

## Supplementary Material

### **Adsorption behaviors of cationic methylene blue and anionic reactive blue 19 dyes onto nano-carbon adsorbent carbonized from small precursors**

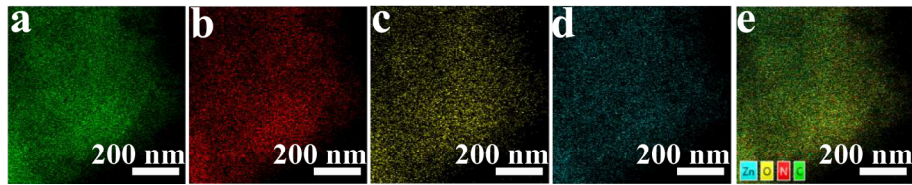
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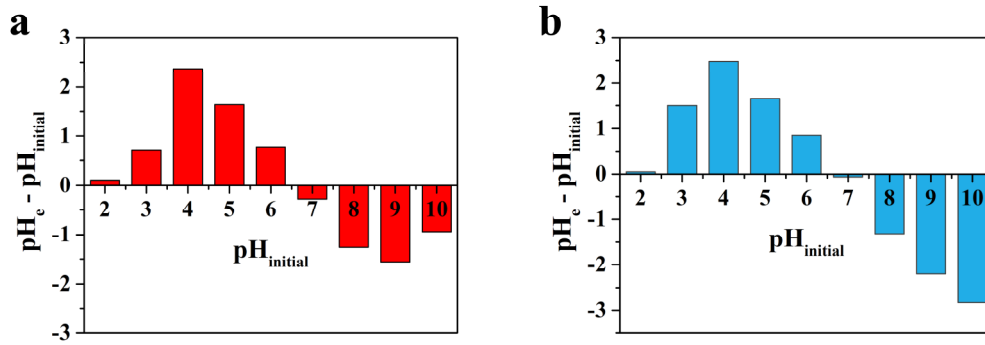
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**Figure S1.** The TEM EDS spectrum of N-CM: (a) C, (b) N, (c) O, and (d) Zn elements, and (e) the overlay image of these four elements.

