

## Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0960-8524(15)00405-8  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2015.03.073>  
Reference: BITE 14763

To appear in: *Bioresource Technology*

Received Date: 23 January 2015  
Revised Date: 13 March 2015  
Accepted Date: 14 March 2015



Please cite this article as: Sánchez Guillén, J.A., Cuéllar Guardado, P.R., Lopez Vazquez, C.M., de Oliveira Cruz, L.M., Brdjanovic, D., van Lier, J.B., Anammox cultivation in a closed sponge-bed trickling filter, *Bioresource Technology* (2015), doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2015.03.073>

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## Anammox cultivation in a closed sponge-bed trickling filter

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### Abstract

A feasibility study was carried out to assess the cultivation of Anammox bacteria in lab-scale closed sponge-bed trickling filter (CSTF) reactors, namely: CSTF-1 at 20 °C and CSTF-2 at 30 °C. Stable conditions were reached from day 66 in CSTF-2 and from day 104 in CSTF-1. The early stability of CSTF-2 is attributable to the influence of temperature; nevertheless, by day 405, the nitrogen removal performed by CSTF-1 increased up to similar values of CSTF-2. The maximum total nitrogen removal efficiency was 82% in CSTF-1 and 84% in CSTF-2. After more than 400 days of operation, CSTF-1 and CSTF-2 were capable to attain a total nitrogen removal efficiency of 74±5% and 78±4% with a total nitrogen conversion rate of 1.52 and 1.60 kg-N/m<sup>3</sup> sponge·d, respectively. The proposed technology

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