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1 **Application of layered Nickel/Indium double hydroxide in the highly**
2 **efficient removal of crystal violet dye from textile effluent**

3

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13

14 **Abstract**

15 Worldwide freshwater demand will soon exceed supply if measures are not taken
16 to mitigate inadequate wastewater treatment and its indiscriminate release into the
17 environment. The textile industry is one of the largest consumers of freshwater and the
18 third largest contributor to clean water pollution. Conventional treatment of textile
19 effluent is inadequate and expensive. Adsorbent materials obtained from discarded solid
20 waste precursors that contain high amounts of valuable metals can be an inexpensive way
21 to obtain a highly efficient and low-cost wastewater treatment process. This study
22 developed and explored a highly efficient adsorbent layered double hydroxide of Nickel
23 and Indium (Ni/In-LDH) for the adsorption of widely used textile cationic dye, crystal
24 violet (CV). The adsorbent material was synthesized by co-precipitation process of
25 indium nitrate and nickel nitrate. The adsorbent material morphology and its adsorption
26 capacity were investigated in different studies, such as the influence of pH, dosage,

27 kinetics, isotherms, thermodynamics, ionic strength, adsorbent regeneration capacity, and
28 interaction mechanisms of adsorption. Optimal operating conditions for Ni/In-LDH
29 adsorption revealed maximum adsorption capacity Q_{max} of 570.94 mg g⁻¹ at starting pH 8
30 and 60°C, which maintained approximately 75% of the initial adsorption capacity in three
31 successive adsorption/regeneration cycles. The experimental data fitted Pseudo first order
32 kinetic model (PFO) and the Liu isothermal adsorption model. Thermodynamic studies
33 indicated a spontaneous endothermic adsorption process, and a mechanism of
34 physisorption of CV onto Ni/In-LDH substrate. After FTIR analysis of CV loaded Ni-
35 In/LDH, electrostatic, hydrogen bonding, and n- π bonding interactions were suggested as
36 the interaction mechanisms of adsorption. The Ni/In-LDH demonstrated excellent
37 performance in the removal of CV dye in aqueous solutions compared to other high
38 performing adsorbents.

39

40 Keywords: Adsorption; effluent treatment; cationic dye; anionic clay; textile wastewater.

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51

52 1. Introduction

53 With continued industrial expansion and ever-increasing demand on natural
54 resources, past and current industrial practices are unsustainable for their impact on water
55 globally. Currently 2 billion people (25% of world's population) lack safe drinking water
56 and 1.4 billion people suffer from water scarcity, with current predictions of freshwater
57 demand exceeding supply by 40% by 2030 [1]. Globally, the textile industry is significant
58 in its consumption of fresh water (reaching 100 billion m³ per year by 2025) and is one
59 of the largest contributors to clean water pollution by dyes. Approximately 30% of
60 wastewater is produced by industries [2]. The management of textile industry effluent is
61 imperative to prevent the toxic, teratogenic, carcinogenic and xenobiotic consequences of
62 contact with contaminants present in dye wastewater to human health and the
63 environment [3]. Dyes are resistant to aerobic digestion, stable under exposure to light,
64 heat, and oxidizing agents. They can be classified based on their solubility in water,
65 chemical structure, applications, and ionic nature [3,4]. Cationic dyes form-colored
66 cationic salts in aqueous solutions, with functional groups such as acid-soluble amino and
67 substituted amino compounds ($-NR^{3+}$ or $=NR^{2+}$) that bind via ionic bonds with the anionic
68 groups of the textile fiber [4,5]. Among the industrial dyes, Crystal violet (Tris(4-
69 (dimethylamino)phenyl)-methylium chloride, (CV)) stands out, oft referred to as
70 triphenylmethane dyes, they are highly soluble in ethanol but have lower solubility in
71 water. The vibrant purple color of CV is due high stability of the carbocation. This
72 stability is responsible for the recalcitrance of CV and results from the delocalized
73 positive charge of the central carbon by the resonance mechanism of the three nitrogen
74 (Fig. 1), and the delocalization of charge across the double bonds in the benzene rings
75 [6].

76

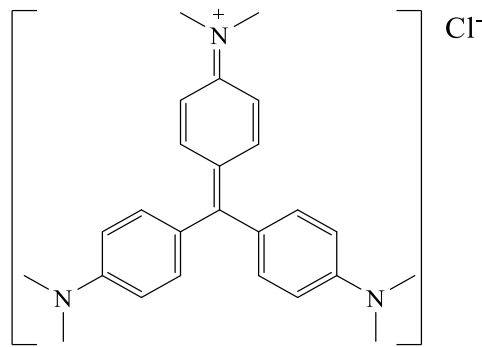


Fig. 1 – Crystal violet molecular structure.

77

78

79

80 To improve drinkable water access, it is necessary to reduce costs in wastewater
 81 treatment and the incorrect wastewater management, developing and exploring new
 82 effluent treatment processes that are easier and cheaper to install and operate worldwide
 83 in industrial scale. The adsorption process is the most employed of the physicochemical
 84 methods of wastewater treatment, where the effluent is mixed or percolates the porous
 85 surface of the material in powder or granules of the adsorbent, such as activated carbon
 86 or clays [7,8]. Some advantages of adsorption processes are A) the possibility of
 87 regenerating the adsorbent, B) the high efficiency for a wide variety of dyes, C) the
 88 flexibility of the process, and D) the low operating costs of the process [3,8].

89 The adsorbent most used for this purpose is activated carbon, which has great
 90 selectivity for reactive, basic, and azo dyes. However, activated carbon cannot be reused
 91 afterwards, is not able to adsorb suspended solids and insoluble dyes, and carries a high
 92 cost for regeneration [3,7,9]. To solve some of these drawbacks, researchers are
 93 investigating new adsorbent materials based on LDH, also known as anionic clays, an
 94 important class of ionic layered solids, with a general formula
 95 $[M_{(1-x)}^{2+}M_x^{3+}(OH)_2]^{x+}(A^{n-})_{x/n} \cdot YH_2O$, widely used in ion exchanges, catalysis, or as a
 96 support for catalysts and adsorbents [10]. Several LDH materials have been used in CV
 97 adsorption, such as Zn-Al LDH [11], Mg-Al/LDH [12] and CaAl/LDH [13]. A synthesis

98 of LDH from nickel nitrate and indium nitrate was described by Wang *et al.* [14],
99 obtaining the adsorbent material Ni/In-LDH intercalated with carbonate (CO_3^{2-}), being
100 used in DNA adsorption. However, to the best of our knowledge, the use of Ni/In-LDH
101 in dye adsorption processes has not been reported in the literature. Metals recovered from
102 Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) when applied as precursor materials
103 in the production of effective adsorbents can further reduce costs for treating effluents
104 from the textile industry. Studies already recovered materials such as nickel from spent
105 batteries [15] and indium obtained from LCD screens of discarded cellphones [16].

106 Herein, exploration and development of an efficient adsorbent composed of Ni/In-
107 LDH for the removal of Crystal Violet dye in aqueous solutions was pursued as the main
108 objective of this work. Characterization of the adsorbent material was performed to
109 investigate the morphology and the adsorption process mechanisms of the adsorbent
110 material. The effects of pH and pH at the point of zero charge (pH_{pzc}), adsorbent dosage,
111 kinetics, isotherms, thermodynamics, ionic strength, and adsorbent regeneration capacity
112 were investigated in the adsorption experiments, and interaction mechanisms of
113 adsorption were proposed.

