

 Open access • Journal Article • DOI:10.1080/09593330.2013.828094

Photocatalytic degradation of an azo-dye on TiO₂/activated carbon composite material — [Source link](#)

Caroline Andriantsiferana, Elham F. Mohamed, Henri Delmas

Institutions: University of Toulouse

Published on: 01 Jan 2014 - Environmental Technology (Taylor & Francis)

Topics: Adsorption, Activated carbon and Photocatalysis

Related papers:

- [Preparation of TiO₂ /activated carbon composites for photocatalytic degradation of RhB under UV light irradiation](#)
- [Synergy between surface adsorption and photocatalysis during degradation of humic acid on TiO₂/activated carbon composites.](#)
- [Recent Developments in Photocatalytic Water Treatment Technology: A Review](#)
- [TiO₂-Graphene Nanocomposites for Gas-Phase Photocatalytic Degradation of Volatile Aromatic Pollutant: Is TiO₂-Graphene Truly Different from Other TiO₂-Carbon Composite Materials?](#)
- [TiO₂-activated carbon photocatalysts: Preparation, characterization and photocatalytic activities](#)

Share this paper:    

View more about this paper here: <https://typeset.io/papers/photocatalytic-degradation-of-an-azo-dye-on-tio2-activated-21xm4ry40m>



HAL
open science

Photocatalytic degradation of an azo-dye on TiO₂/ activated carbon composite material

Caroline Andriantsiferana, Elham Farouk Mohamed, Henri Delmas

► **To cite this version:**

Caroline Andriantsiferana, Elham Farouk Mohamed, Henri Delmas. Photocatalytic degradation of an azo-dye on TiO₂/ activated carbon composite material. Environmental Technology, Taylor & Francis: STM, Behavioural Science and Public Health Titles, 2014, vol. 35 (n° 3), pp. 355-363. 10.1080/09593330.2013.828094 . hal-01153077

HAL Id: hal-01153077

<https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-01153077>

Submitted on 19 May 2015

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Open Archive TOULOUSE Archive Ouverte (OATAO)

OATAO is an open access repository that collects the work of Toulouse researchers and makes it freely available over the web where possible.

This is an author-deposited version published in : <http://oatao.univ-toulouse.fr/>
Eprints ID : 9721

Tolink to this article : DOI:10.1080/09593330.2013.828094

URL : <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09593330.2013.828094>

To cite this version :

Andriantsiferana, Caroline and Mohamed, Elham Farouk and Delmas, Henri *Photocatalytic degradation of an azo-dye on TiO₂/activated carbon composite material*. (2013) Environmental Technology . pp. 1-9. ISSN 0959-3330

Photocatalytic degradation of an azo-dye on TiO₂/activated carbon composite material

C. Andriantsiferana^{a*}, E.F. Mohamed^b and H. Delmas^a

^aLaboratoire de Génie Chimique, UMR CNRS 5503, Université de Toulouse, INP, ENSIACET, 4, allée Emile MONSO – BP 84234 – 31432 Toulouse Cedex 4, France; ^bDepartment of Air Pollution, National Research Centre, El-Beheos Street, Dokki, Giza, Egypt

A sequential adsorption/photocatalytic regeneration process to remove tartrazine, an azo-dye in aqueous solution, has been investigated. The aim of this work was to compare the effectiveness of an adsorbent/photocatalyst composite – TiO₂ deposited onto activated carbon (AC) – and a simple mixture of powders of TiO₂ and AC in same proportion. The composite was an innovative material as the photocatalyst, TiO₂, was deposited on the porous surface of a microporous-AC using metal-organic chemical vapour deposition in fluidized bed. The sequential process was composed of two-batch step cycles: every cycle alternated a step of adsorption and a step of photocatalytic oxidation under ultra-violet (365 nm), at 25°C and atmospheric pressure. Both steps, adsorption and photocatalytic oxidation, have been investigated during four cycles. For both materials, the cumulated amounts adsorbed during four cycles corresponded to nearly twice the maximum adsorption capacities q_{\max} proving the photocatalytic oxidation to regenerate the adsorbent. Concerning photocatalytic oxidation, the degree of mineralization was higher with the TiO₂/AC composite: for each cycle, the value of the total organic carbon removal was 25% higher than that obtained with the mixture powder. These better photocatalytic performances involved better regeneration than higher adsorbed amounts for cycles 2, 3 and 4. Better performances with this promising material – TiO₂ deposited onto AC – compared with TiO₂ powder could be explained by the vicinity of photocatalytic and AC adsorption sites.

Keywords: activated carbon; adsorption; azo-dye; photocatalysis; regeneration; TiO₂

1. Introduction

Various manufactures (textile, food, paper, plastics, etc.) produce large amounts of wastewater containing dyestuffs with intensive colour and toxicity. Azo-dyes represent the largest class of organic dyes listed in the Colour Index (60–70% of the total).[1] These effluents may be introduced into ecosystem inducing perturbations to aquatic life. In most countries, the researchers are looking for appropriate treatments in order to remove these pollutants. The heterogeneous photocatalytic process using TiO₂ as a catalyst is one of the most promising advanced oxidation processes. This process is based on the generation of very reactive species such as hydroxyl radicals ([•]OH) that can oxidize a broad range of organic pollutants quickly and non-selectively.[2–6] However, some drawbacks due to TiO₂ fine powder were faced when carrying out photocatalytic processes [7]: (1) separation of TiO₂ powder from water is difficult; (2) the suspended TiO₂ powder tends to aggregate especially at high concentrations.[8] Therefore, to overpass these problems, much attention has been paid to the development of supported TiO₂. [9,10]

Several studies have been published on the effect of the characteristics of the supported TiO₂ photocatalysts,[11] such as crystal structure,[12] crystal size,[13,14] TiO₂

loading,[15] specific surface area,[14] thickness of film [16] and their reactivity to obtain efficient photocatalysts or to optimize the operation parameters of the photocatalyst preparation process. Obviously, only TiO₂ on the external surface of the support can be excited by light and induces the photocatalytic reaction, so the concentration of TiO₂ on the external surface of the support is a critical parameter for such supported photocatalyst.[13,16–18]

Various support materials and coating methods have been proposed for degradation of several organic compounds.[19] When using supports such as silica, alumina, zeolites or clays,[20] no improvement of photo-efficiency was observed. Among these supports, activated carbon (AC) is very promising for two reasons: (1) AC is able to adsorb the pollutants and then release them onto the surface of TiO₂. Consequently, a higher concentration of pollutants around the TiO₂ than that in the bulk solution is created leading to an increase in the degradation rate of the pollutants [21–24] and (2) the intermediates produced during degradation can be also adsorbed by AC and then further oxidized. Herrmann et al. [25] claimed synergistic effects for AC-supported TiO₂ systems, referring to remarkable effects in the kinetics of pollutant degradation, the pollutant being more rapidly photodegraded when adding AC.

