

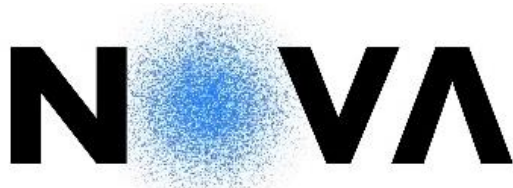
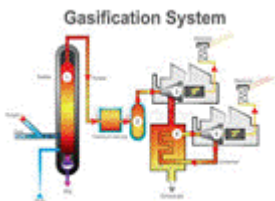
Thermochemical processes
Pyrolysis
Pyrolysis Products

Biochars and applications

Maria Bernardo

Investigadora FCT-NOVA

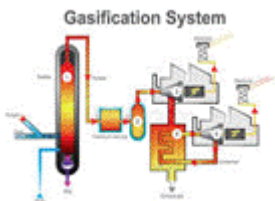
maria.b@fct.unl.pt



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

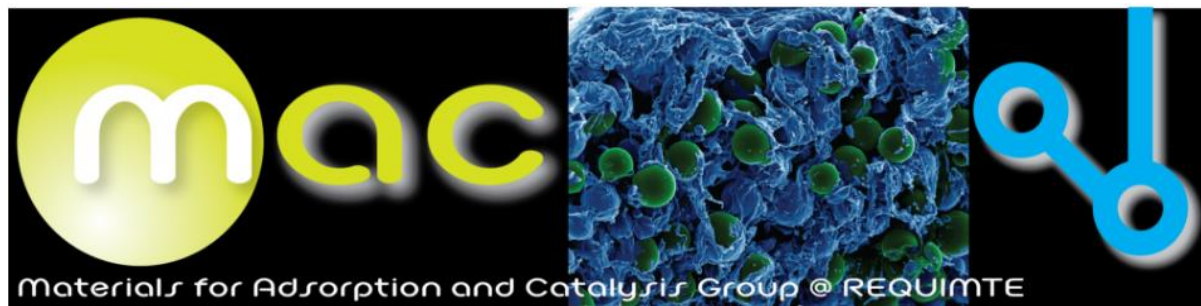


*Departamento de Química
NOVA School of Science and Technology
Universidade NOVA de Lisboa*



Laboratório Associado para a Química Verde (LAQV)

Associated Laboratory for Green Chemistry (LAQV)



Materials for Adsorption and Catalysis Group

<http://sites.fct.unl.pt/mac/>

Materials for Adsorption and Catalysis Group

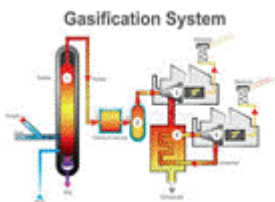
<http://sites.fct.unl.pt/mac/>

Synthesis of Materials

- Carbon materials: Biochars and Porous Carbons
- Mesoporous Silicas
- (Bio)Polymeric Materials
- Oxide Nanoparticles
- Catalysts

Applications

- Biofuels Production
- Waste Valorization
- Water/Gas Treatment
- Heterogeneous Catalysis
- Drug Delivery





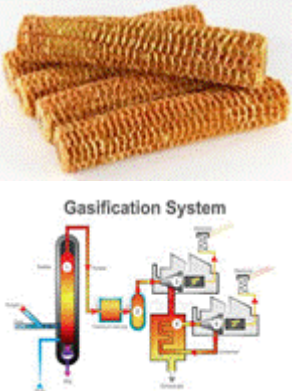
Biomass/Biowastes

Organic matter from plants and animals (and fungus, bacteria,...)

Renewable

Used as chemical energy vector

Solid and liquid Biomass/Biowastes:



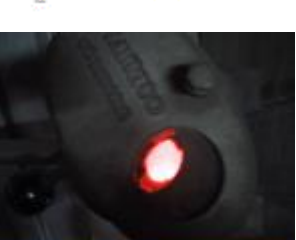
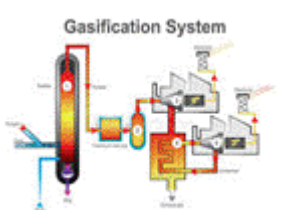
“biodegradable fraction of products, waste and residues from biological origin from agriculture, including vegetal and animal substances, from forestry and related industries, including fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the biodegradable fraction of waste, including industrial and municipal waste of biological origin”

Directive EU 2018/2001 renewable energies



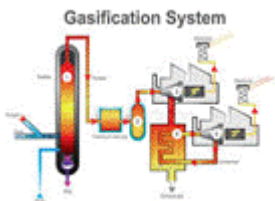
Solid Biomass/Biowastes

- Lignocellulosic materials
- Forestry
- Wood transformation Energetic Crops
- Agriculture
- Agrofood industry
- Pulp and paper industry
- Organic fraction of MSW
- Sewage sludge ...
- ...



Liquid biomass/biowastes

- Agroindustry effluents: pig, poultry and dairy farms, etc.
- Agri-food industry effluents: breweries, dairy, vegetable oils, greases, etc.
- Pulp and paper industry effluents
- Sludges
- Other industrial wastewaters



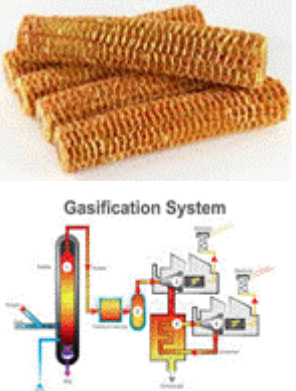
BIOENERGY

Energy from biomass (vegetal and animal organic matter)

Conversion of the chemical energy contained on the biomass into another form of energy and products (Chemical – fuels, thermal – heat, electric – electricity)

Energetic vector with “neutral CO₂ emissions”

The oldest way of renewable energy!





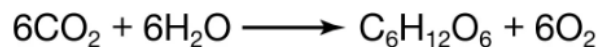
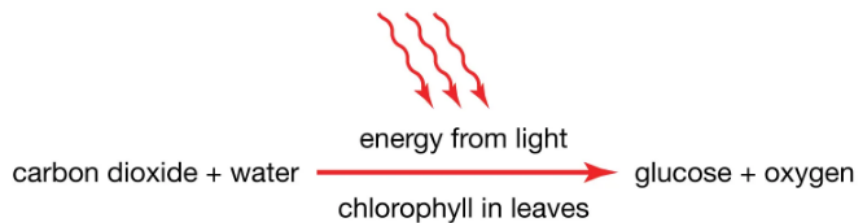
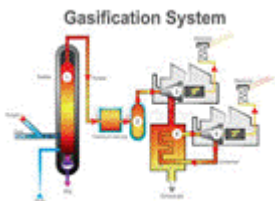
Where does it come from the chemical energy of biomass?

Photosynthesis !

Biomass has its origin on solar energy



The reaction of photosynthesis

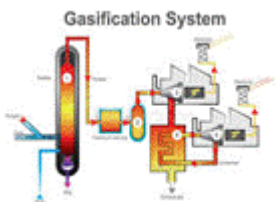
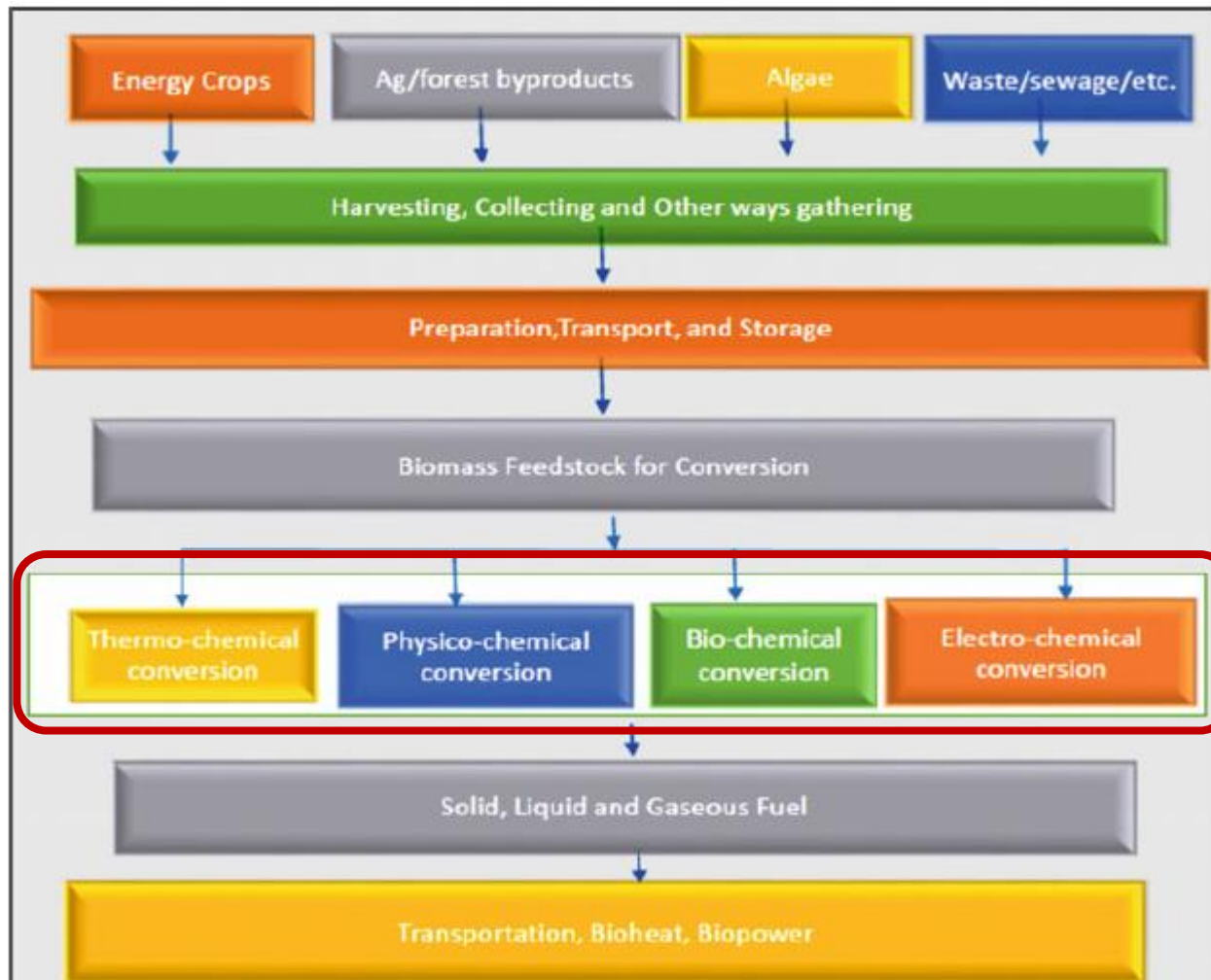


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Chemical energy of the bonds C-C, C=C, C-H, C-O, H-H,



Biomass conversion



Practices and Perspectives in Sustainable Bioenergy, Mitra, Madhumi, Nagchaudhuri, Abhijit (Eds.), Springer India, 2020

Biomass conversion

Basically:

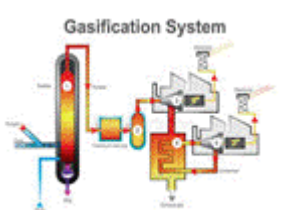
Thermochemical: heat (temperature), chemical energy conversion