114

115 **2. Experimental methodology**

116 **2.1. Materials**

117 Reagents for the synthesis of LDH: Sodium hydroxide (purity 98.0%, Dinâmica
118 Química Contemporânea LTDA/Brazil), Nickel (II) nitrate hexahydrate (purity 97.0%,
119 Neon Reagentes Analíticos/Brazil), Indium nitrate (III) pentahydrate (purity 99.9%,
120 Sigma-Aldrich Co Ltd./Brazil) and Sodium Carbonate (purity 99.0%, Labimpex Indústria
121 e Comércio de Produtos para Laboratório/Brazil). In the adsorption experiments, crystal

122 violet (Tris (4-(dimethylamino) phenyl) methylum chloride, purity 99.0%, Neon
123 Reagentes Analíticos/Brazil) was used as an adsorbate solution.

124

125 2.2. Synthesis Ni/In-LDH

126 Ni/In-LDH was synthesized from Ni(NO₃)₂·6H₂O (30 mmol, 8.7237g) and
127 In(NO₃)₃·5H₂O (10 mmol, 3.9090g) dissolved in 50 mL of deionized water. A solution of
128 NaOH (2M) and Na₂CO₃ (0.2M) was added dropwise until pH 10 was reached. The
129 mixture obtained was stirred at 80°C (353.15 K) for 4 h, and the obtained solid was
130 centrifuged, and washed with deionized water in abundance, until the filtrate reached
131 neutral pH. Subsequently, the material was dried at 50°C for 24 h [14].

132

133 2.3. Characterization

134 The as-synthesized adsorbent was characterized by the following methods: X-ray
135 diffraction (XRD) method (Rigaku, Miniflex 300, Japan, with Cu Ka radiation filtered by
136 Ni, $\lambda = 1.54051 \text{ \AA}$, 30 kV, 10 mA, $2\theta = 5\text{-}100^\circ$) to verify the crystallinity of the
137 synthesized adsorbent material; Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR)
138 method (Shimadzu, Prestige 21, Japan, amplitude of 400-4400 cm⁻¹) to evaluate the
139 presence of functional groups; Scanning Electron Microscopy with Energy Dispersive
140 Spectroscopy (SEM-EDS) method (TESCAN, Czech Republic, 10 kV acceleration and
141 gold coating) to determine the presence of chemical elements and the homogeneity of the
142 LDH material.; and Brunauer-Emmet-Teller (BET) method (New Win, Quantachrome,
143 USA, N₂ adsorption isotherms at 77K) to determine the specific surface area.

144

145 2.4. Adsorption experiments

146 2.4.1. Determination of the point of zero charge (pH_{pzc}) and ideal pH for
147 adsorption:

148 A sample containing 25 mg of the adsorbent was added to 50 mL of solution with
149 a concentration of 50 mg L⁻¹ of CV dye. The pH values ranged from 2 to 10, being
150 adjusted with HCl (0.01 or 0.1M) and NaOH (0.01 or 0.1M), under constant agitation 140
151 rpm for 24 h at 25°C (298.15 K). Then, the final *pH* of the solution was measured, and
152 the solution was centrifuged for phase separation at 4000 rpm for 20 min. The experiment
153 was performed in triplicate. During the adsorption experiments, the dye concentrations
154 were determined by UV/Vis spectrophotometry (Shimadzu, UV-1280, Japan) at 581 nm.
155 The adsorption capacities at equilibrium (q_e [mg g⁻¹]) were determined by Eq. (01)
156 [10,12,17].

157

$$158 \quad q_e = \frac{(C_0 - C_e) \cdot V}{W} \quad (01)$$

159

160 where C_0 and C_e are the initial and equilibrium concentrations [mg L⁻¹] of the solution,
161 respectively, W is the mass of adsorbent [g] and V the volume of dye solution [L].

162

163 2.4.2. Adsorbent Dosage

164 The dosage of the adsorbent was evaluated in 50 mL of dye solution at a
165 concentration of 50 mg L⁻¹. The dosages of adsorbent ranged from 10 to 2000 mg L⁻¹, at
166 optimal *pH*, for a period of 24 h at 25°C (298.15 K). Subsequently, the solution was
167 centrifuged and the adsorption capacities at equilibrium (q_e [mg g⁻¹]) were determined by
168 Eq. (01) [17].

169

170 2.4.3. Kinetic studies

171 A sample of 12 mg of adsorbent was inserted in contact with 50 mL of CV dye
172 solution (50 mg L⁻¹). The times ranged from 0 to 360 min under agitation at 25°C (298.15

173 K) and ideal pH . The solution was centrifuged and the adsorption capacities at time t (q_t
174 [mg g^{-1}]) were determined by Eq. (02) [18].

175

$$176 \quad q_t = \frac{(C_0 - C_t) \cdot V}{W} \quad (02)$$

177

178 where C_0 and C_t are the initial and at a given time t concentrations of the dye solution,
179 respectively [mg L^{-1}], W is the mass of adsorbent [g] and V the volume of dye solution
180 [L].

181 Subsequently, the adjustments of mathematical models were performed from the
182 kinetic data obtained. The pseudo-first order (PFO) model and the pseudo-second order
183 (PSO) model were used, as expressed by Eqs. (03) and (04), respectively [19]:

184

$$185 \quad q_t = q_f (1 - e^{-k_f \cdot t}) \quad (03)$$

186

$$187 \quad q_t = \frac{k_s \cdot t \cdot q_s^2}{(1 + k_s \cdot t \cdot q_s)} \quad (04)$$

188

189 where q_f and q_s are the theoretical values for the adsorption capacity of PFO and PSO,
190 respectively [mg g^{-1}]; k_f and k_s are the adsorption rate constants of PFO [min^{-1}] and PSO
191 [$\text{g mg}^{-1} \text{min}^{-1}$], respectively; and t is the elapsed time [min].

192 The diffusion mechanisms of the adsorption process were also investigated from
193 the kinetic model of intraparticle diffusion, according to Eq. (05) [20]:

194

$$195 \quad q_t = k_i t^{1/2} + C \quad (05)$$

196

197 where, k_i is the constant of the intraparticle diffusion rate [$\text{mg g}^{-1} \text{min}^{-1/2}$] and C is the
 198 thickness of the boundary layer [mg g^{-1}], both values obtained from the construction of
 199 the graph of q_t as a function of $t^{1/2}$.

200

201 2.4.4. Equilibrium studies

202 A sample of 12 mg of adsorbent was added in contact with 50 mL of dye solution
 203 for concentrations ranging from 25 to 500 mg L^{-1} of dye. Solutions were adjusted to the
 204 ideal pH , under constant agitation of 140 rpm, for temperatures of 40, 50, and 60°C
 205 (313.15, 323.15 and 333.5 K) for 4 h. Solutions were then centrifuged and the adsorption
 206 capacities (q_e [mg g^{-1}]) were determined by Eq. (01) [21].

207 The isotherms were adjusted using the Langmuir, Freundlich and Liu models,
 208 expressed respectively by the Eqs. (06), (07), and (08) [22,23,24]:

209

$$210 \quad q_e = \frac{Q_{max} \cdot K_L \cdot C_e}{(1 + K_L \cdot C_e)} \quad (06)$$

211

$$212 \quad q_e = K_F C_e^{1/n_F} \quad (07)$$

213

$$214 \quad q_e = \frac{Q_{max} \cdot (K_g \cdot C_e)^{n_L}}{(1 + (K_g \cdot C_e)^{n_L})} \quad (08)$$

215

216 where Q_{max} is the maximum adsorption capacity of the model [mg g^{-1}]; K_L , K_F and K_g are
 217 the equilibrium constants of Langmuir [L mg^{-1}], Freundlich [$\text{mg g}^{-1} (\text{mg L}^{-1})^{-1/n}$] and Liu
 218 [L mg^{-1}], respectively; n_F and n_L are the exponents of Freundlich and Liu, respectively.

