Scientific Research and Essays Vol. 7(20), pp. 1962-1970, 30 May, 2012 Available online at http://www.academicjournals.org/SRE

DOI: 10.5897/SRE12.243

ISSN 1992-2248 ©2012 Academic Journals

Full Length Research Paper

Diffusion mechanism of cesium, cobalt and cadmium ions in the particles of tin vanadate as a cation exchanger

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Accepted May 21, 2012

The mechanism of diffusion of Cs^+ , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions in the H-form of tin-vanadate as cation exchanger was studied as a function of particle size, concentration of the exchanging ions, reaction temperature, and drying temperature. The exchange rate was controlled by a particle diffusion mechanism as a limited batch technique and is confirmed from straight lines of B versus $1/r^2$ plots. The values of diffusion coefficients, activation energy, and entropy of activation were calculated and their significance was discussed. The data obtained were compared with those reported for other inorganic ion exchangers.

Key words: Diffusion mechanism, cesium, cobalt, cadmium, tin vanadate, cation exchanger.

INTRODUCTION

A good deal of interest has grown in the last decades in synthetic inorganic ion exchangers (Zakaria et al., 2003), because of their greater resistance to high radiation doses and highly elevated temperatures which is of a great importance in the nuclear technology (Marinsky and Marcus, 1995). There has been an increasing interest in studying the kinetics and equilibrium characteristics of inorganic ion exchangers (Grebenyuk et al., 1998; Varshney et al., 2000; Rawat and Khan, 1980).

Kinetic studies of H-metal ion exchanges on ion exchange materials are important for their analytical applications, since the kinetic studies of a reaction allow us to understand the mechanism, rate determining step, and rate laws obeyed by a diffusion process. Energy of activation, entropy of activation, and the self-diffusion coefficient of the ions (E_a , ΔS^* , and D_i) are the fundamental properties of a system. These parameters help us to understand the mechanism of reactions during adsorption/ exchange process. Hence, it is important to deal with the kinetic behavior of the material for the exchange of various metal ions (El-Naggar et al., 2007).

Some studies on the kinetics of ion exchange on synthetic zirconium phosphate (Clearfield et al., 1970) and titanium oxide (Ghoneimy, 1999) have been reported. The few studies on vanadates on ionexchangers have been summarized recently on nanozirconium vanadate (Abd El-Latif and Elkady, 2011), zirconium vanadate and ceric vanadate (Lahiri et al., 2005), zirconium vanadate (Roy et al., 2002) and Tin(IV) vanadate (Qureshi et al., 1976). In the course of the successful application of these ion exchange materials, our interest has been directed to study the diffusion mechanism of Cs⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺ on the prepared tinvanadate (SnV) under the control of particle diffusion mechanism. Some aspects on SnV; SnV is a yellow colour material in the form of granules, from X-Ray fluorescence (XRF) studies, it is clear that, it contains 55.89% SnO_2 , 33.81% V_2O_5 , and 9.6% H_2O . From X-Ray diffraction (XRD), it is celar that SnV has amorphous structure, and after heating SnV at 600℃, SnV shows less significant change in the structure (it becomes semi crystalline).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

All chemical used were of analytical reagent grade purity and were

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used without further purification.

Preparation of SnV

SnV can be synthesized by the addition of equimolar amount of stannic tetra chloride (SnCl₄) and sodium monovanadate (NaVO₃) as the following 0.5 M stannic tetrachloride was dissolved in 4 M hydrochloric acid, and then was added to 0.5 M sodium monovanadate in a volume ratio of 1:1 with constant stirring at room temperature. After the addition was completed, ammonia was added until a precipitation occurred and then the reaction mixture was allowed to settle for 24 h. The precipitate was filtered, washed several times with deionized water. The precipitate was dried at $50^{\circ}\!\!\mathrm{C}$ in an electric oven, ground and sieved for different mesh sizes, and was stored at room temperature.

Kinetics studies

The radius of the particles of the sieved fractions was determined by measuring the diameter of 100 particles with an optical microscope. The particles were assumed to be spherical and a mean equivalent radius was calculated. The reaction takes place between the metal ions and the counter ions in the exchanger, and the rates are controlled by a particle diffusion mechanism only. Kinetics experiments were performed by using batch factor of V/m equals 100 ml/g and 10^{-2} M metal chloride solution in a shaker thermostat adjusted at the desired temperatures. After the adjusted interval period, the solid was separated immediately from the solution and the extent of sorption was determined as the following:

Sorption (%) =
$$\frac{A_i - A_f}{A_i} \times 100$$

where A_{i} and A_{f} are the initial and final concentrations (ppm) of the metal ions in solution.

