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Treatment of Domestic Sewage with Anoxic/oxic Membrane-less Microbial Fuel Cell with Intermittent Aeration

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Abstract: An anoxic/oxic microbial fuel cell (MFC) reactorwas applied to treat domestic sewage with intermittent aeration at cathodic chamber. The MFC yielded maximum power density of 2.05 W/m³ at current density 6.05 A/m³,91.7 \pm 0.3%, and the chemical oxygen demand (COD) and 98.2 \pm 0.3% ammonia-nitrogen (NH₃-N) removals could be reached with most of the hydrophilic (HPI), hydrophobic acid (HPO-A), transphilic acid (TPI-A) of the former being consumed with minimal residual aromatics and the most of NH₃-N being converted to N₂. When the circuit was opened, the COD removal was dropped to81.1 \pm 0.6% and NH₃-N to 80.4 \pm 0.9% with most of the HPI, TPI-A and hydrophobic neutral (HPO-N) fractions of the former being consumed with excess aromatic residue and 60% of the latter being converted to NO₂⁻-N or NO₃⁻-N in effluent. Bioelectrochemical reactions in the tested MFC enhance COD and NH₃-N removals from domestic sewage.

Keywords: Domestic sewage, dissolved organic matters, removal, ammonium-nitrogen.

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