB surfaces and the pyrolysis process imposes to more occurrences of inorganic (resistant) surface groups on biochar.

Table 1: Selected characteristics of rice husk (RH), rice husk biochar (RHB) and soil used in the study.

	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total
	carbon	SiO ₂	<u>N</u>	<u> </u>	<u>K</u>	Fe	Mn	Zn	Cu	Cd
	<u> </u>					mg kg ⁻¹				
RH	27.90	25.81	1.19	0.40	0.62	233.40	78.60	41.60	16.00	0.04
RHB	36.60	72.10	0.52	0.54	0.88	248.20	90.60	50.00	17.60	0.05
					mineral N	DT	DTPA-extractable micronutrients, mgkg ⁻¹			,kg ⁻¹
	EC, dSm ⁻¹		pН	OC, %	mgkg ⁻¹	Fe	Mn	Zn	Cu	Cđ
Soil	6.23		7.81	2.90	104.60	3.17	2.93	2.58	0.14	0.11

Table 2: Specific surface area (SA) and total pore volume of rice husk and rice husk biochar.

Sample	BET surface area, m²g⁻¹	Total pore volume, ccg-1
RH	5.540	0.0147
RHB	56.069	0.0402

Adsorption isotherm of Cd

Rice husk biochar showed a great affinity to remove cadmium from aqueous solutions. Figure (2) characterizes the adsorption isotherm of Cd²⁺ by RH and RHB. The immobilization process was rapid, and completed in first 2 hours by RHB (97.28%) while only 63.2% of Cd²⁺ was removed in the same time by RH. After 96 h of retention reaction, 98.99 and 88.34% of Cd²⁺ in aqueous solutions were immobilized by RHB and RH, respectively. This behavior of Cd²⁺ sorption can be explained on the

· basis of surface charge of the biosorbents. It has been reported that such biosorbents have net negative charge in the aqueous phase (Kapoor et al., 1999). With pH increase, from 5.65 after 2 h of reaction to 6.16 after 96 h, the net electronegativity of the biosorbent increased due to deprotonation of different functional groups on rice husk particles. The fast sorption of Cd²⁺ on surfaces of RHB depended totally on the functional groups resulted on surfaces as a result of charring process (pyrolysis), however, the change in pH was not observed during the retention reaction of Cd2+ on RHB (Fig. 3). Similar results were observed by Uchimiya et al. (2010) where Cd2+ in aqueous solutions was strongly immobilized on broiler manure biochar produced at different temperatures (350-700 °C). Also, there were similar results obtained from the study on lead adsorption by rice husk biochar by Liu and Zhang (2009).

Table 3: Expected functional groups corresponded the obtained frequencies of RH and RHB.

	Rice Husk (RH)	Rice Husk Biochar (RHB)		
Frequency, (cm ^{-t})	Functional group	Frequency, (cm ⁻¹)	Functional group	
3392.55, m	OH (alcoholic)	3965.37, w	О-Н	
2925.81, s	OH (carboxylic), C-H aliphatic	3415.70, w	O-H (alcohols, phenols)	
1652.88, s	C-C=C alkenes	1710.74, m	C=O stretch (ketones, saturated aliphatic)	
1409.87, m	C-H alkenes in plane bend	1604.66, s	C=C alkene, aromatic ring	
1035.70, s	Si-O-Si, C-O stretch (ethers)	1091.63, m	Si-O-Si, C-N stretch (aliphatic amines)	
570.89,w	C-Cl (alkyl halides stretch)	794.62, s	Si-O network, C-H aromatic	
478.31, w	Si-O-Si network	457.10, s	Si-O-Si	

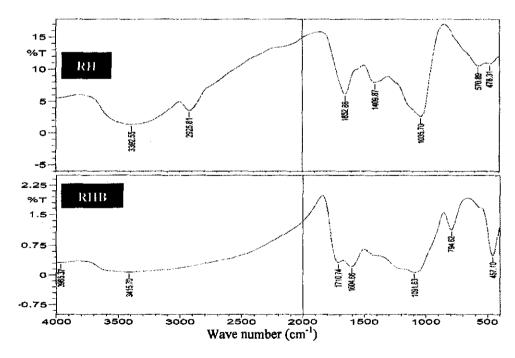


Fig. 1: FTIR spectra of rice husk (RH) and rice husk biochar (RHB) obtained by slow pyrolysis at 450 °C.

