Wang LI<sup>1</sup>, Weiming MO<sup>2\*</sup>, Caiyan KANG<sup>1,3\*</sup>, Minjun ZHANG<sup>1</sup>, Mianwu MENG<sup>1</sup> and Menglin CHEN<sup>1</sup>

# ADSORPTION OF NITRATE FROM AQUEOUS SOLUTION ONTO MODIFIED CASSAVA (Manihot esculenta) STRAW

# ADSORPCJA AZOTANÓW Z ROZTWORU WODNEGO NA ZMODYFIKOWANEJ SŁOMIE MANIOKU Manihot esculenta

**Abstract:** The performance of a new anion exchanger prepared from *raw cassava straw* (RCS), for the removal of nitrate from aqueous solutions was evaluated in this study. The cassava straw was modified by epichlorohydrin in the presence of pyridine. The influencing factors, adsorption kinetics, and thermodynamics model of nitrate adsorption onto the *modified cassava straw* (MCS) were studied. The results showed that the zeta potentials of RCS and MCS were -20.5 mV and +37.3 mV, nitrogen contents (N %) of RCS and MCS were 0.43 and 4.96%, respectively. The best nitrate removal results was reached at 0.2 g of adsorbent dosage and pH range of  $6.0 \div 12.0$ . The modified cassava straw adsorbed nitrate(V) quickly, reaching equilibrium within 30 minutes. The kinetics of nitrate adsorption rates were controlled by both membrane diffusion and intra-particle diffusion. The adsorption data fit the Freundlich adsorption isotherm and the Langmuir adsorption isotherm. The maximum adsorption capacity was 2.14, 2.00 and 1.81 mmol/dm<sup>3</sup> at 293, 303, and 313 K, respectively.

Keywords: adsorption kinetics, nitrate, modified cassava straw, isotherm

Eutrophication is a severely environmental problem in all over the world [1, 2]. Nitrogen-containing compounds such as nitrate(V), nitrate(III) and ammonia are the common pollutants, and especially nitrate(V) is the mainly pollutant for eutrophication. In recent decades, several researches for nitrate(V) removal, such as biological de-nitrification, reverse osmosis, electro-dialysis, breakpoint chlorination and ion exchange are being developed [3-6]. Compared with these methods, adsorption method seems to be a simple, effective, and relatively low-cost method, and nitrate(V) can be recovered [7]. Recently, lignocellulosic agricultural residues such as wheat straw, rice straw, giant reed, coconut coir pith used as raw material to prepare anion exchangers have been intensively reported, which seems a potential way to obtain novel and low cost anion adsorbent [8-12].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> School of Environmental Science and Resource, Guangxi Normal University, Guilin 541004, China

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Guangxi Normal University, Guilin 541004, China

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Guangxi Key Laboratory of Environmental pollution control theory and technique

<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding author: kangcy\_ok@126.com

In China, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region is the largest base of cassava (*Manihot* esculenta) production [13]. Annual output of cassava is about 6 million Mg (ton), which is an idea feedstock for fuel ethanol and starch production [14]. Thus, large quantities of cassava residue are generated annually as a major by-product of the starch and fuel ethanol industry. The total annual production of cassava straw estimated in 2006 was 3.6 million Mg (ton) [15]. Much of the cassava residues were burned and discarded without proper utilization. Recent years, researches on preparing functional polymers from agriculture residues have been investigated [16]. Cassava residues could be a raw material for the synthesis of certain kinds of functional polymers [17]. In this paper, we prepare an adsorbent based on *raw cassava straw* (RCS) to remove  $NO_3^-$  from aqueous solutions.

Our experiments indicate that the *modified cassava straw* (MCS) is an effective nitrate(V) adsorbent. MCS adsorbent could reduce nitrate(V) pollution from aqueous solutions and effectively utilize cassava residue, which would otherwise go to waste.

