

# **A review on the present situation of wastewater treatment in textile industry with membrane bioreactor and moving bed biofilm reactor**

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**Abstract:**

Membrane bioreactor (MBR) is one of the advanced treatment technologies used in industrial wastewater treatment due to its various advantages over conventional biological processes. Recently, the application of MBR in treatment of textile wastewater has increased significantly with an effective removal of contaminants. Moving bed bioreactor (MBBR) has been efficiently used for the treatment of different municipal and industrial wastewater during the last decades and it is a relatively novel and effective technology applied for textile wastewater treatment. This review paper presents the situation of MBR and MBBR technology for textile wastewater purification under different conditions and collates results of previous studies during the past years about MBR and MBBR treatment technologies used in textile processes. Both of these two technologies have shown their efficiency but they still have problems in textile wastewater treatment. To this end, MBR-MBBR hybrid system could be an attractive solution for dyeing water purification because of the high efficiency and low consumption of energy and space.

**Keywords:** Membrane bioreactor; MBR; Moving bed bioreactor; MBBR; Textile wastewater

## **1. Introduction:**

The textile industry is one of the oldest and most complex sectors within the manufacturing industries with a series of inter-related processes. It consumes large quantities of water and produces large volumes of wastewater from different steps. Textile wastewater is often rich in color, containing a large range of organic chemicals, with high chemical oxygen demand (COD) and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) concentration as well as hard-degradation materials. Therefore, understanding and developing effective treatment technologies for textile wastewater is environmentally important.

Textile wastewater treatment is a mixture of unit processes and those processes can be divided into three categories: physical-chemical treatment, biological treatment and combination of these two treatments. Among them, Membrane Bioreactors (MBR) are increasingly used for municipal and industrial wastewater treatment including textile wastewater treatment and Moving Bed Biofilm Reactors (MBBR) have been applied to treat textile wastewater in recent years.

MBRs are a combination of conventional biological wastewater treatment and membrane filtration. MBRs differ from conventional biological wastewater treatment in the separation of activated sludge and treated wastewater [1]. The influent is fed into the aerated bioreactor where organic components are oxidized by the activated sludge. The aqueous activated sludge solution then passes through a micro or ultrafiltration membrane filtration unit, separating the water from the sludge. The particles return to the bioreactor, while permeate is discharged or reused. Due to use of filtration unit in MBR, it is possible to retain all suspended solids and microbial flocks in the reactor. Consequently, a longer solid retention time (SRT) can be achieved in MBR systems. A previous review [2] reported that MBR systems for textile wastewater used in most previous studies removed more than 80% of COD and 70% of color. Thus, MBR is able to work more efficiently than traditional activated sludge process with high concentrations of biomass, MBBR is a wastewater treatment process using plastic carriers as a substrate for the formation of biofilms. It was firstly developed by Hallvard Ødegaard at Norwegian University of Science and Technology in 1990s [3]. MBBR technology employs a large number of polyethylene biofilm carriers to support the growth of heterotrophic and autotrophic bacteria within its cells in a continuously mixed reactor. MBBR systems can be applied either for aerobic or anoxic processes. The main objective of MBBR is to decrease the volume of the biological reactor, or to be able to treat a larger organic load in the same reactor volume due to the increase of the concentration of biomass. In the study of Park et al. [4], COD and color removals in the pilot-scale MBBR process were 86% and 50%, respectively. The largest amount of biomass is fixed in the added plastic support, and the concentration of biomass in suspension can be maintained at values similar to an activated sludge reactor. However, one of the main problems of MBBR is the poor decantation performance of biomass comparing to an activated sludge system. In many cases, this requires the addition of a certain amount of coagulant products if a well-clarified effluent is required.

Both of these two technologies have been highly developed in industrial wastewater treatment, but they have not been studied completely in textile wastewater treatment, especially MBBR, which is a relatively novel technology applied in this area. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to review the application of MBR and MBBR in textile wastewater treatment under different conditions.