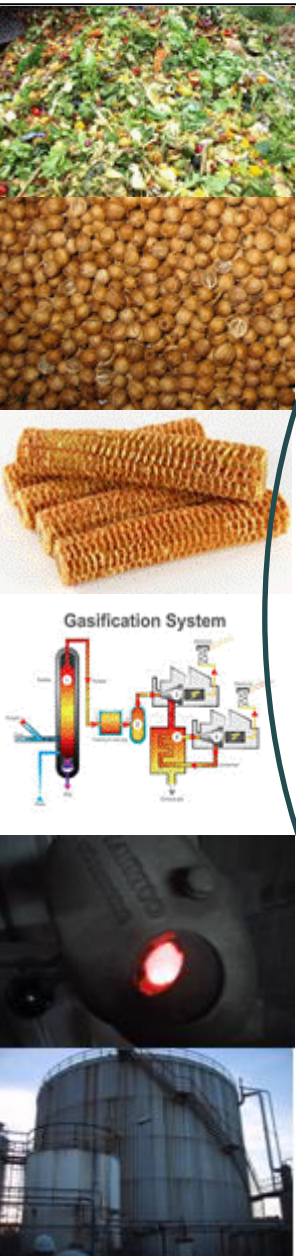
Physical: chipping, densification (pellets, briquets), extraction

Chemical: transesterification, hydrolysis

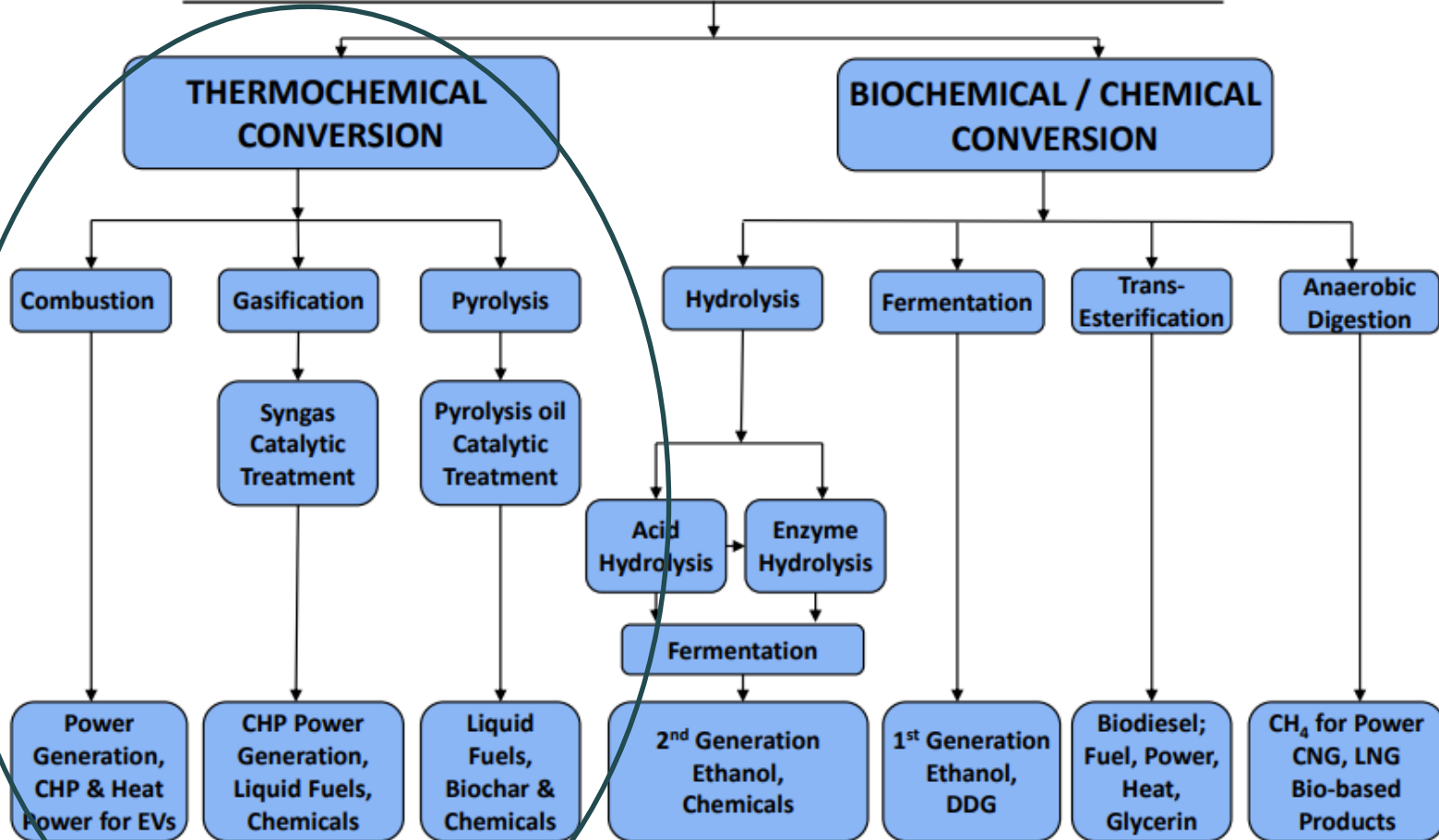
Biochemical: Biological and chemical processes, microorganisms (fermentation, digestion)

Electrochemical: oxidation/reduction reactions, electrochemical cells





BIOMASS-to-BIOENERGY & BIOPRODUCTS CONVERSION PATHWAYS



CHP – Combined heat and power
 DDG - Distiller's Dried Grains
 CNG – Compressed natural gas
 LNG – Liquefied natural gas

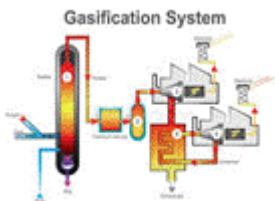
Practices and Perspectives in Sustainable Bioenergy, Mitra, Madhumi, Nagchaudhuri, Abhijit (Eds.), Springer India, 2020



Biochemical conversion

Biomass with C/N ratio < 30 and moisture $> 30\%$

Example: wastewaters, organic fraction MSW, aquatic cultures, agroindustry effluents, etc.



Thermochemical conversion

Biomass with C/N ratio > 30 and moisture $< 30\%$

Solid biomass, lignocellulosics.



Thermochemical vs Biochemical

Feedstock flexibility

Complete conversion (high productivity)

High reaction rates

Short reaction times

Wastes reduction 70-80% mass and 80-90% volume

Use of microorganisms, enzymes and/or chemicals

Limited productivity

Only one product or few

Susceptible to climatic conditions

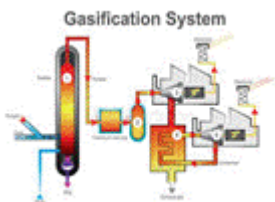
Low reaction rates

High reaction time

Sludges by-product

But...thermochemical processes have disadvantages

Energetic cost, pollutants emissions, biomass types vs technologies, among others.



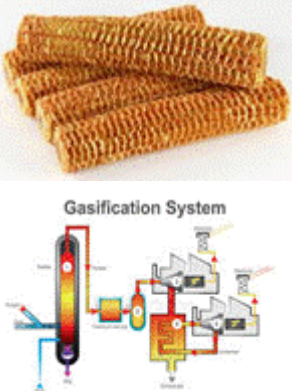
Thermochemical conversion of biomass

Chemical energy conversion into chemical, thermal and electrical energy and other bioproducts

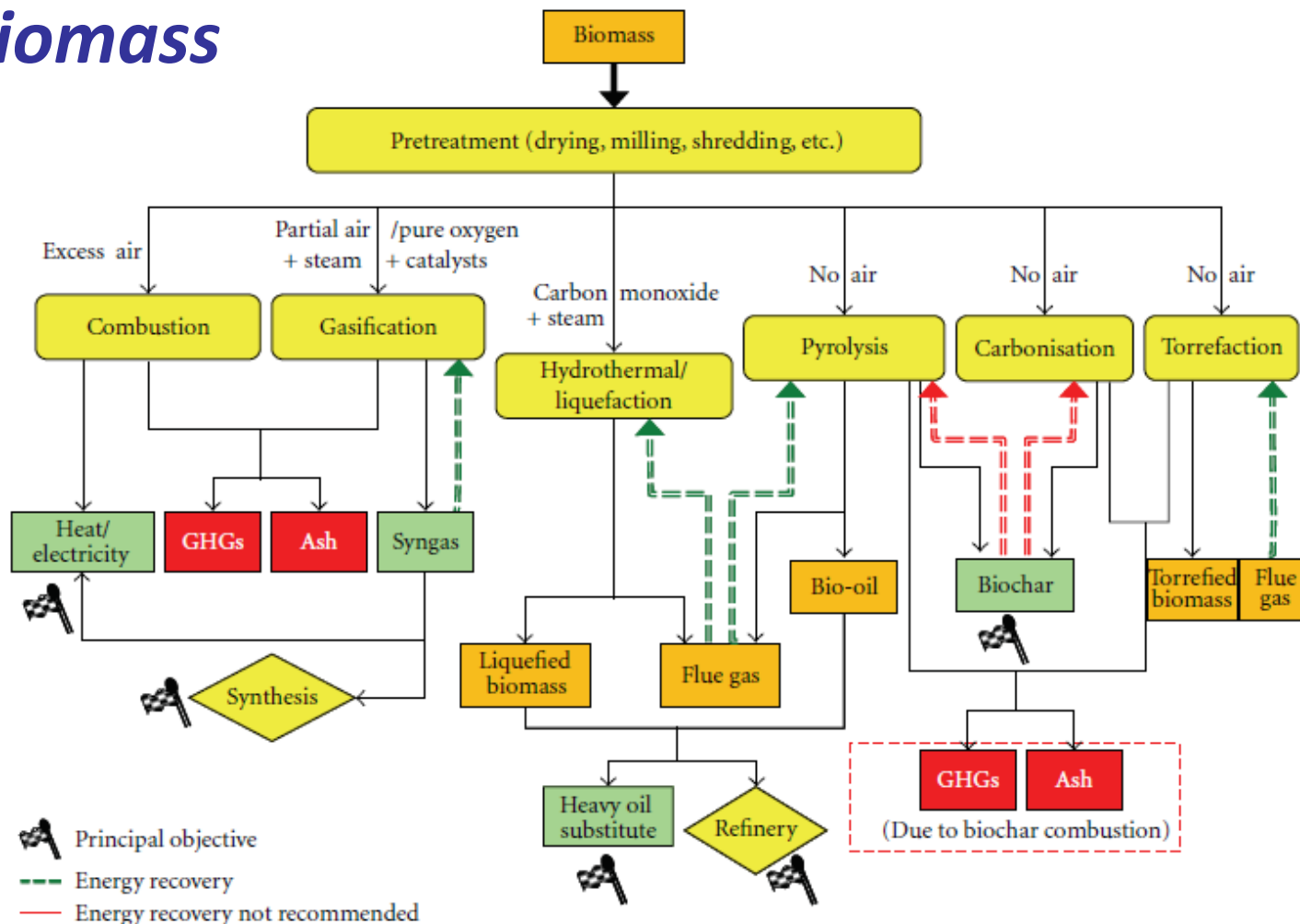
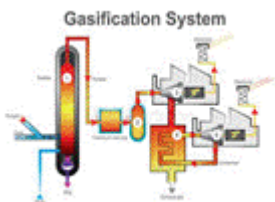
Conversion of biomass components at high temperature in the presence or absence of oxygen, into solid, liquid or gaseous products

