

Supplementary Materials for:

**Heteroatom-doped highly porous carbons prepared by in-situ activation for  
efficient adsorptive removal of sulfamethoxazole**

Wei Zheng<sup>1a</sup>, Yawei Shi<sup>1a</sup>, Guozhu Liu<sup>b</sup>, Bin Zhao<sup>a</sup> and Liang Wang<sup>\*a</sup>

*<sup>a</sup> State Key Laboratory of Separation Membranes and Membrane Processes, School of  
Environmental Science and Engineering, Tianjin Polytechnic University, Tianjin  
300387, China*

*<sup>b</sup> School of Chemical Engineering and Technology, Tianjin University, Tianjin 300072,  
China.*

\*Corresponding author. Tel. /fax: +86 22 83955392.

E-mail address: mashi7822@163.com (L. Wang).

<sup>1</sup>Wei Zheng and Yawei Shi contributed equally.

## Equations

$$q_e = \frac{(C_0 - C_e)V}{m} \quad (S1)$$

where  $C_0$  and  $C_e$  (mg/L) are the SMX concentrations at initial and equilibrium, respectively.  $m$  (g) is the mass of adsorbent and  $V$  (L) is the solution volume.

$$q_t = \frac{(C_0 - C_t)V}{m} \quad (S2)$$

where  $q_t$  is the adsorption capacity (mg/g),  $C_0$  is the initial concentration of SMX in solution (mg/L),  $C_t$  is the concentration at time  $t$  (mg/L),  $m$  is the mass of the adsorbent (g), and  $V$  is the volume of the solution (L).

$$q_e = q_{\max} \cdot K_L \cdot C_e / (1 + C_e \cdot K_L) \quad (S3)$$

where  $q_{\max}$  is maximum adsorption capacity, and  $K_L$  (L/mg) represents Langmuir constant that relates to the affinity of the binding sites which describes the intensity of the adsorption process.

$$q_e = K_F \cdot C_e^{1/n} \quad (S4)$$

where  $K_F$  and  $n$  are Freundlich constants indicative of adsorption capacity and adsorption intensity, respectively.

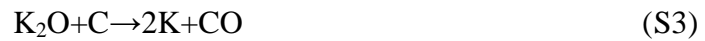
$$q_t = q_e(1 - \exp(-k_1 t)) \quad (S5)$$

$$q_t = q_e^2 k_2 t / (1 + q_e k_2 t) \quad (S6)$$

$$h = k_2 \cdot q_e^2 \quad (S7)$$

where  $q_t$  ( $\text{mg} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ ) and  $q_e$  ( $\text{mg} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ ) are the amount of SMX adsorbed at the contact time of  $t$  (min) and equilibrium, respectively;  $k_1$  ( $\text{min}^{-1}$ ) and  $k_2$  ( $\text{g} (\text{mg}^{-1} \text{min}^{-1})$ ) are the rate constants for the pseudo-first-order and pseudo-second-order models, respectively.

