## Supplementary Material

# Efficient dye adsorption of mesoporous activated carbon from bamboo parenchyma cells by phosphoric acid activation

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## **TEXT S1**

The nitrogen adsorption/desorption isotherms of the samples were determined using a specific surface area and porosity analyzer (ASAP 2460, Mack Instruments, Inc. USA). Specific surface area was calculated by Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) method. Microporous volume and microporous area were determined using the t-plot method. Mesopore volume ( $V_{meso}$ ) and mesopore area ( $S_{meso}$ ) were calculated using the Barrett-Joyner-Halenda (BJH) method. An infrared spectrometer (IRTracer-100, Shimadzu Corporation, Japan) was utilized to study the surface functional groups of the samples before and after adsorption in the range of 4000-400 cm<sup>-1</sup>. We analyzed the activated carbon samples before and after adsorption using X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (ESCALAB 250XI+, Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA).

Fig.S1



The Fig. S1 shows the infrared spectra of phosphoric acid activated bamboo parenchyma cells based activated carbon prepared at different phosphoric acid impregnation concentrations. The peaks observed around 3400 cm<sup>-1</sup> on the absorption spectrum corresponded to the stretching vibrations of O-H bonds in carboxyl groups and hydroxyl groups of phenols. The peak observed at 1633 cm-1 fell within the range of 1600-1670 cm<sup>-1</sup>, suggesting the possible absorption of aromatic C=C or C=O. The symmetric and asymmetric telescopic vibrations of C-H, which represent -CH<sub>3</sub> and -CH<sub>2</sub> respectively, primarily caused the absorption peaks at 2923 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 2860 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The absorption peak observed at 1050-1250 cm<sup>-1</sup> suggests the presence of an asymmetric stretching vibration of C-O-C in carboxylic esters, as well as carbonoxygen bonding in the hydroxyl groups of phenols and alcohols. Of note were the

absorption peaks between 1000 and 750 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which were induced by stretching vibrations of C-O-P or P-O-P. This was probably attributed to esterifying or dehydrating -COOH/C-O groups on the surface of PPACs, which react with hydroxyl groups in H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> proving the effectiveness of H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> activation. The presence of three distinct but weak peaks at 877 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 812 cm<sup>-1</sup>, and 760 cm<sup>-1</sup> indicated the occurrence of out-of-plane C-H bending vibrations originating from the aromatic ring. These results suggest that by activating carbon through phosphoric acid, arylation can be facilitated and oxygen-containing functional groups can be introduced onto the activated carbon. This process ultimately leads to the formation of a composite structure composed of carbon, oxygen, and the skeletal framework of the aromatic ring.

| <b>G</b> 1 | Surface Area (m <sup>2</sup> /g) |                    |                   | Pore V             | Volume (cr         | Pore Size (nm)    |       |
|------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Sample     | $\mathbf{S}_{\mathrm{BET}}$      | S <sub>micro</sub> | S <sub>meso</sub> | V <sub>total</sub> | V <sub>micro</sub> | V <sub>meso</sub> | D     |
| PPAC-10C   | 1,534                            | 631                | 382               | 0.736              | 0.260              | 0.229             | 1.921 |
| PPAC-30C   | 923                              | 82                 | 704               | 1.152              | 0.026              | 0.976             | 4.996 |
| PPAC-50C   | 984                              | 194                | 657               | 1.549              | 0.078              | 1.391             | 6.300 |
|            |                                  |                    |                   |                    |                    |                   |       |

The specific surface area (SSA) and pore morphology of PPACs.