219

220 2.4.5. Thermodynamic studies

221 The determination of thermodynamic parameters makes it possible to identify
222 factors such as spontaneity, viability, and organization between adsorbate and adsorbent
223 during the adsorption process. Thus, the equations of Van't Hoff (Eq. 09) and Gibbs-
224 Helmholtz (Eq. 10) were combined into Eq. (11), to obtain the standard values of the
225 variations of Gibbs free energy ΔG^0 [kJ mol⁻¹], enthalpy ΔH^0 [kJ mol⁻¹] and entropy ΔS^0
226 [kJ mol⁻¹ K⁻¹] [25].

227

$$228 \quad \Delta G^0 = -RT \ln(K_e^0) \quad (09)$$

229

$$230 \quad \Delta G^0 = \Delta H^0 - \Delta S^0 T \quad (10)$$

231

$$232 \quad \ln(K_e^0) = \frac{\Delta S^0}{R} - \frac{\Delta H^0}{RT} \quad (11)$$

233

234 where, R is the universal constant [kJ mol⁻¹ K⁻¹], T is the temperature [K], and is the K_e^0
235 thermodynamic equilibrium constant [dimensionless].

236

237 2.4.6. Ionic strength study

238 In determining the ionic strength, a sample of 12 mg of adsorbent was added to
239 solutions of sodium chloride (0 to 0.1 mol L⁻¹) and CV (50 mg L⁻¹, pH = 8.0) and stirred
240 (140 rpm) for 4h at 30°C (303.15 K). Subsequently, the solutions were centrifuged and
241 the adsorption capacities at equilibrium (q_e [mg g⁻¹]) were determined by Eq. (01) [12].
242 All previous experiments were performed in triplicates.

243

244 2.4.7. Regeneration studies

245 An adsorbent mass ratio of 0.24 g L^{-1} was dispersed in a CV dye solution (50 mg L^{-1} , 140 rpm for 4 h at 30°C (303.15 K)). The analytical standard ethanol (AS) was used as
246 eluent and added in a volume of 50 mL for desorption for 1 h. The solution was
247 centrifuged, and the retained material was washed with deionized water, separated, and
248 reused in a new adsorption procedure maintaining the ratio of (S/L) of cycle 0 (0.24 g L^{-1}). Starting Cycle 0 was performed with 10 replicates, and final Cycle 3 was performed
249 with 5 replicates due to adsorbent loss during recipient transference, while maintaining
250 the adsorbent mass ratio. The dye concentration was determined by spectrophotometry in
251 the UV/Vis region at a wavelength of 581 nm. The equilibrium adsorption capacity (q_e
252 [mg g^{-1}]), was determined by Eq. (01) [10].
253
254
255

256 3. Results and discussion

257 3.1. Material characterization

258 A specific surface area of $106.07 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ was determined for Ni/In-LDH adsorbent
259 material by BET analysis which was consistent with literature values for other LDH, such
260 as $102.00 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ for CuMgAl [18] and Zn-Co and $116.40 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ [26]. However, this was
261 lower than the literature values for biochar ($136 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$) [13]. BET analysis also resulted
262 a pore volume of $0.3823 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ g}^{-1}$ and an average pore size of 14.25 nm for Ni/In-LDH,
263 indicating that CV molecules, with an approximately 0.972 nm of size, can readily
264 penetrate the adsorbent pores, as well as access and bond to active sites [27].

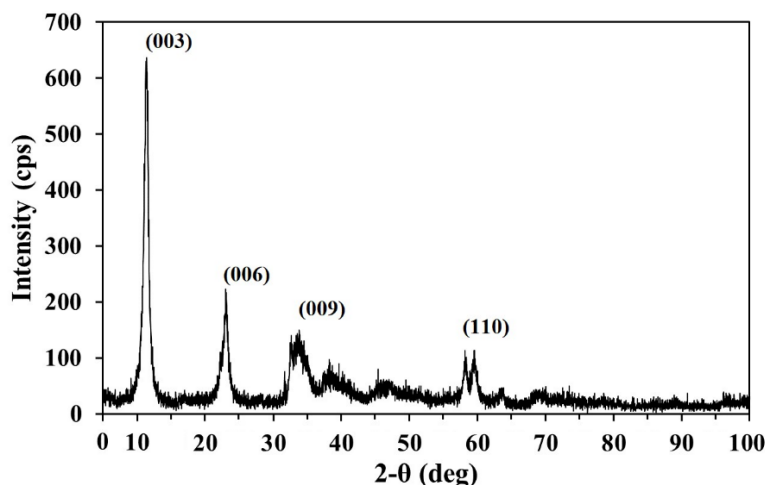
265 XRD analysis pattern results presented the formation of crystal structures through
266 the high-intensity reflections at the 2θ angles of 5-100°, Fig. 2. Comparing with the
267 pattern presented in Wang *et al.* [28] and for In_2O_3 and $\beta\text{-NiOOH}$ obtained from Vieira
268 *et al.* [29] and Narayan [30] studies, respectively, it is possible to affirm that there is the
269 formation of $00l$ basal reflections in lower values of 2θ , identified with the Miller indices

270 of (003), (006) and (009) reflections, indicative of interlayer space between inorganic
271 compounds and related to the periodicity of stacking along the c axis.

272 A large asymmetric basal reflection, (110), is presented with the increase of the
273 angle 2θ , resulting from the turbostratic effects derived from the translational disorder of
274 the layers of metal hydroxides along the axes a and c , removing the linear form of the
275 reflections $hk0$ [31].

276 Assuming a rhombohedral structure of hexagonal symmetry ($a = b$; $\gamma = 120^\circ$), it is
277 possible to calculate the network parameters a and c of the material, 0.219 and 2.349 nm
278 respectively, and determine the basal spacing (BS) through the relation $BS = c / 3 = 0.783$
279 nm. This value is approximate to that found in the literature for Ni/In-LDH intercalated
280 with CO_3^{2-} , 0.785 nm. The molecular size of CV being 0.972 nm is greater than the BS
281 of the Ni/In LDH, therefore it cannot penetrate the interlayered sheets of Ni/In-LDH,
282 leaving only the active sites at the surface of the porous adsorbent particles [27,28,32].

283



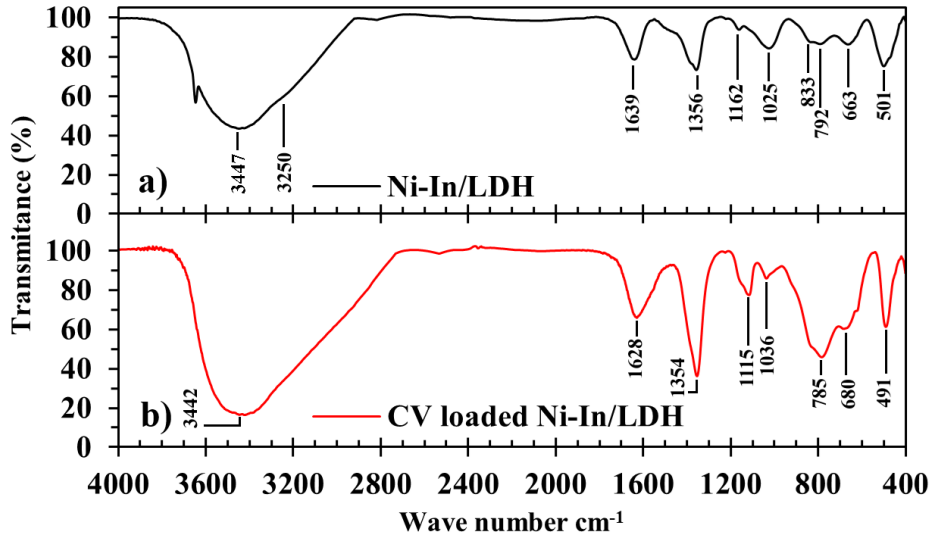
284 Figure 2 - XRD analysis of adsorbent Ni/In-LDH

285

286 FTIR analysis, (Fig. 3.a), reveals an intense wide band around 3447 cm^{-1} that can be
287 attributed to the $O-H$ stretch of hydration water and hydroxyl groups of LDH. An apparent

288 shoulder at 3250 cm^{-1} to this broad band can be attributed to hydrogen bonding of CO_3^{2-}
 289 anions with interlayer H_2O [31].