Biomass transformation into fuel products, energy (heat, electricity), chemicals, bioproducts

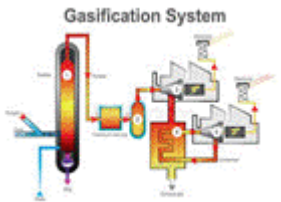
Degradation or decomposition (by means of chemical reactions) of the organic matter at high temperatures



Thermochemical conversion of solid biomass



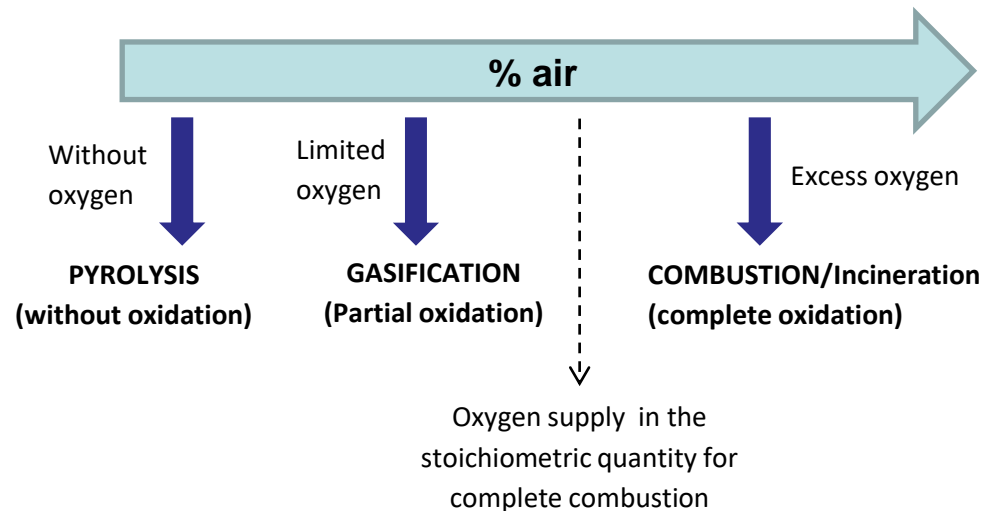
"Biofuels Production from Biomass by Thermochemical Conversion Technologies", International Journal of Chemical Engineering, 2012. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2012/542426>



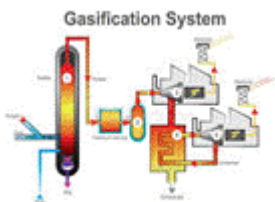
Thermochemical processes

Solid biomass with low moisture content

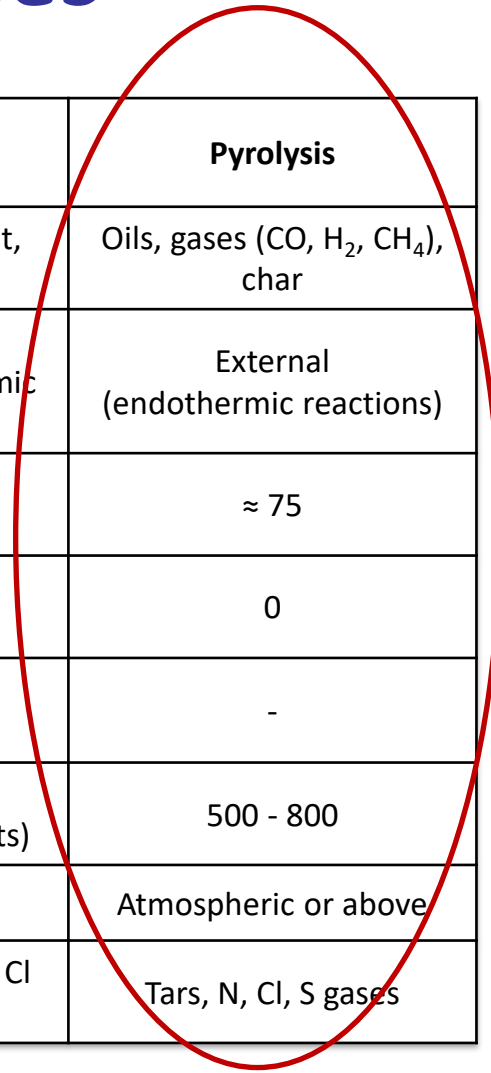
Classification according the involved oxygen



Thermochemical processes



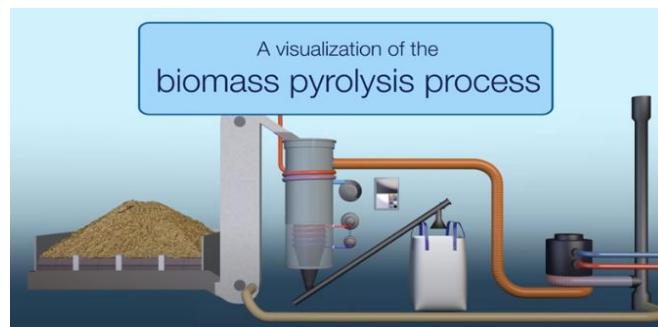
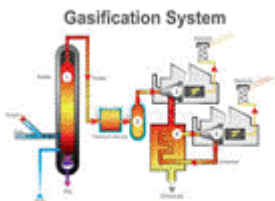
	Combustion	Gasification	Pyrolysis
Main products	Heat, flue gas (CO ₂ , H ₂ O)	Flue gas (CO, H ₂ , CH ₄), heat, ashes	Oils, gases (CO, H ₂ , CH ₄), char
Source of heat	External (exothermic reactions)	External and internal (endothermic and exothermic reactions)	External (endothermic reactions)
Carbon conversion (%)	>99	80 - 95	≈ 75
Oxygen stoichiometry	> 1	0.2 – 0.4	0
Oxidants	air	Air, O ₂ , steam	-
Temperatures	850 - 1200	550 – 900 (with air) 1000 – 1600 (other oxidants)	500 - 800
Pressure	atmospheric	atmospheric	Atmospheric or above
By-products/ Pollutants	Particles, NO _x , SO ₂ , Ashes, Dioxins, Furans	“Black ashes”, tars, CO ₂ , N, Cl and S gases	Tars, N, Cl, S gases



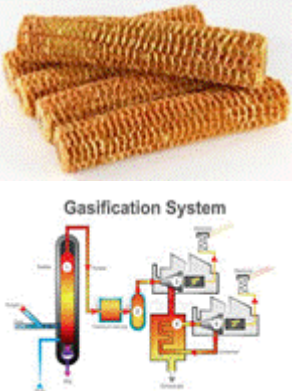
Pyrolysis

Thermochemical conversion of organic substances (biomass and biowastes) into **liquids, gases and solids**, in the **absence of oxygen with heating**

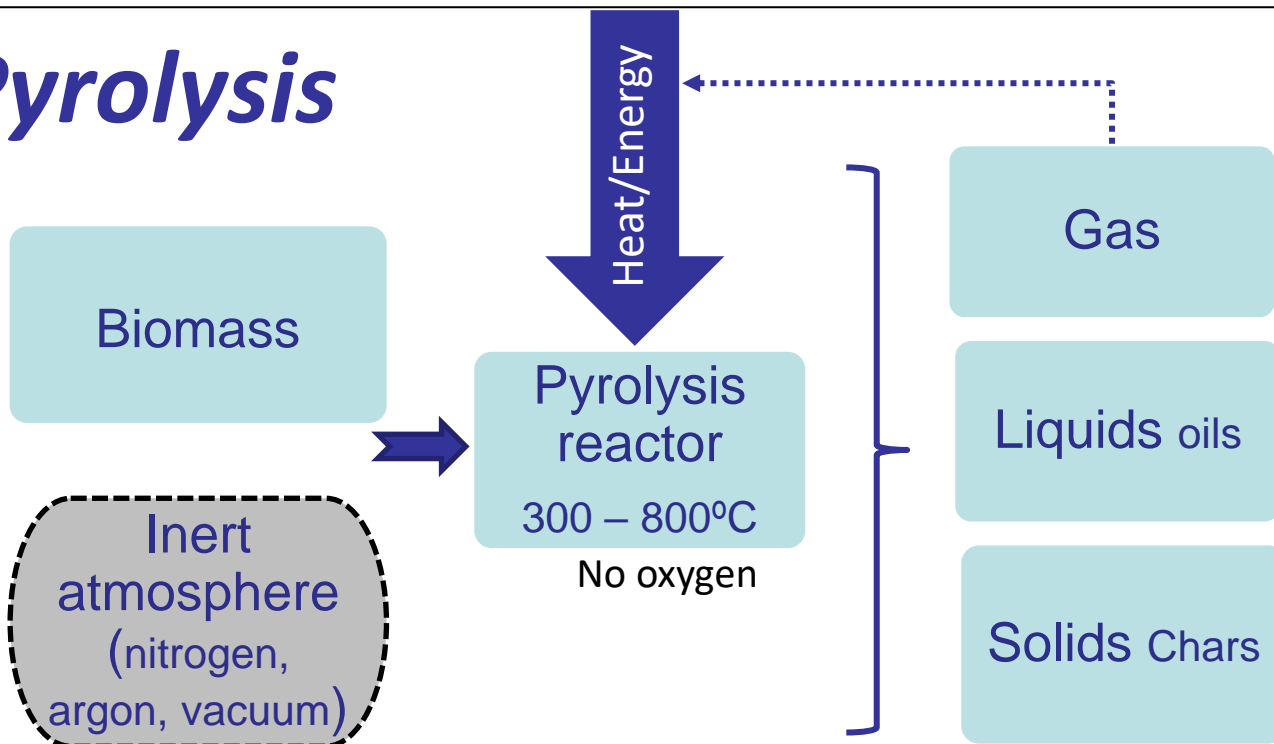
Endothermic degradation or thermolysis (chemical bonds are broken) of organic substances in the **total absence of oxygen**, to obtain **oils, gases and chars**



<https://youtu.be/3K1zWAYDvMA>



Pyrolysis



Endothermic Process

Chemical bonds cleavage and volatilization

External source of heat to maintain the pyrolytic reactor at the desired temperature

Source of heat might be the gas fraction

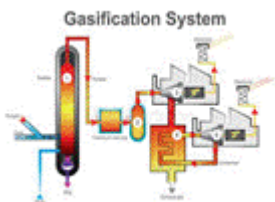
Pyrolysis - Products

Liquid fraction – oils or bio-oils, tars (heavy oil)

Complex mixture of hydrocarbons (aromatics, oxygenated, olefins, aliphatic alkanes, cyclic alkanes, S, N - compounds) - “Crude oil”

Applications:

- Energy/heat production
- Fuels
- Fine Chemicals
- Feedstock for refining/reforming



Pyrolysis - Products

Gaseous fraction – Pyrolytic gas (\approx Syngas)

