



Characterization of acidic pumice and determination of its electrokinetic properties in water

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ABSTRACT

In this study some characterization tests of acidic pumice were performed using various techniques such as Mercury Intrusion Porosimetry (MIP), Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), X-Ray Diffraction (XRD), Thermal Analysis (DTA–TG), FTIR and its electrokinetic properties in water such as zeta potential (ZP), isoelectrical point (IEP), indifferent, specifically adsorbing and potential determining ions were determined. The results showed that (i) pore dimensions of the irregular or oval and fibrous cavities of the pumice varied between 0.05 μm and 2 mm depending on its particle size and these cavities usually did not intersect each other; (ii) as the pumice particle size decreases, both total pore volume and total pore surface area significantly decrease as well; (iii) pumice maintained its thermal stability approximately up to 900 °C; (iv) pumice had a negative surface charge between pH 1.8 and 11.4; and (v) Cl^- , Br^- , SO_4^{2-} , Na^+ , $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_2^+$ and Ca^{2+} ions were indifferent, $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{33}(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{N}^+$, Al^{3+} and $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_2^{2+}$ cations were specifically adsorbing and, H^+ and OH^- ions were potential determining ions for acidic pumice.

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1. Introduction

Pumice is an amorphous, porous volcanic rock which is composed mainly of SiO_2 and whose porous structure is formed by dissolved gases precipitated during the cooling as the lava hurtles through the air [1,2]. Having a reserve of nearly 3 billion m^3 , Turkey has important pumice deposits. Moreover, after Italy, Greece, China and Iran, respectively, Turkey is the fifth largest pumice producer in the world [3]. There are two kinds of pumice: acidic pumice and basic pumice. Acidic pumice is the most common pumice type both in Turkey and the world [1].

Pumice has high porosity and, as a result, low apparent density (0.35–0.65 g/cm^3) in aggregate form. It is therefore used in the construction industry, particularly in the production of light-weight brick and concrete elements that have thermal/acoustic insulation capabilities [1,4]. Many studies have been conducted to determine possible usage areas of pumice as well as the above-mentioned traditional usage area. In this scope, many researchers have studied the use of natural and/or modified pumice as an adsorbent for organic (i.e. phenol, textile dyes) and inorganic (various heavy metals and radioactive elements) water pollutants [5–9].

The term “electrokinetics” means the relative motions of charged species in an electric field. The field may be applied, or it may be created by the motion of a liquid or adjacent solid phase [10].

However, the term “electrokinetic properties” carry a wider connotation including ZP the structure of electrical double layer (EDL), IEP, potential determining, indifferent and specifically adsorbing ions [11]. ZP is the electrical potential at the hydrodynamic plane of shear (or slipping plane) and is an intrinsic property of a mineral particle in a liquid [12]. That is, ZP is an important concept which is used to explain many physical, chemical and physico-chemical events such as adsorption, coagulation, stability, flotation and viscosity. Therefore, it is encountered in various fields such as environment –particularly in abatement of water pollution–, mining, pharmacy, ceramics and paint [13,14]. Accordingly, many studies in the literature have conducted ZP measurements of natural minerals under different conditions i.e. quartz, corundum, colemanite, calcite, clays, zeolites, coal to synthetic minerals i.e. silicon carbide, silicon, zirconia, carbon (fiber) [11]. Zeta potential measurements require high attention and sensitivity and, at the same time, the definition of the measurement conditions should be well identified because, as known from the literature, there can be very different ZP values and IEP's for the same mineral [15]. This variation is caused by direct effect through ZP values, and; other electrokinetic parameters due to various factors, which can be classified as: (i) pretreatments like washing, leaching, ultrasonic scrubbing, or de-sliming that may be used on a sample before measurement; (ii) impurities originating from the mine deposits or the mining process; (iii) variations in the test-conditions (pre-mixture period, environment temperature, solid/liquid rate, purity of the water used; the type of instrument used for measurement and its application technique, and even the sensitivity of the person

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making the measurement and the hygiene conditions of the measuring location) [15–17].

Fuerstenau [18] studied the ZP of crystallized SiO₂ (quartz) mineral (which has the same metal oxide compound as pumice) and reported that the IEP of quartz was pH 1.8. Huang and Fuerstenau [19] measured ZP of quartz suspension, on which an ultrasonic dispersion had been applied, and determined that its IEP was pH 2. Clark and Cooke [20] performed a detailed study on metal ion adsorption on quartz and pointed out Na⁺ ions were indifferent, Ca²⁺ and Mg²⁺ ions were specifically adsorbed and H⁺ and OH⁻ are potential determining ions. Kosmulski [16] investigated the IEP of fused silica using six different zeta-meters and determined that several instruments produced negative ZPs across the entire pH range, while other instruments gave an IEP at pH 2–4. Similarly, Parks [15] reported varying IEPs for quartz (between pH 1.5 and 3.7) as well as other minerals, according to the pretreatments applied to the samples and experimental conditions. Even though many studies have been carried out on quartz, there is only one previous study on the ZP of pumice [21] in the literature. Tunç and Duman [21] examined the effect of different mono and multivalent electrolytes on the ZP of pumice from the Nevşehir region (Turkey). They reported that Li⁺, Na⁺, K⁺, Cl⁻, ClO₄⁻, NO₃⁻, CO₃²⁻, SO₄²⁻ and PO₄³⁻ are indifferent ions for pumice, and that the divalent cations (Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺ etc.) are potential determining ions for pumice. The present authors suggest that, according to the results (ZP curves) obtained by Tunç and Duman [21], these cations are most likely indifferent or may be accepted as specifically adsorbing ions. In the present work, the electrokinetic properties (i.e. IEP, indifferent, specifically adsorbed and potential determining ions) of acidic pumice from the Tatvan region (Turkey) were investigated using some ZP measurements. The results were compared with those previously reported by Tunç and Duman [21]. In addition, Tatvan region has nearly half of the total Turkish pumice reserves, thus, the material characteristics of the acidic pumice collected from this region were determined in detail so as to promote this raw material in a better way.

