

## Supporting Information:

### Three hierarchical porous magnesium borate microspheres: a serial preparation strategy, growth mechanism and excellent adsorption behavior for Congo Red

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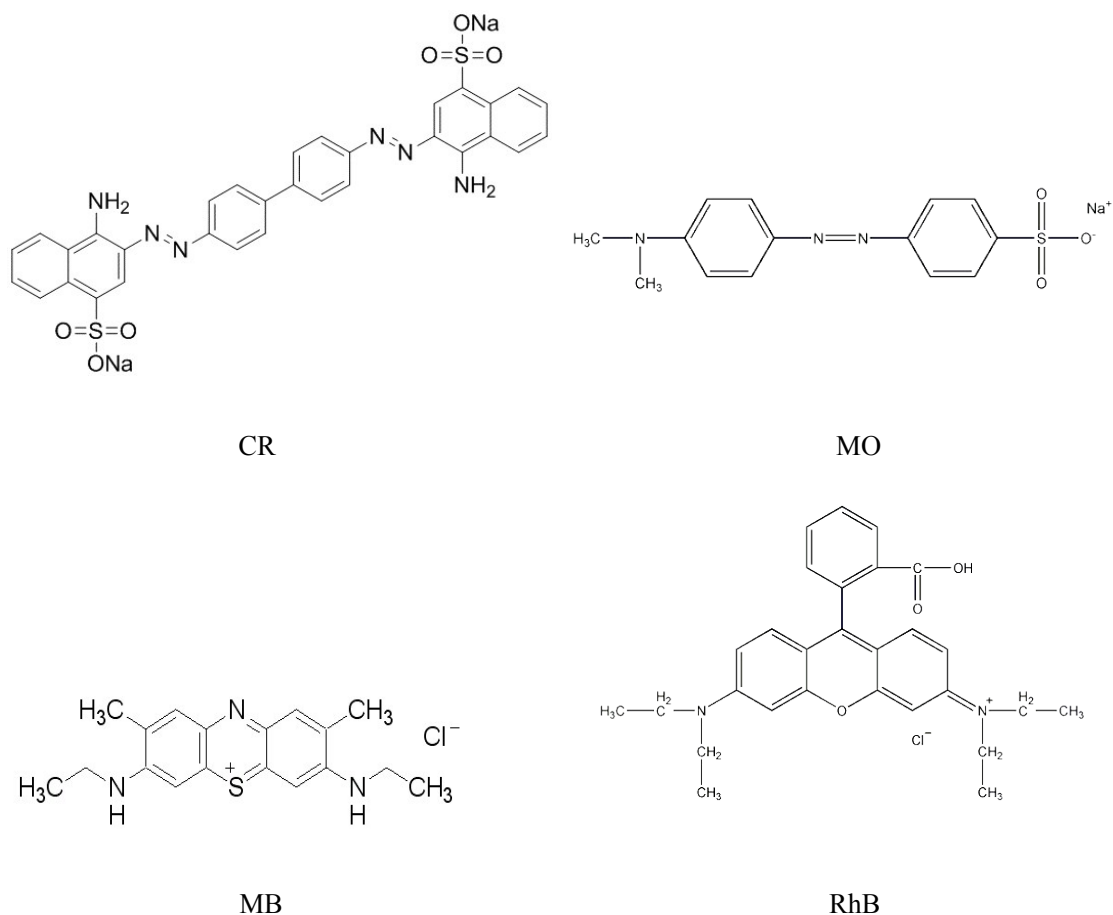
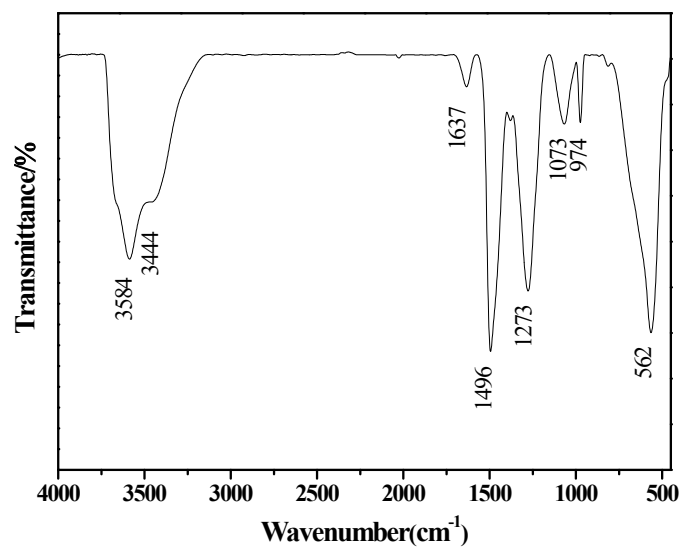
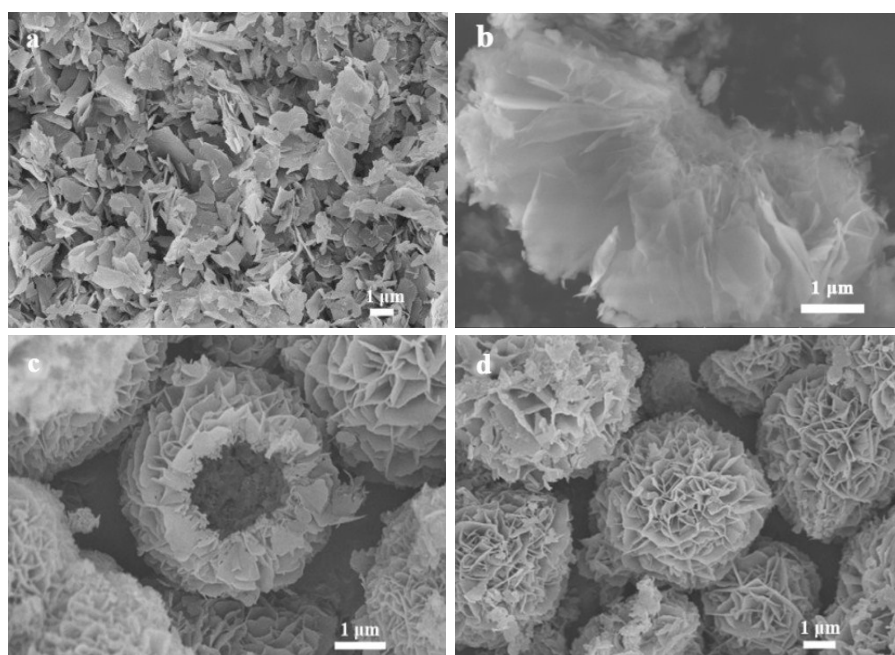


