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Citation for published version:

Digital Object Identifier (DOI):
10.1016/j.jhazmat.2013.04.015

Link:
Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer

Document Version:
Early version, also known as pre-print

Published in:
Journal of Hazardous Materials

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Heterogeneity of biochars properties dependent on feedstock sources and production temperatures

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**ABSTRACT:** This study was conducted with a wide range of production temperatures (200°C–650°C) and a series of feedstock sources (n=12) to quantify the influence of these two factors on any given biochar property. The quantitative evaluation was completed using two indices, feedstock-depended heterogeneity ($H_F$) and temperature-depended heterogeneity ($H_T$), obtained from the statistic analysis of coefficient of variation. The values of $H_F$ or $H_T$ were positively related to the heterogeneity and correspondingly to the influence extent. Total organic carbon, fixed carbon, and mineral elements of biochars varied greatly among different feedstocks but were less affected by temperature. Biochar surface area and pH was less influenced by feedstock than by temperature, while pore volume and CEC was more affected by feedstocks than temperature. Biochar recalcitrance was mainly determined by production temperature, while potential total C sequestration depended mainly on feedstocks. CP-MAS $^{13}$C NMR and FTIR showed that alkyl-C, aliphatic-C and aromatic-C was highly related to the production temperature. Raman spectroscopy revealed that distribution and state of sp$^2$-bonded carbon remained stable with feedstock and temperature. The results indicated that the two indices could be suitable for assessing the effect extent of feedstock source or production temperature on biochar properties.

**Keywords:** Biochar; Feedstock-depended heterogeneity; Temperature-depended heterogeneity; Physiochemical properties; Chemical structure
1. Introduction

Biochar, pyrogenic organic material derived from incomplete combustion of biomass, has recently received much attention due to its great potential in a wide range of environmental applications. In addition to its ability to serve as a carbon sink for mitigation of global climate change [1-3], biochar may be used as an effective contaminant sorbent [4-6] or soil nutrient amendment [7, 8]. However, the utility of each specific biochar depends upon its inherent properties. For example, biochars with high specific surface area may be used as sorbents, whereas the ones with high recalcitrance may function in carbon fixation [9]. Those rich in nutrients and minerals would be better used as soil amendments to improve fertility [10].

It has been shown that biochar characteristics are influenced by production variables such as feedstock source, heat temperature, heat duration, pyrolysis atmosphere, etc. Among these, feedstock source and heat temperature are considered to be main controls on biochar characteristics [11, 12]. For example, increases of pH, CEC, and trace metals concentration occur with increasing production temperature [13-15]. Biochars derived from wood biomasses often have higher surface area than grass biochar [15, 16]. However, most previous studies focused on a few feedstock materials or those falling into one or two categories such as crop biomasses, wood derivatives, or manures, or those made at only a few production temperatures. For example, Cantrell et al. [17] studied the impact of pyrolysis temperature and manure source on physicochemical characteristics of five manures biochar made at only two temperatures. Pereira et al. [18] investigated the labile fraction of C in biochar derived from three trees (pine, poplar and willow) at two temperatures. In general, biochars of the feedstock with the same category show similar properties compared to those made from parent material of very different types.

If we are to make use of biochar to the fullest extent of its possible applications, we must develop an understanding of its physicochemical variations for a broader range of biochar types than has previously been examined. Optimizing biochar for a specific application may require selection of a
feedstock as well as pyrolysis production technique and conditions to produce biochars with specific characteristics [19]. Thus, the objectives of this study are (i) to determine how the two main factors, feedstock source and production temperature, affect the biochar properties and (ii) to evaluate which one of the two factors dominates one property of biochar based on a series of temperatures from 200°C to 650°C and a variety of source materials (12 waste biomasses) representing 6 categories: animal manure, wood waste, crop wastes, food wastes, aquatic plants, and municipal waste. Two evaluation indices, feedstock-depended heterogeneity (H_F) and temperature-depended heterogeneity (H_T) are introduced to quantify the influence of feedstock source or production temperatures, respectively, on any given biochar property and tell which one is dominance. In this way, production materials and conditions can be chosen to produce biochars optimized for any given application. The comparison of H_F and H_T also gave a new insight to the origin and evolution of the variation properties observed among biochars.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Biomass Collection and Biochar Production