*Corresponding author. Email: caroline.andriantsiferana@iut-tlse3.fr

Many techniques have been developed for immobilizing TiO₂ catalysts onto solid surface, for example, in the past decade, various methods, including sol-gel,[26,27] hydrothermal,[28] precipitation,[29] dip coating,[30] and hydrolysis [31] and impregnation.[32] Recently, metal-organic chemical vapour deposition (MOCVD), an extensively used surface-coating technology, has been applied to the preparation of photocatalyst.[13,31,33] MOCVD production of supported catalysts offers the following advantages [34,35]: (1) the produced materials are mainly on the external surface of the support; (2) it has little effect on the porous structure of the support due to the use of gases as precursors; (3) most of the traditional steps in catalyst preparation, such as saturation, drying and reduction can be avoided; (4) TiO₂ coating by MOCVD strongly adheres on the surface of AC and (5) the coating properties are easily controlled.

In this study, a sequential method of treatment was carried out involving adsorption and then photocatalytic oxidation. It was a preliminary investigation towards a new version of the AD-OX process [36,37] by replacing wet catalytic air oxidation by photocatalysis. The water treatment was not achieved by oxidation but by adsorption, the oxidative step being needed only for pollutant degradation and subsequent AC regeneration. To degrade tartrazine, the selected reference azo-dye, two implementations of photocatalysis were compared: (1) the composite material, TiO₂, being deposited on the porous surface of a commercial AC by MOCVD in a fluidized bed and (2) a simple powder mixture with some AC and dispersed TiO₂.

2. Experimental and methods

2.1. Materials

Tartrazine is an azo-dye (C₁₆H₉N₄Na₃O₉S₂) often called Yellow 5 supplied by Sigma Aldrich (Analytical standard, purity > 99%). The AC used was a commercial AC S23 (PICA) produced from coconut. The photocatalyst was the titanium dioxide Millennium PC 500. The size of the crystallites was ranged between 5 and 10 nm, the crystals presented an anatase structure (> 99%) with a specific surface area S_{BET} of about 320 m² g⁻¹.

2.2. The TiO₂/AC composite material

The AC particles have been coated with TiO₂ using MOCVD in a fluidized bed under atmospheric pressure. Details concerning the experimental set-up can be found in the studies by Cadoret et al. [38] and Reuge et al.[39] The reaction implying a chemical precursor (Titanium Tetra Isopropoxide supplied by Sigma Aldrich) which is decomposed to form TiO₂. The fluidizing gas (containing N₂ and the vapour of the precursor of TiO₂) was supplied at the bottom of the fluidized bed, the flow rate of the gas ensured that particles were well fluidized leading to

a homogeneous treatment of the particles. The operating conditions were: growth temperature 440°C; carrier gas flow velocity 11.55 cm s⁻¹ (3.3 U_{mf}); bubbler temperature: 70°C; titanium tetra iso-propoxide mole fraction: 1.3 × 10⁻³ and time: 12 h.

2.3. Analytical methods

2.3.1. Characterization of the adsorbents

The textural characterization was deduced from nitrogen adsorption at 77 K using a Micrometrics ST-2000 automated apparatus. The specific surface area S_{BET} was calculated from Brunauer Emmet Teller (BET) plot in the relative pressure range (*p/p*₀) from 0.01 to 0.20.[40] Horvath and Kawazoe [41] and Barrett et al. [42] methods were employed to assess the micropore and mesopore volumes, respectively. The mean pore diameter was deduced from the total porous volume at *p/p*₀ = 0.98 and the BET surface area. The true density was measured by helium pycnometry (ACCUPYC 1330TC). In addition, the elemental composition is obtained by energy dispersive X-ray analysis (INCA system, Oxford Instrument) in tandem with a scanning electron microscopy (LEO 435 VP). Moreover to bring out the presence of TiO₂-anatase and TiO₂-rutile, the composite material was characterized using X-ray diffraction (XRD). XRD patterns were recorded at room temperature with a SEIFERT XRD 3000 spectrometer. The identification of the peaks characteristic to TiO₂-anatase and TiO₂-rutile was made using standards in the Joint Committee on Powder Diffraction Standards database. The distribution of particles size for each material was measured with a Mastersizer 2000 granulometer supplied by Malvern. For the TiO₂/AC composite, the amount of TiO₂ was determined by ICP-AES (inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometry). An external certificated laboratory, the Service Central d'Analyse (CNRS), made these analyses by using the ICP-AES model ICAP (ThermoFisher Scientific).

2.3.2. Liquid analysis

The concentration of tartrazine has been determined by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) with ultraviolet (UV) detection (UV 2000 detector, Thermo Finnigan). The separation is achieved using a C18 reverse phase column (ProntoSIL C18 AQ) with a mobile phase composed of ultrapure water acidified by H₂SO₄ (pH = 1.4) and methanol (isocratic method 60/40), fed at 0.5 mL min⁻¹. The detector's wavelength was set to 317 nm and the temperature of the column was maintained at 30°C. The UV-visible spectrum of the tartrazine and the calibration curve are represented in Figure 1.