Fig.S1. The molecular structures of dyes

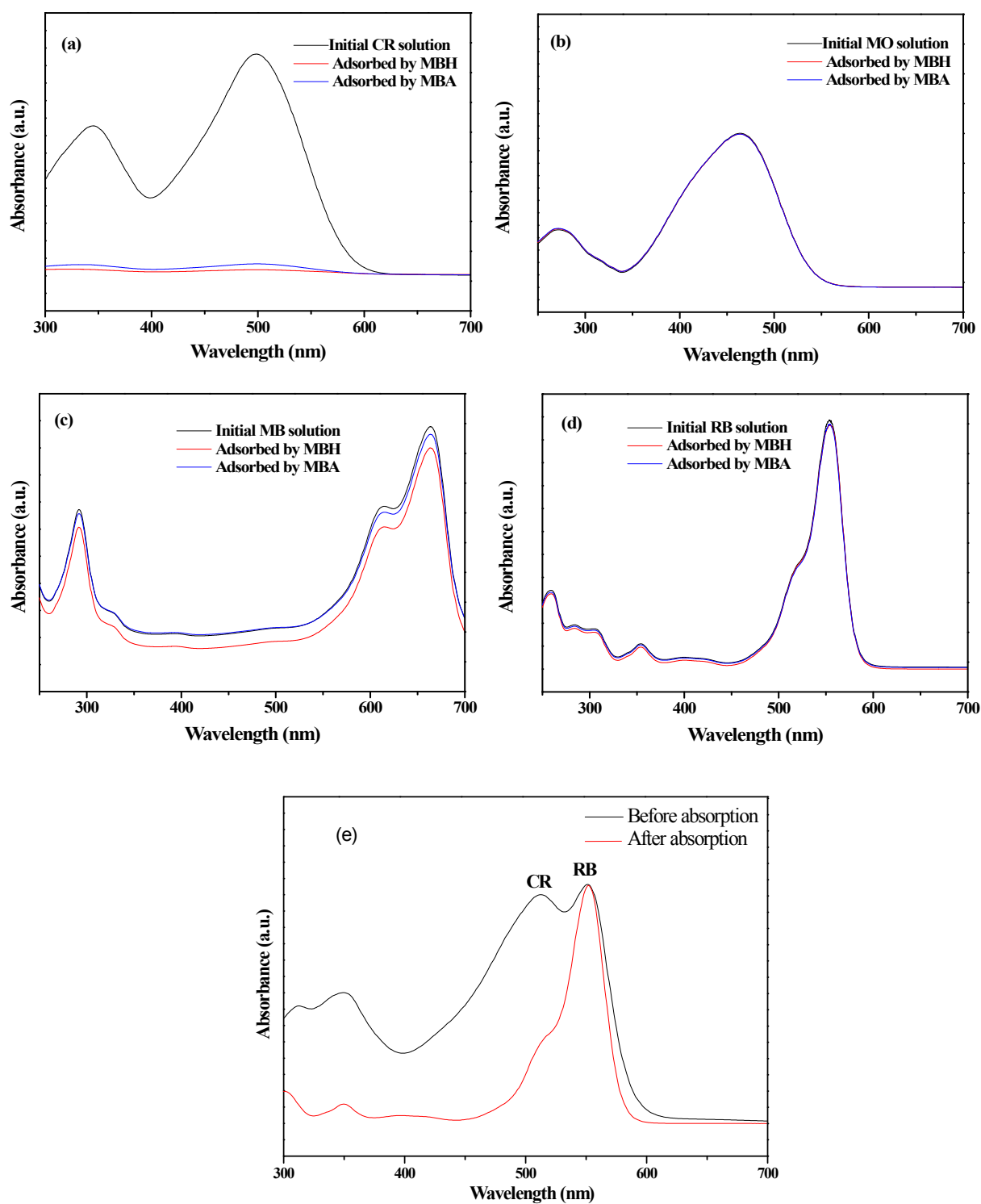


**Fig.S2.** FT-IR spectrum of the prepared MBH sample

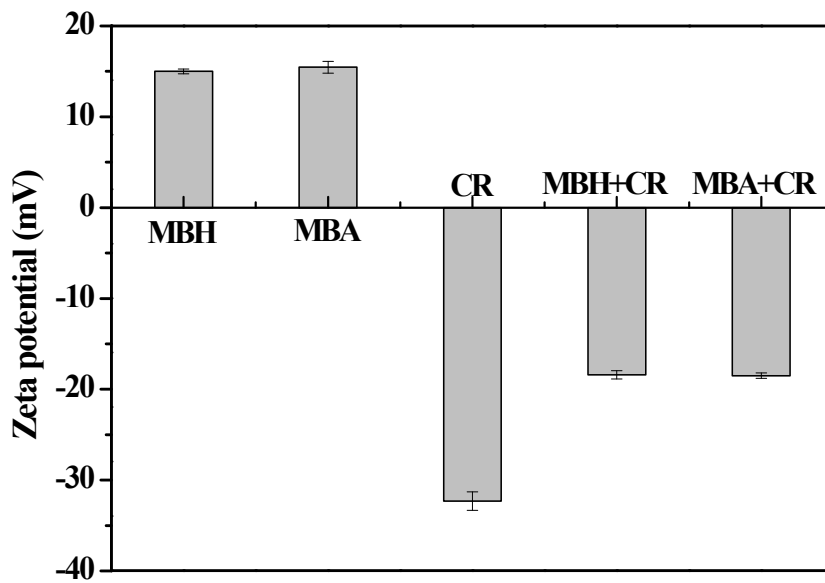


**Fig.S3.** SEM images of the prepared MBH samples at different reaction times:

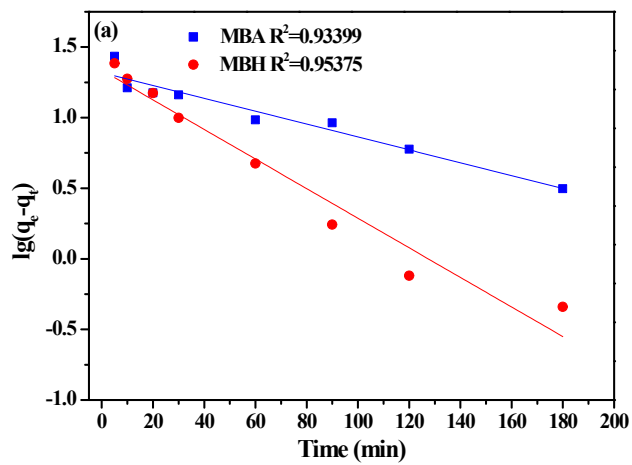
(a) 6 h, (b) 13h, (c) 20 h, (c) 24 h.



**Fig.S4.** UV-vis absorption spectra of 10 mL different organic dyes with initial concentration of  $20 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  