

## Minimizing the interference of carbonate ions on degradation of SRF3B dye by Fe<sup>0</sup>-aggregate-activated persulfate process

Na Liu<sup>2</sup>, Feng Ding<sup>3</sup>, Chih-Huang Weng<sup>3</sup>, Chi-Chin Hwang<sup>4</sup>, \*Yao-Tung Lin<sup>1</sup>

1. National Chung Hsing University, 2. Jilin University, 3. I-Shou University, 4. National University of Tainan

Carbonate ions in wastewater can interfere with the reactions in advanced oxidation processes. In the present study, the effects of carbonate ions on the degradation of a polyazo direct dye, the Sirius® Red F3B (SRF3B), using persulfate (PS) oxidation catalyzed by Fe<sup>0</sup> aggregates (PS/Fe<sup>0</sup>) was investigated. Results of this study indicated that the oxidation power of the PS/Fe<sup>0</sup> process was inhibited in the dye solutions containing carbonates, and the efficiency of SRF3B decolorization decreased with increasing concentration of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. A short period of ultrasound (US) irradiation can significantly enhance the destruction of dye molecules. Complete decolorization of a 25 mg/L SRF3B solution containing 1 × 10<sup>-3</sup> M carbonate, 5 × 10<sup>-3</sup> M PS, and 1.5 g/L Fe<sup>0</sup> was achieved within 5 min in a PS/Fe<sup>0</sup>/US system augmented with 5 min of US irradiation (60 kHz, 106 W/cm<sup>2</sup>). The operating cost to complete removal of the dye was estimated at 2.79 USD/m<sup>3</sup>. Higher PS dosage and US power further minimized the interference from carbonate ions. A two-step reaction model, including a slow surface heterogeneous and a fast homogeneous aqueous reactions was proposed for the system. The presence of Fe<sup>2+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup> ions identified using X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy, suggests a direct oxidation of the dye on the surface of the Fe<sup>0</sup> aggregates.

Keywords: Carbonate ions, Dye, Persulfate, Ultrasound, Zero-valent iron aggregates