Reduction of COD and TSS of waste effluents from a sugar industry through the use of air micro-nanobubbles

Milagros Leyva\textsuperscript{a}, Jhonny Valverde Flores\textsuperscript{a, b, *}

\textsuperscript{a}Department of Environmental engineering, University Cesar Vallejo – Lima Norte, C.P. 15314, Lima 39, Peru.
\textsuperscript{b}Institute of Nanotechnology, Centre of Research and Training to the Regional Development (CINCADER). Lima 39, Peru.
\texttt{jhoval1@yahoo.es}

Abstract

The sugar industry uses large volumes of water for its production process. The discharge of effluents is one of the main problems that affects mainly rivers, seas, resulting in the high level of pollution that captures plant and aquatic life. The objective of this research is to reduce the concentration of Chemical Oxygen Demand and Total Suspended Solids by treating air nanobubbles. The experiment was carried out with a sample of sugar process effluent having as the initial concentration value of the Chemical Oxygen Demand of 412.15 mg O\textsubscript{2}/L and Total Suspended Solids of 620 mg SST/L. After treating the water in a time of 90 minutes, the demand of oxygen in the effluent was 66.13 mg O\textsubscript{2}/L and total suspended solids 131 mg SST/L, improving water quality as well as for reuse for another type of use.

Keywords: Chemical Oxygen Demand, Total Suspended Solids, residual effluent, micronano bubbles, air.

1. Introduction

In recent years, the industrial development in our country has increased, generating the greater demand for production, and consumption of water resources for the products process and derivatives. However, the effluents growth of Industries generates a potential environmental damage, taking into account that 70\% of waste residues and toxic substances generated in
production are discharged directly into the sea, river or other receiving body without any prior treatment generating a negative impact.

The wastewater of the sugar industry from each stage is discharged or discharged many times into receiving bodies, causing significant damage for the aquatic ecosystem, as well as alterations of flora and fauna. Therefore, it is necessary to treat in order to reduce the environmental impact.

The environmental nanotechnology is a technological discipline which study properties of natural and manmade nanomaterials, applications, techniques for their characterization, integration processes and transformation into ecosystems. The Microbubbles (MBs) have diameter more than 100 μm, the micro-nanobubbles (MNBs) have diameter between 1 to 100 μm and the nanobubbles (NBs) have diameter less than 1 μm within the fluid field (Valverde, 2016). The micro-nanobubbles generation technology in water is applied in: sea water, water bodies, groundwater, domestic wastewater and industrial wastewater (Valverde, 2017).

2. Materials and Methods

This is an applied research. The population is the effluents volume of the company that generates in its production 743 m³/h. The sample was 60 liters of effluent that are discharged directly into the sea. Three different times were taken (30 minutes, 60 minutes and 90 minutes).

The steps of the investigation were:

Step 1: Initial sampling

In this step, the sample point was identified from the waste effluent that is discharged directly to the sea. The polyethylene recipients with volume of 1L of sample were used for Total Suspended Solids and recipients with volume of 200 mL of sample were used for COD. Then recipients were labeled and subsequently placed in a cooler.

![Figure 1. Initial Sample](image)

In figure 1, the canal is observed through which the residual effluent passes.

The field analysis of the parameters is carried out: Temperature (°C), Hydrogen potential (pH), Electrical conductivity (EC).

Step 2: Treatment with air micro-nanobubbles

For the treatment of the effluents, a single sampling point was carried out, which were carried in three hermetic containers with a capacity of 20 L each one, and then they were transferred to the
laboratory. Then it was used the micro-nanobubble generating equipment patented by PhD. Jhonny Valverde Flores to carry out the wastewater treatment in three different times (30 minutes, 60 minutes and 90 minutes).

Figure 2. Presentation of the micro-nano bubble generating equipment. Where, A: water tank, B: pump, C: flowmeter, D: air generator, E: pressure valve, F: pressure manometer, G: valve (general), H: MNBS generator, I: wastewater with air MNBs.

The micro-nanobubbles were characterized, obtaining the following results:
• Average diameter of the micro-nanobubbles: 2.75 μm
• Ascent velocity of the micronanobubbles:
  \[ V_{30} = 6.324 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m/s (in 30 minutes)} \]
  \[ V_{60} = 4.642 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m/s (in 60 minutes)} \]
  \[ V_{90} = 4.089 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m/s (in 90 minutes)} \]
• Internal pressure of the micro-nanobubbles: 1.046 atm (at 90 minutes)

3. Results

Initial analysis of the residual water sample
In this step, the initial analysis of the residual water sample was performed, obtaining the result in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Initial Analysis</th>
<th>Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Oxygen Demand</td>
<td>412.15</td>
<td>mgO2 / L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Suspended Solids</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>mgTSS / L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph</td>
<td>8.92</td>
<td>Unidad de pH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Conductivity</td>
<td>1041</td>
<td>uS/cm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Analysis after treatment with air micro-nanobubbles
After having carried out the treatment, each parameter was analyzed.

