

# Colour removal of the synthetic dye wastewater using Up flow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket Reactor

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**Abstract-** The colour removal of the synthetic dye wastewater with the addition of glucose as co-substrates using a Up flow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket (UASB) reactor was investigated in the present study. This experiment was conducted under room temperature ( $30 \pm 2$  °C) at varying concentrations (40mg/l, 60 mg/l, 80mg/l, 100mg/l, 150 mg/l, 200 mg/l, 250 mg/l and 300 mg/l) of Congo red synthetic dyeing wastewater, with an Organic Loading Rate (OLR) of 31.2, 46.8, 62.4, 78.2, 117.3, 156.4, 195.5, 238.6 kg COD/m<sup>3</sup> d respectively. It was observed at 12 hours HRT, 99.0%, 99.0%, 98.88%, 98.0%, 95.10%, 92.45% and 87.9% efficiency of colour elimination were obtained at 60 mg/l, 80mg/l, 100mg/l, 150 mg/l, 200 mg/l, 250 mg/l and 300 mg/l of Congo red concentration within 10 days. For the above mentioned Organic loading Rate, the gas production percentage in the anaerobic reactor obtained was 85, 84, 80, 76.9, 67.5, 56.88, 41.85, 35.6 and Volumetric methane productions was 2.95, 2.94, 2.6, 2.15, 1.88, 1.56, 1.50 L/day.

**Keywords-** Anaerobic digestion; textile dye; neutral pH; COD; biogas

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Textile industries produce highly coloured wastewater with varying composition based on the wet process employed. The treatments of Textile dyeing industrial waste water have become tougher now a day's and new methods for the treatment for such wastewater are frequently being investigated. All over the world, standard regulations for the discharge of industrial wastewater were being updated and enforced, and the need for more effectiveness in wastewater treatment systems is being increased. Because textile dyeing industrial effluents contain numerous types of pollutants, such as dispersants, levelling agents, salts, carriers, acids, alkali and various dyes (Couto, S.R., 2009). The textile dyeing industry consumes huge quantity of water, energy and auxiliary chemicals. In India, the textile dyeing industries likely to discharge approximately 1.5 million litres of effluent per day and the waste water is being released into natural water bodies and agricultural land without any appropriate treatment.

The textile dyeing industry wastewater is rated as the maximum polluting industry among all industrial sectors (Al-Kdasi et al. 2004) by considering the volume of waste generated and the effluent composition. The discharge of dyes and dye removal products becomes a great environmental concern (Chen et al. 2005) because of colour discharged by the textile industry effluent. Dyes are synthetic organics and generally have a complex chemical structure. They are xeno-biotic in biotic environments and hence show persistence to biodegradation in nature. The

release of dye compounds into streams and water impounding structures have an adverse impact on photosynthesis of aquatic plants, the carcinogenic nature of these dyes and their break-down products (Padhi, B.S., 2012). Although the available physical and chemical wastewater treatment methods are fairly effective, they become expensive when applied on a larger field scale. Therefore, biological treatment techniques are considered as a feasible option for waste management, especially for developing nations (Bhatti et al. 1996; Arshad et al. 2011). The biological treatment methods are primarily of two kinds, aerobic process and anaerobic process. Because of huge energy and nutrition input requirements of the aerobic process, comparatively more importance is given to anaerobic digestion. The utilization of anaerobic digestion which is fairly cheaper in operation is certainly the most excellent wastewater treatment alternatives.

The Up flow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket (UASB) reactor was improved by Lettinga and his co-workers in the 1970s and it gets recognition and has been effectively used to treat a variety of biodegradable industrial wastewaters (Bal, A.S. and Dhagat, N.N., 2001). UASB reactors belong to the group of high value efficiency reactors with anaerobic sludge bed. Excellent settling properties and granular biomass with high methanogenic activity can be obtained in these reactors. The constraints of UASB reactors are related to the wash-out of biomass and volume of sludge. In the present study, textile dyeing effluent wastewater at various concentrations was used. The glucose was utilised as co-substrate with ratio (80:20)

to develop the degradation of synthetic dye-wastewater which is recalcitrant in nature. Therefore, the aim of this paper was designed using a single-stage UASB reactor to examine the treatment feasibility of textile dye wastewater operation with the presence of external carbon sources. The co-substrate is an alternative growth substrate which when provided to a bioreactor can improve the degradation of some effluent wastes that cannot support microbial growth alone (Franco-Correa, et al.2010). It has been described that 1000 mg/L of glucose can increase the colour removal efficiency by using anaerobic microorganisms in a serum bottle (Carliell et al., 1995), and that co-substrates are important for reduction of azo-bond. Generally, the addition of external carbon sources results in greater dye decolourizations rates.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