| Concentration of MB (mg·L <sup>-1</sup> ) |  | 100     | 200     | 300     | 400     | 500     |
|---|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Pseudo-                                   | $q_{el,cal} (\mathrm{mg} \cdot \mathrm{g}^{-1})$                       | 192.27  | 373.73  | 451.88  | 466.50  | 480.38  |
| first-order                               | $k_{1}$ (min <sup>-1</sup> )   | 0.0856  | 0.0309  | 0.0210  | 0.0454  | 0.0350  |
| model                                     | $R^2$  | 0.873   | 0.925   | 0.874   | 0.769   | 0.908   |
|   | $q_{el,exp} \left( \mathrm{mg} \cdot \mathrm{g}^{-1} \right)$          | 200.03  | 394.09  | 480.18  | 517.41  | 513.06  |
| second-                                   | $q_{e2,cal}(\mathrm{mg}\cdot\mathrm{g}^{-1})$                          | 200.01  | 392.39  | 473.05  | 488.06  | 503.86  |
| order                                     | $k_2(\min^{-1})$   | 0.00067 | 0.00013 | 0.00008 | 0.00015 | 0.00011 |
| model                                     | $R^2$  | 0.973   | 0.822   | 0.988   | 0.991   | 0.962   |
|   | $k_{idl}(\mathbf{m} \cdot (\mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{min}^{1/2})^{-1})$ | 17.003  | 30.157  | 37.737  | 30.230  | 44.748  |
|   | $C_l(mg/g)$  | 45.95   | 33.30   | 41.51   | 115.26  | 41.03   |
| Intra-<br>particle<br>diffusion<br>model  | $(R_{I})^{2}$  | 0.973   | 0.822   | 0.988   | 0.991   | 0.962   |
|   | $K_{id2}(\mathbf{m} \cdot (\mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{min}^{1/2})^{-1})$ | 7.827   | 11.664  | 16.895  | 6.034   | 9.813   |
|   | $C_2(mg/g)$  | 108.66  | 175.61  | 146.10  | 339.18  | 299.41  |
|   | $(R_2)^2$  | 0.912   | 0.969   | 0.985   | 0.999   | 0.988   |
|   | $K_{id3}(\mathbf{m} \cdot (\mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{min}^{1/2})^{-1})$ | 0.037   | 0.567   | 0.362   | 0.961   | 0.290   |
|   | $C_3(mg/g)$  | 198.62  | 371.33  | 460.44  | 477.10  | 494.03  |
|   | $(R_3)^2$  | 0.670   | 0.812   | 0.048   | 0.485   | 0.080   |

Comparison of the pseudo-first-order, pseudo-second-order and intraparticle diffusion model for different initial MB concentrations

# Fig.S2

Diagram of  $\Delta G^0$  versus T for MB on PPAC-30C for MB removal. As shown in Fig.S2, The linear fit of  $\Delta G^0$  to T yields the intercept and slope, which correspond to  $\Delta H0$  and  $\Delta S0$ , respectively.



| Contaminants | Temperatur | e (K)   | 298     | 308     | 318     |
|--------------|------------|---|---------|---------|---------|
|              |            | $K_L$ (L·mg <sup>-1</sup> )   | 1.417   | 1.097   | 1.314   |
| MB           | т ·        | $Q_{max}(mg \cdot g^{-1})$  | 516.82  | 552.21  | 576.43  |
|              | Langmuir   | $R_L^{\rm a} \times 10^2$   | 0.088   | 0.114   | 0.095   |
|              |            | $R^2$   | 0.994   | 0.983   | 0.988   |
|              |            | $K_F[\mathrm{mg}\cdot\mathrm{g}^{-1}\cdot(\mathrm{L}\cdot\mathrm{mg}^{-1})^{1/\mathrm{n}}]$ | 384.717 | 372.817 | 392.405 |
|              | Freundlich | 1/ <i>n</i>   | 0.053   | 0.071   | 0.071   |
|              |            | $R^2$   | 0.964   | 0.995   | 0.985   |

The detailed parameters of Langmuir and Freundlich isotherm Equations

### **TEXT S2**

Based on the equilibrium adsorption data of MB on PPAC at different temperatures and different initial concentrations of MB, we can calculate the thermodynamic parameters such as Gibbs free energy, enthalpy change, entropy change, etc., and from their positive and negative properties, we can judge whether the adsorption process is heat-absorbing or heat-expelling, whether the adsorption behaviors are spontaneous, and whether their disorder increases or decreases, and so on.

With the help of Gibbs—Helmholtz equation and Van't Hoff isothermal formula, we can derive the following two equations:

$$\Delta G^{0=}-RT \, lnkd \tag{1}$$

$$\Delta G^0 = \Delta H^0 - T \Delta S^0 \tag{2}$$

in which  $\Delta G^0$  is the Gibbs free energy (kJ/mol),  $\Delta H^0$  represents the enthalpy change (kJ/mol),  $\Delta S^0$  represents the entropy change (J/K\*mol), T represents the adsorption reaction temperature (K), R is the ideal gas constant (8.314 J/mol\*K), and k (mL/g) is the isothermal adsorption constant at a certain temperature, and the intercept of the line fitted by  $\ln(q_e/C_e)$  to  $C_e$  is lnk.

