

## Supplementary information

### Mild hydrothermal treated brewer's spent grain for efficient removal of uranyl and rare earth metal ions

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**Fig. S9** Adsorption isotherms of (a) La<sup>3+</sup> onto BSG, (b) La<sup>3+</sup> onto ABSG, (c) Eu<sup>3+</sup> onto BSG, (d) Eu<sup>3+</sup> onto ABSG, (e) Yb<sup>3+</sup> onto BSG, (f) Yb<sup>3+</sup> onto ABSG, (g) UO<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup> onto BSG and (h) UO<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup> onto ABSG. For adsorption, 2 mg adsorbent/ 2 mL metal solution,  $c_0 = 100\text{--}600 \text{ mg/L}$ ,  $t_{\text{BSG}} = 2 \text{ h}$ ,  $t_{\text{ABSG}} = 1 \text{ h}$ , pH(UO<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup>) = 4.7, pH(La<sup>3+</sup>, Eu<sup>3+</sup>, Yb<sup>3+</sup>) = 5.7, T = 25 °C, 45 °C, 65 °C, stirrer speed = 180 rpm.

**Fig. S10** Langmuir model fitting of isotherms of (a) La<sup>3+</sup> onto BSG, (b) La<sup>3+</sup> onto ABSG, (c) Eu<sup>3+</sup> onto BSG, (d) Eu<sup>3+</sup> onto ABSG, (e) Yb<sup>3+</sup> onto BSG, (f) Yb<sup>3+</sup> onto ABSG, (g) UO<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup> onto BSG and (h) UO<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup> onto ABSG.

**Fig. S11**  $\ln K_e^0$  versus 1/T plot for thermodynamic parameters calculation (a) BSG and (b) ABSG.

**Fig. S12** (a-c) SEM image (1000x), EDX element mapping (20 kV/10 μA, 5000x, 25 frames) and distribution of La on La loaded-ABSG, (d-f) SEM image (1000x), EDX mapping (20 kV/10 μA, 1000x, 25 frames) and distribution of Eu on Eu loaded-ABSG and (g-i) SEM image (1000x), EDX mapping (20 kV/10 μA, 5000x, 25 frames) and distribution of Yb on Yb loaded-ABSG. For ion-loading: 50 mg ABSG/ 50 mL solution, pH= 5.7,  $c_0= 100 \text{ mg/L}$ , t = 1 h, room temperature.

**Table S1** Parameters of the mashing process to produce BSG.

Procedure	Initial temperature (°C)	End temperature (°C)	Time (min)
Mash-in	55	54.8	10
Protein rest	62	61.8	30
Maltose rest	68	67.8	10
Sugar rest	72	71.8	25
Mash-out	78	77.8	10

**Table S2** Elemental analysis of BSG-based adsorbents.

Sample	N (%)	C(%)	H(%)	S(%)	Mineral(%)	O(%)
BSG	5.1	49.1	6.1	0.3	1.3	38.1
ABSG-1 h, 150 °C	4.9	47.4	6.5	0.4	1.3	39.4
ABSG-4 h, 150 °C	4.5	48.5	7.6	0.2	1.3	38.0
ABSG-8 h, 150 °C	4.2	49.4	7.8	0.0	1.3	37.3
ABSG-16 h, 150 °C	5.0	53.4	6.8	0.3	1.6	32.8
ABSG-24 h, 150 °C	4.6	60.8	6.8	0.4	0.4	27.0
ABSG-16 h, 100 °C	4.4	48.2	7.3	0.2	1.2	38.7
ABSG-16 h, 125 °C	4.2	48.2	7.1	0.3	1.3	38.9
ABSG-16 h, 175 °C	4.1	63.0	6.2	0.3	0.3	26.0