Composed by por H_2 , CH_4 , CO , CO_2 , C_nH_m

Applications

- Energy/heat production ($10\text{-}40 \text{ MJ/m}^3$)
- Chemical synthesis

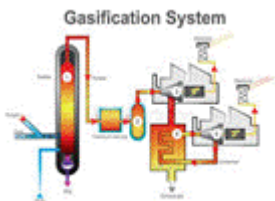


Solid fraction – Chars or biochars

Carbon material + mineral matter

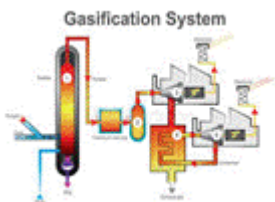
Applications:

- Energy production ($20\text{-}40 \text{ MJ/kg}$)
- Source of carbon/minerals for soils
- Activated carbon production



Pyrolysis types

Type	Slow	Intermediate	Fast	Flash	Vacum
Temperature (°C)	300-700	500-650	500-1000	900-1200	400-600
Heating rate (°C/s)	0,1-2	1-10	10-200	> 1000	0,1-1
Residence time	min - hours	10-20 s	< 2 s	< 0,1 s	< 1 s
Pressure (MPa)	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,01-0,02
Particle size (mm)	5-50	1-5	<0.1	<0.1	< 1
Products (m/m %)	Liquids	30	50	75	60
	Gases	35	30	13	20
	Chars	35	20	12	20



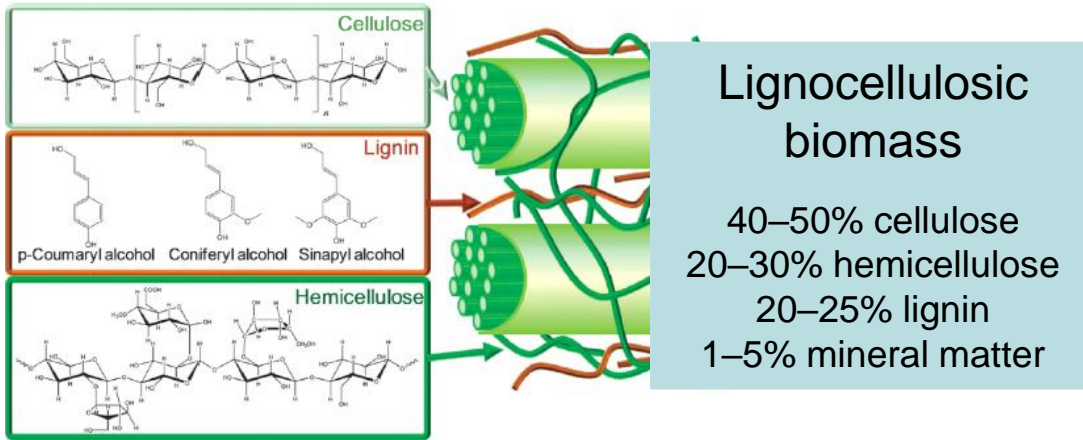
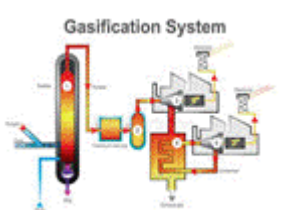
Low temperatures and long residence times – solids production (**carbonization**)

High temperatures and long residence times – gases production

Moderate temperatures and short residence times – liquids production

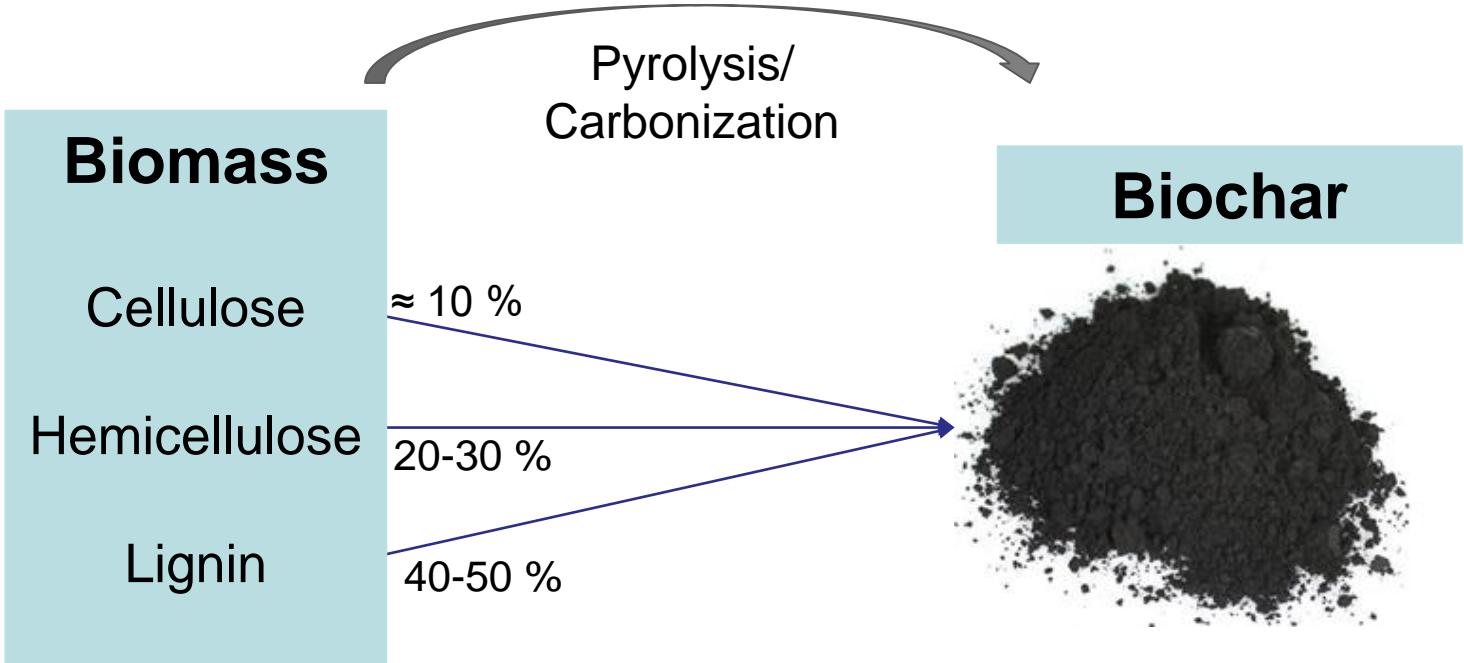
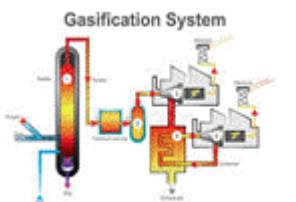
Biowastes

Renewable, low cost, sustainable, abundant, easy-available

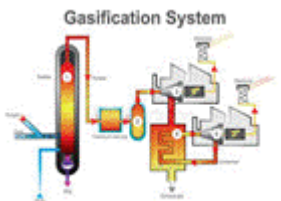


Soft, compressible, low density:
Shells/Peels/Straws:
rice, peanut, fruits, vegetables,...

Hard, high density:
Wood, Stones
nutshell
herbaceous,...



Charcoal/Biochar - source



Fossil/Coal

Biomass

**Non-renewable, mining,
high-cost**

Renewable, low cost, abundant

Peat, lignite, bituminous, anthracite, graphite

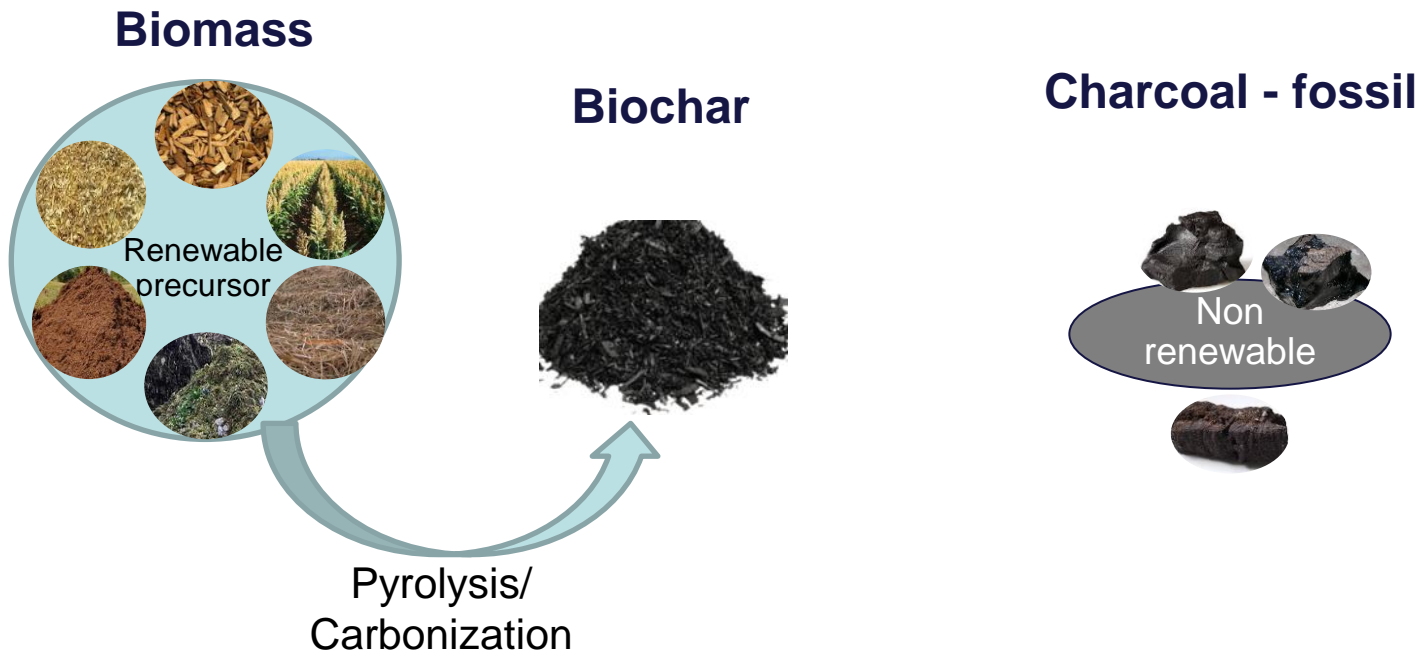
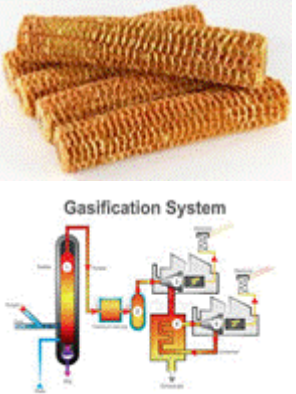
Wood, Agro-forestry and food
wastes,...

