

Disinfection of *Salmonella typhi* by Titanium Dioxide Photocatalytic Oxidation

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Submission date: 14-Dec-2018 10:17AM (UTC+0700)

Submission ID: 1056809279

File name: lmonella_typhi_by_Titanium_Dioxide_Photocatalytic_Oxidation.docx (425.32K)

Word count: 1477

Character count: 8042

Disinfection of *Salmonella typhi* by Titanium Dioxide Photocatalytic Oxidation

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Abstract

When titanium dioxide (TiO_2) is irradiated with near UV light, this semiconductor exhibits hydroxyl radicals that have bactericidal activity. The aim of this research is to study the effect of photo catalytic oxidation by titanium dioxide to disinfection *Salmonella typhi*. Photo catalytic reactor was prepared from TiO_2 suspension (1%) in 200 mL aqueous suspension of *Salmonella typhi*. That solution was irradiated with UV A (black light). During treatment, the photo catalytic reactor was placed in LAF (Laminar Air Flow). The bacteria which resistant towards the treatment were counted using TPC (Total Plate Count) method. The kinetics of disinfection as a function of process variables including the incident light intensity, and initial cell concentration were investigated. The influence of rates on light intensity was investigated in the range of 100-300 Lux (light intensity from 1,2,3 UV black light @ 10 watt). UV irradiation 228 Lux for 180 minutes could disinfect *Salmonella typhi* (2×10^5 CFU/mL) up to 100%. Disinfection rate were found to be first order respect to initial cell concentration with k value: $3.78 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ det}^{-1}$ at 116 Lux, $1.268 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ det}^{-1}$ at 228 Lux, $2.134 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ det}^{-1}$ at 301 Lux. Disinfection rate increased proportionally with the increasing of light intensity at the observed condition. Photo catalytic oxidation by titanium dioxide could disinfect *Salmonella typhi*.

Keywords : photocatalytic disinfection, Titanium dioxide, *Salmonella typhi*

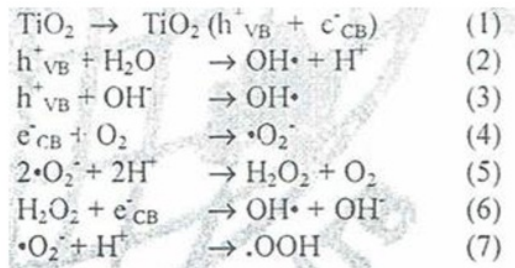
1. Introduction

The presence of microorganisms and the production of toxic products in the traditional process of chlorination for disinfection of potable water are considered serious problems. Alternatives to the chlorination method are being developed, mainly in an attempt to reduce the formation of trihalomethanes (THM) and any other product that presents a threat to human health.

During the past years, the advanced oxidation process (AOP) has been studied to determine its a viability. It is considered an oxidation process in which mainly hydroxyl radicals (OH) are generated, which have a greater oxidation potential and thus the ability to react with organic compounds and microorganisms.

When TiO_2 in the anatase crystal form absorbs light at a higher energy than its band gap (3.2 eV), the photon energy generates an electron hole pair on the TiO_2 surface. The hole in the valence band can react with H_2O or hydroxide ions adsorbed on the surface to produce hydroxyl radicals ($\text{OH}\cdot$), and the

electron in the conduction band can reduce O_2 to produce superoxide ions ($\cdot O_2^-$). Both holes and OH^\cdot are extremely reactive with contacting organic compounds. Detection of other reactive oxygen species (ROS), such as hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) and singlet oxygen, has also been reported. The detailed mechanism of the TiO_2 photochemical reaction and the various ROS reduced have been well-documented [1].



In 1985, Matsunaga et al. Reported that *E. Coli* in the water could be killed by contact with a TiO_2 -Pt catalyst upon illumination with near-UV light for 120 min [2]. The findings of Matsunaga et al. created a new avenue for sterilization and resulted in attempts to use this novel photocatalytic technology for disinfecting drinking water and removing bioaerosols from indoor air environments [3-6]. Because of the widespread use antibiotics and the emergence of more resistant and virulent strains of microorganisms, there is an immediate need to develop alternative sterilization technologies.

The fundamental mechanism underlying the photocatalytic killing process has not been well-established yet. The first mechanism proposed was the mechanism proposed by Matsunaga et al, who believed that direct photochemical oxidation of intracellular coenzyme A to its dimeric form was the root cause of decreases in respiratory activities that led to cell death [2,7]. They reported that the extent of killing was inversely proportional to the thickness and complexity of the cell wall. Saito and workers [5] proposed that the TiO_2 photochemical reaction caused disruption of the cell membrane and the cell wall of *Streptococcus sobrinus* AHT, as shown by leakage of intracellular K^+ ions that paralleled cell death. When irradiated TiO_2 particles are in direct contact with or close to microbes, the microbial surface is the primary target of the initial oxidative attack.

Salmonella typhi is a Gram-negative pathogen. It is important to conduct disinfection tests with it, because the microorganism produces endotoxin which cause disease. This study was carried out to demonstrate the TiO_2 biocidal ability against *Salmonella typhi*. The bacteria was disinfect and carefully monitored at different elapsed time, the bacteria concentration, and different UV intensity to optimize the photocatalysis of the biocidal reactions.