### Experimental

#### **Preparation of MCS**

The modified cassava anion exchanger was prepared from raw cassava straw obtained from Nanning, Guangxi, China. The raw material was washed with water to remove dirt, dried at 80°C and sieved into particles in the range  $150\div200 \ \mu\text{m}$ . The details of the preparation are as follows: 2 grams of the product was dispersed in 100 cm<sup>3</sup> N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF) in a 1000 cm<sup>3</sup> 3-neck round bottom flask. A 100 cm<sup>3</sup> aliquot of epichlorohydrin was added and stirred for 1 h at 100°C. Next, a 25 cm<sup>3</sup> pyridine catalyst was added to the solution to accelerate the rate of wetting and extension of the cellulose polymer. The mixture was stirred for 1 h at 100°C. The reaction product was washed with diluted ethanol at 40°C (ethanol:water = 1:1) in order to remove pyridine salts and epichlorohydrin excess. Finally amino groups were introduced into epoxypropyl - by-product after reaction with 33% (w/w) dimethylamine solution (35 cm<sup>3</sup>) for 3 h at 100°C. The reaction product was again washed with ethanol (50%) and pure water until the eluant was neutral, and then the *modified cassava residue* (MCR) was dried at 60°C in a drier.

#### **Characterization of MCS**

ZETASIZER 3000HSA (Malvern apparatus Ltd, Britain) was used to determine the zeta potential of RCS and MCS.

Element analyzer (PE 2400 Series II, Perkin-Elmer, USA) was used to determine total nitrogen contents (N%) of RCS and MCS, respectively. The *total exchange capacity* (TEC) is calculated using the following equation [18]

$$TEC = \frac{N\%}{1.4} \tag{1}$$

where TEC is the total exchange capacity  $[mEq g^{-1}]$  of MCS; N% the total nitrogen of MCR, and 1.4 is the correction coefficient.

#### **Adsorption experiments**

Adsorption experiments were carried out in 50 ml nitrate solution placed in a 250 ml conical flask. The flask was agitated in an orbital shaker at 120 rpm and room temperature.

The liquid samples were taken out in a given time interval (60 min). Equilibrium nitrate(V) concentration was determined by means of the rucine-sulfanil colorimetric method [19] with an UV-visible spectrophotometer. The equilibrium concentration in the solid phase,  $q_e$  [mg/g] was given as:

$$q_e = \frac{(C_0 - C_e)V}{m} \tag{2}$$

where,  $q_e$  is the amount of anion adsorption per gram MCS at equilibrium,  $C_0$  and  $C_e$  [mg/dm<sup>3</sup>] are the concentrations of anions at the initial and equilibrium, respectively. *V* is the volume of the solution [dm<sup>3</sup>] and *m* is the amount of MCS [g].

# **Results and discussion**

### **Characterization of MCS**

Table 1 shows the change of element and Zeta potential in RCS in comparison with MCS. The zeta potential of RCS and MCS were -20.5 mV and 37.3 mV, respectively. The chemical groups, such as -OH, -COOH and -OCH<sub>3</sub>, in lignin and cellulose contained in RCS have the negative Zeta potential [20]. According to chemical modification, amine groups from dimethylamine had been introduced to make the Zeta potential of MCS positive. Total nitrogen contents (N %) of RCS and MCS were theoretically calculated as 0.43 and 4.96%, respectively. This shows that the reactions proceed efficiently and lots of amine groups from dimethylamine had been introduced into MCS. According to Eq. (1), total exchange capacity (TEC) of RCS and MCS were 0.31 and 3.54 mEq g<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. The comparison of total exchange capacity and Zeta potential suggested MCS has a much higher potential in adsorption ability.

Table 1

	N [%]	C [%]	H [%]	Zeta [mV]
RCS	0.43	41.95	6.07	-20.5
MCS	4.96	50.09	7.45	37.3

Changes of element and Zeta potential between RCS and MCS

### Effect of adsorbent dosage

The effect of MCS dosage (0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1.0 g) on the adsorption of  $NO_3^-$  is shown in Figure 1. When the MCS dosage was 0.01 g, the removal efficiency of  $NO_3^-$  was 45.78%. With the increasing of dosage, the total surface and positive charge of adsorbent also increased; it was useful to the removal of  $NO_3^-$  through electrostatic interaction. As the dosage increased to 0.2 g, the trend of removal efficiency tended to be stabilized, and the adsorption reached equilibrium at dosage of 0.2 g, with the  $NO_3^-$  removal of 97%. So, a dosage of 0.2 g seemed to be optimal and was therefore maintained for the following experiments.