The total organic carbon (TOC) was also measured at the end of each photocatalytic step. First, the inorganic carbon present in the solution was eliminated with concentrated phosphoric acid (84%) and the solution was degassed

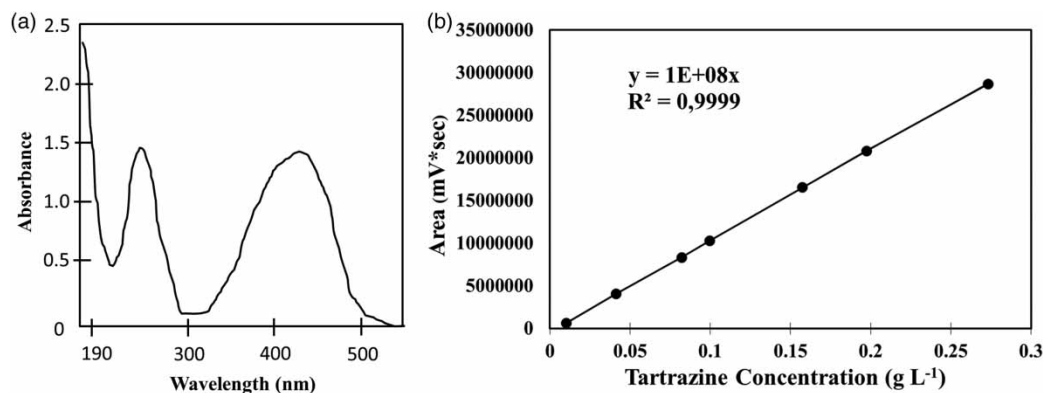


Figure 1. (a) UV-visible spectrum of tartrazine and (b) calibration curve for HPLC analysis.

by a current of nitrogen. The sample was then injected in a TOC-metre (TC Multi Analyser 2100 N/C), where the organic molecules were totally oxidized at 850°C in the presence of a platinum catalyst. The quantity of CO₂ released by the reaction was then measured by infrared spectrometry.

2.4. Experimental set-ups and procedures

2.4.1. Adsorption

In brown flasks, 0.5 g of adsorbent was added to 100 mL of tartrazine solutions (0.1–1.0 g L⁻¹ concentration range). Two different adsorbents were used: the TiO₂/AC composite material and a mixture of AC and TiO₂ in the same weight proportions. The suspensions were left under stirring in a thermo-regulated bath at 25°C for eight days to reach equilibrium. Then, the solutions were filtered on 0.25 μm nylon filter membranes before analysis.[22] The amount of adsorbed tartrazine was deduced from initial and final HPLC measurements of concentrations in the liquid phase.

2.4.2. Hybrid process

Experiments were carried out in a 1 L cylindrical Pyrex reactor with air injection to provide oxygen (Figure 2).

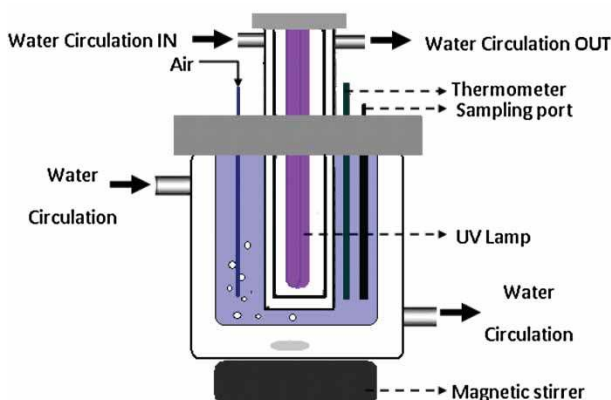


Figure 2. Experimental set-up.

On the central axis, a medium-pressure mercury lamp was placed in a jacketed thermo-regulated cylinder. The range of emission of the lamp (Philips PL-L 24W/10/4P) was 340–400 nm with a maximum at 365 nm. The light intensity has been measured with a radiometer ultra-violet A Light Meter and is 47.5 W/m² (mean value of several measurements inside the reactor emptied and with water in the jacketed cylinder). The two jackets maintained the temperature at 25 ± 1°C. The external wall of the reactor jacket was covered with aluminium foil to reduce light losses. The solution was stirred with a magnetic stirrer. Tartrazine initial concentration was fixed at 0.40 g L⁻¹ to start the adsorption/photo-oxidation run then it was regularly determined, thanks to the sampling performed as in adsorption experiments. As for adsorption alone the same two materials – TiO₂/AC composite material (7.9% TiO₂) and a mixture of AC S23 (92.1%) and TiO₂ (7.9%) powders – at same concentration (5 g L⁻¹) have been used as adsorbent and photocatalyst for comparison.

During the sequential process, two successive steps were achieved: adsorption and then photo-oxidation corresponding to one cycle. The adsorption step was carried out in the dark during several days (between five and seven days). Then, the oxidation step was conducted during three days under UV irradiation. During each step, the samples were taken at regular time intervals and analysed by HPLC and by a TOC-metre. After the oxidation step, the reactor was emptied of the oxidized solution of tartrazine and then filled by 1 L of a new one at the same initial concentration (0.40 g L⁻¹) for starting a next cycle.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Characterization of the materials

Energy dispersion X-ray (EDX) analysis was performed at two locations on the particle surface, as presented in Figure 3 showing the weight fraction of carbon, oxygen and titanium. A high proportion of Ti has been detected at the surface of the composite material sample (Region I: 25%, Region II: 18%). XRD analysis confirmed the presence of

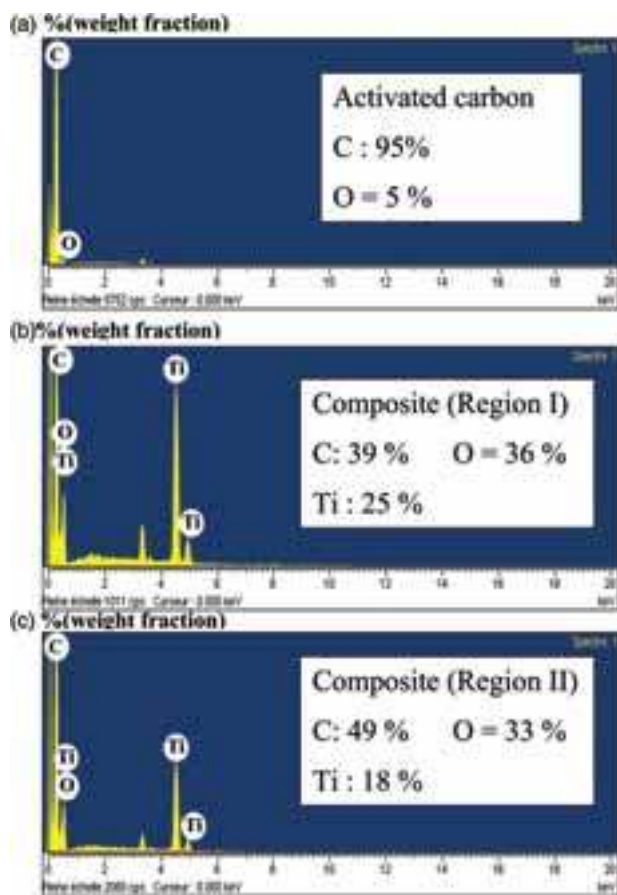


Figure 3. EDX analysis of the materials (% weight): (a) AC; (b) TiO₂/AC composite (Region I) and (c) TiO₂/AC composite (Region II).