2. Experimental studies

The pumice sample used in this study was collected from the Tatvan region of Turkey. The sizes of the sample as received were between 0.5 and 4 cm. 500 g of sample was ground in a ball mill to reduce its size to < 125 μm. Without any further treatments such as washing, ultrasonic dispersing etc. the sample was subjected to ZP, BET, XRD, FTIR, XRF and Thermal Analysis (DTA–TG). Liquid pycnometer was used to measure the true density (2.22 g/cm³) of the sample. The surface of the pumice in aggregate size was coated with paraffin and then its bulk density (0.39 g/cm³) was measured according to Archimedes principle. The mineralogical and chemical analyses of the pumice sample were performed using XRD (Rigaku RINT 2200) and XRF (Rigaku ZSX Primus) techniques. FTIR analysis of the powder sample was carried out using Perkin Elmer Spectrum BX-2 having a standard mid-IR DTGS detector. FTIR spectra were recorded, in the range of 400–4000 cm⁻¹ at a resolution of 4 cm⁻¹ with KBr pellets technique. The KBr powder was prepared by mixing the pumice sample with KBr powder (around 1:100) and using a hydraulic press. In addition, thermal stability of the pumice was checked between 50 and 1200 °C in alumina crucible in nitrogen atmosphere with the heating rate 5 °C/min (Setaram Setsys Evolution).

To see the inner pore structures (and pore morphology) the secondary electron images of fracture surfaces of pumice samples in aggregate size were obtained from a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM Leo-1430 VP) equipped with an Energy Dispersive Spectrometry (EDS). Before SEM analysis, the fractured surfaces of the samples were coated with carbon. Moreover, to see its pore size distribution, total pore volume etc., the Mercury Intrusion Porosimetry analysis were performed on the pumice samples in different particle size fractions (<125 μm, 1.173–2, 2–4 and 4–8 mm) with Quantachrome

Poremaster 60 which generates pressure to 60,000 psia for pore size analysis from 440 μm to 0.0036 μm pore diameter. The mercury porosimeter is based upon the physical principle that a non-reactive, non-wetting liquid will not penetrate fine pores until sufficient pressure is applied to force its entry. The relationship between the applied pressure and the pore diameter into which mercury will intrude is given by the Washburn equation (Eq. (1)):

$$D = (-4\gamma \cos \theta) / P \quad (1)$$

where P is the applied pressure, D is the pore diameter, γ is the surface tension of the mercury (480 dyn cm⁻¹) and θ is the contact angle between mercury and the pore wall, usually taken as 140°.

The ZP measurements of the pumice as a function of pH and that of salt concentration were carried out with a Malvern ZS90 Zetasizer using He–Ne red laser beam (λ : 633 nm) through M3-PALS (Mixed Mode Measurement Phage Analysis Light Scattering) technique. This instrument measures the ZP of the particle according to the electrophoresis method [11] with high sensitivity. Prior to the ZP measurements pumice powders were dried in an oven at 110 °C for 2 h and stored in a plastic bag and throughout the measurements this sample was used. 2 g of pumice powders (< 125 μm) was dispersed into 50 ml of a background electrolyte solution of 1 mM NaCl to ensure a constant ionic strength. The pH was adjusted using 1 M KOH or 1 M HCl and stirred for 1 h with a magnetic stirrer at room temperature (25–26 °C), afterwards, the suspension was centrifuged (Hettich Universal 32) for 10 min at 3500 rpm. Next, an aliquot of 0.75 ml was taken from the supernatant solution and placed in electrophoresis cell, then an appropriate amount of sample from the pumice bed was transferred into the electrophoresis cell, afterwards, ZP was measured. Prior to the ZP measurements, stock solutions of 5×10^{-2} M of NaCl, Na₂SO₄, CaCl₂, AlCl₃, and CTAB (cetyltrimethyl ammonium bromide, C₁₆H₃₃(CH₃)₃NBr and that of 1.4×10^{-2} M of CaSO₄·2H₂O were prepared with distilled water. All the organic and inorganic chemicals used in this study were purchased from Merck and were of analytical grade. Throughout the experimental work, distilled water was used and for pH adjustments Sartorius pH-Meter with glass electrode was used which has a sensitivity of ± 0.01 .

