

Biodegradation of Phenol and Its Derivatives in Industrial Effluent: A Review on Status and Perspective



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Abstract

Organic pollutants comprise of potentially carcinogenic and mutagenic substituted aromatic compounds that are dreadfully perilous to human health out of which phenol and its higher molecular homologous derivatives are hazardous to the environment. Being highly toxic these molecules and their derivatives tend to accumulate into water and soil and persist there for long as they are discharged without any proper treatment. These are even proficient of long-range haulage and bioaccumulation in human and animal tissue. Phenol and its derivatives make a class of potentially toxic pollutants in water and soil which are mainly used and produced in a wide variety of industrial processes. The industrial submission for biodegradation of industrial waste has become an important issue in recent years. In this paper, the current situation, properties, and characteristics of phenolic water, the factors affecting the biodegradation of phenol and its derivative, biodegradation methods and microbes helping in degradation is discussed.

Keywords: Phenol, Carcinogenic, Pollutants, Biodegradation, Ion Exchange, Activated Carbon, Bacteria, Ozonolysis.

Introduction

Water, the most valuable natural recourse, covers 70% of the earth's surface and without it, the life on the Earth would not exist. Water pollution is a common problem that is being recognized for the last many decades. With rapid urbanization and extensive industrialization, environmental pollution has become a major problem [Ghisalba, 1983]. The natural water bodies are constantly being contaminated by hazardous and toxic pollutants. Due to depletion and exhaustion of freshwater bodies, the demand for clean and drinking water is becoming an imperative concern for the countries all over the world. Soil and water bodies are highly contaminated with many toxic compounds such as phenol, ammonia, cyanides, thiocyanate, phenol-formaldehyde, Acryl & Aceto- nitriles and heavy metals like Cr, Zn, Cd, Hg, Cu, Ni, etc. Thirty monoaromatics are on the EPA priority pollutant list and 11 of these compounds are among the top of hundred chemicals on the priority list of hazardous substances published by the agency for toxic substances and disease registry [Y. Q. Huang, et al, 2012]. Monoaromatics like benzene, toluene, and phenol are obvious choices for studies on biodegradation. Among these, phenol and its derivatives are the most common toxic, recalcitrant and hazardous environmental pollutants which are used and produced in many of the industrial processes. They are even highly toxic at a relatively low concentration and hence, USEPA has set a limit of 0.1mg/L of phenol as the permissible limit in the water bodies.

Phenolic compounds mainly include chlorophenols, alkyl-phenols, and natural steroid hormones, which are mainly used in industry, such as fossil fuel extraction, wood processing industry, pesticide manufacturing plants, pharmaceutical industry, petrochemicals, petroleum refinery, preservatives, tanneries and so on. The annual production of phenolic pollutant is quite high for example the annual output of biphenyl is up to 4.69 million tons [S. Y. Li, et al 2015]. Phenolic compounds, the most archetypal contaminant, have serious effects on living organisms inhabiting the growth rate of microorganisms in water and disturbing the ecological balance. Even at low concentration, phenol-containing wastewater directly leads to crop death [Ertani, M. Schiavon, et al 2011]. The harmful effects of phenolic pollutants on the environment are massive, and the need to

effectively degrade the phenol pollutants in water has become a big problem in the world.

Objective of the Study

Literature study reveals that extensive work has been done on biodegradation of phenolic waste by indigenous. The idea behind this study was to explore the microbial community existing in these areas. It is a well-known fact that phenols are the major component of most of the disinfectant used in recent time. The present work primarily involves the study on biological degradation of phenol using different microbial strains.

Chemical and Physical Identity of Phenol

Phenol, C_6H_5OH (also known as hydroxybenzene or carboic acid phenic acid, phenylic acid, phenyl hydroxide or oxybenzene [Nair et al., 2008], is an aromatic molecule containing hydroxyl group attached to the benzene ring structure. Phenol with characteristic acrid smell and a sharp burning taste, forms white to colorless crystals, colorless to pink solid or thick liquid [Gardner et al. 1978], has a Molecular Weight of 94.11 gm/mol, Melting point 43°C, Boiling point (°C) 181.8 and Auto-ignition temperature 715 °C [Lide, 1993]. It is relatively highly water-soluble and is soluble in most organic solvents such as aromatic hydrocarbons, alcohols, ketones, ethers, acids, halogenated hydrocarbons, etc. [Lide, 1993; ATSDR, 2008]. However, the solubility of phenol is quite limited in aliphatic solvents. The odor threshold of phenol in the air is 0.04 ppm (v/v) and in water between 1 ppm and 7.9 ppm (w/v) [Amoore and Hautala, 1983]. Phenol is a weak acid and in its ionized form, it is highly sensitive for electrophilic substitution reactions and oxidations.