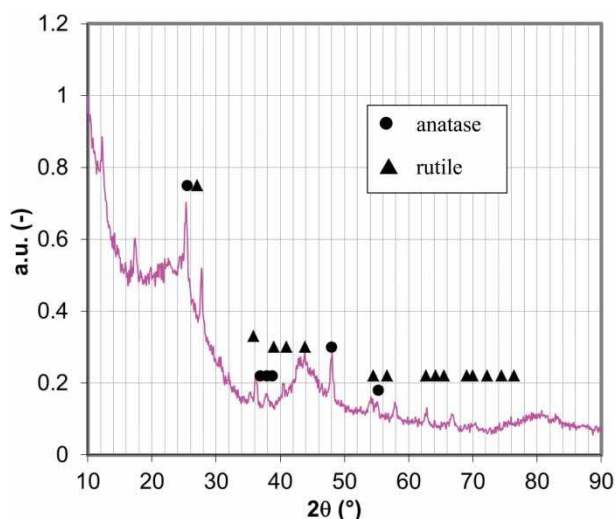


Figure 4. XRD analysis of the TiO₂/AC composite.

TiO₂-anatase and TiO₂-rutile (Figure 4). Table 1 indicated TiO₂/AC composite to have a slightly smaller surface area than AC, the decrease in BET surface being about 12% suggesting a small fraction of pores located on the external

Table 1. Main characteristics of material.

	Material	
	AC	TiO ₂ /AC
BET surface (m ² g ⁻¹)	1100	962
Microporous volume (cm ³ g ⁻¹)	0.425	0.372
Mesoporous volume (cm ³ g ⁻¹)	0.046	0.041
Pore size (Å)	12	12
Sauter diameter d ₃₂ (μm)	260	257
Wt. % TiO ₂	0	7.9

AC surface to be partially blocked by a very thin layer of TiO₂. [43,44] This proved that when TiO₂ is deposited into AC by MOCVD technique, the surface area is not significantly altered although the original AC was microporous. For TiO₂/AC composite sample, small decreases in both microporous and mesoporous were observed.

3.2. Adsorption isotherms

Langmuir equation was the more convenient one to describe the isotherms represented in Figure 5. The different parameters of the Langmuir model and the correlation coefficients values have been given in Table 2. The good fit with the Langmuir model indicated no formation of adsorbed tartrazine multilayers, in agreement with the microporous properties of the two materials. The values of q_{\max} were of same order of magnitude as the value reported by Gupta et al., [45] $q_{\max} = 0.13 \text{ g/g}_{\text{adsorbent}}$, for another AC produced from coconut. As expected from BET surface values, the value of q_{\max} of AC/TiO₂ composite material was slightly smaller than that of the mixture of AC and TiO₂.

3.3. Application of the hybrid process during five cycles

3.3.1. Preliminary tests

The first preliminary test investigated the direct photolysis of tartrazine (UV alone – without TiO₂). Tartrazine degradation under UV irradiation without catalyst was very slow, about 10% after 2000 min. A second preliminary test investigated was the photocatalytic performance of TiO₂ without AC under UV irradiation. A volume of 1 L of aqueous solution of tartrazine (0.32 g L⁻¹) and TiO₂ (0.4 g, same as in TiO₂/AC composite runs) was left in contact for one day in dark condition for preliminary adsorption. After this adsorption step, the system was exposed to UV irradiation for four days. Figure 6 shows the tartrazine concentration profile during this test: 19% was removed by adsorption onto TiO₂, while about 70% of the remaining fraction in liquid phase was degraded by photocatalysis. The photocatalytic process exhibited very high changes with a first period of very fast degradation during the first hour of UV irradiation where more tartrazine was degraded than during the following 7000 h. This strong final limitation may be related to the high tartrazine/TiO₂ weight ratio (0.40 g/0.40 g),

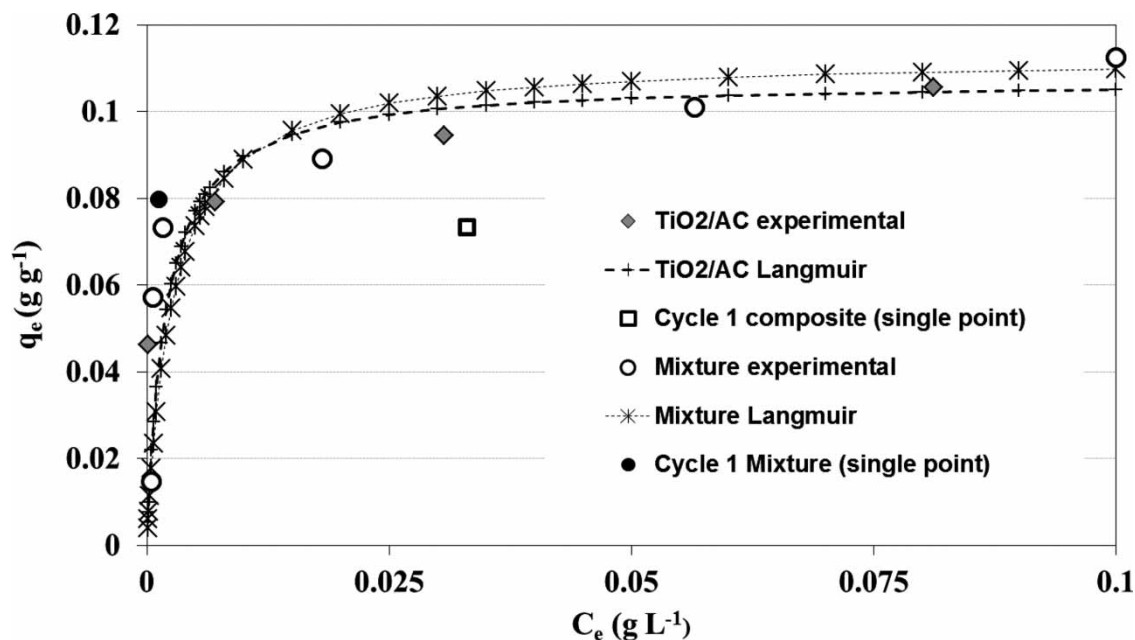


Figure 5. Tartrazine experimental isotherms and modelling Langmuir isotherms obtained with the mixture of AC and TiO₂ and with TiO₂/AC composite (the experimental points \square and \bullet correspond to the first adsorption steps with both materials).

