

# Biosorption of Crude Oil Spill Using Groundnut Husks and Plantain Peels as Adsorbents

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## Abstract

Adsorption techniques using meshed groundnut husks and plantain peels have provided cheap alternative to the conventional methods of crude oil spillage control and also for good waste management approach. The biodegradable nature of these adsorbents makes it a better alternative to the non biodegradable synthetic polymers. Dry unripe plantain peels and groundnut husks were used to prepare the adsorbents. The adsorption and percentage removal of crude oil from effluent produce water was dependent on adsorbent dosage, contact time, temperature and particle size. The particle size of the adsorbents should not be less than 150  $\mu\text{m}$  to avoid making the particles so loosed thus posing difficulty in recovery. The two adsorbents exhibit high affinity for oil adsorption with time especially at 75  $\mu\text{m}$ , groundnut husk has a better performance because of its larger surface area and the presence of residual oil in the plantain peels. Agitation at 150  $\text{r}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$  and contact time between 15 - 75 min are recommended. The optimum adsorption temperature ranged between 25°C - 45°C and 15°C - 45°C for groundnut husks and plantain peels respectively. The adsorption data indicated that a pseudo-second-order equation could be used to study the adsorption kinetics of both adsorbents.

## Keywords

Biosorption, Bio-Adsorbents, Groundnut Husks, Plantain Peels, Kinetics

## 1. Introduction

The release of liquid petroleum hydrocarbon into the environment especially marine areas due to human activity is a form of pollution. There are existing methods for remediation but their limitations and impact to the environment have called for a more environmentally friendly spill control, some of the me-

thods used are: *in-situ* burning of oil slick [1], mechanical techniques [2] [3] [4], bioremediation [5] [6], dispersants [7] [8] [9], sorbents of which is divided into the inorganic materials [9] [10], synthetic organic materials [11] [12] and the natural materials. Of the above listed remediation measures, sorbents such as agricultural products (*i.e.* the natural materials) have been found to possess high sorption capacity and are environmentally friendly. Therefore, an extensive body of researchers have published the efficacy of numerous agricultural products for oil cleanup processes some of which are meshed groundnut husk [13], meshed groundnut shell activated carbon [14], jatropha curcas fruit pericarp and seed coat [15], plantain pseudo stem [16], sugarcane [17]; cotton grass fiber [18]; corn cobs [19]; coconut shell [20]. The works of Uzoije *et al.* (2011) [14], Nwokoma *et al.* [13] (2010) and Okoromah *et al.* [16] (2013) have showed that crude oil could be successively removed from a contaminated water using activated meshed groundnut husks, ordinary meshed groundnut husks, and plantain pseudo stem respectively but plantain peels and a comparative kinetic and mechanism study of the meshed groundnut husks and plantain peels adsorbents in removing crude oil spill will be investigated in this work. The effect of adsorbents mass and particle size; feed (adsorbate) concentration, residence/contact time and temperature on adsorption will be determined. It will compare the most effective of the two adsorbents used and examine the loading, adsorption capacity and the adsorption kinetics.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Apparatus and Reagents

Meshing machine (Magimix Cuisine System 5000), Mesh sieve (B.S.410/43), Hygrometer (Fisher Scientific Company), Orbital shaker bath (HY-2 model NYC), Distillation Apparatus (ASTM D4006-11), Thermometer, Graduated bottles and beakers (Pyrex, England), Weighing balance (AL meter Toledo GmbH 2004) and boat, 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  micro-porous membrane filter (ASTME-11 spec, Fisher Scientific Co), Separation funnel (Pyrex, England), Oven (Gallenkamp, England), Groundnut husks, Crude Oil (Bonny export blend, xylene), De-ionized water.

### 2.2. Experimental Procedures

The groundnut husks and plantain peels were sourced from a local groundnut oil processing plant and plantain chips industry in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria. The samples were thoroughly washed with de-ionized water to remove any occluded impurities and dried in an oven to remove any moisture in order to stabilize the weights. After which; they were meshed and sieved into different particle sizes for use in several Batch adsorption experiments. The effluent produced water was taken from the Nigeria Agip Oil Company Limited (NAOC) facility. The crude oil contents in the produced water was determined using the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM D3921-73). Produced water

containing 12.0 g of the crude oil having a volume of 1 litre of which 75 ml (containing 0.9443 g of crude) was withdrawn for each experiment. The effluent water was put in a 1 liter beaker, a specified amount of 150  $\mu\text{m}$  groundnut husks adsorbent was then added to the mixture. The beaker containing the mixture was placed on an orbital shaker at 150  $\text{r}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$  at a specified temperature for 45 min. The wetted adsorbent was then removed from the beaker; oil and water was filtered through a 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  micro porous membrane filter and weighed. The water content in the adsorbent was measured using the Dean and stack distillation technique described in ASTM D4006-11. The wetted adsorbent to the oil/water was refluxed with xylene. Organic solvent and water was continuously condensed into a trap. The water settled in the graduated section of the trap and the solvent returned to the still. This procedure was repeated using plantain peels adsorbent under the same operating conditions. For each experiment the above procedures were followed under the specified operating conditions.

