

**AIN SHAMES UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING  
CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC WORKS SECTION**



**Applications of Anaerobic Baffled Reactor in Wastewater Treatment  
Using Agriculture Wastes**

**A Thesis**

**submitted to the Faculty of Engineering  
Ain Shams University for the Fulfillment  
of the Requirement of M.Sc. degree  
in Civil Engineering**

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**Presented by**

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# STATEMENT

This dissertation is submitted to Ain Shams University, Faculty of Engineering for the degree of M.Sc. in Civil Engineering.

The work included in this thesis was carried out by the author in the department of Public Works Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University.

No part of the thesis has been submitted for a degree or a qualification at any other University or Institution.

The candidate confirms that the work submitted is his own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others

Date: - ---/-- /2019

Signature: - -----

Name: - *Aya Mohamed Osman Hassan*

# *Dedication*

*This thesis is dedicated to those who contributed to educating, raising and supporting me to be able to accomplish in this picture.*

*A special dedication to*

**MY SUPPORTIVE PARENTS**

*and to*

**My wonderful  
Sisters and Relatives**

*and finally*

*special dedication to*

**MY LOVELY HUSBAND**

*for encouraging me to complete this work and for always being there for me.*

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**Finally**, the author dedicates this thesis to her parents and her husband

## ABSTRACT

Egypt and some developing countries are facing a shortage of water needs, so it is necessary to develop low cost technology to suit these countries and optimize the use of surrounding water. Achieving high efficiencies in anaerobic baffled reactor (ABR) for reducing chemical oxygen demand (COD) has always been an outstanding challenge for most researchers as most experiments focus on using fibers in ABR to reduce COD. In this paper a new material was introduced as a replacement for fibers which is the agricultural waste such as palm fibers and ficus trees. The Effect of using agricultural wastes on the performance of the (ABR)

in reducing COD was tested for four different stages (start-up, steady state, shock and final).

Both palm fibers and ficus trees samples achieved higher COD removal efficiency as compared to previous studies. The palm fiber samples achieved the highest COD removal efficiency in the four stages as compared to the ficus tree samples.

An exploration regarding the applicability, development and possible future presentation of the an-aerobic baffled reactor (ABR) for the wastewater treatment has been carried out. The reactor design has been established since early 1980s and has several benefits compared to well-established systems. It contains, good flexibility to organic loading and hydraulic, virtuous biomass retaining time, sludge yield reduces, also capacity towards partially separate between different stages for an-aerobic process. The slow rate of changes for populations of bacteria allowing well advanced resistance to alternate the environmental parameters for instance pH and temperature and protection against contaminated materials.

There are many alterations such as insertion of an-aerobic polishing stage, resulting in a reactor which can treat difficult wastewaters which now require many units, eventually expressively reducing capital cost. The main idea of the study is to investigate the behavior of these reactors and prove the use of biofilm in refining treatability, to promote the use of both type of biofilm, i.e. ficus fiber and palm fiber. Several important factors have been worked out i.e. temperature, no. of baffles in the reactor, shape of baffled and location of reactor in order to avoid lighting. For all the tested reactors, influent and effluent COD concentration, influent and effluent pH, temperature in reactor and flow rate, in all reactor stage (start-up, steady state, shock load and final stage), pH in all partition from reactors during shock load stage were examined. Results discovered the "ABR C" scenario gave the highest COD % removal as compared to other two scenarios. Simple experimental arrangement was used to see the treatability feature of synthetic wastewater. when tested under altered COD (500 - 1000 and 2000 mg/l) with flow rate 38 l/d and pH value 8.5. pH effect on treatability was explored too.

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**Keywords:** Anaerobic baffled reactor, organic load rete, Biomass, hydraulic retention time, Biodegradation.

