

## HYDROTHERMAL ACTIVATION OF CARBONACEOUS MATERIAL TO PREPARATION OF CATALYST SUPPORT

World consumption of activated charcoal should exceed 10% per year, reaching an estimated amount near 1.36Mt in 2015 (ROMÁN et al., 2013). Carbonaceous Materials have been prepared from different kinds of materials such as coconut shells, wood, lignin, petroleum, turf, coke, bones, seeds, sawdust, rice shells, fertilizer residues, rubber and others. The activated charcoal prepared from natural materials has a higher amount of ashes when compared to those prepared from polymeric waste, which also has higher mechanical resistance against abrasion and compression

(S.B. de Oliveira et al., 2008). Regardless the source, the carbon adsorption properties are always affected by the chemical structure of the surface. The spherical polymeric charcoal, obtained from the polymer waste is particularly attractive because regular spheres with high specific surface area and lactonics groups on the surface (Fig. 01) as well as to their textural properties are obtained. They also show high adsorption capacity and suitable mechanical properties, besides regular granulometry and resistance against abrasion. Furthermore, these solids

allow an easy incorporation of metals in their surface as well as on the surface of the precursor resin (V.Z. Radkevich et al., 2008). For activation of the carbonaceous material is necessary high temperatures (above 700 °C), i.e., consumption of large amounts of energy. Other possibility is the activation of the carbonaceous materials by hydrothermal activation (HTA), where lower temperatures and high pressure are required (180 to 220 °C, 22 to 120 bars). This process is based to already known from Bergius and Specht process (1913), who described the hydrothermal transformation of cellulose into Hydrocharcoal (HTC). Hydrothermal carbonization can be used for fabrication of carbon spheres of controllable size with large numbers of oxygen-containing functional groups on their surface using a hydrothermal treatment. HTA, however, nevertheless represents a simple and environmentally friendly technique because there is the possibility to save energy in the charcoal activation step, obtained from polymers waste to be applied as catalytic support.

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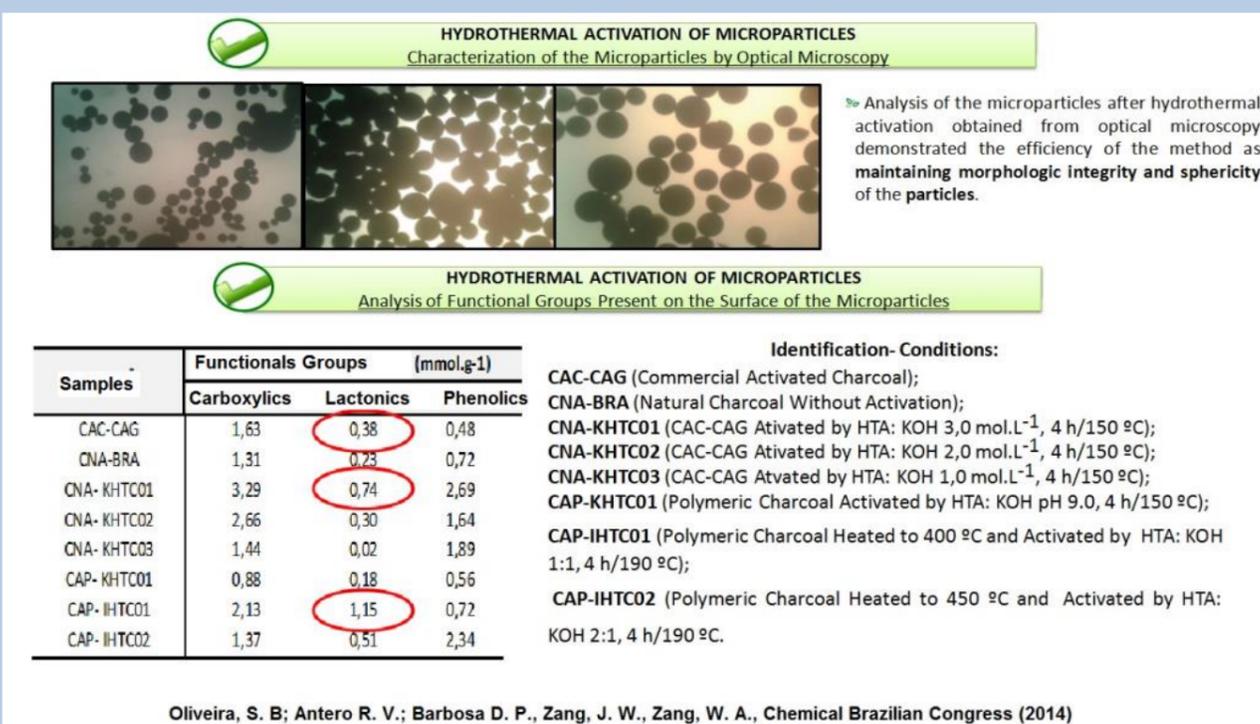


Figure 01 - Comparison between functional groups of the CAC, CNA and CAP



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