### 2.3. Effect of Adsorbent Dosage

Batch adsorption experiments were carried out using the two adsorbents with the following dosages: 10.0 g; 15.0 g; 20.0 g; 25.0 g and 30.0 g at 25°C. The weight of oil adsorbed was recorded as  $\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$  of sorbent.

### 2.4. Effect of Contact Time

The adsorption dynamics in terms of contact time was investigated using 15.0 g of 150  $\mu\text{m}$  adsorbent and then shaken at 150  $\text{r}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$  at 25°C and at 60°C for a 15, 30, 45, 60 and 75 minutes. The weights of oil adsorbed at the specified time intervals were determined by subtracting the water content and the initial adsorbent weight from the total wetted sorbent and was recorded as  $\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$  of sorbent.

### 2.5. Effect of Temperature

Batch adsorption experiment was carried out at 15°C, 25°C, 35°C, 45°C, 55°C and 60°C for 15.0 g of the meshed adsorbents which were shaken at 150  $\text{r}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$  for 60 min. The weights of oil adsorbed using the adsorbents at specified temperatures were determined by subtracting the water content and the initial adsorbent weight from the total wetted sorbent and were recorded as  $\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$  of sorbents.

### 2.6. Effect of Particle Sizes

The adsorbents were meshed and sieved into different particle sizes: 75, 150, 212, 400 and 500  $\mu\text{m}$ . Batch adsorption experiments was carried out for the various sizes of the adsorbents by using 15.0 g of the meshed adsorbents. The weights of oil adsorbed at various particle sizes were determined by subtracting the water content and the initial adsorbent weight from the total wetted sorbent and was recorded as  $\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$  of sorbent.

## 2.7. Estimation of Adsorption Kinetics

Adsorption kinetics of crude oil in produced water onto groundnut husks and plantain peels were determined from the data obtained from those experiments using Equations (1)-(4):

The amount of oil adsorbed in  $\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$  from  $t = 0$  to  $t = t$  will be:

$$Q_t = \frac{G_s - (W_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} + G_o)}{G_o} \quad (1)$$

where;  $Q_t$  is the amount of oil adsorbed (Adsorption capacity) at time  $t$  in  $(\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1})$ ,  $G_s$  is the mass of wetted Adsorbents (g),  $G_o$  is the initial Mass of adsorbent (g) and  $W_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  is the Mass of water adsorbed (g).

The percentage removal of crude oil in solution will be:

$$\% \text{ Removal} = \frac{W_s}{W_o} \times 100 \quad (2)$$

where,  $W_s$  is the Mass of oil adsorbed (g),  $W_o$  is the Initial Mass of Crude oil (g).

The kinetics of the crude oil adsorption onto meshed adsorbents was analyzed using the pseudo-second order kinetic model developed by Ho and Mckary [21] and expressed as:

$$\frac{dq}{dt} = -k_2 (q_e - q)^2 \quad (3)$$

where,  $k_2$  is the pseudo-second order kinetic rate constant.

Integrating under the boundary condition of  $t = 0$  to  $t = t$  and  $q = 0$  to  $q = q$  gives:

$$\frac{t}{q_t} = \frac{1}{q_e} t + \frac{1}{k_2 q_e^2} \quad (4)$$

A plot of  $t/q_t$  against  $t$  gives a linear relationship from which  $q_e$  and  $k_2$  were determined from the slope and intercept of the plot, respectively.

The initial adsorption rate,  $h$  ( $\text{g}/\text{g}_{\text{min}}$ ) at  $t = 0$  was defined as:-

$$h = k_2 q_e^2 \quad (5)$$

## 3. Results and Discussion

The results of the effect of adsorbents dosage from the experiments are given in **Table 1(a)** and **Table 1(b)** for groundnut husks and plantain peels adsorbent respectively. **Tables 2(a)-(d)** gave the results of the effect of contact time on adsorption at temperatures of  $25^\circ\text{C}$  and  $60^\circ\text{C}$  for groundnut husks and plantain peels respectively. The kinetic parameters for the adsorbents are given in **Table 3(a)** and **Table 3(b)** respectively. **Table 4(a)** and **Table 4(b)** are the results of temperatures for groundnut husks and plantain peels respectively. Whereas **Table 5(a)** and **Table 5(b)** gave the results of the effect of particle sizes.

**Table 1.** (a) Adsorption at different adsorbent masses of groundnut husks; (b) Adsorption at different adsorbent masses of plantain peels.