Table 2. Parameter constants of Langmuir models for tartrazine.

Adsorbent	Langmuir parameters		
	$q_e = q_{\max}(C_e \cdot K_L)/(1 + C_e \cdot K_L)$		
	q_{\max} (g/g _{adsorbent})	K_L (L g ⁻¹)	R^2
Mixture of TiO ₂ and AC	0.113	516	0.998
TiO ₂ /AC composite	0.107	376	0.996

due to the small quantity of catalyst, active photocatalytic sites were blocked by a high amount of adsorbed molecules which absorbed a part of the UV light emitted by the lamp (340–400 nm). Consecutively, the amount of photon reaching the catalyst surface decreased, reducing drastically the degradation rate.[46,47]

3.3.2. Adsorption steps

Two series of four cycles of adsorption-photocatalytic regeneration have been carried out with the two solid materials, powder mixture and composite with the same weights of AC and TiO₂. For the first cycle, Figure 7(a) and 7(c) showed first adsorption to be faster with the powder mixture than with the composite. At the end of the first adsorption run nearly 100% of the pollutant left the liquid phase, being adsorbed by the solid mixture, while only 90% had been adsorbed on the TiO₂/AC composite. In the last case, the equilibrium was not achieved due to slower kinetics, as isotherms were seen as very similar (see Figure 5, where

the points ‘Cycle 1 composite’ and ‘cycle 1 Mixture’ have been added for comparison with isotherms). Two possible explanations of the slower adsorption with the composite would be: (i) an additional layer of TiO₂ should be crossed (ii) TiO₂ deposit reduced not only the porous volume but more significantly surface diffusion in the pores. For the next other cycles, adsorption efficiency was significantly reduced in both systems, indicating incomplete photocatalytic regeneration. With the AC and TiO₂ mixture, the loss of adsorption capacity was clearly more important suggesting lower photocatalytic regeneration. Table 3 and Figure 8 confirmed the better adsorption efficiency with TiO₂/AC composite after the first cycle. The total quantity of the adsorbed tartrazine during the four cycles was 10% higher on TiO₂/AC composite than on the solid mixture. For both materials, the cumulated amounts (four cycles) were nearly twice the maximum adsorption capacities, q_{\max} of the Langmuir model (Table 2). Higher re-adsorption despite lower initial adsorption kinetics suggested an improved photocatalytic regeneration of AC on TiO₂/AC composite as compared with the solid mixture.

3.3.3. Photocatalysis steps

As shown in Figure 7(b) and 7(d), Tartrazine was totally degraded with the two materials during the first photo-oxidation cycle. The reaction rate was much higher with the composite: 96% conversion within 3 h vs. 80% with the separate materials. As for the adsorption step, the photo-oxidation step was progressively reduced during the following cycles towards a quasi-steady behaviour with very similar third and fourth cycles. Here again, TiO₂/AC

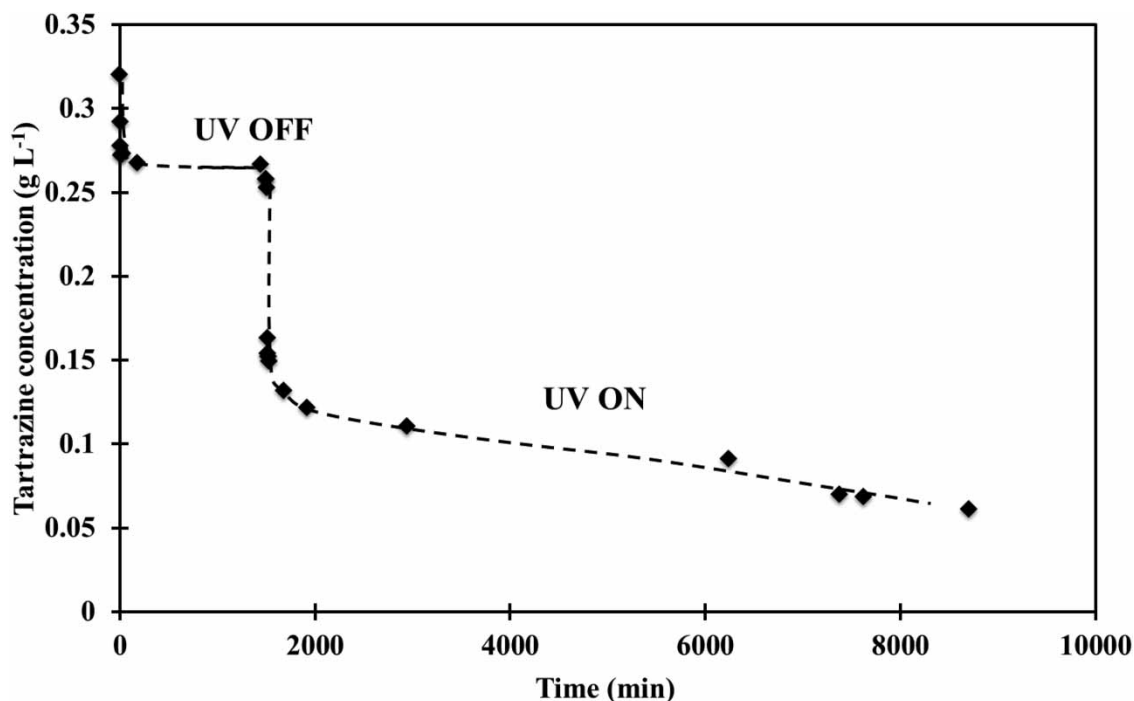


Figure 6. Kinetic of tartrazine adsorption (UV OFF) and photocatalytic oxidation with TiO_2 alone under UV irradiation at 25°C without AC (1 L, $C_0 = 0.32 \text{ g L}^{-1}$, $m_{\text{TiO}_2} = 0.4 \text{ g}$ and light intensity 47.5 W m^{-2}).

