Modification of Cu/Cr Layered Double Hydroxide by Keggin Type Polyoxometalate as Adsorbent of Malachite Green from Aqueous Solution

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Abstract
Modification of Cu/Cr layered double hydroxides (LDHs) has been conducted by intercalation using Keggin type polyoxometalate \([\alpha\text{-SiW}_{12}O_{40}]^{4-}\) to form CuCr-[\(\alpha\text{-SiW}_{12}O_{40}\)]. The materials were analyzed by XRD, FTIR, and surface area analyses. Furthermore, materials were used as selectivity adsorbents of cationic dyes such as malachite green, rhodamine-B and methylene blue. The malachite green is more selective than others from an aqueous solution. The adsorption of malachite green showed that the adsorption capacity of CuCr-[\(\alpha\text{-SiW}_{12}O_{40}\)] was higher than pristine LDHs. The adsorption process was followed pseudo second order kinetic model and Langmuir isotherm adsorption. The \(Q_{\text{max}}\) value of CuCr-[\(\alpha\text{-SiW}_{12}O_{40}\)] reached 55.322 mg/g at 323 K after 100 minutes adsorption time. Thermodynamic parameters such as \(\Delta G\), \(\Delta H\) and \(\Delta S\) confirm that the adsorption process was endothermic, spontaneous, and more favorable at high temperatures. The intercalated material was higher structural stability toward reusability adsorbent than pristine LDHs.

Keywords
Malachite Green, Polyoxometalate, Intercalation, Layered Double Hydroxides, Adsorption

1. INTRODUCTION
The existence of chemical substances in the environment is a vital topic to discuss until this decade due to toxic properties and caused pollution in the land and aquatic systems. These chemicals including heavy metals, organic pollutants, and also dyes. Dyes substances were produced from industrial activities including textile, plastic, printing, leather, and so on (Abdelkader et al., 2011). These dyes are usually released to the environment directly without gradually further treatment thus can impact humans, flora, and fauna (Dahi et al., 2014). The removal of dyes from wastewater is an important way to minimize the serious effect. Various physicochemical and biological methods have been applied to remove dyes from wastewater such as adsorption, coagulation, filtration, precipitation, light decomposition, and also using bacterial process (Dai et al., 2018; Gholami et al., 2020; Srinivasan and Sadasivam, 2018; Xu et al., 2018b). Among these methods, adsorption is a suitable method for the removal of dyes from wastewater due to fast process, simple, easy procedure, and also no contamination effect before and after the process (Nazir et al., 2020; Jarrah et al., 2020; Naseeruteen et al., 2018). The effectiveness of the adsorption process is depending on the ability of the adsorbent. Various kinds of adsorbents have been used for removing dyes from wastewater such as zeolites (Oliveira et al., 2019), activated carbon (Mall et al., 2005), natural layer structure materials such as bentonite and kaolinite (Bulut et al., 2008), and also synthetic materials such as layered double hydroxides (Das et al., 2018; Lesbani et al., 2020c; Parida and Mohapatra, 2012).

Layered double hydroxide (LDHs) is a class of synthetic layer materials with positively charged and consists of interlayer anions (Lesbani et al., 2020a). Interlayer anions can be exchanged with various anions to increase interlayer distance of LDHs. The general formula of LDHs is [\(\text{M}^{2+}\text{M}^{3+}(\text{OH})_2\text{F}^{n+}(\text{A}^{n-})\text{H}_2\text{O}\), where M is divalent and trivalent metal ions and \(\Delta n\) – is interlayer anions with valence n (Palapa et al., 2020b). The interlayer of LDHs contains anions such as nitrate, chloride, sulfate, and other ions due to synthetic conditions (Doungmo et al., 2016; Lesbani et al., 2020b; Parida and Mohapatra, 2012). The unique properties of interlayer LDHs are the ion exchange properties. Interlayer anions can be exchanged with other anions to obtain a high interlayer distance of LDHs (Ma et al., 2013; Oktriyanti et al.,...
Among these, Lesbani et al. (2018a) reported that ZnAlFe-polyoxometalate was applied as an adsorbent to remove methylene blue in an aqueous solution and obtained an adsorptive capacity is 67.47 mg/g. Bi et al. (2011), also reported that ZnAl-[PW_{10}Mo_{2}O_{40}]^{5-} was conducted to remove cationic dyes. The adsorption capacity of ZnAl-[PW_{10}Mo_{2}O_{40}]^{5-} slightly enhanced compared ZnAl pristine (from 12 mg/g to 30 mg/g).