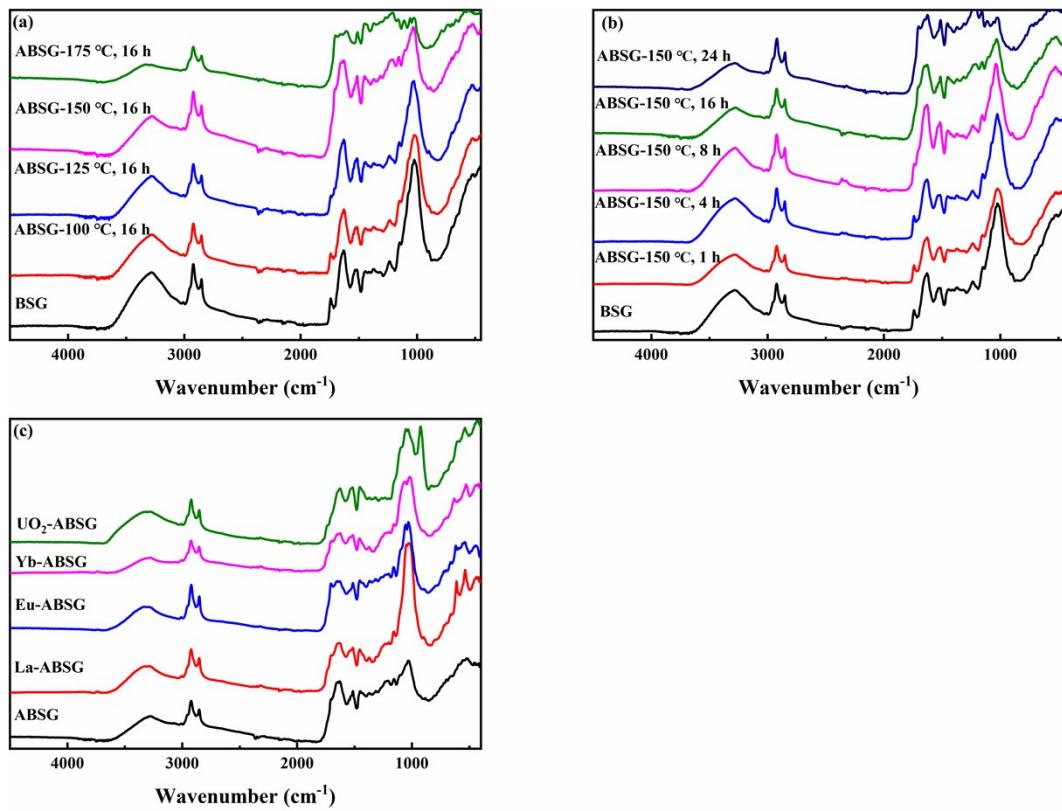
**Table S3** Mineral elements contents of BSG-based adsorbents.

Sample	Ca (mg/kg)	Mg (mg/kg)	P (mg/kg)	Si (mg/kg)	Fe (mg/kg)	K (mg/kg)	Mn (mg/kg)	Na (mg/kg)	Zn (mg/kg)
BSG	2669 ± 7	2509 ± 27	5861 ± 103	791 ± 7	240 ± 4	849 ± 9	41 ± 1	166 ± 11	139 ± 4
ABSG 150 °C, 1 h	2321 ± 43	2627 ± 48	5895 ± 56	625 ± 15	155 ± 1	816 ± 9	36 ± 0.1	92 ± 5	98 ± 4
ABSG 150 °C, 4 h	2481 ± 10	2714 ± 7	6066 ± 20	1033 ± 9	177 ± 3	729 ± 3	39 ± 1	58 ± 6	96 ± 2
ABSG 150 °C, 8 h	3065 ± 86	2343 ± 54	5127 ± 134	974 ± 36	195 ± 7	664 ± 18	39 ± 0.4	67 ± 5	122 ± 1
ABSG 150°C, 16 h	2717 ± 4	3201 ± 30	7737 ± 2	1077 ± 12	293 ± 0.1	1083 ± 12	52 ± 0.1	137 ± 2	154 ± 1
ABSG 150 °C, 24 h	2549 ± 62	191 ± 15	532 ± 44	281 ± 48	219 ± 12	120 ± 5	165 ± 3	62 ± 4	94 ± 1
ABSG 100 °C, 16 h	2174 ± 37	2205 ± 5	5283 ± 25	894 ± 14	163 ± 3	683 ± 8	35 ± 0.1	65 ± 2	105 ± 1
ABSG 125 °C, 16 h	2545 ± 42	2630 ± 51	5838 ± 107	1081 ± 12	159 ± 4	773 ± 14	41 ± 1	68 ± 5	124 ± 1
ABSG 175 °C, 16 h	1228 ± 35	333 ± 10	787 ± 68	288 ± 17	322 ± 7	53 ± 2	21 ± 0.2	170 ± 6	166 ± 2