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Characterization

According to the results of the XRD analysis of the pumice, there were two peaks: one at 23° and the other at 28° (Fig. 1). These peaks belonged to the mineral dachiardite [(Ca, Na, K, Mg)₄(Si, Al)₂₄O₄₈·13H₂O], which is a kind of natural zeolite. In addition, the background line rose in 20°–30° range and formed a broad peak. Since the 100 peak of the quartz is known to be at “ $2\theta = 26.65^\circ$ ”, this finding points out amorphous quartz substance (i.e. pumice). A similar

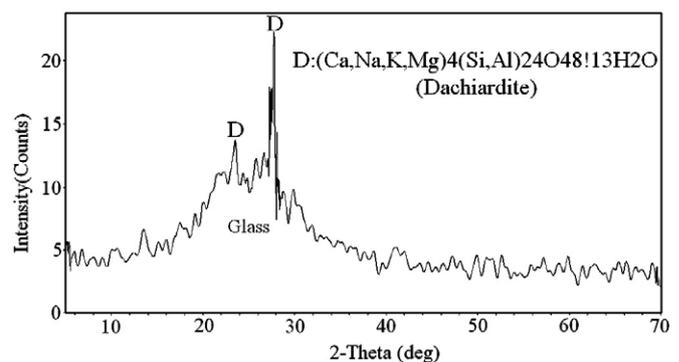


Fig. 1. XRD pattern of the pumice.

situation is also recorded in sintered fly ash samples consisting of glassy phase [11] and also recorded for pumices obtained from different sources, such as the island of Lipali (Italy) [22,23]. This is also supported by the fact that no peak was recorded except for the peaks in the $2\theta = 20^\circ\text{--}30^\circ$ range. The chemical analyses of the pumice as weight % were SiO_2 70.21, Al_2O_3 13.63, K_2O 5.12, Na_2O 2.20, CaO 2.11, Fe_2O_3 1.72, MgO 0.60, MnO 0.26, TiO_2 0.16, SO_3 0.09, P_2O_5 0.08, and LOI 3.82. As seen from the values, the two most important components of the sample were SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 . It can be concluded that the higher the silica percentage, the purer the pumice will be. Moreover, high iron oxide content not only darkens the color of the pumice but also increases its density. And high density is an undesirable characteristic in terms of insulation performance. The peaks at 400 and 800 cm^{-1} in the FTIR spectrum of the pumice (Fig. 2) may have resulted from the Si–O bending strength vibrations of the amorphous quartz which constituted the structure while the strong peak around 1100 cm^{-1} may have resulted from Si–O stretching vibrations. The other important peak was detected around 3400 cm^{-1} . This peak pointed out the OH stretching vibrations of the water (moisture) which was adsorbed by the sample from the outside environment [24]. The literature suggests that the water adsorbed from the outside environment produces a deformation vibration peak around 1640 cm^{-1} [24]. Considerable differences were detected between the FTIR spectrums of the present study and of the study conducted with the acidic pumice collected from Nevşehir region of Turkey [25]. For example, the important peak recorded in the present study around 1100 cm^{-1} was not recorded in the spectrum of the Nevşehir sample. This may have resulted from the differences in the physical and chemical characteristics of the samples used in these two studies: the pumice used in the present study was under the $125\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ while the one used in that study was under $63\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. The literature indicates that different grain sizes may result in differences in the peak intensities of the FTIR spectra [24]. Moreover, there were some impurities in the sample used in the present study; however, no mineralogical data was available in the prior study. Therefore, variations in mineral and chemical contents may have played a role in the differing results obtained in these two studies.

TG and DTA curves derived from the thermal analysis under nitrogen atmosphere are shown in Fig. 3. Pumice loses about 3.5% of its mass between 100 and 400°C , due to the removal of moisture within powder pumice and volatile organic impurities, which may be present in small proportions. LOI value (via chemical analysis) and mass loss (via TG curve) are similar, thus this supports the comment given above. On the other hand, the endothermic peak of the DTA curve between the ranges of 25 and 100°C can be a sign for that case; however, as the temperature range of this peak is not correlated with the TG curve, a clear explanation cannot be made for this situation. DTA curves of quartz reported in the literature indicate an endothermic peak around 573°C [24,26], resulting from the phase conversion of quartz from α - to β -quartz. Pumice has an amorphous

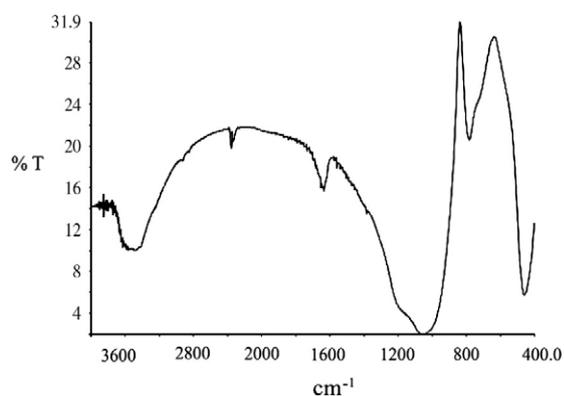


Fig. 2. FTIR spectrum of the pumice.

