

Supporting Information

Ultra-efficient perfluorooctanoic acid capture enabled by a novel MOF-derived Cu/Zn bimetallic spherical porous carbon

Kunpeng Xue^{a,b}, Heng Lin^a, Dan Cao^c, Na Ma^c, Wei Dai^{a,*}, and Limin Zhang^{d,*}

^a *Key Laboratory of the Ministry of Education for Advanced Catalysis Materials, College of Chemistry and Materials Science, Zhejiang Normal University, Jinhua 321004, People's Republic of China*

^b *One Two Chromatography Technology (Zhejiang) Co., Ltd, Jinhua 321000, People's Republic of China*

^c *College of Geography and Environmental Sciences, Zhejiang Normal University, Jinhua, 321004, PR China*

^d *School of Environment, Jiangsu Province Engineering Research Center of Environmental Risk Prevention and Emergency Response Technology, Jiangsu Engineering Lab of Water and Soil Eco-remediation, Nanjing Normal University, No. 1 Wen yuan Road, Nanjing, Jiangsu, 210023 P.R. China*

^e *unit of Jinhua Customs Comprehensive Technology Service Center, No. 1000, Songlian Road, Jindong District, Jinhua City, Zhejiang Province*

321015

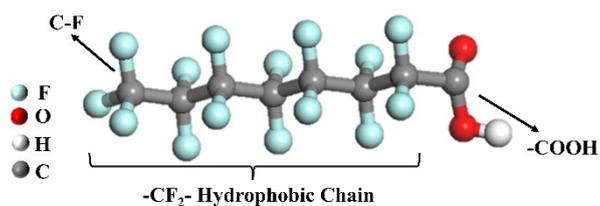
*Heng Lin equally contributed to this work as Kunpeng Xue, and they are both first authors.

2.1. Chemicals and characterization equipment

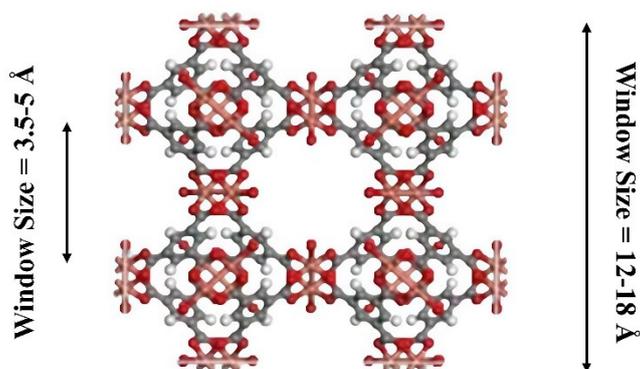
Copper nitrate trihydrate ($\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$, >99.0%), zinc nitrate hexahydrate ($\text{Zn}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, >99.0%), trimesic acid ($\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{O}_6$, >99.0%), polyvinylpyrrolidone ($(\text{C}_6\text{H}_9\text{NO})_n$, >99.0%), glucose ($\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6$, >99.0%), N,N-dimethylformamide ($\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{NO}$, >99.0%), ethanol ($\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$, >99.0%), methanol (CH_3OH , >99.0%), sodium hydroxide (NaOH , >96.0%), hydrochloric acid (HCl , >36.0%), perchloric acid (HClO_4 , >65.0%), nitric acid (HNO_3 , >65.0%), sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4 , >65.0%) were purchased from China Pharmaceutical Chemical Reagent Co..

The surface morphology, characteristics, and the synthesized samples' elemental composition were observed using scanning electron microscopy (SEM, GeminiSEM300, DE) and energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS, OXFORD X-Max, UK). The structure and crystal phases of the materials were identified using X-ray diffraction (XRD, D8 Advance, Bruker, DE) within the range of $5^\circ < 2\theta < 80^\circ$. The samples were prepared using the potassium bromide method, and Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR, Nicolet NEXUS 670, Thermo, U.S.) was employed to analyze the surface functional groups of the adsorbent. Quantitative analysis of N_2 adsorption-desorption data was conducted at 77.15 K using an Autosorb-IQ analyzer (Micromeritics, ASAP2020, U.S.) to assess the pore volume, specific surface area, and pore size distribution of the adsorption material. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) was employed to determine the samples' elemental composition and chemical states (XPS, Escalab 250XI, Thermo, U.S.). The zeta potential of the adsorption

