

1 **Cesium Adsorption Isotherm on Swelling High-charged Micas**  
2 **from Aqueous Solutions: Effect of Temperature**

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**ABSTRACT**

14 The potential use of a new family of synthetic swelling micas for cesium  
15 immobilization from aqueous solution was evaluate and the structural modifications  
16 after adsorption were analyzed. The results have revealed that they are good cesium  
17 adsorbents compared to natural clays and as the layer charge increases, the adsorption  
18 capacity and affinity increase. The cesium ions are adsorbed through a cation exchange  
19 mechanism but an inner sphere complex with the basal oxygens of the tetrahedral sheet  
20 is favored. These findings imply that is possible to design minerals with improved  
21 environmental applications.

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25 waste management

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## INTRODUCTION

28 Along with the rapid development of nuclear industries, the contamination of  
29 radionuclides in the environment is a point of attention worldwide (Steinhauser 2014).  
30 Cesium isotopes ( $^{137}\text{Cs}$ ,  $t_{1/2}= 30$  yr, and  $^{135}\text{Cs}$ ,  $t_{1/2}= 2\cdot 10^6$  yr) are one of the major  
31 constituents of the wastewater effluents from nuclear reprocessing units (Castrillejo et  
32 al. 2016) and due to their long half-lives and high solubility, they are the most  
33 hazardous nuclides in radioactive wastes. Given its chemical similarity to alkalis,  $\text{Cs}^+$  is  
34 readily assimilated by terrestrial and aquatic organisms and can gradually accumulate in  
35 the biological food chain (Nakao et al. 2008; Poinssot et al. 1999). Cesium strongly and  
36 selectively interacts with the phyllosilicate fraction of soil, sediment, and suspended  
37 particles (Zachara et al. 2002) but the interaction of  $\text{Cs}^+$  in a geological material is  
38 expected to be highly sensitive to the relative compositions of smectite/vermiculite and  
39 mica/illite (Fan et al. 2014).

40 The objective of any waste management is immobilization and isolation for the time  
41 necessary to lower its environmental activity and for this, a number of natural and  
42 artificial barriers are used. Numerous studies focused on using clays as a chemical  
43 barrier for retention and storage of radioactive materials have been reported, since they  
44 have a great capacity to adsorb and immobilize cations (Alba et al. 2001; Chorover et al.  
45 2003; Rani and Sasidhar 2012; Takahashi et al. 1987; Villa-Alfageme et al. 2015).  
46 Clayey waste materials can retain radionuclides by sorption but also, under certain  
47 conditions, can produce a chemical reaction that generates new phases immobilizing the  
48 radioactive elements (Villa-Alfageme et al. 2015). Other features that make clays useful

49 for retention of radioactive waste are their low permeability and high swelling capacity  
50 for absorption of ions, which predetermine their use as sealing barriers in multi-barrier  
51 systems when an underground geological repository for spent nuclear fuel and high-  
52 level radioactive wastes is constructed (Linares 1993).

53 Up to now, bentonites (smectites ca. 90%) have been proposed as the best candidate  
54 for the barriers (Gregor 1969). The principal component of bentonites is a 2:1 layer  
55 phyllosilicate with lamellar charge between 0.2 and 0.8. It is well known that as the  
56 total charge increases the immobilization capacity of the clay increases (Weir 1965).  
57 Structural features that increase the reactivity of these 2:1 phyllosilicates are the  
58 presence of aluminum in the tetrahedral sheet and the total occupation of the octahedral  
59 sheet (Alba et al. 2001). In this sense, Alba et al. (Alba et al. 2006) have synthesized a  
60 swelling high-charged (4 eq/unit cell) mica, Na-Mica-4, which is able to rehydrate and  
61 swell and has a high cation exchange capacity, comparable to aluminum-rich zeolites.  
62 These micas have attracted considerable interest because of their exceptional adsorption  
63 capacity and selectivity of harmful cations (Alba et al. 2006; Franklin and Lee 1996;  
64 Garcia-Jimenez et al. 2016; Kodama et al. 2001; Paulus et al. 1992) and they constitute  
65 a promising material for Cs adsorption.

66 Hence, the aim of this study was: (i) to evaluate the potential use of synthetic  
67 swelling high-charged micas, Na-Mica-n (n=2 and 4, layer charge) for cesium  
68 immobilization at standard temperature and pressure conditions; (ii) to evaluate the  
69 effect of temperature on its adsorption capacity; and; (iii) to determine the adsorption  
70 mechanism (unspecific adsorption or specific adsorption) that occurs at different  
71 temperatures.