Fig. 1. Effect of sorbent dosage on adsorption (Contact time 60 min, Initial  $NO_3^-$  concentration 50 mg/dm<sup>3</sup>, T = 293 K, pH = 6.8)

### Effect of initial pH

An important parameter which controls the adsorption of  $NO_3^-$  to MCS is the pH of the solution. The effect of pH was studied over the range  $2.0\div10.0$  by adjusting the pH of 50 mg/dm<sup>3</sup> NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> solutions with dilute HCl and NaOH solutions and then agitated with 0.2 g of adsorbent for 60 min. The removal efficiency of  $NO_3^-$  at different pH values (2.0, 4.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 10.0, and 12.0) is shown in Figure 2. As shown in Figure 2, an increase in the removal of  $NO_3^-$  occurred in a range of pH from 2.0 to 4.0. The removal efficiency was maximal and almost constant, when the equilibrium solution pH was between 4.0 and 10.0. The lower removal at pH less than 4.0 is due to competition of chloride ions from the HCl medium, even though the adsorbent surface is positively charged. The  $NO_3^-$  removal decrease observed with increasing pH from 10.0 to 12.0 was attributable to increasing the number of negatively charged adsorbent sites, resulting in electrostatic repulsion, and the significant increase of OH<sup>-</sup>, which will compete with  $NO_3^-$  for adsorption [21, 22].



Fig. 2. Effect of pH on adsorption (Contact time 60 min, Initial NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentration 50 mg/dm<sup>3</sup>, adsorbent dose: 0.2 g, T = 293 K)

### **Adsorption kinetics**

The kinetics of nitrate(V) adsorption by MCS were showed in Figure 3. The curves of different initial concentration (25, 50 and 75 mg/dm<sup>3</sup>) have similar trends. From their shape, the curves can be divided into three distinct as time passes. In the first period (t < 5 min), curves increased sharply and the removal of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> is nearly 80%. In the second period (5 < t < 30 min),  $q_t$  increases slowly. In the third period (t > 30 min),  $q_t$  was steady and the adsorption reached equilibrium.



Fig. 3. Adsorption curve of  $NO_3^-$  under different initial concentrations (T = 293 K, pH = 6.8)

The experimental data was fitted with the pseudo-first-order equation, pseudo-second-order equation and intra-particle equation [23]. The results are depicted in Figures 4, 5 and 6. The fit parameters were listed in Table 2. The pseudo-first-order model is:

$$\ln(q_e - q_t) = \ln q_e - k_1 t \tag{3}$$

Pseudo-second-order equation is:

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

Intra-particle equation is:

$$q_t = k_p t^{0.5} \tag{5}$$

where  $q_e \text{ [mg g}^{-1}\text{]}$  is the equilibrium concentration of nitrate(V) in MCS;  $q_t \text{ [mg g}^{-1}\text{]}$  is the average concentration of nitrate(V) at time *t* [min] in MCS.  $K_1$  is the pseudo-first-order rate constant [min<sup>-1</sup>].  $K_2$  is the pseudo-second-order rate constant [g mg<sup>-1</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>].  $k_p$  is the intraparticle rate constant [g mg<sup>-1</sup> min<sup>-0.5</sup>].



Fig. 4. Lagergren plots (first-order-kinetics) for adsorption (T = 293K, pH = 6.8)



Fig. 5. Lagergren plots (second-order-kinetics) for adsorption (T = 293 K, pH = 6.8)



Fig. 6. The Kannan-Sundaram plots for adsorption (T = 293 K, pH = 6.8)

Table 2

$C_0 [\text{mg dm}^{-3}]$	Pseudo-first-order		Pseudo-second-order		Intra-particle diffusion equation	
	$K_1$ [min <sup>-1</sup> ]	$R^2$	$K_2$ [g mg <sup>-1</sup> min <sup>-1</sup> ]	$R^2$	$K_p [{ m g mg}^{-1}{ m min}^{-0.5}]$	$R^2$
25	0.155	0.9496	0.0585	0.9881	2.8	0.9682
50	0.213	0.8177	0.038	0.9854	7.299	0.9786
75	0.269	0.9775	0.0187	0.9813	10.824	0.9921