## Reactions



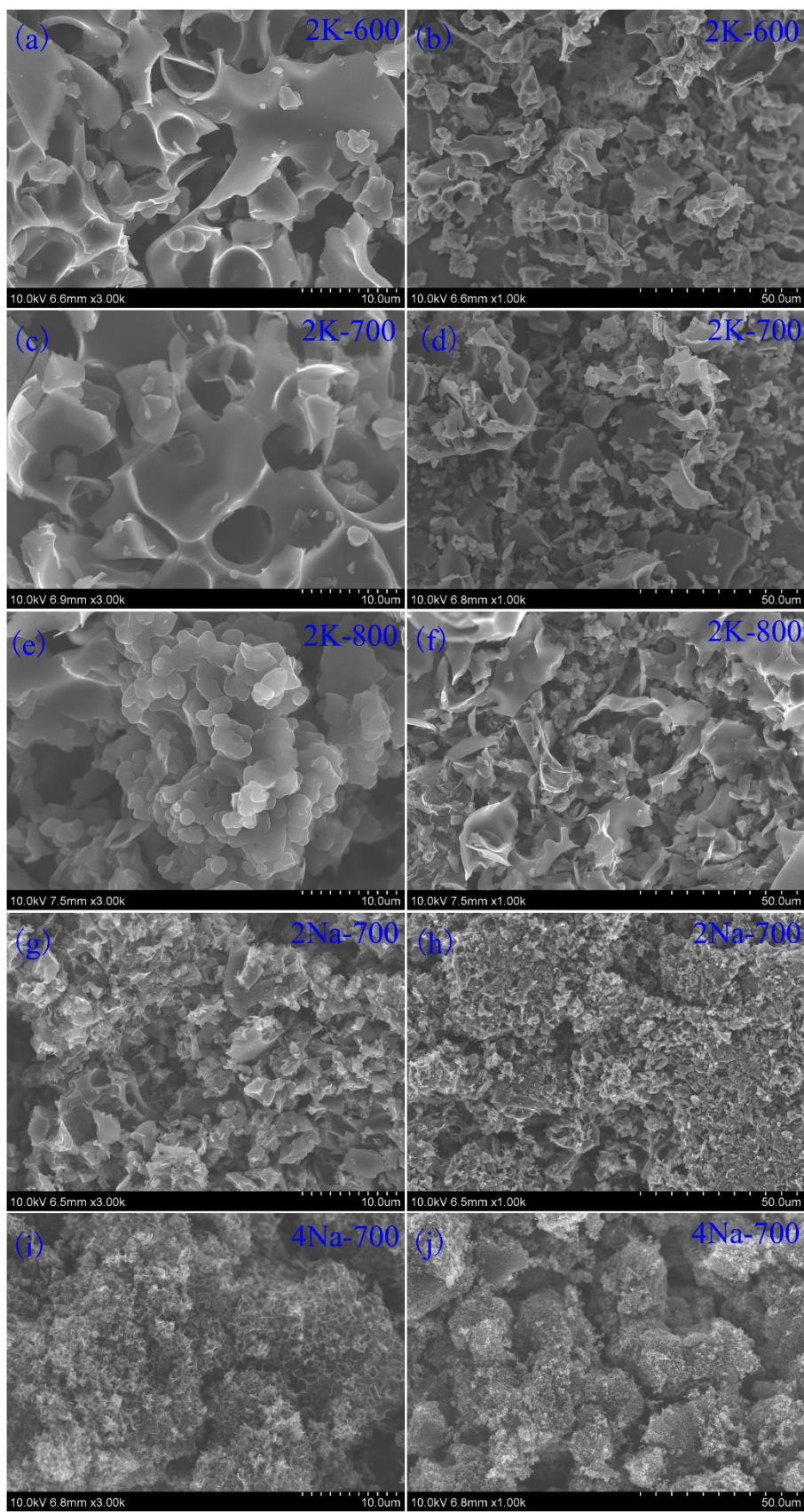


Figure S1. High resolution (a, c, e, g, i) and low resolution (b, d, f, h, j) SEM image of porous carbons.

