



Green Synthesis of Iron Nanoparticles Using Black Tea Leaves Extract as Adsorbent for Removing Eriochrome Blue-Black B Dye

Dalal Ghanim  ^{a*}, Ghayda Y. Al-Kindi ^b, Ahmed Kh. Hassan ^c

^a Sanitary and Environmental Branch, Civil Engineering Department, University of Technology, Baghdad, Iraq. dalalghanim80@yahoo.com

^b Sanitary and Environmental Branch, Civil Engineering Department, University of Technology, Baghdad, Iraq.

^c Environment and Water Directorate, Ministry of Science and Technology, Baghdad.

*Corresponding author.

Submitted: 13/11/2019

Accepted: 31/12/2019

Published: 25/10/2020

KEY WORDS

Bentonite; black tea leaves; SEM; synthesizing Nanoparticles.

ABSTRACT

Recently, the world has directed to find environmentally friendly and clean materials to be used to treat wastes difficult to treat in the traditional way such as dyes. The object of this study was to synthesize iron nanoparticles using black tea extracts in an environmentally sustainable method. Also, it was developed by supporting with bentonite, used to remove Eriochrome blue-black B dyes from synthesis wastewater of textile factory. From the results, it was noted that black tea leaf extract has reduced iron ions to iron nanoparticles at room temperature. Composite iron nanoparticles were characterized using Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), and Atomic force microscopy (AFM) studies where the diameter of iron nanoparticles was less than 70 nm. This research shows that ferrous nanoparticles can be manufactured using black tea leaf extract as a reducing agent. It also shows better-supported nanoparticles than unsupported. The decolorization efficiency catalyzed BT-NZVI, B-BT-NZVI increased from (14%, 42%) to (48%, 68%) at 180 min of batch processes when the NZVI concentration was increased from 0.5 g/L to 2 g/L respectively.

How to cite this article: D. Ghanim, Gh. Y. Al-Kindi and A. Kh. Hassan, "Green synthesis of iron nanoparticles using black tea leaves extract as adsorbent for removing eriochrome blue-black B dye," Engineering and Technology Journal, Vol. 38, Part A, No. 10, pp. 1558-1569, 2020.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30684/etj.v38i10A.1225>

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1. INTRODUCTION

Dye pollutants are the major sources of environmental pollution caused by various industries especially textile, cosmetic, leather, printing, paper, chemical paint, pharmaceutical, food and varnish industries [1]. Discharge of textile wastewater into the streams does not only affect the aquatic lives being having various metals and chlorides but also it seems that the presence of very small amounts less than 1 ppm for some dyes in water is undesirable for any use [2]. The stable and complicated structure of dyes makes a greater difficulty in the process of degradation of these dyes when present all kind of a complex matrix not only in textile wastewater but also in all industry wastewater [3]. This reduces the penetration of light into the water and increases the turbidity, that make the aquatic plants are the most affected as they are not able to carry on the photosynthesis [4]. It also endangers other aquatic life forms and this leads to a disorder of the aquatic ecosystem [5]. There are numerous methods to treat polluted water of textile industry effluent. To minimize the treatment cost of the polluted water to be utilized for drinking, it should not have colors or toxic components. So, before the discharge of textile wastewater into the river, several processes for treatment are used including physical, chemical, biochemical, and hybrid treatment processes developed to treat such pollution in an efficient and economical way [6]. All of these methods have their own advantages and disadvantages. These methods have their limitations where none of them are succeeded in removing or degrading the colors from wastewater [7]. The most popular among these methods is adsorption because of effectiveness and the simplicity of the process [8]. Recently, special attention has been appeared for the use of the available-in-nature and eco-friendly sorbents to replace the expensive and conventional adsorbents. The adsorbent widely used by dye manufacturing factories to remove dyes is activated carbon. But, its difficulty in its regeneration and high price limits the application for decolorization, has increased the interesting in synthesizing Nanoparticles in an easy and environmentally friendly way [9]. The conventional processes such as physical and chemical are used for the synthesis of Nanoparticles, however, due to limitations of these methods, the focus of researchers has been to move towards the development of clean and eco-friendly synthesis protocols. The green synthesis of iron nanoparticles is achieved using acceptable environmental plant extract. Nanoscale iron particles have earned great interest in environmental treating circles. Zero valent iron can be used as a Fenton-like catalyst for the removing of organic pollutants from aqueous solutes. The nanoscale measure provides a high surface reactivity and high surface area. Sodium borohydride, NaBH₄, are used as a reducing agent to produce synthesized Iron nanoparticles [10]. Green synthesis of iron nanoparticles is a method that would help beating the concerns related to using sodium borohydride as a capping agent in routine synthesis reported so far.

