

## Removal of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Organic Pollutants From Water Using Seeding Type Immobilized Microorganisms<sup>1</sup>

LIN WANG<sup>2</sup>, LI-JING HUANG, LUO-JIA YUN, FEI TANG, JING-HUI ZHAO, YAN-QUN LIU, XIN ZENG, AND QI-FANG LUO<sup>2</sup>

*Institute of Environmental Medicine, School of Public Health, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science & Technology, MOE Key Laboratory of Environment and Health, Wuhan 430030, Hubei, China*

**Objective** To study the possibility of removing nitrogen, phosphorus, and organic pollutants using seeding type immobilized microorganisms. **Methods** Lakes P and M in Wuhan were chosen as the objects to study the removal of nitrogen, phosphorus, and organic pollutants with the seeding type immobilized microorganisms. Correlations between the quantity of heterotrophic bacteria and the total nitrogen (TN), total phosphorus (TP), and total organic carbon (TOC) in the two lakes were studied. The dominant bacteria were detected, inoculated to the sludge and acclimated by increasing nitrogen, phosphorus and decreasing carbon source in an intermittent, time-controlled and fixed-quantity way. The bacteria were then used to prepare the seeding type immobilized microorganisms, selecting diatomite as the adsorbent carrier. The ability and influence factors of removing nitrogen, phosphorus, and organic pollutant from water samples by the seeding type immobilized microorganisms were studied. **Results** The coefficients of the heterotrophic bacterial quantity correlated with TOC, TP, and TN were 0.9143, 0.8229, 0.7954 in Lake P and 0.9168, 0.7187, 0.6022 in Lake M. Ten strains of dominant heterotrophic bacteria belonging to *Pseudomonas*, *Coccus*, *Aeromonas*, *Bacillus*, and *Enterobacteriaceae*, separately, were isolated. The appropriate conditions for the seeding type immobilized microorganisms in purifying the water sample were exposure time=24 h, pH=7.0-8.0, and quantity of the immobilized microorganisms=0.75-1g/50 mL. The removal rates of TOC, TP, and TN under the above conditions were 80.2%, 81.6%, and 86.8%, respectively. **Conclusion** The amount of heterotrophic bacteria in the two lakes was correlated with TOC, TP, and TN. These bacteria could be acclimatized and prepared for the immobilized microorganisms which could effectively remove nitrogen, phosphorus, and mixed organic pollutants in the water sample.

**Key words:** Heterotrophic bacteria; Acclimation; Immobilized microorganisms; Nitrogen; Phosphorus; Mixed organic pollutants

### REFERENCES

1. Ntengwe F W (2006). Pollutant loads and water quality in streams of heavily populated and industrialized towns. *Phys Chem Earth, Part A/B/C* **31**(15-16), 832-839.
2. Berndtsson J C, Emilsson T, Bengtsson L (2006). The influence of extensive vegetated roofs on runoff water quality. *Sci Tot Environ* **355** (1-3), 48-63.
3. Trinh A D, Georges V, Marie P B, *et al.* (2007). Experimental investigation and modelling approach of the impact of urban wastewater on a tropical river; a case study of the Nhue River, Hanoi, Viet Nam. *J Hydrol* **334**(3-4), 347-358.
4. Xie Y X, Xiong Z Q, Xing G X, *et al.* (2007). Assessment of nitrogen pollutant sources in surface waters of Taihu lake region. *Pedosphere* **17**(2), 200-208.
5. Julio S C, Rosa D (2005). Water pollution in the Spanish economy: analysis of sensitivity to production and environmental constraints. *Ecol Econom* **53**(3), 325-338.
6. Chen S Y, Wu Z M, Yu W B, *et al.* (1999). Formation, harmfulness, prevention, control and treatment of waters eutrophication. *Environ Sci Technol* **22**(2), 11-15.
7. Qi M W, Liu F J (2004). Ecological Impact and Countermeasures of Eutrophication of Urban Water Bodies. *Environ Sci Trends* **29**(1), 44-46.
8. Gray S R, Becker N S C (2002). Contaminant flows in urban residential water systems. *Urban Water* **4**(4), 331-346.
9. Shen J H, Gutendorf B, Vahal H H, *et al.* (2001). Toxicological profile of pollutants in surface water from an area in Taihu lake, Yangtze Delta. *Toxicology* **166**(1-2), 71-78.
10. Rodgers M, Healy M G, Mulqueen J (2005). Organic carbon removal and nitrification of high strength wastewaters using stratified sand filters. *Water Res* **39**(14), 3279-3286.
11. Tsuneda S, Ohno T, Soejima K, *et al.* (2006). Simultaneous nitrogen and phosphorus removal using denitrifying phosphate-accumulating organisms in a sequencing batch reactor. *Biochem Engin J* **27**(3), 191-196.
12. Rodgers M, Lambe A, Xiao L W (2006). Carbon and nitrogen removal using a novel horizontal flow biofilm system. *Proc Biochem* **41**(11), 2270-2275.
13. Compilers in State Environmental Protection Administration of China (2002). Detection and Analysis methods of Water &

<sup>1</sup>This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 30400346)

<sup>2</sup>Correspondence should be addressed to Lin WANG and Qi-Fang LUO. Tel: 86-27-83657954. E-mail: lwangtj@163.com and luoqifangtj@yahoo.com.cn

Biographical note of the first author: Lin WANG, female, born in 1969, Ph. D., associate professor, majoring in water environmental hygiene and environmental microorganism.

