

**PREPARATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF
ACTIVATED CARBON FROM TAMARIND SEED BY USING
ZnCl₂ SINGLE STEP CHEMICAL ACTIVATION**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	viii
ABSTRACT	ix
ABSTRAK	x
CHAPTER 1 RESEARCH BACKGROUND	
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Problem Statement	3
1.3 Research questions	3
1.4 Objectives	4
1.5 Significance of study	5
1.6 Expected output/outcomes/implications	5
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Activated carbon	7
2.2 Tamarind seed	9
2.3 Selection of precursor	10
2.4 Preparation techniques	13
2.5 Activating agents	17
2.6 Characterization of activated carbon	18
CHAPTER 3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	
3.1 Materials and reagents	21
3.2 Analytical equipment	21
3.3 Preparation of raw materials	21
3.4 Preparation of activated carbon	22
3.4.1 Effect of impregnation ratio	22
3.4.2 Effect of activation temperature	23
3.4.3 Effect of activation time	23
3.5 Sample characterization	23
3.5.1 Sodium Thiosulphate Volumetric Titration	24
3.5.2 Proximate analysis of raw TS and AC	24
3.5.2.1 Determination of moisture content	25
3.5.2.2 Determination of volatile matter content	25
3.5.2.3 Determination of ash content	26
3.5.2.4 Fixed carbon	26

3.5.3	Ultimate analysis of the raw TS, char and activated carbon	26
3.5.4	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR)	26
3.5.5	Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) Analysis	27
3.6	Experimental designs/Flow chart	29

CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1	Fabrication of AC	30
4.1.1	Influence of impregnation ratio	30
4.1.2	Influence of activation temperature (°C)	32
4.1.3	Influence of activation time	34
4.2	Characterization study	36
4.2.1	Proximate analysis of raw sample and activated carbon	36
4.2.2	Ultimate analysis of raw TS and synthesized AC	39
4.2.3	Surface chemistry by FTIR analysis	41
4.2.4	SEM analysis	44

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1	Conclusion	47
5.2	Recommendation	48

CITED REFERENCES	49
CURRICULUM VITAE	57

ABSTRACT

PREPARATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF ACTIVATED CARBON FROM TAMARIND SEED BY USING $ZnCl_2$ SINGLE STEP CHEMICAL ACTIVATION

In this study, high-quality activated carbon (AC) was effectively synthesized from waste tamarind seed (TS) using single-step chemical activation with $ZnCl_2$ as the chemical activator under different synthesizing parameter such as, the effect of impregnation ratio of raw/activating agent (1:0.5, 1:1, 1:1.5 and 1:2), activation time (10, 20, 30, 40 min), and activation temperature (600 °C, 700 °C, 800 °C and 900 °C). The raw TS, char and the synthesized AC were characterized by Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), sodium thiosulfate ($Na_2S_2O_3$) volumetric method, CHNS elemental analysis and Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) analysis (SEM). In addition, the proximate analysis was done to determine the percentage of moisture, ash, volatile matter and fixed carbon content in raw TS and AC. The optimal condition for maximizing the surface area of AC was identified based on highest iodine number (IN) from sodium thiosulfate ($Na_2S_2O_3$) volumetric titration results. The maximum IN value of 905.03 mg/g was obtained at impregnation ratio of 1:1.5, activation temperature of 800°C and activation time of 30 min. The maximum percentage yield under the optimum synthesizing condition was 21.9%. FTIR showed the presence of -OH vibration at 3378 cm^{-1} , 3398 cm^{-1} and 3381 cm^{-1} for the raw TS, char and AC spectrum respectively. However, disappearance of peaks were observed in the IR spectra of char and AC due to the elimination of volatile components during the activation process. Proximate analysis proved that TS was the best choice of raw material in the production of AC with low moisture content (8.00%), low ash content (1.86 %), high volatile content (68.24%) and high fixed carbon content (21.9%). Moreover, the decrease in volatile matter content for AC (20.05%) and increase in fixed carbon content (58.9%) indicates the effectiveness of the activation process. A significant increase in Carbon % of 48.52% was recorded for AC in comparison to the raw TS, that registered only 41.40 %. SEM analysis proved the development of porous networks occurred on the surface of synthesized ACs compared to raw TS and char. To conclude, low-cost agricultural waste of TS has been successfully converted into high value AC under the studied parameter condition.