290



291 Figure 3 - FTIR analysis: a) adsorbent Ni/In-LDH, and b) CV loaded Ni/In-LDH.

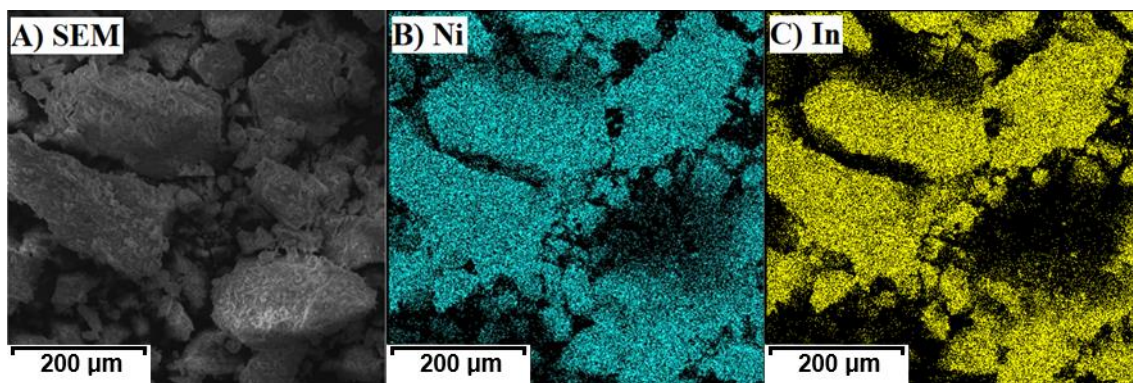
292

293 A stretch at 1639 cm^{-1} reflects angular deformation δ_{HOH} of H_2O molecules, whilst
 294 that at 792 cm^{-1} can be attributed to the deformation of intermolecular H_2O . Intercalated
 295 CO_3^{2-} anions display moderate bands at 1356 and 1025 cm^{-1} due to C-O antisymmetric
 296 stretching ν_3 , at 1162 cm^{-1} due to O-C-O asymmetric stretching and another stretch at
 297 833 cm^{-1} for angular deformation of CO_3^{2-} anions [28,31,33].

298 Stretches at 663 cm^{-1} and 501 cm^{-1} may be attributed to $M\text{-OH}$ stretch of both Ni-
 299 OH and In-OH . These results indicate the success in the synthesis process of Ni/In-LDH
 300 intercalated with CO_3^{2-} anions [34,35].

301 SEM-EDS analysis of the as-synthesized Ni/In-LDH presented the adsorbent
 302 material as irregular granules of varying sizes, Fig 4.a). EDS mapping verify a
 303 homogeneous distribution of the elements Ni and In (Fig. 4.b) and 4.c)) respectively [13].

304 This confirms that the production of Ni/In-LDH material can be achieved successfully.



305

306 Figure 4 - SEM analysis with EDS mapping a) SEM, b) Ni, and c) In; magnification 200
 307 times.

308

309 3.2. pH studies at point of zero charge (pH_{pzc}) and influence of pH

310 The influence of pH on the surface properties of the adsorbent and the degree of
 311 ionization of the adsorbate makes this parameter essential for the optimization of the
 312 adsorption process. The influence of the initial pH on the adsorption of CV in Ni/In-LDH
 313 was investigated with pH_0 between 2 and 10, Figure 5.a). Other adsorption parameters
 314 were kept constant: 50 mL solution volume, 50 mg L⁻¹ adsorbate, CV concentration 50
 315 mg L⁻¹, agitation 140 rpm, for 4 h at 25°C (298.15 K).

316 The highest adsorption capacity value of 68.39 mg g⁻¹ was attained at pH 8.0.
 317 Analysis of Fig. 5.a) revealed a pH_{pzc} of 7.3 when the final pH is equal to the initial pH
 318 of the solution. In addition, the adsorption capacity increases considerably with the
 319 increase of the initial pH of the process until it reaches relative equilibrium when $pH_0 >$
 320 pH_{pzc} . This phenomenon is due to the pH of the solution controlling the magnitude of the
 321 electrostatic charges donated by the ionized molecules of the dye. The lower adsorption
 322 capacity at $pH_0 < pH_{pzc}$ is due to the positively charged adsorbent surface from an
 323 abundance of H^+ ions with consequent repulsion between the positively charged surface
 324 and cationic dye. However, when $pH_0 > pH_{pzc}$, the pH is higher and the adsorbent surface
 325 is negatively charged (abundance of OH^-) favoring electrostatic interaction with the

326 cationic dye CV thus resulting in increased adsorption capacity, q_e . Therefore, pH 8.0 was
 327 defined as ideal in performing subsequent studies, ensuring optimal adsorption capacity
 328 for the process, as $pH_f > pH_{pzc}$ [12,17].
 329

