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On behalf of the Organizing and Scientific Committees, we extend a warm welcome to the 6th Iberoamerican Conference on Advanced Oxidation Technologies (VI CIPOA), taking place in Florianópolis, Brazil, from October 7th to 11th, 2024.

The CIPOA conference aims to bring together scientists, Ph.D. students, master's and undergraduate students, and professionals to share their research findings and engage in discussions about the future directions and opportunities in Advanced Oxidation Technologies. The focus areas encompass environmental protection, chemical and food engineering, energy, and climate sectors, all contributing to a sustainable and carbon-neutral circular economy.

The conference program will encompass a diverse range of engaging sessions, including invited lectures, oral communications, short oral communications for Ph.D. students, poster communications, and an interactive round-table discussion.

We cordially invite you to submit your abstracts for poster or oral presentations to the 6th Iberoamerican Conference on Advanced Oxidation Technologies. We eagerly await your contributions to the scientific program and sincerely appreciate your support in advance!

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(Chairwoman VI CIPOA 2024)

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Organization



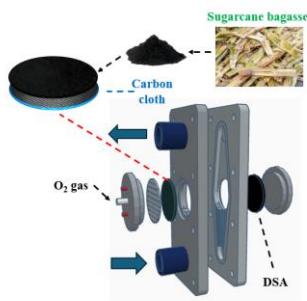
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This study investigates using sustainable sugarcane bagasse-based gas diffusion electrodes (GDEs) for H₂O₂ generation and amoxicillin removal. While comparable H₂O₂ production was achieved with traditional GDEs, sugarcane bagasse offered an eco-friendly alternative. The electrochemical advanced oxidation process (EAOP) combined (UVC-Fe-H₂O₂) effectively degraded amoxicillin (85% in 60 minutes) overcome methods like UVC or H₂O₂ alone. Furthermore, the combined process demonstrated superior removal of total organic carbon (58.5%). Besides, the combination of EAOPs with electrogenerated H₂O₂ and scalable electrochemical flow reactors (EFRs) offers a promising solution. Although, these findings suggest sugarcane bagasse GDEs with UVC-Fe-H₂O₂ hold promise for treating antibiotic-contaminated water.

Introduction

This work explores the use of gas diffusion electrodes (GDE) for a promising environmental application: generating hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) on-site to degrade pollutants. GDEs with carbon-based materials are highly efficient for H₂O₂ production, but traditional options often rely on petroleum sources [1,2]. To address this, we present an sustainable alternatives like sugarcane bagasse, a readily available source of carbon. Additionally, the growing presence of antibiotics in the environment, particularly in water sources, necessitates effective treatment methods. Electrochemical advanced oxidation processes (EAOP) using electrogenerated H₂O₂ offer a solution for eliminating these contaminants. Furthermore, the use of electrochemical flow reactors (EFR) enhances the scalability of this technology. Here we present an GDE based in sugarcane bagasse, applied in an flow reactor combined with EAOP (UVC-FE-H₂O₂), to remove commercial amoxicillin as a contaminant target.

Material and Methods

Chemicals

Commercially available amoxicillin pills were used. Ferrous sulfate heptahydrate (FeSO₄·7H₂O ≥ 99%, Vetec) served as the catalyst. Potassium sulfate (K₂SO₄ 99%, Vetec) and sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄ 95-98%, Vetec) were used for electrolyte preparation and pH adjustment. Ammonium molybdate ((NH₄)₆Mo₇O₂₄) solution (2.4×10⁻³ mol L⁻¹) was used for H₂O₂ quantification. Acetonitrile (ACN, Sigma Aldrich) and ultrapure water from a Milli-Q® Direct-Q system (18.2 MΩ cm) (Merck Millipore) were used to prepare the mobile phases for liquid chromatography.

Electrochemical setup

An electrochemical flow reactor (EFR) described elsewhere [3] was used to compare GDEs for H₂O₂ generation. The setup had a 4 mm inter-electrode gap, 2.0 L capacity (semi-batch), and 10 L h⁻¹ flow rate controlled by a peristaltic pump. GDEs was fed with O₂ gas (99% purity) at 80 mL min⁻¹. The 0.05 mol L⁻¹ electrolyte (pH 3.0) used a DSA®-Cl₂ anode (De Nora do Brazil) and either a commercial carbon GDE (CPL6) or a sugarcane bagasse GDE. Both electrodes had a 20 cm² exposed area.

Experiments configurations

H₂O₂ production of both GDEs (CPL6 and cane) was compared at various current densities (25-150 mA cm⁻²). Current efficiency (CE) and energy consumption (EC) were evaluated using equations **eq. 1** and **eq. 2** for a more comprehensive comparison.

$$CE(\%) = \frac{2 F C_1 V}{I t_1} \times 100 \quad (\text{eq. 1})$$

$$EC(\text{kWh kg}^{-1}) = \frac{1000 E I t_2}{M} \quad (\text{eq. 2})$$

The terms in both equations can be find in this work [3]. The EAOP tests for degradation of 20 mg L⁻¹ amoxicillin was performed in the same electrochemical conditions describe before. The UV-C light used was low-pressure Hg lamp (254 nm; Philips). For Fenton reactions 2.5 μmol L⁻¹ of FeSO₄ was used. Also blank experiments to better evaluation of effect of each EAOP process is performed.