Twelve common waste biomasses were collected from a farm in Shanghai, China and divided into 6 categories including animal manure, wood waste, crop residue, food waste, aquatic plants, and municipal waste. The biomasses were air-dried and then ground to less than 2 mm for biochar production. Details on the production of biochar were described previously [20]. Briefly, to evaluate the feedstock source effect, all 12 ground waste biomasses were heated at 500°C under O_2-limited atmosphere for 4 h. To examine pyrolysis temperature effect, a wastes-based biochar (pig manure) and plant-based biochar (wheat straw) were chosen and pyrolyzed at 200°C, 350°C, 500°C and 650°C.

2.2. Biochar characterization

Total C analysis of biochar was conducted on an element analyzer (Vario EL III, Elementar,
German). Ash content, volatile matters (VM), and fixed carbon (FC) were determined according to standard ASTM methods [21-23]. The metal concentrations in biochars were measured in the digestion solution using the inductively coupled plasma (ICP-AES, ICAP6000 Radial, Thermo, English), following biochar digestion using the USEPA method 3050B [24]. The cation exchange capacity (CEC) was determined according to a modified barium chloride compulsive exchange method [25]. All analyses were conducted in duplicate.

The solid phase of biochar was characterized by thermogravimetry (TG) analysis (PerkinElmer Pyris 1 TGA) with heating from 25°C to 900°C at a rate of 20°C per min. Surface functional group distributions were determined by infrared (IR) spectroscopy (IR Prestige 21 FTIR, Shimadzu, Japan) and nuclear magnetic resonance (CP-MAS 13C-NMR) spectra (AVANCE III 400, Bruker, Switzerland), which were obtained at a frequency of 100.6 MHz using a Varian Unity Inova 400 NMR spectrometer. Specific surface area and pore size distribution of biochars were determined using a BET-N2 SA analyzer (JW-BK222, Jwgb, China). Raman spectroscopy analysis was conducted using a visible Raman system (Bruker Senterra R200-L, American) with a 15 mW 532 nm He-Ne laser with excitation line set to λ0 = 532 nm.

2.3. Calculations

Fixed Carbon (FC) of biochar was calculated as the sum of moisture, ash, and volatile matter subtracted from 100 [23].

\[ FC (%) = 100 - \text{Moisture} (%) - \text{Ash} (%) - \text{VM} (%) \]  

(1)

An index \( R_{50} \) was used to evaluate the thermal recalcitrance of biochar and was obtained by TG analysis, as recently proposed by Harvey et al [26]:

\[ R_{50,\text{biochar}} = \frac{T_{50,\text{biochar}}}{T_{50,\text{graphite}}} \]  

(2)

where \( T_{50,\text{biochar}} \) and \( T_{50,\text{graphite}} \) are the temperature values corresponding to 50% weight loss via oxidation/volatilization of biochar and graphite, respectively. Values are obtained directly from TG
thermograms that have been corrected for water and ash content.

Carbon sequestration potential (CS) was defined as the final carbon reserved in soil, which was calculated by subtracting the carbon lost during pyrolysis from the initial C in raw biomass, and multiplying by the recalcitrance (R_{50}) of biochar products. M was the weight of the feedstock.

$$CS(\%) = \frac{M(g) \cdot Biochar \ yields \ (g) \cdot C\% \ in \ Biochar \ R_{50}}{M(g) \cdot C\% \ in \ feedstock}$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

The feedstock-depended heterogeneity (H_F) and temperature-depended heterogeneity (H_T) of biochars were calculated using the coefficient of variation (CV) in statistical method, and the larger the H_F or H_T is, the more influenced by feedstock or production temperature the biochar property is:

$$H_F \ or \ H_T = \frac{\text{standard deviation}}{\text{mean value}}$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Bulk physicochemical properties

Concentrations of total carbon (TC) and fixed carbon (FC) in all 12 biochars ranged 24.2–75.8% and 3.84–72.9% with the H_F of 0.37 and 0.76 (Table 1). Increasing the temperature from 200°C to 650°C increased TC and FC (Table 1). In the temperature range, concentrations of TC and FC of the pig manure biochar were 37.0–45.3% and 12.3–42.3%, with the H_T of 0.09 and 0.48, respectively, while wheat straw biochar contained 38.7–68.9% TC and 22.5–72.1% FC, with the H_T of 0.23 and 0.41, respectively (Table 1). All H_T were lower than the H_F, indicating that TC and FC of biochars were more influenced by feedstock source than by production temperature.

