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Effects of operational models (batch, continuous and CFID modes) on the performance of a single A2O airlift bioreactor for treatment of milk processing wastewater

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Highlights:

- The effect of operational models on CNP removal of ALR was investigated
- The performance of ALR and STR for CNP removal was compared
- The effect of inlet positions on the performance of CFID-ALR was assessed.
- PCR test to detect Candidate Accumulibactor was performed.

Abstract

This study surveys the effect of different operational models, batch, continuous, and continuous feeding with intermittent discharge (CFID), on the performance of an air lift reactor (ALR) and a stirred tank reactor (STR) in terms of simultaneous removal of CNP from milk processing wastewater. The experimental data were recorded under similar operating conditions with HRT of 10 h, air flow rate of 2 l/min, and biomass concentration of 5-6 g/l. The obtained results indicated that the CFID mode was a promising regime which ensured the occurrence of anaerobic, anoxic, and aerobic conditions in the air lift bioreactor. This gave favorable conditions for simultaneous COD and nutrient removal processes in one compartment. At the optimum condition obtained, 170 mg/l (79 %) of total nitrogen (TN) and 25 mg/l (63 %) phosphorus (TP) were removed in the CFID-ALR, while, batch and continuous operational conditions did not create anaerobic and

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