Toxicity of Phenol

Phenol and its derivatives are classified as a priority pollutant owing to their high toxicity and widespread environmental occurrence and are included in the list of EPA 1979 [Agarry et al., 2008]. These compounds are highly toxic even at low concentrations and the toxicity of phenols for microbial organisms has been investigated [Keweloh et al., 1990; 1998; Kahru et al., 2002]. and the adverse effects of phenol on health were documented [Calabrasc and Kenyon, 1991; Sax, 1984]. Fatal blood concentration for phenol is around 4.8 to 130 mg/100 ml. Acute exposure of phenolic compounds to human beings for a prolonged period of time causes disorders of central nervous system may lead to damage in blood, and vital body organs like liver, kidney, cardiac toxicity causing weak pulse, cardiac depression and reduced blood pressure at concentrations levels ranging between 10 and 240 mg/L [Barker et al. 1978]. Hypothermia, gastrointestinal disturbance, burning sensation on the skin and of eyes, diarrhea, and excretion of dark urine were also reported by the researchers [Olujimi et al., 2010; Khare, 2011; Tziotzios et al., 2005; Chakraborty et al., 2010]. Due to these disagreeable damaging health effects of phenols, the World Health Organization has set a maximum permissible limit for phenol in wastewater i.e. is 0.1 mg/l [Kumaran and Paruchuri, 1996; Nuhoglu and Yalcin, 2005; Saravanan et al., 2008]. Therefore, it can be seen that

the disposal of phenol has become a major global concern.

The harmful impact of pollution on the environment have led to intense scientific analysis and investigation for removal of phenol from industrial effluents by the researchers from different fields and has initiated the quest for possible solutions for treating phenol. Different treatment methods are available for removal of phenolics in wastewater. Depending upon the concentration, cost, and effectiveness of the method, the volume of the effluent, many physical, chemical, physicochemical and biological treatment methods are being used for the treatment of phenolic wastewater. [Santiago et al. 2002; Arutchelvan et al. 2005; Klein and Lee 1978; Anselmo and Novais 1992; Koyama et al., 1994; Mokrini et al., 1997; Chan and Fu, 1998; Danis et al., 1998; Reardon et al., 2000; Backhaus et al., 2001; Ajay et al., 2004].

Treatment methods & Chemical Oxidative Treatment Methods

Chemical treatment involves the use of chemicals for complete ting them into simpler compounds that are less harmful and toxic which can be further degraded by microorganisms [Hamby D. M., 1996]. Chemical oxidative degradation of organic pollutants is a potentially beneficial alternative when the effluent contains non-biodegradable and/or noxious contaminants in high concentration. These oxidizing agents are strong oxidants out of which hydrogen peroxide which is widely used for this purpose [Dias-Machado et al., 2006; Ksibi, 2006]. However, Hydrogen peroxide when used alone is very less reactive causing incomplete oxidation of contaminants [Kamenev et al., 1995; Ikehata and Gamal El-Din, 2006]. There are many disadvantages linked with the chemical oxidation process viz. high cost of the chemicals, emission of harmful gases as by-products, and production of secondary hazardous chemicals. [Jena et al., 2005].

Physico-Chemical Methods

A wide variety of treatment methods have been used for removal of phenols from industrial effluent. Many other treatment methods for removal of the phenolic waste include granular activated carbon processes, reverse osmosis, anaerobic processes, the electrolytic oxidation, coagulation processes, stripping, etc are available.

Advanced Oxidation Processes (AOPs)

Advanced Oxidation Processes, impregnating ozone is gaining acceptance worldwide nowadays. AOPs use ozone, Ultraviolet radiation, or ozone in combination with UV radiations. Combination of ozone with hydrogen peroxide and UV is gaining attention as it ensures complete oxidation of organic phenols and its derivatives. However, the high treatment cost of AOPs is still the biggest disadvantage and prime concern for the researchers.

Electrolytic Oxidation

Researchers are studying for the use of electrochemical cell which is capable of removing phenols from industrial effluent as an alternative tool in pollution abatement programs. However, the main disadvantage of this treatment process is high capital

cost, incomplete phenol removal, soaring reagent and energy requirements, generation of toxic sludge and difficulty in its careful disposal.