### 2.1. Biomass

The anaerobic granular sludge with unidentified microorganisms used in this research was acquired from the anaerobic municipal, sewage sludge treatment plant, Chidambaram municipality, Tamilnadu, India. Granular sludge was clearly washed, filtered through a fine mesh ASTM 16 to remove the all unwanted content, before loading. By using standard methods, volatile suspended solids content of the sludge was found to be 60,000mg/L-1.

### 2.2. Composition of synthetic dye wastewater

The initial composition of the synthetic dye wastewater contained Congo red at various concentrations of 40mg/l, 60 mg/l, 80mg/l, 100mg/l, 150 mg/l, 200 mg/l, 250 mg/l and 300 mg/l, growth media and glucose (80:20).The growth media was made of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ , 400;  $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 400;  $\text{KCl}$ , 400;  $\text{Na}_2\text{S} \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 300;  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{HPO}_4$ , 80;  $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 50;  $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 40;  $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 10;  $\text{KI}$ , 10;  $(\text{NaPO}_3)_6$ , 10; l-cysteine, 10;  $\text{AlCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 0.5;  $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 0.5;  $\text{CuCl}_2$ , 0.5;  $\text{ZnCl}_2$ , 0.5;  $\text{NH}_4\text{VO}_3$ , 0.5;  $\text{NaMoO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 0.5;  $\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3$ , 0.5;  $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 0.5;  $\text{NaWO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 0.5, and  $\text{Na}_2\text{SeO}_3$ , 0.5 (mg/L) (Speece 1996). The alkalinity and pH were adjusted by adding 5M NaOH.

### 2.3. Experimental setup

To study the colour removal efficiency and performance characteristics of UASB reactor, a hybrid combined UASB reactor was fabricated. (Fig. 1).The acidogenic and methanogenic reactors were fabricated with combined single reactors. The reactor (100mm internal diameter and height 1850mm) was made up of plexi-glass with effective volume of 14 L. Sampling, inlet, outlet and gas collection ports were provided at the reactor. The Gas-Liquid-Solid Separator (GLSS) was provided at top of the reactor, and it is made up of an inverted conical funnel at top of the water

column for the separation and collection of biogas. In addition to the GLSS arrangement, a packed medium consisting of a Dry fallen seeds of *Casuarina equisetifolia*, with a surface area of 1000 mm<sup>2</sup> and void ratio 89% has been provided for a height of 250mm located at 1250mm from the bottom of the reactor. These seeds will retain the biomass in addition to give a polishing effect to the effluent. As soon as the gas entrapped inside, the granules was released, sludge granules trapped in GLSS and the packed media will return to the reactor.

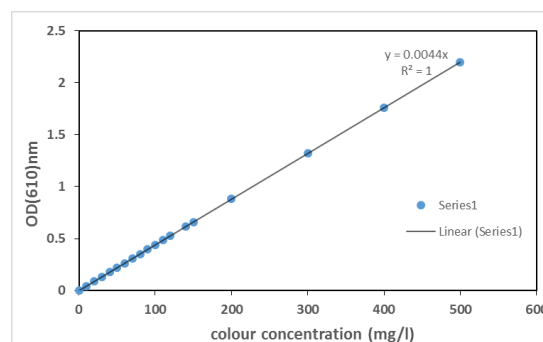


Fig. 1. Standard graph for different dye concentration and (OD)values.

Biogas generated was measured using water displacement method. The studies were conducted after stabilizing the reactor, under the steady state conditions. At steady state the rate of change of inflow to outflow does not change with time and also stable in COD removal and the value of VFA/alkalinity ratio as less than 0.4 shows the steady state condition. The experiment was conducted at room temperature ( $30 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ) with different concentrations (40mg/l, 60 mg/l, 80mg/l, 100mg/l, 150 mg/l, 200 mg/l, 250 mg/l and 300 mg/l) of synthetic textile dyeing wastewater, with an Organic Loading Rate (OLR) of 31.2, 46.8, 62.4, 78.2, 117.3, 156.4, 195.5, 238.6 gCOD/m<sup>3</sup> d respectively. According to literature and technical reports (Alaton et al. 2008), the dye concentration of the textile industries varies from 10 to 200 mg/L. It was also reported, that the high concentrated dye was the more difficult to treat.