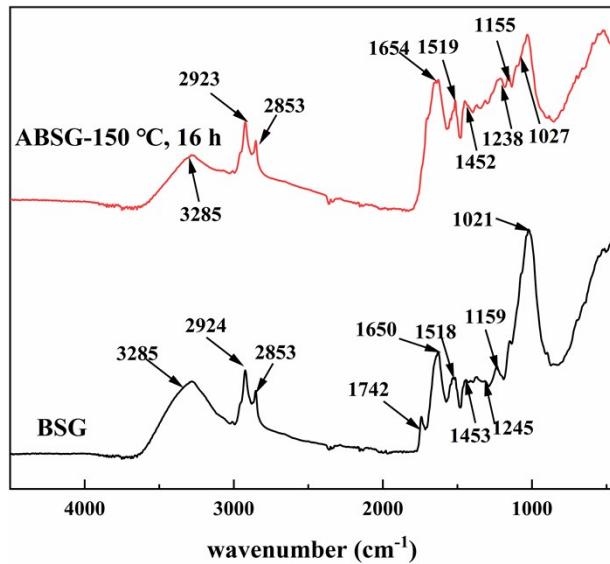
Errors are those obtained from the ICP measurements.

**Table S4** STA-GC-MS results of BSG (375–385 °C), ABSG (375–385 °C) and Yb-ABSG (340–360 °C). For STA, 20 °C/min, helium atmosphere. For GC, 35 °C for 3 min, increased with 5 °C/min until 220 °C, and hold at 220 °C for 3 min.