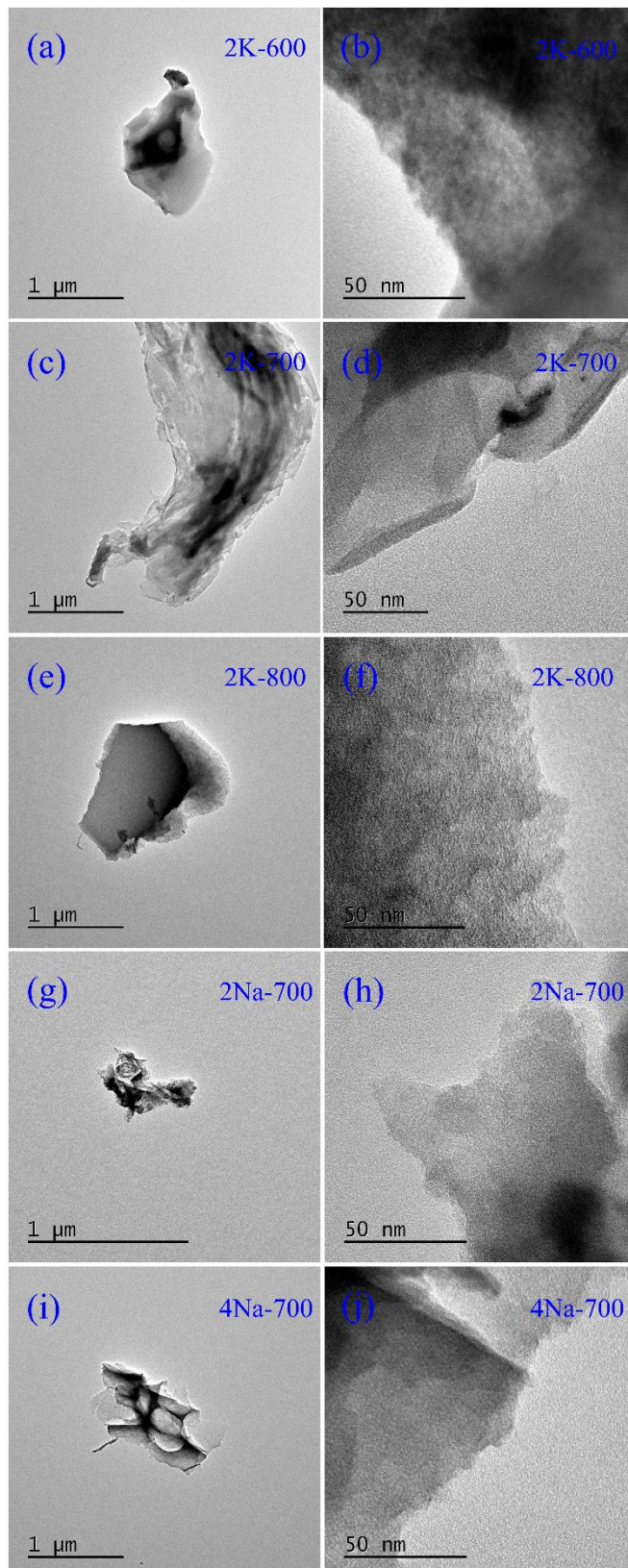


Figure S2. Low resolution (a, c, e, g, i) and high resolution (b, d, f, h, j) TEM image of porous carbons.