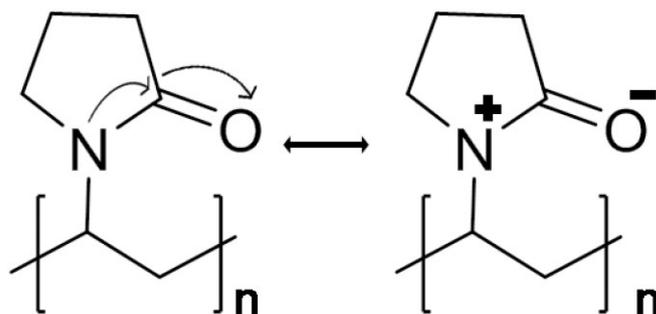
material was measured using a Zetasizer Nano ZS (Malvern, UK), with water as the dispersant. Before measurement, the samples were heated at 373.15 K under vacuum for 12 hours to remove moisture and impurities.



Scheme S1 PFOA stick model diagram.



Scheme S2 Perspective view of the topology of SPC (Cu/Zn-BTC).



Scheme S3 Resonance structure of PVP.

Table S1 The main properties and structure of perfluorooctanoic acid.

Organic pollutants	Molecular structure	Molecular formula	Molecular dimension	pKa
Perfluorooctanoic acid		C ₈ HF ₁₅ O ₂	1.05×0.5×0.6 nm	-0.5

Table S2 The high-performance liquid chromatography chart of perfluorooctanoic acid.

Retention period (min)	Area (μV*s)	high degree (μV)	breadth (s)	trailing tail	Theoretical plate number
6.22	263807	37700706	33.00	1.21	18116

Table S3 Structural properties of SPC(5-(Cu/Zn-BTC)) samples.

Sample	S _{BET} (m ² /g)	V _{total} (cm ³ /g)	Average pore diameter (nm)
SPC(Cu-BTC)	998	0.42	2.05
SPC(Zn-BTC)	683	0.31	3.62

SPC(5-(Cu/Zn-BTC))

901

0.52

4.02

Table S4 Adsorption isotherm models used in this study and their linear forms.

Isotherm	Nonlinear form	Linear form	Plot
Langmuir	$q_e = \frac{K_L C_e}{1 + K_L C_e}$	$\frac{C_e}{q_e} = \frac{1}{q_L \cdot K_L} + \left(\frac{1}{q_L}\right) \cdot C_e$	$\frac{C_e}{q_e}$ versus C_e
Freundlich	$q_e = K_f C_e^{\frac{1}{n}}$	$\ln q_e = \ln K_f + \left(\frac{1}{n}\right) \cdot \ln C_e$	$\ln q_e$ versus $\ln C_e$
Temkin	$e^{q_e} = (K_T C_e)^{\frac{RT}{b_T}}$	$q_e = \frac{RT}{b_T} \ln K_T + \frac{RT}{b_T} \ln C_e$	q_e versus $\ln C_e$
D-R	$q_e = q_s e^{(-K_D \varepsilon^2)}$	$\ln q_e = \ln q_s - K_D \varepsilon^2$ $E = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2K_D}}$	$\ln q_e$ versus ε^2

Where q_e is the capacity of

mg/g; K_L is a constant related to the affinity of the binding sites in L/mg; ' K_f ' and ' n ' are the measures of adsorption capacity and intensity of adsorption; R is the universal gas constant; b_T is related to the heat of adsorption in kJ/mol. T is the absolute temperature in K; R is the universal gas constant; K_T is the Temkin constant about the capacity of adsorption in L/g; q_s is the D-R isotherm constant in mg/g; K_D stands for the constant that is relevant to the adsorption energy in mol²/kJ²; ε represents the Polanyi potential constant in kJ/mol.

Table S5 Summary of fitting parameters of the adsorption isotherm model of PFOA by SPC(Cu-BTC) and others.