In this research, polyoxometalate Keggin ion [\(\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)]\(^{4-}\) was used as an intercalant of copper-chromium (CuCr) LDHs to form CuCr-\([\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)] LDHs. Materials were characterized using X-Ray diffraction, FTIR spectroscopy, and nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherm analysis. Furthermore, intercalated and pristine LDHs were applied as adsorbents of malachite green from an aqueous solution. Before the adsorption process was conducted, the selectivity adsorption has been examined using a mixing solution of malachite green (MG), rhodamine-B (Rh-B) and methylene blue (MB). Adsorption was studied by a batch system using a small reactor equipped with stirring and temperature control. Based on the above explanation, the objective of this study is to determine the kinetic parameter, isotherm adsorption and thermodynamic studies of MG on intercalated and pristine CuCr LDHs. Structural stability of CuCr-\([\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)] toward reusability adsorbent was also investigated systematically.

2. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

2.1 Chemical and Instrumentation

The chemicals were purchased from Merck\textsuperscript{\textregistered} such as Cu(NO\(_3\))\(_2\)
.6H\(_2\)O, Cr(NO\(_3\))\(_3\).9H\(_2\)O, NaOH, Na\(_2\)CO\(_3\), Na\(_2\)WO\(_4\), KCl, Na\(_2\)SiO\(_3\) and HCl. Water was supplied from Research Center of Inorganic Materials and Complexes, FMIPA Universitas Sriwijaya through filtration using Purite\textsuperscript{\textregistered} water ion exchange system under several times cycling process. The materials were characterized by XRD Rigaku Miniflex-6000. Sample was grounded with mortar and analyzed using XRD at diffraction 5-60° with scan speed 1°/min. Analysis of functional group was performed using FTIR Shimadzu Prestige-21. Sample was mixed with KBr and was vacuumed to form KBr pellet. Sample was analyzed in the wavenumber 400-4000 cm\(^{-1}\). Analysis of nitrogen adsorption-desorption was conducted using Micrometric ASAP Quantachrome apparatus. Sample was degassed several times prior analysis using liquid N\(_2\) to remove guests. Analysis of malachite green was conducted using UV-Visible Spectrophotometer Bio-Base BK-UV 1800 PC. Malachite green was analyzed at 617 nm.

2.2 Preparation of CuCr LDHs

Preparation of CuCr LDHs was carried out by precipitation method as follows. As much as 7.5 M solution of Cu(NO\(_3\))\(_2\).6H\(_2\)O 0.05 L was added into 2.5 M solution of Cr(NO\(_3\))\(_3\).9H\(_2\)O 0.05 L with vigorous stirring. The mixing solution was stirred for an hour then 4M solution of NaOH 0.025 L was added and the solution was adjusted to pH 10 by the addition of NaOH 4M. The mixing solution was kept for 16 hours to form a gel. The gel was filtered and washed with water several times and dried at 100°C for 24 hours.
2.3 Preparation of CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] LDHs

The intercalation of CuCr LDHs with [α-SiW_{12}O_{40}]^{1−} was conducted by ion-exchange technique. Ion [α-SiW_{12}O_{40}]^{1−} was prepared by previously reported literature (Lesbani et al., 2015). As much as 2 g of CuCr LDH was dissolved into 0.05 L of water. Polyoxometalate K_{4}[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] (15 g) was dissolved with 0.05 L water. The solution of CuCr LDHs was mixed with polyoxometalate solution with mild stirring under nitrogen flow for 24 hours to form a suspension. The suspension was filtered and washed several times using water and dried at room temperature.

2.4 Adsorption Study and Reusability Adsorbent

Before the adsorption process was conducted, the selectivity adsorption has been tested. This study aimed to show the materials have good selectivity for specific cationic dyes. The mixture of cationic dyes such as MG, Rh-B and MB was prepared with 10 mL and the initial concentration of each dye is 15 mg/L. The adsorption of MG was performed by batch system equipped with a stirring bar and temperature system control. The adsorption process was studied by variation of adsorption times, temperatures, and MG concentrations. The mass of adsorbent was carried out using 25 mg. The volume of adsorbate was 25 mL. Variation of adsorption time was studied in the range of 5-210 minutes. Variation of initial concentration of MG was studied at 10, 25, 50 and 75 mg/L. Variation of adsorption temperature was studied at 303, 313, 318, and 323 K. The adsorption parameter was obtained through calculation by kinetic model, isotherm adsorption and thermodynamic parameters. Concentration of MG after adsorption was analyzed by kinetic model, isotherm adsorption and thermodynamic parameters.