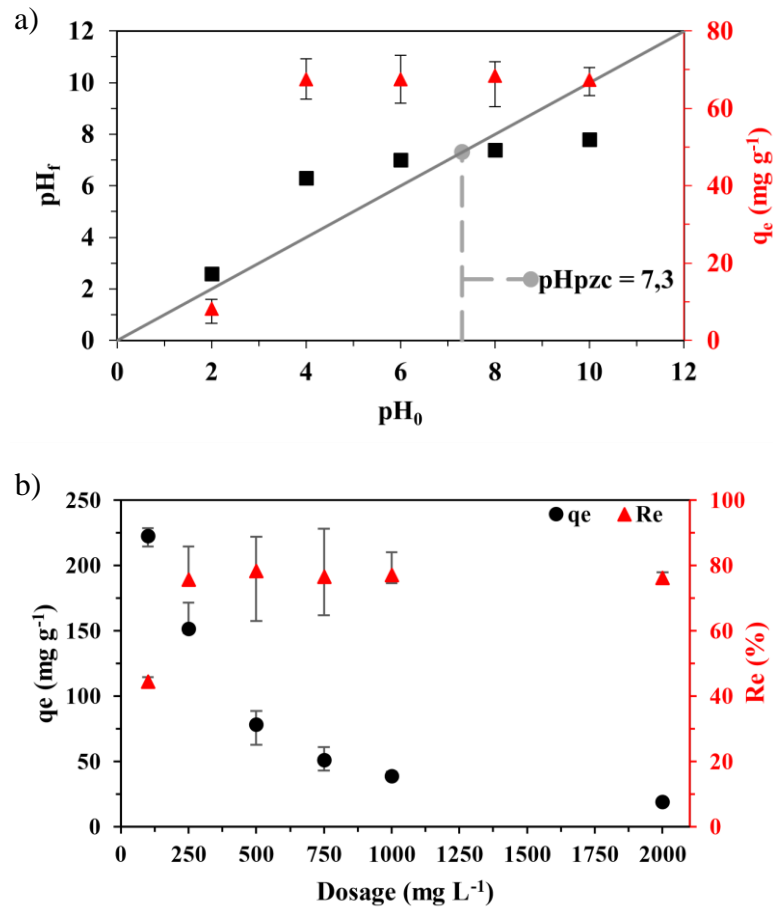


Figure 5 - a) pH_f as a function of pH_0 (black); adsorption capacity q_e [$mg\ g^{-1}$] (red); pH_{pzc} , (gray) (Experimental conditions: $C_0 = 50\ mg\ L^{-1}$ CV, $500\ mg\ L^{-1}$ adsorbent, 140 rpm, 4 h, $25^\circ C$); b) Adsorption capacity q_e [$mg\ g^{-1}$] (black) as function of adsorbent dosage; percentual removal Re (%) (red) as function of adsorbent dosage (Experimental conditions: $C_0 = 50\ mg\ L^{-1}$ CV, $pH\ 8.0$, 140 rpm, 4 h, $25^\circ C$)

330

331 3.3. Adsorbent dosage

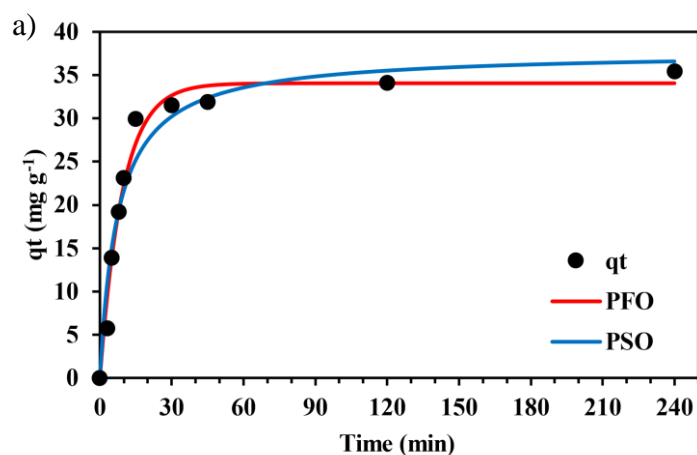
332 The adsorption capacity of CV on Ni/In-LDH was assessed by varying the dosage
333 of adsorbent between 10 and 2000 mg L⁻¹, with the dye solution (50 mg L⁻¹, pH 8.0) at
334 140 rpm, for 4h at 25°C (298.15 K). CV removal (*Re*%) increases rapidly from 44.5 to
335 75.6%, in the range between 100 and 240 mg L⁻¹, Fig. 5.b). This is due to the increase in
336 the contact surface between the adsorbent and adsorbate available, keeping in equilibrium
337 at a dosage above 240 mg L⁻¹ [17]. Therefore, the dosage established for the other
338 experiments was 240 mg L⁻¹.

339

340 3.4. Kinetic studies

341 Adsorption kinetics are used to determine the efficiency of the adsorbent. The
342 adsorption profile of CV in Ni/In-LDH was verified over a contact time ranging from 0
343 to 240 min (CV *C*₀ of 50 mg L⁻¹, pH 8.0, 140 rpm, at 25°C (298.15 K), adsorbent 240 mg
344 L⁻¹), Fig. 6.a). The adsorption capacity reached equilibrium in 30 min of contact between
345 adsorbate solution and adsorbent material with little change in adsorption capacity (*q**t*)
346 with any further increase in contact time *t*.

347



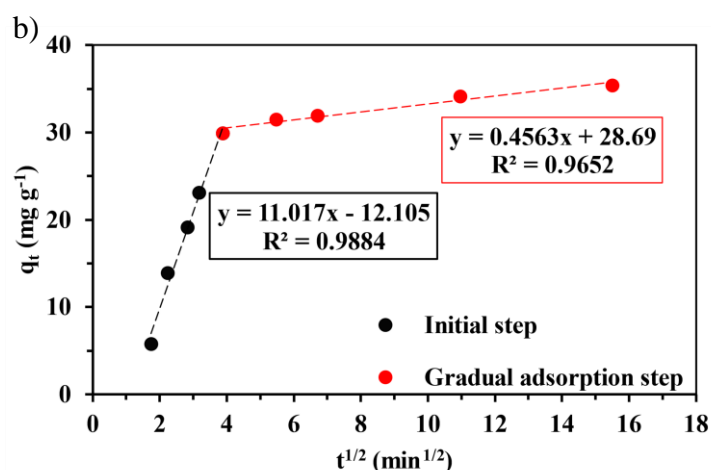


Figure 6: a) Kinetic curve for CV adsorption on Ni/In-LDH; b) Ni/In-LDH CV initial curve (black), intraparticle diffusion curve (red); (Experimental conditions: $C_0 = 50 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$, pH = 8.0, 140 rpm, 25°C and adsorbent dosage 240 mg L^{-1})

348

349 The reaction models of PFO and PSO, Equations (03) and (04), were used to
 350 interpret the adsorption kinetics curve obtained experimentally. The obtained adsorption
 351 parameters for CV in Ni/In-LDH are presented in Table 1. Satisfactory adjustment was
 352 obtained for PFO due to higher value of the coefficient of determination (R^2) and adjusted
 353 coefficient of determination (R^2_{adj}). In addition, the PFO model presented a lower mean
 354 relative error (ARE), reduced Chi-square (χ^2_{red}), and sum of deviations (SD), compared
 355 to the PSO model, thus highlighting the greater suitability of the PFO kinetic model. As
 356 such, the rate-limiting step in this mechanism was determined to involve diffusion process
 357 where the reaction rate depends only on the concentration of the adsorbate [19,36].

358

359 Table 1 – PFO and PSO models parameters.

Model	$k_{f,s}$ (min ⁻¹)	q_e (mg g ⁻¹)	R^2	R^2_{adj}	ARE (%)	χ^2_{red}	SD
PFO	1.06×10^{-1}	34.06	0.9667	0.9619	4.04	4.65	2.16
PSO	3.56×10^{-3}	37.72	0.9317	0.9219	5.29	9.53	3.09

360

361 From the analysis of the mechanism of intraparticle diffusion of adsorption, it was
362 possible to observe multilinear plots that indicates the presence of two distinct steps (Fig.
363 6.b). An initial step due to surface adsorption and rapid external diffusion (boundary layer
364 diffusion), and a second linear portion representing the gradual adsorption step occurring
365 from 15 minutes of contact onwards, where the intraparticle diffusion is controlled by the
366 adsorption rate. From Eq. (05), the slope k_i of the second linear portion characterizes the
367 parameter of the adsorption rate corresponding to intramolecular diffusion, 0.45 mg g^{-1}
368 $\text{min}^{-1/2}$, and the interception on the function axis is proportional to the thickness of the
369 limit layer $C = 28.69 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$. Since $C \neq 0$, it is possible to assert that the intraparticle
370 diffusion mechanism is not the only rate controlling step of adsorption kinetics.
371 Therefore, boundary layer and intraparticle diffusion mechanisms occur simultaneously
372 as the rate limiting steps of mass transfer process that controls adsorption [20,36,37].