## **2. The state of art of MBR and MBBR technologies applied in textile wastewater treatment**

The increasingly restrictive environmental regulations are forcing textile industries to treat their effluents with more efficient systems [5]. The cost-effective biological decolorization is receiving much attention for the treatment of textile wastewater. As mentioned before, MBR system has been widely used in industrial wastewater treatment, including textile industry. MBBR system is a relatively new

technology applied in this sector, although it has been developed as one of the most effective biological processes to treat industrial wastewater.

## 2.1. The state of art of MBRs applied in textile wastewater treatment

Two comparative studies of the performance of textile wastewater treatment by MBR and conventional biological system were carried out by Institute of Textile Research and Industrial Cooperation of Terrassa (INTEXTER). The results of these studies are demonstrated in the Table 1.

<i>Study</i>	<i>Type of treatment</i>	<i>COD removal</i>	<i>Color removal rate %</i>
1	Conventional biological system	70 %	<92 (150-200 mg PAC*/L)
	MBR	81%	92 (100 mg PAC*/L)
2	Conventional biological system + physical-chemical method	86%	<90 (20-80 ppm of resin)
	MBR	87%	<90 (80 ppm of resin)

Table 1. Results of two comparative studies of textile wastewater treatment by MBR and conventional biological system

The results obtained from the comparative studies above showed that MBR system performed more efficiently in COD removal and color removal than conventional biological system and also demonstrated that MBR resulted lower production of sludge and conductivity of the treated water, and also, the space required for the treatment plant was less as well as the operating costs.

### Application of aerobic MBRs

Schoeberl et al. [6] studied a submerged MBR under different operational conditions for treating dye wastewater. They observed that suction time was the most important factor to membrane fouling ability followed by aeration intensity and backflush time. The results of their study showed that COD and color removal of textile wastewater was 89–94% and 65–91%, respectively. Similar observation was made by Brik et al. [7]. In their study, MBR reduced 74–90% of COD and 46–98.5% of color at 525 nm. They noted that the main mechanism of color removal was adsorption of dye molecules onto biomass. Therefore, the sludge growth was important to maintain a maximum color removal efficiency. Chamam et al. [8] made a comparison of treating textile effluent by bio-sorption and membrane bioreactor. The effluent in this study carried *Cassulfon* CMR which is a sulphuric textile dye mainly used to color “jeans” and the results confirmed the very high MBR potential to treat textile wastewater with this type of dye. During operations, the organic load was increased from 0.33 to 1.33 kg m<sup>-3</sup> /d<sup>-1</sup> and the permeate quality was always free of suspended solids or turbidity. In the same year, You et al. [9] compared the performance of MBR and sequencing batch reactor (SBR) for dyeing wastewater treatment in Taiwan. The removal efficiencies of the MBR system for color, COD, BOD, and SS were 54, 79, 99 and 100%, respectively, all higher than the corresponding parameters of the SBR process. Furthermore, they observed that 79.6% of the total isolates belong to the genus *Microbacterium* and might be responsible for the textile dye degradation. The *Paenibacillus azoreducens* and *Bacillus sp.*, are also identified as being the predominant type of textile dye degradation bacteria in the MBR sludge. A submerged hollow fiber aerobic MBR was studied by Huang et al. [10] showing that the system was capable to treat dyeing wastewater up to 400 L/d and the removal ratio of COD reached 90% and 60-75% for color removal. Yigit et al. [11] investigated a pilot-scale aerobic MBR system for the treatment of textile wastewater

from wet processes of a denim producing industry. Very high removal efficiencies were obtained for various parameters (COD, color, TSS, turbidity) and the treated wastewater had high potential for reuse in the textile industry. They observed that the working behavior of MBR system was not adversely affected by the changes in the influent characteristics, food/microorganism ratio, organic loading rate and specific substrate utilization rate.