2. Experimental Method

2.1 Culture of Microorganisms

S. typhi strain NTCC 766 BCC 712 (Biofarma) was grown aerobically in nutrient broth (Oxoid) at 34°C 24 hr.

2.2 Reactor Construction and Operation

The irradiation source is UV lamp (Sankyo Denki® @ 10 watt, commonly referred as the black light lamp). The illuminating UV light was placed approximately 16 cm above the glass reaction vessel (Fig 1). The light intensity reaching the surface at the center of the glass reaction vessel determined by using a lux meter (JLL 10 Jeulin). The 200 mL total volume have *S. typhi* bacteria suspension and TiO₂ suspension (1%). The reactors were constantly stirred to provide good mixing. Bacterial cells were sampled in every 30 min for 4 hr. During treatment, the photocatalytic reactor was placed in LAF (*Laminar Air Flow*). The numbers of viable cells were determined by plating suspensions onto nutrient agar plates. The plates were incubated at 34°C for 24 hr, and then the numbers of colonies on the plates were counted. The kinetics of disinfection as a function of process variables including the incident light intensity, and initial cell concentration were investigated. The influence of rates on light intensity was investigated in the range of 100-300 Lux (light intensity from 1,2,3 UV black light @ 10 watt) Initial cell concentration was investigated ranging from 1×10^3 - 3×10^6 CFU/mL.

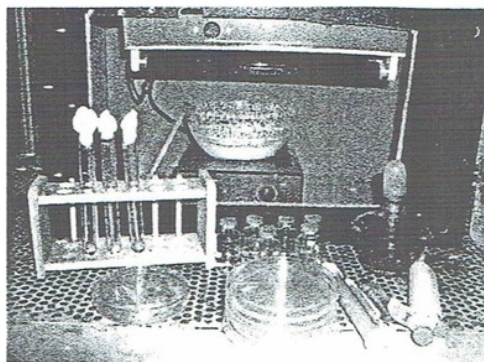


Figure 1 Experiment apparatus for photocatalytic reaction

3. Results and Discussion

The photoreactor employed in batch process was designed for the mixture of cells and TiO₂ to contact continuously. The inactivation of cells was evaluated by counting the viable cells with regular sampling. Photocatalysis TiO₂ with UV irradiation 228 Lux for 180 minutes could disinfect *Salmonella typhi* (initial concentration 2×10^5 CFU/mL) up to 100% (Fig. 2).

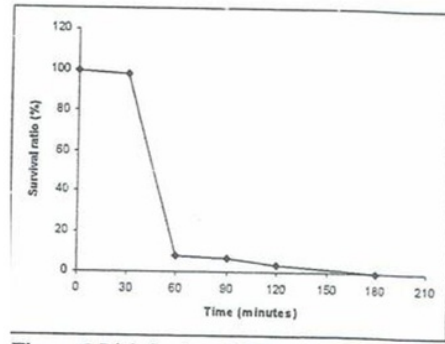


Figure 2 Disinfection of *Salmonella typhi* over 180 minutes by Titanium Dioxide Photocatalytic oxidation with UV irradiation 228 Lux

The kinetics of disinfection were investigated as a function of the incident light intensity and initial cell concentration. Disinfection rate as a function of initial cell concentration is given by:

$$r_i = kC_i^n \quad (8)$$

Where r_i is the initial reaction rate, C_i is the initial cell concentration, n is the reaction order, and k is the reaction rate constant. The above equation upon log transformation can be re-written as:

$$\log r_i = \log k + n \log c_i \quad (9)$$

Consequently, a plot of $\log C_i$ vs r_i should be linear, with slope of n and an intercept of $\log k$. And then, k and n can be calculated. Disinfection rate were found to be first order with respect to initial cell concentration, with k value: $3.78 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ sec}^{-1}$ at 116 Lux, $1.268 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ sec}^{-1}$ at 228 Lux, and $2.134 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ sec}^{-1}$ at 301 Lux (Fig 3.)

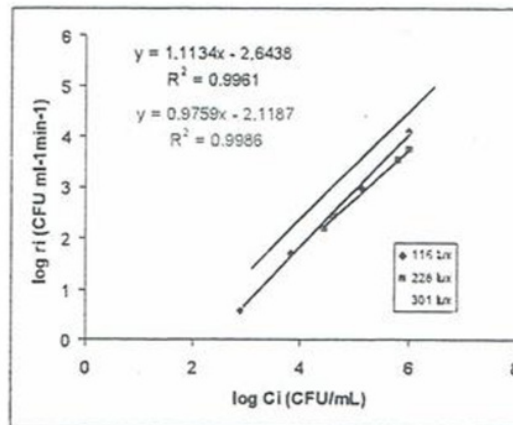


Figure 3 Effect of Initial cell concentration on the initial disinfection rate

The kinetics of disinfection as a function of the incident light intensity was investigated. The influence of rates on light intensity was investigated in the range of 100-300 Lux (light intensity from 1,2,3 UV black light @ 10 watt). As demonstrated in the Fig 4, disinfection rate increased proportionally with the increasing of light intensity at the observed condition.

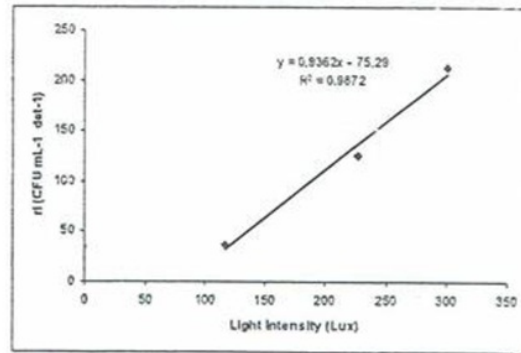


Figure 4 The influence light intensity on the initial disinfection rate
($C_1 = 1 \times 10^6$ CFU/mL)

4. Conclusions

The obtained data have demonstrated TiO_2 's ability to disinfect microorganisms pathogen *Salmonella typhi*. It was also apparent that the efficiency of the inactivation increase with the increase of UV intensity at the observed condition, disinfection rate were found to be first order with respect to initial cell.

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Acknowledgment

This work was supported by the Unggulan Research at the LPPM-UMP.

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