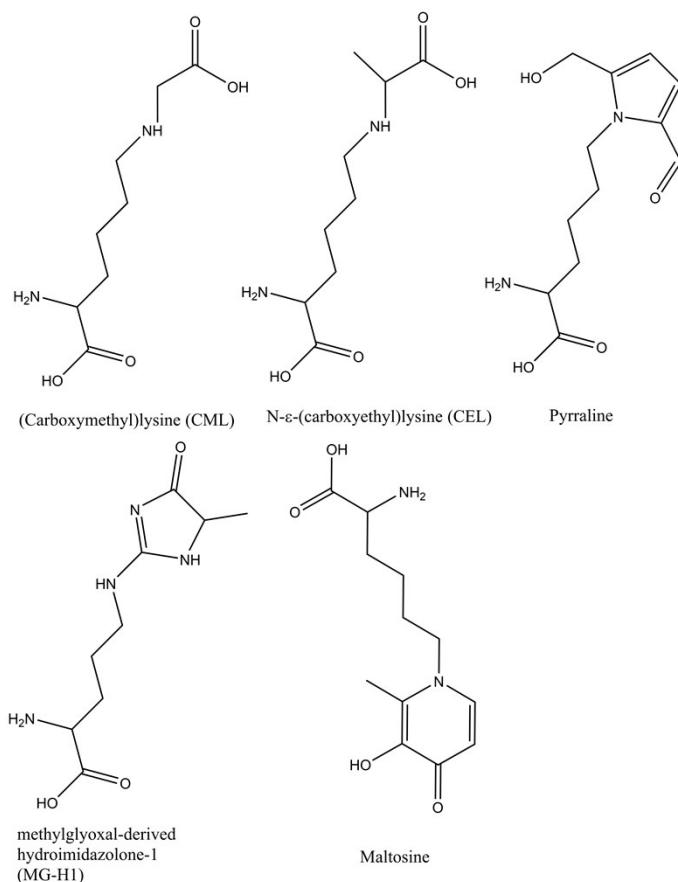
Name	Retention time (GC, min)	Formula	BSG, Area %	ABSG, Area %	Yb-ABSG, Area %
Carbondioxide	9.51	CO <sub>2</sub>	67.7	48.6	41.2
Water	9.78	H <sub>2</sub> O	25.4	43.8	39.7
Acetaldehyde	10.14	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O	0.2	0.2	0.3
Acetic anhydride	11.25	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.7	0.5	2.7
Hydroxyacetaldehyde	12.43	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	0.3	0.1	4.9
Acetic acid	13.04	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	0	1.3	2.7
2-Butanone	13.49	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O	0.4	0.3	0.8
3-Methylfuran	13.93	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O	1.5	1.8	1.3
2-methylfuran	14.01	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O	0.3	0.4	0.3
1-Hydroxypropan-2-one	15.14	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	1.2	0.2	1.9
3-Penten-2-one	15.92	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O	0.5	0.6	0.6
2,5-Dimethylfuran	17.38	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O	0.9	1.0	0.9
Pyridin	18.62	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>5</sub> N	0	0.6	1.1
Furfural	21.79	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	0.2	0.2	0.6
1,2-Cyclopentanedione	25.48	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	0.7	0.5	0.9



**Fig. S1** Raw FT-IR spectra of BSG-based adsorbents with varied (a) reaction temperature, (b) reaction time and with (c) metal adsorption. For ion-loading: 50 mg ABSG-150 °C, 16 h/ 50 mL solution, pH(La<sup>3+</sup>, Eu<sup>3+</sup>, Yb<sup>3+</sup>) = 5.7, pH(UO<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup>) = 4.7, c<sub>0</sub>(La<sup>3+</sup>, Eu<sup>3+</sup>, Yb<sup>3+</sup>) = 100 mg/L, c<sub>0</sub>(UO<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup>) = 300 mg/L, t = 1 h, room temperature.



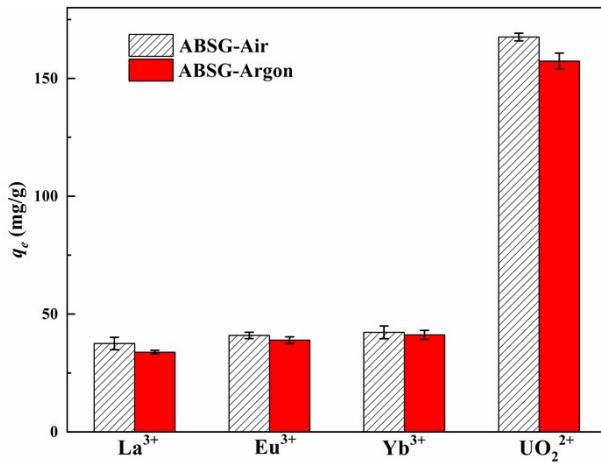
**Fig. S2** Raw FT-IR spectra of BSG and ABSG-150 °C, 16 h with bands position.