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## EXPERIMENTAL AND ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES

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### 75 **Chemicals and materials**

76 Na-Mica- $n$  ( $n = 2$  and  $4$ ) was synthesized using the NaCl-melt method following a  
77 similar procedure to that described by Alba et al. (Alba et al. 2006). Their structural  
78 formulae are  $\text{Na}_n[\text{Si}_{8-n}\text{Al}_n]\text{Mg}_6\text{O}_{20}\text{F}_4$ , where  $n$  represents the charge per unit cell ( $n = 2$   
79 and  $4$ ). The starting materials employed were  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$ ,  $\text{MgF}_2$  and  $\text{NaCl}$ .  
80 Stoichiometric proportions of reactants were weighed and mixed in an agate mortar.  
81 The molar ratio between the reactants were  $(8-n)\text{SiO}_2:(n/2)\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3:6\text{MgF}_2:(2n)\text{NaCl}$   
82 (Alba et al. 2006). The heat treatments were carried out in closed Pt crucibles at  $900\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$   
83 over 15 h using a heating rate of  $10\text{ }^\circ\text{C}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ . The product was washed with distilled  
84 water and the solid was separated by filtration, dried at room temperature and then  
85 ground in an agate mortar.

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### 87 **Sorption equilibrium isotherm**

88 Each batch test sample in the sorption experiments at room temperature (RT) was  
89 prepared in a 50 ml centrifuge tube, where 0.2 g of Na-Mica-4 was dispersed with 30 ml  
90 of a CsCl solution at different concentrations ranging between 0.01-25 meq/L, the  
91 maximum concentration allows for satisfying the theoretical cation exchange capacity  
92 of the Na-Mica-4. For comparison, an adsorption at an initial concentration of 1 meq/L  
93 was carried out in Na-Mica-2. The samples were equilibrated for 24 h in an end-over-  
94 end shaker at 50 r.p.m. The phases were separated by centrifugation at 10,000 rpm at 8  
95  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 25 min.

96 The sorption isotherm at  $80\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  was carried out in a hydrothermal bomb (Alba et al.  
97 2006) where 0.2 g of Na-Mica-4 was mixed with 30 ml of a CsCl solution at different  
98 concentrations ranging between 1.5-25 meq/L and heated at  $80\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 h.

99 The supernatants were preserved by adding HNO<sub>3</sub> and cool stored for subsequent Cs<sup>+</sup>  
 100 analysis by inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS). The difference  
 101 between Cs<sup>+</sup> concentrations measured before and after sorption reveals the amount of  
 102 adsorbed Cs<sup>+</sup> (C<sub>s</sub>, meq/kg)

$$103 \quad C_s = (C_i - C_{eq}) \cdot \frac{V}{m}$$

104 where the V (L) is the volume of the solution, m is the weight of the mica (kg), C<sub>i</sub>  
 105 (meq/L) and C<sub>eq</sub> (meq/L) are the concentration of the Cs<sup>+</sup> in initial and final solutions,  
 106 respectively.

107 The solids were dried at room temperature and characterized by X-ray diffraction  
 108 (XRD), SEM/EDX microscopy and MAS NMR spectroscopy.

109 The adsorption percentage and the distribution ratio (K<sub>d</sub>, L/kg), were calculated as  
 110 follows:

$$111 \quad \% \text{ Adsorption} = \frac{C_i - C_{eq}}{C_i} \cdot 100$$

$$112 \quad K_d = \frac{C_s}{C_{eq}}$$

113 The Freundlich adsorption isotherm is widely used for mathematical descriptions of  
 114 adsorption on a heterogeneous adsorbent surface (Veli and Alyuz 2007). This isotherm  
 115 gives an expression encompassing the surface heterogeneity and the exponential  
 116 distribution of active sites and their energy. It can be written as follows (Bhattacharyya  
 117 and Sen Gupta 2007):

$$118 \quad C_s = K_F \cdot C_{eq}^{n_F}$$

119 K<sub>F</sub> (L/kg) is the Freundlich constant, which is related to adsorption capacity, and n<sub>F</sub>  
 120 (dimensionless) is the adsorption intensity. The Freundlich constant n<sub>F</sub> is a measure of  
 121 the deviation from linearity adsorption (n<sub>F</sub>=1). If n<sub>F</sub> value is above 1, this implies that  
 122 the sorption process is chemical, but if n<sub>F</sub> value is below 1, sorption is more likely a

123 physical process (Xi et al. 2014). The physical adsorption is that where the interaction  
124 between cesium and the mica surface is through weak Van der Waals forces (i.e. cation-  
125 exchanged reaction). However, if the cesium reacts with the mica, the adsorption  
126 mechanism is through ionic bonding. In general, the chemical adsorption requires  
127 higher temperatures than the physical one.