Kinetics parameters for adsorption

From Table 2, the kinetic data well fitted the pseudo-first-order and the pseudo-secondorder model. But the correlation coefficients ( $R^2$ ) of pseudo-second-order are greater than pseudo-first-order. So, the adsorption process was controlled by pseudo-second-order equation. The Figure 6 is of general type, *ie* intra-particle equation initial curved and final linear portion. The initial curved portions may be attributed to the boundary layer diffusion effect, while the final linear portions may be due to intra-particle diffusion effects. The slope of the linear portion has been defined as a rate parameter ( $K_p$ ) indicating characteristic of the rate of adsorption in this region where intra-particle diffusion is rate limiting. As shown in the plot, rate parameters ( $K_p$ ) were obtained as 2.80, 7.299 and 10.824 (g mg<sup>-1</sup>min<sup>-0.5</sup>) for 25, 50 and 75 mg/dm<sup>3</sup> of initial nitrate(V) concentration, respectively. From the figure, it may be observed that the straight line did not pass through the "zero" point and this further indicates that the intra-particle diffusion is not only the main rate-controlling step. So the adsorption process may be of a complex nature consisting of both surface adsorption and intra-particle diffusion [24].

#### Adsorption isotherms

In the adsorption process, temperature is an important influential factor. Solutions of different initial concentrations - 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400 mg dm<sup>-3</sup> KNO<sub>3</sub> (as NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) - were used to investigate the effect of concentration on nitrate(V) removal by 0.2 g of adsorbent in 50 cm<sup>3</sup> of solution and shaken in a thermostat at 120 rpm for 60 min at different temperature (293, 303 and 313 K). Figure 7 shows the effect of different temperature (293, 303 and 313 K) on the adsorption of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> by MCS. The experimental data were fitted with the Langmuir and Freundlich isotherm model equations [25].

The Langmuir adsorption equation in the linear form is:

$$\frac{1}{q_e} = \frac{1}{Q_{\max}} + \frac{1}{bQ_{\max}} \frac{1}{C_e}$$
(6)

and the Freundlich equation in the linear form is:

$$\ln q_e = \ln K_F + \frac{1}{n} \ln C_e \tag{7}$$

where  $Q_{max}$  is the monolayer capacity of the sorbent [mg g<sup>-1</sup> or m mol g<sup>-1</sup>], *b* is the Langmuir constant [dm<sup>3</sup> mg<sup>-1</sup>] or [dm<sup>3</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup>] and related to the free energy of adsorption,  $K_F$  is the Freundlich constant, *n* (dimensionless) is the heterogeneity factor. The estimated parameter values for the data gathered in the present study are presented in Table 3.



Fig. 7. Equilibrium adsorption isotherms onto adsorbent (293 K/303 K/313 K)

Langmuir			Freundlich			
<i>T</i> [K]	$Q_m$ [m mol dm <sup>-3</sup> ]	b [dm <sup>3</sup> mg <sup>-1</sup> ]	$R^2$	$K_{f}$	n	$R^2$
293	2.14	0.0689	0.9829	11.0215	1.78	0.9883
303	2.00	0.0571	0.9724	9.9748	1.8744	0.9939
313	1.81	0.0496	0.9753	9.2329	2.0012	0.9945

Values of Langmuir and Freundlich parameters obtained for the studied systems

From the correlation coefficients listed in Table 3, we found that Freundlich isotherm fit the experimental data better than Langmuir isotherm. The  $Q_m$  and  $K_f$  of MCS for NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> adsorption decreased with the temperature increasing, suggesting that the adsorption reaction was exothermic, n > 1 showed that the adsorption of nitrate(V) by MCS is preferable. The adsorption capacity of MCS is compared with some modified adsorbents prepared from agricultural by-product and activated carbons as shown in Table 4. Experimental data shown in Table 4 indicates that MCS is excellent in the adsorption of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>. This provides strong evidence for the potential of MCS in applications for the removal of nitrate(V) from aqueous solutions.

Table 4

Adsorbent	Q <sub>max</sub> [mmol/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	
MCS	2.14	
Modified wheat straw	2.08[8]	
Activate carbon	0.11[26]	
Amberlite IRA-900	1.15[26]	
Rice hull	1.2[16]	
Bagasse	1.02[16]	

Qmax in different adsorbents for NO3- adsorption

# Conclusions

Cassava straw was converted to an anion exchanger by reaction with epichlorohydrin and dimethylamine and the adsorption equilibrium and kinetics were investigated in batch experiment. The results showed the zeta potentials of RCR and MCR were -20.5 mV and +37.3 mV, nitrogen contents (N %) of RCS and MCS were 0.43 and 4.96%, respectively. Compared with other adsorbents, the  $Q_m$  of MCS showed that MCS is a potential adsorbent in applications for the removal of nitrate(V) from aqueous solutions.