### 2.4. Analytical procedures

The influent and effluent samples were analysed for pH, COD and colour removal, VFA and alkalinity as per Standard Methods for Examination of Water and Wastewater (APHA 2005). Colour removal was assessed by observing the Optical Density (OD) of the samples using UV-vis spectrophotometer (HITACHI – U2001) at 610 nm. A standard graph was plotted with different concentration of synthetic dye as shown in fig.1. Compare with OD value the removal concentration was obtained. COD was observed by using closed reflux titrimetric method. VFA and

Alkalinity was also measured by titrimetric method. All samples were filtered through 0.45 mm filters to remove suspended matters before analysis.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An upflow anaerobic sludge blanket (UASB) reactor was employed to treat wastewater that contained Congo red at different concentration and continuously stirred by using stirrer at constant speed (rpm). The investigation was carried to find out the effect on the colour removal by constant Hydraulic Retention Time (HRT), OLR, Sludge Retention Time (SRT), and pH.

#### 3.1. Start-up period

The main aim of the start-up period was to acquire biofilm formation on the support material. In the present work, Granular sludge of mixed anaerobic cultures was used. The feed contained dye, glucose and growth medium was considered as a feed, during the start-up period. The growth medium contained all the necessary nutrients for the growth of anaerobic microorganism. By keeping the influent COD constant at 500mg/l, the COD loading was gradually increased by increasing the feed rate during the start-up period. During the start-up period of the reactor, COD loading was gradually raised by increasing the feed rate. while keeping the influent COD constant. The initial dye concentration in the OLR was 15.6mg/l and the remaining COD was supplied by glucose at constant ratios (80:20) and growth media (GM). Moreover, NH<sub>4</sub>Cl quantity was steadily increased in GM to achieve high initial C/N ratios during the start-up period to stimulate extracellular polymer production, which supports microorganism attachment on solid surface.

#### 3.2. Colour removal in a UASB reactor

The colour removal efficiency were investigated by different concentration (60 mg/l,80mg/l,100mg/l, 150 mg/l,200 mg/l,250 mg/l and 300 mg/l) of synthetic dye waste water at an constant HRT12 hours. The consequence of concentration of synthetic dye at different anaerobic stages on the colour removal efficiency of the reactor is shown in Figure (2). At 12 hours HRT 99.0%,99.0%,98.88%, 98.0%, 95.10%, 92.45% and 87.9% colour removal efficiencies were obtained at 60 mg/l,80mg/l,100mg/l ,150 mg/l,200 mg/l,250 mg/l and 300 mg/l of Congo red concentration at the end of 10 days. As seen from Figure. 2 Colour removal decreased due to increase in dye concentration. It is obvious that the colour removal efficiency of the reactor was adversely affected from this higher dye concentration change in the influent.

Initially the metabolism activity was not affected due to the presence of various types of textile dyes at low concentrations in the influent, Where as it may affect the metabolism due to only of high concentration.

Figure.3. shows the influent and effluent of Dye concentration at 300 mg/l.

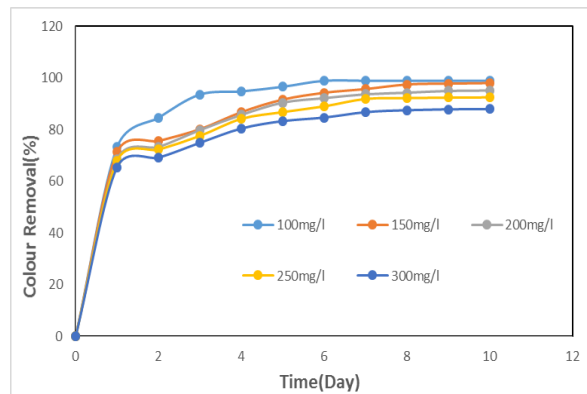


Fig. 2. colour removal(%) at differentDye concentration.