128

### 129 **Characterization Techniques**

130 The Cs<sup>+</sup> concentrations in the initial and final solutions were measured by ICP-  
131 MS with an atomic emission spectrometer with inductively coupled source, Perkin  
132 Elmer, Model DRC-e. Such equipment is settled in the Mass Spectrometry and  
133 Chromatography Unit at the University of Cordoba, Spain.

134 X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were obtained at the CITIUS X-ray laboratory  
135 (University of Seville, Spain) on a Bruker D8 Advance instrument equipped with a Cu  
136 K $\alpha$  radiation source operating at 40 kV and 40 mA. Diffractograms were obtained in the  
137 2 $\theta$  range of 3–70° with a step size of 0.015° and a step time of 0.1 s.

138 The morphology and elemental composition of the crystalline phases after the Cs  
139 treatments were analyzed by scanning electron microscopy (SEM/EDX), using a JEOL  
140 microscope (JSM 5400 Model) and working at 20 kV, which is installed in the  
141 Microscopy Service of ICMS (CSIC-US). This equipment is connected to an energy  
142 dispersive system X-ray (EDX) (Oxford Link ISIS) which allows chemical analysis of  
143 samples using a detector of Si/Li with a Be window.

144 The analysis of short-range structural order was carried out by Solid State Magic  
145 Angle Spinning-Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (MAS-NMR). Spectra were acquired  
146 using single pulse programs on a Bruker DRX 400, equipped with a multinuclear probe.  
147 Solid samples were packed in cylindrical zirconia rotors of 4 mm diameter and turned

148 under the magic angle at a frequency of 10 kHz.  $^{29}\text{Si}$  spectra were acquired at a  
149 frequency of 79.49 MHz, using pulse width values of 2.66  $\mu\text{s}$  ( $\pi/2 = 7.98 \mu\text{s}$ ), and a  
150 delay time of 3 s. The chemical shift values were expressed in ppm, using  
151 tetramethylsilane as an external reference.

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## RESULTS

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155 The adsorbed amounts of  $\text{Cs}^+$  and  $K_d$  values of the different scenarios have been  
156 obtained from the ICP-MS analysis. Figure 1 shows a comparison of the adsorption  
157 percentage and  $K_d$  values with temperature. The variation of adsorption percentage on  
158 Na-Mica-4 versus the initial concentration (Fig 1a) shows a maximum adsorption of  
159 80% at low concentrations that decreased with an increase of the initial concentration,  
160 whereas the  $K_d$  values (Fig. 1b) decreased exponentially with increasing adsorbed  
161 cesium.

162 At 80 °C, as at RT, the adsorption percentage and the  $K_d$  values decreased when  
163 the initial solution concentration and adsorbed cesium increased. However, at 80 °C a  
164 higher adsorption was observed at nonspecific sites but with higher affinity (low  $K_d$   
165 values, but higher than at RT) was observed (Galunin et al. 2010). This difference was  
166 greater at low initial concentrations, at  $C_i=1.5$  meq/L:  $K_d$  (L/kg)= $311.1\pm 13.60$  (RT) vs  
167  $548.1\pm 4.66$  (80 °C) and % ads=  $67.5\pm 4.03$  (RT) vs  $78.5\pm 0.14$  (80 °C). At the higher  
168 initial concentration, the opposite occurred, at  $C_i=25.0$  meq/L:  $K_d$  (L/kg)= $91.4\pm 3.95$   
169 (RT) vs  $78.8\pm 4.58$  (80 °C) and % ads=  $37.9\pm 1.83$  (RT) vs  $34.5\pm 1.31$  (80 °C).

170 The adsorption isotherm at both temperatures for Na-Mica-4 (Fig. 2) fitted to an  
171 L-Type isotherm without a plateau being formed and, thus, the adsorption limits were  
172 not reached (Limousin et al. 2007). In fact, the maximum value of adsorption was ca.

173 1587.7 meq/kg at RT and ca. 2307.6 meq/kg at 80 °C, which is below the cation  
174 exchange capacity of 4694.8 meq/kg.

175 The SEM micro-scale images (Fig. 3) show that mica retained its laminar  
176 structure and, therefore, the adsorption did not cause delamination of the clay, a  
177 postulated mechanism by some authors (Vejsada et al. 2005), when Na<sup>+</sup> was exchanged  
178 by other alkaline cations of higher radius such as K<sup>+</sup>. The swelling state of the layers  
179 was analyzed by XRD, and the XRD patterns of the samples after the adsorption (Fig.  
180 4) showed *00l* reflections compatible with a basal spacing of 1.20-1.22 nm, which  
181 indicated that Cs<sup>+</sup> formed a hydration complex in the interlayer space (Alba et al. 2006).  
182 At both temperatures, a decrease of the basal space was observed with respect to Na-  
183 Mica-4 when the initial Cs<sup>+</sup> concentration increased. Even at 80 °C, no XRD reflections  
184 due to formation of new crystalline phases were observed (Fig. 5).