373

374 3.5. Isothermal equilibrium studies

375 Adsorption equilibrium isotherms (Fig. 7) were obtained at temperatures of 40,
376 50, and 60 °C (313.15, 323.15 and 333.15 K), for increasing concentrations of CV (25 to
377 400 mg L^{-1}) whilst other experimental conditions were maintained constant (pH 8.0,
378 adsorbent dosage 240 mg L^{-1} , 140 rpm). The isotherms presented S2 shape, as presented
379 by Giles *et al.* [38], assuming a vertical orientation of molecules adsorbed on the surface,
380 moderate intermolecular interaction in the adsorbate and strong competition for active
381 sites between adsorbate and solvent.

382 The adsorption capacity at equilibrium (q_e) highly increased with the increase in the
383 concentration of solute at equilibrium (C_e), Fig. 7. This indicates that there was no
384 saturation of all adsorption sites within the experimental range and the great potential of
385 CV adsorption in the Ni/In-LDH adsorbent [13].

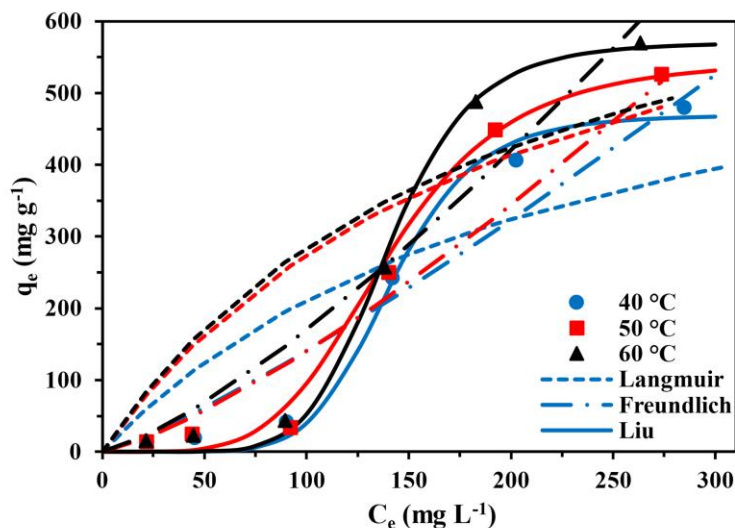


Figure 7 - Isothermal curves for adsorption of CB in Ni/In-LDH (Experimental conditions: dosage of adsorbent of 240 mg g⁻¹, pH 8,0, constant agitation of 140 rpm, for 4 h).

386

387 Three adsorption isotherm non-linear models of Langmuir (Eq. 06), Freundlich (Eq.
 388 07), and Liu (Eq. 08) were tested for the isothermal equilibrium. Langmuir's [22] model
 389 considers the hypothesis of a monolayer adsorption process, leading to a maximum
 390 adsorption capacity (Q_{max}) as the energetically equivalent active sites present on the
 391 adsorbent's surface are filled. Freundlich [23] hypothesizes in his model that the
 392 adsorption process occurs infinitely and heterogeneously, assuming that the adsorbate
 393 concentration on the surface of the adsorbent increases exponentially as the initial
 394 concentration of the adsorbate increase, which leads to the formation of multilayers of
 395 adsorbate as the active sites on the surface of the adsorbent are filled and the adsorbate-
 396 adsorbate interactions create new energetically different active sites and the formation of
 397 a new adsorbate layer. Liu's [24] isotherm model combines Langmuir's and Freundlich's
 398 models by assuming the saturation of the energetically different active sites. Therefore,

399 Liu's model also discards the monolayer and infinite adsorption assumptions,
 400 respectively [19].

401 Table 2 contains the fitted models parameters obtained, where Liu's model
 402 presented good values of $R^2 > 0.9502$ and $R^2_{adj} > 0.9412$ fits for all isotherms models
 403 analyzed, as well as lower values of $ARE < 57.56\%$, $\chi^2_{red} < 2064.35$ and $SD < 45.44$,
 404 compared to the Langmuir's and Freundlich's model fits. Liu's model correlation with
 405 the experimental data, indicated the presence of preferential active adsorption sites
 406 energetically different and their saturation. This allowed to reject the hypotheses of
 407 monolayer adsorption of the Langmuir model and infinite adsorption of the Freundlich
 408 model.

409

410 Table 2 – Isothermal parameters of Ni/In-LDH adjusted by Langmuir, Freundlich and Liu
 411 models.

Model	Temperature (°C)		
	40	50	60
<i>Langmuir</i>			
K_L (L mg ⁻¹)	4.34 x10 ⁻³	4.79 x10 ⁻³	5.19 x10 ⁻³
Q_{max} (mg g ⁻¹)	697.97	846.42	832.65
R^2	0.7126	0.7711	0.6726
R^2_{adj}	0.6974	0.7520	0.6399
ARE (%)	231.56	298.10	284.66
χ^2_{red}	11090.18	15537.09	20477.06
SD	105.31	124.65	143.10
<i>Freundlich</i>			
K_F (mg g ⁻¹ (mg L ⁻¹) ^{-1/n})	0.555	0.359	0.413
n_F	0.83	0.77	0.77
R^2	0.8480	0.8696	0.8614
R^2_{adj}	0.8400	0.8588	0.8475
ARE (%)	92.64	8480	87.22
χ^2_{red}	5863.93	8187.14	8671.69
SD	76.58	90.48	93.12
<i>Liu</i>			
K_g (L mg ⁻¹)	7.07 x10 ⁻³	7.12 x10 ⁻³	7.14 x10 ⁻³
Q_{max} (mg g ⁻¹)	469.53	546.65	570.95
n_L	6.84	4.62	6.80

R^2	0.9715	0.9502	0.9646
R^2_{adj}	0.9683	0.9412	0.9568
ARE (%)	53.40	57.56	50.07
χ^2_{red}	1161.22	2064.35	2458.27
SD	34.08	45.44	49.58

412

413 Accordingly, the value of the Liu equilibrium constant parameter (K_g), that
414 represents the adsorbent-adsorbate affinity, tends to increase with the temperature
415 indicating that adsorption is favored at elevated temperatures. Similarly, providing the
416 greatest value for maximum adsorption capacity (Q_{max}) of 570.95 mg g⁻¹ at 60°C for the
417 study, due to the driving force gradient that increases with the adsorbate concentration
418 [39].

419 Table 3 compares the Q_{max} and $Re(\%)$ value in this study for the adsorption of CV
420 in Ni/In-LDH adsorbent with other methodologies and adsorbents from the literature used
421 on the removal of CV. The higher adsorption capacity of the adsorbent Ni/In-LDH
422 indicates this material's greater efficiency and potential in the removal of CV dye in
423 aqueous solutions compared to adsorbent materials synthesized through other
424 methodologies.

425

426 Table 3 – Comparison between the maximum adsorption capacity Q_{max} and Removal
427 efficiency Re (%) in several studies for CV

Adsorbent	Q_{max} (mg g ⁻¹)	$Re(\%)$	Reference
Ni/In-LDH	570.95	78.33	This work
Almond Shell	12.20	83.00	[17]
Zn-Al LDH carbon coated	128.87	97.87	[11]
ZVI-GAM	172.41	-	[18]
Clay	231.74	-	[7]
Biochar novel / Mg/Al-LDH	364.70	-	[12]
CaAl/Biochar (H ₃ PO ₄)	496.55	71.00	[13]

428

429 3.6. Thermodynamic studies

430 A Van't Hoff diagram (Fig 8.a)) was obtained from Eq. (10) where the value of the
 431 thermodynamic constant (K_e^0) was estimated from the parameters from the previous
 432 adjustment of the Liu model. The parameter K_g [$L\ mg^{-1}$] was used in Eq. (12) to obtain
 433 K_e^0 [dimensionless] [19,25].

