



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**THE EFFECT OF BLEACHING CLAY ON THE QUALITY OF
REFINED AND BLEACHED PALM OIL**

CHUA HOOI LING

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By

CHUA HOOI LING

**Thesis Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master of
Science in the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia**

November 2001



*Especially for my wonderful papa and mama, brother, sisters & Teik Siang
with love....*

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment
of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

**THE EFFECT OF BLEACHING CLAY ON THE QUALITY OF
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Chairperson: Professor Lee Chnoong Kheng, Ph.D.

Faculty: Science and Environmental Studies

The aim of this study was to characterize the physicochemical properties of the bleaching clays used in the refining of palm oil. Acid-activated, neutral and natural clays as well as synthetic adsorbent were analysed by various techniques: scanning electron microscopy, thermal analysis (Differential Thermal Analysis and Thermogravimetric Analysis), X-ray diffraction (XRD), determination of surface area, pore-size and particle-size distribution. The effects of these physical and chemical properties of bleaching clays on the quality of refined palm oil were subsequently investigated.

The XRD patterns showed that silica (quartz) was present in all of the analyzed commercial clays. The acid activated clays - Tonsil and WAC Omega consisted mainly of montmorillonite. The TGA, DTA and XRD results showed that the commercial clay - Pure Flo was essentially attapulgite type of clay. WAC Supreme, the acid activated clay, displayed a complicated XRD pattern indicating that besides

iron magnesium aluminium silicate (montmorillonite), attapulgite and other impurities were present.

The study on the effect of degumming acid on the quality of RBD oil indicated that increased concentration of phosphoric acid facilitated the removal of iron in the RBD oil. On the other hand, the copper content in the oil was likely to be influenced by the type of clay used in the bleaching process.

Langmuir isotherm was more applicable than Freundlich isotherm in the adsorption of trace metals, copper and iron, from degummed palm oil on Pure Flo. The adsorption of phosphorus by Pure Flo, Attapulgite and WAC Supreme conformed to both Langmuir and Freundlich isotherms. On the other hand, adsorption of pigments, chlorophyll and carotene on the clay adsorbents fitted the Freundlich model better than the Langmuir model. The data showed that the acid activated clay of WAC Supreme with high surface area and large pore volume did not necessarily possess better bleaching efficiency than Pure Flo and Attapulgite.

Pure Flo is the best clay adsorbent compared to WAC Supreme and Attapulgite (Hudson Resource). The degummed-bleached palm oil after bleaching with Pure Flo showed the lowest concentration of phosphorus, copper, chlorophyll and carotene pigments. Conversely, WAC Supreme is a poor adsorbent of phosphorus, iron and secondary oxidation products. High concentrations of copper and carotene were retained in the degummed-bleached palm oil after bleaching with Attapulgite (Hudson Resource).

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**KESAN PELUNTUR BUMI KEPADA KUALITI
BERPROSES DAN BERLUNTUR MINYAK KELAPA SAWIT**

Oleh

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Tujuan penyelidikan ini adalah mengkaji sifat kimia dan fizik bagi peluntur bumi yang diguna untuk pemprosesan minyak sawit. Peluntur bumi yang bersifat acid aktif, neutral, semulajadi serta penjerap sintesis dikaji dengan pelbagai teknik termasuk: analisis mikroskopi imbasan elektron, terma analisis (Perbezaan Terma Analisis dan Termagravimeter Analisis), pembelauan sinar-X (XRD), dan ujikaji luas permukaan, size ruang dan taburan size serbuk. Sifat fizikal dan kimia peluntur bumi ke atas kualiti minyak berproses turut diselidik.

Corak XRD menunjukkan kehadiran silicon dioksida dalam komersial peluntur bumi; di samping itu, Tonsil dan WAC Omega- peluntur bumi yang beracid adalah terdiri daripada montmorillonite. Keputusan yang diperolehi daripada TGA, DTA dan XRD menunjukkan peluntur bumi jenis attapulgate terjumpa dalam peluntur bumi yang komersial - Pure Flo. WAC Supreme sebagai peluntur bumi bersifat asid telah

memaparkan corak XRD yang rumit dan menunjukkan kehadiran besi magnesium aluminium silicate (montmorillinite), attapulgite dan bahan asing.

