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#### ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

# Removal of azo dye using Fenton and Fenton-like processes: evaluation of process factors by Box-Behnken design and ecotoxicity tests

Neemias Cintra Fernandes<sup>a, b</sup>, Lara Barroso Brito<sup>c</sup>, Gessyca Gonçalves Costa<sup>c</sup>, Stephânia Fleury Taveira<sup>a</sup>, Marcílio Sérgio Soares Cunha–Filho<sup>d</sup>, Gisele Augusto Rodrigues Oliveira<sup>c, e</sup>, Ricardo Neves Marreto<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Laboratory of Nanosystems and Drug Delivery Systems (NanoSYS), Faculty of Pharmacy, Universidade Federal de Goiás - UFG, Goiânia, GO, Brazil

<sup>b</sup>Department of Chemistry, Instituto Federal de Tecnologia, Goiânia, GO, Brazil

<sup>c</sup>Laboratory in Alternative Methods, Faculty of Pharmacy, Universidade Federal de Goiás - UFG, Goiânia, GO, Brazil

<sup>d</sup>Laboratory of Food, Drugs and Cosmetics (LTMAC), University of Brasília (UnB), Brasília, DF, Brazil

<sup>e</sup>National Institute of Science and Technology for Detection, Toxicological Evaluation and Removal of Emerging and Radioactive Contaminants (INCT-DATREM), Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Cientifico e Tecnologico (CNPq), Brasília, Brazil.

\*Correspondence: Prof. Ricardo Neves Marreto. E-mail: ricardomarreto@ufg.br Tel/fax: +55 62 3209-6037.

**Keywords**: Textile dye; Fenton; Acute toxicity; Phytotoxicity; Artemia salina; Zebrafish

#### **Abstract**

The conventional treatment of textile effluents is usually inefficient in removing azo dyes and can even generate more toxic products than the original dyes. The aim of the present study was to optimize the process factors in the degradation of Disperse Red 343 by Fenton and Fenton-like processes, as well as to investigate the ecotoxicity of the samples treated under optimized conditions. A Box–Behnken design integrated with the desirability function was used to optimize dye degradation, the amount of residual H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2residual</sub>], and the ecotoxicity of the treated samples (lettuce seed, *Artemia salina*, and zebrafish in their early-life stages). Dye degradation was affected only by catalyst concentration [Fe] in both the Fenton and Fenton-like processes. In the Fenton reaction, [H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2residual</sub>] was significantly affected by initial [H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>] and its interaction with [Fe]; however, in the Fenton-like reaction, it was affected by initial [H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>] only. *A. salina* mortality was

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