Salazar and Martí [12] evaluated the kinetic coefficients using aerobic external MBR and AS treating textile wastewater. Both systems worked under the similar conditions. The kinetic constants for MBR's biomass founding in the pilot plant, were yield coefficient ( $Y$ ) = 0.39 mg MLSS/mg TOC·d, endogenous decay coefficient  $k_d$  = 0.01 d<sup>-1</sup>, maximum specific substrate utilization rate ( $k$ ) = 0.47 d<sup>-1</sup> and the half-velocity constant ( $K_s$ ) = 584 mg TOC/L. As for AS, biomass in pilot plant were  $Y$  = 0.67 mg MLSS/ mg TOC·d,  $k_d$  = 0.03 d<sup>-1</sup>,  $k$  = 0.09 d<sup>-1</sup> and  $K_s$  = 108 mg TOC/L. These results can show that the MBR process is more attractive to treat textile wastewater than the CAS process, due to the less production of sludge, accepting high organic concentrations and higher substrate utilization rate. Salazar et al. [13] made another comparative study between aerobic MBR and AS treating in the same year. The results showed that the rate of reduction of COD was 89-92% with MBR while 54-70% with AS and the color removal rate was 72-73% with MBR (UF) and only 28% with AS. Konsowa et al. [14] carried out a study of the efficiency of aerobic submerged MBR (MF membrane) treating textile wastewater with direct fast red dye-CI 81. They observed that with the increase of HRT, the removal rate of COD and dye were improved. At 48 h of HRT, dye removal efficiency was achieved to 95%. The research of Saha et al. [15] studied the first case of MBR applied in textile wastewater treatment in Bangladesh. MBR system performed better than the CAS system with a removal rate of COD 90% and BOD 80%, respectively. Friha et al. [16] reported the performance of aerobic MBR in treating raw textile wastewater and the efficiency of the MBR in reducing cytotoxicity. High removal efficiencies were achieved in COD (98%), color(100%) and SS (100%) and the cytotoxicity was significantly reduced by MBR when operating at HRT of 2 days. The results of aerobic MBRs applied in textile wastewater treatment are summarized in Table 2.

<i>MBR type</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Influent COD (mg/L)</i>	<i>COD removal (%)</i>	<i>Color removal (%)</i>	<i>HRT(d)</i>	<i>MLSS(g/L)</i>	<i>Flux</i>	<i>References</i>
<i>Aerobic MBR</i>	Dyehouse wastewater	1606 -2997	89 - 94	65 - 91	2.9 - 5	4	80 m <sup>3</sup> /d	[6]
<i>Aerobic External MBR</i>	Wastewater from a polyester finishing factory	1380 - 6033	76 - 90	46 - 98.5	0.7 – 2.9	5	18 – 30 L/m <sup>2</sup> h	[7]
<i>Aerobic MBR</i>	Textile wastewater	-	79	54	-	-	-	[9]
<i>Aerobic MBR</i>	Dyeing wastewater	600 - 1200	> 90	60 - 75	6 – 22.5 h	9 - 11	2 – 8 L/m <sup>2</sup> h	[10]
<i>Aerobic MBR</i>	Denim producing textile wastewater	686 - 2278	97	> 97	14 h	13.9 - 17	380 – 1500 L/d	[11]
<i>Aerobic MBR</i>	Textile wastewater	1500	89 - 92	70 (MF membrane) 72 – 73 (UF membrane)	9	0.84	3.5 L/m <sup>2</sup> h	[13]
<i>Aerobic MBR</i>	Textile wastewater with direct fast red dye-CI 81	2000 - 2500	87.7 - 96.3	-	4 – 48 h	3 - 12	60 – 100 L/m <sup>2</sup> h	[14]
<i>Aerobic MBR</i>	Textile mill	1800 - 2500	90	-	177 h	1.3	2 – 7 L/m <sup>2</sup> h	[15]
<i>Aerobic MBR</i>	Textile wastewater	1463-3089	>90	78 - 100	1- 3	10	2 – 7 L/m <sup>2</sup> h	[16]