Carbon content (C) →

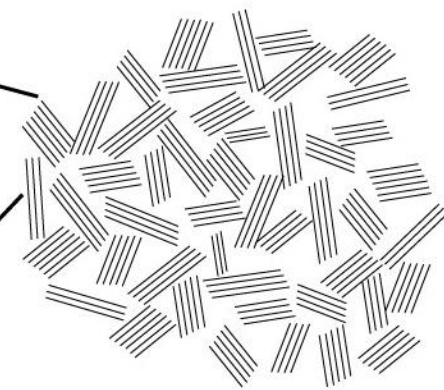
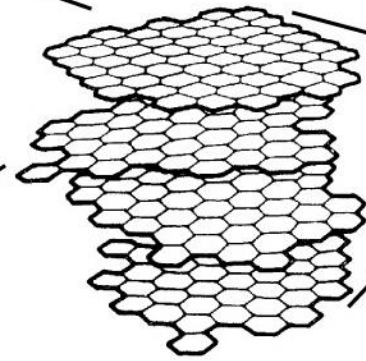
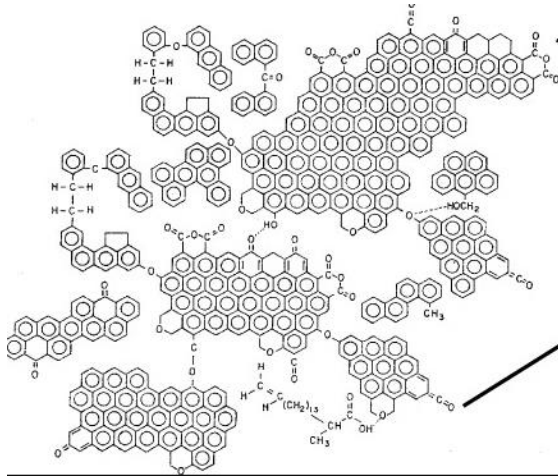
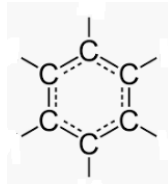
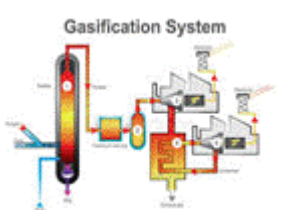


**Precursors with high fixed
carbon content**

Char ≈ Biochar ≈ Charcoal ≈ Coal

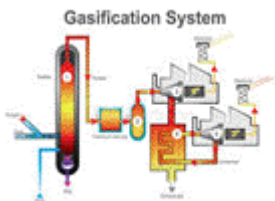


Biochar – Amorphous Carbon



Solid product from the decomposition of organic matter
Composed mainly by carbon (C)
H, O, N, S, minerals,...

Carbon materials

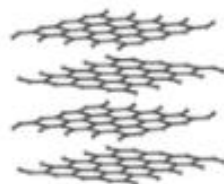


Carbon allotropes

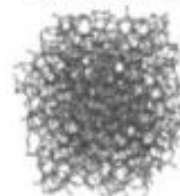
Diamond



Graphite



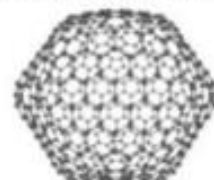
Amorphous carbon



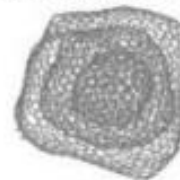
Fullerene C60



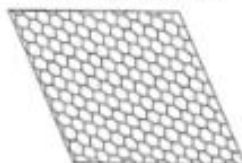
Fullerene C540



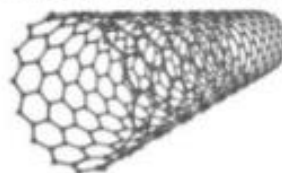
Carbon onions



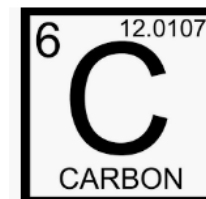
Graphene



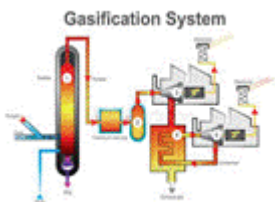
CNT: SWCNT



CNT: MWCNT



Biochars

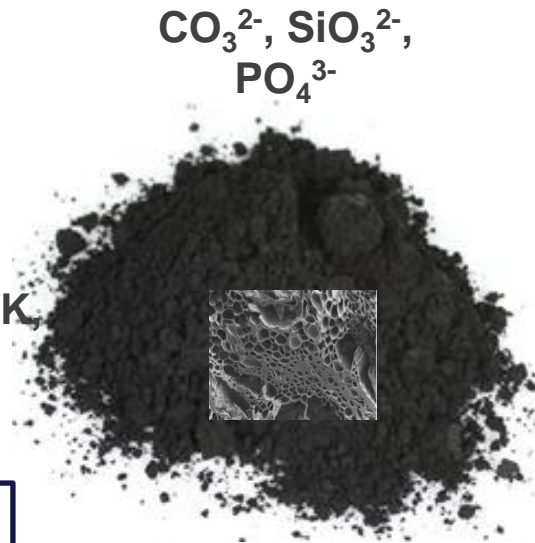


- Biomass
- Operational conditions



- Incipient porosity
- (Surface area: 5 – 300 m²/g)
- Tars
- Metals
- Minerals

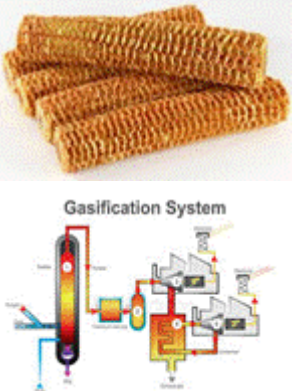
Na, Ca, K,
Mg,...



CO₃²⁻, SiO₃²⁻,
PO₄³⁻

Zn, Pb, Ni,
Cr,...

Biochars - *Applications*

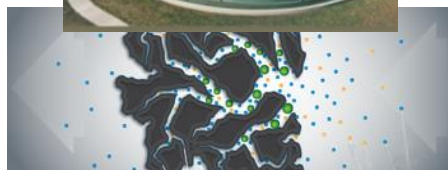


Fuel

Barbecue
(PCS: 15-32 MJ/kg)

Soil amendment

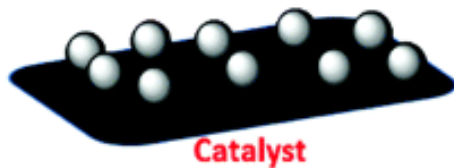
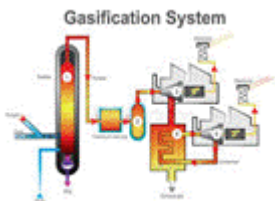
Water retention
Source of carbon/Carbon sequestration
Source of nutrients



Adsorbent

Water treatment (Pollutants removal)
Flue gas treatment (CO_x, NO_x, SO_x removal)

Biochars - *Applications*



Catalyst

Tar cracking at gasification
Fuels production
NOx conversion

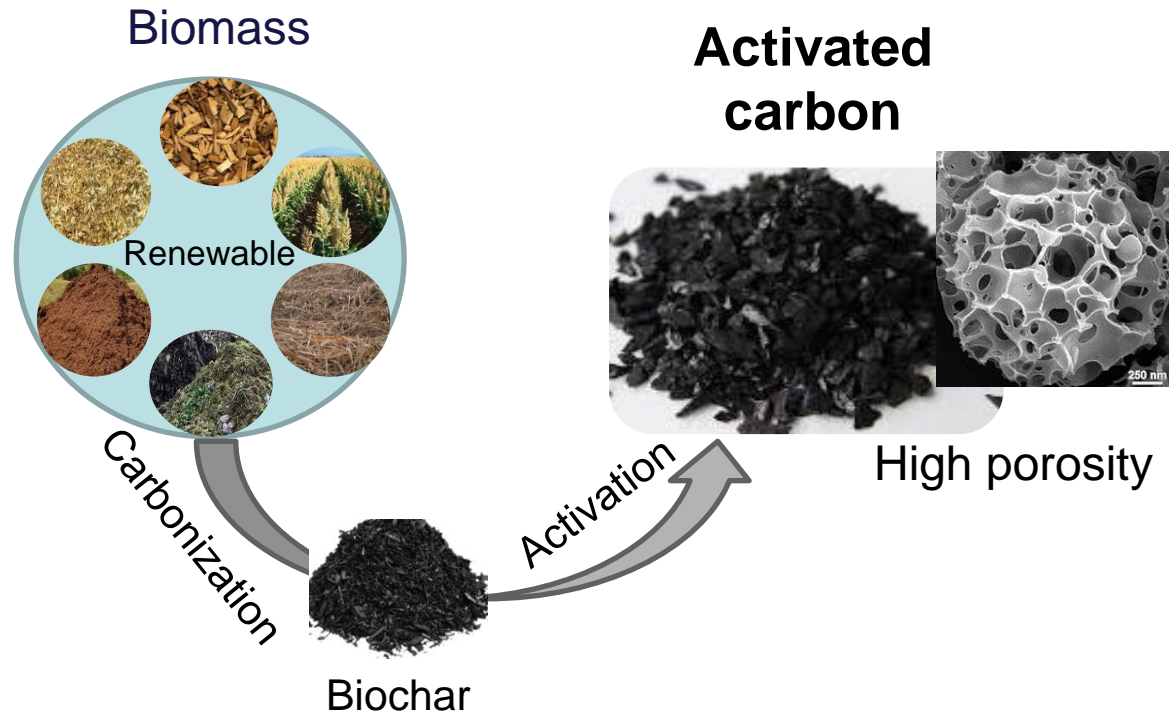
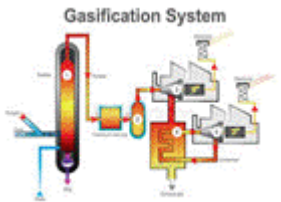


Energy Storage

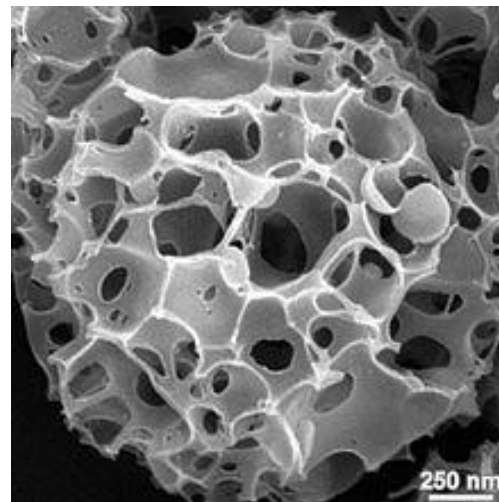
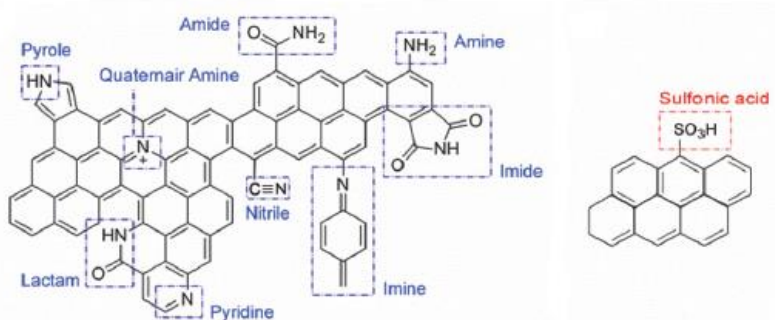
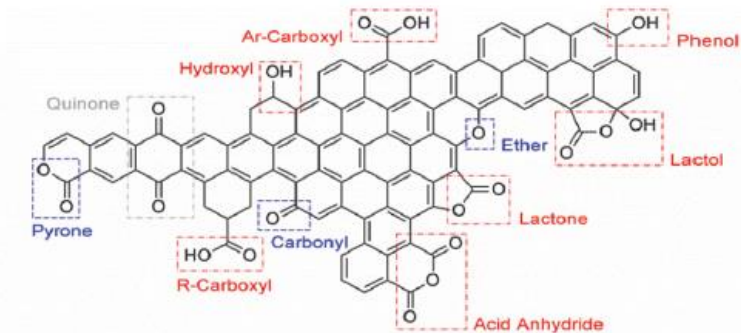
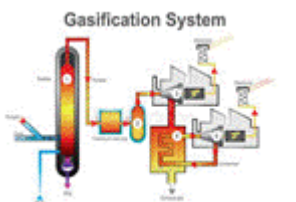
Supercapacitor (Electrode)
Batteries (anode)