before and after being treated by 5 mg of MBH or MBA sample: (a) CR; (b) MO; (c) MB; (d) RB; (e) CR+RB.



**Fig.S5.** Zeta potentials of the MBH, MBA, CR and the interaction of MBH and MBA with CR, respectively



**Fig.S6.** Pseudo-first-order kinetic for adsorption of CR onto the MBH and MBA nanostructures

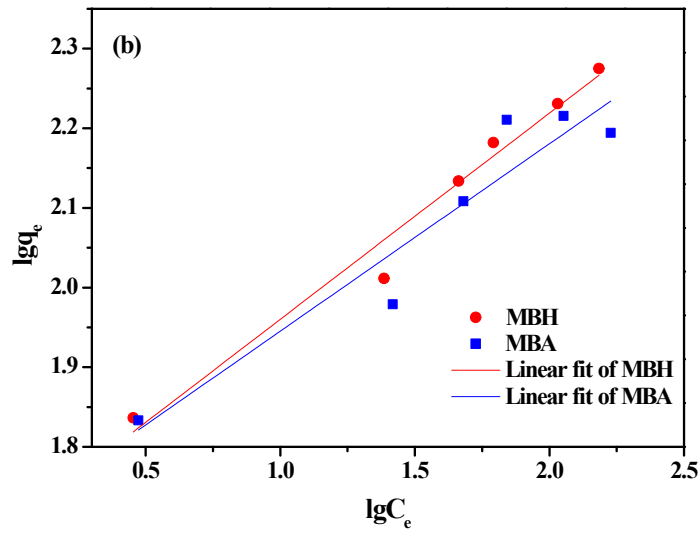


Fig.S7. Plot of  $\lg q_e$  versus  $\lg C_e$  for fitting via the Freundlich isotherm adsorption model.