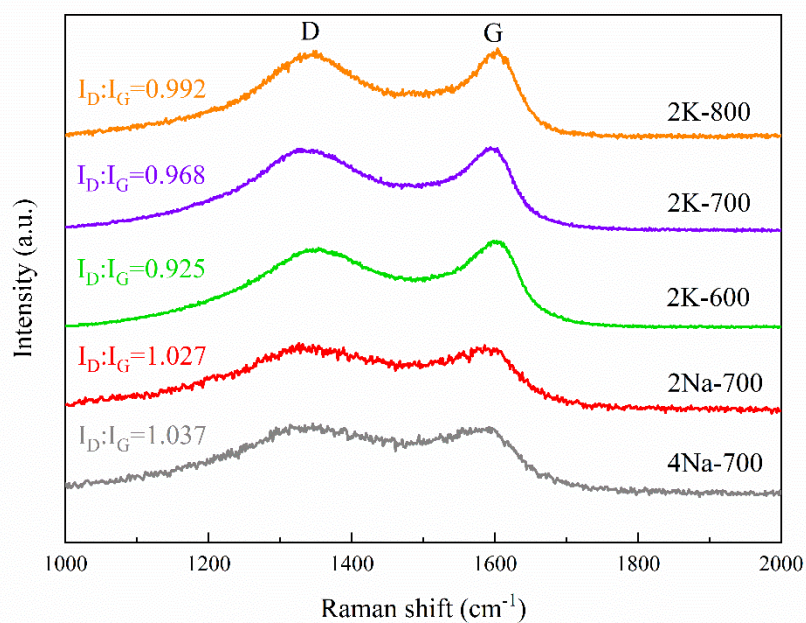


Figure S3. Raman spectra of porous carbons

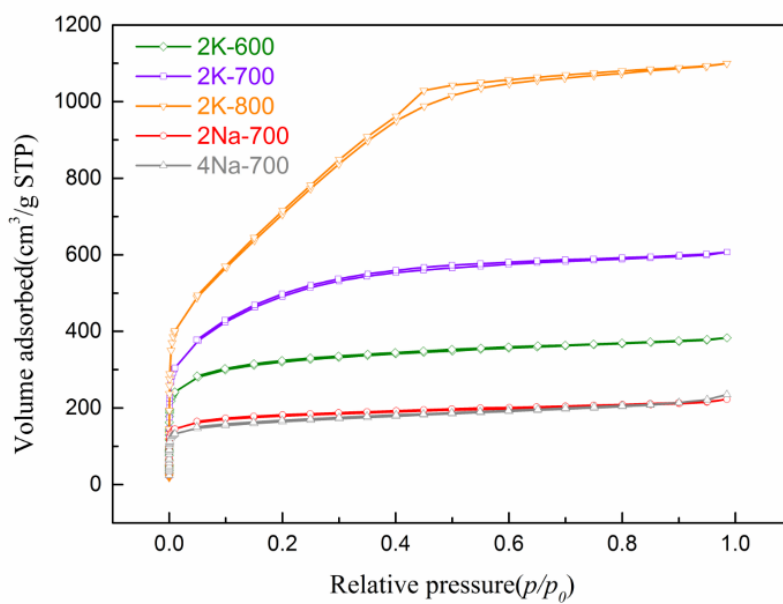


Figure S4. Nitrogen sorption isotherms of the porous carbons.