(a)

Initial Mass of adsorbent $G_o$ (g)	Mass of wetted adsorbent $G_s$ (g)	Mass of water adsorbed $W_{H_2O}$ (g)	Mass of oil adsorbed $w_{ads}$ (g)	$Q_t$ ( $g \cdot g^{-1}$ )	% Removal	Adsorbed oil-water ratio (-)
10	13.6583	3.0	0.6583	0.066	69.7	0.22
15	19.5893	3.9	0.6893	0.046	73	0.18
20	25.8715	5.1	0.7715	0.039	81.7	0.15
25	32.5583	6.7	0.8583	0.034	90.89	0.13
30	38.0819	7.2	0.8819	0.029	93.4	0.12

(b)

Initial Mass of adsorbent $G_o$ (g)	Mass of wetted adsorbent $G_s$ (g)	Mass of water adsorbed $W_{H_2O}$ (g)	Mass of oil adsorbed $w_{ads}$ (g)	$Q_t$ ( $g \cdot g^{-1}$ )	% Removal	Adsorbed oil-water ratio (-)
10	12.5053	3.0	0.5053	0.051	53.5	0.25
15	18.0761	2.5	0.5761	0.038	61	0.23
20	24.3253	3.6	0.7253	0.036	76.81	0.2
25	29.9231	4.1	0.8231	0.033	87.2	0.2
30	35.8462	5.0	0.8462	0.028	89.61	0.18

**Table 2.** (a) Adsorption at different contact time at 25 °C for groundnut husks; (b) Kinetic parameters for the adsorption of crude oil onto meshed plantain peel; (c) Adsorption at different contact time at 25 °C for plantain peels; (d) Adsorption at different contact time at 60 °C for plantain peels.

(a)

Time (min)	Mass of wetted adsorbent $G_s$ (g)	Mass of water adsorbed $W_{H_2O}$ (g)	Mass of oil adsorbed $w_{ads}$ (g)	$Q_t$ ( $g \cdot g^{-1}$ )	$t/Q_t$ ( $min \cdot g \cdot g^{-1}$ )	% Removal	Adsorbed oil-water ratio (-)
15	18.103	2.51	0.6275	0.042	357.14	66.45	0.25
30	20.06	4.4	0.6601	0.044	681.82	69.9	0.15
45	22.54	6.8	0.7454	0.051	882.35	78.9	0.11
60	23.70	7.9	0.8042	0.054	1111.11	85.16	0.102
75	23.73	7.9	0.8277	0.055	1363.64	87.65	0.105

(b)

Time (min)	Mass of wetted adsorbent $G_s$ (g)	Mass of water adsorbed $W_{H_2O}$ (g)	Mass of oil adsorbed $w_{ads}$ (g)	$Q_t$ ( $g \cdot g^{-1}$ )	$t/Q_t$ ( $min \cdot g \cdot g^{-1}$ )	% Removal	Adsorbed oil-water ratio (-)
15	19.14	3.5	0.6380	0.043	348.84	67.56	0.18
30	20.36	4.7	0.6619	0.044	681.82	70.09	0.14
45	21.02	5.3	0.07156	0.048	937.5	75.78	0.135
60	21.78	6.0	0.7815	0.52	1153.83	82.76	0.13
75	22.01	6.2	0.8102	0.054	1388.89	85.81	0.13

(c)

Time (min)	Mass of wetted adsorbent $G_s$ (g)	Mass of water adsorbed $W_{H_2O}$ (g)	Mass of oil adsorbed $w_{ads}$ (g)	$Q_t$ ( $g \cdot g^{-1}$ )	$t/Q_t$ ( $min \cdot g \cdot g^{-1}$ )	% Removal	Adsorbed oil-water ratio (-)
15	17.51	1.92	0.5768	0.031	483.87	61.08	0.3
30	19.19	3.36	0.6393	0.036	883.33	60.7	0.19
45	20.21	4.5	0.7146	0.044	1022.73	75.68	0.16
60	20.83	5.07	0.7607	0.048	1250	80.6	0.15
75	21.16	5.36	0.8041	0.051	1470.59	85.15	0.15

(d)

Time (min)	Mass of wetted adsorbent $G_s$ (g)	Mass of water adsorbed $W_{H_2O}$ (g)	Mass of oil adsorbed $w_{ads}$ (g)	$Q_t$ ( $g \cdot g^{-1}$ )	$t/Q_t$ ( $min \cdot g \cdot g^{-1}$ )	% Removal	Adsorbed oil-water ratio (-)
15	18.085	2.5	0.5850	0.039	384.615	63.07	0.23
30	18.92	3.3	0.6204	0.041	731.71	65.7	0.19
45	20.106	4.4	0.7057	0.047	957.45	74.73	0.16
60	20.58	4.8	0.7825	0.052	1153.85	82.87	0.162
75	21.0	5.16	0.08457	0.056	1339.286	89.56	0.164

**Table 3.** (a) Kinetic parameters for the adsorption of crude oil onto meshed groundnut husks; (b) Kinetic parameters for the adsorption of crude oil onto meshed plantain peels.