Analysis

The metal ions (Cs⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺) investigated in this work were analyzed by atomic absorption. The diffused ions (C^{s+}, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺) are used in this work by concentration (10⁻² M) of each ion in case of reaction temperature, drying temperature, and particle diameters effect studies, but in case of the study of effect of concentration, these ions were used in concentrations: 10⁻³, 5 × 10⁻³, 10⁻² M, and these concentrations can be converted to ppm concentration by the following equation.

$$M = \frac{\text{ppm x } 10^3}{\text{Atomic weight of element}}$$

All tests were repeated two or three times and the experimental error was about $\pm 3\%$, the results agreed that, the reproducibility of measurements was more than 98%.

RESULTS

The result of this study showed that tin vanadate is a

brown colour material in the form of granules. From XRD studies it was clear that it contains 55.89% SnO_2 , 33.81% V_2O_5 , and 9.6% H_2O . From XRD studies it was also clear that it is an amorphous material but by increasing the heating temperature its crystallinity was improved.

DISCUSSION

Mathematical model

The experimental conditions of the present study were set for the particle diffusion mechanism only (as mentioned earlier). The fractional attainment of equilibrium at time t, F(t), was used and is expressed as:

$$F(t) = \frac{Q_t}{Q_w} = \frac{\text{Amount of exchange after time, t}}{\text{Amount of exchange after infinite time}}$$

for the particle diffusion controlled kinetics, the expression developed by Boyed et al. (1947) and improved by Reichenberg(1953) is as shown in Equation 1, which is used in this work:

$$F = 1 - \frac{6}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} e^{-n^2 Bt}$$
 (1)

and

$$B = \frac{\pi^2 D_i}{r^2}$$
 (2)

where B is a mathematical function, D_i is the diffusion coefficient of the ions undergoing exchange within the exchanger, n is an integer number, and r refers to the radius of the particles. When F(t) is less than 0.4, Equation 1 can be approximated in a simpler form:

$$F(t) = \frac{6}{r} \left(\frac{D_i t}{\pi} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$
 (3)

which hold to a fairly good approximation. Therefore, a plot of F(t) against the square root of the contact time must be give a straight line passing through the origin in which F(t) is less than 0.4.

For every observed value of F, the corresponding Bt values, as derived from Equation 1 can be obtained from the Reichenberg table (Reichenberg, 1953). According to Equation 1, F is a function of B and t only and independent on the concentration of the external solution. In the present study, the linearity test of Bt versus t plots has been employed to distinguish between film and particle diffusion controlled rates of exchange and the

Table 1. Values of the diffusion coefficient of Cs $^+$, Co $^{2+}$, and Cd $^{2+}$ on different particle diameters of tin vanadate at 25 \pm 1°C.

Partials disperses (0.00 mm)		D _i (×10 ⁹ cm ² s ⁻¹)	
Particle diameter (± 0.02 mm) —	Cs⁺	Co ²⁺	Cd²+
0.115	2.178	2.050	2.147
0.185	5.164	4.370	4.680
0.375	18.1	14.9	16.2

Table 2. Thermodynamic parameters of Cs⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd^{2+/}H⁺ systems on SnV at different reaction temperatures.

Exchange system	Drying temperature	Particle diameter (mm)	Reaction temperature (K)	Di × 109 cm ² s ⁻¹	Do × 107 cm ² s ⁻¹	Ea (kJmol ⁻¹)	ΔS* (Jmol ⁻ ¹ K ⁻¹)
		$0.185 \pm 0.02 \text{mm}$	298	5.16	1.908		-121.48
Cs⁺/H⁺	50℃		318	5.55	1.89	3.39	-121.09
			338	6	1.907		-122.51
			298	4.37	2.106		-120.65
Co ²⁺ /H ⁺			318	4.92	2.15	3.984	-121.02
			338	5.62	2.24		-121.16
Cd ²⁺ /H ⁺			298	4.68	3.399		-116.66
			318	5.29	3.437	4.91	-117.1