The adsorption of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> onto MCR was influenced by the dosages, agitation time, pH and temperature. The adsorption was a rapid process, and reached equilibrium at 30 min. The best removal results were achieved at the dosage of 0.2 g and pH of  $6.0\div12.0$ . The  $Q_m$  of MCR for NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> adsorption decreases with the temperature increasing.

The research results of the equilibrium and kinetics of adsorption of nitrate(V) onto MCS showed that the equilibrium data were described by Langmuir and Freundilich isotherm models respectively, and were found to agree very well with the latter, and the kinetics of nitrate(V) adsorption at different initial concentrations (20, 50, and 75 mg/dm<sup>3</sup>) all fit a pseudo-second order equation. The adsorption rates were controlled by both membrane diffusion and inter-particle diffusion.

### Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (21267005); the Natural Science Foundation of Guangxi in China (2010GXNSFA013008); the Research Funds of the Guangxi Key Laboratory of Environmental pollution control theory and technique; Key Laboratory of Ecology of Rare and Endangered Species and Environmental Protection (Guangxi Normal University), Ministry of Education, China.

# References

- [1] Yuan ZY, Zhao FR. Study on water eutrophication and biological control. China Rural Water and Hydropower. 2008;16:57-59.
- [2] Afkhami A. Adsorption and electro-sorption of nitrate and nitrite on higharea carbon cloth: an approach to purification of water and waste-water samples. Carbon. 2003;41:1309-1328.
- [3] Uygur A, Karg F. Biological nutrient removal from pre-treated landfill leachate in a sequencing batch reactor. J Environ Manage. 2004;71:9-14.
- [4] Dolar D, Vukovic A, Asperger D, Kosutic K. Effect of water matrices on removal of veterinary pharmaceuticals by nanofiltration and reverse osmosis membranes. J Environ Sci Eng. 2011;23:1300-1307.
- [5] Pinter A, Batista J. Improvement of an integrated ion-exchange/catalytic process for nitrate removal by introducing a two-stage denitrification step. Appl Catalys B-Environ. 2006;63:150-159.
- [6] Cevaal JN, Surratt WB, Burke JE. Nitrate removal and water quality improvements with reverse osmosis for Brighton. Desalination. 1995;103:101-111.
- [7] Baes AU, Jung YH, Han WW, Shin HS. Improved brine recycling during nitrate removal using ion exchange. Water Research. 2002;36:3330-3340.
- [8] Xu X, Gao BY, Wang WY, Yue QY, Wang Y, Ni SO. Effect of modifying agents on the preparation and properties of the new adsorbents from wheat straw. Bioresour Technol. 2010;5:1477-1481.
- [9] Xu X, Gao BY, Zhong QQ, Yue QY, Li Q. Sorption of nitrate onto amine-crosslinked wheat straw: characteristics, column sorption and desorption properties. J Hazard Mater. 2011;186:206-211.
- [10] Cao W, Dang Z, Zhou XQ, Yi XY, Wu PX, Zhu NW, Lu GN. Removal of sulphate from aqueous solution using modified rice straw: Preparation, characterization and adsorption performance. Carbohydrate Polymer. 2011;85:571-577.
- [11] Wang WY, Yue QY, Xu X, Gao BY, Zhang J, Li Q, Xu JT. Optimized conditions in preparation of giant reed quaternary amino anion exchanger for phosphate removal. Chem Eng J. 2010;157:161-167.
- [12] Anirudhan TS, Unnithan MR. Arsenic(V) removal from aqueous solutions using an anion exchanger derived from coconut coir pith and its recovery. Chemosphere. 2007;66:60-66.
- [13] Chai QH, Shen W, Zhang AL, Han WJ. Chinese cassava industry price supply elasticity. J Tsinghua University (Sci Technol). 2009;49:897-900.
- [14] Tao GC, Xie GH, Orberg H, Xiong SJ. A feasibility study on using cassava stems for the production of bioenergy in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. China. Eng Sci. 2011;13:107-112.
- [15] Du D, Hu ZY, Pu GQ. Energy efficiency and potentials of cassava fuel ethanol in Guangxi region of China. Energy Conversion and Manage. 2006;47:1686-1699.
- [16] Baes AU, Okuda T, Nishijima W. Adsorption and ion exchange of some groundwater anion contaminants in an amine modified coconut coir. Water Sci Technol. 1997;35:89-95.
- [17] Nakamura S, Amano M, Saegusa Y. Preparation of aminoalkyl celluloses and their adsorption and desorption of heavy metal ions. J Appl Polymer Sci. 1992;45: 65-271.
- [18] Orlando US, Baes AU, Nishijima W, Okada M. A new procedure to produce lignocellulosic anion exchangers from agricultural waste materials. Bioresour Technol. 2002;83:195-198.
- [19] APHA. Standard Methods for Examination of Water and Wastewater. Washington, D.C.: American Public Health Association; 1989.
- [20] Wang XH, Hao C, Zhao Q. Synthesis of electrophoresis of cationic lignin-amine. Chem Res Appl. 2004;06:817-818.
- [21] Wang Y, Gao BY, Yue WW, Yue QY. Adsorption of nitrate from aqueous solution by modified corn residues. Acta Sci Circumstantiae. 2007;27:1458-1462.
- [22] Namasivayam C, Holl WH. Quaternized biomass as an anion exchanger for the removal of nitrate and other anions from water. J Chem Technol Biotechnol. 2005;80:164-168.