Table 2. Results of aerobic MBRs applied in textile wastewater treatment

The review on previous studies of aerobic MBRs applied in textile wastewater treatment informed that the aerobic MBR technology is able to treat textile wastewaters with various characteristics. MBR system is resistant to changing loading rates and efficient COD removal occurs even at high loading rates. The results of these research projects showed that aerobic MBRs are effective in COD and color removal with a value range of 76-96.3% and 46-98.5%, respectively. The value ranges obtained by this review are similar to those observed by Jegatheesan et al. [2].

### Application of anaerobic MBRs

In recent years, anaerobic digestion has been widely applied for industrial wastewater treatment. The anaerobic MBR process improves the reliability of treating industrial wastewater by: a) Maintain the retention of biomass and maximum biogas production; b) Separate the solids retention time from the hydraulic retention time to improve biological performance; c) Save energy, as no aeration process is needed. Ivanovic and Leiknes [17] reported that anaerobic MBR had high total nitrogen and total phosphorus removal efficiency and generated smaller floc sizes and higher microbial activity in anoxic and anaerobic zones. Lin et al. [18] noted in their review study that the most popular application of AnMBR in industrial wastewater treatment appeared in food industrial wastewater treatment. The treatment of textile wastewater using AnMBR has been reported only once before the year 2013. In this study [19], a submerged anaerobic MBR (SAMBR) combined with powdered activated carbon (PAC) and another without PAC were applied in textile wastewater treatment. The SAMBR in the presence of PAC obtained the median removal efficiency of COD (90%) and color (94%) whereas for SAMBR in the absence of PAC the removal efficiency of COD and color was 79% and 86%, respectively.

### Application of MBR combining other advanced treatment technologies

- Improving treatment efficiency

The use of anaerobic MBRs for industrial wastewater treatment were very limited. More often, the combining of anaerobic unit and aerobic MBR were applied. Fan et al. [20] studied a treatment system for dye wastewater from a woolen mill. It was composed with an anaerobic tank and an aerobic MBR unit. The average removal of COD, BOD, color and turbidity was 82%, 96%, 71%, 99%, respectively. They also made a comparative test of decoloration between A/O MBR and MBR without anaerobic unit and found that A/O with an anaerobic biological unit had lower value of color in the effluent. Zheng et al. [21] reported the performance of a pilot-scale anoxic tank followed by a MBR on treating wastewater of Beijing Woolen Mill with the initial concentration range 179-358 mg/L of COD. The quality of treated water was excellent and met with the reuse water standard with the similar removal rate of the previous study. The study of Chung et al. [22] dedicated in getting a better insight of denitrification/nitrification MBR process and optimum operational conditions to treat tannery wastewater with high organic and nitrogen contents. Two experimental units, oxic MBR and anoxic/oxic MBR were operated. The results showed that anoxic/oxic MBR (COD removal rate 91.9%) outperformed oxic MBR (COD removal rate 81.5%) in removal efficiency of various parameters and in terms of nitrogen control. Zheng and Liu [23] carried out a study of a combined process of an anaerobic reactor and a MBR. The results showed that the removal rates of COD, BOD<sub>5</sub>, color and turbidity were 80.3%, 95%, 59% and 99.3%, respectively. In the study of You and Teng [24], an anaerobic SBR plus Aerobic MBR was tested for dyeing wastewater treatment containing an azo dye, Reactive Black 5. Nearly 92.3 and 5.2% of COD removal and 74.6 and 9.1% of true color removal was achieved using the anaerobic SBR and the aerobic MBR respectively. The process showed excellent true color removal performance in the anaerobic part. Another study [25] evaluated the treatability of textile wastewaters in a bench-scale experimental system including an anaerobic biofilter, an anoxic reactor and an aerobic MBR followed by a NF membrane. The results showed a good COD (90-95%) removal in the MBR system because of the