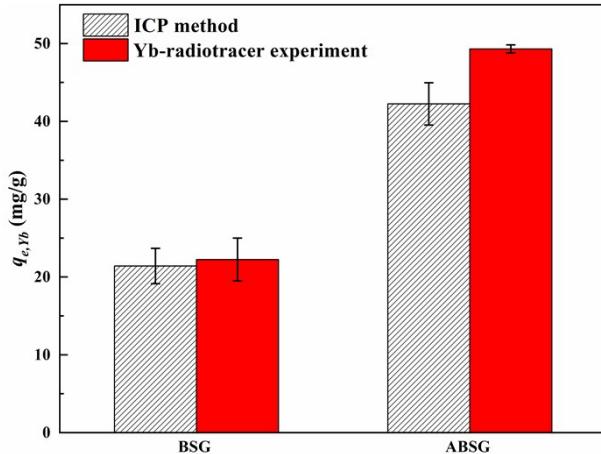
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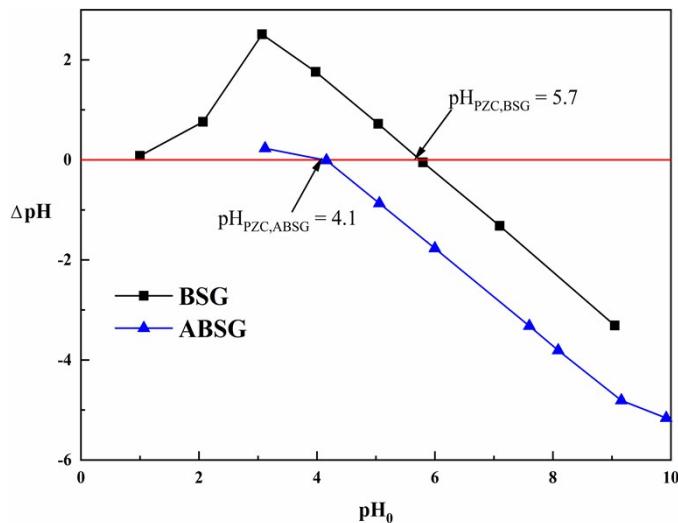
**Fig. S4** Pictures of BSG (left) and ABSG-150 °C, 16 h (right).



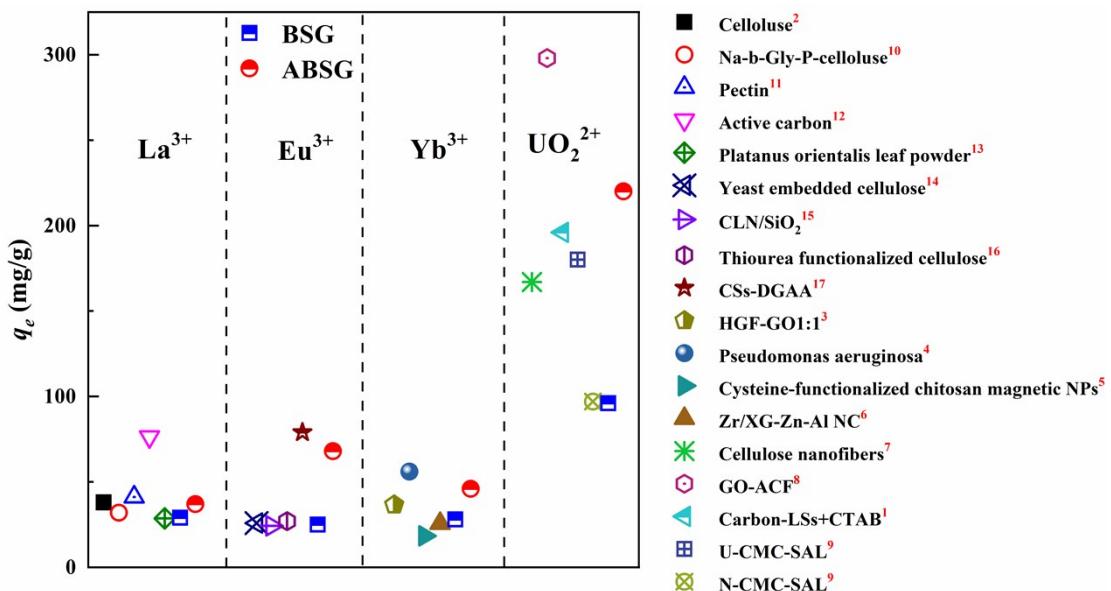
**Fig. S5** Adsorption capacity of  $\text{La}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Yb}^{3+}$  and  $\text{UO}_2^{2+}$  onto ABSG obtained employing air (ABSG-Air) and argon (ABSG-Ar) atmosphere. For hydrothermal treatment: 150 °C, 16 h. For adsorption: 2 mg adsorbent/ 2 mL solution,  $c_0(\text{La}^{3+}, \text{Eu}^{3+}, \text{Yb}^{3+}) = 100 \text{ mg/L}$ ,  $c_0(\text{UO}_2^{2+}) = 300 \text{ mg/L}$ , pH( $\text{La}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Yb}^{3+}$ ) = 5.7, pH( $\text{UO}_2^{2+}$ ) = 4.7, 1 h, room temperature.