(a)

Temperature ( $^{\circ}C$ )	$K$ ( $g \cdot g^{-1} \cdot min$ )	$Q_e$ ( $g \cdot g^{-1}$ )	$h$ ( $g \cdot g^{-1} \cdot min$ )	$R^2$
25	1.809257	0.061418	0.006825	0.9942
60	2.120118	0.058774	0.007324	0.9926

(b)

Temperature ( $^{\circ}C$ )	$K$ ( $g \cdot g^{-1} \cdot min$ )	$Q_e$ ( $g \cdot g^{-1}$ )	$h$ ( $g \cdot g^{-1} \cdot min$ )	$R^2$
25	0.760403	0.0641	0.003124	0.9743
60	1.129261	0.064337	0.004674	0.9816

**Table 4.** (a) Adsorption at different temperatures for groundnut husks; (b) Adsorption at different temperature for plantain peels.

(a)

Temperature ( $^{\circ}C$ )	Mass of wetted adsorbent $G_s$ (g)	Mass of water adsorbed $W_{H_2O}$ (g)	Mass of oil adsorbed $w_{ads}$ (g)	$Q_t$ $g \cdot g^{-1}$	% Removal	Adsorbed oil water ratio (-)
15	19.49	3.9	0.5871	0.039	62.170	0.15
25	19.71	4	0.7125	0.048	75.45	0.178
35	19.94	4.19	0.7506	0.05	79.49	0.179
45	20.12	4.34	0.7814	0.052	82.75	0.18
60	20.30	4.49	0.8128	0.054	86.07	0.181

(b)

Temperature (°C)	Mass of wetted adsorbent $G_s$ (g)	Mass of water adsorbed $W_{H_2O}$ (g)	Mass of oil adsorbed $W_{ads}$ (g)	$Q_t$ $g \cdot g^{-1}$	% Removal	Adsorbed oil water ratio (-)
15	17.81	2.32	0.4871	0.032	51.58	0.21
25	18.11	2.48	0.6198	0.039	65.64	0.25
35	18.25	2.58	0.6712	0.045	71.08	0.26
45	18.97	2.61	0.6881	0.045	72.87	0.265
60	18.99	2.67	0.7201	0.040	76.26	0.27

**Table 5.** (a) Adsorption at different particle sizes for groundnut husks; (b) Adsorption at different particle sizes for plantain peels.

(a)

Particle size ( $\mu m$ )	Mass of wetted adsorbent $G_s$ (g)	Mass of water adsorbed $W_{H_2O}$ (g)	Mass of oil adsorbed $W_{ads}$ (g)	$Q_t$ $g \cdot g^{-1}$	% Removal	Adsorbed oil water ratio (-)
75	20.693	4.8	0.8930	0.0595	94.57	0.106
150	20.912	5.14	0.7718	0.0514	81.73	0.15
212	20.6501	5	0.6501	0.043	68.84	0.13
400	21.2861	5.72	0.5661	0.038	59.95	0.099
500	21.425	5.9	0.5251	0.035	55.61	0.089

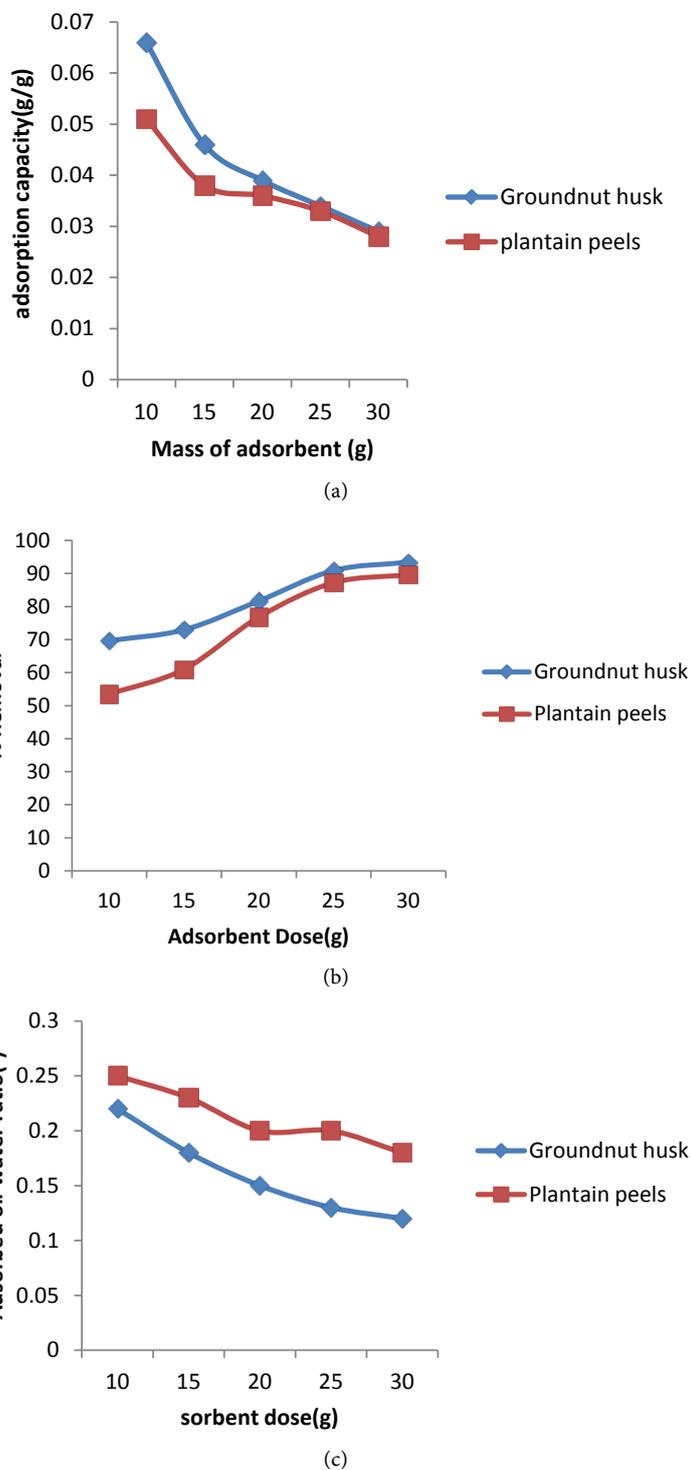
(b)

