



Review Paper

Recent Biological Technologies for Textile Effluent Treatment

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Abstract

Development and industrialization are two parallel wheels for any country because industrialization plays very important role in the economy of the nation. Textile industries plays important role in human civilization by providing cloths. Many environmental issues are associated with effluent of textile industries. Various biological technologies are available for treatment of effluent of textile industries; here we have reviewed various biological technologies available including aerobic treatment, anaerobic treatment and combined technologies.

Keywords: Decolorization, dye, textile effluent, aerobic treatment, anaerobic treatment, Bacteria, fungi.

Introduction

Industrialization is vital to a nation's financial system because it serves as a vehicle for progress. First an agricultural industry is established to feed the people¹. Next to the food, the 'cloth' is second basic need of man which is supplied by processing of natural and synthetic fibers in the industries called "Textile". Textiles are among the basic needs of human being. The textile industry is one of the most complicated industries among manufacturing industry. Increased population and modernized civilization trend gave rise to blooming of textile sector. Textile industry is one of the many industries that discharge large quantities of wastewater rich in different types of pollutants². Wastewater generated from the textile industries may contain a variety of polluting substances, such as acids, heavy metals, bases, toxic organic and inorganic dissolved solids, and colors. Colors are considered the most undesirable substance and are mainly due to the various dyes^{3,4}. Dyes are released in nature from textile industries and dye manufacturing plants⁵. The conventional textile finishing industry requires nearly about 100 l of water to process about 1 kg of textile materials⁶. Dyeing and printing process consume relatively largest amount of water during textile processes⁷. Wastewater from printing and dyeing units is often rich in organic compounds, colors and heavy metal^{8,9}, containing residues of various dyes and chemicals, and toxic to microorganism and fishes hence requires proper treatment before being released into the environment¹⁰. Environmental pollution is one of the major and most important problems of the modern world¹¹. The biological treatment has many advantages over physical or chemical methods. There is a possibility of biological degradation of dye molecules to CO₂ and H₂O and significantly less amount of sludge formation take place¹². The capability of biological treatment process for decolorization of industrial effluents is ambiguous, different and divergent. The application of microorganisms for the biodegradation of synthetic dyes is an attractive and simple method by operation. The treatment based on using

microorganisms are cable to decolorizing/degrading these recalcitrant compound are environmental friendly and can lead to mineralization of the target compounds¹³. For removal of the bulk of toxic pollutants from complex and high-strength organic wastewater, biological treatment (aerobic or anaerobic) is usually believed to be the most effective mean¹⁴. Also, microorganisms are known to play an important role in the mineralization of biopolymers and recalcitrant xenobiotic compounds. Biological process of removal of the dyes from textile and dyestuff manufacturing industry can be broadly classified into three categories: aerobic treatment, anaerobic treatment, and combined anaerobic-aerobic treatment¹⁵.

Aerobic Treatment

Biological treatment using activated sludge in aerobic condition is one of regularly used treatment methods for textile dyeing effluent¹⁶. Stabilization ponds, aerated lagoons, or percolating filters are widely applied in aerobic treatment. In aerobic treatment, dissolved oxygen is utilized by microorganism and finally, wastes are converted into more biomass and carbon dioxide. Organic matter is partially oxidized and some of the energy produced is used for generating new living cells under the formation of flocs. After the flocs has been settled down, are removed as sludge¹⁷.

The results of various researcher showed that the dyestuffs were not showing any considerable biodegradation under aerobic conditions. However, research is still continued to isolate aerobic microorganisms capable of degrading dyes and dye related compounds. Bacteria and fungi are the two microorganism groups that have been most widely studied for their capability to remediate textile and dye wastewaters¹⁵.

Treatment by Fungi

In nature, most efficient class of microorganisms in degrading synthetic dyes is the white-rot fungi (WRF). WRF are a class of

microorganisms that produce efficient enzymes capable of decomposing dyes under aerobic conditions¹¹.

Lignin modifying enzymes (LME) from WRF, including Manganese Peroxidase (MnP), Lignin Peroxidase (LiP) and laccases, are directly involved in the degradation of not only lignin in their natural lignocellulosic substrates but also various recalcitrant xenobiotic compounds including dyes¹². Peroxidases and laccases of WRF are oxidative enzymes, which do not need any other cellular components to work.