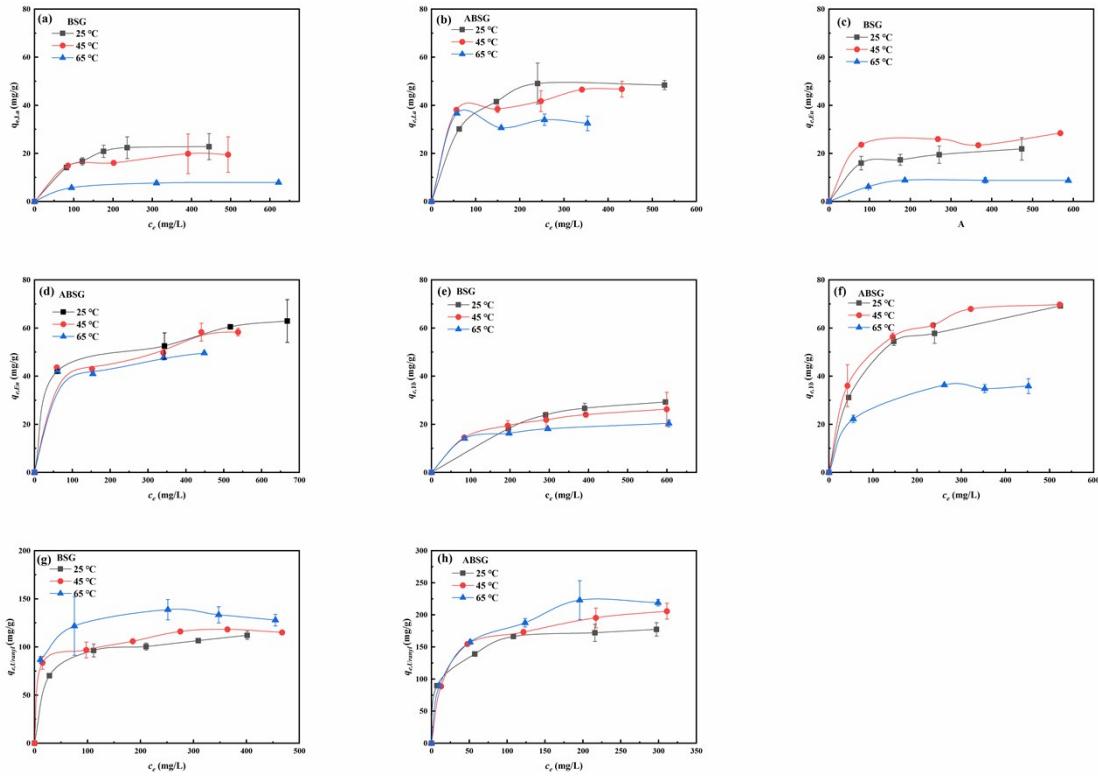
**Fig. S6** Comparison of  $\text{Yb}^{3+}$  adsorption capacity onto BSG and ABSG determined by ICP method and radiotracer method (1mg adsorbent/ 1 mL solution,  $c_0(\text{Yb}^{3+}) = 100 \text{ mg/L}$ , pH= 5.5, 2 h, room temperature).