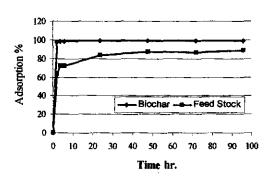


Fig. 2: Cadmium adsorption isotherm on rice husk and rice husk biochar.

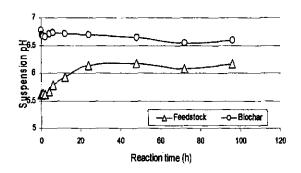


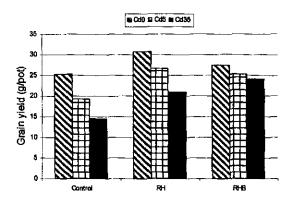
Fig. 3: Changes in suspension pH during the retention reactions of RH and RHB with cadmium.

Effect of biochar and Cd application on the yield of wheat and Cd uptake

The grain and straw yield of wheat was significantly affected by RH and RHB application in the presence of various concentrations of cadmium (Figure 4). In soils treated with 5 mg Cd kg⁻¹ soil, grain yield decreased 24.3, 13.2, and 7.75% in control, RH and RHB treatments, respectively, compared with the Cd2+-nontreated pots. Whereas in pots treated with 35 mg Cd kg⁻¹ soil, the corresponded relative reductions were 42.5, 31.87 and 12.45%. Straw yield also showed similar reductions, therefore, the results illustrated in Fig. 4 reflect the vulnerable effects of Cd on plant growth in the absence of RH or RHB. Namgay et al. (2010) found that application of Cd to soil by the rates 10 and 50 mg Cd²⁺ kg⁻¹ soil significantly reduced the dry matter yield of 10-weeks harvested maize shoot by 27%.

In the current study, addition of RH or RHB to soil eliminated the inhibition effect of Cd²⁺ on plant growth and improved the yield by different degrees depending on the characteristics of each amendment. Consequently, biochar showed a great

barrier against the harmful effect of added Cd2+ (Fig. 4). In the presence of Cd²⁺ by 35 mg kg⁻¹ soil, application of RHB maintained high grain and straw yield by about 1.65 and 1.58 fold than those obtained from biochar-nontreated pots. Cadmium content in wheat grains and straw demonstrated a high uptake rates corresponded to its high application rates (Fig. 5). In pots not treated with RH or RHB, addition of CdCl₂ by 5 and 35 mg Cd²⁺ kg-1 soil increased Cd2+ uptake by plant up to 11.1 and 67.0 times in grain and 9.6 and 62.3 times in straw, respectively, more than those taken up from Cd-nontreated pots. Application of RHB to soil by the rate of 30 tone ha⁻¹ (12.6 ton per Feddan) sharply reduced Cd²⁺ uptake in all treatments. In the Cd²⁺-nontreated soils, RHB reduced Cd²⁺ content in grains and straw by 72.6 and 31.03%, respectively, comparing with 13.7 and 14.8% reductions were observed in RH-treated soils (Fig. 5). From the illustration of Fig. 5, it can be found that in the pots treated with 5 mg Cd2+, mixing of RHB with soil decreased Cd2+ uptake by plants by 83.6 and 77.5% in grains and straw, respectively; and in 35 mg Cd²⁺-treated one, the mixture reduced Cd²⁺ in plant



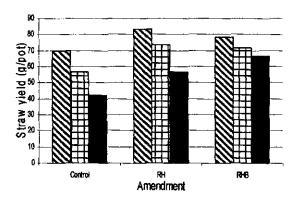
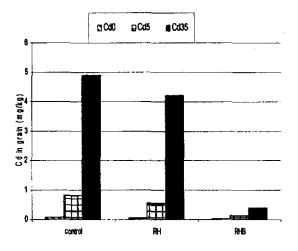


Fig. 4: Effect of RH and RHB application on the grain and straw yield of wheat plants grown on cadmium-treated soil (Cd0 = 0.0 mg Cd/kg⁻¹ soil, Cd5 = 5.0 mg Cd/kg⁻¹ soil and Cd35 = 35.0 mg Cd/kg⁻¹ soil.

by 91.8 and 88.9% in grains and straw, respectively. Rice husk application had a lesser effect in reduction of Cd²⁺ accumulation in plant (Fig. 5). These results are consistent with those reported by Namgay et al., (2010) where the biochar application significantly reduced Cd²⁺ accumulation in maize shoots. Also, in the field study conducted by Cui et al. (2011), the wheat straw biochar applied by rates 10, 20 and 40t ha⁻¹ significantly reduced Cd²⁺ concentration in rice grain by 16.8, 37.1 and 45.0%, relative to the control, respectively.