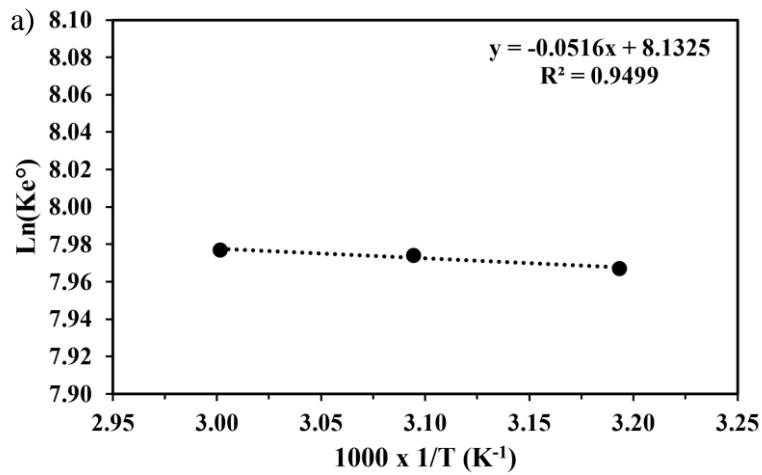
434

$$435 \quad K_e^0 = \frac{1000 K_G MM [adsorbate]^0}{\gamma} \quad (12)$$

436

437 where, MM is the molar mass of the adsorbate [$g\ mol^{-1}$]; $[adsorbate]^0$ is the standard
 438 concentration of the adsorbate (is by definition $1\ mol\ L^{-1}$); γ is the activity coefficient of
 439 the adsorbate and a unitary value is assumed for dilute solutions [dimensionless] [25].

440



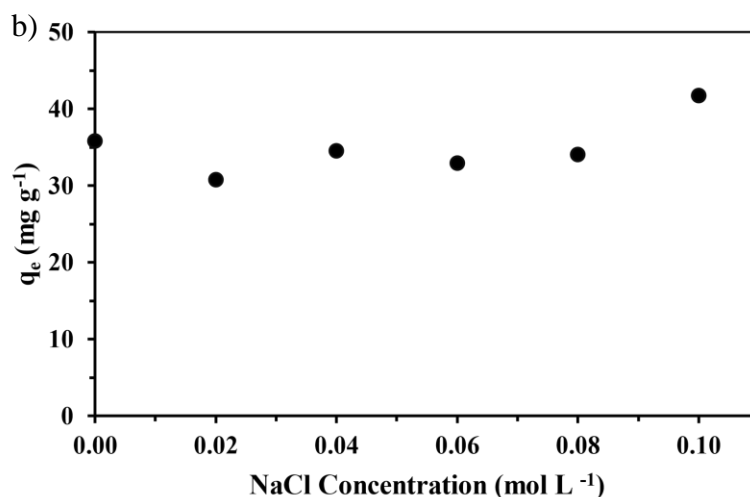


Figure 8 - a) Van't Hoff diagram for obtaining the thermodynamic parameters of adsorption; b) Effect of ionic strength on CV adsorption capacity in Ni/In-LDH (Experimental conditions: $C_0 = 50 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ CV concentration, 30°C , adsorbent dosage of 240 mg g^{-1} , pH 8.0 and constant rotation of 140 rpm).

441

442 The thermodynamic parameters ΔG° , ΔH° and ΔS° were calculated from the Van't
 443 Hoff diagram (Fig. 8.a)) and Equations (10) and (11). The ΔH° and ΔS° values obtained
 444 were $0.429 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ and $67.61 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$, respectively, whilst the ΔG° value for
 445 temperatures $40, 50, \text{ and } 60^\circ\text{C}$, were determined as $-20.74, -21.42, \text{ and } -22.10 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$,
 446 respectively.

447 The negative ΔG° values indicates that the adsorption of CV in Ni/In-LDH
 448 adsorbent is spontaneous and favorable. In addition, the decreasing value of ΔG° with
 449 increasing temperature suggests that the process is most favored at 60°C . The positive
 450 value of ΔH° , implies that the adsorption process is endothermic and physisorption
 451 occurs, since $\Delta H^\circ < 20 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$. The positive value of ΔS° reflects the occurrence of
 452 rearrangements at the solid-liquid interface and increased randomness during the
 453 adsorption process [12,13,18].

454

455 3.7. Ionic strength study

456 Industrial liquid effluent and polluted groundwater generally have high
457 concentrations of salts which can affect the CV adsorption process. Therefore, the
458 influence of the ionic strength of salts on the removal of CV in Ni/In-LDH adsorbent was
459 modeled using NaCl ranging from 0 to 0.1 mol L⁻¹ [12,40]. Analysis (Fig. 8.b) revealed
460 relatively constant q_e values with increasing NaCl concentrations but with moderate
461 increase for the 0.10 mol L⁻¹ solution. This behavior could be considered an indicative of
462 a positive effect of the NaCl in the dissociation of dye molecules by facilitating the
463 protonation of CV and consequently increasing electrostatic interactions between CV
464 cations and the deprotonated surface of Ni/In-LDH. This lends further support that, Ni/In-
465 LDH could technically be a viable adsorbent for the adsorption of CV present in industrial
466 effluents and groundwater [12,41].

467

468 3.8. Regeneration studies

469 The desorption process makes it possible to reduce operating costs with adsorbent,
470 being fundamental to evaluate the reuse of the material. From the value of q_e obtained in
471 regeneration cycles 1, 2, and 3, it was possible to compare the percentual relation of each
472 cycle to the adsorption capacity of CV in cycle 0, resulting in 70.78%, 75.59%, and
473 71.42%, respectively. The q_e in the successive cycles of regeneration of Ni/In-LDH
474 adsorbent in alcohol is maintained between 70 and 75% of the adsorption capacity of
475 cycle 0. Thus, the results presented in the study reveals that the Ni/In-LDH adsorbent
476 could be recycled and reused in CV adsorption procedures for textile wastewater
477 treatment. Additionally, Ni/In-LDH can be synthesized from precursor materials such as
478 Nickel recovered from spent batteries and Indium obtained in LCD screens from
479 discarded cellphones, thus lowering even further the costs of adsorption effluent

480 treatment. Therefore, Ni/In-LDH figures as a promising cost-effective adsorbent to
481 wastewater effluent treatment processes worldwide.