Both volatile matter (VM) and weight yield were more sensitive to temperature, indicated by their higher H_T (0.5–0.81) than H_F (0.27–0.36). Kloss et al. [16] reported a similar result that labile, aliphatic compounds undergo a great loss during pyrolysis. Ash content was more sensitive to feedstock due to its higher H_F (0.53) than H_T (0.33–0.34). As shown in Table 1, ash is higher in manure and sludge biochar (18.1–42.9%), while crop residue biochar contained low ash
(2.10–7.49%). The higher ash in the manure biochar was due to richness of mineral constituents [20].

Biochars from different feedstocks had wide range minerals, while the mineral concentrations changed little with production temperature from 200°C to 650°C (Table 2). The $H_F$ for each mineral element was higher (0.87–2.00) than $H_T$ (0.40–0.51), indicating that mineral elements of biochars were more influenced by feedstock source than temperature. Generally, manure contained more nutrient P than crop residue and grass biochar, whereas nutrient K was higher in crop residue and grass biochar than that in manure biochar (Table 2). Thus, the utility of biochars as a soil amendment to improve soil fertility should be classified carefully according to different feedstock sources rather than production temperature.

Biochar pH varied less among the different feedstocks (8.8–10.8) than among the production temperature (5.43–10.8) (Table 1). Therefore, biochar was influenced more by temperature ($H_T$=0.19) than by feedstock ($H_F$=0.05). By contrast, the CEC varied greatly among biochars of different feedstocks ($H_F$=0.9) but relatively little with temperature ($H_T$=0.52–0.65). This may be explained that CEC is related to cations (e.g., K, Ca, Mg) which vary greatly with feedstocks (Table 2).

The physical structure of biochars, such as surface area (SA), pore volume (PV), and average pore size (APS) are typically related to its sorption and water holding capacity which, in turn, relates to its effect on soil structure, contaminant mobility, and microbial interactions. The heterogeneities of SA and APS were more related to production temperature ($H_T$=0.72–1.55) than feedstock ($H_F$=0.58–1.09), while PV was more influenced by feedstock ($H_F$=1.11) than temperature ($H_T$=0.49–0.81) (Table 1). The influence of feedstock on PV was perhaps related to the relative proportion of hemicelluloses, cellulose, and lignin fractions in biomasses. A dramatic rise in SA was observed when the temperature was increased above 350°C, at which point, cellulose is known to decompose and a phase transition from layered C to amorphous char occurs [27].

3.2. Recalcitrance and stability

The ability of biochars to resist abiotic and biotic degradation (herein referred to as recalcitrance)
is crucial to their success as a soil carbon sequestration. Harvey et al (2012) have developed an index
(R$_{50}$) to evaluate the recalcitrance of biochars, which uses the energy required for thermal oxidation
of the biochars (normalized to that for oxidation of graphite) as a measure of recalcitrance [26].

The water and ash content-corrected thermogravimetry patterns of biochars are presented in Fig. 1. The temperatures at which 50% biochar weight loss occurred ranged within 614–727$^\circ$C for all
feedstocks and within 338–767$^\circ$C for all production temperature of pig manure biochar and wheat
straw biochar. The calculated R$_{50}$ for biochars from all feedstocks fell in a narrow range of 0.69–0.82,
with H$_F$ being 0.06, while R$_{50}$ for biochars produced at 200$^\circ$C–650$^\circ$C was within a wide range of
0.38–0.87, with H$_T$ being 0.29–0.34 (Table 1), indicating that the recalcitrance of biochar was mainly
determined by production temperature, which was also expected from previous findings [9]. Biochar
recalcitrance is related to aromatic C which increased with increasing temperature, regardless of
nature of feedstocks (shown below). Fig. 1 also shows that all biochars produced at same temperature
had similar R$_{50}$ and the gap among different feedstocks enlarged with the increase of production
temperature, further suggesting that temperature was the dominating control on recalcitrance.