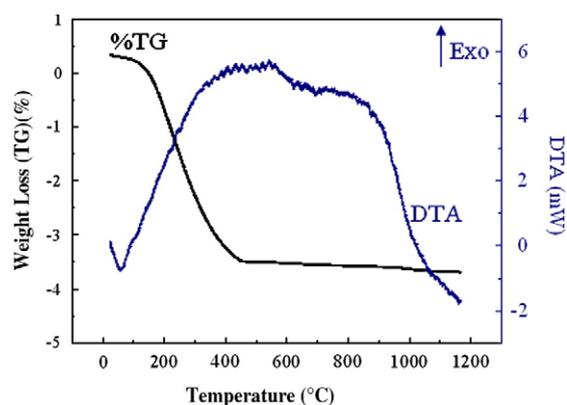


Fig. 3. DTA–TG curves of the pumice.

structure, rather than a crystalline structure, so it is normal not to see an endothermic peak at the defined temperature. According to DTA curve, the endothermic peak beginning at 900°C indicates the structural change in pumice i.e. softening and beginning of melting. Thermal analysis of pumice from the Nevşehir region reported that pumice becomes soft at 850°C and melts completely around 1200°C [1]. As a result, acidic pumice can retain its thermal stability until 900°C .

Spaces, holes, channels and cracks within a mineral structure are generally defined as pores. Micropores are defined as having a width smaller than 2 nanometers (nm) ($20\text{ }\text{Å}$, angstrom), mesopores are between 2 nm and 50 nm , and macropores are larger than 50 nm [27]. Considering the characterization of materials, porosity (and control of porosity) in terms of pore volume, size and their distribution is very important in many industries, products and processes, including building materials, ceramics and sintered materials, catalysts, electrodes, surgical implants, pharmaceuticals, and membranes [28,29]. Mercury intrusion results are commonly presented in the form of cumulative volume intruded per mass of specimen as a function of pore diameter. So, Fig. 4 indicates the cumulative pore size distribution measured with MIP of pumice samples of size fractions $<125\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, $1.173\text{--}2\text{ mm}$ and $4\text{--}8\text{ mm}$. However, it should be noted that the MIP tool used in the porosity measurements of this study, as expressed in the Experimental studies section, can measure pore diameters from a maximum of $440\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to a minimum of $0.0036\text{ }\mu\text{m}$; therefore, pores larger than $440\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ are determined from a normal photograph image of pumice aggregate. In terms of Fig. 4, within $1.173\text{--}2$ and $4\text{--}8\text{ mm}$ particle fractions, pore size distribution curves of pumices are similar, but that of pumice in powder form (below $125\text{ }\mu\text{m}$) differs from the other two. To express this more clearly, curves representing the larger particle groups are stepped, while curves for the smaller particle sizes are not. This finding suggests that when the particle sizes of pumice decrease, its pore morphology changes from heterogeneous to homogeneous structure. This heterogeneous structure can clearly be seen in the normal images derived from pumice aggregate and SEM images (Figs. 5 and 6). The term heterogeneous refers to the different size pore groups within the material. When pore sizes are taken into account, it can be seen that the pore size of the pumice aggregate varies across a wide range, with the smallest pore diameter being $0.05\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, in contrast, the smallest pore diameter of the pumice in powder form is approximately $0.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. According to the SEM images of the pumice aggregate, the minimum pore diameter is about $1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, a significant difference is seen considering the porosimeter result. This may be attributed the heterogeneous structure of pumice in aggregate size. As a result, the minimum pore diameter of pumice in aggregate size can be accepted as $0.05\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. In the literature, a study using Greek pumice found that the MIP and pore size distributions of pumice belonged to two different groups [2] $1.18\text{--}2.36$ and $2.36\text{--}4.75\text{ mm}$ and it was

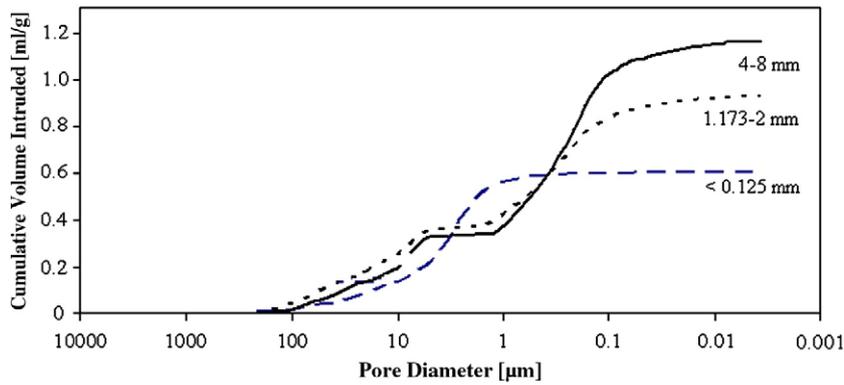


Fig. 4. Cumulative pore size distribution of the pumice samples of different size fractions plotted against pore diameter.

determined that both pumice samples showed homogeneous dimension pore size distribution, in contrast with the result of the present study, and the minimum pore diameters were found to be approximately $0.001 \mu\text{m}$. So, in terms of both the homogeneity of pores and pore sizes, the pumice samples from the Tatvan region (Turkey) and Yali Island (Greece) show crucial differences. The reason for this difference is probably the differing geological formation conditions. Total mercury intruded volume (or total pore volume) (ml/g) and total pore surface area (m^2/g) values measured by MIP according to the particle size fractions of the pumice are given in Table 1. From Table 1, it can be seen that when the particle size decreases, both total pore volume and total pore surface area decrease significantly. This decrease is proportionally greater for total pore surface area. For both parameters (total pore volume and total pore surface area), the highest values are derived for the pumice in 4–8 mm particle fraction, 1.1620 ml/g -pumice and $10.9219 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ -pumice respectively. The results indicate that Tatvan pumice, both in aggregate and powder size, was comprised mostly of macro-sized pores.