482

483 3.9. Interaction mechanisms of adsorption

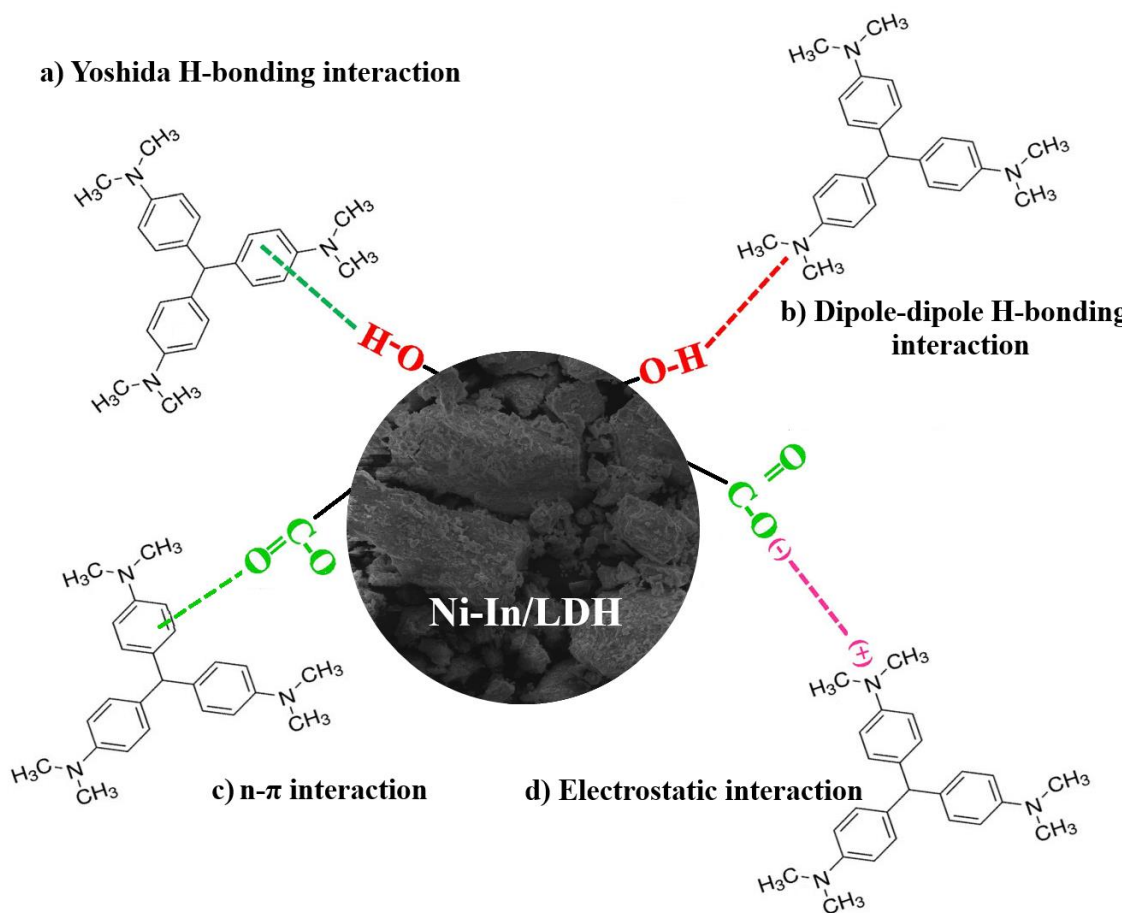
484 An interaction adsorption mechanism can be suggested by considering the results
485 of the adsorbent's characterization, speciation, and standard enthalpy change's magnitude
486 [42]. The interaction mechanisms of adsorption were suggested in this study as follows,
487 Fig. 9.

488

489 3.9.1. Electrostatic attraction

490 Electrostatic attraction will happen if an adsorbent particle and the adsorbate
491 particle possess opposite charges [11,43]. As discussed in section 3.2., the removal of CV
492 from water was favored by when the solution pH was higher than the pH_{pzc} , indicating
493 the occurrence of electrostatic attraction between the negatively charged adsorbent
494 surface and the nitrogen atom of cationic dye CV, as described in Fig. 9.d).

495



496 Figure 9 – Interaction mechanisms of adsorption

497

498 3.9.2. Hydrogen bond interactions

499 H-bonding interactions may occur with the presence of some functional groups such
 500 as -OH, -COOH, and -NH₂ acting as H-donor to H-acceptor molecules [44]. Two
 501 categories of H-bonding interactions could happen, dipole-dipole interactions between
 502 hydroxyl groups on Ni-In/LDH surface and nitrogen atoms in CV molecules, or Yoshida
 503 bonding, between the H-donor adsorbent surface and the aromatic groups of CV [45].
 504 Analyzing the FTIR spectra obtained for the adsorbent Ni-In/LDH before and after
 505 adsorption of CV, Fig. 3.a and 3.b, respectively, it is possible to observe an intensity
 506 increase and a minor transition to lower wavenumber from 3447 to 3442 cm⁻¹ after the

507 adsorption process may represent the occurrence of both Yoshida and hydrogen bonding,
508 Fig. 9.a) and 9.b), respectively [43,46].

509

510 3.9.3. n- π interactions

511 n- π interactions as suggested by Mattson *et al.* [47] may occur when aromatic rings,
512 such as those present in CV (Fig. 1), turn as electron acceptors meanwhile oxygen groups
513 on the Ni-In/LDH adsorbent surface function as electron donors. The FTIR spectra
514 results, Fig. 3, presents a decrease in intensity in the C-O stretch and a minor transition
515 wavenumber from 1025 to 1036 cm^{-1} . Also, an increase in intensity and transition in
516 wavenumber for the stretches related to CO_3^{2-} anions (C=O and O-C-O) from 1356 and
517 1162 cm^{-1} to 1354 and 1115 cm^{-1} . Stretches at 833 and 792 cm^{-1} merged into a more
518 intense stretch at 785 cm^{-1} after adsorption of CV, meanwhile the stretch at 1639 cm^{-1}
519 increased in intensity and had a minor transition in wavenumber to 1628 cm^{-1} , indicating
520 that an interaction between the aromatic rings of CV and the electron donor surface of
521 Ni-In/LDH might have occurred. This highly suggests that n- π interactions happened in
522 the adsorption process, Fig. 9.c) [44,46].

523

524 4. Conclusions

525 In this work, the main objective was to investigate the adsorption capacity of Crystal
526 violet dye in Ni-In/LDH adsorbent in different conditions. The adsorbent Ni-In-LDH
527 intercalated with CO_3^{2-} was successfully synthesized and characterized. The adsorbent
528 had a rhombohedral structure of hexagonal symmetry, and good homogeneity, with basal
529 spacing (*BS*) of 0.783 nm and specific surface area of 106.07 $\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$. The optimal
530 conditions of adsorption operation were pH 8.0, adsorbent dosage of 250 mg L^{-1} ,
531 temperature of 60°C, and potential for use of Ni-In-LDH in processes with high ionic

532 strength. The material presented a high value of maximum Q_{max} adsorption capacity in
533 this study of 570.95 mg g⁻¹, contact time up to equilibrium of 30 min and maintained
534 between 70% and 75% of the adsorption capacity in successive regeneration cycles.
535 Kinetic studies indicated that the adsorption process followed the Pseudo first order
536 (PFO) model. The isothermal study data best fitted the Liu isothermal model with
537 $R^2 > 0.9502$, indicating the presence of multilayers and adsorption sites with different
538 activation and saturation energies occupied by the adsorbate molecules. Thermodynamic
539 studies indicated a spontaneous and endothermic adsorption process, and the mechanism
540 of physisorption of CV in Ni/In-LDH. Interaction mechanisms of adsorption were
541 proposed for the Ni-In/LDH and CV interactions, such as electrostatic, hydrogen,
542 Yoshida, and n- π interaction bonds. The adsorbent Ni/In-LDH displayed excellent
543 applicability in the removal of CV dye from aqueous solutions compared to other high
544 performing adsorbents in the literature, demonstrating that Ni-In/LDH is a highly efficient
545 adsorbent and a promising material to the effluent treatment industry.

546

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553

554 **CRedit authorship contribution statement**

555 **Eduardo Teixeira Santos:** Formal analysis; Investigation; Methodology; Writing -
556 original draft. **Nicholas P. Power:** Writing - review & editing. **Satheesh**

557 **Krishnamurthy:** Writing - review & editing. **Daniel A. Bertuol:** Supervision; Writing -
558 review & editing. **Eduardo H. Tanabe:** Conceptualization; Funding acquisition;
559 Supervision; Writing - review & editing.

560

561 **Declaration of Competing Interest**

562 The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or
563 personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this
564 paper.

565 **Data availability**

566 The data that has been used is confidential.

567

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