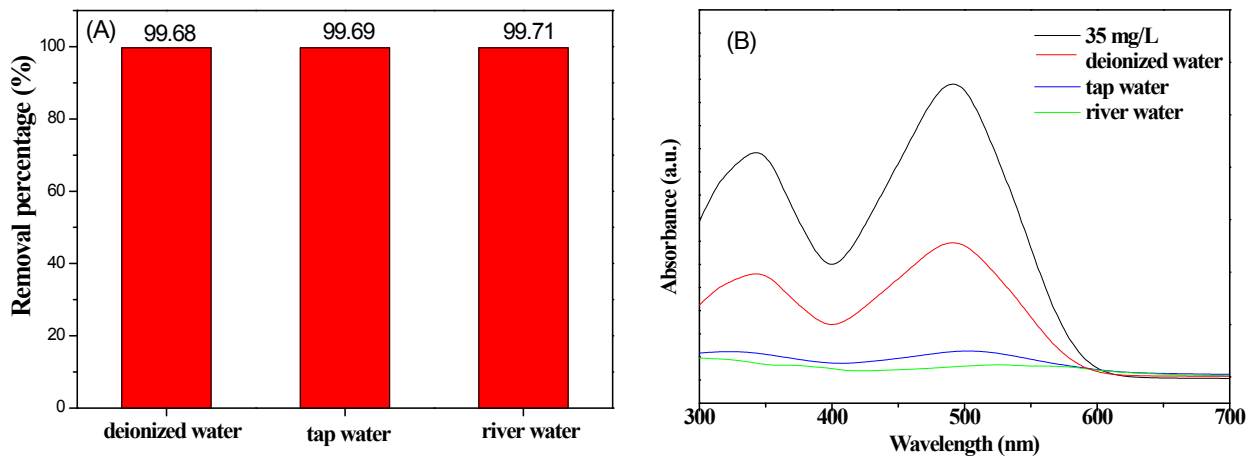
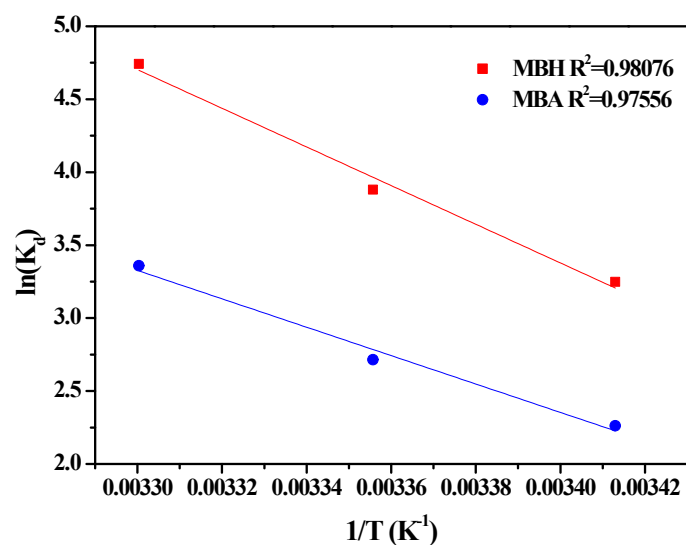


Fig.S8. (A) Effect of the CR solutions prepared by using tap and river water on CR removal efficiency by the prepared MBH nanostructure treated for 5 h, keeping others conditions unchanged. (B) The UV-vis absorption spectra of CR solutions prepared by using tap and river water with initial concentrations of  $35 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  after being treated by the MBH nanostructures for 30 min.



**Fig.S9.** Plots of  $\ln(K_d) \sim 1/T$  for CR adsorption on the MBH and MBA nanostructures.

**Table S1** Pseudo-first-order kinetic constants of CR onto the MBH and MBA nanostructures

Samples	$q_{e,exp}$ (mg/g)	pseudo-first-order models		
		$q_{e,cal}$ (mg/g)	$k_1(\times 10^{-3} \text{ min}^{-1})$	$R_1^2$
MBH	69.78	21.67	24.14	0.95375
MBA	64.01	20.84	10.50	0.93399

**Table S2** Kinetic parameters of intra-particle diffusion model at different linear curves of samples

Samples	Linear	$c$ (mg g <sup>-1</sup> )	$K_d$ (mg g <sup>-1</sup> h <sup>-0.5</sup> )	$R^2$
MBH	MBH-1	37.01	31.66	0.92748
	MBH -2	48.69	15.97	0.98667
	MBH -3	67.72	0.92	0.99957
MBA	MBA -1	27.47	40.15	0.49292
	MBA -2	42.58	10.56	0.73065
	MBA -3	48.07	7.19	0.97951