Carbon sequestration potential (CS) was evaluated assisted by R$_{50}$ as shown in equation 3. CS of
all 12 biochars ranged 23.7–54.0% with H$_F$ being 0.27, while those for pig manure biochar and
wheat straw biochar at production temperature of 200$^\circ$C–650$^\circ$C were 33.1–38.4% and 34.3–44.6%,
respectively, with H$_T$ being 0.07 and 0.11, respectively. The H$_T$ was lower than H$_F$, indicating that
temperature had less influence on the carbon sequestration capacity. It is probably that low
production temperature could retain much C in biochar, but a considerable amount of these C would
be abiotically or microbially mineralized [9, 28]; when the temperature increases, more C would lose
in pyrolysis, but more recalcitrant C would be produced [29]. The contradictory effects would keep
biochar-C less changed. Therefore, the C sequestration was mainly determined by the inherent
molecular configuration of biomasses [30].

3.3. Biochar chemical structure
The carbon cluster size and functional group distributions were identified by CP-MAS $^{13}$C NMR and FTIR, and are shown in Fig. 2 and 3, respectively. The $^{13}$C NMR spectrograms of biochars from 12 feedstocks were very similar, whereas they varied greatly among those produced from a single feedstock type across a range of temperatures (Fig. 2). Table 3 summarizes the relative proportion of C in each chemical functional groups for the biochars examined, which were integrated in the chemical shift (ppm) resonance intervals of 0–46, 46–65, 65–90, 90–108, 108–145, 145–160, 160–185, 185–225 ppm [31]. Clearly, aromatic C with chemical shift of 108–145 ppm was the main C-containing functional group in all biochars (45.0–80.3%), with an $H_F$ of being 0.15. The aromatic C in biochars increased from 2.24% at 200°C to 62.9% at 650°C with $H_T$ being 0.68 (Table 3). Therefore, the aromatic C was mainly controlled by the production temperature, agreeing with the recalcitrance shown above.

The control of aromatic content by production temperature, as opposed to feedstock type, was true for other C-containing functional groups. For example, the subdominant abundance of C was alkyl C (mainly $\text{CH}_2$ and $\text{CH}_3$ sp$^3$ carbons) at the chemical shift of 0–46 ppm accounted for 10.9–18.6% of the C-containing functional groups in biochars of different feedstocks at production temperature 500°C ($H_F = 0.15$) and for 3.17–38.8% in biochars of different temperatures ($H_T = 0.90$). The 200°C biochars retained properties like the raw materials. For example, the C within 46–65 ppm and 65–90 ppm, representing methoxy and N alkyl C from $\text{OCH}_3$, C–N and complex aliphatic carbons, respectively, as well as O-alkyl C was in high proportions.

The FTIR spectra also indicate a range of superficial functional groups among different biochars (Fig. 3). The absorption peaks at 2916 cm$^{-1}$ are assigned to saturated C-H stretching vibration (aliphatic C-H), and a wide absorption peak at 3200–3500 cm$^{-1}$ is attributed to –OH stretching [20]. These peaks existed in all biomasses, while disappeared above 350°C, which were influenced more by temperature indicating the dehydration of cellulosic and ligneous components (Fig. 3 c and d). The peaks at 1465–1340 cm$^{-1}$ are saturated C-H bending vibration and it is of great difference among
biochars of feedstocks, while less difference among biochars produced at different temperatures. The
–COO anti-symmetric stretching of amino acids (1574 and 1600 cm\(^{-1}\)) appeared in wood and crop
waste biochars, which presented little change until the temperature rose to 650°C. The intensity of
C=O stretching of aromatic rings (1593 cm\(^{-1}\)) decreased with temperature rise and seemed similar in
all feedstocks. Peaks at 874 and 1034 cm\(^{-1}\) were assigned to the bands of the out-of-plane bending for
CO\(_3^{2-}\), which exists more in biochars of wastes and manures and less in plant-based biochars, and
was less influenced by production temperature [32, 33]. The NMR and FTIR results all showed the
aromatization among different feedstocks and production temperature [34]. The recalcitrance and C
sequestration have close relationship with carbon configuration, which perhaps determines the
breakdown of C-bond and re-aggregation of C cluster under heat treatment [35].