Samples	Langmuir			Freundlich			Temkin			D-R		
	$C_e/q_e=(1/q_{max})*C_e+1/(K_L*q_{max})$			$\ln q_e=\ln K_f+(1/n)*\ln C_e$			$q_e=RT/b_T*\ln K_T(C_e)$			$\ln q_e=\ln q_s-K_D\varepsilon^2$		
	q_m (mg/g)	K_L (L/mg)	R^2	K_f (L/g)	n	R^2	b_T (J/mol)	K_T (L/mg)	R^2	q_s (mg/g)	K_D (10 ⁻³ mol ² /kJ ²)	R^2
SPC(Cu-BTC)	223.71	0.0154	0.9943	8.7921	1.8752	0.8980	57.1364	0.2103	0.9769	128.1378	0.0144	0.7015
SPC(Zn-BTC)	289.12	0.0070	0.9853	8.4637	1.7213	0.9256	38.5023	0.1342	0.9737	165.6832	0.0249	0.6568
SPC(5-(C/Z-BTC))	458.11	0.0084	0.9921	12.6742	1.7289	0.9326	24.3652	0.1162	0.9825	256.3523	0.0362	0.6391

Table S6 Comparison of adsorption capacity of different adsorbents for PFOA.

Adsorbent	PFOA		References
	adsorption capacity (mg/g)	Adsorption equilibrium time (h)	
MIL-101(Cr)	460	1	1
MIL-101(Cr)-NH ₂	290	1	1
MIL-101(Cr)-NMe ₂	493	1	1
MIL-101(Cr)-DMEN	534	1	1
MIL-101-Cr-QDMEN	754	1	1
ZIF-7	22	1	2
ZIF-8	177	2	2
ZIF-L	244	2	2
UiO-66	388	1	3
UiO-66-F4	467	1	3
UiO-67	743	1	3
MIL-125-NH ₂	42	4	4
MIL-100-Fe	427	1.5	5
MIL-101-Fe	490	1.5	5
MIL-96-RHPAM2	340	186	6
NU-1000	507	0.5	7
PCN-999	1089	12	8
F-MOF	420	1/3	9
DUT-5-2	92	10	10
DFB-CDP	33	13	11
MWNTs	140	3	12
FCX4-P	189	2	13
AC	53	33.5	14
All-silica Beta (β)	371	6	15
CZDM-3	627	1	16
CMs	303	4	17
OMC-900	87	/	18
SPC(5-(C/Z-BTC))	460	2	This work

Table S7 Adsorption kinetic equations.

Name	Equations
Pseudo-first order model	$\ln (q_e - q_t) = \ln (q_{e,cal}) - K_1 t$
Pseudo-second order model	$\frac{t}{q_t} = \frac{1}{K_2 q_e^2} + \frac{t}{q_e}$
Intra-particle diffusion model	$q_t = K_3 t^{1/2}$
Dunwald-Wagnen diffusion model	$\ln (1 - E^2) = -kt$ $k = \frac{\pi^2}{R_p^2} D_{iq}$

where q_e and q_t (mg/g) are the sulfur uptake capacities at equilibrium and at time t (min), respectively, K_1 (1/min) is the adsorption rate constant, K_2 ($\text{g} \cdot \text{mg}^{-1} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$) is the rate constant of the second-order equation, K_3 ($\text{mg} \cdot \text{g}^{-1} \cdot \text{min}^{-1/2}$) is the intra-particle diffusion rate constant.

Samples	Pseudo-first-order kinetic model				Pseudo-second-order kinetic model					Intra-particle diffusion model				
	$\ln(q_e - q_t) = \ln(q_{e,cal}) - K_1 t$				$t/q_t = 1/(K_2 * q_e^2) + t/q_e$					$qt = K_3 t^{0.5} + C$				
	$q_{e,exp}$ (mg/g)	$q_{e,cal}$ (mg/g)	K_1 (1/min)	R^2	Δq (mg/g)	Δq (%)	$q_{e,cal}$ (mg/g)	K_2 (g/mg•min)	R^2	Δq (mg/g)	Δq (%)	C (mg/g)	K_3 (mg/g Min ^{1/2})	R^2
SPC(Cu-BTC)	210.35	85.61	0.0157	0.4938	124.74	59.30	233.62	0.0002	0.9681	23.27	11.06	40.67	13.11	0.7337
SPC(Zn-BTC)	291.57	217.02	0.0211	0.6726	74.55	25.57	353.4	0.0001	0.9419	61.83	21.21	15.05	20.86	0.8538
SPC(5-(C/Z-BTC))	427.39	722.51	0.0241	0.8409	295.12	59.15	534.83	0.0003	0.9256	107.44	25.14	53.79	33.95	0.9670

Table S8 Kinetics parameters on the adsorption of PFOA in solution by SPC(Cu-BTC) and others.