Ion Exchange Method

Natural and synthetic ionic resins, which are specifically designed to enable ion exchange with high adsorption properties are used in this process for removal of organic and other inorganic pollutants from Purification and decontamination of industrial effluent. The main properties of the ionic resins include adsorption capacity, porosity, density, etc [Zorpas et al., 2010]. Caetano et al., [2009] have reported two different types ion exchange resins, Dowex XZ (strong anion exchange resin) and AuRIX 100 (weak anion exchange) for efficient phenol removal under alkaline conditions. However, it is reported that the phenol is removed by the ion exchange resins only in the alkaline medium while the maximum phenol removal was obtained by the non-functionalized resin in the acidic medium [Caetano et al.,2009]. The main disadvantage with this method is the high cost of the ion exchange resins and one resin selectively removes one type of pollutant only [Talley and Sleeper, 1997]. Another drawback is the pH sensitivity of the ion exchange process [Saparia et al., 1996; Liotta et al., 2009].

Adsorption

Adsorption method has been widely used for removal and recovery of heavy metals and organic phenolic pollutants present in the industrial effluents [Al- Rekabi et al., 2007; Patel and Vashi, 2010; Basso et al., 2002; Park et al., 2006]. Adsorption by activated carbon for the removal of phenolic contaminants is a widely studied treatment method [Garcia-Araya et al., 2003]. Selection of the proper adsorbent material, particle size, surface area, porosity and pore size distribution of the activated carbon are the most important factors that affect the adsorption of phenol [Gardea-Torresdey et al., 2004; Kyuya et al., 2004]. However, these processes are high energy-consuming, noneconomic and not cost-effective as this is associated with recovery of activated carbon particles from the effluent, wastewater also requires further treatment and most importantly, it produces a large amount of solid waste, which further requires safe disposal. [Banat et al., 2000]. Apart from these extensively used methods, other methods such as photo-catalysis, solvent extraction, coagulation, flocculation, Reverse osmosis is also used in the removal of phenol from wastewater.

Biological Treatment Method/ Bioremediation of Organic Pollutant

Development of treatment methods that emphasize the degradation of phenolic waste without the above-mentioned drawbacks of chemical and physicochemical methods had been the biggest focus of the research in the last many years. Treatment of industrial effluent with pure and mixed microbial strains is measured to be an efficient and cost-effective biological tool for the treatment of contaminated wastewaters containing phenolic compounds [Monteiro et al., 2000; Banerjee et al., 2001; Abuhamed et al., 2004; Kumar et al., 2005; Rodriguez et al., 2006]. This new technology has

been loosely grouped under the term "Bioremediation", which involves the treatment process that uses microorganisms to breakdown, or degrades hazardous substances into less toxic or non-toxic substances. Utilizing the perspective of microbes to degrade phenol has always been a green option to develop Bioremediation approaches, for treatment of contaminants present in wastewater.

Biodegradation process is an entrenched and powerful technique for treating industrial effluents. The efficiency of biodegradation depends on the type of the organic pollutant, the nature of the microorganisms, the enzyme involved, the method of degradation (aerobic or anaerobic) and the nature of other influencing factors such as temperature, concentration, etc. Biodegradation of Phenol and its derivatives by microbes under aerobic and anaerobic conditions is been widely adopted and there is an increased interest in the use of these organisms for effluent treatment during the past three decades.

Advantages of Biodegradation

Biodegradation process is being chosen over the other treatment methods of phenol due to its potential to degrade phenol completely with no dangerous end products, is economic and most importantly maintains phenol concentration below the toxic limit. The microorganisms digest phenolic compounds completely and employ it in the TCA (tricarboxylic acid cycle) cycle for their energy requirements.