Photograph and SEM images detailing the micro-structure (that is, inner pore structure) of the acidic pumice are shown in Figs. 5 and 6, respectively. EDS (Energy Dispersive Spectrometer) analysis was made on a point which was randomly selected from the SEM photo (Fig. 6b, indicated by white arrow). According to the normal photo (Fig. 5) and SEM images (Fig. 6a and b), the pumice sample has irregular or oval shaped and fibrous cavities (or pores), in addition, it may be said that these pores are either in closed or in open forms. The pore diameter of these cavities varied between $0.5 \mu\text{m}$ and 2 mm and these cavities generally did not intersect each other. It is reported that [2] the connectivity of the pore structure of pumice may range from completely closed to completely open. The greater the extent to which a mineral structure has a closed form and pores which do not

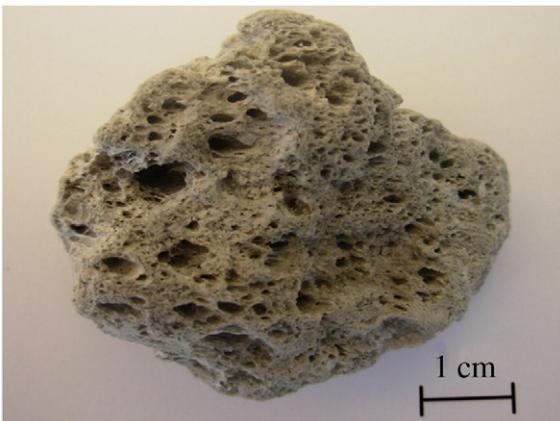


Fig. 5. Photograph of the pumice aggregate (as-received).

intersect, the greater its thermal and acoustic insulation performance [1,28]. Moreover, the glassy phase structure of the pumice can be seen in Fig. 6b. According to the element analysis of the area marked in Fig. 6b the peaks were recorded –from biggest to the smallest– in Si, Al, K and Fe.

3.2. ZP of the pumice versus pH

ZP variation of the pumice on the basis of pH is shown in Fig. 7. The results indicate that the pumice did not reach its IEP between pH 2 and 11.4 and the lowest ZP (-0.97 mV) was obtained around pH 2. As the pH increased, ZP rapidly increased in the negative direction and reached -35 mV at pH 7.5 and -38 mV at about pH 11. Even though we could not measure a positive ZP value of pumice between pH 1.8 and 11.2, Tunç and Duman [21] measured the positive ZP of pumice from a different pumice deposit within Turkey (Nevşehir region). Accordingly, they also determined the IEP of pumice as pH 2.7 in water. This may be attributed to the differing chemical and mineralogical characteristics of the pumice samples. In addition, they applied ultrasonic scrubbing pretreatment to their pumice sample, which has been shown in the literature to affect the ZP value of minerals [30]. In addition, there are many studies on quartz, which has a crystalline structure. The curve obtained for the pumice was similar to that for the quartz, with the exception that ZP started to decrease at high pH values in the pumice sample. Also, the IEP of the quartz is reported as pH 2–3 [10,12]. The decrease in ZP, associated with the increase in pH between pH 2 and 11, may be explained by (i) adsorption –via coulombic interaction– of the OH^- ions present in the suspension to the positive charge centers such as $\equiv\text{Si}^+$ and $\equiv\text{Si}-\text{OH}_2^+$, which are present on the particle surface of pumice and which come out during the grinding process as a result of the breaking of bonds, or; (ii) dissociation (deprotonation) of $\equiv\text{Si}-\text{OH}$ groups at the particle surface. All these reactions show that the H^+ and OH^- ions are the PDI for pumice, that is, they establish the surface charge of the pumice. The literature indicates that this is a common phenomenon for various metal oxides or metal hydroxides [11,14,24].

3.3. Effect of different electrolytes on ZP

The effects of the various metal salts (inorganic electrolytes) with mono-, di- and trivalent and organic electrolyte (CTAB, which is a kind of cationic surfactant) on the ZP of the pumice were examined. ZP variations according to each electrolyte concentration are presented in Fig. 8. As clearly seen from Fig. 8, the only two electrolytes that could change the negative surface charge of the pumice into a positive surface charge were AlCl_3 and $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{33}(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{NBr}$ (CTAB). This result means that free Al^{3+} with trivalent and also its hydrated form $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_2^{2+}$ with divalent metallic ions, and $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{33}(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{N}^+$ (CTA^+) with monovalent organic cation can be adsorbed in the inner Helmholtz plane (IHP) in the Stern layer in the EDL of the pumice and thus they can be accepted as