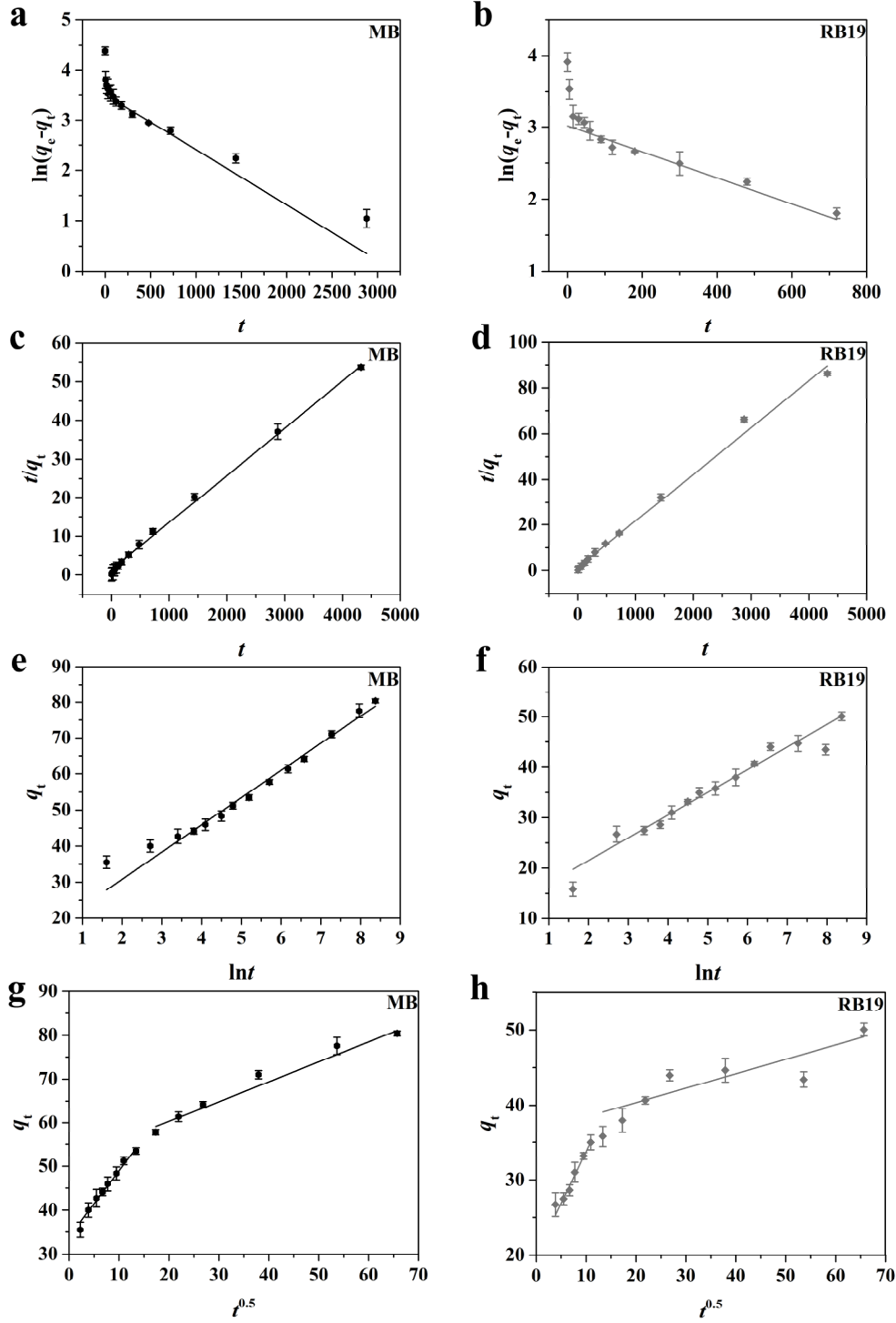


**Figure S2.** The pH variations between equilibrium and initiate pHs for (a) MB and (b) RB19 adsorption.

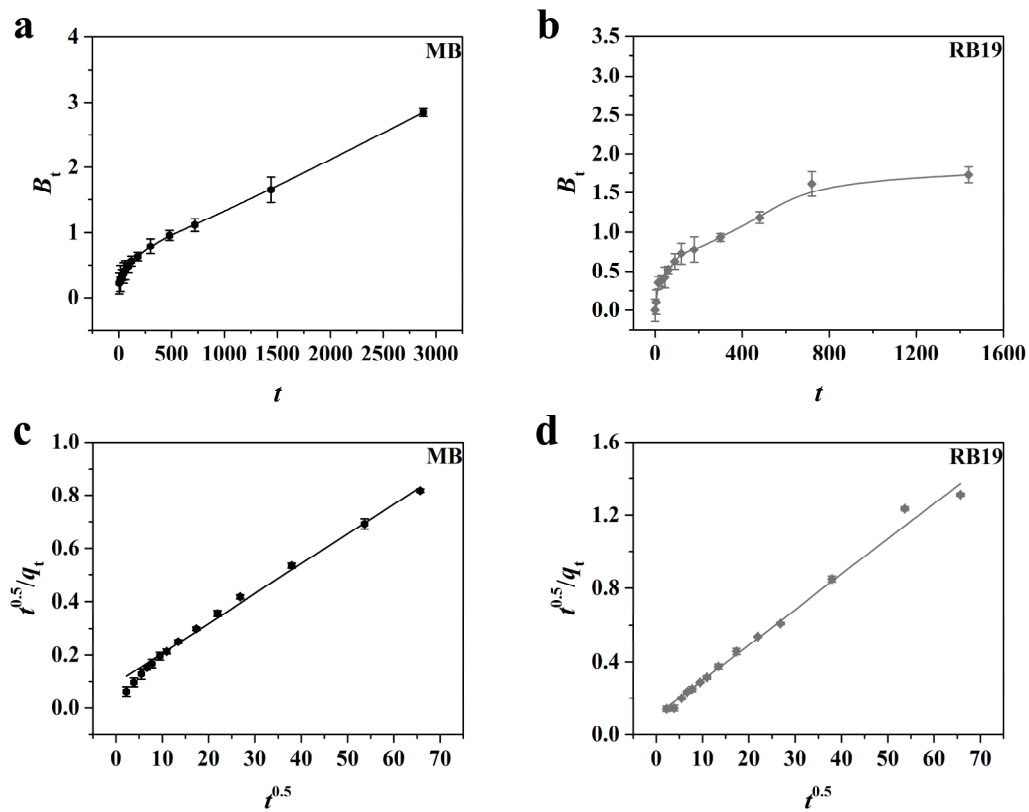
**Table S1.** Comparison of several absorbents toward MB and RB19 dye adsorption.