The kinetic model was calculated using pseudo first order (P-FO) and pseudo second (P-SO) kinetic models by equation below (Doğan and Alkan, 2003):

\[ \log (q_e - q_t) = \log q_e - \left( \frac{k_1}{2.303} \right) t \]  
\[ \frac{t}{q_t} = \frac{1}{k_2q_e^2} + \frac{1}{q_e} t \]

Where, \( q_e \) is adsorption capacity at equilibrium (mg/g); \( q_t \) is adsorption capacity at t (mg/g); \( t \) is adsorption time (minute); \( k_1 \) is adsorption kinetic rate at P-FO (/minute) and \( k_2 \) is adsorption kinetic rate at P-FO (g/mg.min).

Isotherm adsorption study was conducted by Langmuir and Freundlich equation as written as (Obike et al., 2018):

\[ \frac{1}{q_e} = \frac{1}{q_{max}} + \frac{1}{q_{max}b} \cdot \frac{1}{C_e} \]

\[ \ln q_e = \ln K_f + \left( \frac{1}{n} \right) \ln C_e \]

Where, \( q_{max} \) is the maximum adsorption capacity conducted in the monolayer (mg/g); b is the Langmuir adsorption equilibrium constant (1/mg); \( C_e \) is the equilibrium concentration (mg/L); and \( K_f \) is Freundlich constant.

The reusability of adsorbent was conducted to investigate the structural stability of adsorbent toward adsorption. Desorption of malachite green was performed using ultrasonic system and adsorbent was reuse for the next adsorption process. The dried adsorbent was reused for three cycles with a similar procedure.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Materials of CuCr and CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] were characterized using XRD diffraction as shown in Figure 2. The characteristic diffraction of CuCr LDHs appeared at 9.89° (003), 27.32° (006), 36.10° (015), 48.98° (018), 60.60° (110), and 62.55° (116) (Palapa et al., 2020b). The diffraction peak at 9.89° with reflection 003 denote the interlayer space of LDHs. Material CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] showed similar diffraction as pristine LDHs, but the interlayer of CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] was increased from 7.55 Å to 10.27 Å. However, the intercalation of [α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] onto CuCr LDHs can increase basal spacing up to 2.72 Å.

The FTIR spectra of CuCr and CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] were shown in Figure 3. FTIR spectrum of CuCr LDHs showed the intense vibration at 1381 cm^{-1} denotes as nitrate bending. The broad vibration was identified at wavenumber 3448 cm^{-1} due to OH stretching from water molecule. The water-associated vibration also appeared at 1627 cm^{-1}, which was assigned as bending OH vibration (Daniel and Thomas, 2020). The intercalation of CuCr LDHs with [α-SiW_{12}O_{40}]^{1−} ion will replace the nitrate as anion on interlayer space. The FTIR spectrum after intercalation showed the vibration around 1107 cm^{-1}, which was assigned as the presence of another anion (C=O) from carbonate. The unique vibration of [α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] from CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] shows at wavenumber below 1000 cm^{-1} (W=O and Si-O).
Analysis of adsorption-desorption nitrogen on CuCr and CuCr-[\(\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)] LDHs is shown in Figure 4. The profile of adsorption-desorption nitrogen is categorized as type IV with H3 hysteresis loop for both LDHs. The isotherm pathway indicated the mesopore materials, which were associated with capillary condensation (Harizi et al., 2019). The BET calculation was obtained from data in Figure 4 as shown in Table 1.

The data in Table 1 showed the BET analysis of CuCr and CuCr-[\(\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)] LDHs. The increase of the surface area of LDHs after intercalation by [\(\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)] was found with the decrease in the pore size. Thus, the decreases in pore size indicated the swelling and the covering of interlayer space by macroanion [\(\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)]\(^4\). These phenomena are related to the opening of interlayer space, which was confirmed by XRD analysis (Ouassif et al., 2020). The surface area of CuCr-[\(\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)] was increased up to fivefold than CuCr LDHs. LDHs intercalated by polyoxometalate are potential material as an adsorbent to remove pollutants from wastewater. Furthermore, to determine the adsorption ability of CuCr-[\(\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)], the adsorption selectivity of cationic dyes (MG, Rh-B and MB) has been studied as shown in Figure 5. Figure 5(A) showed that CuCr-[\(\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)] adsorbed MG higher than other cationic dyes. The decrease in absorbance value indicates a decrease in initial concentration. However, the decrease dramatically of initial concentration of MG indicated that the small structure of MG than Rh-B and MB (Mohadi et al., 2021). Figure 5(B) also showed a similar finding that MG more selectivity than others. The final concentration of MG after 150 min of CuCr and CuCr-[\(\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)] are 8.1 and 5.4 mg/L, respectively. Thus, the CuCr-[\(\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)] was used as an adsorbent to remove MG from the aqueous solution. The adsorption process was carried out by the effect of adsorption time, the effect of MG concentration and adsorption temperature. The effect of adsorption time for MG removal using CuCr and CuCr-[\(\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)] was shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6(A) showed MG was higher adsorbed using CuCr-[\(\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)] than pristine LDHs. This finding assumed that the higher surface area of CuCr-[\(\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)] after intercalation. The equilibrium amount of MG on CuCr-[\(\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)] was reached after 100 minutes with MG removal up to 90% from the initial concentration 50 mg/L. The results showed that MG uptake on CuCr-[\(\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)] were higher twice than CuCr LDHs. Thus, the adsorption kinetic was determined by pseudo kinetic model. Figure 6(B) showed the fitted of two kinetic models. The calculated parameters were listed in Table 2. Based on Figure 6(B) and Table 2, kinetic adsorption of MG on CuCr and CuCr-[\(\alpha\)-SiW\(_{12}\)O\(_{40}\)] were followed PS-O model with coefficient correlation >0.963.
Table 1. BET Surface Area Analysis of CuCr and CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] LDHs