experimental conditions were chosen for particle diffusion mechanism as a main rate determining step (as a limited batch technique). The energy of activation (E_a) for the self-diffusion of cations was determined by applying the Arrhenius equation:

$$D_i = D_o e^{-Ea/RT}$$

where D_o is the self-diffusion coefficient. The entropy of activation (ΔS^*) can be calculated from D_o by substitution in the equation proposed by Barrer et al. (1963):

$$D_{o} = 2.72 \left(\frac{KTd^{2}}{h} \right) e^{\Delta S^{*}/R}$$
 (5)

where K is the Boltzmann constant, T is the absolute temperature, d is the average distance between two successive positions in the process of diffusion which was taken as $0.5\ \text{mm}$ and h is the plank's constant.

The aforementioned equations were used for calculating the values of D_o , D_i , E_a , and ΔS^* for the exchanged systems and the obtained results are given in Tables 1 and 2.

Analysis of data

To verify the particle diffusion mechanism of the metal

ions Cs+, Co2+, and Cd2+ on SnV (Tin vanadate) under the conditions set in the present work, the following experimental results were obtained: (1) the rate of exchange of different metal ions on SnV is independent on metal concentrations in solution up to 10⁻³ M, (2) straight line relationships passing through the origin were obtained between the function Bt and t for the three metal ions under study, (3) the exchange rate of Cs⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd2+ were found to increase with the decrease of the particle size of the prepared SnV exchanger, and (5) the plots of B [the slopes of straight lines (Bt versus t plots)] versus $1/r^2$ for Cs⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺ on SnV gave straight lines. All these results provide a good base supporting the particle diffusion mechanism under our experimental conditions. Similar findings were previously reported (El-Naggar et al., 1999, 1992a; El-Naggar and Aly, 1992; El-Naggar and Absy, 1992; Mishra et al., 1996; Abou-Mesalam and El-Naggar, 2003b).

A study of the concentration effect on the rate of exchange for Cd^{2+}/H^+ exchange at $25 \pm 1^{\circ}C$ shows that at concentration >10⁻³ M, the initial rate of exchange is independent of concentration as shown in Figure 1. The experimental conditions were set for particle diffusion mechanism only (Inczedy, 1996). The values of Bt at different time intervals for the exchange of Cs^+ , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions on three different particle sizes of SnV were plotted as represented in Figures 2 to 4, respectively. Figures 2 to 4 show that the plots of Bt versus t for Cs^+/H^+ , Co^{2+}/H^+ , and Cd^{2+}/H^+ systems are linear and start from the origin proving a particle diffusion control

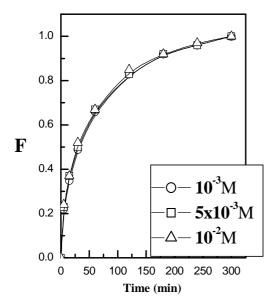
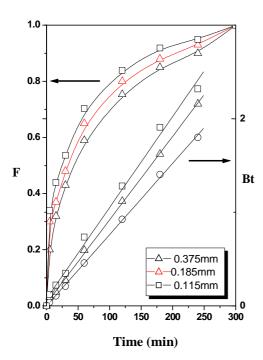


Figure 1. Effect of concentration of Cd on SnV at 25 ± 1 °C.



mechanism (Amphlett, 1964). Also, these figures indicate that the rate of exchange increases with decrease in the particle sizes, which agrees with the fundamental conditions of particle diffusion. The average values of diffusion coefficients (D_i) of Cs⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺ on SnV

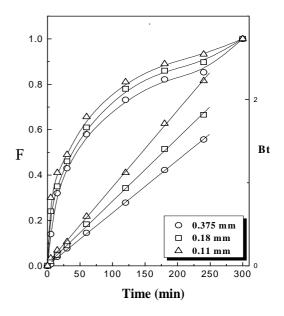


Figure 3. Plots of Bt and F against time for exchange of Co^{2+} ion on SnV at different particle diameters and $25 \pm 1^{\circ}C$.