Adsorbate	Adsorbent	Synthetic Condition	Working Environment	Maximum Adsorption Capacity (mg/g)	Reference
MB	Electrolytic manganese anode slime	Hydroxylation of electrolytic manganese anode slime with EDTA-2Na	pH = 6.0	78.43 mg/g	[8]
MB	Biochar	Pyrolysis of mixed municipal discarded material at 300 °C	pH = 5 at 30 °C	7.2 mg/g	[24]
MB	Mesoporous Ni-C-N/silica aerogel	Impregnation of cationic [Ni(trpa)] <sup>2+</sup> complex onto silica aerogel followed by thermal treatment (200-600 °C)	pH = 4-10 at 30 °C	115 mg/g	[28]
MB	Lignocellulose hydrogel	Dissolution-regeneration of lemon peel and its microcrystalline cellulose	Aqueous solution	57.54 mg/g	[50]
MB	Cellulose-rich modified rice husk	Steam explosion and NaOH treatment	pH = 7.0	50.15 mg/g	[52]

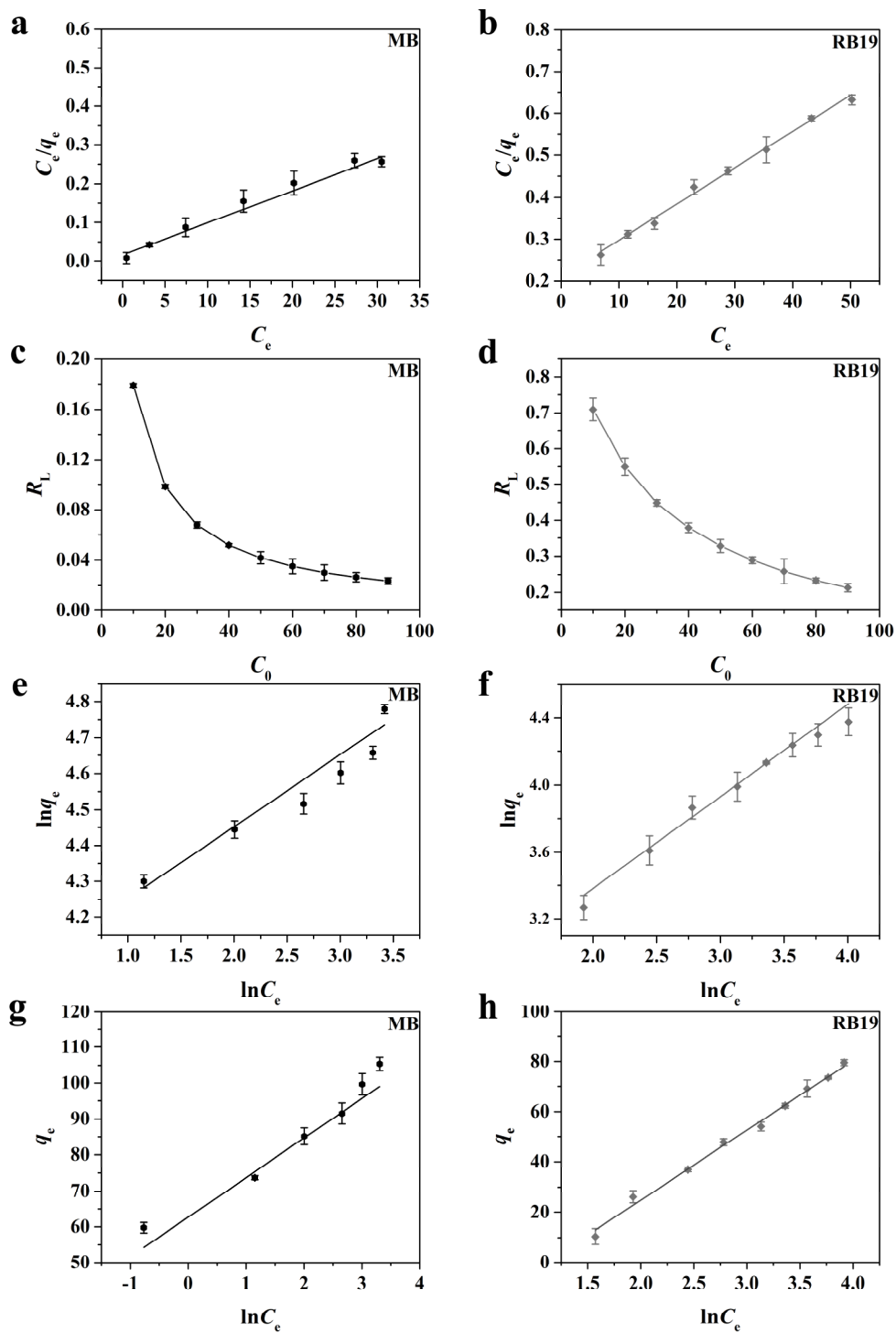
MB	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -loaded biochar	Oxygen-limited pyrolysis of FeCl <sub>3</sub> -impregnated sorghum straw biomass	Aqueous solution	66.95/156.37 mg/g	[53]
MB	Mesoporous magnetic MnFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @CS-SiO <sub>2</sub>	Multi-chemical reactions containing hydrothermal synthesis	pH = 7.0 at 30 °C	179.25 mg/g	[54]
MB	Ti <sub>3</sub> C <sub>2</sub> MXene@Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	Ti <sub>3</sub> C <sub>2</sub> MXene functionalized with magnetic Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> via an in situ growth approach	pH = 3/11 at 55 °C	11.68 mg/g	[55]