Raman spectroscopy has been widely used to evaluate the microstructure of carbon materials,
particularly the distribution and state of sp\(^2\)-bonded (aromatic) carbon [36], which is embedded in a
disordered and amorphous matrix of both sp\(^3\) and sp\(^2\) carbon. The G-band centered at 1580 cm\(^{-1}\)
arises from the in-plane vibrations of the sp\(^2\)-bonded crystallite carbon and has been observed for
single crystal graphite, while another peak denoted as the “disorder” peak (or D-band) centered at
1357 cm\(^{-1}\) is typically observed in polycrystalline graphite. The D-band is attributed to in-plane
vibrations of sp\(^2\)-bonded carbon within structural defects. For disordered carbon materials the ratio of
the integrated intensities I\(_D\)/I\(_G\) is often reported to be inversely proportional to the lateral extension
La of the graphene materials [37].

As shown in Fig. 4a and b, both G-band and D-band appeared in all 12 biochars with production
temperature of 500°C and had the similar I\(_D\)/I\(_G\) (0.804–1.51), with low H\(_F\) (0.31) (Table 1), implying
that ratio of disordered or strongly distorted structure of turbostratic carbon to ordered graphite
crystals was less determined by feedstocks than production temperature. For biochars produced at a
range of production temperature, bands were found to develop at 350°C, indicating the beginning of
aromatization. The increase of I\(_D\)/I\(_G\) with temperature increasing from 350°C to 650°C was also not
obvious ($H_T < 0.36$) since the temperature used in this study was in a relatively low range and their influence on biochar microstructure could be negligible.

4. Conclusions

Biochars of different physical and chemical properties will be more suited for one application or another, e.g. soil amelioration, C sequestration, contaminant remediation, etc. The biochar properties have been shown to be mainly controlled by feedstock source and production temperature. The relationship between $H_F$ and $H_T$ for a range of properties in the biochar examined is depicted in Fig. 5. Biochar yield, pH, recalcitrance, and volatile matter plotted above the 1:1 line, indicating that these properties are controlled more strongly by production temperature. Thus, any application of biochar related to these properties would call for greater attention to the production temperature. For example, if a biochar is produced for carbon sequestration purpose, high temperature is required since it increases recalcitrance. If a biochar is intended for use as adsorption sorbent, increasing temperature (>500°C) would improve the surface area and micropore volume. However, feedstock should be also considered, since $H_F$ was also high (Fig. 5). Biochar C, CEC, fixed C, carbon sequestration, mineral concentrations, and ash content plotted below the 1:1 line (Fig. 5), indicating that these properties are controlled more strongly by feedstock sources. Therefore, any application of biochar related to these properties should focus on raw materials selection. If a biochar is prepared as soil amendment, biomass rich in minerals would be advisable. For example, pig manures and aquatic plant biochars contain abundant P, K, Ca, Mg, etc (Table 2).

Overall, the results obtained from this study indicate that feedstock source or production temperature affect biochar properties to different degrees and consideration of production conditions guide the development of ‘optimum’ biochars for different environmental applications.
Acknowledgements

This work was in part supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NO. 21077072, 21107070), Shanghai Pujiang Talent Project (11PJ1404600), and the University Innovation Project (AE1600004).
References