- [23] Yang XY, Bushra AD. Kinetic modeling of liquid-phase adsorption of reactive dyes on activated carbon. J Colloid and Interface Sci. 2005;287:25-34.
- [24] Mohana SV, Raoa NC, Karthikeyan J. Adsorptive removal of direct azo dye from aqueous phase onto coal based sorbents: a kinetic and mechanistic study. J Hazard Mater. 2002;90:189-204.
- [25] Yu MF, Hu XB, Yao JP, Zhu XY. Preparation of activated carbon from rice husk and its adsorption capacity of chromium in sewage. Acta Agriculturae Boreali-Occidentalis Sinica. 2007;16:26-29.
- [26] Park HJ, Na CK. Preparation of anion exchanger by amination of acrylic acid grafted polypropylene nonwoven fiber and its ion-exchange property. J Colloid and Interface Sci. 2006;301:46-54.

# ADSORPCJA AZOTANÓW Z ROZTWORU WODNEGO NA ZMODYFIKOWANEJ SŁOMIE MANIOKU Manihot esculenta

Abstrakt: Dokonano oceny wydajności nowego wymieniacza anionowego, wytworzonego ze słomy surowego manioku (RCS), w usuwaniu azotanów z roztworów wodnych. Słomę manioku zmodyfikowano za pomocą epichlorohydryny w obecności pirydyny. Zbadano kinetykę adsorpcji, czynniki wpływające oraz model termodynamiczny adsorpcji azotanów na zmodyfikowanej słomie manioku (MCS). Wyniki pokazały, że potencjały zeta RCS i MCS wynosiły –20,5 mV i +37.3 mV, zawartości azotu (% N) w RCS i MCS wynosiły odpowiednio 0,43 i 4,96%. Najlepsze wyniki usuwania azotanów uzyskano, wykorzystując 0,2 g adsorbentu, w zakresie pH 6,0÷12,0. Zmodyfikowana słoma manioku szybko adsorbowała azotany(V), osiągając stan równowagi po 30 minutach. Kinetyka adsorpcji azotu z roztworów o różnych stężeniach początkowych (25, 50 i 75 mg/dm<sup>3</sup>) wskazuje na reakcję II rzędu. Szybkość procesu adsorpcji kontrolowała zarówno dyfuzja membranowa, jak i dyfuzja cząsteczkowa. Dane doświadczalne opisano za pomocą modeli izotermy Freundlicha i izotermy Langmuira. Maksymalne pojemności sorpcyjne wynosiły 2,14, 2,00 i 1,81 mmol/dm<sup>3</sup> w temperaturach odpowiednio 293, 303 i 313 K.

Słowa kluczowe: kinetyka adsorpcji, azotany, modyfikowana słoma manioku, izoterma