Table S9 Diffusion coefficients of PFOA adsorbed onto SPC(Cu-BTC), SPC(Zn-BTC) and SPC(5-(C/Z-BTC)).

Samples	K (min ⁻¹)	D_{iq} (*10 ⁻¹² cm ² /s)
SPC(Cu-BTC)	0.008	0.018
SPC(Zn-BTC)	0.079	0.020
SPC(5-(Cu/Zn-BTC))	0.274	0.025

Table S10 Adsorption thermodynamic parameters equations.

Name	Equations
Gibbs equation	$\Delta G = -RT \ln K_d$
Van 't Hoff equation	$\ln K_d = -\frac{\Delta H}{RT} + \frac{\Delta S}{R}$

where ΔG (KJ·mol⁻¹) is the change in Gibbs free energy for the adsorption reaction, ΔH (KJ·mol⁻¹) is the change in enthalpy of adsorption, ΔS (J·mol⁻¹·K⁻¹) is the change in entropy of adsorption, K_d (L·mg⁻¹) is the adsorption equilibrium constant, substituting the value of K_L (L·mg⁻¹), R is the universal gas constant (8.314 J·mol⁻¹·K⁻¹), T is the temperature (K).

Sample	T (K)	ΔG (KJ·mol ⁻¹)	Ln(K)	ΔH (KJ·mol ⁻¹)	ΔS (J·mol ⁻¹ ·K ⁻¹)
	298.15	-0.032	0.01		
SPC(5-(Cu/Zn-BTC))	308.15	0.296	-0.12	-16.633	-55.060
	318.15	0.603	-0.23		

Table S11 Thermodynamics adsorption parameters of PFOA onto SPC(5-(C/Z-BTC)).

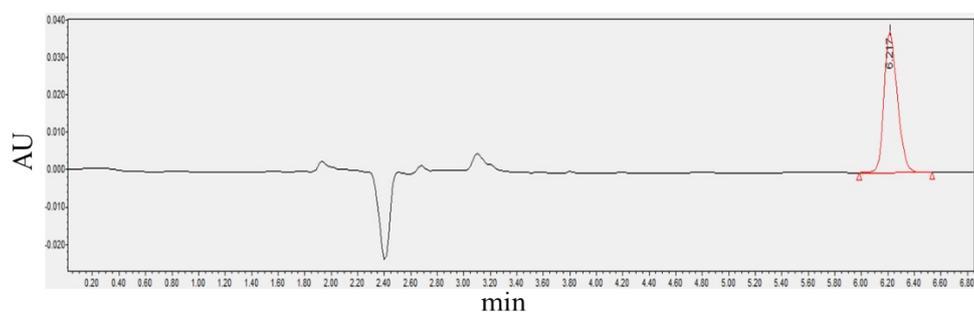


Fig. S1 The high-performance liquid chromatography chart of perfluorooctanoic acid.

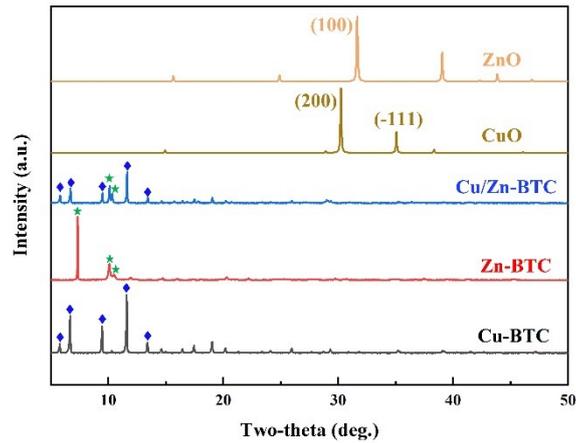


Fig. S2 XRD patterns and simulated curves.