Table 1

Compositions, physico-chemical properties, and structural characteristics of biochars derived from 12 waste biomasses produced at 500°C and biochars produced from pig manure and wheat straw at 200°C–650°C.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biochar feedstock</th>
<th>Temperature (°C)</th>
<th>OC (%)</th>
<th>FC (%)</th>
<th>CS (%)</th>
<th>Yield (%)</th>
<th>VM (%)</th>
<th>Ash (%)</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>CEC (emol·kg⁻¹)</th>
<th>SA (m²·g⁻¹)</th>
<th>PV (cm³·g⁻¹)</th>
<th>APS (nm)</th>
<th>R_s0</th>
<th>Ip/I_G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cow manure</td>
<td>500°C</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>52.5</td>
<td>57.2</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>67.5</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>0.028</td>
<td>5.04</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig manure</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>40.2</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>48.4</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>82.8</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>0.039</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>1.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrimp hull</td>
<td>52.1</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>53.8</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>87.9</td>
<td>9.57</td>
<td>77.6</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>0.278</td>
<td>9.86</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>1.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bone dregs</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>77.6</td>
<td>9.57</td>
<td>87.9</td>
<td>9.57</td>
<td>77.6</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>0.278</td>
<td>9.86</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wastewater sludge</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>61.9</td>
<td>8.82</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>71.6</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>71.6</td>
<td>0.060</td>
<td>3.37</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste paper</td>
<td>56.0</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>53.5</td>
<td>9.88</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>0.084</td>
<td>2.51</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>1.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sawdust</td>
<td>75.8</td>
<td>72.0</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>9.94</td>
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<td>0.73</td>
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<td>Grass</td>
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<td>59.2</td>
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<td>18.9</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>84.0</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>0.010</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>1.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheat straw</td>
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<td>63.7</td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>29.8</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>95.5</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>0.051</td>
<td>6.10</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>1.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peanut shell</td>
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<td>72.9</td>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>44.5</td>
<td>43.5</td>
<td>0.040</td>
<td>3.72</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Chlorella</td>
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<td>17.4</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td>40.2</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>52.6</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>2.78</td>
<td>0.010</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Waterweeds</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>3.84</td>
<td>54.0</td>
<td>58.4</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>63.5</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>3.78</td>
<td>0.009</td>
<td>9.52</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Pig manure        | 200°C            | 37.0   | 12.6   | 38.4   | 98.0       | 50.7   | 35.7    | 8.22| 23.6           | 3.59        | -           | -       | 0.39 | -    |
| 350°C             | 39.1             | 34.7   | 33.6   | 57.5   | 27.4       | 37.2   | 9.65    | 49.0| 4.26           | 0.024       | 12.8        | 0.55    | 0.56 |      |
| 500°C             | 42.7             | 40.2   | 33.1   | 38.5   | 11.0       | 48.4   | 10.5    | 82.8| 47.4           | 0.075       | 6.35        | 0.74    | 1.19 |      |
| 650°C             | 45.3             | 19.2   | 34.4   | 35.8   | 10.7       | 69.6   | 10.8    | 132 | 42.4           | 0.062       | 5.80        | 0.78    | 0.90 |      |

| Wheat straw       | 200°C            | 38.7   | 22.5   | 37.7   | 99.3       | 70.2   | 7.21    | 5.43| 32.1           | 2.53        | -           | -       | 0.38 | -    |
| 350°C             | 59.8             | 53.2   | 44.6   | 52.5   | 31.3       | 14.7   | 8.69    | 87.2| 3.48           | 0.010       | 11.3        | 0.55    | 1.24 |      |
| 500°C             | 62.9             | 63.7   | 34.3   | 29.8   | 17.6       | 18.0   | 10.2    | 95.5| 33.2           | 0.051       | 6.10        | 0.71    | 1.16 |      |
| 650°C             | 68.9             | 72.1   | 41.5   | 26.8   | 11.1       | 16.2   | 10.2    | 146 | 182            | 0.093       | 2.05        | 0.87    | 1.32 |      |

H_f: 0.37 | 0.76 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.36 | 0.53 | 0.05 | 0.90 | 1.09 | 1.11 | 0.58 | 0.06 | 0.31 |
H_T: 0.09 | 0.48 | 0.07 | 0.50 | 0.76 | 0.33 | 0.12 | 0.65 | 0.97 | 0.49 | 0.47 | 0.29 | 0.36 |
a Biochar production temperature
b Organic carbon
c FC is fixed carbon (% dry basis)
d CS is potential carbon sequestration (%) after pyrolysis and mineralization
e VM is volatile matter (% dry basis)
f CEC is cation exchange capacity (cmol·kg⁻¹)
g SA is BET-N₂ surface area (m²·g⁻¹)
h PV is pore volume (cm³·g⁻¹)
i APS is average pore diameter (nm)
j R₅₀ is a novel index for evaluating biochar recalcitrance derived from thermogravimetric data (Harvey et al., 2011)
k I_D/I_G, Ratio of D-band and G-band from Raman spectra
l H_f, feedstock-dependant heterogeneity index (see text)
m H_T, temperature-dependant heterogeneity index (see text)
Table 2