- Wastewater. 4th ed. Beijing: China Environment Science Press.
14. John G H, Noel R K, Peter H A S, *et al.* (1994). *Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology*. 9th ed. Williams & Wilkins, Lippincot.
  15. Dong X Z, Cai M Y (2001). *Systematic Determinative Manual of General Bacteria*. Beijing: Science Press.
  16. Wang L, Luo Q F, Zhao J H, *et al.* (2006). Preparation of seeding type immobilized microorganisms and their degradation characteristics on di-n-butyl phthalate. *Biomed Environ Sci* **19**(2), 147-152.
  17. Glockner F O, Zaichikov E, Belkova N, *et al.* (2000). Comparative 16S rRNA analysis of lake bacterioplankton reveals globally distributed phylogenetic clusters including an abundant group of Actinobacteria. *Appl Environ Microbiol* **66**(11), 5053-5065.
  18. Wu G F, Yu Z M, Wu J, *et al.* (2003). Community diversity of cultivable heterotrophic bacteria in West Lake, Hangzhou. *Biodivers Sci* **11**(6), 467-474.
  19. Raina M, Maier, Ian L, Pepper, Charles P, Gerba (2004). *Environmental Microbiology*. Beijing: Science Press.
  20. Foglar L, Briski F, Sipos L, *et al.* (2005). High nitrate removal from synthetic wastewater with the mixed bacterial culture. *Bioresour Technol* **96**(8), 879-888.
  21. Nair R R, Dhamole P B, Lele S S, *et al.* (2007). Biological denitrification of high strength nitrate waste using preadapted denitrifying sludge. *Chemosphere* **67**(8), 1612-1617.
  22. Liu Z N, Jin Q T, Zhou A N (2003). Wastewater treatment by adsorption. *Technol Water Treat* **29**(6), 318-322.
  23. Sarkar M, Acharya P K, Bhattacharya B (2003). Modeling the adsorption kinetics of some priority organic pollutants in water from diffusion and activation energy parameters. *J Colloid Interf Sci* **266**(1), 28-32.
  24. Zhao Y X, Ding M Y, Chen D P (2005). Adsorption properties of mesoporous silicas for organic pollutants in water. *Anal Chim Acta* **542**(2), 193-198.
  25. Matilainen A, Vieno N, Tuhkanen T (2006). Efficiency of the activated carbon filtration in the natural organic matter removal. *Environ Int* **32**(3), 324-331.
  26. Duan H Q, Koe L C C, Yan R, *et al.* (2006). Biological treatment of H<sub>2</sub>S using pellet activated carbon as a carrier of microorganisms in a biofilter. *Water Res* **40**(14), 2629-2636.
  27. Cohen Y (2001). Biofiltration - the treatment of fluids by microorganisms immobilized into the filter bedding material: a review. *Bioresour Technol* **77**(3), 257-274.
  28. Wang L, Luo Q F (2006). Biodegradation of dibutyl phthalate by diatomite adsorptive immobilized microorganism. *J Hyg Res* **35**(1), 23-25.
  29. Tsuji K, Asakawa M, Anzai Y, *et al.* (2006). Degradation of microcystins using immobilized microorganism isolated in an eutrophic lake. *Chemosphere* **65**(1), 117-124.
  30. Ionata E, De Blasio P, La Cara F (2005). Microbiological degradation of pentane by immobilized cells of *Arthrobacter* sp. *Biodegradation* **16**(1), 1-9.
  31. Annadurai G, Juang R S, Lee D J (2002). Biodegradation and adsorption of phenol using activated carbon immobilized with *Pseudomonas putida*. *J Environ Sci Health A Tox Hazard Subst Environ Eng* **37**(6), 1133-1146.
  32. Jiang H L, Tay J H, Tay S T (2004). Changes in structure, activity and metabolism of aerobic granules as a microbial response to high phenol loading. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* **63**(5), 602-608.
  33. Pan S, Tay J H, He Y X, *et al.* (2004). The effect of hydraulic retention time on the stability of aerobically grown microbial granules. *Lett Appl Microbiol* **38**(2), 158-163.
  34. Chen K C, Wu J Y, Huang C C, *et al.* (2003). Decolorization of azo dye using PVA-immobilized microorganisms. *J Biotechnol* **101**(3), 241-252.
  35. Carson D B, Heitkamp M A, Hallas L E (1997). Biodegradation of N-phosphonomethyliminodiacetic acid by microorganisms from industrial activated sludge. *Can J Microbio* **43**(1), 97-101.
  36. Rahman R N, Ghaza F M, Salleh A B, *et al.* (2006). Biodegradation of hydrocarbon contamination by immobilized bacterial cells. *J Microbiol* **44**(3), 354-359.
  37. Cohen Y (2001). Biofiltration--the treatment of fluids by microorganisms immobilized into the filter bedding material: a review. *Bioresour Technol* **77**(3), 257-274.

(Received June 13, 2007 Accepted November 21, 2007)