Ujikaji bagi kesan acid nyahgum ke atas qualiti minyak RBD menghuraikan bahawa penambahan kepekatan asid fosforik boleh megurangkan kandungan besi dalam minyak sawit berproses. Kuprum yang dikesan dalam minyak mungkin dipengaruhi oleh jenis peluntur bumi yang digunakan.

Penjerapan besi dan kuprum secara isoterma daripada minyak sawit yang nyahgum ke atas Pure Flo lebih mematuhi kepada persamaan Langmuir berbanding dengan Freundlich. Di samping itu, penjerapn fosforus oleh Pure Flo, Attapulgite dan WAC Supreme mematuhi kepada kedua-dua isoterma Langmuir dan Freundlich. Penjerapan pigment klorofil dan carotin ke atas peluntur bumi lebih mematuhi isoterma Freundlich daripada isoterma Langmuir. Keputusan data menunjukkan bahawa WAC Supreme, peluntur bumi yang berasid dengan luas permukaan dan isipadu ruang yang besar tidak semestinya memaparkan sifat perlunturan yang berkesan berbanding dengan Pure Flo dan Attapulgite.

Pure Flo adalah penjerap yang berkesan berbanding dengan WAC Supreme dan Attapulgite (Sumber Hudson). Minyak sawit yang diluntur oleh Pure Flo mencatat kepekatan fosforus, kuprum, klorofil dan carotin yang terendah. Sebaliknya, WAC Supreme merupakan penjerap fosforus, besi dan bahan oksida kedua yang tidak efektif. Kepekatan kuprum dan carotin yang tinggi dikesan dalam minyak sawit yang diluntur oleh Attapulgite (Sumber Hudson).

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vii
APPROVAL	viii
DECLARATION	x
LIST OF TABLES	xiv
LIST OF FIGURES	xvii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xxii

CHAPTER

1	INTRODUCTION	1.1
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	2.1
2.1	Crude Palm Oil	2.1
2.1.1	Minor Components in Palm Oil	2.1
2.2	Quality of Palm Oil	2.8
2.3	Refining of Crude Palm Oil	2.10
2.4	Clay Minerals	2.14
2.4.1	Chemical and Physical Properties of Clay	2.15
2.4.2	Attapulgite Mineral (Palygorskite)	2.21
2.4.3	Montmorillonite Mineral	2.24
2.4.4	Bleaching Clays	2.34
2.5	Adsorption	2.36
2.5.1	Langmuir and Freundlich Adsorption Isotherms	2.39
2.5.2	Adsorption of Minor Components From Palm Oil	2.44
3	MATERIALS AND METHODS	3.1
3.1	Experimental Design	3.1
3.2	Materials	3.1
3.2.1	Adsorbents (Clay and Silica Gel)	3.1
3.2.2	Crude Palm Oil (CPO)	3.4
3.3	Characterization of Crude Palm Oil	3.4
3.3.1	Determination of Color	3.4
3.3.2	Determination of Volatile Matter	3.5
3.3.3	Determination of Impurities	3.5
3.3.4	Determination of Peroxida Value	3.5
3.3.5	Determination of Acidity	3.6
3.3.6	Determination of Carotene Content	3.7
3.3.7	Determination of Anisidine Value	3.7
3.3.8	Determination of Deterioration of Bleachability Index (DOBI)	3.7