Microorganisms Involved in Biodegradation

Microbial biodegradation of phenols in the effluent is a complex series of biochemical reactions and is different when diverse microorganisms are involved including bacteria, fungi, algae, yeast, and actinomycetes. Bacterial species include *Bacillus* sp, *Pseudomonas* sp, *Acinetobacter* sp, and *Achromobacter* sp, etc. Fungal groups like *Fusarium* sp, *Phanerocheate chrysosporium*, *Coriarius versicolor*, *Ralstonia* sp, *Streptomyces* sp, etc are also proved to be efficient in biodegradation of phenol. decomposition of phenols by yeast strains like *Saccharomyces*, *Candida*, *Debaryomyces* and *Trichosporon cutaneum* is also reported by the researchers [Harris and Rickettes, 1962; Henderson, 1961; Neujahr and Varga, 1970; Neujahr et al. 1974; Hashimoto, 1973]. Among the yeast strains, *Candida tropicalis* has been the most studied and able to degrade phenol, phenol derivatives and aliphatic compounds at a relatively high phenol concentration [Krug et al. 1985; Chang et al. 1995; Ruiz-Ordaz et al. 2000]. Mutant strains *Comamonas teststeroni* E23 has been reported as the best phenol degrader of all strains reported up to date [Yap et al. 1999]. The physiological and genetic basis of phenol degradation has been explained by many researchers [Kotturi et al. 1991; Nurk et al. 1991; Kiyohara et al. 1992; Motzkus et al. 1993; Arquiga et al. 1995; Puhakka et al.1995; Buitron and Gonzalez, 1996]. However, this bacterial or fungal microorganism growth is inhibited at higher concentration of phenol, by which the growth is inhibited [Prieto et al., 2002].

Bacteria

Depending on the type of bacteria that are accountable for the biodegradation bioremediation is categorized as aerobic or anaerobic. The bacterial species that degrade phenols can be divided into two types: the first type can use phenols as the sole source of carbon including arthrobacter, acinetobacter, alcaligenes, corynebacterium micrococcus and staphylococcus. The second type of bacteria depends on other carbon sources to degrade phenols. This type of bacteria mainly decomposes phenols through co-metabolism pattern, which usually needs two or more bacteria working together [Ali et al. 1998]. The genus *Pseudomonas* is widely applied for the degradation of phenolic compounds for their immense ability to grow on various organic compounds [Annadurai et al., 2000a, b]. Phenol and other phenolic compounds which are the major constituents of many industrial effluents can be safely treated and disposed of degradation using batch and fed-batch fermentation under aerobic condition [Mohd

Tuah, 2006; Borghei and Hosseini, 2004]. Degradation of phenol and some of its alkyl derivatives (p-cresol, 4-n-propyl phenol, 4-i -propyl phenol, 4-n-butyl phenol, 4-sec-butyl phenol, 4-t-butyl phenol, and 4-t-octyl phenol) were examined under both aerobic and anaerobic conditions in seven Japanese paddy soil samples by using *Klebsiella oxytoca* strain and It was found that *Klebsiella oxytoca* degraded phenol at elevated concentration where 75% of initial phenol concentration at 100 ppm was degraded within 72 h [Atsushi et al., 2006; Shawabkeh et al., 2007]. The immobilized strain of *Alcaligenes sp d2* was effectively used for the treatment of phenolic effluent where succinic acid and glycine were found to as respective carbon and nitrogen source and the most efficient co-substrates for the removal of phenol [Nair and Shashidhar, 2008]. The list of a bacterial strain that was used in the degradation of phenol and its derivatives is shown in Table no 1.

Table 1. Bacterial Strains in Biodegradation of Phenolic Compounds

S/N	Bacteria	Reference
1	<i>Achromobacter sp</i>	Xiangchun et al. (2003)
2	<i>Acinetobacter calcoaceticus</i>	Nakamura and Sawada (2000)
3	<i>Acinetobacter Calcoaceticus PHEA-2.</i>	Zhan et al. (2009)
4	<i>Acinetobacter johnsonii</i>	Hoyle et al. (1995)
5	<i>Acinetobacter sp</i>	Hao et al. (2002)
6	<i>Acinetobacter sp W-17</i>	Beshay et al. (2002)
7	<i>Alcaligenes sp</i>	Baek et al. (2001)
8	<i>Alcaligenes sp</i>	Nair and Shashidhar (2004)
9	<i>Bacillus brevis</i>	Arutchelvan et al. (2006)
10	<i>Bacillus sp</i>	Ali et al. (1998)
11	<i>Bacillus stearothermophilus</i>	Gurujeyalakshmi and Oriel (1988)
12	<i>Micrococcus sp.</i>	Tibbles and Baecker, 1989b
13	<i>Nocardia sp.</i>	Vijaygopal and Viruthagiri, 2005
14	<i>Nocardioides</i>	Cho et al. (2000)
15	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>	Hublik and Schinner (2000)
16	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	Oliver 2002)
17	<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>	Torres et al. (1998)
18	<i>Pseudomonas pictorium</i>	Annadurai et al. (2000)
19	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	Allsop et al. (1993)
20	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	Loh and Wang (1998)
21	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	Mordocco et al. (1999)
22	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	Wang and Loh (1999)
23	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	Zumriye and Gultac (1999)
24	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	Loh and Tar (2000)
25	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	Loh and Liu (2001)
26	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	Petruschka et al. (2001)
27	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	Farighian (2003)
28	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	Hamed et al. (2004)
29	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	Kargi and Eker (2005)
30	<i>Pseudomonas putida MU 174</i>	Chitra et al. (1995)
31	<i>Pseudomonas putida (MTCC 1194).</i>	Bandhyopadhyay et al. (1998)
32	<i>Pseudomonas putida 548.</i>	Monterio et al. (2000)
33	<i>Pseudomonas putida F1</i>	Reardon et al. (2000)
34	<i>Pseudomonas putida F1 ATCC 700007</i>	Abuhamed et al. (2003)
35	<i>Pseudomonas putida p8</i>	Morsen and Rehm (1990)
36	<i>Pseudomonas sp</i>	Bodzek et al. (1996)
37	<i>Pseudomonas sp</i>	Gotz and Reuss(1997)
38	<i>Pseudomonas sp</i>	Gonzalez et al. (2001)

