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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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Enhanced UVC/H₂O₂ applied for the degradation of benzotriazole in real aquatic matrices using Printex L6 carbon-based gas diffusion electrode

SHORT-ORAL +
POSTER

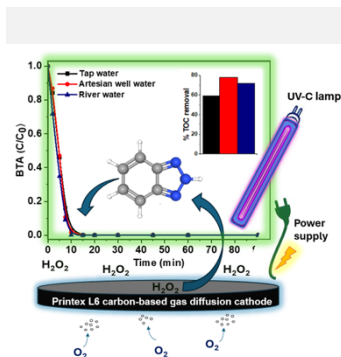
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Journal: Chemical
Engineering Journal

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Benzotriazole (BTA) is a recalcitrant compound characterized by its high toxicity to aquatic organisms. In this work, the effect of UVC/electrogenerated H₂O₂ was investigated for the BTA degradation. The studies were carried out by analyzing the influence of the current densities applied, pH, initial BTA concentration, and reaction time. Under the optimal conditions (50.0 mA cm⁻², pH 6.0 and, [BTA]=10 mg L⁻¹) obtained in K₂SO₄ 0.05 mol L⁻¹, the BTA degradation in tap water, river water and artesian well water samples was evaluated. In all cases, 100% elimination of the pollutant in the first 20 min. of treatment was reached, with TOC removal of ~60, 72, and 78%, respectively, after 90 min. of electrolysis. The post-treatment river water sample was evaluated using the *Lactuca sativa* L method, showing the absence of toxicity of the by-products formed. An exhaustive BTA degradation during 5 h, allowed a mineralization rate of 70%.

Introduction

Benzotriazole (BTA) is found in a wide variety of matrices, such as industrial fluids, antifreeze, additives for the protection of metal surfaces, UV stabilizers, anticorrosives [1] and pesticides.

Due to its ability to destroy organic compounds in aqueous media, photocatalytic oxidation has received increasing attention for BTA degradation [2–3], but the high cost of catalysts limits its application in real aqueous systems. Indirect electrochemical processes also appears to be a promising alternative to increasing the degradation efficiency of BTA, mainly with use of hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) as oxidant. In this sense, the use of gas diffusion electrodes (GDE) [4] is shown to be a novel and attractive approach for the degradation of BTA, being advantageous because, in principle, it can be operated without the presence of a catalyst. In addition, the GDE allows the generation of important oxidizing species, in a system that is easy to assemble and economically competitive with other technologies.

Thus, this study explored the effectiveness of Printex L6 carbon-based GDE (PCL6-GDE) as an alternative route for the electrochemical degradation of BTA at different pH scale in tap water, river water and artesian well water samples, using a flow-by electrochemical reactor assisted by a UVC lamp.

Material and Methods

250 mL of a BTA aqueous solution was placed in a flow-by electrochemical reactor, assisted by a light source (UVC lamp, NUCHONG 9W). A three-

electrode system was used, with an GDE as the working electrode, a DSA[®] electrode as the counter electrode, and an Ag/AgCl (3M KCl) electrode as reference. The H₂O₂ generated at the working electrode (O₂(g) flow rate 30 mL min⁻¹) was quantified with UV-vis spectrophotometry, using the peroxyoxymolybdate method. For the BTA quantification, a HPLC (SHIMADZU 20A), equipped with a C-18 Phenomenex[®] column, and a UV detector were used (λ= 256 nm). The mobile phase was 50% acetonitrile/50% water at a flow rate of 0.6 mL min⁻¹. For toxicity evaluation, the the experiments were conducted using seeds of *Lactuca sativa* L. Quantification tests for inorganic ions were also carried out in real aquatic matrices using ion chromatography (Metrohm CH-9101 Herisau Ionic Chromatography).