presence of the anaerobic biofilter and an effective color removal (70%) was obtained. Moreover, salt was also separated from effluent by the NF membrane, which allowed the reuse of effluent in the textile industry. Jager et al. [26] analyzed a pilot-scale dual-stage MBR (dsMBR) which consisted of two phases: the side-stream UF-dsMBR followed by NF and RO. During the study the UF-dsMBR treatment system and RO polishing step showed average overall COD removals of 75 and 90.1%, and color removals of 28.6 and 97.2%, respectively. They had similar results in a study carried out in 2014 [27]. Tian et al. [28] carried out a study of the performance of hybrid anoxic/oxic MBR in simultaneous organic carbon and nitrogen removal from fiber wastewater. The results showed that the average removal efficiency of COD,  $\text{NH}_4^+-\text{N}$  and TN in the hybrid A/O MBR could reach 56.5, 86.6 and 45.9 % when HRT exceeded 37 hours. After supplementing alkalinity, the removal efficiency of  $\text{NH}_4^+-\text{N}$  and TN reached 86.9% and 60.5%, respectively. These studies demonstrated that the anaerobic unit in MBR system could improve the biodegradability of the wastewater and made color of the effluent lower than that of effluent from the MBR system without anaerobic unit.

Brik et al. [29] tested three oxidation treatments to improve the efficiency of color removal of MBR: ozonation, chlorination and hydrogen peroxide oxidation. The result showed that ozonation was the most efficiency method because by using only 38 mg/L within 20 minutes, it was possible to achieve the reuse recommendation with a satisfactory color removal of 93%. Yurtsever et al. [30] studied for the first time the performance of sulfate-reducing anaerobic and sulfide-oxidizing aerobic MBRs for treatment of synthetic textile wastewater. In this study, the COD/sulfate ratio ranged between 0.8 and 1.0 for complete COD and sulfate removal. The total COD removal rate was around 94% and almost complete decolorization was obtained in anaerobic MBR. Feng et al. [31] investigated the performance of MBR combined with Fenton oxidation for the treatment of dyeing wastewater. They used ferrous sulphate ( $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ),  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (30%, W/W) and diethylene glycol (DEG) as reagents for Fenton oxidation process. The results showed that the removal of TOC and color was 88% and 90%, respectively. Hybrid system oxidation-MBR also resulted excellent performance in color removal for textile wastewater treatment according to the studies above.

Qin et al. [32] studied enhanced MBR by internal micro-electrolysis (IE) for the degradation of anthraquinone dye wastewater. For comparison, a hybrid system MBR with iron ions fed (HMBR) and a control MBR (CMBR) were operated in parallel. The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of iron released from IE process on sludge floc characteristics and membrane permeability. The results obtained showed that the iron had important effects on the structure and property of the flocs which is beneficial for TN removal.

Hai et al. [33] investigated the removal performance of two dyes (Poly S119 and Acid Orange II) in a membrane-coupled fungi reactor with/without PAC adsorption. They obtained excellent decoloration of both dyes with the PAC adsorption. Another research of Hai et al. [34] studied the key factors for fungal decolorization in MBR under non-sterile environment. The MBR obtained a 93% removal efficiency of azo dye (Acid Orange II). Results demonstrated the adverse effect of bacterial contamination on fungal activity. Acikgoz et al. [35] investigated the reactive dye removal ability of mixed filamentous fungal strains (*R. arrhizus* and *A. versicolor*) with submerged MBR in non-sterile conditions. They had the conclusion of using mixed fungal strains in the MBR system is efficient for removing reactive dyes with the removal efficiency of color and COD were 90.71% and 90%, respectively.