MB	Mesoporous nitrogen-doped carbon material	Solvothermal treatment at 150 °C	Natural MB aqueous solution at 25 °C	120.77 mg/g	<b>This work</b>
RB19	Borax cross-linked Jhingan hydrogel	Borax cross-linked Jhingan hydrogel	pH = 6 at 45 °C	9.88 mg/g	[7]
RB19	Sewage sludge biochar	Pyrolysis at 450 °C	pH = 10	126.59 mg/g	[56]
RB19	Bone char	Preparation from bovine bone using CO <sub>2</sub> atmosphere at 451 °C	pH = 6.54	20.6 mg/g	[57]
RB19	Mesoporous activated carbon	Pyrolysis of industrial laundry sewage sludge at 750-800 °C followed by physical activation with CO <sub>2</sub>	pH = 2.0	33.47 mg/g	[58]
RB19	Dried Aspergillus tubingensis	Isolation from filamentous fungus	pH = 2	143.0 mg/g	[59]
RB19	Nano-carbon adsorbent	Solvothermal treatment at 150 °C	natural RB19 aqueous solution at 25 °C	116.01 mg/g	<b>This work</b>



**Figure S3.** Kinetic curves for MB and RB dyes onto N-CMs (linear fitting): (a,b) Pseudo-first order kinetic fitted plot, (c,d) Pseudo-second order kinetic fitted plot, (e,f) Elovich model, and (g,h) Intra-particle diffusion model.



**Figure S4.** Boyd plots for (a) MB and (b) RB dye adsorption, and the linearly fitted diffusion-chemisorption model for (c) MB and (d) dye adsorption.