Phanerochaete chrysosporium, lignin-degrading white rot fungus, was studied widely during the last decade due to its capability to degrade many recalcitrant pollutants including chlorophenols, nitrotoluenes, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Additionally, it is also established that it is able to decolorize a wide range of dyes. *Phanerochaete chrysosporium* was reported to be able to decolorize various azo dyes, orange II, Congo red, and tropaeolin O, under aerobic conditions^{5,15,18-27}.

It has been assumed that in the decolorization process of dye, various extracellular peroxidases (lignin peroxidase and Mn-dependent peroxidase)²⁸⁻³⁰ or laccases are involved. The data further indicated that the high decomposition rate of dyes can be achieved only by careful selection of the fungi and cultural conditions³¹.

The detailed record of fungi known to degrade the various types of dyes is long: amongst others, various *Trametes* sp.³², *Trametes versicolor*³³⁻⁴⁰, *Irpex lacteus*^{41,42}, *Pleurotus ostreatus*^{43,44}, *Pycnoporus sanguineus*⁴⁵⁻⁴⁷, *Pycnoporus cinnabarinus*, *Phlebia tremellosa*, *Ischnoderma resinum*⁴⁸, *Funalia trogii*⁴⁹, *Aspergillus flavus*^{50, 51}, *Aspergillus fumigatus*⁵¹, *Aspergillus sulphureus*⁵², *Alternaria solani*⁵³, *Aspergillus niger*^{54,55}, *Geotrichum candidum*, or *Neurospora crassa*, and *Phanerochaete chrysosporium* seem to be the most extensively investigated fungi for dye decolorization working on dyes of all classes. The genus of *Penicillium* has been shown to degrade various polymeric dyes^{56,57,58}. *Trametes versicolor*, *Pleurotus ostreatus*, *Phanerochaete chrysosporium*, *Piptoporus betulinus*, *Laetiporus sulphureus* and several *Cyathus* species have been described in literature to degrade triphenylmethane dyes¹⁷.

Treatment by Bacteria

Bacterial decolorization is usually faster as compare to fungal decolorization^{11,59}. Numerous bacteria capable to degrade dyes have been reported. Efforts to isolate bacterial cultures capable of degrading azo dyes started in the 1970s with reports of a *Bacillus subtilis*, then *Aeromonas hydrophila*, followed by a *Bacillus cereus*⁶⁰. Recent reports have demonstrated that some bacterial strains can mineralize various dyes under aerobic conditions¹⁵. Some researcher have been also applied Sulphate reducing bacteria for degradation of dyes^{61,62}. Ganesh Parshetti *et al.* 2009 had applied *Rhizobium radiobacter* for the biodegradation of triphenylmethane dye.

During the past few years, many bacterial strains have been isolated that can aerobically decolorize azo dyes. Many of these strains require organic carbon sources, as they cannot utilize dye as the growth substrate^{63,64}. Many bacterial strains are reported as dye decolorizer or dye degrader like *Bacillus megaterium*⁶⁵, *Alcaligenes faecalis* 6132 and *Rhodococcus erythropolis* 24⁶⁶, *Bacillus licheniformis* LS04⁶⁷, *Rahnella aquatilis*⁶⁸, *Acinetobacter guillouiae*⁶⁸, *Microvirgula aerodenitrificans*⁶⁸, *Pseudomonas desmolyticum* NCIM 2112²⁹,

Anaerobic treatment

There are many reports are available in recent past that under aerobic condition dye decolorization is achieved successfully but the general observation of non-biodegradability of most azo dyes in conventional aerobic condition still persists. On the other hand, the potential of anaerobic microorganisms to decolorize dyes is well documented and established¹⁵. By using sludge, anaerobic reduction of azo dyes can be an effective and economic treatment process for removing color from textile wastewater¹². The efficacy of various anaerobic treatment applications for the degradation of a wide variety of synthetic dyes has been many times demonstrated³¹. The investigations on anaerobic decolorization of azo dyes were started way back in the early 1970s. Several laboratories reported decolorization of azo dyes using intestinal anaerobic bacteria. The potential of intestinal anaerobes to decolorize azo dyes was further established by many other researchers¹⁵. Anaerobic bioremediation allows azo and other water-soluble dyes to be decolorized. This decolorization involves an oxidation-reduction reaction with hydrogen rather than free molecular oxygen aerobic system⁶⁰. Anaerobic bioremediation of azo and other soluble dyes to undergo decolorization by breaking them into corresponding amines has been widely researched. Primary degradation and decolorization of dyes with azo-based chromophores can be achieved by the reduction of the azo bond. This can be done by using strong reducing agents such as sodium hydrosulphite, thiourea dioxide, sodium formaldehyde sulphoxylate and sodium borohydride. Reduction of the azo bond can also be achieved under the reducing conditions prevailing in anaerobic bioreactors. The amines produced by the reduction of the azo dyes are colorless but they are very resistant to further degradation under anaerobic conditions⁶⁹.