185 In the case of samples after adsorption of cesium at 80 °C, a study by <sup>29</sup>Si MAS  
186 NMR (Fig. 6) was carried out in order to detect if the temperature could favor the  
187 nucleation of new phases that could not be observed by XRD. The initial Na-Mica-4  
188 spectrum showed a set of signals between -75 and -100 ppm due to Q<sup>3</sup>(nAl) with n=0, 1,  
189 2 and 3 environments typical of micas (Sanz and Serratosa 1984). After adsorption at 80  
190 °C, the same set of signals with a gradual shift towards lower frequencies was observed.

191

## 192 DISCUSSION

193

194 The moderate K<sub>d</sub> values indicated adsorption predominantly in nonspecific sites  
195 (Galunin et al., 2010) but the observation that it exponentially decreases with increasing  
196 adsorbed cesium (Fig. 1b) could indicate that there are interlayer adsorption sites of  
197 different specificity (Sposito et al., 1999):



198 - Site I: High affinity sites: the interlayer cation could form inner-sphere  
199 complexes by partial incorporation into the pseudo-hexagonal holes of the  
200 tetrahedral sheet..

201 - Site II: Low-affinity sites: the interlayer cation could form outer-sphere  
202 complexes as a hydrated interlayer cation.

203 Figure 1b shows that at low concentrations of adsorbed cesium the adsorption in  
204 the high-affinity site is higher at 80 °C than at RT (higher  $K_d$  values) because the  
205 temperature favors the interaction with basal oxygens and an inner-sphere complex  
206 being favored. However, the observed convergence of  $K_d$  values where high adsorbed  
207 cesium is indicated, inferred that the adsorption on site II occurred after all of site I was  
208 occupied.

209 In order to evaluate the adsorption capacity of the synthetic high-charged micas  
210 (Na-Mica-n) with conventional adsorbents and to analyze the effect of the layer charge,  
211 Table 1 summarizes the adsorption values obtained from the Na-Mica-n and from the  
212 natural clays (Galambos et al. 2009; García-Gutiérrez 2010; Oztop and Shahwan 2006;  
213 Saxena et al. 2003). First, it was noted that synthetic micas, Na-Mica-n, adsorbed more  
214  $\text{Cs}^+$  than some of the natural clays. This result is remarkable considering that the  
215 experimental conditions in the case of micas are unfavorable since the ratio  
216 adsorbent:solution (S/L, g/L) is much higher in the case of natural clay assays (Wu et al.  
217 2009). When comparing the percentage of adsorption between both synthetic micas  
218 studied here, a major adsorption capacity was observed as the lamellar charge increased  
219 (Na-Mica-4 > Na-Mica-2). In all cases, the main adsorption mechanism was in  
220 nonspecific sites and, thus, the adsorption capacity was governed by the mineral cation  
221 exchange capacity (CEC).

222 Comparing the  $K_d$  values of Na-Mica-n and those from the literature (Table 1)  
223 shows that the specificity of the adsorption sites on the Na-Mica-4 are higher than those  
224 of Na-Mica-2, which can be justified because the cation amount necessary to satisfy the  
225 charge is half of that required in Na-Mica-2. Thus, the cations in Na-Mica-2 has less  
226 interaction with basal oxygens, as demonstrated by the analysis of the *b*-parameter  
227 values of the unit cell (Pavon et al. 2014). In general, the  $K_d$  values of Na-Mica-4 were  
228 higher than natural clays and fluoro-phlogopite gel, even when the ratio of  
229 adsorbent:solution (g/l) was much lower. In some cases, the initial concentration was  
230 much higher in the case of Na-Mica-n, both being unfavorable conditions for the  
231 adsorption parameters (Wu et al. 2009).

232 The maximum value of adsorption at both temperatures (RT and 80°C; Fig. 2)  
233 was below the cation exchange capacity of Na-Mica-4. This fact has been previously  
234 observed with alkali cations, specifically, Park et al. (Park et al., 2012a) observed that  
235 when Na-Mica-4 was subjected to a process of cation exchange with  $K^+$  or  $Rb^+$  only  
236 half of the  $Na^+$  was replaced, hydronium ions were generated and they only partially  
237 balanced the layer charge. In fact, the EDX composition map (Fig; 3) showed that the  
238 distribution of cesium was similar to that of sodium indicating that the cesium replaced  
239 the sodium in the interlayer space, although not completely. This reinforces that the  
240 adsorption of cesium is by a cation exchange mechanism as previously reported, and in  
241 accordance with the low  $K_d$  values.

