Supporting Information for

## Cost effective biochar gels with super capabilities forheavy metal removal

Pan-pan Chen<sup>a</sup>, Hong-ping Zhang<sup>a,\*</sup>, Huan-de Liu<sup>b</sup>, Xue-gang Luo<sup>a</sup>, Xiao-yan Lin<sup>a</sup>, Xiong Lu<sup>c</sup>, Youhong Tang<sup>d,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Engineering Research Center of Biomass Materials, Ministry of Education, School of Materials Science and Engineering, Southwest University of Science and Technology, Mianyang, Sichuan 621010, China

<sup>b</sup> Western Mining Co. Ltd, the key laboratory of mineral processing and comprehensive utilization in the Plateau of Qinghai Province, Xining 810007, Qinhai, China.

<sup>c</sup> Key Laboratory of Advanced Technologies of Materials, Ministry of Education, School of Materials Science and Engineering, Southwest Jiaotong University, Chengdu, Sichuan 610031, China

<sup>d</sup> Centre for NanoScale Science and Technology and School of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics, Flinders University, South Australia 5042, Australia

\* Corresponding authors. Tel: +86-816-6089009, Fax: +86-816-6089009, E-mail: <u>zhp1006@126.com</u> (H. P. Zhang) and Tel: +61-8-82012128, Fax: +61-8-82013618, E-mail: <u>youhong.tang@flinders.edu.au</u> (Y Tang)



Fig. S1. The SEM images of KGMBs with different sizes

Fig. S1 shows KGMBs with different sizes. They were fabricated by adjusting the KGM and solvent ratio(W/V).The ratios of KGM and solvent in Fig. S1 are (a) 0.6:8, (b) 1.0:8, (c) 1.2:8 and (d) 1.4:8, respectively. The KGMBs show the regular spherical appearance and the KGMB has the smallest size when KGM and solvent ratio is 1.0:8. It exhibits the good dispensability and possess larger amount of active sites for adsorption.



Fig. S2. The intra-particle diffusion model fitting on the relationship between contact time and  $Pb^{2+}$  and  $Cd^{2+}$  adsorption capacity onto KGMB.

**Table. S1** The mean diameters of KGMBs prepared with different KGM to solvent ratios.

KGM: solvent	Mean diameter (nm)
0.6:8	615.7
1.0:8	512.4
1.2:8	675.5
1.4:8	869.3

Table. S1 shows the mean diameter of KGMBs at the different synthesis KGM to solvent ratios. Under the ratio of 1.0:8, the KGMB owns the smallest size which could be beneficial to remove of  $Pb^{2+}$  and  $Cd^{2+}$ .