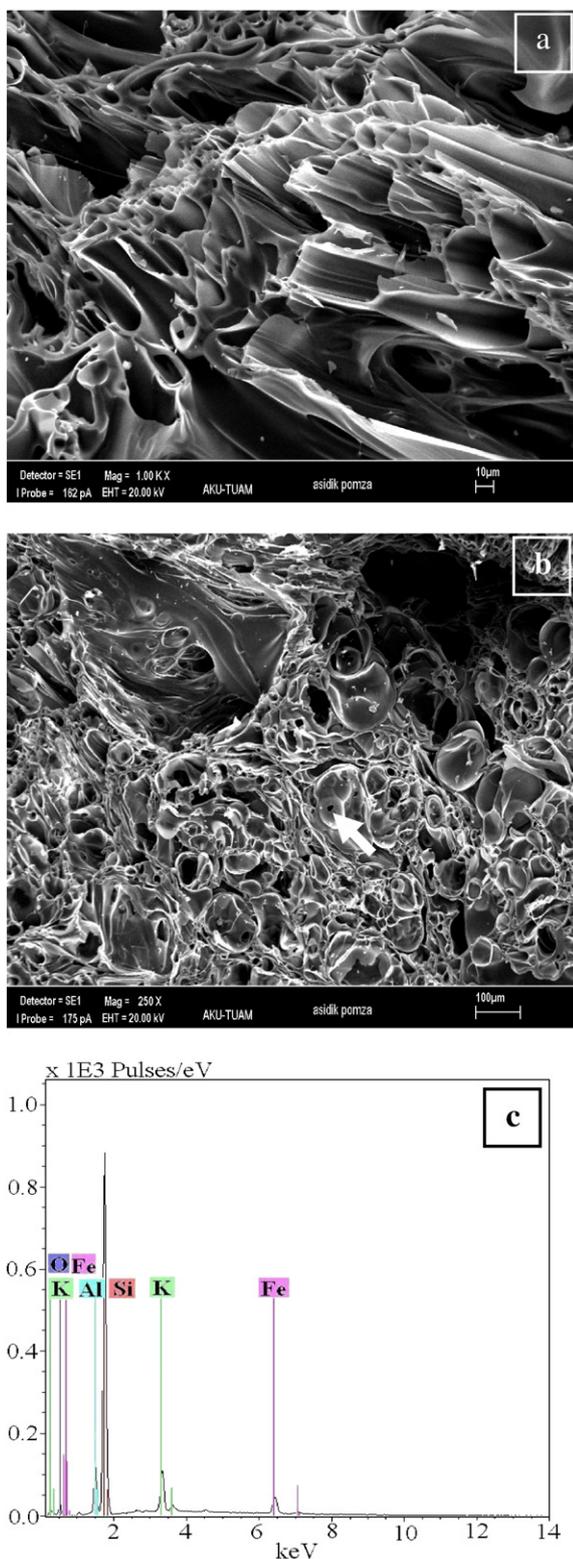


Fig. 6. SEM images of the pumice sample (a) scaled up by $\times 1000$ times, (b) scaled up by $\times 250$ times and (c) EDS point analysis (the point marked with an arrow in the SEM photo at the bottom).

specifically adsorbing ions for pumice. Depending on the electrolyte concentration (from 10^{-6} to 10^{-2} M), the suspension pH varied between pHs 6.0 and 4.1 for AlCl_3 , 6.9 and 5.8 for $\text{CaCl}_2/\text{CaSO}_4$, 7.5 and 6.0 for $\text{NaCl}/\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$, and 7.2 and 6.6 for CTAB. As is known from the literature [31–33] metallic ions hydrolyze in aqueous environment. Adsorption of such ions onto solids and phenomena dependent on

Table 1

Total intruded volume (or total pore volume) (ml/g) and total pore surface area (m^2/g) values given by MIP depending on the particle size fractions of the pumice.

	Size fractions		
	4–8 mm	1.173–2.0 mm	<0.125 mm
Total mercury intruded volume (or total pore volume) (ml/g)	1.1620	0.9304	0.6036
Total pore surface area (m^2/g)	10.9219	9.8773	1.1535