| Materials         | Surface Area (m²/g) | Pore Size (nm) |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| CuCr LDH          | 4.58                | 14.39          |
| CuCr[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] | 26.58              | 2.023          |

Table 2. Kinetic Parameter of Adsorption on CuCr and CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}]

| Adsorbent        | Qₑ^exp (mg/g) | qₑ^calc (mg/g) | P-FO | R² | k₁ | qₑ^calc (mg/g) | R² | k₂ |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|------|----|----|----------------|----|----|
| CuCr             | 27.985        | 23.051         | 0.948| 0.017| 31.24 | 0.977           | 0.001|
| CuCr[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] | 18.354       | 45.651         | 0.924| 0.023| 52.619 | 0.963           | 0.0007|

The effect of initial concentration and adsorption temperature of MG were presented in Figure 7. The amount of MG adsorbed on CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] was increased by increasing adsorption temperature, which was conducted on a batch adsorption system. The adsorption patterns for both materials have equilibrium after 20 mg/L and higher MG was adsorbed at 323 K. Furthermore, the data of initial concentration and adsorption temperature for both materials were calculated using Langmuir and Freundlich isotherm model to obtain isotherm adsorption.

The data in Table 3 showed that adsorption of MG by CuCr and CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] follow Langmuir isotherm adsorption model rather than Freundlich model. The coefficient correlation for Langmuir isotherm is almost close to one than Freundlich isotherm. The qmax for CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] is higher than pristine LDHs. As expected of increasing surface area properties thus this higher of qmax value is matched results. Thus, Table 4. Showed MG adsorption using several adsorbents.

Table 4 showed the comparison of malachite green adsorption using several adsorbents. Based on results, the adsorption capacity of CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] showed in slightly high as compared other materials assumed that CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] is effective sorbent to remove malachite green in the aqueous phase. The increasing adsorption capacity of malachite green on CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] is equal with increasing of interlayer space after intercalation, thus the adsorption process probably occurs mainly on the interlayer of CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] than the surface of the adsorbent (Siregar et al., 2021).

The thermodynamic data as shown in Table 5 was also calculated from data in Figure 7. The thermodynamic parameter results were described for a higher concentration of MG, which was conducted at various temperatures. The ΔG of adsorption has a negative value means adsorption of MG on CuCr and CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] spontaneously occurred in a batch system. The ΔH value is less than 40 kJ/mol and confirms the adsorption process was endothermic (Taher et al., 2017). The value of ΔS is positive for both CuCr and CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] for MG adsorption process. Thus, this finding indicated that the increased degree of freedom of interaction between solid and solution from adsorbate and adsorbent molecules (Jaśkaniec et al., 2018; Qu et al., 2019).

LDHs are unstable materials toward acid thus the ultrasonic system was applied for a reusability test of CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] to desorb malachite green on the adsorbent. Figure 8 showed that the adsorption capacity of CuCr LDH largely
Table 3. Isotherm Model Parameters of MG Adsorption Process on CuCr and CuCr-[α-SiW12O40]