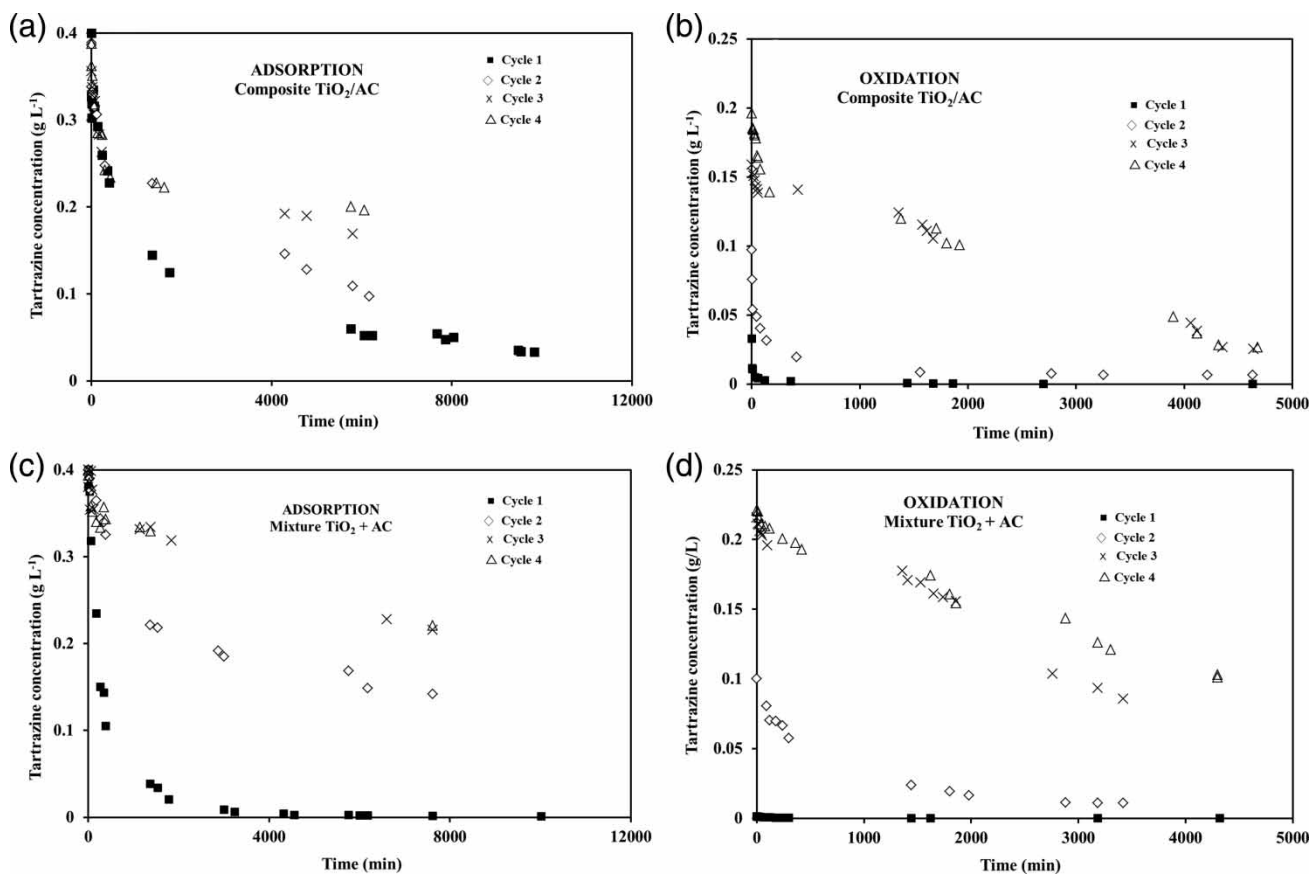


Figure 7. Tartrazine concentration-time measured for the four cycles using TiO_2/AC composite and the mixture of TiO_2 and AC during adsorption step and photocatalytic oxidation step: (a) adsorption composite material; (b) oxidation composite material; (c) adsorption mixture and (d) oxidation mixture ($T = 25^\circ\text{C}$, 1 L, $C_0 = 0.4 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, mixture: $m_{\text{TiO}_2} = 0.4 \text{ g}$ and $m_{\text{AC}} = 4.6 \text{ g}$, $m_{\text{TiO}_2/\text{AC}} = 5 \text{ g}$).

Table 3. Comparison of the tartrazine adsorbed quantity during four cycles of adsorption for TiO₂/AC composite and the mixture of AC and TiO₂ powder.

Adsorbent	Amount of tartrazine adsorbed (g/g _{adsorbent})				Total quantities $q_{total} = q_{AD1} + q_{AD2} + q_{AD3} + q_{AD4}$
	q_{AD1}	q_{AD2}	q_{AD3}	q_{AD4}	
Mixture of TiO ₂ and AC	0.076	0.049	0.035	0.034	0.194
TiO ₂ /AC composite	0.074	0.058	0.047	0.038	0.217

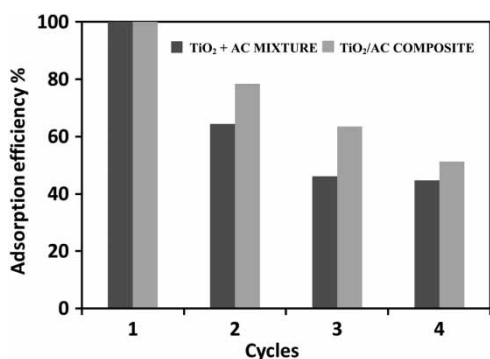


Figure 8. Comparison of adsorption efficiency evolution during four cycles ($q_{ADi}/q_{AD1} \times 100$) for TiO₂/AC composite and the mixture of AC and TiO₂ powder.

performed much better, leading to more than 80% degradation in liquid phase while a continuous decrease in degradation rate was observed with the solid mixture, down to less than 50% at the fourth cycle.

The photocatalyst was then much more efficient when deposited on the AC as already shown by Wang et al. [48] and Xue et al. [49]. The location of the adsorption and photocatalysis sites close to each other improved the conditions of oxidation, by lowering the diffusion step in between. A comparison of the reduction in TOC values for each cycle for both photocatalysis implementations was presented in Figure 9. Surprisingly TOC reduction was much higher than tartrazine degradation as observed in Figure 7(b) and 7(d). Indeed, this was due to accumulation of by-products which are predominant: tartrazine contribution to TOC is only 25% in the final cycle. The results also showed that the TOC removal using TiO₂/AC composite was always higher than when using separate TiO₂ and AC powders in the suspension mixture. The best mineralization with TiO₂/AC composite material was probably due to the vicinity of photocatalyst and AC adsorption sites. During the degradation of tartrazine, a part of the intermediates was adsorbed and was not transferred in liquid phase. Then, they were oxidized directly; there was no longer a possible limitation due to the step of transfer of the reactants from the fluid phase to the surface of the catalyst. The vicinity of photocatalytic and adsorption sites significantly accelerated the transfer step between the two sites and the overall oxidative regeneration process.