adsorption is related to hydrolysis and the formation of hydrolysis products. In general, unhydrolyzed Me^{3+} (i.e. Al^{3+} , Fe^{3+} etc.) or Me^{2+} (i.e. Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , etc.) species predominate in acidic solutions, while MeOH^{2+} , $\text{Me}(\text{OH})_2^+$, $\text{Me}(\text{OH})^+$, $\text{Me}(\text{OH})_3$ and $\text{Me}(\text{OH})_4^-$ for Me^{3+} , and $\text{Me}(\text{OH})^+$ and $\text{Me}(\text{OH})_2$ for Me^{2+} appear when the pH is made more alkaline (see Fig 9a and b). In the model proposed by James and Healy [34], a non-hydrolyzed ion is strongly attracted to a negative surface but it is so strongly solvated that it cannot approach the surface. Reduction of the charge through hydrolysis (to MeOH^{2+} , $\text{Me}(\text{OH})_2^+$, etc.) reduces the attraction to the solid but also reduces the solvation energy which falls off more rapidly with hydrolysis. Coulombic interactions between non-hydrolyzed strongly solvated ions and negatively charged solid surfaces are not sufficient to cause adsorption of such ions, the adsorption becomes possible when solvation of these ions (through hydrolysis) is reduced. In this case, according to Figs. 8 and 9a, it is assumed that either Al^{3+} or $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_2^+$ can adsorb specifically onto pumice, consequently they convert the surface charge of pumice from negative to positive passing a zero ZP, which was obtained at 1.2×10^{-4} M of AlCl_3 . This is because the suspension pH varied between pH 4.5 and 4.0 in accordance with the AlCl_3 concentrations range of 10^{-4} – 10^{-3} M. Fig. 9a indicates that, at around pH 4, the dominant soluble species are Al^{3+} and $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_2^+$. Tunç and Duman [21] determined the zero ZP of the Nevşehir Pumice in the presence of AlCl_3 at 2×10^{-4} M, which is very close to the concentration value obtained from our study. On the other hand, Ersoy and Çelik [35] examined the $\text{Al}(\text{NO}_3)_3$ effect on the ZP of clinoptilolite (zeolite) mineral and determined that the free Al^{3+} ions are PD ions for clinoptilolite, similar to the results of the present study. Likewise, organic ions with monovalent, CTA^+ , are able to reverse the negative charge of the pumice by means of its specific adsorption onto pumice. Similar results have been obtained for different minerals such as quartz [36], clinoptilolite [37], and bentonite [38]. Specifically adsorbed ions possess special affinity for the solid surface through coulombic and noncoulombic forces. These noncoulombic forces may be chemical in nature, i.e., involving some degree of covalent bonding with surface atoms or be more physical, e.g., van der Waals forces between the ion and the surface or between the hydrocarbon chains of surfactant ions adsorbed [12]. Zero ZP of pumice was obtained about at 7×10^{-5} M CTAB concentration.

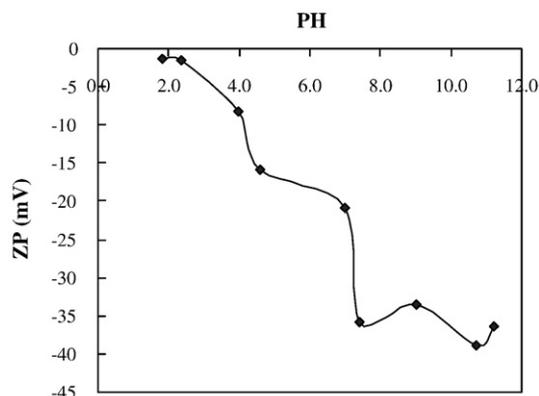


Fig. 7. Zeta potential variation of pumice as a function of pH at constant ionic strength ($I = 1 \text{ mM NaCl}$) at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$.

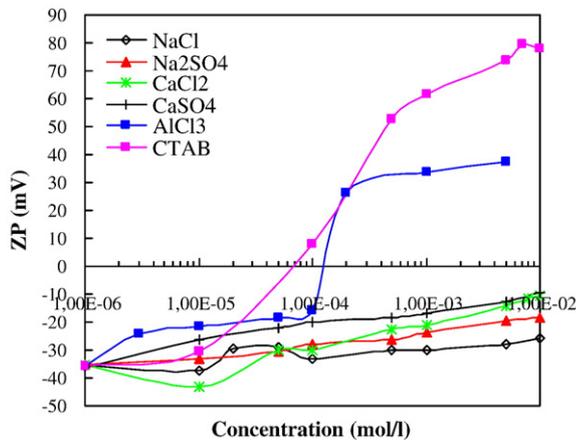


Fig. 8. Zeta potential variation of pumice as a function of the concentration of different electrolytes at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ at natural pHs (note: depending on the electrolyte concentration (from 10^{-6} to 10^{-2} M) the suspension pH varied between pHs 6.0 and 4.1 for AlCl_3 , 6.9 and 5.8 for CaCl_2 and CaSO_4 , 7.5 and 6.0 for NaCl and Na_2SO_4 , and 7.2 and 6.6 for CTAB).

ZP decreased from -36.1 mV to -10.4 mV in 10^{-2} M CaCl_2 concentration. The ZP decrease recorded in the presence of CaSO_4 was higher than the ZP decrease recorded in the presence of CaCl_2 and ZP was found to decrease to -8.4 mV at 10^{-2} M concentration which