Mineral constituents (g·kg\(^{-1}\)) of biochars derived from 12 waste biomasses produced at 500°C and biochars produced from pig manure and wheat straw at 200°C–650°C.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Biochar feedstock</th>
<th>Temperature (^a)</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>Ca</th>
<th>Mg</th>
<th>Cu</th>
<th>Zn</th>
<th>Al</th>
<th>Fe</th>
<th>Mn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cow manure</td>
<td>500°C</td>
<td>0.646</td>
<td>1.021</td>
<td>3.795</td>
<td>1.569</td>
<td>0.013</td>
<td>0.052</td>
<td>0.506</td>
<td>0.616</td>
<td>0.044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig manure</td>
<td>200°C</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>0.031</td>
<td>0.040</td>
<td>0.179</td>
<td>0.273</td>
<td>0.048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>350°C</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>1.88</td>
<td>0.052</td>
<td>0.068</td>
<td>0.305</td>
<td>0.466</td>
<td>0.082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>500°C</td>
<td>4.39</td>
<td>3.56</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>2.80</td>
<td>0.078</td>
<td>0.101</td>
<td>0.455</td>
<td>0.696</td>
<td>0.123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>650°C</td>
<td>4.72</td>
<td>3.83</td>
<td>3.74</td>
<td>3.02</td>
<td>0.084</td>
<td>0.109</td>
<td>0.490</td>
<td>0.749</td>
<td>0.132</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(H_T^b)</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.40</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrimp hull</td>
<td>2.585</td>
<td>1.896</td>
<td>21.03</td>
<td>0.590</td>
<td>0.013</td>
<td>0.015</td>
<td>0.024</td>
<td>0.023</td>
<td>0.006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bone dregs</td>
<td>10.86</td>
<td>0.444</td>
<td>31.82</td>
<td>0.508</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.016</td>
<td>0.010</td>
<td>0.009</td>
<td>0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wastewater sludge</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Grass</td>
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<td>5.236</td>
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<td>0.003</td>
<td>0.023</td>
<td>0.109</td>
<td>0.152</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheat straw</td>
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<td>0.954</td>
<td>0.297</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>0.047</td>
<td>0.074</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peanut shell</td>
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<td>1.733</td>
<td>1.338</td>
<td>0.458</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>0.218</td>
<td>0.256</td>
<td>0.018</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorella</td>
<td>0.717</td>
<td>13.67</td>
<td>17.50</td>
<td>0.779</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td>0.547</td>
<td>0.409</td>
<td>0.912</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterweeds</td>
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<td>3.224</td>
<td>23.13</td>
<td>0.663</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>0.010</td>
<td>0.685</td>
<td>0.559</td>
<td>1.025</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(H_T^c)</td>
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<td>1.19</td>
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<td>0.87</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>1.27</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peanut shell</td>
<td>0.166</td>
<td>1.733</td>
<td>1.338</td>
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<td>0.002</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>0.218</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chlorella</td>
<td>0.717</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waterweeds</td>
<td>0.514</td>
<td>3.224</td>
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<td>0.010</td>
<td>0.685</td>
<td>0.559</td>
<td>1.025</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) Biochar production temperature
\(^b\) \(H_F\), Feedstock-depended heterogeneity (see text)
\(^c\) \(H_T\), Temperature-depended heterogeneity (see text)
Table 3

Relative proportion (% of biochar-C) of chemical functional groups in biochars derived from 12 feedstocks at 500°C and biochars produced from pig manure and wheat straw at 200°C–650°C, determined by CP-MAS \(^{13}\)C NMR.