Particle size ( $\mu m$ )	Mass of wetted adsorbent $G_s$ (g)	Mass of water adsorbed $W_{H_2O}$ (g)	Mass of oil adsorbed $W_{ads}$ (g)	$Q_t$ $g \cdot g^{-1}$	% Removal	Adsorbed oil water ratio (-)
75	20.155	4.31	0.8450	0.056	89.48	0.196
150	20.195	4.49	0.7057	0.047	74.67	0.157
212	20.129	4.515	0.6141	0.041	65.03	0.135
400	21.235	5.71	0.5250	0.035	55.597	0.092
500	21.41	5.93	0.04801	0.032	50.84	0.081

### 3.1. Effect of Doses

The adsorption capacity (g/g), percentage oil removal and adsorbed oil-water ratio at different sorbent doses are shown in **Figures 1(a)-(c)** respectively.

The adsorption increased with increase in adsorbent dose as shown in **Figure 1(a)**. As the adsorbent dose increased from 10 g to 30 g; adsorption capacity of groundnut husk reduces from 0.066 to 0.029  $g \cdot g^{-1}$  and that of plantain peels from 0.051 to 0.028  $g \cdot g^{-1}$ . The decrease in adsorption capacity may be due to the fact that some adsorption sites may have remained unsaturated during the adsorption



**Figure 1.** (a) Adsorption capacity at different sorbent Doses; (b) oil % Removal at different sorbent Doses; (c) Adsorbed oil-water ratio at different sorbent doses.

process since more adsorption sites were available for the same concentration of sorbent (crude oil). The percentage removal of oil increased from 69.7% to 93.4% for groundnut husks and 53.5% to 89.61% for plantain peels as sorbent dose increased from 10 g to 30 g as shown in **Figure 1(b)**. This shows that by increasing

the adsorbent dose the efficiency of the two adsorbents (groundnut husks and plantain peels) increased.

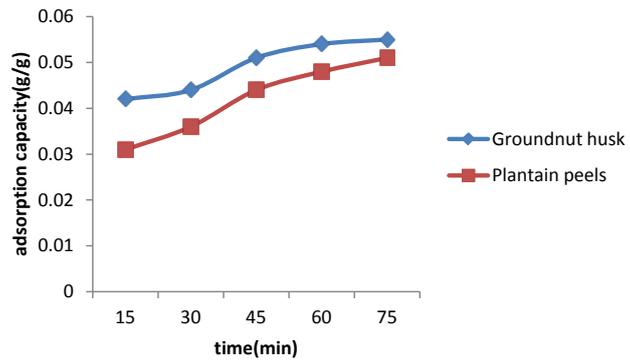
**Figure 1(c)** shows that adsorbed-oil water ratio decreased with increased in initial adsorbent mass. Both adsorbent showed similar characteristics but groundnut husk showed a higher performance compared to plantain peels.

### 3.2. Effect of Contact Time

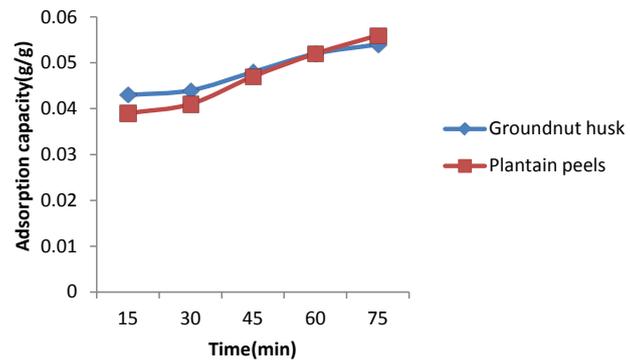
The effect of contact time on adsorption for the two adsorbents at 25°C and 60°C are shown in **Figures 2(a)-(f)**. The adsorption capacity of groundnut husk at 25°C increased from 0.042 to 0.055 g·g<sup>-1</sup> and that of plantain peels from 0.031 to 0.051 g·g<sup>-1</sup> whereas the percentage removal at 25°C for groundnut husks increased from 66.45% to 87.65% and for plantain peels from 61.08% to 85.15% as the time increase from 15 to 75 min. While at 60°C with the same time increase, the adsorption capacity of groundnut husks increased from 0.043 to 0.054 g·g<sup>-1</sup> and plantain peels from 0.039 to 0.056 g·g<sup>-1</sup> whereas percentage removal of groundnut increased from 67.56% to 85.81% and that of plantain peels from 63.07% to 89.56%.