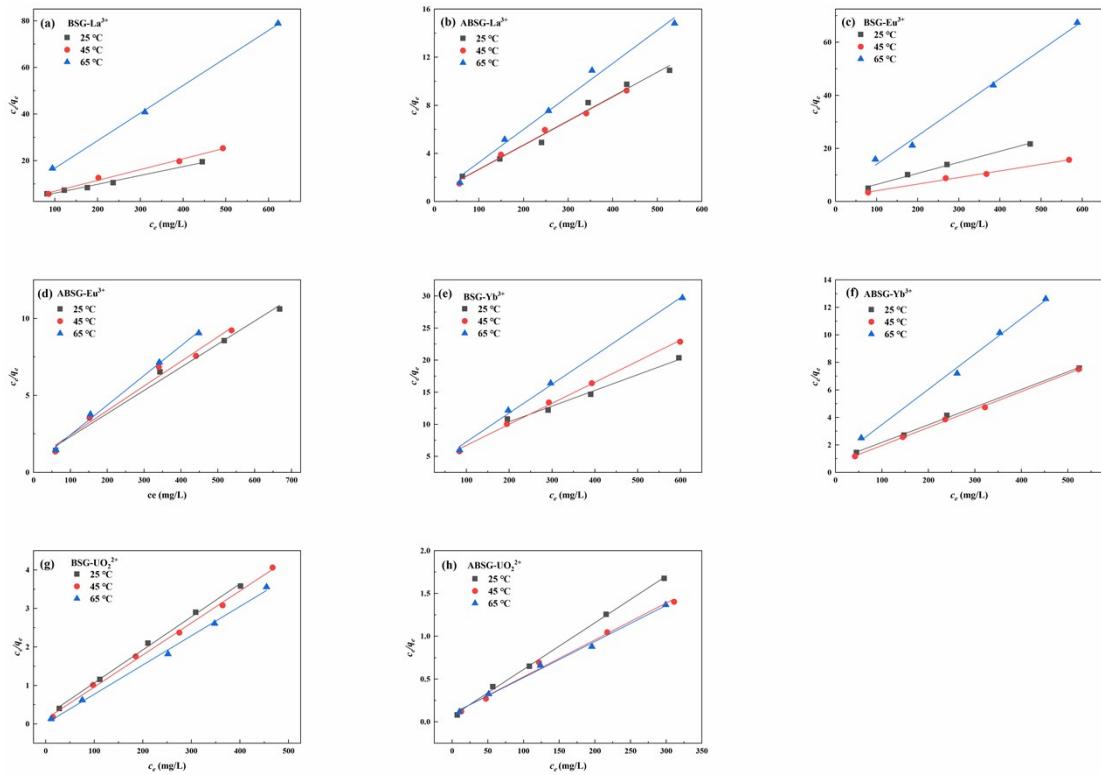
**Fig. S7** Effect of the starting pH on the difference pH of BSG and ABSG to determine the point of zero charge ( $\text{pH}_{\text{PZC}}$ ).