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cow manure</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>10.87</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.59</td>
<td>61.4</td>
<td>7.68</td>
<td>4.79</td>
<td>6.48</td>
<td>6.58</td>
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<td>11.7</td>
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<td>4.20</td>
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<td>2.80</td>
<td>18.6</td>
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<td>Shrimp hull</td>
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<td>2.50</td>
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<td>4.10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>7.58</td>
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<td>5.90</td>
<td>63.4</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>2.29</td>
<td>78.3</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Grass</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<td>80.3</td>
<td>2.79</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheat straw</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>79.1</td>
<td>3.49</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>4.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peanut shell</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Chlorella</td>
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<td>3.70</td>
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<td>Waterweeds</td>
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<td>10.4</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.35</td>
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<td>5.37</td>
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<td>7.56</td>
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<td>7.98</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pig manure</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>4.20</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>2.80</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>0.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pig manure</td>
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<td>3.17</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>7.14</td>
<td>57.6</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>14.7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>H (_F)</td>
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<td>1.28</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>5.51</td>
<td>4.44</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td>3.77</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>14.0</td>
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<td>0.89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheat straw</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>33.7</td>
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<td>49.4</td>
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<td>0.10</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheat straw</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.30</td>
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<tr>
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</table>

\(^a\)Biochar production temperature  
\(^b\)H\(_F\), Feedstock-depended heterogeneity  
\(^c\)H\(_T\), Temperature-depended heterogeneity

Note: The spectra were integrated in the chemical shift (ppm) resonance intervals of 0–46 ppm (alkyl C, mainly CH\(_2\) and CH\(_3\) sp\(^3\) carbons), 46–65 ppm (methoxy and N alkyl C from OCH\(_3\), C–N and complex aliphatic carbons), 65–90 ppm (O-alkyl C, such as alcohols and ethers), 90–108 ppm (anomeric carbons in carbohydrate-like structures), 108–145 ppm (aromatic and phenolic carbon), 145–160 ppm (Oxygen aromatic carbon and olefinic sp\(^2\) carbons), 160–185 ppm (carboxyl, amides and ester) and 185–225 ppm (carbonyls).
Figure Captions

FIGURE 1. Corrected thermogravimetry patterns of biochars derived from 12 feedstocks at 500°C (a) and biochar produced from pig manure and wheat straw at 200°C–650°C (b).


FIGURE 3. FTIR spectra of biochars derived from 12 feedstocks at 500°C (a, b) and biochars produced from pig manure (c) and wheat straw at production temperature ranging 200°C–650°C (d).

FIGURE 4. Raman spectra of biochars derived from 12 feedstocks at 500°C (a, b) and biochars produced from pig manure (c) and wheat straw at production temperature ranging 200°C–650°C (d).

FIGURE 5. Comparison of feedstock-depended heterogeneity ($H_F$) and temperature-depended heterogeneity ($H_T$) for different properties of biochar. See Table 1 for abbreviation.
Fig. 1. Corrected thermogravimetric curves for biochars derived from 12 feedstocks at HTT of 500°C (a) and biochar produced from pig manure and wheat straw at HTT 200°C–650°C (b).
Fig. 2. CP-MAS $^{13}$C NMR spectrogram for biochars derived from 12 feedstocks at HTT 500°C (a, b) and for biochar produced from pig manure (c), and wheat straw at HTT ranging 200°C–650°C (d). 1. Cow manure, 2. Pig manure; 3. Shrimp hull; 4. Bone dregs; 5. Wastewater sludge; 6. Waste paper; 7. Sawdust; 8. Grass; 9. Wheat straw; 10. Peanut shell; 11. Chlorella algae; 12. Waterweeds.
Fig. 3. FTIR spectra of biochars derived from 12 feedstocks at 500°C (a, b) and biochars produced from pig manure (c) and wheat straw (d) at production temperature ranging 200°C–650°C.
Fig. 4. Raman spectra of biochars derived from 12 feedstocks at 500°C (a, b) and biochars produced from pig manure (c) and wheat straw (d) at production temperature ranging 200°C–650°C.
**Fig. 5.** Comparison of feedstock depended heterogeneity ($H_F$) and temperature depended heterogeneity ($H_T$) for different properties biochar. See Table 1 for abbreviation.