

## Supporting Information

### Sulfonation of natural carbonaceous bentonite as low-cost acidic catalyst for effective transesterification of used sunflower oil into diesel; statistical modeling and kinetic properties

Walaa A. Hassan<sup>§</sup>, Ezzat A. Ahmed<sup>§</sup>, Mohamed A. Moneim<sup>§</sup>, Mohamed S. Shaban<sup>\*†</sup>, Ahmed M. El-Sherbeen<sup>§</sup>, Nahid Siddiqui<sup>‡</sup>, Jae-Jin Shim<sup>‡</sup>, Mostafa R.

Abukhadra<sup>\*†</sup>

<sup>§</sup>Geology Department, Faculty of Science, Assiut University, Egypt

<sup>\*</sup>Geology Department, Faculty of Science, New Valley University, Egypt

<sup>‡</sup>Industrial Engineering Department, College of Engineering, King Saud University, P.O. Box 800, Riyadh 11421, Saudi Arabia

<sup>‡</sup>Amity Institute of Biotechnology, Amity University, NOIDA, India

<sup>‡</sup>School of Chemical Engineering, Yeungnam University, Gyeongsan, Gyeongbuk 38541, Republic of Korea

<sup>†</sup>Geology Department, Faculty of Science, Beni-Suef University, Egypt

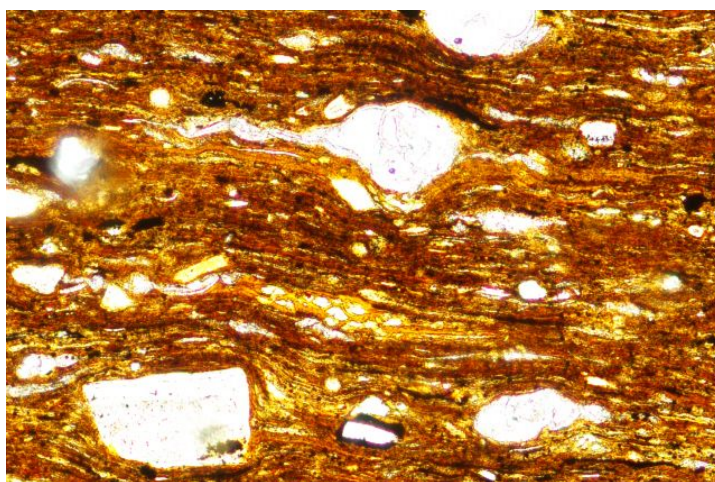
<sup>†</sup>Materials Technologies and their Applications Lab, Geology Department, Faculty of Science, Beni-Suef University, Egypt

Corresponding Email address\*: [Abukhadra89@Science.bsu.edu.eg](mailto:Abukhadra89@Science.bsu.edu.eg)