3.3.9	Determination of Specific Extinction in Ultra Violet Light	3.8
3.3.10	Determination of Phosphorus Content	3.8
3.3.11	Determination of Tocopherol & Tocotrienol	3.9
3.3.12	Determination of Rancimat Induction Period	3.9
3.3.13	Determination of Chlorophyll Content	3.12
3.3.14	Determination of Iron Content	3.14
3.3.15	Determination of Copper Content	3.18
3.4	Characterization of Bleaching Clays	3.19
3.4.1	Analysis of Moisture Content - Heating Method	3.19
3.4.2	Analysis of Pore Size and Surface Area	3.20
3.4.3	Analysis of Particle Size - Low-Angle Laser Light Scattering (LALLS)	3.20
3.4.4	Thermal Analysis - Differential Thermal Analysis (DTA)	3.21
3.4.5	Thermal Analysis - Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA)	3.22
3.4.6	Identification	3.22
3.4.7	Analysis of Surface Morphology - Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)	3.23
3.5	The Effect of Different Concentrations of Phosphoric Acid Used in the Degumming Step of the Bleaching Process of CPO	3.23
3.6	The Effect of High Dosage of Bleaching Clays on the Quality of Bleached Palm Oil (Without Degumming)	3.26
3.6.1	Determination of Oil-Filtration Time	3.26
3.6.2	Determination of Oil Retention in Spent Clays and Silica Gel	3.27
3.7	Determination of Equilibrium Time for Adsorption	3.28
3.8	Adsorption Isotherm	3.30
4	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	4.1
4.1	Quality of Crude Palm Oil	4.1
4.2	Characterization of Bleaching Clays and Silica Gel	4.5
4.2.1	Identification of Clay Minerals - X-Ray Diffraction	4.5
4.2.2	Thermal Analysis - DTA and TGA	4.11
4.2.3	Pore Size and Surface Area	4.20
4.2.4	Particle Size, Oil Retention and Filtration Rate of Clays and Silica Gel	4.34
4.2.5	Moisture Content of Clays and Silica Gel	4.41
4.2.6	Analysis of Surface Morphology - Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)	4.43
4.3	The Effect of Different Dosages of Degumming Acid on RBD Palm Oil	4.50
4.3.1	Iron Content	4.50
4.3.2	Color of RBD Palm Oil	4.53
4.3.3	Copper Content	4.57
4.3.4	Chlorophyll Content	4.57

4.3.5	Phosphorus Content	4.60
4.3.6	$E_{233c}^{1\%}$ and $E_{269c}^{1\%}$	4.65
4.3.7	Summary	4.69
4.4	The Effect of High Dosage of Bleaching Clays on Quality of Bleached Palm Oil	4.69
4.5	Adsorption Isotherm	4.81
4.5.1	Characterization of Crude Palm Oil for Adsorption Isotherm	4.81
4.5.2	Equilibrium Time for Adsorption	4.83
4.5.3	Adsorption Isotherm	4.96
5	CONCLUSION	5.1
	REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY	R.1
	APPENDICES	A.1
	BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR	B.1

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
3.1 Standard clay samples	3.1
3.2 The commercial clays and silica gel sample	3.2
3.3 Crude palm oil with different FFA contents used in the experiment	3.4
3.4 Graphite furnace conditions for iron determination	3.16
3.5 Graphite furnace conditions for copper determination	3.19
4.1 The characterization of crude palm oil of three different qualities	4.2
4.2 TGA analysis for clays and silica gel	4.14
4.3 The BET surface area, pore volume and pore diameter of clays and silica gel	4.25
4.4 Iron contents of refined, bleached and deodorized palm oil (RBD) after degumming with phosphoric acid of different concentrations	4.52
4.5 Color of refined, bleached and deodorized palm oil (RBD) after degumming with phosphoric acid of different concentrations	4.55
4.6 $E^{1\%}_{233c}$ and $E^{1\%}_{269c}$ of refined, bleached and deodorized palm oil (RBD) after degumming with phosphoric acid of different concentrations	4.68
4.7 DOBI, carotene content, $E^{1\%}_{233c}$ and $E^{1\%}_{269c}$ of bleached palm oil (10% bleaching clay without degumming)	4.77
4.8 Iron, copper and phosphorus content of bleached palm oil (10% bleaching clay without degumming)	4.77
4.9 Quality of CPO	4.82
4.10 Carotene and chlorophyll contents for controls and CPO	4.93
4.11 The constants (a, b, n, K, 1/n) and the correlation coefficients (r^2) of Langmuir and Freundlich equations for carotene adsorption	4.101
4.12 The constants (a, b, n, K, 1/n) and the correlation coefficients (r^2) of Langmuir and Freundlich equations for chlorophyll adsorption	4.101