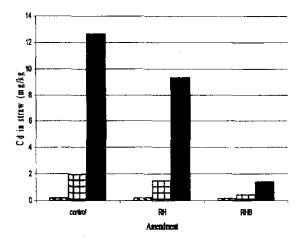


Fig. 5: Effect of RH and RHB application on cadmium content in grain and straw yield of wheat plants grown on cadmium treated soil (Cd0 = 0.0 mg/kg⁻¹, Cd5 = 5 mg Cd/kg⁻¹ and Cd35 = 35.0 mg Cd/kg⁻¹ soil).

The statistical analysis in Table (4) presents the independent and interaction effects of RH and RHB amendments application and Cd²⁺ addition on the averages of wheat grain and straw yield and their Cd²⁺ contents. Both amendments and Cd²⁺ application and their interaction were highly significant in their effects on the obtained results.

The relationship between adsorption isotherm of Cd2+ on RH and RHB and the efficiency of these amendments to eliminate Cd2+ accumulation in grains and straw of wheat plant interpreted that pyrolysis of rice husk gained it a recalcitrant nature and expanded its surface area and porosity and, subsequently, produce a more surface reactivity. Therefore, these properties well qualified the RHB to be introduced as a strong adsorbent material since it retained most amounts of added Cd2+ to soil. In contrast, application of RH as soil amendment and adsorbent material is a fragile situation and, with the progress of time, the biological degradation will govern the occurrence of RH in soil. In the current work, the concentration of released dissolved organic carbon (DOC), during the adsorption reaction, was used as an indicator for biodegradation of RH and RHB. Figure (6) revealed that DOC concentration from RH significantly increased with adsorption reaction time (until 96 h) as compared with those in RHB medium. Therefore, it is expected that, in contaminated soils with heavy metals such as Cd2+, application the recalcitrant crop residues (biochar) will be effective in immobilizing soil contaminants and reducing the hazardous effects of heavy metals.

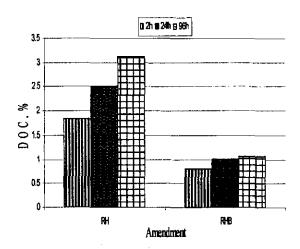


Fig. 6: The concentration of released dissolved organic carbon (DOC) during the adsorption reaction of Cd2+ on RH and RHB surfaces as influenced by time.

Factors	Grain yield	Straw yield	Cd ²⁺ in grain	Cd ²⁺ in straw
Amendment				
ontrol 19.706 b		56.284 b	1.926 a	5.039 a
RH 26.074 a		71.152 a	1.603 b	3.677 b
RHB 25.622 a		71.124 a	.1 86 c	0.606 с
LSD 0.05	0.988	2.412	0.127	0.421
Cd ²⁺				
27.840 a		77.110 a	0.052 c	.181 c
5	23.723 b	67.380 b	0.499 b	1.286 b
35 19.838 c		54.071 c	3.163 a	7.909 a
LSD 0.05	0.988	2.412	0.127	0.421
Significance				
Amendment	***	***	***	***
Cd ²⁺	***	***	***	***
interaction	***	**	***	***

Table 4: Analysis of variance of the effects of RH and RHB soil amendments and cadmium addition on wheat yield and cadmium uptake.

CONCLUSION

This study has shown that transformation of rice husk to biochar by pyrolysis increased the surface area by 10 times, the total pore volume by 2.73 times and the active carbon percent. The development of carboxylic-C and aromatic-OH functional groups as well as inorganic silanole and siloxane groups on RHB surfaces during their carbonization possibly increased Cd²⁺ immobilization capacity of soil.

Rice husk biochar was more effective than RH in removing of Cd²⁺ from aqueous solutions. In addition, the concentrations of released DOC during the adsorption reaction of RH and RHB can be used to judge on the biodegradation and/or recalcitrant properties and subsequent on its persistence in reaction media.