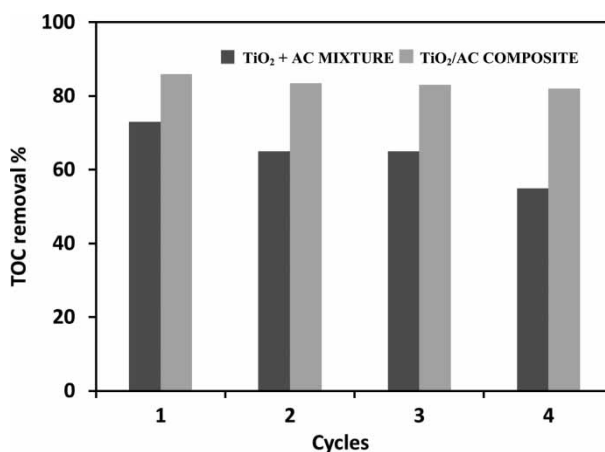


Figure 9. Comparison of the final TOC removal with the mixture of AC and TiO₂ powder and with the TiO₂/AC composite for the four photocatalytic oxidation steps.

4. Conclusion

Nanocrystalline TiO₂ deposited on AC by MOCVD preserved most of AC adsorption capacity. Such composite of TiO₂/AC materials exhibited photocatalytic activity for the degradation of tartrazine. By cyclic use of the catalyst deposited on AC up to 80% of tartrazine degradation was observed in liquid phase until the fourth cycle while only 50% with powder TiO₂ mixed with granular AC. The best performances with TiO₂ deposited on AC could be explained by a fast transfer of the organic compounds from adsorption sites to photocatalytic sites. The concentration of desorbing molecules near the photocatalytic sites should be much higher than when a diffusion through liquid phase is required from AC to TiO₂ particles.

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to acknowledge the financial support of the Midi-Pyrénées French region.

References

- [1] Bansal P, Singh D, Sud D. Photocatalytic degradation of azo dye in aqueous TiO₂ suspension: reaction pathway and identification of intermediates products by LC/MS. *Sep Purif Technol.* 2010;72:357–365.
- [2] Neppolian B, Choi HC, Sakthivel S, Arabindoo B, Murugesan V. Solar/UV induced photocatalytic degradation of three commercial textile dyes. *J Hazard Mater.* 2002;89:303–317.