4.13	Concentrations of residual carotene in degummed-bleached palm oil after bleaching with different dosages of ^a Pure Flo (PF), ^b WAC Supreme (WS) and ^c Attapulgate (RAL)	4.102
4.14	Concentrations of residual chlorophyll in degummed-bleached palm oil after bleaching with different dosages of ^a Pure Flo (PF), ^b WAC Supreme (WS) and ^c Attapulgate (RAL)	4.102
4.15	Concentrations of residual phosphorus in degummed-bleached palm oil after bleaching with various dosages of clays	4.106
4.16	The constants (a, b, n, K, 1/n) and the correlation coefficients (r^2) of Langmuir and Freundlich equations for phosphorus adsorption	4.113
4.17	The constants (a, b, n, K, 1/n) and the correlation coefficients (r^2) of Langmuir and Freundlich equations for iron adsorption	4.113
4.18	The constants (a, b, n, K, 1/n) and the correlation coefficients (r^2) of Langmuir and Freundlich equations for copper adsorption	4.114
4.19	The constants (a, b, n, K, 1/n) and the correlation coefficients (r^2) of Langmuir and Freundlich equations for vitamin E adsorption	4.114
4.20	Concentrations of residual iron in degummed-bleached palm oil after bleaching with various dosages of clays	4.115
4.21	Concentrations of copper content in degummed-bleached palm oil after bleaching with different dosages of ^a Pure Flo (PF), ^b WAC Supreme (WS) and ^c Attapulgate (RAL)	4.119
4.22	Concentrations of vitamin E in degummed-bleached palm oil after bleaching with different dosages of ^a Pure Flo (PF), ^b WAC Supreme (WS) and ^c Attapulgate (RAL)	4.119
4.23	The constants (a, b, n, K, 1/n) and the correlation coefficients (r^2) of Langmuir and Freundlich equations for the adsorption of primary oxidation product	4.123
4.24	The constants (a, b) and the correlation coefficients (r^2) of Langmuir equation for the adsorption of secondary oxidation product	4.123
4.25	Concentrations of ^d primary oxidation product in degummed-bleached palm oil after bleaching with different dosages of ^a Pure Flo (PF), ^b WAC Supreme (WS) and ^c Attapulgate (RAL)	4.124

4.26	Concentrations of ^d secondary oxidation product in degummed-bleached palm oil after bleaching with different dosages of ^a Pure Flo (PF), ^b WAC Supreme (WS) and ^c Attapulgite (RAL)	4.124
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LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
2.1 Schematic representation of the physical refining process	2.11
2.2 Schematic presentation of the structure of Attapulgite	2.22
2.3 Proposed structure for Montmorillonite	2.26
2.4 Structure for Montmorillonite - sodium form	2.27
2.5 Mechanism of acid activation for Montmorillonite	2.30
2.6 Acid activation process for Montmorillonite clay	2.32
2.7 Homogeneous and heterogeneous surface of adsorbent surfaces	2.44
3.1 The experimental design	3.3
3.2 Induction time for Rancimat analysis	3.11
3.3 Preparation of RBD palm oil with various concentrations of phosphoric acid (degumming acid)	3.24
3.4 Preparation of oil and the determination of equilibrium time of adsorption on the commercial clay: WAC Supreme / Pure Flo M 85/20	3.29
3.5 Preparation of oil for the analysis of adsorption isotherm	3.33
4.1 XRD patterns of clays and silica gel: (a) WAC Supreme, (b) Tonsil Optimum 215FF, (c) WAC Omega 1G, (d) calcium Montmorillonite SAz-1, (e) sodium Montmorillonite Swy-2, (f) Trisyl 300	4.6
4.2 XRD patterns of clays: (a) Attapulgite PFI-1, (b) Attapulgite - Hudson Resource (c) Pure Flo M85/20	4.7
4.3a DTA thermograms of clays and silica gel: (a) calcium Montmorillonite SAz-1, (b) sodium Montmorillonite Swy-2, (c) Attapulgite PFI-1, (d) Attapulgite (Hudson Resource), (e) Pure Flo M85/20, (f) WAC Omega 1G, (g) Tonsil Optimum 215FF, (h) WAC Supreme, (i) Trisyl 300	4.9
4.3b The quartz peak of DTA thermograms for WAC Omega 1G and Attapulgite clay	4.16