#### Table S4

| Temperature (K) | $\Delta G^0$ (kJ/mol) | $\Delta H^0$ (kJ/mol) | $\Delta S^0 (J/mol \cdot K)$ |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 298K            | -10.31                |                       |                              |
| 308K            | -10.79                | 8.39                  | 62.57                        |
| 318K            | -11.56                |                       |                              |
| 318K            | -11.36                |                       |                              |

Thermodynamic parameters of PPAC-30C for MB adsorption

| The Relative element content of C, N, O | , and P in PPAC-10C and PPAC-10C+MB |
|---|-------------------------------------|
|---|-------------------------------------|

| Samula      |       | Relative el | ement conte | nt (%) |       |
|-------------|-------|-------------|-------------|--------|-------|
| Sample      | С     | Ο           | Ν           | Р      | O/C   |
| PPAC-30C    | 88.61 | 9.21        | 1.12        | 1.06   | 10.39 |
| PPAC-30C+MB | 69.84 | 21.23       | 6.78        | 2.15   | 30.40 |

## Table S6

Results of the fits of C 1s region of PPACs prepared at different activation

| temperature |  |        |       |        |  |  |  |  |
|-------------|--|--------|-------|--------|--|--|--|--|
| Some log    | The central binding energy of C 1s spectrogram |        |       |        |  |  |  |  |
| Samples     | (I)  | (II)   | (III) | (IV)   |  |  |  |  |
| PPAC-30C    | 48.79%   | 31.25% | 8.12% | 11.84% |  |  |  |  |
| PPAC-30C+MB | 44.0%  | 39.4%  | 12.2% | 4.4%   |  |  |  |  |
|             |  |        |       |        |  |  |  |  |

## Table S7

| The b | inding        | energies | and 1 | relative | contents | of | C, N, | О, | and P | ' in | PPA | C-1 | 0C | and |
|-------|---------------|----------|-------|----------|----------|----|-------|----|-------|------|-----|-----|----|-----|
|       | $\mathcal{O}$ | 0        |       |          |          |    |       |    |       |      |     |     |    |     |

| Peak                    |                         | PPA     | C-30C    | PPAC-30C+MB |          |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------|----------|-------------|----------|--|--|--|--|
|                         | Assignments             | Binding | Relative | Binding     | Relative |  |  |  |  |
|                         | Assignments             | energy  | content  | energy      | content  |  |  |  |  |
|                         |                         | (eV)    | (%)      | (eV)        | (%)      |  |  |  |  |
|                         | C-C/C-H                 | 284.8   | 48.79    | 284.8       | 44.0     |  |  |  |  |
| C 1s                    | C-OH                    | 285.2   | 31.25    | 285.6       | 39.4     |  |  |  |  |
|                         | C=O                     | 286.8   | 8.12     | 286.6       | 12.2     |  |  |  |  |
|                         | O-C=O                   | 288.9   | 11.84    | 288.8       | 4.4      |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathbf{N} 1_{\alpha}$ | -N=                     |         |          | 399.5       | 36.5     |  |  |  |  |
| IN IS                   | -NH-                    | 400.7   | 96       | 400.5       | 40.8     |  |  |  |  |
|                         | Nitrogen oxide          |         |          | 402.6       | 1.8      |  |  |  |  |
|                         | Nitroorganics           | 405.5   | 4        | 405.1       | 20.9     |  |  |  |  |
| 0.1-                    | -P-O                    | 530.1   | 35.1     | 530.17      | 4.5      |  |  |  |  |
| U IS                    | -C=O/-C=P               | 531.54  | 29.7     | 531.67      | 34.5     |  |  |  |  |
|                         | -С-ОН/-С-О-Р            | 532.5   | 17       | 533.24      | 44       |  |  |  |  |
|                         | -COOH                   | 534     | 18.2     | 534.04      | 17.1     |  |  |  |  |
| P 2p                    | Phosphate/pyrophosphate | 132.7   | 85       | 133.08      | 46.5     |  |  |  |  |
|                         | Metaphosphate           | 134.5   | 15       | 134.3       | 53.5     |  |  |  |  |





Figure S3 shows the changes in adsorption and removal rate of PPAC-30C with ethanol as solution after five cycles. After the first cycle, the adsorption capacity of PPAC-30C decreased to 72%, probably due to the fact that the surface adsorption sites of the activated carbon were partially consumed and partially occupied by the uneluted MB molecules, and therefore could not be further adsorbed. Overall, PPAC-30C itself can be regenerated and reused several times, but the utilization value is not high.

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