In this work, iron nanoparticles were synthesized using black tea leaf extracts B-FeNPs. Tea contains polyphenols that act both as a capping and reducing agent. In addition, syntheses the iron nanoparticles was supported with bentonite BT-FeNPs. The produced BT-FeNPs was characterized using Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) and Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). The iron nanoparticles and iron nanoparticles supported with bentonite were used as adsorbent to removal Eriochrome Blue-Black B dye from syntheses Textile wastewater. Furthermore, kinetic and equilibrium models have been used to match experimental data.

2. EXPERIMENTAL WORK

I. Preparation of BT-nZVI

The BT-nZVI nanoparticles were prepared using a similar procedure described in previous studies [11] with some modification:

The synthesis of iron nanoparticles was done by using black tea leaves (Ahmed brand). Extracts were prepared by heating 20.0 g of black tea in 200 mL of deionized water for 30 min at 85 °C on hot plate. The extract was filtered by using filter paper of 0.45 µm pore size.

As a source of Fe (III) a solution of 0.10 M FeCl₃ was prepared by adding 3.15 g of solid FeCl₃ in 200 mL of deionized water as shown in Figure 1. This solution was filtered by using filter paper of 0.45 µm pore size.

The tea extract was mixed with solution of 0.10 M FeCl₃ by adding it thoroughly for 15 min. The color immediately was change after the addition of black tea extract to the Ferric chloride solution as shown in Figure 2.

The black iron particles was separated by filter paper of $0.45\mu\text{m}$ pore size and then left to dry it overnight in oven at 65°C .The dried nanoparticles were ground to fine powder as shown in Figure 3.



Figure 1: 0.1 M ferric chloride



Figure 2: Synthesized iron nanoparticles



Figure 3: Iron particles separated by filter paper of $0.45\mu\text{m}$ pore size

II. The B-BT-nZVI nanoparticles were prepared using the following steps

2.0 g of bentonite and 150 mL of high purity water were placed in a beaker for 60 min at room temperature of ultrasonic vibration bath. The solution of 0.10 M FeCl_3 was prepared by adding 2.5 g solid FeCl_3 in 150 mL deionized water. After complete dissolving, this solution was filtered using a $0.45\mu\text{m}$ membrane filter to remove any impurities. This solution was added into the bentonite solution, and stirred for 60 min of ultrasonic vibration bath. The black tea extract was prepared by mixing 10.0 g of tea in 100 mL of deionized water and prepared according to the above procedure. Then, the tea extract was added to the mixture of ferric chloride and bentonite by adding it slowly for 15 min at room temperature, and constantly stirred following the same procedure used above. Figure 4 shows BT-nZVI and B-BT-nZVI particles.



Figure 4: B-nZVI and B-BT-nZVI particles

III. Characterization of nanoparticles

By using scanning electron microscope (SEM), morphology and distribution of nanoparticles were determined. The zeta potential test evaluates the stability of nanofluids through the monitoring of electrophoretic behavior of the fluid [12].

IV. Adsorption experiments

NZVI) and (B-BT-NZVI) was conducted in the batch system. A 1000 mL Eriochrome blue-black B solution (0.5g/L) was placed in a conical flask and stirred at 200 rpm at room temperature. The batch processes were done for 180 min under fixed pH condition (2.5) during each run at regular time intervals, the samples were withdrawn, Filtered by filter syringe to separate the dye solution from (BT-NZVI) and (B-BT-NZVI), and evaluated for the degradation efficiencies.

UV-visible spectrophotometer was used to determine Eriochrome blue-black B absorbance with quartz cell at each wavelength. The Figure 5 shows the calibration graph of Eriochrome blue-black B.

The capacity of adsorption q_t and removal efficiency of Eriochrome blue-black B dye were calculated from the equations (1) and (2).

$$q_t = (C_0 - C_t) V / w \dots (1)$$

$$\text{Colour removal efficiency\%} = [(C_0 - C_t) / C_0] \times 100\% \dots (2)$$

Where q_t is the adsorption capacity at specific time t (mg/g) is the RB 238dye amount adsorbed per unit mass of adsorbent; C_0 (mg/L) and C_t (m/L) are RB 238concentrations at initial and time t ; V is the volume of solution (L) and W is the mass of the adsorbent (g).