- [3] Konstantinou IK, Albanis TA. TiO₂-assisted photocatalytic degradation of azo dyes in aqueous solution: kinetic and mechanistic investigations. A review. *Appl Catal B: Environ.* 2004;49:1–14.
- [4] Guetta N, Amar HA. Photocatalytic oxidation of methyl orange in presence of titanium dioxide in aqueous suspension. Part II: kinetics study. *Desalination.* 2005;185:439–448.
- [5] Mahmoodi NM, Arami M, Limaee NY, Tabrizi NS. Kinetics of heterogeneous photocatalytic degradation of reactive dyes in an immobilized TiO₂ photocatalytic reactor. *J Colloid Inter Sci.* 2006;295:159–164.
- [6] Barka N, Qourzal S, Assabane A, Nounahb A, Ait-Ichou Y. Factors influencing the photocatalytic degradation of Rhodamine B by TiO₂-coated non-woven paper. *J Photochem Photobiol A: Chem.* 2008;195:346–351.
- [7] Sopyan I, Watanabe M, Murasawa S, Hashimoto K, Fujishima A. An efficient TiO₂ thin-film photocatalyst: photocatalytic properties in gas-phase acetaldehyde degradation. *J Photochem Photobiol A: Chem.* 1996;98:79–86.
- [8] Arana J, Melian JAH, Rodriguez JMD, Diaz OG, Viera A, Pena JP, Sosa PMM, Jimenez VE. TiO₂-photocatalysis as a tertiary treatment of naturally treated wastewater. *Catal Today.* 2002;76:279–289.
- [9] Chun H, Yizong W, Hongxiao T. Preparation and characterization of surface bond-conjugated TiO₂/SiO₂ and photocatalysis for azo dyes. *Appl Catal B: Environ.* 2001;30:277–285.
- [10] Hosseini SN, Borghei SM, Vossoughi M, Taghavinia N. Immobilization of TiO₂ on perlite granules for photocatalytic degradation of phenol. *Appl Catal B: Environ.* 2007;74:53–62.
- [11] Nakata K, Fujishima A. TiO₂ photocatalysis: design and applications. *J Photochem Photobiol C: Photochem Rev.* 2012;13:169–189.
- [12] Song P, Irie Y, Shigesato Y. Crystallinity and photocatalytic activity of TiO₂ films deposited by reactive sputtering with radio frequency substrate bias. *Thin Solid Films.* 2006;496:121–125.
- [13] Zhang X, Zhou M, Lei L. Preparation of photocatalytic TiO₂ coatings of nanosized particles on activated carbon by AP-MOCVD. *Carbon.* 2005;43:1700–1708.
- [14] Chen Y, Dionysiou D. TiO₂ photocatalytic films on stainless steel: the role of degussa P 25 in modified sol-gel methods. *Appl Catal B: Environ.* 2006;63:255–264.
- [15] Zhang X, Zhou M, Lei L. TiO₂ photocatalyst deposition by MOCVD on activated carbon. *Carbon.* 2006;44:325–333.
- [16] Jung S, Kim S, Imaishi N. Effect of TiO₂ thin film thickness and specific surface area by low-pressure metal-organic chemical vapour deposition on photocatalytic activities. *Appl Catal B: Environ.* 2005;55:253–257.
- [17] Zhang X, Zhou M, Lei L. Enhancing the concentration of TiO₂ photocatalyst on the external surface of activated carbon by MOCVD. *Mater Res Bull.* 2005;40:1899–1904.
- [18] Zhang X, Zhou M, Lei L. Preparation of anatase TiO₂ supported on alumina by different metal organic chemical vapor deposition methods. *Appl Catal A Gen.* 2005;282:285–293.
- [19] Pozzo RL, Baltan MA, Cassano AE. Supported titanium oxide as photocatalyst in water decontamination: state of the art. *Catal Today.* 1997;39:219–231.
- [20] Tanguay JF, Suib SL, Coughlin RW. Dichloromethane photodegradation using titanium catalysts. *J Catal.* 1989;117:335–347.
- [21] Tryba B, Morawski AW, Inagaki M. Application of TiO₂-mounted activated carbon to the removal of phenol from water. *Appl Catal B: Environ.* 2003;41:427–433.
- [22] Matos J, Laine J, Hermann JM. Effect of the type of activated carbons on the photocatalytic degradation of aqueous organic pollutants by UV-irradiated titania. *J Catal.* 2001;200:10–20.
- [23] Matos J, Chovelon JM, Cordero T, Ferronato C. Influence of surface properties of activated carbon on photocatalytic activity of TiO₂ in 4-chlorophenol degradation. *Open Environ Eng J.* 2009;2:21–29.
- [24] Tsumura T, Kojitani N, Umemura H, Toyoda M, Inagaki M. Composites between photoactive anatase-type TiO₂ and adsorptive carbon. *Appl Surf Sci.* 2002;196:429–36.
- [25] Herrmann JM, Matos J, Disdier J, Guillard C, Laine J, Malato S, Blanco J. Solar photocatalytic degradation of 4-chlorophenol using synergistic effect between titania and activated carbon in aqueous suspension. *Catal Today.* 1999;54:255–265.
- [26] Yao SH, Jia YF, Zhao SL. Photocatalytic oxidation and removal of arsenite by titanium dioxide supported on granular activated carbon. *Environ Technol.* 2012;33:983–988.
- [27] Lee D, Kim S, Cho I, Kim S. Photocatalytic oxidation of microcystin-LR in a fluidized bed reactor having TiO₂-coated activated carbon. *Sep Purif Technol.* 2004;34:59–66.
- [28] Toyoda M, Nanbu Y, Kito T, Hiranob M, Inagaki M. Preparation and performance of anatase-loaded porous carbons for water purification. *Desalination.* 2003;159:273–282.
- [29] Khan AY, Mazyck DW. A new route for preparation of TiO₂-mounted activated carbon. *Appl Catal B: Environ.* 2003;46:203–208.
- [30] Sun LM, Meunier F. Adsorption. Aspects théoriques. *Techn Ing.* 2003;J2730:1–16.
- [31] El-Sheikh AH, Newman AP, Al-Daffae H, Phull S, Cresswell N, York S. Deposition of anatase on the surface of activated carbon. *Surf Coat Technol.* 2002;187:284–292.
- [32] Mahadwad OK, Parikh PA, Jasra RV, Patil C. Photocatalytic degradation of reactive black-5 dye using TiO₂-impregnated activated carbon. *Environ Technol.* 2012;33:307–312.
- [33] Mills A, Elliott N, Parkin IP, O'Neill SA, Clark RJ. Novel TiO₂ CVD films for semiconductor photocatalysis. *J Photochem Photobiol A.* 2002;15:171–179.
- [34] Ding Z, Hu XJ, Yue PL, Lu GQ, Greenfield PF. Novel silica gel supported TiO₂ photocatalyst synthesized by CVD method. *Langmuir.* 2000;16:6216–6222.
- [35] Aksoylu AE, Faria JL, Pereira MFR, Figueiredo JL, Serp P, Hierso JC. Highly dispersed activated carbon supported platinum catalysts prepared by OMCVD: a comparison with wet impregnated catalysts. *Appl Catal A.* 2003;243:357–365.
- [36] Polaert I, Wilhelm AM, Delmas H. Phenol wastewater treatment by a two-step adsorption–oxidation process on activated carbon. *Chem Eng Sci.* 2002;57:1585–1590.
- [37] Julcour-Lebigue C, Krou NG, Andriantsiferana C, Delmas H, Wilhelm AM. Assessment and modeling of a sequential process for water treatment-adsorption and batch CWAO regeneration of activated carbon. *Ind Eng Chem Res.* 2012;51:8867–8874.
- [38] Cadoret L, Reuge N, Pannala S, Syamlal M, Rossignol C, Dexpert-Ghys J, Coufort C, Caussat B. Silicon chemical vapor deposition on macro and submicron powders in a fluidized bed. *Powd Technol.* 2009;190:185–191.
- [39] Reuge N, Dexpert-Ghys J, Caussat B. Fluidized-bed MOCVD of Bi₂O₃ thin films from bismuth triphenyl under atmospheric pressure. *Chem Vapor Depos.* 2010;16:123–126.
- [40] Brunauer S, Emmett PH, Teller E. Adsorption of gases in multimolecular layers. *J Am Chem Soc.* 1938;60:309–319.
- [41] Horvath G, Kawazoe KJ. Method for the calculation of effective pore size distribution in molecular sieve carbon. *Chem Eng Jpn.* 1983;16:470–475.

- [42] Barrett EP, Joyner LG, Halenda PP. The determination of pore volume and area distributions in porous substances. *J Am Chem Soc.* 1951;73:373–380.
- [43] Zhang X, Lei L. Effect of preparation methods on the structure and catalytic performance of TiO₂/AC photocatalysts. *J Hazard Mater.* 2008;153:827–833.
- [44] Zhu B, Zou L. Removal of color compounds from recycled water using combined activated carbon adsorption and AOP decomposition. *J Adv Oxid Technol.* 2009;12:47–54.
- [45] Gupta VK, Jain R, Shrivastava M, Nayak A. Equilibrium and thermodynamic studies on the adsorption of dye tartrazine onto Waste “coconuts husks” carbon and activated carbon. *J Chem Eng Data.* 2010;55:5083–5090.
- [46] Qamar M, Saquib M, Muneer M. Semiconductor-mediated photocatalytic degradation of an azo dye, chrysoidine Y in aqueous suspensions. *Desalination.* 2005;171:185–193.
- [47] Wang JP, Chen YZ, Feng HM, Zhang SJ, Yu HQ. Removal of 2,4-dichlorophenol from aqueous solution by static-air-activated carbon fibers. *J Colloid Interface Sci.* 2007;313:80–85.
- [48] Wang X, Hu Z, Chen Y, Zhao G, Liu Y, Wen Z. A novel approach towards high performance composite photocatalyst of TiO₂ deposited on activated carbon. *Appl Surf Sci.* 2009;255:3953–3958.
- [49] Xue G, Liu H, Chen Q, Hills C, Tyrer M, Innocent F. Synergy between surface adsorption and photocatalysis during degradation of humic acid on TiO₂/activated carbon composites. *J Hazard Mater.* 2011;186:765–772.