39	Pseudomonas sp	Prpich and Douglis (2005)
40	Pseudomonas sp. strain CF600	Shingler et al. (1992)
41	Ralstonia eutropha	Leonard et al. (1999 a,b)
42	Rhodococcus erythropolis	Prieto et al. (2002)
43	Sphingomonas chlorophenolica	Bielefeldt and Cort (2005)
44	Streptomyces setonii	An et al. (2001)

Fungi

The main fungi of phenolic pollutants degradation are filamentous fungi, including white-rot fungi, fusarium, penicillium, Agaricus, coprinus and so on. They degrade phenol contaminants through a series of enzymatic reactions. Yeast mainly includes

Candida albicans, Candida maltosa, Trichosporon cutaneum, and Oidium, etc. The research shows that the yeasts have a strong ability to degrade phenols and tolerate phenols with high initial concentration [Ariana Fialova et al., 2004]. A list of fungi is shown in Table no 2.

Table 2. Fungi in Biodegradation of Phenolic Compounds

S/N	Fungi	Reference
1	Agaricus bisporus	Burton et al. (1993)
2	Aspergillus niger	Garcia et al., 2000
3	Aspergillus terreus	Garcia Garcia et al., 1997
4	C. cinereus	Guiraud et al., 1999
5	Chalara paradoxa	Robles et al. (2000)
6	Clavariopsis aquatica	Moeder et al. (2006)
7	Coprinus cinereus	Masuda et al., 2001
8	Coprinus cinereus	Schneider et al. (1999)
9	Coprinus cinereus	Sakurai et al. (2001)
10	Coprinus sp.	Guiraud et al., 1999 \
11	Fung trogii	Garzillo et al. (1998)
12	Fusarium flocciferum	Anselmo et al. (1992)
13	Fusarium sp	Santos and Linardi (2004)
14	Lentinula edodes	Okeke et al. (1997)
15	Lentinus bisporous	Okeke et al. (1993)
16	Phanerocheate chrysosporium	Garcia et al. (2000)
17	Rhizoctonia praticola	Bollag et al. (1988)
18	Termitomyces albuminosus	Johjima et al. (2003)
19	Trichosporon cutaneum	Ghiourelotis et al. (1999)

Algae

Algae are also reported in the degradation of phenolic contaminants. It is reported that they can degrade alkyl-phenol and the rate of bio-degradation

is determined by the growth rate of algae and the initial concentration of Phenolic substances [9]. list of algae reported in researches is shown in Table no 3.

Table 3. Algae in Phenol Biodegradation

S/N	Algae	Reference
1	Ankistrodesmus braunii	Gabriele pinto et al., 2002
2	Coriolus versicolor	Kadhim et al. (1999)
3	Ochromonas danica	Semple and Cain(1997)
4	Phormidium valderianum	Shashirekha et al. (1998)
5	Scenedesmus quadricauda	Gabriele pinto et al., 2002

Moreover, some yeast is also capable of degrading phenol. The list is given in Table -4