The adsorbed oil-water ratio at different time interval at 25°C and 60°C for the two adsorbents decreased from 0.25 to 0.105 for groundnut husks and 0.3 to 0.15 for plantain peels at 25°C and from 0.18 to 0.13 for groundnut husks and 0.23 to 0.164 for plantain peels at 60°C. An increase in adsorption capacity and percentage removal suggests that 150 r·min<sup>-1</sup> agitation speed was adequate to allow the binding sites adsorbed more crude oil as the contact time increased for the two adsorbents. Increased in adsorbed oil-water ratio implied that more water was adsorbed on exceeding the time equilibrium concentration of oil but groundnut husks absorbed more water than plantain peels.

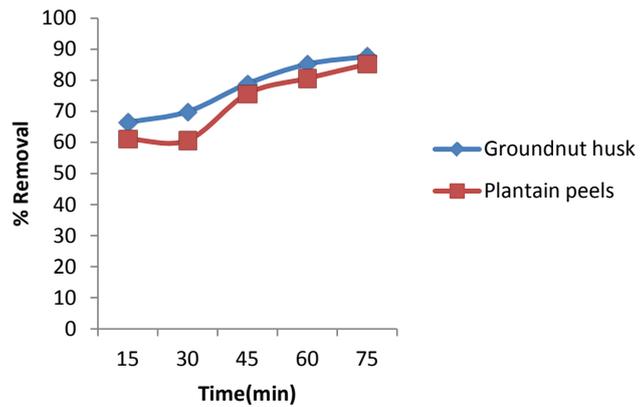
Using the pseudo-second order equation to describe the type of adsorption as has been suggested as being more appropriate for this type of adsorption [22] (HO *et al.*, 2002); the kinetic plots of  $t/Q_t$  against  $t$  for oil adsorption is presented in **Figure 3**. The linear relationship and the correlation coefficients as shown in **Table 3(a)** and **Table 3(b)** for the two adsorbents in the temperature range showed a strong relationship between the parameters and also explain that the adsorption process follows pseudo second-order kinetics and groundnut husks serving better than plantain peels as shown by the correlation factors. It shows that for groundnut husk though the amount of crude oil adsorbed at equilibrium  $Q_e$  decreased from 0.061418 to 0.058774 g·g<sup>-1</sup> as temperature increased from 25°C to 60°C; the rate constant  $K$  increased from 1.809257 to 2.120118 g·g<sup>-1</sup>·min; whereas the initial adsorption rate increased from 0.006825 to 0.007324 g·g<sup>-1</sup>·min. For that of plantain peels, the amount of crude oil adsorbed at equilibrium  $Q_e$  increased from 0.0641 to 0.064337 g·g<sup>-1</sup> as temperature increased from 25°C to 60°C; the rate constant  $K$  on the other hand increased from 0.760403 to 1.129261 g·g<sup>-1</sup>·min; whereas the initial adsorption rate increased from 0.003124 to 0.004674 g·g<sup>-1</sup>·min.



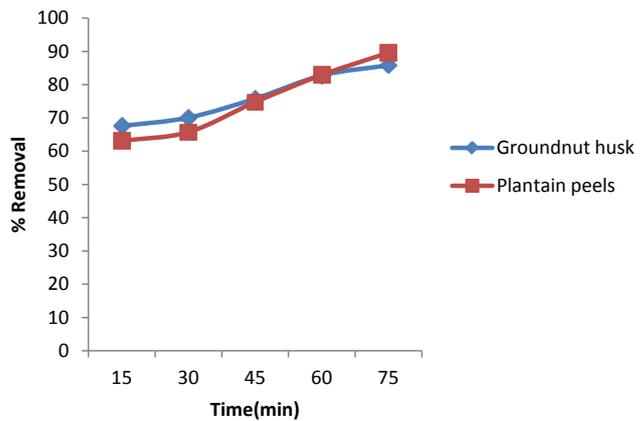
(a)



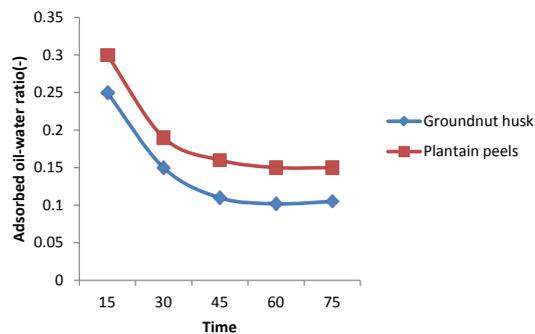
(b)