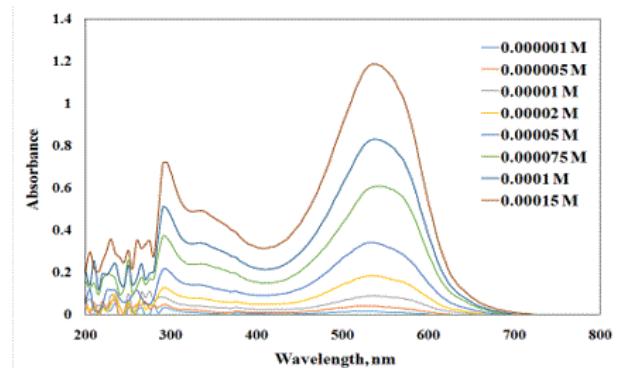


Figure 5: UV-Vis absorption spectra of Eriochrome blue-black B dye solutions

V. Adsorption kinetics

To understand the technique and rate of the adsorption procedure, data produced from adsorption experiment were evaluated by first-order and second-order counterpart Kinetics. The pseudo-first-order model is given by Eq. (3) [13]:

$$\text{Log}(q_e - q_t) = \text{log } q_e - k_1 t / 2.303 \dots (3)$$

Where q_t is the adsorption capacity at specific time t (mg/g), q_e is the adsorption capacity at equilibrium (mg/g) and k_1 (min⁻¹) is the rate constant of the pseudo-first-order model. The pseudo-second-order [14] equation is defined by Eq. (4):

$$t/q = 1 / k_2 q^2 + t/q \dots (4)$$

k_2 (L/mg min) is the rate constant of the pseudo-second-order model.

VI. The models of adsorption isotherm

Solute adsorbed (dye) per unit weight of adsorbent (BT-NZVI or B-BT-NZVI) as a function of the equilibrium concentration in the bulk solution at a fixed temperature know as the adsorption isotherm [14,15,16]. There are many isotherm models such as: Langmuir, Freundlich, K-Harkin-Jura, Temkin and Dubinin-Radushkevich. The most commonly used for the description of adsorption data are Langmuir and Freundlich's models [17,18]. The Langmuir isotherm can be expressed as in Eq. (5):

$$C_e/q_e = 1/q_m K_L + C_e/q_m \dots (5)$$

q_e is the adsorption capacity at equilibrium (mg/g), C_e concentration of adsorbates remaining in solution at equilibrium (mg/L) and q_m is the monolayer adsorption capacity (mg/g). The K_L and q_m can be determined by the intercept and the slope of the linear plot of C_e/q_e vs. C_e , respectively.

Freundlich equation can be express as in Eq. (6):

$$\text{Log } q_e = \text{log } K_F + 1/n \text{ log } C_e \dots (6)$$

C_e : the equilibrium concentration in the solution (mg /L)

q_e : the amount of dye ions adsorbed (mg /g)

K_F : the adsorption coefficient which is related to adsorption capacity of the adsorbent ((mg g⁻¹)(mg L⁻¹)ⁿ).

$1/n$: the surface heterogeneity factor.

K_F determined by the intercept of $\ln q_e$ vs. $\ln C_e$, respectively.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

I. Reduction mechanism of black tea

The iron nanoparticles were synthesized in an eco-friendly and easy way using the black tea leaves extract as a capping agent because tea contains enough amount of polyphenols and other organic groups in it.

II. Characterization of nanoparticles

The size and morphology are verified by characterizing the synthesis BT-NZVI, B-BT-NZVI samples by scanning electron microscope SEM and Atomic Force Microscopy AFM analysis for seeking the diameter of the nanoparticles as shown in Figure 6 A, B represented, the SEM images of synthesized iron nanoparticles by black tea, black tea supported bentonite, respectively. From the SEM images, it can be seen that the nanoparticle an irregular square particles were formed in solution. In Figure 7 A and B particle size distribution of synthesized iron, nanoparticles show size diameter within the average less than 70 nm [19]. The stability of the Nano fluids was characterized by zeta potential analysis technique which showed that zeta potential had values -22.05 for BT-NZVI, -27.22 for B-BT-NZVI Figure 8A and B shows the poor degree of coagulation to both materials [20].