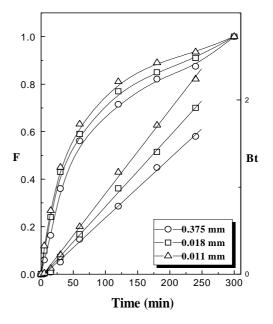


Figure 4. Plots of Bt and F against time for exchange of Cd^{2+} ion on SnV at different particle diameters and $25 \pm 1 ^{\circ}C$.

of different particle diameters were calculated from the relations of Bt versus t (Figures 2 to 4 and Table 1). From this table it is found that the values of diffusion coefficient (D_i) which generally slightly increase with increase in the particle diameters of the prepared samples. The rate of exchange of Cs⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺ ions on SnV increase

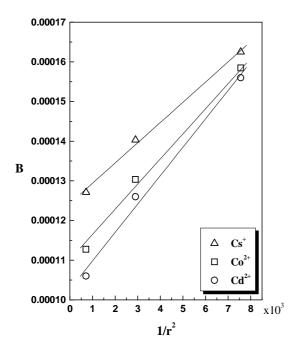


Figure 5. Plots of B against $1/r^2$ for exchange of Cs⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺ ions on SnV at 25 ± 1°C.

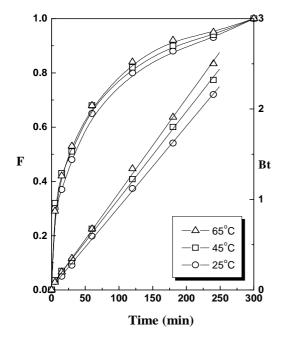


Figure 6. Plots of Bt and F against time for exchange of Cs⁺ on SnV at particle diameter 0.185 ± 0.02 mm and different reaction temperature.

with decrease in the particle diameter which agree with the fundamental conditions of particle diffusion, which support the particle diffusion mechanism. This trend was also reported for others ion-exchangers (El-Naggar and Aly, 1992; El-Naggar and Absy, 1992). The higher values obtained of D_i may be attributed to the large particles formed from agglomeration of smaller compact unites. Therefore, a quicker diffusion took place through the channels between these unites.

Furthermore, the self diffusion coefficients of the metal ions studied are independent on the metal ion concentration in solution and dependent on the particle size of the exchangers. This indicates that under these conditions, the rate determining step is mainly diffusion through the particle and film diffusion is nearly neglected and hence the mechanism of diffusion of these ions in our matrix is considered to be unchanged by the composition of the matrix (El-Naggar et al., 2010).

Plots of B versus $1/r^2$ are straight lines indicating that the rate of exchange is inversely proportional to the square of the radius of the particle as shown in Figure 5, which again verifies that diffusion through the exchanger particle is the rate-determining step. The relations between Bt and F against time for the exchange of Cs⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺ ions for a particle diameter 0.185 \pm 0.02 mm and reaction temperatures 25, 45, and 65°C on Sn V are as shown in Figures 6 to 8, respectively.

These relations gave straight lines passing through the origin in all studied cases. Found from these results, it was found out that the rate of exchange reaction increased with increase in the reaction temperature from 25 to 65 \pm 1°C (El-Naggar et al., 1998). This trend may be due to the increase of the mobility of ions with increase in the reaction temperature from 25 to 65 \pm 1°C. This agrees with the reported results for the rate of exchange of Na $^+$ and Co $^{2+}$ on crystalline and amorphous sodium titanate at different reaction temperature (Zakaria et al., 2004).

The diffusion coefficient values (D_i) of the investigated metal ions were calculated from the slopes of the previous relations at 25, 45 and $65\pm1\%$ using Equation 1. The results are summarized in Table 2. From this table, it is clear that the values of diffusion coefficient of the investigated metal ions increase in the order: $Cs^+ > Cd^{2+} > Co^{2+}$. This trend could be attributed to the hydration energy and the hydrated ionic radii of the studied metal ions which take the order: $Cs^+ > Cd^{2+} > Co^{2+}$. Therefore, the mobility of these metal ions in the exchange particles increases in the reverse order (El-Naggar et al., 2007).