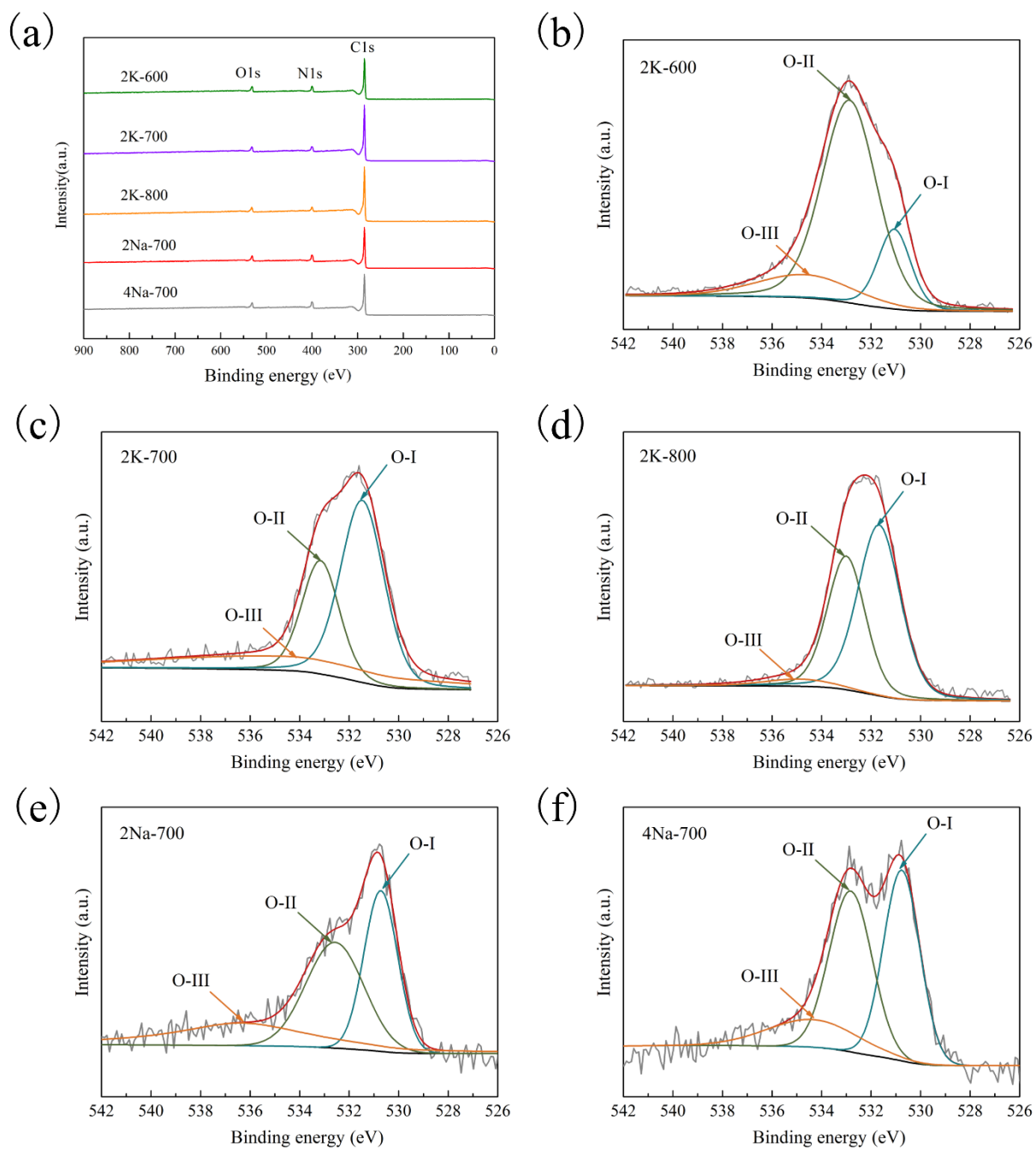


Figure S5 XPS spectra (a) and deconvolution of the high-resolution O1s spectra(b–f) of the porous carbons

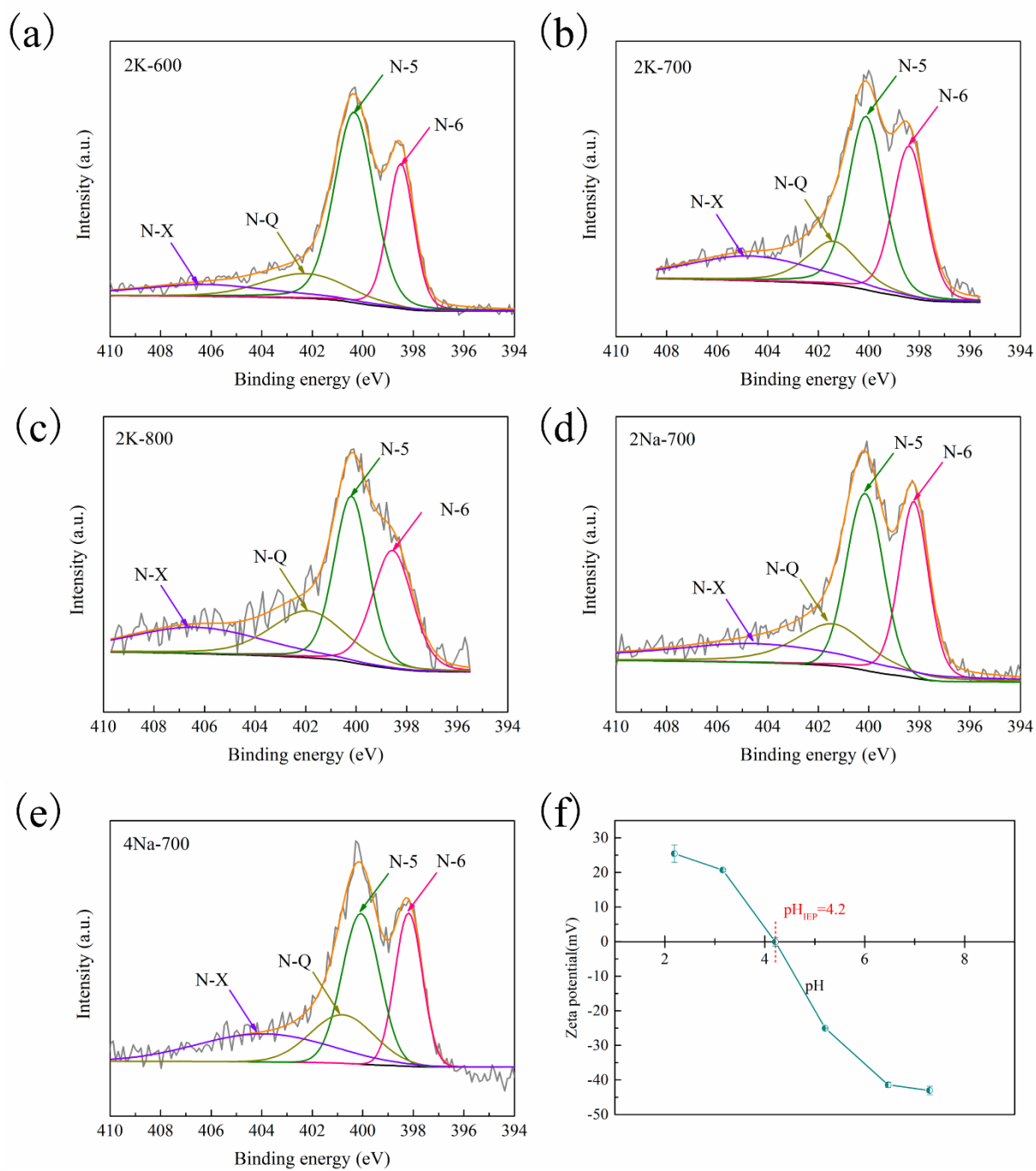


Figure S6 Deconvolution of the high-resolution N1s spectra(a-e) and Effect of pH on zeta-potential of 2K-700 (f)