242 An in depth analysis of the isotherm data was performed using the Freundlich  
243 model (Table 2) and the experimental data fit to two lines with different slopes  
244 supporting the two aforementioned interpretation of adsorption sites (Vejsada et al.,  
245 2005):

246 -Site I: The  $K_F$  values were high at both temperatures; at 80 °C being higher,  
247 which indicates that the site I was a site of high adsorption affinity. The  $n_F$  value at RT  
248 was close to one which denotes a uniformity of the surface, which drastically  
249 diminishes at 80 °C. The diminishing of  $n_F$  with temperature indicates that the  
250 adsorption bonds become weak at high temperature, and thus the cesium adsorption on  
251 site I is exothermic (Xi et al., 2014).

252 - Site II: The  $K_F$  values are lower than those in site I at both temperatures; at 80  
253 °C being even lower, which indicates that the site II was a site of lower adsorption  
254 affinity and corresponds to adsorption in the outer sphere as an interlayer hydrated  
255 cation. The  $n_F$  value at both temperatures was ca. 0.65 which shows that the clay surface  
256 charge is heterogeneous.

257 In both sites, the  $n_F$  values were lower than the unit, which indicates that the  
258 adsorption is by a physical process, through a cation exchange mechanism in sites with  
259 variable cation affinity (Harter and Baker 1977). **Freundlich type sorption implies that**  
260 **there are at least two distinct sorption sites for  $Cs^+$  as on illite (Poinssot et al. 1999). The**  
261 **“frayed edge” site, site I, dominates  $Cs^+$  uptake at low concentration and the  $Na^+$  ions**  
262 **compete but only at concentrations of orders of magnitude higher than  $Cs^+$ . Such sites**  
263 **are common in illite but are not generally associated with other clay minerals (Bradbury**  
264 **and Baeyens 2000). The second class of site (Site II) is the “planar site” (basal siloxane**  
265 **surface) and it is associated with the fixed negative charge on the tetrahedral sheet.**

266 If we compare these data with those of natural clays, (Table 3) the Na-Mica-4  
267 exhibited higher values of the  $K_F$  constant. Therefore, the Na-Mica-4 have greater  
268 affinity for cesium adsorption (Turiel et al., 2003). Moreover, the adsorption surface of  
269 Na-Mica-4 is more homogeneous than that of natural clays.

270 After adsorption at high concentration, the basal spacing of the layered structure  
271 diminishes due to the lower hydration energy of cesium (264 kJ/mol) versus sodium  
272 (519 kJ/mol), which favors the formation of inner complexes with the basal oxygen for  
273  $\text{Cs}^+$  (Anderson and Sposito 1991, 1992). The absence of new phases containing cesium  
274 documented by XRD (Fig. 5) and  $^{29}\text{Si}$  MAS NMR (Fig. 6) agrees with the  $n_{\text{F}}$  values that  
275 indicate  $\text{Cs}^+$  was bonded by weak electrostatic (Van der Waals) interactions.

276 However, the gradual shift of the set of  $^{29}\text{Si}$  MAS NMR signals towards lower  
277 frequencies indicates a participation of the inner-sphere complex. Those complexes  
278 imply that cesium is partially located in the pseudo-hexagonal holes of the tetrahedral  
279 sheet, interacting with the basal oxygens, and, thus, modifying the angle of rotation of  
280 the tetrahedra (Limousin et al. 2007).

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## IMPLICATIONS

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284 We have demonstrated that synthetic micas, Na-Mica-n, are better adsorbents of  
285 cesium from aqueous solution than natural clays. The adsorption capacity and affinity  
286 increases as the layer charge of micas increase. The cesium isotherm followed the  
287 Freundlich model and the fit parameters pointed to a physical adsorption by a cation  
288 exchange mechanism at both temperatures. At higher temperature (80°C) an increase of  
289 the Cs-adsorption was observed in higher affinity sites without actually modifying the  
290 mica structure, because the adsorption is thorough cation exchange but with higher  
291 participation of the inner-sphere complex. These results show that minerals can be  
292 designed with improved environmental applications.

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**TABLE 1.** Adsorption parameters for Cs<sup>+</sup> sorption on Na-Mica-n (n=2 and 4) and natural clays at RT.