The effect of drying temperature of SnV (50, 200, and 400°C) on the rate of exchange of the investigated metal ions was studied as a relation between F and Bt against time as shown in Figures 9 to 11. From these figures, it was found out that the rate of exchange decreases by Cs $^+$, Co $^{2+}$, and Cd $^{2+}$ with an increase in the drying temperature of SnV from 50 to 400°C as shown in Tab le 3. The lowering in the Di values for Cs $^+$, Co $^{2+}$, and Cd $^{2+}$ with increase in the drying temperatures of the ion increasing the drying temperature from 50 to 400°C. It is clear that an appreciable decrease of self-diffusion of

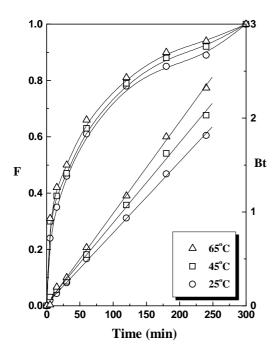


Figure 7. Plots of Bt and F against time for exchange of Co^{2+} on SnV at particle diameter 0.185 \pm 0.02 mm and different reaction temperature.

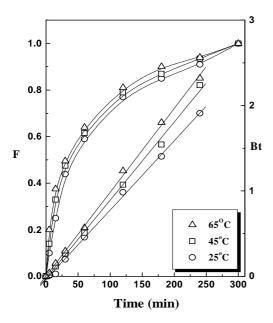
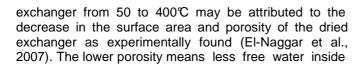


Figure 8. Plots of Bt and F against time for exchange of Cd^{2+} on SnV at particle diameter 0.185 \pm 0.02 mm and different reaction temperature.



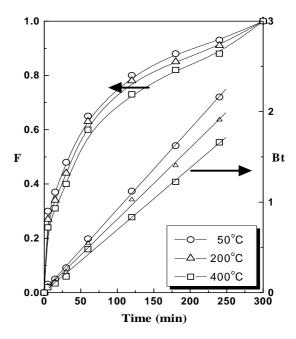


Figure 9. Plots of Bt and F against time for exchange of Cs^+ on SnV at particle diameter 0.185 \pm 0.02 mm and different drying temperatures.

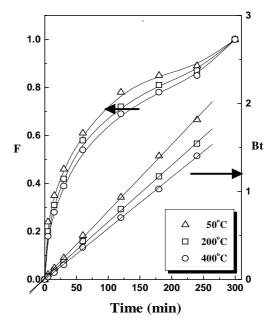


Figure 10. Plots of Bt and F against time for exchange of Co²⁺ on SnV at particle diameter 0.185 ± 0.02 mm and different drying temperatures.

the exchanger particles which hinders the diffusion of the metal ions (Misak and El-Naggar, 1989). When log D_i is plotted against 1/T for the exchange of Cs^+ , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} on SnV, straight lines were obtained (Figure 12).

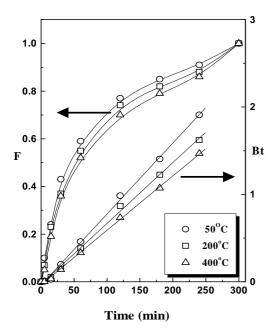


Figure 11. Plots of Bt and F against time for exchange of Cd²⁺ on SnV at particle diameter 0.185 ± 0.02 mm and different drying temperatures.

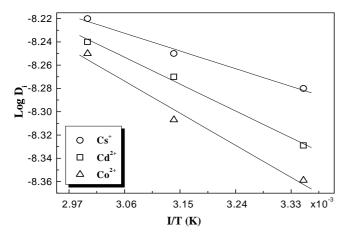


Figure 12. Arrhenius plots for exchange of Cs⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺ on SnV at different reaction temperatures.

From the slopes of these lines and applying Arrhenius equation, the energy of activation (E_a) (kJ mol⁻¹) and the self-diffusion coefficient (D_o) were calculated. On the other hand, the entropy of activation (ΔS^*) can be calculated from D_o using Equation 5.

It is of interest to compare the values of D_i obtained for Cs⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺ on SnV with that previously reported using other inorganic exchangers. The D_i values given by (Shady and El-Gammal, 2005) for Na⁺/H⁺ and Cs⁺/H⁺ exchange system on titanium(IV) antimonate were 0.72 × 10^{-12} m²s⁻¹ and 0.98×10^{-12} m²s⁻¹, respectively. The D_i

values given by El-Naggar et al. (2007) for Cs $^+$ /H $^+$, Co $^{2^+}$ /H $^+$, and Eu $^{3^+}$ /H $^+$ exchange system on SiTi were 4.03 \times 10 7 , 2.98 \times 10 7 , and 4.25 \times 10 7 cm 2 s $^{-1}$, respectively. Also, the diffusion coefficient (D_i) for Cs $^+$ /*Cs $^+$ and Na $^+$ /*Na $^+$ exchanges on hydrous zirconium oxide was found to be 6.7 \times 10 $^{-9}$ and 11.4x10 $^{-9}$ cm 2 s $^{-1}$ (Misak and El-Naggar, 1989).