Biochar – Applications

Precursor of Activated Carbon



Activated carbon



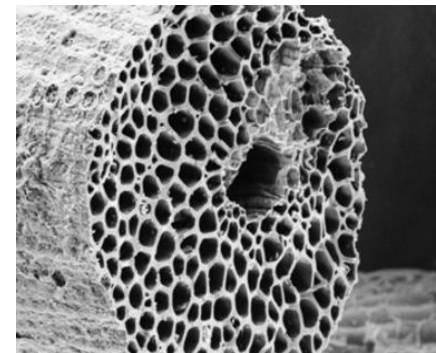
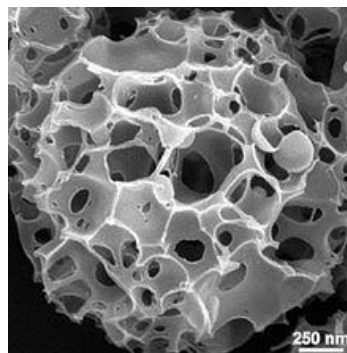
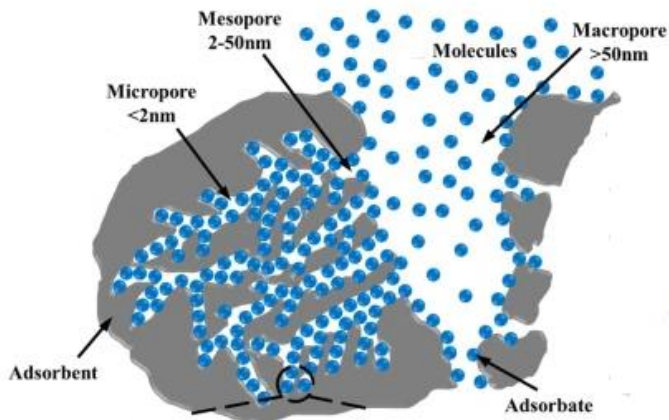
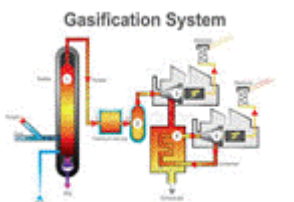
5-150 μm

0.2-5 mm

0.8-4 mm



Activated carbon \approx Activated charcoal



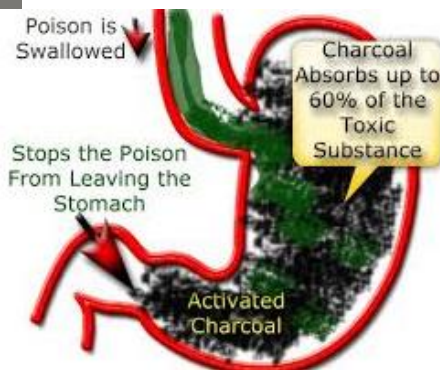
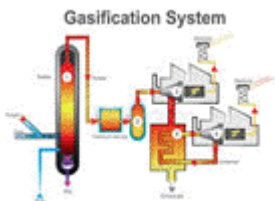
High porosity
Surface area \approx 1000 - 3000 m²/g

N_2 molecule - 0.162 nm²

Micropores < 2 nm
Mesopores 2< \varnothing <50 nm
Macropores > 50 nm

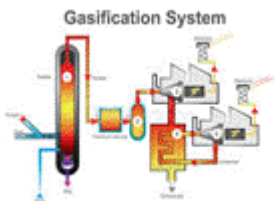


Activated carbon – Commercial applications

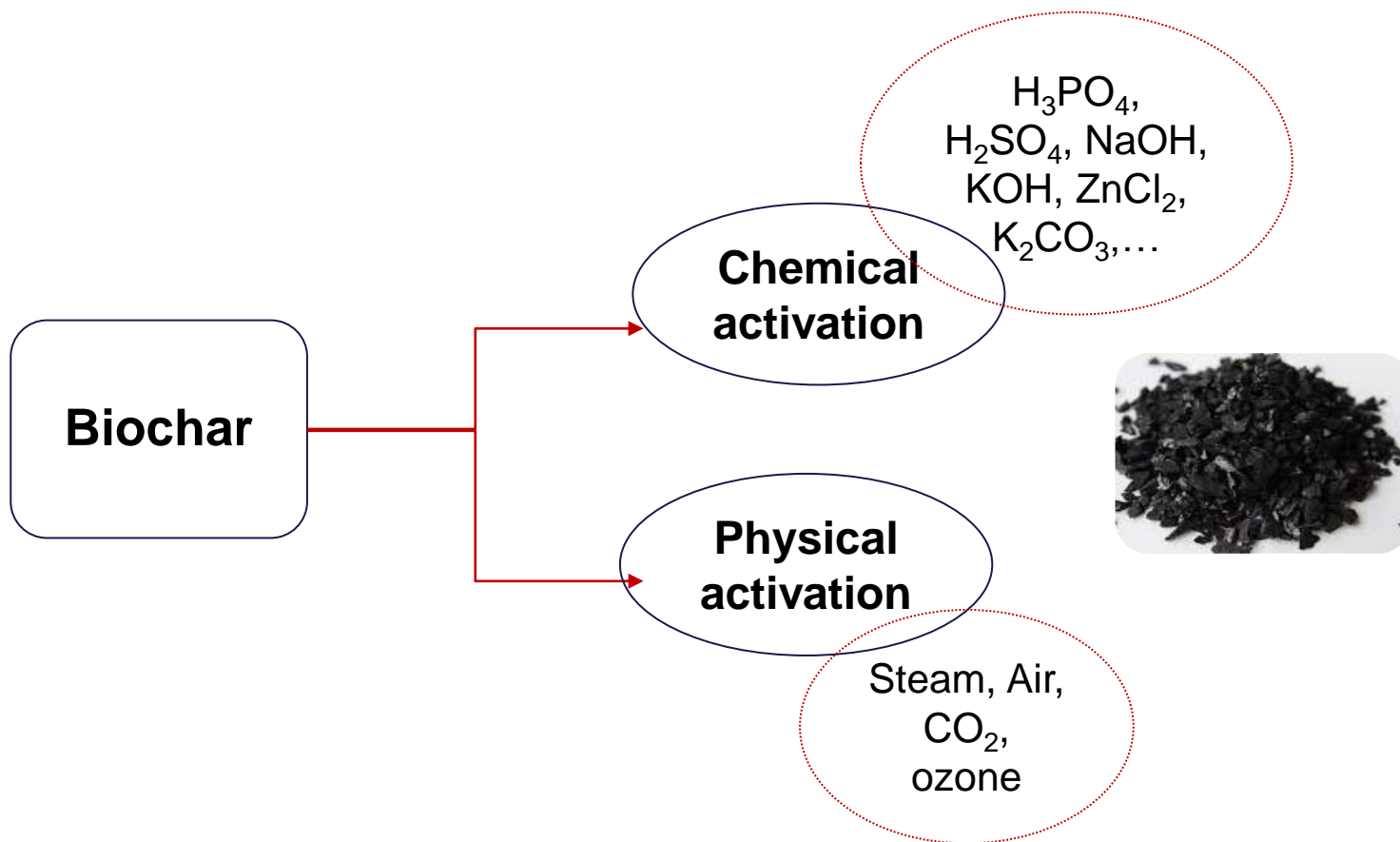
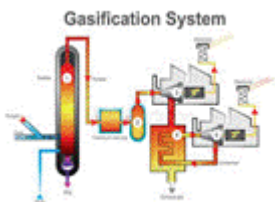


Activated carbon – Industrial applications

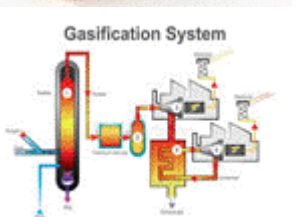
- Adsorption; Energy storage; Chemical industry (catalysis)



Activated carbon



Activated carbon



Chemical Activation

H_3PO_4 , H_2SO_4 ,
 $NaOH$, KOH ,
 $ZnCl_2$,
 K_2CO_3 , ...

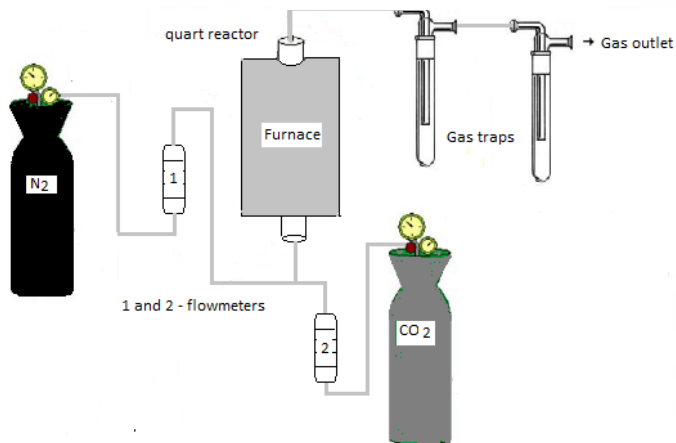
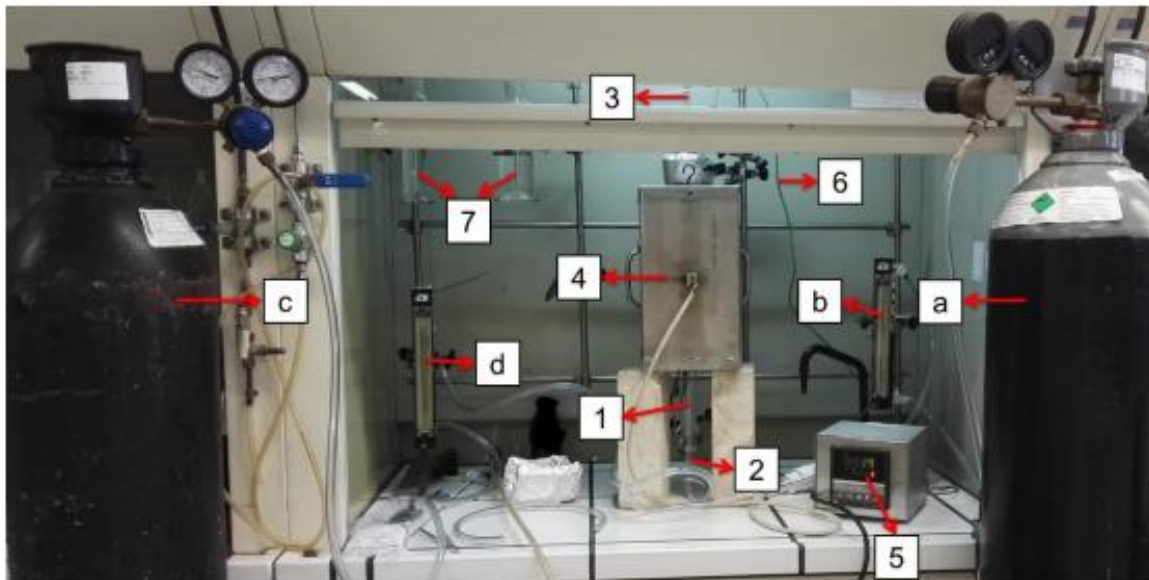
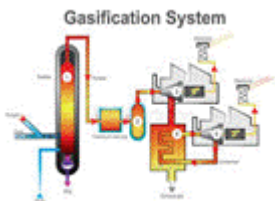
- Precursor impregnation
- Temperatures: 400-800 °C
- Advantage: Carbons with higher surface area, lower activation times
- Disadvantage: the removal of excess activation agent