| Adsorption Isotherm | Adsorption Constant | T (K) | q_{max} (mg/g) | k_L (L/mg) | R^2 | R^2 |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------|----------------|------------|-----|-----|
| Langmuir CuCr       | 303                 | 6.016 | 22.008        | 0.098      | 0.989 | 0.973 |
|                     | 313                 | 23.198| 23.198        | 0.176      | 0.985 | 0.994 |
|                     | 318                 | 27.585| 27.585        | 0.771      | 0.994 | 0.994 |
|                    | 323                 | 28.018| 28.018        | 0.314      | 0.994 | 0.994 |
| Freundlich CuCr     |                      |       |               |            |      |      |
|                     | 303                 | 6.181 | 22.008        | 0.094      | 0.973 | 0.985 |
|                     | 313                 | 23.198| 23.198        | 0.176      | 0.985 | 0.994 |
|                     | 318                 | 27.585| 27.585        | 0.771      | 0.994 | 0.994 |
|                    | 323                 | 28.018| 28.018        | 0.314      | 0.994 | 0.994 |
| Langmuir CuCr-[α-SiW12O40] |      | 12.127| 35.372       | 0.094      | 0.973 | 0.985 |
|                     | 303                 | 12.127| 35.372       | 0.094      | 0.973 | 0.985 |
|                     | 313                 | 36.372| 36.372       | 0.094      | 0.973 | 0.985 |
|                     | 318                 | 46.035| 46.035       | 0.094      | 0.973 | 0.985 |
|                     | 323                 | 55.322| 55.322       | 0.094      | 0.973 | 0.985 |

Table 4. Comparison of Malachite Green Adsorption by Several Adsorbents

| Adsorbents               | q_{max} (mg/g) | Ref.                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| NiAl LDH                 | 27.32          | (Lesbani et al., 2020c)               |
| CuAl LDH                 | 55.22          | (Palapa et al., 2020a)               |
| CuAl-LDH/BC              | 470.96         | (Palapa et al., 2020c)               |
| ZnAl LDH                 | 11.1           | (Palapa et al., 2018)                |
| Apricot-AC               | 17.6           | (Abbas, 2020)                        |
| Leucaena leucocephala    | 2.389          | (Lee et al., 2018)                   |
| NiFe-LDH/calcined        | 73.68          | (Elmoubarki et al., 2017)            |
| MW-Carbon nanotubes      | 11.95          | (Rajabi et al., 2016)                |
| CuCr LDH                 | 27.585         | This work                             |
| CuCr-[α-SiW12O40]        | 55.322         | This work                             |

Table 5. Thermodynamic Parameter of MG Adsorption on CuCr and CuCr-[α-SiW12O40]

| Adsorbents       | T (K) | Qe (mg/g) | ΔG (kJ/mol) | ΔS (J/mol K) | ΔH (kJ/mol) |
|------------------|-------|-----------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| CuCr LDH         | 303   | 27.357    | -1.455      | 35.792       | 12.3        |
|                  | 313   | 28.516    | -1.097      | -            | -           |
|                  | 318   | 31.807    | -0.918      | -            | -           |
|                  | 323   | 32.434    | -0.739      | -            | -           |
| CuCr-[α-SiW12O40]| 303   | 41.421    | -0.552      | 39.7457      | 11.491      |
|                  | 313   | 44.678    | -0.9494     | -            | -           |
|                  | 318   | 45.382    | -1.1482     | -            | -           |
|                  | 323   | 46.606    | -1.3469     | -            | -           |

decreased after two cycles adsorption process while CuCr-[α-SiW12O40] relatively stable. The three cycles adsorption process of malachite green showed that adsorption capacity for both adsorbents was decreased. On the other hand, the adsorption capacity of CuCr-[α-SiW12O40] has almost slightly larger than pristine LDHs. Thus, the intercalation process was increased the structural stability of LDHs.

4. CONCLUSIONS
The intercalated CuCr LDHs using polyoxometalate Keggin anion to form CuCr-[α-SiW12O40] was successfully prepared and analyzed by XRD, FTIR and surface area analysis. The CuCr-[α-SiW12O40] was applied as an adsorbent of MG. The effect of adsorption time showed the optimum uptake after 100 minutes. Material CuCr-[α-SiW12O40] has a higher adsorption capacity than pristine LDHs due to high surface area.
properties. The kinetic parameters showed that the adsorption process follows PS-O kinetic model. Langmuir isotherm was appropriate than Freundlich isotherm models for both adsorbents. Material CuCr-[α-SiW_{12}O_{40}] has higher Q_{max} (55.322 mg/g at 323 K) than CuCr LDHs (27.585 mg/g at 323 K). Thermodynamic parameter results showed the negativity of ΔG with increasing temperature indicated that the adsorption favorable in high temperature. Enthalpy of adsorption showed the value is less than 40 kJ/mol and the adsorption process was endothermic. The positive value of ΔH denotes the concentration of adsorbate has high interaction with adsorbent and affected the entropy to be increased. Structural stability of CuCr LDHs was slightly increased after the intercalation process.

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