In Table 2, it is observed that the initial pH sample was 8.92, after 30 minutes the average pH was 6.68, after 60 minutes the average pH was 6.78 and after 90 minutes the average pH was 6.43.
Table 2. pH results after treatment with air micronanobubbles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (minutes)</th>
<th>Initial pH</th>
<th>R1</th>
<th>R2</th>
<th>R3</th>
<th>Average pH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>8.92</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.68</td>
<td>6.65</td>
<td>6.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>8.92</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>6.63</td>
<td>6.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>8.92</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.45</td>
<td>6.34</td>
<td>6.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where:
R1, R2 and R3 = Repetition

Table 3 shows that the initial temperature was 23.1 °C, after 30 minutes and 60 minutes the average temperature was 23.1 °C, and after 90 minutes the average temperature was 22.8 °C.

Table 3. Temperature results after the treatment of air micronanobubbles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (minutes)</th>
<th>Initial Temperature (°C)</th>
<th>R1 (°C)</th>
<th>R2 (°C)</th>
<th>R3 (°C)</th>
<th>Average Temperature (°C)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>23.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>23.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>22.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where:
R1, R2 and R3 = Repetition

In Table 4, it is observed that the initial electrical conductivity was 1041 μS/cm, after 30 minutes the EC was 746.33 μS/cm, 60 minutes the EC was 738.67 μS/cm, and 90 minutes the EC was 655 μS/cm.

Table 4. Results of Electrical Conductivity after the treatment of air micronanobubbles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (minutes)</th>
<th>Initial EC (μS/cm)</th>
<th>R1 (μS/cm)</th>
<th>R2 (μS/cm)</th>
<th>R3 (μS/cm)</th>
<th>Average EC (μS/cm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>1041</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>746.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>1041</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>738.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>1041</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>655</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where:
R1, R2 and R3 = Repetition
Percentage of COD reduction due to the treatment of air micro-nanobubbles

\[ E = \left( \frac{1 - \text{DQO mgO}_2/L \ (\text{Treatment})}{\text{DQO mgO}_2/L \ (\text{without Treatment})} \right) \times 100 \]

For 30 minutes

\[ R\% = \left( \frac{1 - 76.97 \text{mgO}_2/L}{412.15 \text{mgO}_2/L} \times 100 \right) = 81\% \]

It is concluded that the reduction of Chemical Oxygen Demand through the air micro-nanobubbles treatment in time of 30 minutes is 81%. The same steps are taken to determine the percentage of COD reduction in 60 minutes and COD in 90 minutes.

In Table 5, it is observed that the initial COD was 412.15 mg O\(_2\)/L, after 30 minutes it was 76.97 mg O\(_2\)/L obtaining an 81% reduction, after 60 minutes the COD was 74.33 mg O\(_2\)/L, obtaining 82% of reduction, after 90 minutes the COD was 66.13 mg O\(_2\)/L, obtaining an 84% of reduction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (minutes)</th>
<th>Initial COD (mg O(_2)/L)</th>
<th>R1 (mg O(_2)/L)</th>
<th>R2 (mg O(_2)/L)</th>
<th>R3 (mg O(_2)/L)</th>
<th>Average COD (mg O(_2)/L)</th>
<th>% Reduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>412.15</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>76.8</td>
<td>76.6</td>
<td>76.97</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>412.15</td>
<td>75.5</td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td>72.7</td>
<td>74.33</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>412.15</td>
<td>67.7</td>
<td>66.2</td>
<td>64.5</td>
<td>66.13</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where:

R1, R2 and R3 = Repetition

Percentage of TSS reduction due to the treatment of air micro-nanobubbles

\[ R\% = \left( \frac{1 - \text{TSS mgO}_2/L \ (\text{Treatment})}{\text{TSS mgO}_2/L \ (\text{without Treatment})} \right) \times 100 \]

For 30 minutes

\[ R\% = \left( \frac{1 - 457.17 \text{mg TSS/L}}{620 \text{ mg TSS/L}} \times 100 \right) = 26\% \]

It is concluded that the reduction of the TSS by means of the air micro-nanobubbles treatment in the time of 30 minutes is 26%. The same steps are taken to determine the percentage reduction of TSS in 60 minutes and TSS in 90 minutes.

In Table 6, it is observed that the initial sample of the TSS was 620 mg TSS/L, after 30 minutes it was 457.17 mg TSS/L obtaining a 26% reduction of the TSS, after 60 minutes it was 193.00 mg TSS/L, obtaining a 69% reduction of the TSS, and after 90 minutes it was 131.3 mg TSS/L, obtaining a 79% reduction of the TSS.
Table 6. Results of the TSS after the treatment of air micronanobubbles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (minutes)</th>
<th>Initial TSS (mg TSS/L)</th>
<th>R1 (mg TSS/L)</th>
<th>R2 (mg TSS/L)</th>
<th>R3 (mg TSS/L)</th>
<th>Average TSS (mg TSS/L)</th>
<th>% Reduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>625.5</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>457.17</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>190.5</td>
<td>173.5</td>
<td>193.00</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>131.3</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where: R1, R2 and R3 = Repetition

4. Conclusions

- After having carried out the treatment with air micro-nanobubbles in the industrial effluents, the physical parameters decreased pH (from 8.92 to 6.68), the temperature was maintained at 23 °C, the electrical conductivity decreased (from 1041 μS/cm to 746 μS/cm).
- The highest percentage of reduction of the Chemical Oxygen Demand at 90 minutes was 85% (from 412.15 mg O₂/L to 66.13 mg O₂/L).
- The highest percentage reduction of Total Suspended Solids at 90 minutes was 79% (from 620 mg TSS/L to 131.3 mg TSS/L).

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References