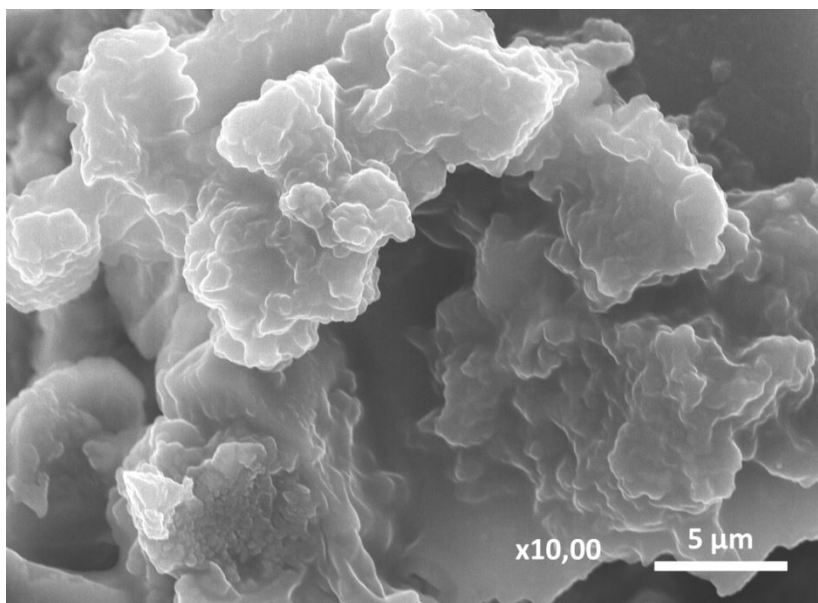
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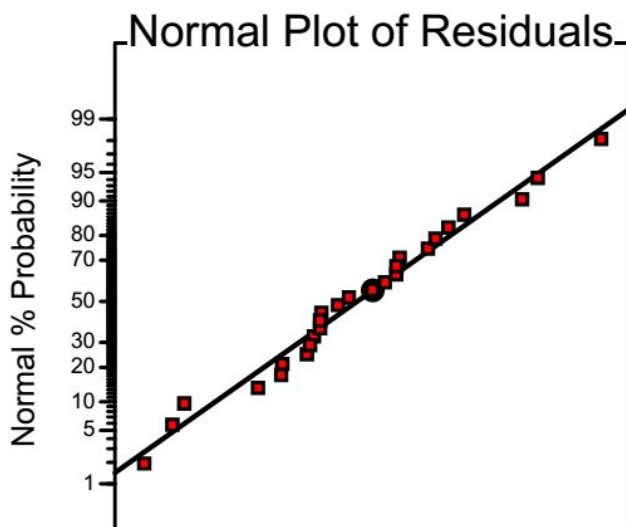
(S1)



**Figure S1.** the petrographic studies of oil shale in thin sections using polarized transmitted microscope



**Figure S2.** SEM image of the S-CB catalyst after the transesterification reactions (Spent catalyst)



(S2)

**Figure S3.** the normal probability plot for studentized residuals for the suggested experimental conditions

**Table S1.** The optimization test scheme constraints for the suggested optimizing conditions for the transesterification of SFO over S-CB catalyst

Optimization test scheme constraints						
Name		Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Lower coded	Upper coded	Importance
Time	Is in range	20 min	150 min	1	1	3
Temperature	Is in range	25 °C	75 °C	1	1	3
Methanol:oil ratio	Is in range	4:1	15:1	1	1	3
Catalyst loading	Is in range	2 wt.,%	5 wt.,%	1	1	3
Biodiesel yield	Maximum					

**Table S2.** the determination coefficient and the rate constant for the studied Pseudo-first order kinetic model

Temperature	Determination coefficient (R <sup>2</sup> )	Rate constant (k)
50 °C	0.98	0.02992
60 °C	0.98	0.03651
70 °C	0.95	0.04156

**Table S3.** the Fatty acid content and physical properties of the inspected spent sunflower oil

Fatty acid composition	
Fatty acid composition	Percent
Myristic acid (C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>28</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ) (C14:0)	11.3 %
Linoleic acid(C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>32</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ) (C18:3)	15 %

(S3)

<b>Palmitoleic (C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) (C16:1)</b>	<b>33.8 %</b>
<b>Oleic acid (C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) (C18:1)</b>	<b>30.6 %</b>
<b>Palmitic acid (C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) (C16:0)</b>	<b>2.3 %</b>
<b>Eicosanoic acid (C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>48</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) (C20:1)</b>	<b>2.5 %</b>
<b>Stearic acid (C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>36</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) (C18:0)</b>	<b>1.8 %</b>
<b>Physical properties</b>	
<b>Molecular weight</b>	922 g/mol
<b>Saponification value</b>	187 mg KOH/gm
<b>Acid value</b>	2.23 mg KOH/gm
<b>Kinematic viscosity</b>	45.2 cSt

**Table S4.** the upper and lower values of the inputs in their actual and coded values

Factor	Name	Low	Medium	High actual	Low	Medium	High
		actual	actual		coded	coded	coded
<b>A</b>	<b>Temperature (°C)</b>	25	50	75	-1	0	1
<b>B</b>	<b>Time (min)</b>	20	85	150	-1	0	1
<b>C</b>	<b>Methanol/oil ratio</b>	4/1	9.5/1	15/1	-1	0	1
<b>D</b>	<b>Loading (wt.,%)</b>	2	3.5	5	-1	0	1