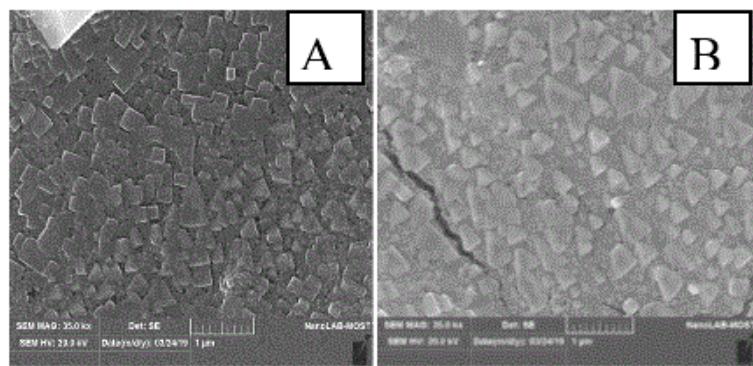


Figure 6: Scanning electron microscope (SEM) images of A) BT-NZVI, B) B-BT-NZVI

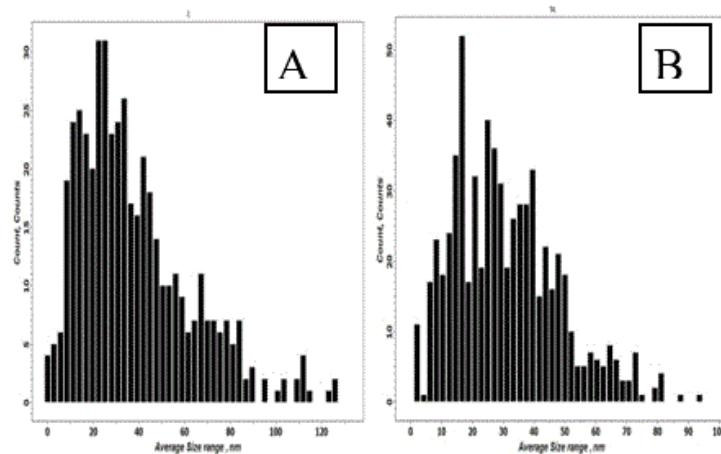


Figure 7: Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) images of A) BT-NZVI, B) B-BT-NZVI

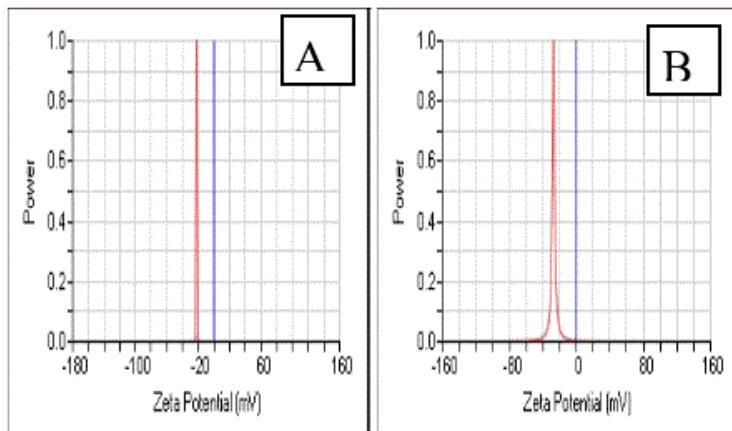


Figure 8: Zeta potential(mV) graph of A) BT-NZVI B) B-BT-NZVI

The results of BET are presented in Table 1. These results of the zero valent nanoparticles iron supported with Bentonite showed an improvement in nanoparticle structure, because the presence of Bentonite leads to an increase in the surface area, which is one of the important things to achieve the high performance of the catalyst, where the surface area of the porous material is one of the most important parameters to determine its properties. Pore volume of synthesized nanomaterials supported with Bentonite also was increased. The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) sorting of pore size (\AA) as macropore (≥ 500); mesopore (20 to 500); supermicropore (7-20) and ultramicropore (≤ 7) [21]. From the results it seems that there is no presence of mesopores in all synthesized nanoparticles the pore size is in micropore.