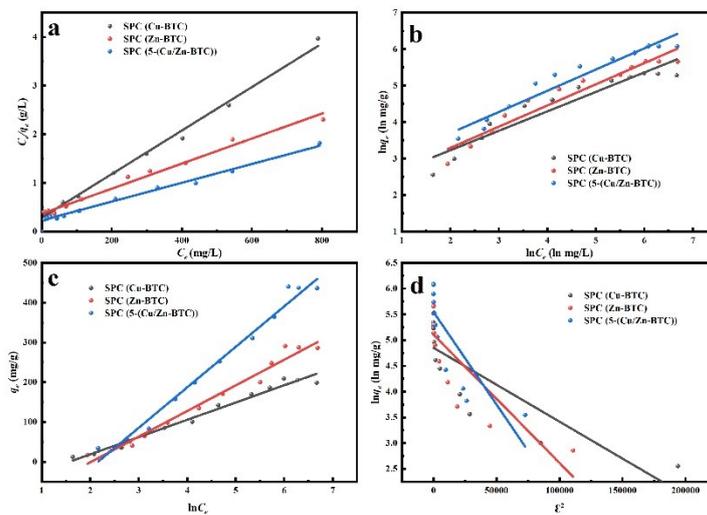


Fig. S3 The Langmuir (a), Freundlich (b), Temkin (c), and D-R (d) linear adsorption isotherm models of SPC(Cu-BTC), SPC(Zn-BTC), and SPC(5-(Cu/Zn-BTC)) for PFOA were established.

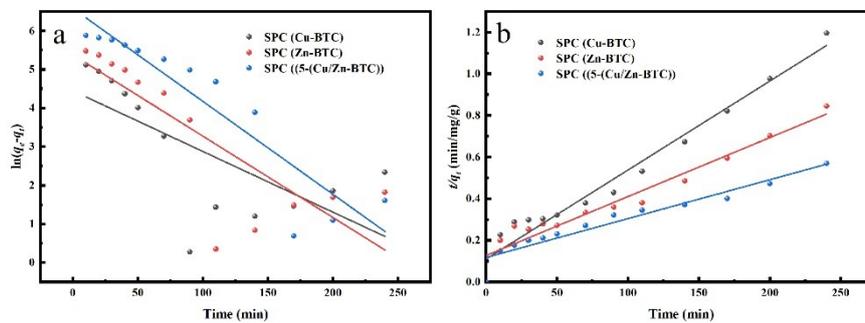


Fig. S4 The pseudo-first-order (a) and pseudo-second-order (b) kinetic models of PFOA adsorption on SPC(Cu-BTC), SPC(Zn-BTC), and SPC(5-(Cu/Zn-BTC)) were established.