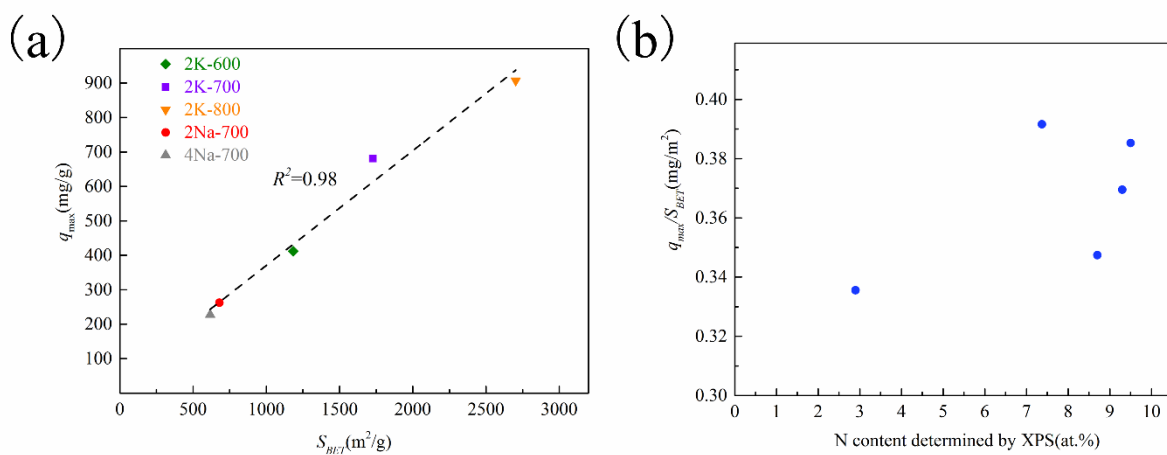


Figure S7 Effects of  $S_{BET}$  on the adsorption of SMX (a) Effect of nitrogen content on relative adsorption amount (b)

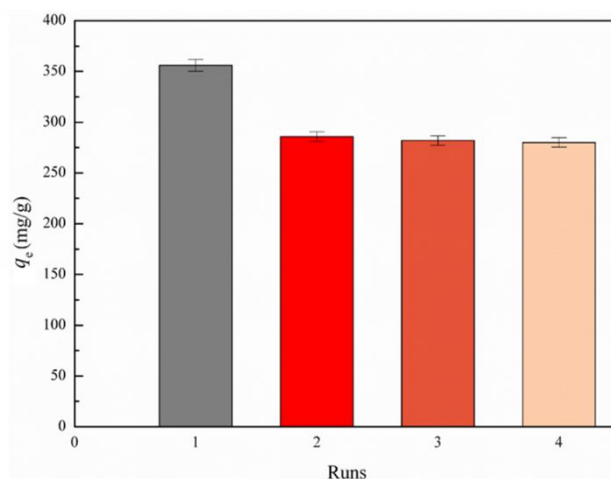


Figure S8 Recyclability of 2K-700 for adsorption of SMX from water.