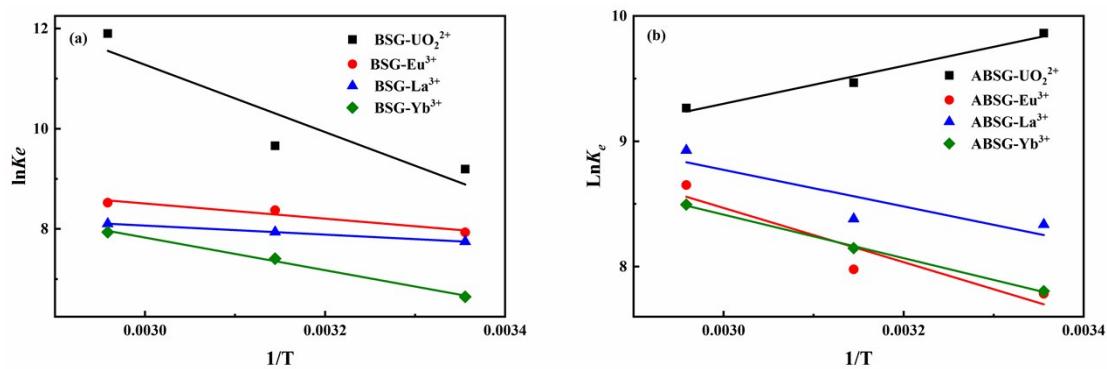
**Fig. S8** Comparison of different adsorbents in present study and literature.<sup>1-17</sup>



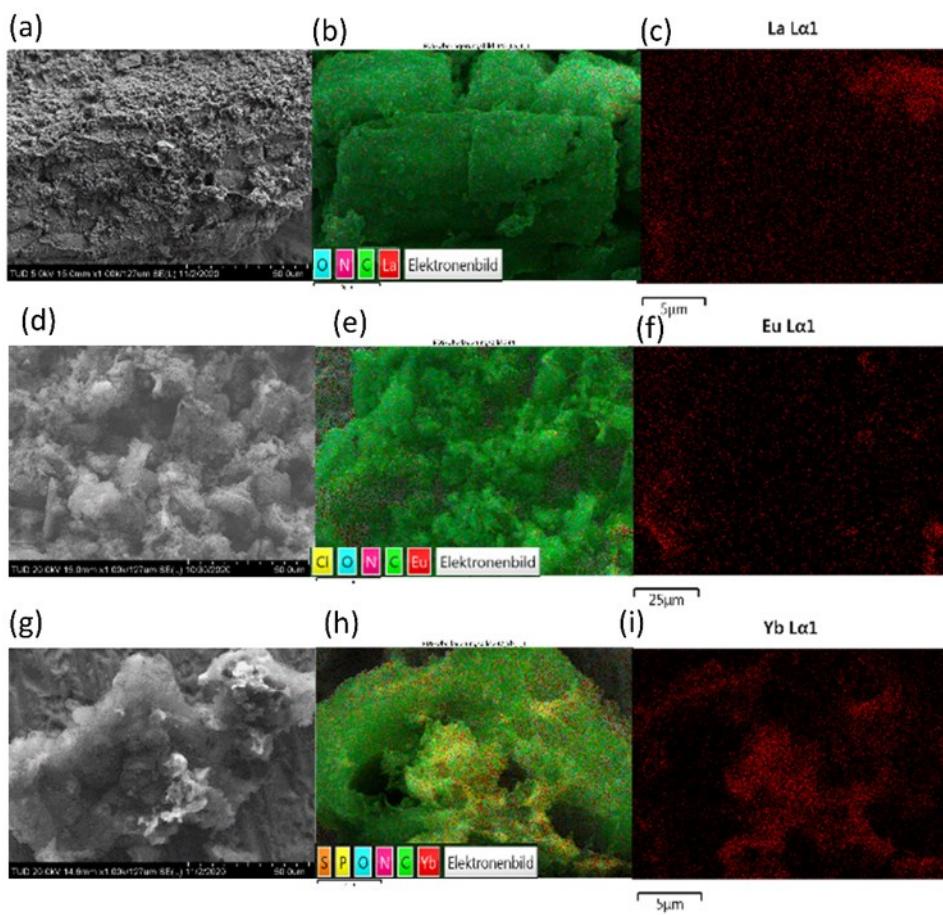
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**Fig. S11**  $\ln K_e^\theta$  versus  $1/T$  plot for thermodynamic parameter calculations for (a) BSG and (b) ABSG.



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