REFERENCES

- 1 K. Liu, S. Zhang, X. Hu, K. Zhang, A. Roy and G. Yu, Understanding the adsorption of PFOA on MIL-101 (Cr)-based anionic-exchange metal–organic frameworks: comparing DFT calculations with aqueous sorption experiments, *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, 2015, **49**(14), 8657-8665.
- 2 M.-J. Chen, A.-C. Yang, N.-H. Wang, H.-C. Chiu, Y.-L. Li, D.-Y. Kang and S.-L. Lo, Influence of crystal topology and interior surface functionality of metal-organic frameworks on PFOA sorption performance, *Microporous Mesoporous Mater.*, 2016, **236**, 202-210.
- 3 K. Sini, D. Bourgeois, M. Idouhar, M. Carboni and D. Meyer, Metal–organic framework sorbents for the removal of perfluorinated compounds in an aqueous environment, *New J. Chem.*, 2018, **42**(22), 17889-17894.
- 4 R. Li, N.N. Adarsh, H. Lu and M. Wriedt, Metal-organic frameworks as platforms for the removal of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances from contaminated waters, *Matter*, 2022, **5**(10), 3161-3193.
- 5 Y. Yang, Z. Zheng, W. Ji, J. Xu and X. Zhang, Insights to perfluorooctanoic acid adsorption micro-mechanism over Fe-based metal organic frameworks: Combining computational calculation with response surface methodology, *J. Hazard. Mater.*, 2020, **395**, 122686.
- 6 L.H.M. Azmi, D.R. Williams and B.P. Ladewig, Polymer-assisted modification of metal-organic framework MIL-96 (Al): influence of HPAM concentration on particle size, crystal morphology, and removal of harmful environmental pollutant PFOA, *Chemosphere*, 2021, **262**, 128072.
- 7 R. Li, S. Alomari, R. Stanton, M.C. Wasson, T. Islamoglu, O.K. Farha, T.M. Holsen, S.M. Thagard, D.J. Trivedi, M. Wriedt, Efficient removal of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances from water with zirconium-based metal–organic frameworks, *Chem. Mater.*, 2021, **33**(9), 3276-3285.
- 8 R.-R. Liang, S. Xu, Z. Han, Y. Yang, K.-Y. Wang, Z. Huang, J. Rushlow, P. Cai, P. Samori and H.-C. Zhou, Exceptionally high perfluorooctanoic acid uptake in water by a zirconium-based metal–organic framework through synergistic chemical and physical adsorption, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2024, **146**(14), 9811-9818.
- 9 S.-Y. Ma, J. Wang, L. Fan, H.-L. Duan and Z.-Q. Zhang, Preparation of a fluorinated metal-organic framework and its application for the dispersive solid-phase extraction of perfluorooctanoic acid, *J. Chromatogr. A*, 2020, **1611**, 460616.
- 10 Y. Hu, M. Guo, S. Zhang, W. Jiang, T. Xiu, S. Yang, M. Kang, Z. Dongye, Z. Li and L. Wang, Microwave synthesis of metal-organic frameworks adsorbents (DUT-5-2) for the removal of PFOS and PFOA from aqueous solutions, *Micropor. Mesopor. Mater.*, 2022, **333**, 111740.
- 11 L. Xiao, Y. Ling, A. Alsbaiee, C. Li, D.E. Helbling and W.R. Dichtel, β -Cyclodextrin polymer network sequesters perfluorooctanoic acid at environmentally relevant concentrations, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2017, **139**(23), 7689-7692.
- 12 X. Li, H. Zhao, X. Quan, S. Chen, Y. Zhang and H. Yu, Adsorption of ionizable organic contaminants on multi-walled carbon nanotubes with different oxygen contents, *J. Hazard. Mater.*, 2011, **186**(1), 407-415.
- 13 D. Shetty, I. Jahovic, T. Skorjanc, T.S. Erkal, L. Ali, J. Raya, Z. Asfari, M.A. Olson, S. Kirmizialtin and A.O. Yazaydin, Rapid and efficient removal of perfluorooctanoic acid from water with fluorine-rich calixarene-based porous polymers, *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces*, 2020, **12**(38), 43160-43166.
- 14 D. Zhang, Q. Luo, B. Gao, S.-Y.D. Chiang, D. Woodward and Q. Huang, Sorption of perfluorooctanoic acid, perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluoroheptanoic acid on granular activated carbon, *Chemosphere*, 2016, **144**, 2336-2342.
- 15 M. Van den Bergh, A. Krajnc, S. Voorspoels, S.R. Tavares, S. Mullens, I. Beurroies, G. Maurin,

- G. Mali and D.E. De Vos, Highly selective removal of perfluorinated contaminants by adsorption on all-silica zeolite beta, *Angew. Chem.*, 2020, **132**(33), 14190-14194.
- 16 H. Lin, Z. Xia, K. Xue, X. Zhou, Y. Yao, N. Ma and W. Dai, Synergistically enhanced capture of perfluorooctanoic acid using a novel dual metal-organic framework adsorbent, *Particuology*, 2025, **132**(33), 130-142.
- 17 A. Sánchez-Yepes, A.P. Ferreira, A. Santos, A. Romero, H.T. Gomes and D. Lorenzo, Novel Carbon-Based Materials for Sustainable Water Treatment: Perfluorooctanoic Acid Adsorption and Adsorbent Regeneration via Thermally Activated Persulfate Oxidation, *J. Environ. Chem. Eng.*, 2025, 120084.
- 18 X. Lei, L. Yao, Q. Lian, X. Zhang, T. Wang, W. Holmes, G. Ding, D.D. Gang and M.E. Zappi, Enhanced adsorption of perfluorooctanoate (PFOA) onto low oxygen content ordered mesoporous carbon (OMC): Adsorption behaviors and mechanisms, *J. Hazard. Mater.*, 2022, **421**, 126810.