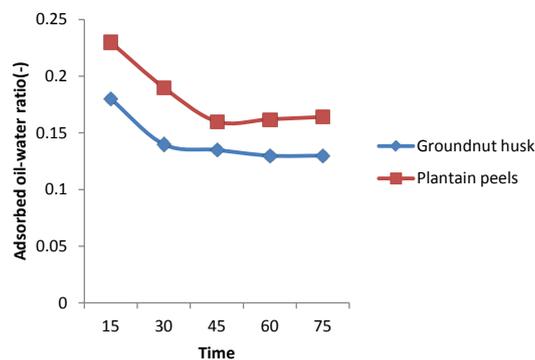
(c)



(d)

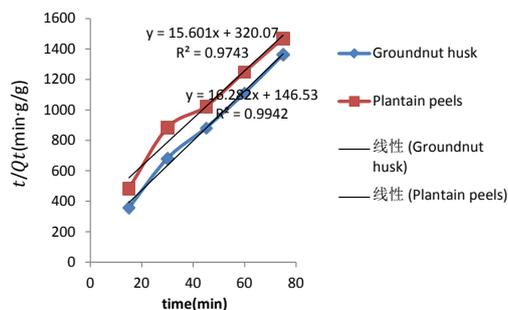


(e)

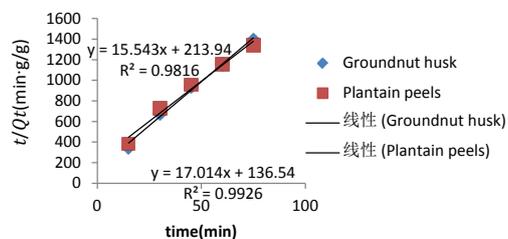


(f)

**Figure 2.** (a) Adsorption capacity at different Contact time at 25°C; (b) Adsorption capacity at different contact time at 60°C; (c) Percentage removal at different contact time at 25°C; (d) Percentage removal at different contact time at 60°C; (e) Adsorbed oil-water ratio at different contact time at 25°C; (f) Adsorbed oil-water ratio at different contact time at 60°C.



(a)

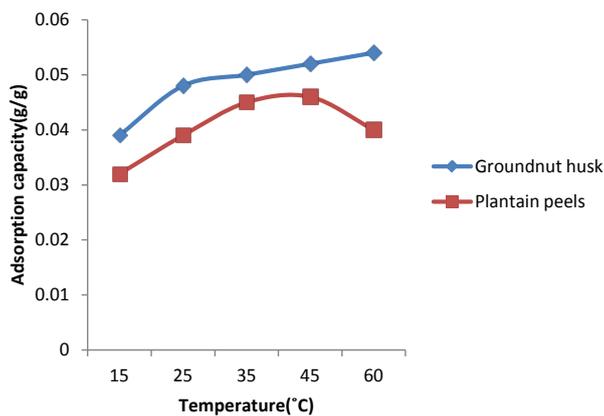


(b)

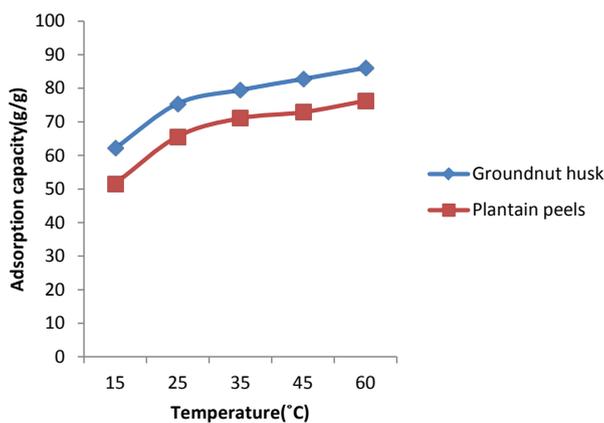
**Figure 3.** (a) Pseudo-second-order kinetic plot for the adsorption of crude oil onto groundnut husk and plantain peels at 25°C; (b): pseudo-second-order kinetic plot for the adsorption of crude oil onto groundnut husk and plantain peels at 60°C.

### 3.3. Effect of Temperature

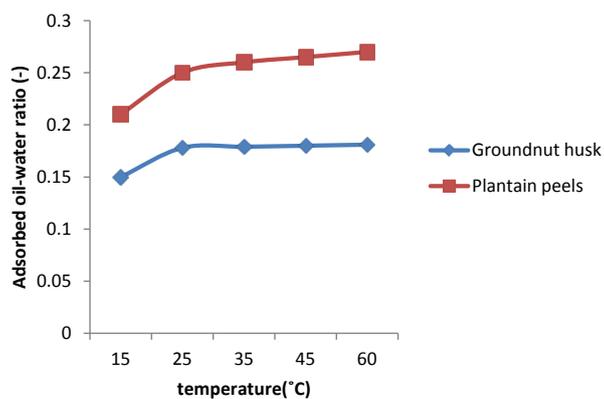
The result of batch adsorption experiment carried out for different temperatures of adsorbent is given in **Table 4(a)** and **Table 4(b)** for groundnut husks and plantain peels respectively. **Figure 4(a)** shows that adsorption capacity increased with temperature for groundnut husks; the optimum temperature range of the meshed groundnut husks to adsorb the effluent water sample containing 0.9443 g