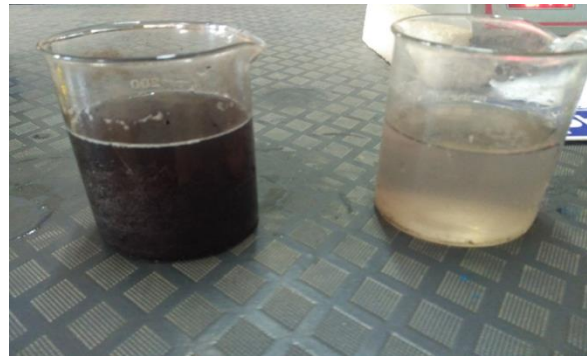


Fig.3 Influent and effluent of Dye concentration at 300mg/l.

The efficiency was reduced because of high concentration of the dye which may bind over the surface of the sludge granule. Senthilkumar et al.(2009) concluded that the colour removal efficiency from textile dyeing wastewater using bench scale UASB reactor was 81.0–96.0%with 17 HRT . Işık and Sponza. (2004). Carliell et al.(1995) and Razo-Flores et al. (1997) reported that 90.0% of colour removal of reactive and azo dyes using anaerobic methane forming bacteria. Thus the present process is more efficient in colour removal by using co-substrate glucose (80:20). Earlier studies with UASB reactors also indicated colour removal efficiency decrease at high dye concentration. Firmino et al. (2010) also found a colour removal efficiency decrease from 92% to 85% when the Acid Orange 7 dye concentration increased from 60 mg/L to 300 mg/L in a UASB reactor operated at a HRT of 24 h and supplemented with 1.8 g COD/L of acetate. Thus the present process is efficient in colour removal by using glucose as a co-substrate at HRT of 12 h within 10 days.

### 3.3 .The effect of organic loading rate on Biogas production and colour removal efficiency

The organic load also changed in the anaerobic reactor depending on the dye concentration, When the dye concentration was increased from 60 mg/l,80mg/l,100mg/l, 150 mg/l,200 mg/l,250 mg/l and 300 mg/l .Depending upon the increase in the dye load, the colour removal efficiency decreased from 99.0% to 87.9%. It was concluded from this result that colour removal was negatively affected by dye load. The biogas production percentage also decreased with the increase of OLR (Figure 4). The acidification phase was more active while the OLR was high. This may be due to the negative effect of the high organic load on the activity of methanogenic bacteria. The Biogas production percentage in the anaerobic reactor was 85.84,80.76.9,67.5,,56.88,,41.85,35.6,while the dye organic load was 31.2,46.8,62.4,78.2,117.3, 156.4,195.5,238.6 gCOD/m<sup>3</sup>d respectively. Volumetric biogas productions were 2.95, 2.94, 2.6, 2.15, 1.88, 1.56 and 1.50 L/day for the above mentioned organic loads, respectively.

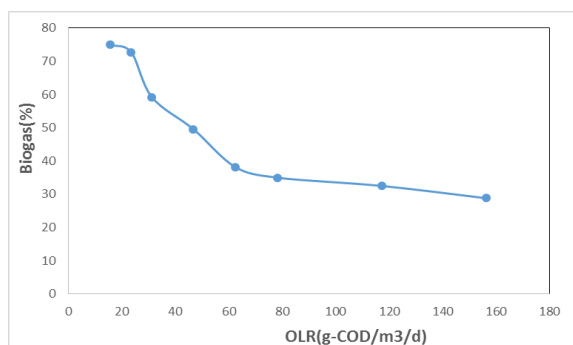


Figure 4. Amount of biogas(%) production for different dye concentration

The biogas generation is directly related to type of substrate given as feed to the reactor. The biogas production (2.95,L/d) was high in OLR31.2 g COD/m<sup>3</sup>.d, and rapidly decreases (1.5L/d)at the high OLR ,this due to inhibitory effect of textile dyeing wastewater. Senthil kumar et al(2009) obtained a high biogas production of 312 L/day at 286 Volume of reactor by conversion treating real textile dyeing wastewater and sago wastewater using pilot scale two-phase UASB reactor.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

From the results, that for eco-friendly and sustainable treatment system for textile dyeing effluent, with glucose as a co-substrate, which produces very less organic sludge and hence it was concluded that UASB reactor could be a very feasible alternative. The maximum colour removal efficiency achieved was 87.9% with 12 h HRT at 300 mg/l dye concentration

with in 10days. The biogas production was decreased from 2.95 L/d to 1.5 L/d when dye concentration was increased from 60 mg/l to 300 mg/l.

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