- Membrane fouling control

Sun et al. [36] studied the performance of an anaerobic-anoxic-aerobic ( $\text{A}^2\text{O}$ ) MBR at removing organic compounds and nitrogen for treatment of textile wastewater. After the gas chromatograph mass spectrometer analysis, they found that only 20 kinds of refractory organic compounds were detected in

the effluent while there were 121 types of organic compounds in the wastewater. They found that bacterial foulants were significant contributors to membrane fouling by scanning electron microscopy analysis. The bridge between foulants and inorganic compounds enhanced the formation of gel layer and caused membrane fouling. The chemical cleaning method using a combination of acids and oxidizing agents is recommended in their paper for fouled membrane caused by organic foulants and inorganic compounds. In the study of Yurtsever et al. [30], they found that the membrane fouling and TMP increase is not only due to accumulation of organic foulants on the membrane surface, inorganics bridge organic molecules or precipitate on or into membrane. They observed that S, Al, Ca, Fe and Cu were distributed and contributed to inorganic fouling together.

In the study of MBR with internal micro-electrolysis (IE) treating dye wastewater by Qin et al. [32], they found that the enhancement of settleability and compactability of flocs helped to control the membrane fouling and bound EPS effectively enhanced the bioflocculation of small particles in order to alleviate membrane biofouling.

In a study carried out by Yan et al. [37] a pilot-scale hybrid coagulation-MBR was investigated for textile wastewater treatment. Poly-aluminum chloride (PACL) was used in the process. The hybrid system achieved much higher organic matter removal than that of MBR which alleviated membrane fouling. They also proved this conclusion in another study of 2012 that coagulation with PACL in MBR decreased the pore resistance and the total fouling resistance effectively [38]. Teli et al. [39] reported MBR fouling control and permeated quality enhanced by PACL. The pilot plant operated in two steps: 7.5 months without flux enhancer and 3 months with the addition of PACL. The addition of PACL showed a significant decrease of the filtration resistance due to cake layer formation and an increase of color and anionic surfactants removal rate. In the same year, another research [40] studied the fouling control of a submerged MBR treating dyeing wastewater by using Powder-Activated Carbon and Alum (PAC). The results demonstrated that the addition of PAC and Alum into the MBR system improved the control of membrane fouling. They found that the MBR-Alum operation obtained the best fouling control performance.

Hai et al. [41] reported the excellent fouling prevention capacity of a fungi (White-rot fungi *C. versicolor*) spacer-filled MBR. The results showed that the spacer modules maintained stable performance on cake-layer fouling for a month while usual modules exhibited fatal fouling within a day.

Deowan et al. [42] investigated a novel antifouling coating of UF commercial membrane applied for MBR process treating dyeing wastewater. They found that the commercial polymerisable bicontinuous microemulsion MBR module reduced the fouling problem significantly. The present MBR module showed 10% higher blue dye removal efficiency and a similar rate of COD removal efficiency of about 95% compared to commercial module.

Membrane fouling is a common problem in treating industrial wastewater. The membrane fouling is not only because of the accumulation of organic foulants on the membrane surface, the bridge between foulants and inorganic compounds enhanced the formation of gel layer that increase the TMP. Previous studies showed that coagulation coupled with MBR showed enhanced membrane fouling control ability because soluble matter, colloids and foulants tend to attach on the moving carriers (coagulant flocs) in a bulk liquid, which mitigated the membrane fouling. Micro-electrolysis also showed the ability to reduce the TMP. Another method is to use spacer modules MBR or novel antifouling material MBR to prevent membrane fouling. The results of MBR combining other advanced technologies applied in textile wastewater treatment are summarized in Table 3.