4.4	TGA thermograms of clays	4.17
4.5	BJH desorption dV/dD pore volume for acid activated clays and calcium Montmorillonite	4.21
4.6	BJH desorption dV/dD pore volume for natural, neutral and acid activated clays	4.22
4.7	BJH desorption dV/dD pore volume for acid activated clay, natural clay, calcium Montmorillonite and silica gel	4.23
4.8	Isotherm plots for acid activated clays and calcium Montmorillonite	4.29
4.9	Isotherm plots for natural, neutral and acid activated clays	4.30
4.10	Isotherm plots for acid activated clay, natural clay, calcium Montmorillonite and silica gel	4.31
4.11	Particle size distribution of adsorbents - calcium Montmorillonite SAz-1, Attapulgit (PFI-1), Attapulgit (Hudson), sodium Montmorillonite Swy-2, Trisyl 300, WAC Omega, Tonsil, WAC Supreme and Pure Flo	4.36
4.12	Percentage of oil loss in spent clays and silica gel	4.37
4.13	Filtration time (minutes) for clays and silica gel	4.38
4.14	Moisture content in clays and silica gel	4.42
4.15	SEM micrographs of Montmorillonite clays	4.44
4.16	SEM micrographs of acid activated clays	4.45
4.17	SEM micrographs of acid activated clay and silica gel	4.46
4.18	SEM micrographs of natural clays	4.47
4.19	SEM micrographs of neutral clay	4.48
4.20	Iron contents of RBD palm oil after degumming with phosphoric acid of different concentrations	4.51
4.21	Colors of RBD palm oil after degumming with phosphoric acid of different concentrations	4.54
4.22	Copper content of RBD palm oil after degumming with phosphoric acid of different concentrations	4.58

4.23	Chlorophyll content of RBD palm oil after degumming with phosphoric acid of different concentrations	4.59
4.24	Phosphorus content of RBD palm oil after degumming with phosphoric acid of different concentrations and bleaching with WAC Supreme	4.61
4.25	Phosphorus content of RBD palm oil after degumming with phosphoric acid of different concentrations and bleaching with Attapulgate (Hudson)	4.61
4.26	Iron and phosphorus contents of RBD palm oil after degumming with phosphoric acid of different concentrations (1% bleaching clay - WAC Supreme)	4.63
4.27	Iron and phosphorus contents of RBD palm oil after degumming with phosphoric acid of different concentrations (1% bleaching clay - Attapulgate from Hudson Resource)	4.64
4.28	$E_{233c}^{1\%}$ and $E_{269c}^{1\%}$ of RBD palm oil after degumming with phosphoric acid of different concentrations (1% bleaching clay - Attapulgate from Hudson Resource)	4.66
4.29	$E_{233c}^{1\%}$ and $E_{269c}^{1\%}$ of RBD palm oil after degumming with phosphoric acid of different concentrations (1% bleaching clay - WAC Supreme)	4.67
4.30	DOBI and carotene content of bleached palm oil (10% bleaching clay) without degumming	4.71
4.31	Chlorophyll content of bleached palm oil (10% bleaching clay without degumming)	4.72
4.32	Phosphorus content of bleached palm oil (10% bleaching clay without degumming)	4.74
4.33	Iron and copper content of bleached palm oil (10% bleaching clay without degumming)	4.76
4.34	Color (5 1/4" cell) and carotene content of bleached palm oil (10% adsorbents without degumming)	4.79
4.35	Time course for the adsorption of primary oxidation product from degummed oil on Pure Flo (PF), WAC Supreme (WS) and Attapulgate (RAL)	4.84

4.36	Time course for the adsorption of secondary oxidation product from degummed oil on Pure Flo (PF), WAC Supreme (WS) and Attapulgit (RAL)	4.85
4.37	Variation of DOBI value of degummed-bleached oil by using Pure Flo (PF), WAC Supreme (WS) and Attapulgit (RAL)	4.86
4.38	Time course for the adsorption of carotene on Pure Flo (PF), WAC Supreme (WS) and Attapulgit (RAL)	4.87
4.39	Time course for the adsorption of chlorophyll on Pure Flo (PF), WAC Supreme (WS) and Attapulgit (RAL)	4.88
4.40	Time course for the adsorption of vitamin E on Pure Flo (PF), WAC Supreme (WS) and Attapulgit (RAL)	4.89
4.41	Time course for the adsorption of iron on Pure Flo (PF), WAC Supreme (WS) and Attapulgit (RAL)	4.90
4.42	Time course for the adsorption of copper on Pure Flo (PF), WAC Supreme (WS) and Attapulgit (RAL)	4.91
4.43	Time course for the adsorption of phosphorus on Pure Flo (PF), WAC Supreme (WS) and Attapulgit (RAL)	4.92
4.44	Color of degummed-bleached oils after bleaching with (a) Pure Flo - PF and (b) Attapulgit - RAL	4.95
4.45	Freundlich isotherm for the adsorption of carotene from degummed palm oil on Pure Flo (PF), Attapulgit (RAL) and WAC Supreme (WS)	4.99
4.46	Freundlich isotherm for the adsorption of chlorophyll from degummed palm oil on Pure Flo (PF), Attapulgit (RAL) and WAC Supreme (WS)	4.100
4.47	Freundlich isotherm for the adsorption of phosphorus from degummed palm oil on Pure Flo (PF), Attapulgit (RAL) and WAC Supreme (WS)	4.107
4.48	Langmuir isotherm for the adsorption of phosphorus from degummed palm oil on Pure Flo (PF), Attapulgit (RAL) and WAC Supreme (WS)	4.108
4.49	Langmuir isotherm for the adsorption of copper from degummed palm oil on Pure Flo (PF), Attapulgit (RAL) and WAC Supreme (WS)	4.111