Table 4. Yeast in Phenol Biodegradation

S/N	Yeast	Reference
1	Candida tropicalis CHP4	Kumaran, 1980
2	Candida maltosa	Ariana Fialova et al., 2004
3	Candida tropicalis	Ehrhardt and Rehm, 1985),
4	Candida tropicalis	Salmeron- Alcocer et al., 2007
5	Candida tropicalis Ct2	Komarkova et al., 2003
6	Candida tropicalis H15	Krug et al., 1985, Krug and Straube, 1986
7	Cryptococcus elinovii H1	Morsen and Rehm (1990)
8	Fusarium flocciferum	Anselmo et al., 1985; Mendoca et al., 2004)
9	Trichosporon cutaneum	(Gaal and Neujahr, 1980; Yang and Humphrey, 1975)

Normally organic pollutants are degraded by natural bacteria. However, aromatic compounds various substituents are more recalcitrant. Scientists have been working on these microbes which are

capable of degrading phenolic compounds through the action of a variety of enzymes. These enzymes may include oxygenase, horseshoe peroxidase, hydroxylase, tyrosinases, and oxidases, etc.

Table 5. Enzymes Involved in Biodegradation of Phenolic Compounds

S. No.	Enzyme	References
1	Bis phenol Peroxidase	Sakurai et al. (2001)
2	Catechol 1,2oxygenase	An et al. (2001)
3	Catechol 2,3 dioxygenase	Ali et al. (1998)
4	Horseradish peroxidase	Wu et al. (1998)
5	Horseradish peroxidase	Zahida et al. (1998)
6	Laccase	Bollag et al. (1998)
7	Laccase	Hublik and Schinner (2000)
8	Laccase	Kadhim et al. (1999)
9	Laccase	Robles et al. (2000)
10	Laccase	Schneider et al. (1999)
11	Lignophenols Peroxidase	Xia et al. (2003)
12	Methoxyphenol Laccase	Setti et al. (1999)
13	Peroxidase	Ghiourelotis and Nicell (1999)
14	Phenol hydroxylase	Gurujejalakshmi and Oriell (1988)
15	Phenol oxidase	Johjima et al. (2003)
16	Phenol Oxidase	Okeke et al. (1997)
17	Polyphenol Oxidase	Burton et al. (1993)
18	Polyphenol Oxidase	Cano et al. (1997)
19	Polyphenol oxidase	Edwards et al. (1999)
20	Polyphenol oxidase	Garzillo et al. (1998)
21	Polyphenol oxidase	Luke and Burton (2001)
22	Polyphenol oxidase	Shashirekha et al. (1997)
23	Polyphenol oxidase	Steffens (2002)
24	Tyrosinase	Xiangchun (2003)

Method of Biodegradation of Phenol

Selection of sewage treatment method before sending the phenolic effluent for biodegradation of phenolic effluent is very important. The main biodegradation methods include activated Sludge, fixed and floating bed biofilm reactor, biological contact oxidation, biological fluidized bed, and immobilization technology.

Principle and the Properties of The Biological Treatment Methods of Industrial Effluents

Activated Sludge

Principial

This process involves adsorption a biological degradation by the microorganism present in the activated sludge. This takes place aerobically.

Properties

In this treatment method, simple equipment is used. Although the treatment effect is good, it has high preprocessing requirements and is not suitable for large-scale treatment plants.

Fixed Bed Biofilm Reactor

Principle

In this method, the microorganisms are attached to the surface of the fixed or floating bio-film which is in contact with the sewage.

Properties

It's a combination of biofilm and activated sludge which requires stable water quality and fixed volume for the treatment. The treatment plant is a way to operate. However, uncontrollable microbial development and biomass is the most important issue to be handled.

Biological Fluidized Bed

Principle

Fluidization state of the carrier for attaching microorganism

Properties

Combination of membrane separation technology and bioreactor

Immobilization

Principle

To locate Microorganisms or enzymes in the limited-space area by chemical or physical means

Properties

High microbial density, Fast reaction speed, Low microbial loss, Easy separation of products, Miniaturization of processing equipment

Conclusions and Perspectives

Due to the developmental pressure and increasing public concern, over the past few decades, researchers and investigators had a great opportunity to explore and discover new applications and technologies for biodegradation of industrial effluent. As discussed above in the paper, use of such technologies in industrial effluent treatment has been extensive and has also achieved extraordinary outcome in the facet of phenol and other phenolic derivatives degradation. However, because of the massive yearly release of phenolic contaminants, and itself being anti microbial in nature many microorganisms have not been able to spread out the extent of wastewater treatment. Therefore, much attention for the development of more effective treatment methods and application is needed.

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