Physical activation

Steam,
Air,
 CO_2 ,
ozone

- 1st carbonization step: 400-850 °C
- Activation with gases at 600-1000 °C
- Advantage: No need to wash the carbons
- Disadvantage: higher temperatures and longer activation times

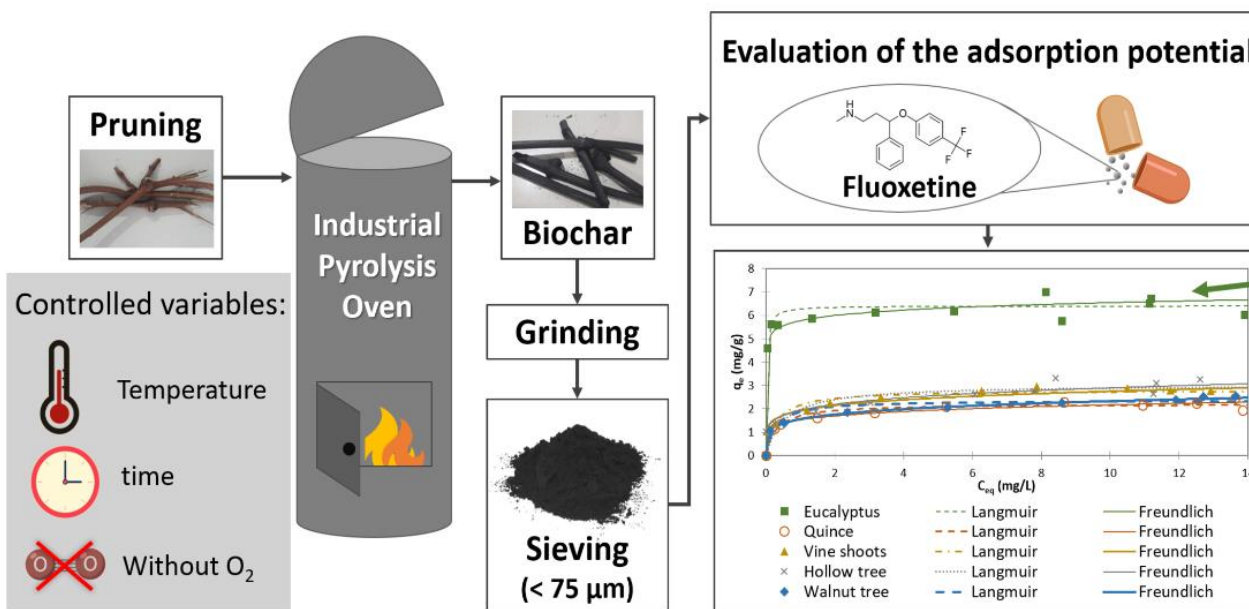
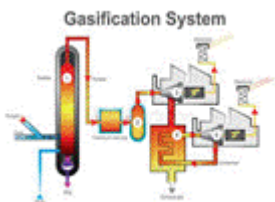
Experimental set-up - example



Biochars and Activated Carbons – applications

Evaluation of the adsorption potential of biochars prepared from forest and agri-food wastes for the removal of fluoxetine

Maria João Fernandes^{a,b}, Manuela M. Moreira^{a,*}, Paula Paíga^a, Diogo Dias^c, Maria Bernardo^c,
Manuela Carvalho^a, Nuno Lapa^c, Isabel Fonseca^c, Simone Morais^a, Sónia Figueiredo^a,
Cristina Delerue-Matos^a



Eucalyptus Biochar

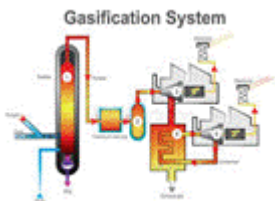
Maximum adsorption capacity

6.41 mg/g

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2019.121973>

Study of the removal mechanism of aquatic emergent pollutants by new bio-based chars

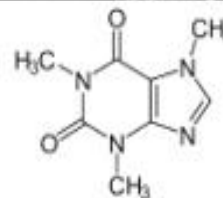
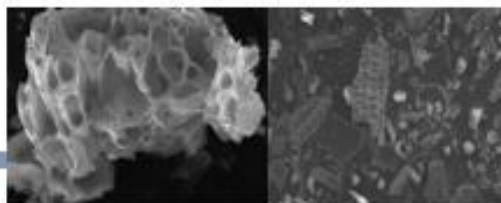
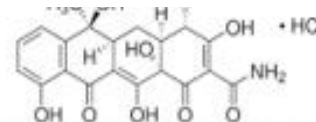
Maria Manuel Serrano Bernardo¹ · Catarina Alexandra Catanas Madeira¹ ·
Nuno Carlos Lapa dos Santos Nunes² · Diogo André Costa Messias Dias² ·
Delfina Maria Barbosa Godinho¹ · Maria Filomena de Jesus Pinto³ ·
Inês Alexandra Morgado do Nascimento Matos¹ · Ana Paula Batista Carvalho⁴ ·
Isabel Maria de Figueiredo Ligeiro Fonseca¹



Removal of caffeine and tetracycline

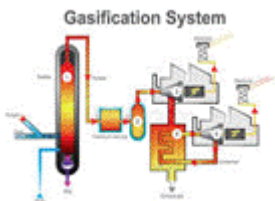


Chars by-products



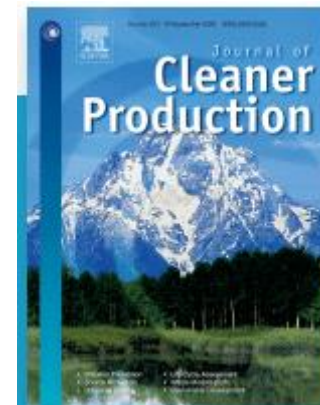
Purified water

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-017-9938-9>

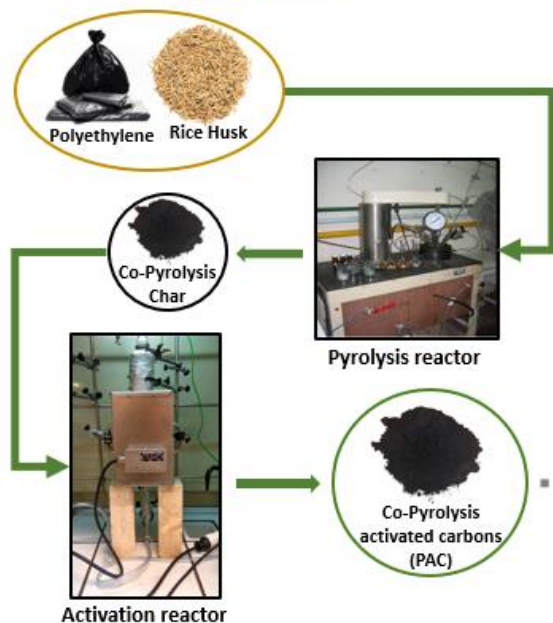


Activation of co-pyrolysis chars from rice wastes to improve the removal of Cr³⁺ from simulated and real industrial wastewaters

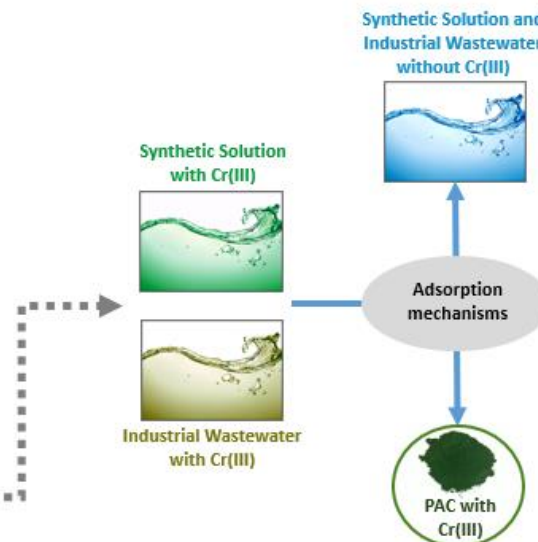
Diogo Dias ^a, Maria Bernardo ^b, Inês Matos ^b, Isabel Fonseca ^b, Filomena Pinto ^c, Nuno Lapa ^{a,*}



Preparation and activation of co-pyrolysis char



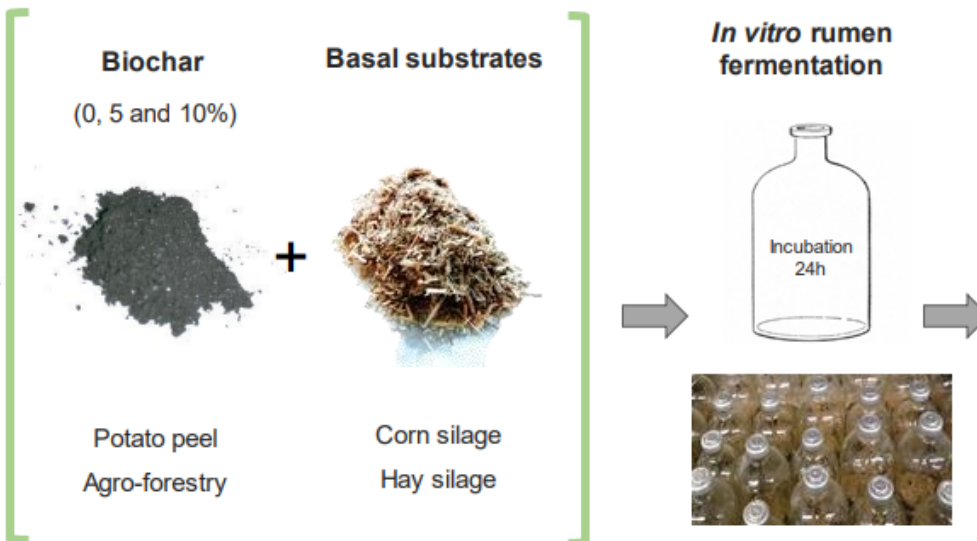
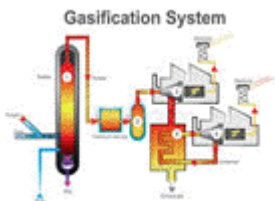
Cr(III) removal assays