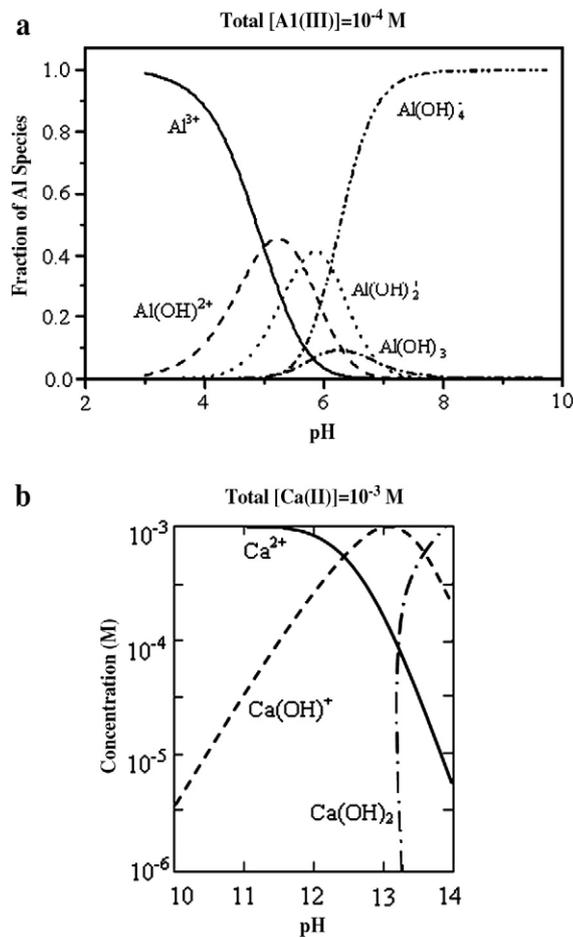


Fig. 9. Mole fractions of monomeric hydrolysis products of aluminum [32] (a) and concentrations of monomeric hydrolysis products of calcium species and (b) in equilibrium with the amorphous hydroxides as function of pH for 10^{-4} M total Al^{3+} and 10^{-3} M total Ca^{2+} [18].

may be attributed to the differences in the dissociation constants of these electrolytes. As seen from the Fig. 9b, the Ca^{2+} ions should be mostly in unhydrolyzed Ca^{2+} forms below pH 11 but above this pH CaOH^+ ions become predominant in solution. As mentioned previously, the pH of pumice suspension in the presence of Ca salts varied between pH 7.5 and 6.0, therefore, for both Ca salts the predominant ionic form is Ca^{2+} . At result, according to the general trend of the curves of CaCl_2 and CaSO_4 , there are no dramatic increases in the curves but steady increases are seen; in addition, a charge reversal is not apparent. Consequently, the Ca^{2+} ions may be accepted as indifferent ions for pumice. Hunter [12] reported that specifically adsorbed ions can be recognized by their ability to reverse the sign of zeta potential (ZP), whereas indifferent ions can only reduce ZP asymptotically to zero. In contrast, Tunç and Duman [21] claimed that the divalent cations (i.e. Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+}) are PD ions for pumice. The present authors suggest that, according to the obtained results (ZP curves) by [21], these cations are most likely indifferent or may be accepted as specifically adsorbing ions. On the other hand, Clark and Cooke [20] performed a detailed study on metal ion adsorption on quartz and pointed out that Na^+ is an indifferent ion, whereas Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} are specifically adsorbed ions. However, no zeta potential curve is seen in their study [20] – that is, they have not made any ZP measurement in the presence of these metal ions. Therefore, it is not possible to make a comparison of ZP curves. When examined, the ZP curves of the metal salts with monovalent, Na_2SO_4 were found to be relatively more effective than NaCl in reducing ZP. ZP values obtained at 10^{-2} M NaCl and Na_2SO_4 concentrations were -26.0 and -18.2 mV, respectively. It seen that some electrolytes (NaCl and Na_2SO_4) are, for practical purposes, indifferent; their addition shows an insignificant change on the ZP. As a result, both curves indicate that Cl^- , Br^- , SO_4^{2-} and Na^+ were indifferent ions for pumice, which is in agreement with the results obtained by Tunç and Duman [21], in which a different pumice sample and similar metal salts were used.

4. Conclusions

The acidic pumice collected from the Tatvan region of Turkey had irregular or oval shaped and fibrous cavities (porosity). Pore diameter of these cavities varied between $0.05 \mu\text{m}$ and 2mm depending on its particle size and they, in general, did not intersect each other. Moreover, it was found that, when the particle size of pumice decreases (especially from aggregate size to powder size ($<125 \mu\text{m}$)), there is a significant decrease in both total pore volume and total pore surface area and this decrease is most significant for the total surface area. On the other hand, the pumice maintained its thermal stability up to approximately 900°C . The pumice had a negative charge in the 1.8–11.4 pH range and the lowest ZP value was recorded as -1.4 mV when the pH value was approximately 2. The negative surface charge could only be turned into a positive charge in the presence of AlCl_3 and CTAB. According to their impacts on the reduction of zeta potential, electrolytes were ordered as follows: “CTAB $>$ AlCl_3 $>$ CaSO_4 $>$ CaCl_2 $>$ Na_2SO_4 $>$ NaCl ”. This indicates that the interaction between the negatively charged pumice powders and cationic species enhances with increase in valance number of metal ions. However, when metal powder was compared with organic electrolyte, although the organic electrolyte (CTAB) has monovalent cation (CTA^+), it is more active in reducing the zeta potential of pumice than the AlCl_3 with trivalent Al^{3+} and makes the zeta potential of pumice zero at a lower concentration. In addition, OH^- and H^+ ions were found to be the potential determining ions for the acidic pumice. Also Al^{3+} , $\text{Al}(\text{OH})^{2+}$ and $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{33}(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{N}^+$ were specifically adsorbing ions while the di and monovalent cations and anions Cl^- , Br^- , SO_4^{2-} , Na^+ , $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_2^+$ and Ca^{2+} were indifferent ions for the pumice. As a result, acidic pumice might be used, especially in neutral and basic mediums, as an adsorbent material for positively charged species or contaminants in waters/wastewaters.

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