<i>MBR type</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Influent COD (mg/L)</i>	<i>COD removal (%)</i>	<i>Color removal (%)</i>	<i>HRT (d)</i>	<i>MLSS(g/L)</i>	<i>flux</i>	<i>References</i>
Anaerobic + aerobic MBR	Woolen mill	54-473	82	71	4.5 - 31.5 h	1.24 - 3.33	20 L/h	[20]
Anaerobic + aerobic MBR	Woolen mill	179-358	92.4	74	6 – 8 h	0.2 - 10.4	5.4 - 9.4 m <sup>3</sup> /d	[21]
Anaerobic SBR +aerobic MBR	Synthetic dyeing water	300	97.5	-	-	-	-	[23]
Anaerobic-anoxic-aerobic MBR + NF	Textile wastewater	400 - 1200	90-95	70-90	-	7.7	-	[25]
UF-MBR+NF/RO	Textile wastewater	5815	75 (UF) 86 (NF) 90 (RO)	28.6 (UF) 98 (NF) 97 (RO)	-	1.3	9.5 L/m <sup>2</sup> h	[26]
Anaerobic-anoxic-aerobic MBR	Textile wastewater	657-944	87	-	8.6 – 20 h	3.5 - 5	8.52 L/m <sup>2</sup> h	[36]
Oxidation treatments + MBR	Textile mill	4000-6200	>83	90	-	-	-	[29]
Sulfate-reducing anaerobic/Sulfate-oxidizing Aerobic MBR	Synthetic dyeing water	1000-2000	AnMBR 94	99.6	~ 1.9	10.8	~4.5 L/m <sup>2</sup> h	[30]
			AeMBR 94	~90	~ 1.3	6.6	~8.2 L/m <sup>2</sup> h	
Fenton oxidation + MBR	Dyeing wastewater	1100-1300	72 - 83	91.3	20 h	4.5	7.5 L/m <sup>2</sup> h	[31]
IE-MBR		778	93.2	97.7	20 h	4 - 5	4.5 L/m <sup>2</sup> h	
Coagulation + MBR	93% dyeing wastewater 6% fiber wastewater 1% domestic sewage	383-534	90.7	83.7	-	6.05 - 8.32	-	[37]
Coagulation + MBR	65% textile wastewater	284	81	68	14.5 h	4.4 -7.6	10 L/m <sup>2</sup> h	[39]

Table 3. Results of MBR combining other advanced technologies applied in textile wastewater treatment

## 2.2. Status of MBBRs applied in textile wastewater treatment

MBBR has been applied in many cases of industrial wastewater treatment, but it is a relatively novel technology for treating textile wastewater. Shin et al. [43] studied a combined process consisted of a MBBR and chemical coagulation for textile wastewater treatment. The MBBR system filled with polyurethane-activated carbon (PU-AC) had anaerobic-aerobic-aerobic in series followed by chemical coagulation with  $\text{FeCl}_2$ . After the MBBR process, 85% of COD and 70% of color were removed. After the coagulation, 95% of COD and 97% of color were removed. Park et al. [4] reported an anaerobic-anaerobic-aerobic MBBRs treating textile dyeing wastewater. Polyurethane-activated carbon (PU-AC) foam carriers were filled with 20% for biological treatment. After an eight-day operation, 86% of the total COD was removed. But they mentioned in the conclusion that a coagulation process is needed to achieve a more effective treatment. Gong [44] investigated a four-stage lab-scale treatment system (anaerobic-aerobic MBBR-ozonation-aerobic MBBR) in series for textile wastewater treatment. The optimum operating conditions were found to be 14 h HRT for both anaerobic for No. 1 aerobic MBBRs, 14 minutes ozonation time and 10 h HRT for No. 2 aerobic MBBR. The obtained results showed the removal efficiencies of COD, SS, ammonia and color were 94.3%, 97.8%, 85.3% and 96.3%, respectively. Castro et al. [45] also studied the combination of ozonation and MBBR for treating textile wastewater with Reactive Orange 16 azo dye. They had the similar results in COD and color removal rate of 90% and 97%, respectively. However, they found that the dye content was mainly removed in the ozone oxidation process and no color removal was obtained in MBBR reactor. Francis and Sosamony [46] studied the performance of MBBR on chemical pre-treated textile wastewater by Fenton oxidation. After Fenton oxidation process, COD is reduced and the biodegradability of textile wastewater is enhanced for MBBR treatment. Maximum COD removal was obtained at 67.06% filling ratio.