	C <sub>i</sub> meq/L	S/L <sup>a</sup> g/ml	K <sub>d</sub> L/kg	% Ads.	Ref.
Na-Mica-4	10 <sup>-2</sup>	7·10 <sup>-3</sup>	549.2	78.5	b
	1	7·10 <sup>-3</sup>	367.5	71.0	b
Na-Mica-2	10 <sup>-2</sup>	7·10 <sup>-3</sup>	396.5	68.1	b
Bentonite Rojo carbonero	3·10 <sup>-6</sup>	1·10 <sup>-1</sup>	497.0	--	c
Sediment St. Juan (Huelva)	3·10 <sup>-6</sup>	1·10 <sup>-1</sup>	664.0	--	c
Sepiolite	3·10 <sup>-6</sup>	1·10 <sup>-1</sup>	381.7	--	c
Fluorophlogopite gel	10 <sup>-2</sup>	2·10 <sup>-2</sup>	80	--	d
	1	2·10 <sup>-2</sup>	63	--	d
Clay MI	1	1·10 <sup>-2</sup>	--	44.0	e
Clay MIS	1	1·10 <sup>-2</sup>	--	65.0	e
Clay MID	1	1·10 <sup>-2</sup>	--	89.0	e
Bentonite J45	1	1·10 <sup>-2</sup>	785	72	f
Bentonite K45	1	1·10 <sup>-2</sup>	478	72	f
Bentonite L45	1	1·10 <sup>-2</sup>	296	36	f
Bentonite LA45	1	1·10 <sup>-2</sup>	214	32	f

<sup>a</sup> the ratio adsorbent:solution<sup>b</sup> this work; <sup>c</sup> (García-Gutiérrez 2010); <sup>d</sup> (Saxena et al. 2003);<sup>e</sup> (Oztop and Shahwan 2006); <sup>f</sup> (Galambos et al. 2009)

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**TABLE 2.** Parameters from Freundlich isotherm equation for the adsorption of Cs<sup>+</sup> on Na-Mica-4, at RT and 80 °C.

T (°C)	Site I			Site II		
	K <sub>F</sub> L/kg	n <sub>F</sub>	R <sup>2</sup>	K <sub>F</sub> L/kg	n <sub>F</sub>	R <sup>2</sup>
RT	288.14±1.09	0.90±0.02	0.996	235.70±1.04	0.63±0.03	0.992
80	336.59±1.02	0.57±0.03	0.995	219.72±1.15	0.65±0.05	0.989

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**TABLE 3.** Parameters from Freundlich isotherm equations for the adsorption of Cs<sup>+</sup> on natural clays.

	K <sub>F</sub> L/kg	n <sub>F</sub>	Ref.
SAMMS	2.18·10 <sup>-4</sup>	0.45	a
SAz-1	176.00	0.91	b
S-Tx-1	60.68	0.84	b
IMt-1	1.63	0.61	b
KGa-2	0.70	0.67	b
Mont-III-MI	2.95	0.52	c
Mont-III-MIS	12.00	0.62	c
Mont-III-MID	63.10	0.69	c

<sup>a</sup> (Park et al. 2012); <sup>b</sup> (Vejsada et al. 2005); <sup>c</sup> (Nakao et al. 2008; Oztop and Shahwan 2006)

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317 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**318 **FIGURE 1.** Cs<sup>+</sup> adsorption on Na-Mica-4, at RT (white circle) and 80° C (black star):319 a) Adsorption percentage, and, b) K<sub>d</sub>.320 **FIGURE 2.** Adsorption isotherm of Cs<sup>+</sup> on Na-Mica-4 at RT (white circle) and 80 °C

321 (black star).

322 **FIGURE 3.** SEM microimage and compositional maps of Na-Mica-4 after Cs<sup>+</sup> sorption

323 at a) RT, and, b) 80 °C.

324 **FIGURE 4.** 001 reflection of Na-Mica-4 before and after Cs<sup>+</sup> adsorption at a) RT, and,

325 b) 80 °C.

326 **FIGURE 5.** Full XRD patterns of Na-Mica-4 before (marked as M4) and after Cs<sup>+</sup>

327 adsorption at 80° C at the indicated initial concentration. Oriented clay mounts in air-

328 dried form (Cu k $\alpha$  radiation).329 **FIGURE 6.** <sup>29</sup>Si MAS NMR spectra of Na-Mica-4 before and after Cs<sup>+</sup> sorption at 80

330 °C.