Many anaerobic (e.g. *Bacteroides* sp., *Eubacterium* sp., and *Clostridium* sp.) and facultative anaerobic (e.g. *Proteus vulgaris* and *Streptococcus faecalis*) bacteria can decolorize various azo dyes under anaerobic conditions via reduction of the azo bond¹⁷. The exact mechanism of azo dye reduction is not clearly understood yet. The different mechanisms may be involved like enzymatic, non-enzymatic, mediated, intracellular, extracellular and various combinations of these mechanisms⁷⁰. Many authors have been reported that anaerobic condition using following organisms seems to be effective: *Shewanella oneidensis* MR-1⁷¹, *Bacteroides* sp., *Eubacterium* sp., and *Clostridium* sp. Under anaerobic condition azo dyes are degraded and converted into aromatic amines, which may be toxic, mutagenic, and

possibly carcinogenic to mammals. Therefore, to achieve complete degradation of azo dyes, another stage that involves aerobic biodegradation of the produced aromatic amines is necessary^{72,73}. This anaerobic reduction implies decolorization as the azo dyes are converted to usually colorless but potentially harmful aromatic amines. Aromatic amines are normally not further degraded under anaerobic conditions. Anaerobic treatment must therefore be considered merely as the first stage of the complete degradation of azo dyes. The second stage involves conversion of the produced aromatic amines under aerobic condition. For several aromatic amines, this can be achieved by biodegradation under aerobic conditions. Combined anaerobic and aerobic bacterial biodegradation of azo dyes, as well as its applications in wastewater treatment processes⁷⁴.

Combined Anaerobic / Aerobic Reactions

The common observation that has emerged over the years is that most dyes are generally recalcitrant to aerobic degradation but can be reductively decolorized under anaerobic conditions^{15,75}. The azo dyes are toxic, and also become harmful to the environment by the formation of aromatic amines, which are carcinogenic and/or mutagenic, when degraded in anaerobic condition¹⁸. Azo dyes are usually degraded under anaerobic conditions by bacteria to colorless toxic aromatic amines, of which some are readily metabolized under aerobic conditions¹¹.

Usually, bacterial biodegradation of azo dye is carried out in two separate stages. The first stage involves reductive cleavage of the dyes' azo linkages, resulting in the formation of generally colorless aromatic amines. The second stage involves aerobic degradation of the aromatic amines. Reduction of azo dye usually proceeds under anaerobic conditions, whereas bacterial biodegradation of aromatic amines is an almost exclusively aerobic process⁷⁶. A wastewater treatment process in which anaerobic and aerobic conditions are combined is therefore the most logical concept for removing azo dyes from wastewater⁷⁵. The mineralization of azo dyes requires integrated or sequential anaerobic and aerobic step⁷⁷. Sequential microaerophilic/aerobic reactors using *Staphylococcus arlettae* was also applied for biodegradation of various dyes^{78,79}.

Conclusion

Over the last three decades, much research has been focused on dye decolorization and degradation. These approaches show that global communities are much aware about the environmental pollution created by dyes. Over a long period of time it is clear that dye are not easy to degrade. Many biological technologies are available which can degrade the dye. But, due to complex nature of textile effluent, these technologies are failed to be implemented. So, research should be focused on dye degradation in complex condition. Out of many biological technologies investigated combined biological technologies show good results. Future technologies involving enzymatic reaction should be investigated. Potential of different group of microbes for degrading dyes can be investigated deeply and

science of bioremediation should be applied in textile wastewater treatment.

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