Results and Discussion

Using PCL6-GDE for H₂O₂ electrogeneration

Fig. 1 shows the H₂O₂ electrogenerated in K₂SO₄ (0.05 mol L⁻¹), at different current densities (12.5, 25, and 50 mA cm⁻²) and different pHs values (3.0, 6.0 and 9.0). The effect of UVC radiation on the H₂O₂ electrogeneration at the highest current density studied is also shown. The increase in current density from 12.5 to 50 mA cm⁻², records an increase in H₂O₂ production, obtaining the best results at pH 6.0 for low current densities. However, for the highest current density studied, the pH of the system does not lead to a significant change in the H₂O₂ electrogeneration, registering in all cases an average maximum concentration of ~912 mg L⁻¹.

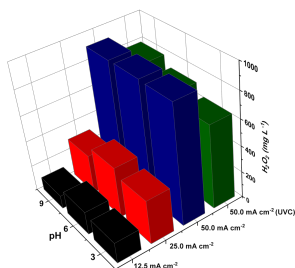


Figure 1. Concentration of H_2O_2 electrogenerated as a function of the applied current density and the pH.

As expected, when UVC radiation is placed in the system, a decrease in the H_2O_2 concentration is observed as a consequence of its photocatalytic decomposition, reaching $\sim 714 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$.

BTA degradation under UVC/ H_2O_2 by using PCL6-GDE

Fig. 2 shows the BTA degradation for different initial contaminant concentrations (10, 25, and 50 mg L^{-1} in K_2SO_4 0.05 mol L^{-1} at pH 6.0), applying a current density of 50 mA cm^{-2} . Inset of Fig. 2 shows the TOC removal at the end of electrolysis.

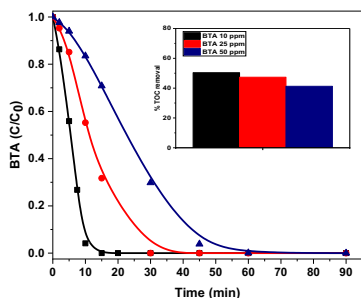


Figure 2. BTA degradation for different initial contaminant concentrations and TOC removal percentage (*inset*).

Conclusions

The fabricated Printex L6 carbon-based GDE led to the production of high concentrations of H_2O_2 , favored by the increase in current density. The UVC/ H_2O_2 treatment of river water and artesian well water, contaminated with BTA, allowed the degradation of 100% of the contaminant with up to 70% mineralization in a short period of time, evidencing the efficiency of the treatment and suggesting being an economical technology for the remediation of real aqueous environments.

Acknowledgments

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References

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The kinetics of BTA removal change considerably depending on the initial concentration of the contaminant, going from requiring 15 min. to degrade 100% of 10 mg L^{-1} BTA to requiring 30 min. to degrade $\sim 70\%$ of 50 mg L^{-1} BTA (Fig. 2). However, the TOC removal does not vary significantly with a lower initial concentration of BTA $41.3\% < 47.3\% < 50.4\%$ (Inset Fig. 2).

BTA degradation in real aquatic matrices under UVC/ H_2O_2 by using PCL6-GDE

Fig. 3 shows the degradation of 10 mg L^{-1} BTA in tap water, river water, and artesian well water samples when applied a current density of 50 mA cm^{-2} .

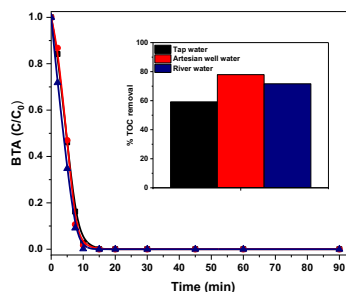


Figure 3. BTA degradation in different real aquatic matrices and TOC removal percentage (*inset*).

In all conditions, only 20 min. were enough to eliminate 100% of the contaminant. However, it was found that for river water and artesian well water, there was a greater TOC removal (72 and 78%, respectively), while in the case of tap water, the percentage was 60%, remaining closer to the values obtained in the studies with deionized water. The considerable increase in TOC removal is probably due to the contribution of inorganic ions throughout degradation, mainly influenced by chloride and sulfate ions.