**Figure S5.** Adsorption isotherm curves for MB and RB dyes onto N-CMs: (a,b) Langmuir isotherm fitted plots (linear fitting), (c,d) plots of  $R_L$  with initial concentration, (e,f) Freundlich isotherm fitted plots (linear fitting), and (g,h) Temkin isotherm fitted plots (linear fitting).

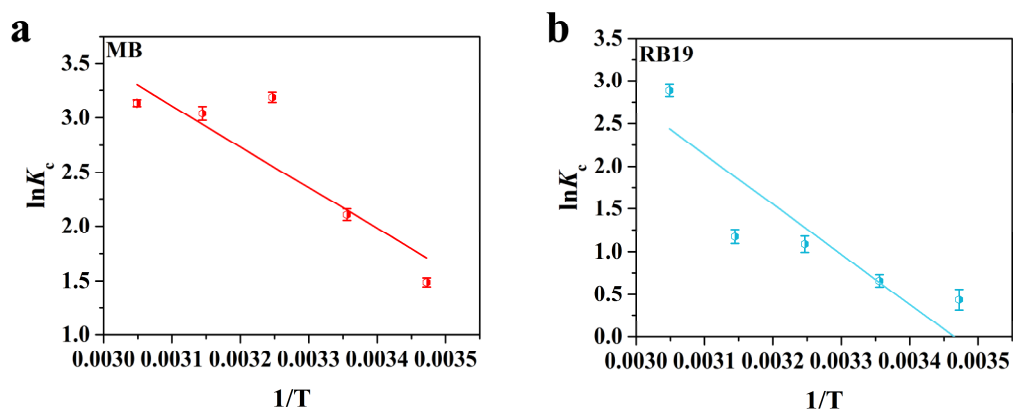


Figure S6. The plots of  $\ln K_c$  versus  $1/T$  for adsorption of (a) MB and (b) RB dyes onto N-CMs.

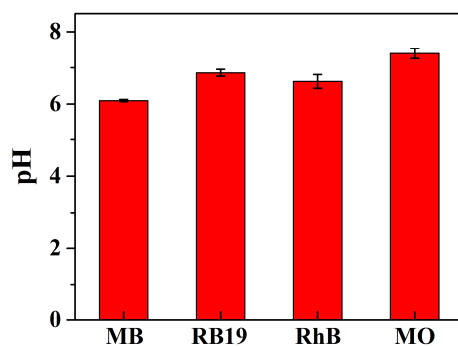


Figure S7. The pH of dye aqueous solution.

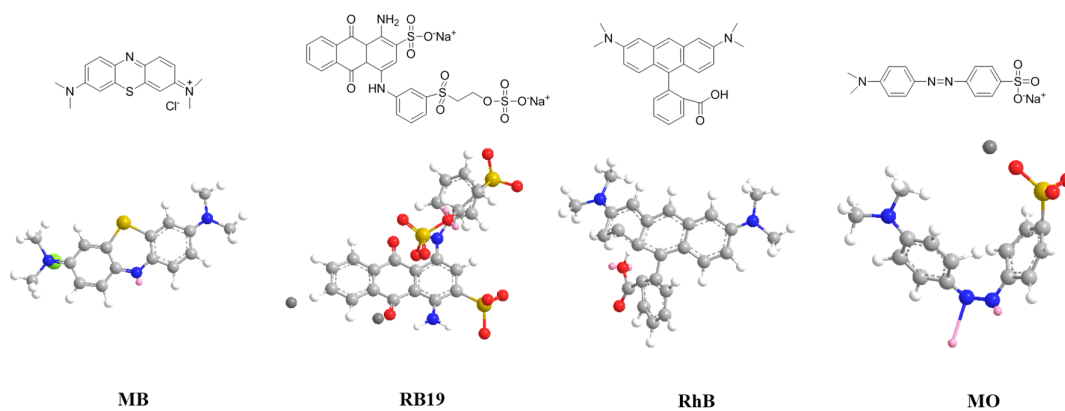


Figure S8. The structures of MB, RB, RhB and MO dyes.

## References

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