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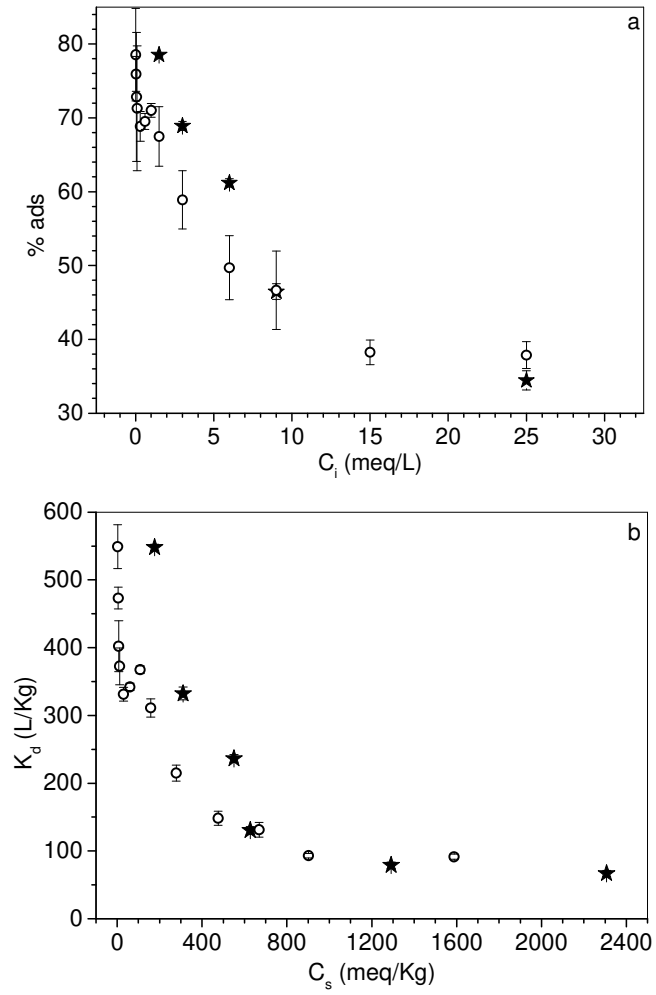
335



336

**Figure 1**

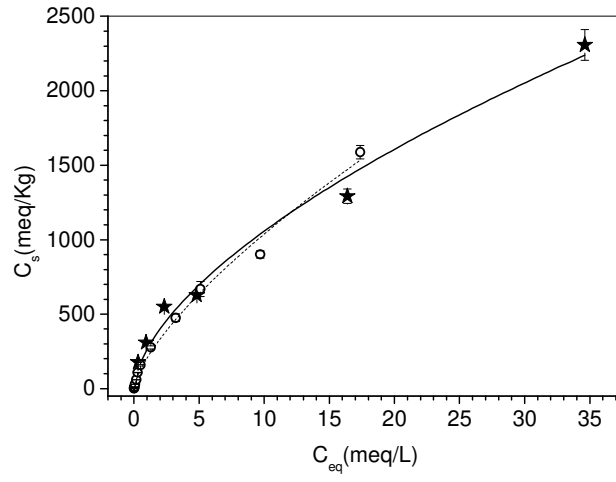
337



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**Figure 2**

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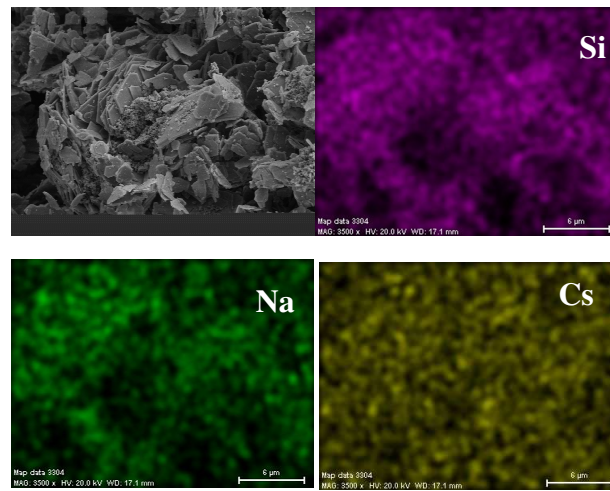


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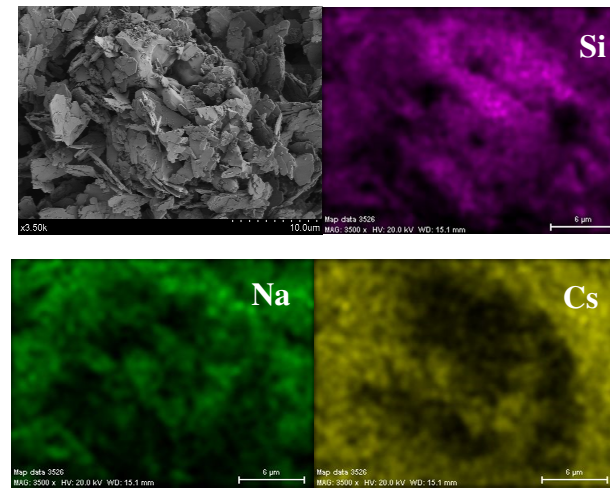
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**a**