Gas diffusion electrode preparation

We built the electrode following our prior method [3]. Briefly, we mixed 80% carbon mass with 20% PTFE and pressed it onto a ZOLTEK carbon cloth

at 4.5 tons, 290°C for 15 minutes.

Analytical method

Amoxicilin was measured using an HPLC system (Shimadzu, series 20) with a DAD, employing a C18 column and 50% ACN: 50% H₂O U.P. as the mobile phase at a flow rate of 1.0 mL min⁻¹. The mineralization extent was monitored by total organic carbon (TOC) determination using a Shimadzu TOC-VCPN. H₂O₂ was measured at intervals during the 1-hour experiment. Samples were mixed with ammonium molybdate, forming a detectable compound at 350 nm for analysis [4]. Subsequently, UV-1900 spectrophotometer (Shimadzu) was used for analysis.

Results and Discussion

In Figure 1-a is show the current densities tests and de concentration of H₂O₂, for both GDEs (CPL6 and cane), after 60 min of electrolysis.

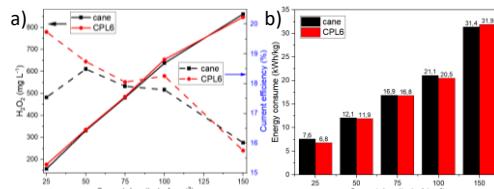


Figure 1. Comparison between GDEs (CPL6 and cane), by variating current densities a) Concentration of H₂O₂ and current efficiency, b) Energy consumption.

For all current densities applied (25 to 150 mA cm⁻²), the concentration of H₂O₂ electrogenerated is almost the same for both GDEs. However, for the lowest current density applied (25 mA cm⁻²), the efficiency was the most different (17.5 and 19.7 %, for cane and CPL6, respectively). Altough, the analysis of energy consumption (Figure 1-b) show less than 1 kWh kg⁻¹ difference between both GDEs, for all current densities.

The degradation of commercial amoxicillin (Amox) in different EAOPs (anodic oxidation (AO), ultraviolet in 254 nm (UVC), H₂O₂ electrogenerated (H₂O₂) and Fenton combination with H₂O₂ and UVC (Fe-H₂O₂ and UVC-Fe-H₂O₂)) conditions is presented in Figure 2.

Acknowledgments

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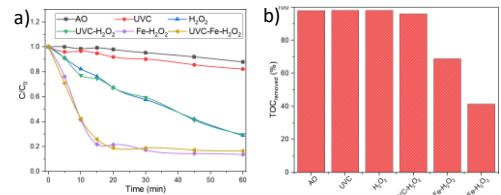


Figure 2. Use of GDE of cane in different EAOP condition applied in Amox degradation, a) degradation curve, b) TOC removed. Electrochemical condition: 25 mA cm⁻², pH 3, 2.0 L at 0.05 mol L⁻¹ of K₂SO₄ solution, and 20 mg L⁻¹ of amoxicilin.

Figure 2-a shows the degradation curves for amoxicillin removal. Conditions with only AO (anodic oxidation) and UVC (ultraviolet C radiation) have low effectiveness, reaching only 12.0% and 18.0% removal after 60 minutes, respectively. Similarly, the removal of total organic carbon (TOC) for both conditions is close to zero (Figure 2-b). Electrogenerated hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) and its combination with UVC show a better, and practically identical, effect on amoxicillin degradation, removing around 30.0% after 60 minutes. However, the H₂O₂ condition alone removes almost no TOC, while UVC-H₂O₂ removes only 4.0%. The best response for amoxicillin degradation is found for the electro-Fenton reaction (Fe-H₂O₂) and its combination with UVC (UVC-Fe-H₂O₂). Both conditions also exhibit very similar degradation curves, reaching 80.0% removal after 15 minutes of reaction, with a slight decrease to 85.0% at 60 minutes (Figure 2-a). However, for TOC removal, the combined process (UVC-Fe-H₂O₂) shows a better effect (58.5%) compared to the electro-Fenton process alone (31.1%).

Conclusions

The results show that GDE made with sugarcane bagasse have practically the same efficiency of the well-known commercial carbon printex L6. Also, in application of EAOP process, the combination of UVC-Fe-H₂O₂, show the most effective method for amoxicillin removal from water. It achieved a remarkable 85% degradation, and 58.5% of TOC removed within just 60 minutes, significantly outperforming alternative methods like AO, UVC, and even H₂O₂ alone.