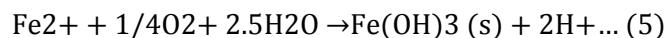
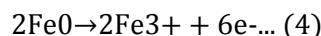
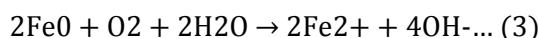
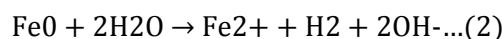
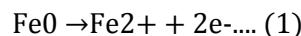
TABLE I: BET isotherm studies and parameter

Parameter	BT-NZVI	B-BT-NZVI
BET (m^2/g)	1.3851	21.2709
pore volume (cm^3/g)	0.000794	0.044451
Pore size (nm)	2.29256	8.35910
Langmuir surface area (m^2/g)	2.8372	31.7776

III. Adsorption studies of Eriochrome blue-black B

1) The batch processes

The effect of BT-NZVI, B-BT-NZVI(adsorbent) concentration on the removal of Eriochrome blue-black B dye was examined by using the various NZVI concentrations from 0.5 g/L to 2 g/L. The batch processes were done for 180 min under fixed pH condition (2.5) with constant dye dose of 0.5 g/L stirred at 200 rpm at room temperature. At regular time intervals the samples were withdrawn, filtered by filter syringe to separate the dye solution from BT-NZVI or B-BT-NZVI, and estimated for the removal efficiencies. As can be observed in Figure 9, the removal rate of Eriochrome blue-black B was enhanced by increasing the NZVI concentration from 0.5 to 2 g/L. The main reason for this enhancement in the removal efficiencies is due to more surface sites ready to reacting with reactive dye to accelerate its removal rate [22] As well as the number of free electron producing active sites was increased with the amount of iron powder, leading to an improvement of the removal efficiency [23] according to the following reactions:



For example, the decolorization efficiency catalyzed BT-NZVI, B-BT-NZVI was increased from (14%, 42%) to (48%, 68%) at 180 min of batch processes when the NZVI concentration increased from 0.5 g/L to 2 g/L respectively and the resulted adsorption isotherm of this batch experiment was displayed in Table 2.

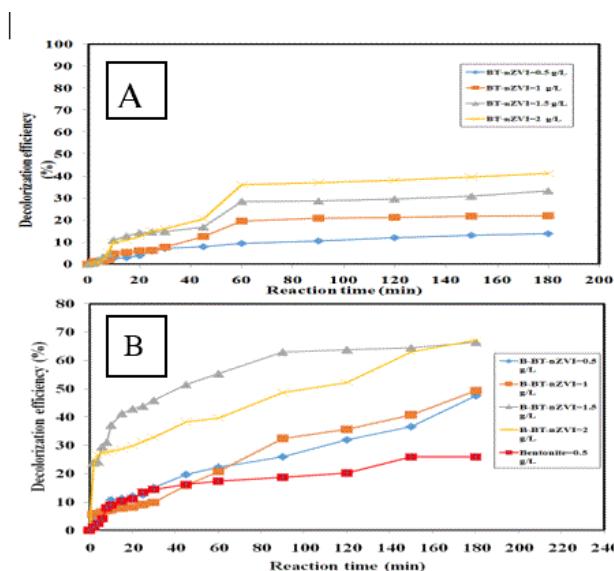


Figure 9: Effect of adsorption on the removal efficiency of Eriochrome blue-black B dye, A)BT-NZVI, B)B-BT-NZVI

TABLE II: Decolorization efficiency at varying NZVI dosages Experimental conditions: [EBB] = 0.05 mM, pH=2.5, and room temperature

NZVI type	NZVI (g/L)	DE, % after 180 min	Ce (mg/L)	qe (mg/g)
BT-NZVI	0.5	14	71.846	18.307
	1	22	64.486	16.713
	1.5	33.2	62.241	16.547
	2	42	55.381	15.591
B-BT-NZVI	0.5	48	67.480	35.419
	1	49.3	53.884	28.315
	1.5	66.3	38.417	24.608
	2	68	33.303	22.248

2) The adsorption isotherm processes

were done for 180 min under fixed pH condition (2.5) with constant dye dose of 0.5 g/L at room temperature appears in Figure 10 and 11. In the Table 3 the amount of qmax, KF, KL, n and the correlation coefficients for Freundlich and Langmuir are given. Based on the correlation coefficients; equation Freundlich performs a better fit of data than Langmuir for GT-NZVI and B-GT-NZVI.