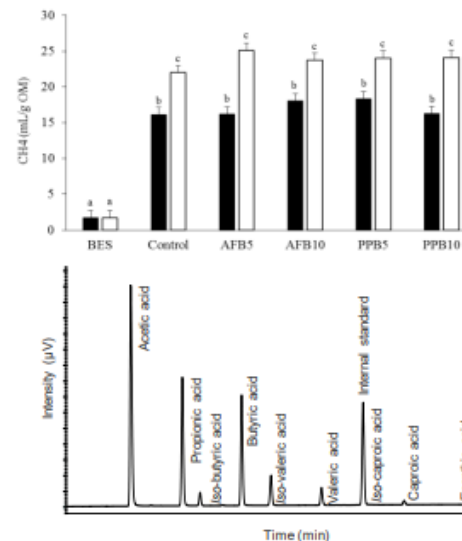
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.121993>

Assessment of potato peel and agro-forestry biochars supplementation on in vitro ruminal fermentation

Ana R.F. Rodrigues¹, Margarida R.G. Maia¹, Ana R.J. Cabrita¹, Hugo M. Oliveira², Maria Bernardo³, Nuno Lapa³, Isabel Fonseca³, Henrique Trindade⁴, José L. Pereira^{4,5} and António J.M. Fonseca¹



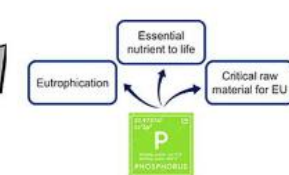
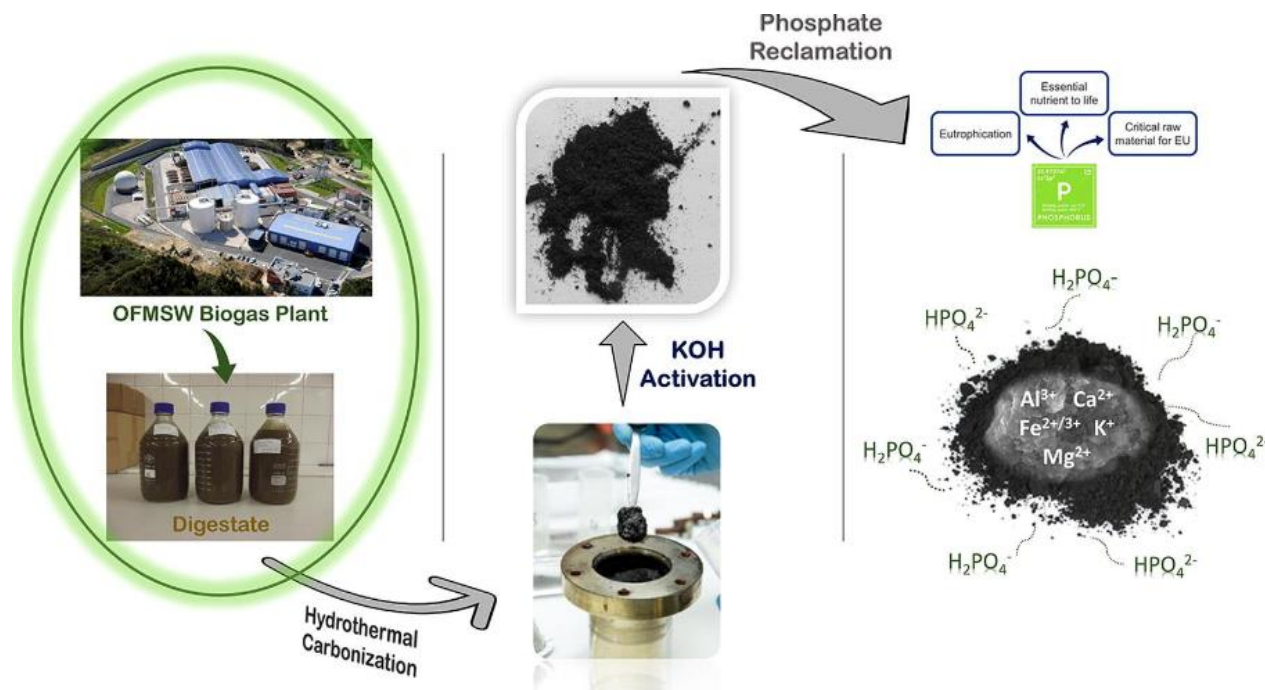
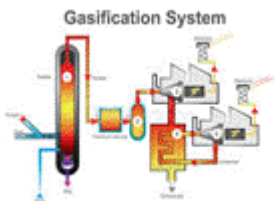
Fermentation parameters



<http://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.9488>

Porous carbons derived from hydrothermally treated biogas digestate

Maria Bernardo ^{a,*}, Catalina Rodriguez Correa ^b, Yvonne Ringelspacher ^b, Gero C. Becker ^b,
Nuno Lapa ^a, Isabel Fonseca ^a, Isabel A.A.C. Esteves ^{a,*}, Andrea Kruse ^{b,*}

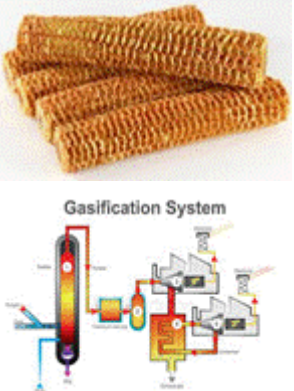


<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wasman.2020.02.011>

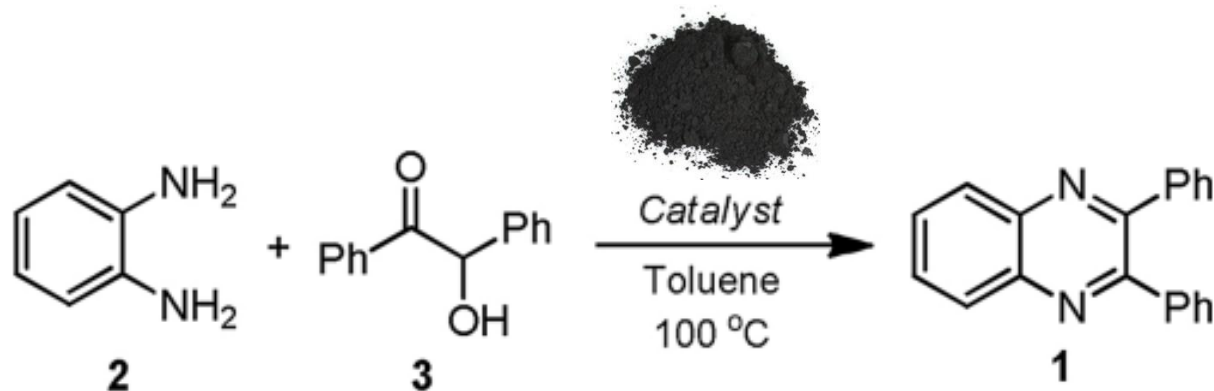


Porous carbons-derived from vegetal biomass in the synthesis of quinoxalines. Mechanistic insights

M. Godino-Ojer^{a,b}, R. Blazquez-García^a, I. Matos^{c,*}, M. Bernardo^c, I.M. Fonseca^c, E. Pérez Mayoral^{a,*}



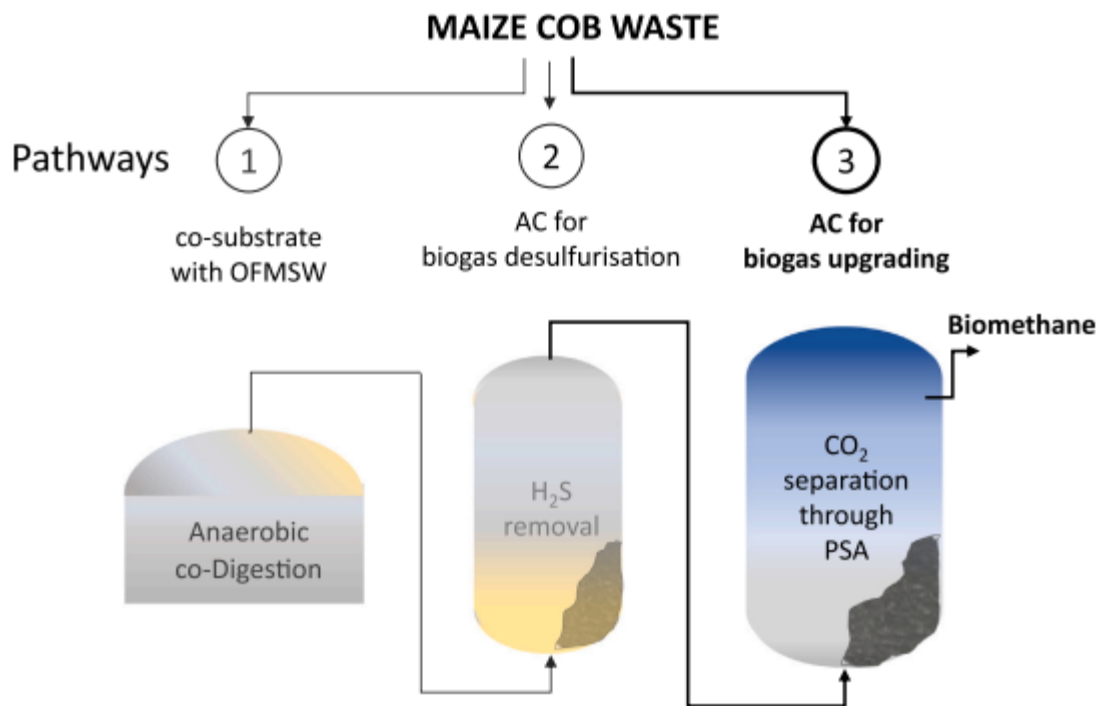
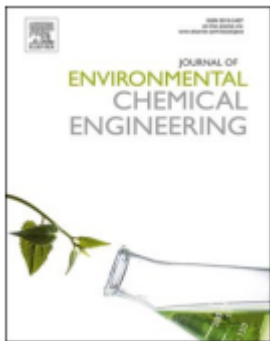
hedychium gardnerianum - Conteira



<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cattod.2019.06.043>

Evaluation of activated carbons produced from Maize Cob Waste for adsorption-based CO₂ separation and biogas upgrading

Elena Surra^{a,c,**}, Rui P.P.L. Ribeiro^b, Tiago Santos^b, Maria Bernardo^b, José P.B. Mota^b
Nuno Lapa^a, Isabel A.A.C. Esteves^{b,*}

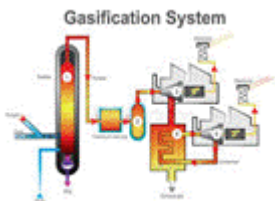


<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jece.2021.107065>




Effect of biochar addition in the anaerobic digestion of OFMSW

Biochar from forestry wastes



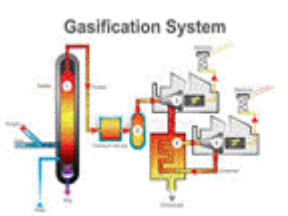
- Lower lag-phase (22%)
- Higher biogas production (31.3%)
- Higher daily rate production of CH₄ (5%)
- Higher substrate biodegradability

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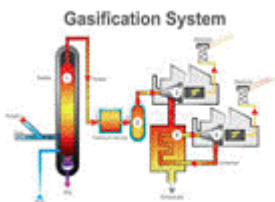
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Brainstorming...

Discussion...

maria.b@fct.unl.pt