(a)



(b)



(c)

**Figure 4.** (a) Adsorption capacity at Different temperatures; (b) Percentage removal at different temperature; (c) Adsorbed oil-water ratio at different temperatures.

of crude oil was 25°C - 45°C indicating that the sorption process was an adsorption process and depended on the temperature whereas that of plantain peels showed an increase from 15°C - 45°C and a sharp decrease; the optimum temperature was 45°C. The sharp decrease shows a low adsorption interaction between the adsorbent and the adsorbate at increased temperature for plantain peels but a better interaction with groundnut husk.

Figure 4(b) and Figure 4(c) showed that the percentage removal of the crude oil as well as the adsorbed oil-water ratio increased with increase in temperature for both adsorbents.

### 3.4. Effect of Particle Size

The result of batch adsorption experiment carried out for different particle sizes of the adsorbents are given in Table 5(a) and Table 5(b) for plantain peels and groundnut husks respectively. Figures 5(a)-(c) show that smaller particles of

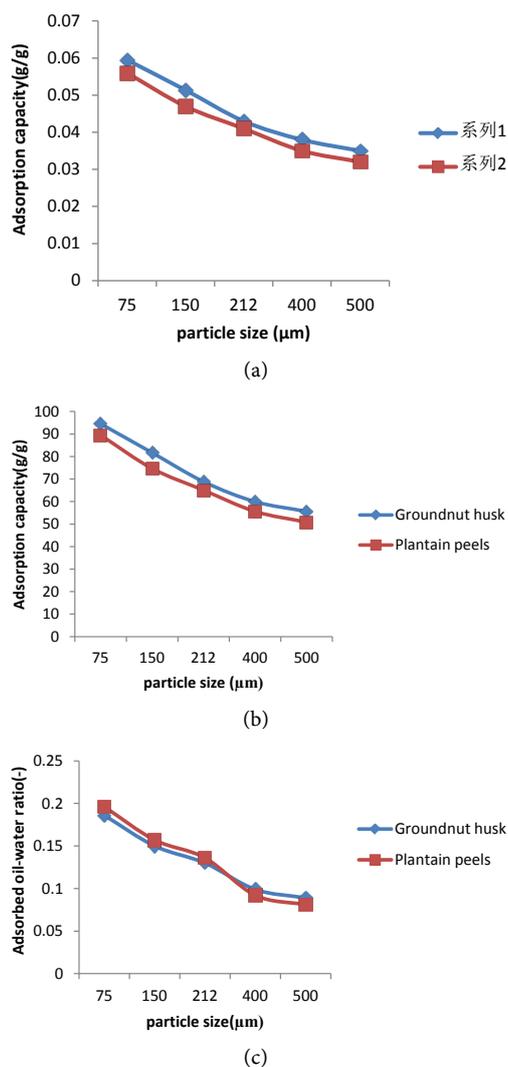


Figure 5. (a) Adsorption capacity at different Particle sizes; (b) Percentage removal at different particle sizes; (c) Adsorbed oil water ratio at different particle sizes.

both adsorbents have relatively higher adsorption capacity percentage removal and adsorbed oil-water ratio respectively and the rate of adsorption increased with increase in surface area of the adsorbent while sorption efficiency increased with holding capacity. The differences in adsorption capacity, percentage removal of oil and adsorbed oil-water ratio between the different particle sizes of groundnut husks and plantain peels could be explained by the fact that smaller particles possessed not only larger surface areas and interstitial packing; but also the tendency of producing shorter time of equilibration.

#### 4. Conclusion

The adsorption of crude oil using meshed groundnut husk and plantain peels as adsorbents have been studied. The results obtained showed that the percentage removal of crude oil from effluent produced water were dependent on adsorbent doses, contact time, temperature and particle size. The two adsorbents exhibited high affinity for oil adsorption especially at a particle size of 75  $\mu\text{m}$ . Meshed groundnut husks had a better performance than plantain peels due to its larger surface areas and the presence of occluded residual oil retained in the meshed unripe plantain peels. The optimum adsorption temperature ranged for groundnut husks was 25°C - 45°C and 15°C - 45°C for plantain peels with a decrease at 60°C. The adsorption data indicated that a pseudo-second-order equation could be used to study the adsorption kinetics of both adsorbents and the correlation coefficient indicated that the sorption process was dominated by adsorption process. As a result of the high affinity for oil and low water pick up; meshed groundnut husks and plantain peels adsorbent could be said to be oleophilic or hydrophobic. 150  $\text{r}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$  and contact time between 15 - 75 minutes is recommended for proper agitation so as to allow adsorption at the binding sites for the two adsorbents.

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