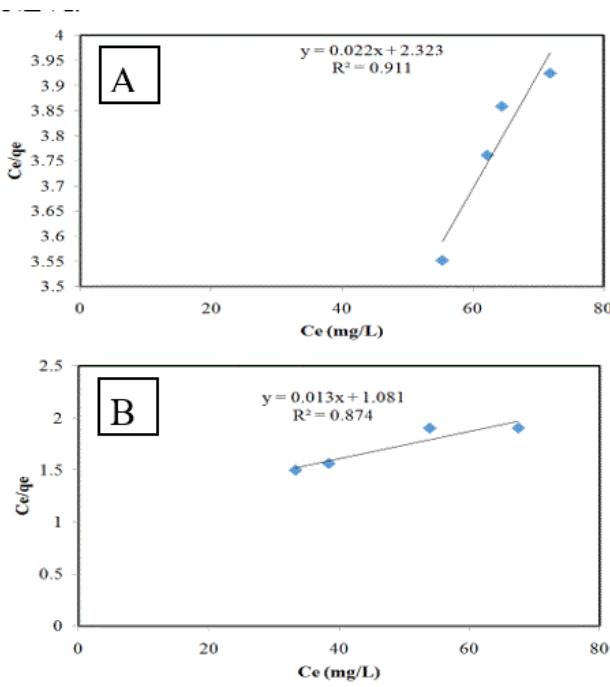


Figure 10: Langmuir adsorption isotherm of Eriochrome blue-black B dye adsorption onto A) BT-NZVI, B) B-BT-NZVI

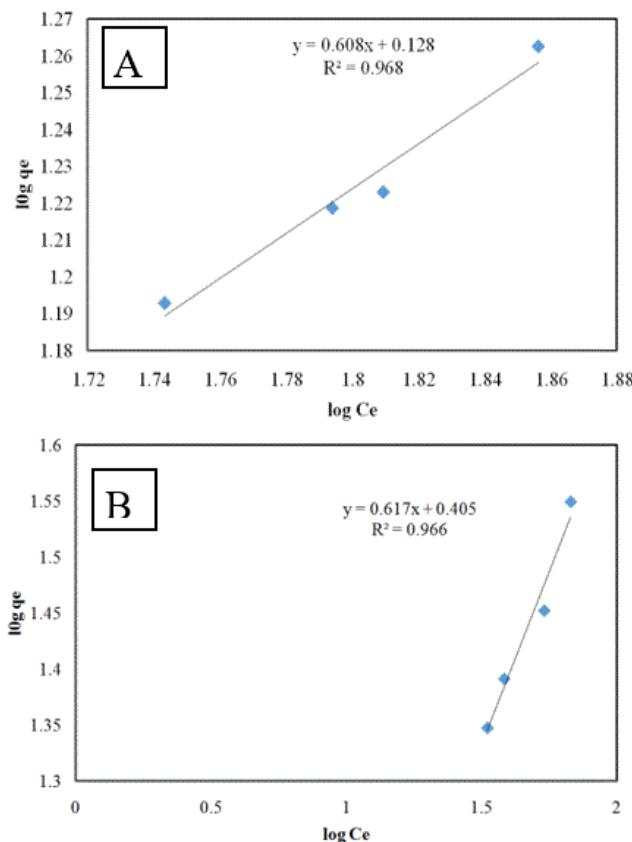


Figure 11: Freundlich adsorption isotherm of Eriochrome blue-black B dye adsorption onto A)BT-NZVI,B) B-BT-NZVI

TABLE III: Adsorption parameters for of Eriochrome blue-black B dye onto BT-NZVI, B-BT-NZVI

Group no.	Beam designation	shear cracking load (kN)	Ultimate load (kN)
BT-NZVI	Langmuir	$q_{\max} (\text{mg/g})$	45.45
		K_L	0.073
		R^2	0.911
B-BT-NZVI	Freundlich	K_F	1.34
		n	1.64
		R^2	0.968
B-BT-NZVI	Langmuir	$q_{\max} (\text{mg/g})$	76.92
		K_L	0.014
		R^2	0.874
B-BT-NZVI	Freundlich	K_F	2.54
		n	1.62
		R^2	0.966

3) Adsorption kinetics

The kinetics data gained by utilizing the pseudo-first and second model are shown in Figure 12. The parameters k , qe and R^2 were calculated from the slope and intersect of linearization from the equations (3) and (4); k , qe and R^2 of each model are shown in Table 4. The R^2 of the pseudo-first-order model for Bentonite, B-BT-NZVI was higher than those of the pseudo-second-order model for the same materials; for BT-NZVI the R^2 of the pseudo-second-order model higher than those of the pseudo-first-order model and the calculated qe was much close to the qe_{exp} (experimental values).