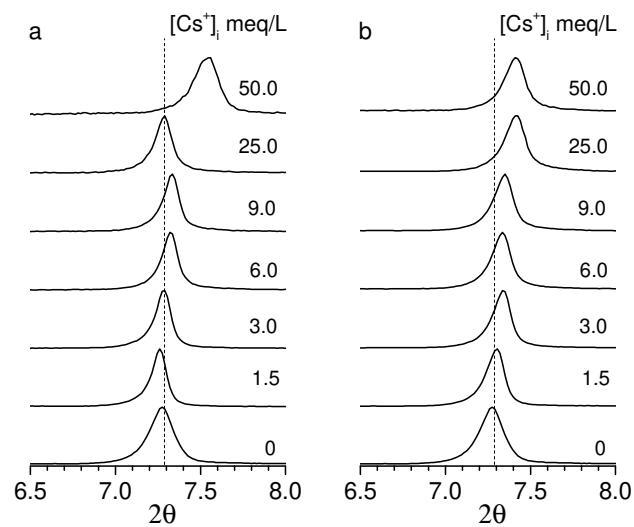
**b**



**Figure 4**

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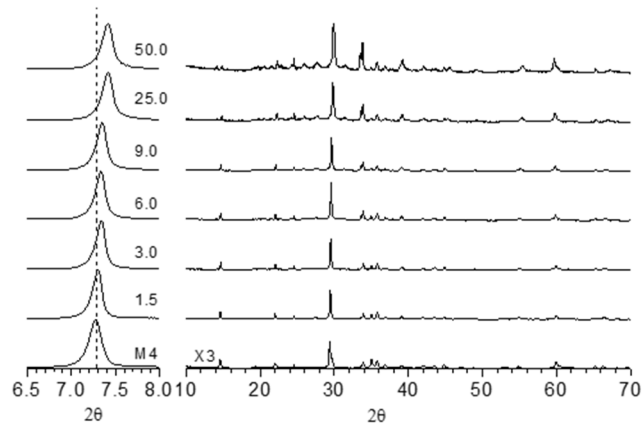


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**Figure 5**

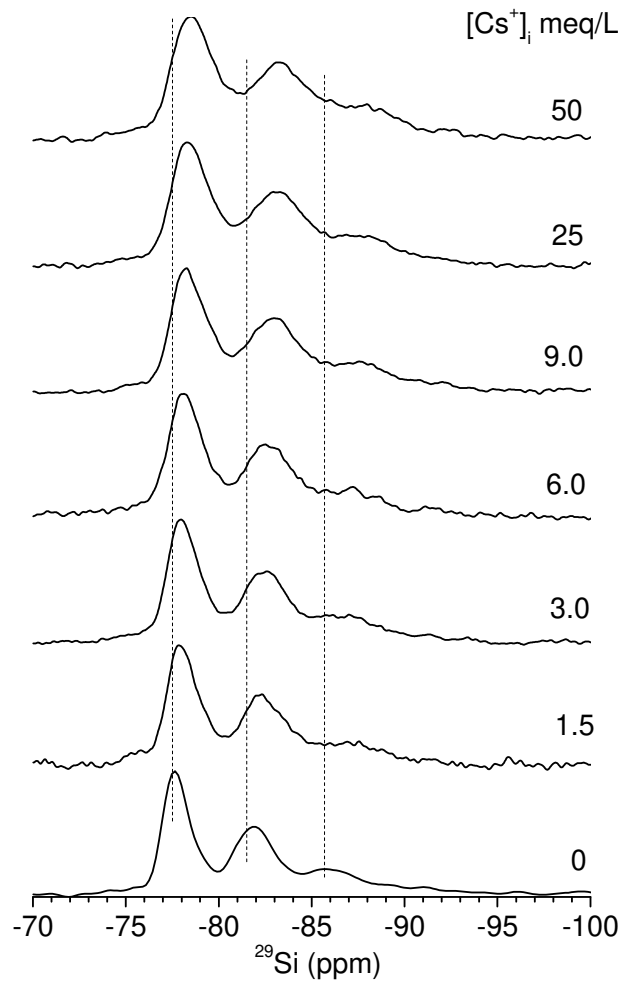


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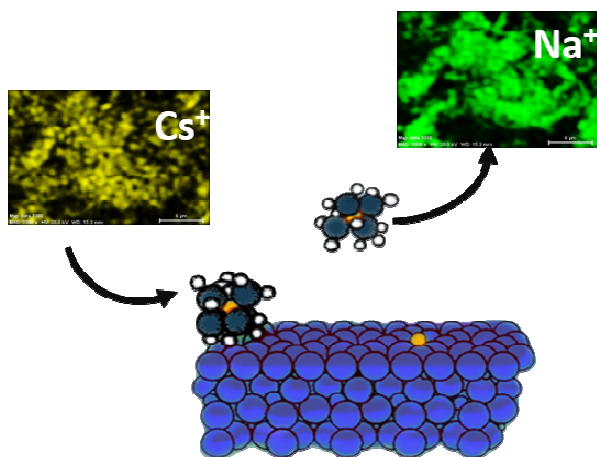
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**Figure 6**



350 **GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT**



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