As shown in these previous studies, MBBR system often requires a coupled process, such as coagulation or oxidation, to achieve an effective performance for treating textile wastewater. The results of MBBR applied in textile wastewater treatment are summarized in Table 4.

<i>Carrier type</i>	<i>Surface area</i>	<i>Density</i>	<i>Filling ratio (V/V)</i>	<i>HRT (h)</i>	<i>COD removal</i>	<i>Color removal</i>	<i>Reference</i>
PU-AC	-	136 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	20%	44	94.9%	97.4%	[43]
PU-AC	59.7 m <sup>2</sup> /g	1.064 g/m <sup>3</sup>	20%	44	86%	50%	[4]
Polyethylene	-	0.98 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	60%	38	94.3%	96.3%	[44]
Polyethylene	500 m <sup>2</sup> /m <sup>3</sup>	-	40%	6	>90%	97%	[45]
Poly Vinyl Chloride	-	-	67%	-	87	-	[46]

Table 4. Results of MBBR applied in textile wastewater treatment

## 2.3. Status of MBR-MBBR applied in textile wastewater treatment

The advantages and disadvantages of the MBBR and MBR systems are well known. Among the main advantages of the MBR systems, one of them is the ability to work at much higher biomass than activated sludge processes, which results in lower volume of biological reactors. However, we find that the reduction of reactor volume is limited because the biomass concentration in practice has a limit. Although membranes can withstand very high biomass concentration, usually biomass concentration does not exceed 8-10 g / L in practical cases to avoid too much influence on oxygen transfer coefficient

" $\alpha$ ". One of the main advantages of MBBR system is to reduce the volume of the biological reactor, or to treat a larger organic load in the same reactor volume. When the majority of biomass is fixed on added carriers, the biomass concentration in suspension can be maintained at values similar to those of activated sludge reactors. However, this often requires the addition of a certain amount of coagulants if we want a well clarified effluent. Both of these two technologies have been quite developed in industrial wastewater treatment, but there are still problems of applying them in textile wastewater treatment and MBR-MBBR hybrid system could be an attractive solution for dyeing water purification.

Pervissian et al. [47] did an assessment of the performance of MBBR-MF system for treatment of industrial wastewater. The total COD removed was 97% and the fouling of the membrane was reduced with the MBBR. To our best knowledge, there was only one study [48] about MBBR-membrane filtration applied in textile wastewater treatment, in which a combined anaerobic-aerobic MBBR-MF was investigated for the treatment of azo dye reactive brilliant red X-3B. The biofilm carriers were made of polyethylene with a filling ratio about 35% (V/V). The COD and color removal rate achieved at 85% and 90%, respectively. The color reductions mainly occurred in anaerobic conditions.

### **3. Conclusions:**

An overview of the previous studies on MBR and MBBR applied in textile wastewater treatment is given in this review work. The aim of this paper is to extract relevant information given in scientific papers in this particular area. MBR was found a well-developed technology in the treatment of textile wastewater, both aerobic and anaerobic processes were effective in COD and color removal of textile wastewater. Some of the combination processes of MBR and other advanced technologies were more specific in treating one or some contaminants, for example, hybrid aerobic-anaerobic MBR system and oxidation-MBR process both resulted better color removal performance. MBBR process used in textile wastewater treatment showed that they are able to operate with high concentrations of biomass; however, MBBR needs a coupled process, such as coagulation or oxidation to improve the quality of effluent. In the process of literature searching, we found that only few studies have investigated the combination of MBR and MBBR technologies. MBBR-MBR can work at high organic loading rates because MBBR remove the majority of biodegradable contaminants and the particulate components can be separated by MBR. Furthermore, MBBR-MBR system will reduce the space and energy consumption comparing with MBR. Therefore, development of the application of MBBR-MBR would be attractive to textile wastewater treatment as a reliable and effective method.

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