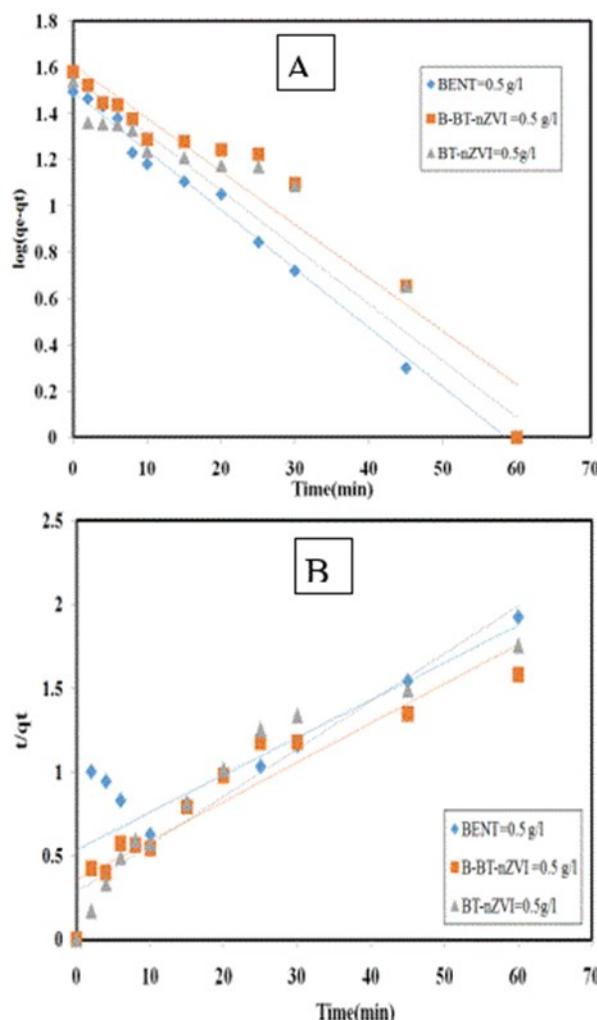


Figure 12: A) The plots of pseudo-first-order kinetics for the adsorption of Eriochrome blue-black B dye onto bentonite, B-BT-NZVI and BT-NZVI; B)The plots of pseudo-second-order kinetics for the adsorption of Eriochrome blue-black B dye onto bentonite, B-BT-NZVI and BT-NZVI. Experimental condition: [NZVI] = 0.5 g/L, [EBB]= 0.05M, pH=2.5 and room temperature

TABLE IV: The kinetics parameters (pseudo-first-order and pseudo-second-order) for the adsorption of Eriochrome blue-black B dye onto BT-NZVI, B-BT-NZVI at specific dosages. Experimental conditions: [EBB] = 0.05 mM, pH = 2.5 and room temperature

NZVI TYPE	NZVI (g/L)	$q_e, \text{exp}(\text{mgg}^{-1})$	Pseudo-first-order			Pseudo-second-order		
			Q_e (mgg^{-1})	k_1 (min^{-1})	R^2	q_e (mgg^{-1})	k_2 (M^{-1} min^{-1})	R^2
Bentonite	0.5	31.18	31.26	0.057	0.99 2	19.3	0.0009	0.74 6
B-BT- NZVI	0.5	37.91	40.73	0.052	0.92 8	47.4	0.0014	0.88 2
BT-NZVI	0.5	34.19	36.05	0.055	0.86 2	35.71	0.0027	0.90 3

4. CONCLUSIONS

The traditional methods of developing Nanoparticles are costly and produce toxic products, so the need to reduce the risk of toxicity in the environment from the different chemicals used in chemical and physical methods is recommended. The alternative approach found to develop Nanoparticles is “green synthesis”. As an outcome of this study, green Synthesis of Iron Nanoparticles by using a non-toxic and cost-effective reducing agent (black tea and black tea support on bentonite) and less time consuming, was a successful method to remove the blue dye from the

residues of the textile- factory, The decolorization efficiency catalyzed BT-NZVI, B-BT-NZVI was increased to (42%, 68%) in the operation condition.

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