4.50	Langmuir isotherm for the adsorption of iron from degummed palm oil on Pure Flo (PF), Attapulgit (RAL) and WAC Supreme (WS)	4.112
4.51	The tocopherol and tocotrienol content in the degummed-bleached palm oil after bleaching with clay adsorbents of various dosages. The clays used were Pure Flo (PF), WAC Supreme (WS) and Attapulgit (RAL)	4.118
4.52	The primary oxidation product ($E^{1\%}_{233c}$) in the degummed-bleached palm oil after bleaching with clay adsorbents of various dosages. The clays used were Pure Flo (PF), WAC Supreme (WS) and Attapulgit (RAL)	4.121
4.53	The secondary oxidation product ($E^{1\%}_{269c}$) in the degummed-bleached palm oil after bleaching with clay adsorbents of various dosages. The clays were Pure Flo (PF), WAC Supreme (WS) and Attapulgit (RAL)	4.122

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

a & b	Langmuir adsorption equilibrium constants
AR	analytical grade
AV	anisidine value
Ca-Mont	calcium Montmorillonite SAz-1 from Arizona (Cheto)
CHL	chlorophyll
CPO	crude palm oil
Cu	copper
DF	Discriminant Function
DOBI	the deterioration of bleachability index
DTA	differential thermal analysis
$E^{1\%}_{233\text{nm}}$	Specific extinction in ultra-violet light 233nm
$E^{1\%}_{269\text{nm}}$	Specific extinction in ultra-violet light 269nm
FFA	free fatty acid
g /l	gram per litre
hr	hour
K & n	Freundlich adsorption equilibrium constants
K_A	Langmuir adsorption equilibrium constant
m	weight of adsorbent
max.	maximum
meq O ₂ /kg	milliequivalents of active oxygen per kilogram
mins	minutes
m/m	mass per mass

mm Hg	millimeter in mercury
μm	micron
N	normality
Na-Mont	sodium Montmorillonite SWy-2 from Wyoming
nm	nanometer
No	number
ρ	density
P	phosphorus
PA	phosphatidic acid
PC	phosphatidylcholine
PE	phosphatidylethanolamine
PF	Pure Flo M85/20 P37 from Oil Dri Company
PI	phosphatidylinositol
PORIM	Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia
PV	peroxide value
ppb	parts per billion
ppm	parts per million
q_m	Langmuir adsorption equilibrium constant
r^2	square of correlation coefficient
R	constant separation factor of Langmuir equation
RAL	Attapulgate from Hudson Resource
RBD	refined, bleached and deodorised palm oil
SEM	scanning electron microscopy
Std RA	Attapulgate PFI-1 from Florida

T300	Trisyl 300 (GRACE)
TGA	thermogravimetric analysis
TO	Tonsil Optimum 215FF from Sud Chemie Company
UV	ultra-violet
VIS	visible
Vit E	vitamin E
VM	volatile matter
v/v	volume per volume
W	watt
WO1G	WAC Omega 1G from Taiko Group of Companies
WS	WAC Supreme 1B from Taiko Group of Companies
wt	weight
XRD	X-ray diffraction
X	the amounts of adsorbed components at equilibrium
Xe	the amounts of unadsorbed components at equilibrium