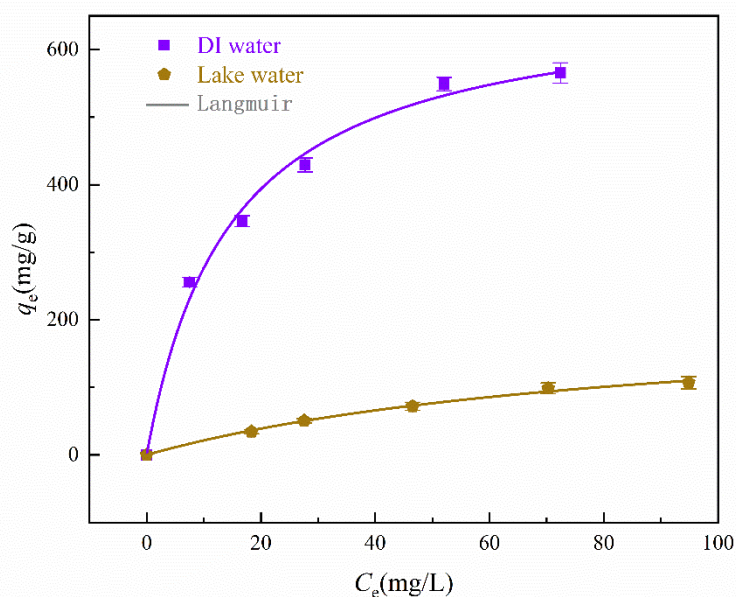


Figure S9. Effect of properties of the water matrices on adsorption of SMX by 2K-700.

Table S1 Pseudo-first-order and Pseudo-second-order models for SMX adsorption on 2K-700

Solution concentration (mg/L)	Exp. $q_e$ (mg/g)	Pseudo-first-order model			Pseudo-second-order model			
		Cal. $q_e$ (mg/g)	$k_1$ ( $10^{-1} \text{min}^{-1}$ )	$R^2$	Cal. $q_e$ (mg/g)	$k_2$ ( $10^{-3} \text{g}/(\text{mg}\cdot\text{min})$ )	$R^2$	$h$ (mg/(g·min))
20	281.7	270.9	2.668	0.786	285.0	1.500	0.930	121.88
50	439.3	423.1	2.927	0.778	442.2	1.130	0.922	221.00
100	594.3	577.3	3.283	0.862	603.8	0.901	0.971	328.29

Table S2 the Intra-particle diffusion constants for SMX adsorption on 2K-700

Solution concentration (mg/L)	Intra-particle-diffusion model					
	$k_1$ ( $\text{mg}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}\text{min}^{-0.5}$ )	$C_1$ (mg/g)	$R_1^2$	$k_2$ ( $\text{mg}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}\text{min}^{-0.5}$ )	$C_2$ (mg/g)	$R_2^2$
20	29.827	105.3	0.961	3.386	247.6	0.578
50	50.708	164.6	0.977	0.651	433.3	0.210
100	68.585	234.5	0.917	1.316	584.7	0.878

Table S3 Properties of the water matrices employed in this work <sup>a</sup>

	pH	TOC (mg/L)	UV254 (AU/cm)	Conductivity(mS/cm)
Lake water	8.60	8.25	0.1716	2.32

<sup>a</sup> Data reported in a just accepted work of the authors' research group (Chem. Eng. J, 2020, DOI: 10.1016/j.cej.2019.124009)

Table S4 The fitting parameters of Langmuir isotherm models

Sample	$q_{\max}(\text{mg}\cdot\text{g}^{-1})$	$K_L(\text{L}\cdot\text{mg}^{-1})$	$R^2$
DI	681.24	$6.84\times 10^{-2}$	0.992
Lake water	213.58	$1.11\times 10^{-2}$	0.995

Table S5 SMX adsorption capacity in comparison to previous reports

Adsorbents	$S_{\text{BET}}(\text{m}^2/\text{g})$	$q_{\max}(\text{mg}/\text{g})$	References
MOF-5-derived carbon calcined at 1000 °C	1731	625	[1]
Sulfonic acid functionalized biochar	-	425	[2]
Sulfonated coffee waste	-	406	[3]
Single-layer graphene oxide	>2000	240	[4]
ZIF-8-derived carbon calcined at 1000 °C	1855	435	[5]
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /CeO <sub>2</sub> loaded activated carbon	1536	60	[6]
Wood-based activated carbon	1541	329	[7]
Activated carbon with a membrane bioreactor	>1000	282	[8]
Organo-Vermiculites	7.6	74	[9]
Organo-montmorillonites	23.9	243	[10]
MIL-101(Cr)@GO	3352	101	[11]
MIL-101(Cr)	2338	182	[12]
Ag-FMWCNTs	-	119	[13]
Peanut shells	2	27	[14]
2K-700	1728	681	This work
2K-800	2703	907	This work

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