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Fouling reduction by UV-based pretreatment in hollow fiber ultrafiltration membranes for urban wastewater reuse

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ABSTRACT

Effluent organic matter (EfOM) is the major cause of fouling in low pressure membranes processes for wastewater reuse. UV light and UV/H₂O₂ have been applied as pretreatment to control the fouling in ultrafiltration membranes. The results show that both pretreatments decreased 30-44 % the transmembrane pressure (TMP), and consequently the membrane fouling. The removal of dissolved organic carbon (DOC) by the membrane was improved by 31 % in the case of UV/H₂O₂ pretreatment. The turbidity removal was improved more than 30 % when both UV-based pretreatments were used. The removal of SUVA, which it is a measurement of the aromaticity of the EfOM, correlated well with the maximum TMP reached so, the reduction of SUVA can be an indicator of the membrane fouling reduction in order to assess other pretreatments. The application of these pretreatments can represents important savings in the operational costs related with the membrane cleaning procedures and maintenance. So, the application of UV-based pretreatments seems to be a promising technique to reduce the membrane fouling and to increase the water quality for water reuse applications.

Keywords:

water reuse, UV, UV/H₂O₂, fouling, ultrafiltration, water reclamation

1. Introduction

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