The dramatic reduction in the concentration of Cd²⁺ in wheat grain and straw in biochar-amended soil can be attributed to the formation of stable metal-organic complexes or metal-inorganic complexes. Thus, the results of adsorption isotherm and greenhouse experiment can introduce the RHB as potentially strong adsorbent of heavy metal and can be successfully used in the remediation of heavy metals contaminated soils.

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الملخص العربى

تأثير بيوتشار غلاف حبة الأرز (السرسة) على تقييد الكادميوم بالأرض وامتصاصه بواسطة نبات القمح النامي في أرض بحيرية

أمل حسن محمود '، ماهر السيد صالح'، عبد السلام عباس عبد السلام '
معمل بحوث الأراضى الملحية والقلوية – معهد بحوث الأراضى والمياه والبيئة – مركز البحوث الزراعية - الإسكندرية
لقسم علوم الأراضى والمياه – كلية الزراعة – جامعة الإسكندرية

إنتاج البيوتشار من المخلفات النباتية باستخدام تقنية البيروليسس يعتبر من الاتجاهات الحديثة لاستخدام تلك المخلفات كمادة ادمصاص مقاومة للتحلل الميكروبي في امتصاص العناصر الثقيلة من مياه المخلفات وفي تقييد تلك العناصر في الأراضي الملوثة بها. تم إنتاج بيوتشار غلاف حبة الأرز (السرسة) بتعريضها للتسخين على 20٠ درجة متوية في المعمل. واستخدمت قياسات مثل المساحة السطحية والحجم الكلى للمسام ومنحنيات الأشعة تحت الحمراء لتوصيف خواص البيوتشار المنتج. أجريت تجارب الادمصاص ثابت الحرارة لدراسة ادمصاص الكادميوم (بتركيز ٥٧٥ ماليجر ام/كجم من مادة الإدمصاص) على سطح كل من السرسة والبيوتشار لفترات زمنية امتدت حتى ٩٦ ساعة لاختبار كفاءة البيوتشار في إزالة الكادميوم من المياه الملوثة به. كما أجريت تجربة لزراعة القمح (صنف سخا ١٠٤) داخل الصوب وذلك لدراسة تأثير إضافة البيوتشار والسرسة (بمعدل ٣٠ طن/هكتار) علمي كمل من محصول الحبوب والتبن وعلى تركيز الكادميوم الممتص بواسطة القمح النامى في أرض ملوثة بالكادميوم (تركيزات صفر، ٥، ٣٥ مللجرام/كجم أرض). أوضحت النتائج أن تحويل السرسة إلى بيوتشار أدى الى زيادة كل من المساحة السطحية والحجم الكلى للمسام ١٠ مرات و٢،٧٣ مرة ، على التوالى. وأوضحت نتائج الإدمــصاص أن البيوتــشار أزال ٩٧،٣% من الكادميوم من المحلول خلال الساعتين الأولى من التفاعل بينما أزالت المسرسة ٦٣،٢% فقط. صاحب تفاعل إدمصاص الكادميوم ارتفاع في قيم pH الوسط مع الزمن فقط في حالة السرسة ولم يشاهد ذلك فسي حالة البيوتشار مما يعكس حدوث تغيرات في المجاميع السطحية على سطح السرسة وثبات تلك المجاميع على سطح البيوتشار. كذلك صاحب المصاص الكالميوم زيادة معنوية في تركيزات الكربون العضوي الذائب بزيادة زمن التفاعل وذلك في حالة السرسة فقط ولم تلاحظ في حالة البيوتشار مما يشير إلى تعسرض السسرسة إلى التحلل الميكروبي ومن ثم انهيار هذا النظام من الإدمصاص مع الوقت كما يعكس ثبات هذا النظام فـــي حالـــة البيوتـــشار. أشارت نتائج تجارب الصنوب إلى حدوث انخفاض شديد في محصول الحبوب والتبن وارتفاع تركيــزات الكـــادميوم الممتص في الحبوب والتبن نتيجة زيادة تركيز الكادميوم المضاف للأرض. أدى خلط البيوتشار مع الأرض بالمعدل المذكور إلى تقليل الأثر الضار للكادميوم على المحصول من ناحية وإلى حدوث انخفاض شديد في تركيرات الكادميوم الممتص في كل من الحبوب والتبن.