Furthermore, the activation energy (E_a) (kJ mol⁻¹) for the investigated metal ions (at 25°C) has the order: $Cd^{2+}/H^+(4.91) > Co^{2+}/H^+(3.894) > Cs^+/H^+(3.239)$. This trend agrees with that already reported for Cs⁺ and Co²⁺ on SiTi (El-Naggar et al., 2007) which has the order: $Co^{2+}/H^+(12.9) > Cs^+/H^+(11.87)$. The relatively small activation energies values (E_a) (kJ mol⁻¹) obtained (Table 2) for Cs⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺ indicated the rate of exchange of particle diffusion (El-Naggar et al., 1992a).

It is interesting to compare the values of activation energies which have been observed for all studied metal ions reported in Table 2 with other values of activation energies which have been observed for the exchange of other metal ions on polypyrrole/polyantimonic acid and acrylamide cerium(IV) phosphate, whereas the activation energy values for Mg²⁺, Ca²⁺, Sr²⁺, Ba²⁺, Cu²⁺, Ni²⁺, Zn²⁺, and Mn²⁺ were recorded as 4.11, 5.14, 5.16, 5.12, 9.23, 8.47, 8.72, and 6.44 kJ mol⁻¹ (Khan and Alam, 2004); the activation energy for the diffusion of Mg²⁺, Ca²⁺, Sr²⁺ Ba²⁺, on acrylamide cerium(IV) phosphate were recorded as 9.95, 9.15, 8.89, and 6.03 kJmol⁻¹ (Varshney et al., 2003); the values of activation energy for Zn²⁺, Cd²⁺, Hg²⁺, La³⁺, and Th⁴⁺ on ferric antimonite were found to be 17.2, 21.1, 23.0, 15.3, and 13.5 kJ mol⁻¹ (Rawat and Singh, 1978). In other words, these values of activation energy are relatively small as compared to that reported for other organic and inorganic exchangers which confirm the particle diffusion mechanism.

The negative ΔS^* values obtained for all studied systems are given in Table 2. The negative values obtained for the entropy of activation, suggest that no significant structure change occur in SnV. The entropy change normally depends on the extent of hydration of the exchangeable and exchanging ions a long with any change in water structure around ions that may occur when they pass through the channels of exchanger particles. The lowest values of ΔS^* for Cs^+ , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} on SnV support the higher stability and hence the least steric difference of the system. These results are parallel to that reported for other inorganic ion exchanger (El-Naggar et al., 1992b).

The activation energy was found to decrease with the decrease in the entropy of the activation of the system (Table 2). The same trend was observed for other ion exchange materials (Abou-Mesalam and El-Naggar, 2003b).

Conclusion

The exchange kinetics of Cs⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺ on the

Exchange system	Drying temperature (℃)	Di × 109 cm 2 s-1
Cs ⁺ /H ⁺	50	5.164
	200	4.567
	400	3.619
Co ²⁺ /H ⁺	50	4.373
	200	3.71
	400	3.36
Cd ²⁺ /H ⁺	50	4.68
	200	4.02
	400	3.602

Table 3. Values of diffusion coefficient of Cs^+ , Co^{2+} and Cd^{2+} on SnV at different drying temperature and at particle diameter 0.185 \pm 0.02 mm.

prepared SnV were studied as a function concentration, particle radius, drying temperature of SnV and reaction temperatures. The rate of exchange is independent on the metal ion concentration and this is considered as an evidence for the particle diffusion mechanism for all investigated metal ions. The rate of exchange increases with decrease in the particle size and drying the temperature of the exchange materials. While, the rate increases with increasing the reaction temperature. The diffusion coefficient values (D_i) of Cs⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺ ions on SnV are decreased with increase in the drying temperatures from 50 to 400°C and this indicates that the diffusion ion (Cs $^+$, Co $^{2+}$ and Cd $^{2+}$) are diffused in the dehydrated form. Negative values of entropy of activation (ΔS^*) were obtained and this anticipate that the investigated metal ions are exchange with H⁺ of SnV in the unhydrated form.

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