# CONTENTS

Subject	page
<b>CHAPER I: INTROUDUCTION</b>	
1.1 General	1
1.2 PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION	1
1.3 OBJECTIVES OF CURRENT RESEARCH	2
1.4 SCOPE OF WORK	2
1.4.1 Experimental work	2
1.4.2 Analytical work	2
1.5 Contents of the Thesis	3
 <b>CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.1 Introduction	4
2.2 Wastewater treatment technologies	4
2.3 Anaerobic treatment	5
2.3.1 The rationale for anaerobic treatment	5
2.3.2 General design considerations for anaerobic treatment process	7
2.3.2.1 characteristics of the wastewater	7
2.3.2 .2 organic concentration and temperature	8
2.3.2.3 Solid retention time	8
2.3.3 Anaerobic suspended growth processes	8
2.3.4 Anaerobic sludge blanket processes	9
2.3.4.1 up-flow sludge blanket reactor process	9
1- Wastewater Characteristics	10
2- Volumetric Organic Loadings	10
2.3.4.2 Anaerobic Baffled Reactor	11



2.3.4.3 Anaerobic migrating blanket reactor	12
2.3.5 Attached growth anaerobic processes	12
2.4 Hybrid An-aerobic Baffled Reactor	13
<b>Chapter III: MATERIAL AND METHODS</b>	
3.1 Introduction	23
3.2 Pilot Plant	23
3.3 Experimental Work:	23
3.4 Design of Reactors	24
3.5 Operation of the reactors	29
3.5.1 Start-up stage	30
3.5.2 Steady state stage (operation stage)	32
3.5.3 Shock load stage	32
3.5.4 Return steady state stage	32
3.6 Measurements and analysis methods	33
3.6.1 Chemical oxygen demand (COD)	33
3.6.2 pH-Value	35
3.6.3 Suspended Solid (SS), MLSS and MLVSS	35
3.6.4 Mixed liquor Volatile Suspended Solids (MLVSS)	36
3.6.5 Food to microorganisms Ratio F/M:	36
<b>CHAPTER IV: RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS</b>	
4.1 Introduction	37
4.2 The first scenario (conventional reactor).	37
4.2.1 Start-up and Acclimation	37
4.2.2 Steady state	40
4.2.3 Shock load Stage	43
4.2.4 Final stage	48

4.3 The second scenario (ficus fiber -film). (Reactor B)	51
4.3.1 Start-up and Timeline	51
4.3.2 Steady state	53
4.3.3 Shock load Stage	55
4.3.4 Final stage	63
4.4 The third scenario (palm Fiber -film). (Reactor C)	66
4.4.1 Start-up and Timeline	66
4.4.2 Steady state	68
4.4.3 Shock load Stage	71
4.4.4 Final stage	77
4.5 Comparison between three scenarios	80
<b>CHAPTER VI: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS</b>	
5.1 Summary	89
5.2 Conclusions:	91
5.3 Suggestions for Further Research	91
<b>REFERENCES</b>	92

# **“LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS”**

## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>A</b>	= Cross-sectional area
<b>ABR</b>	= An-aerobic Baffled Reactor,
<b>ABR (A)</b>	= Conventional an-aerobic baffled reactor,
<b>ABR (B)</b>	= An-aerobic baffled reactor with focus fiber media,
<b>ABR (C)</b>	= An-aerobic baffled reactor with palm fiber media,
<b>ACF</b>	= Activated Carbon Fiber
<b>AD</b>	= Anaerobic Digestion
<b>ADS</b>	= Anaerobically Digested Sludge
<b>AHR</b>	= An-aerobic Hybrid Reactor
<b>AMBR</b>	= An-aerobic Migrating Blanket Reactor
<b>AS</b>	= Activated Sludge
<b>ASB</b>	= Anaerobic Sludge Blanket
<b>ASBR</b>	= Anaerobic Sludge Bed Reactor
<b>ASR</b>	= Anaerobic Stage Reactor
<b>BOD</b>	= Biochemical Oxygen Demand
<b>CABR</b>	= Carrier Anaerobic Baffled Reactor
<b>COD</b>	= Chemical Oxygen Demand
<b>CW</b>	= Chemical Wastewater
<b>DI-ABR</b>	= Divisional Influent Anaerobic Baffled Reactor
<b>E</b>	= Effectiveness factor
<b>F/M</b>	= Food to microorganism's ratio
<b>GF</b>	= Glass Fiber
<b>GSS</b>	= Gas Solids Separator
<b>HFCWs</b>	= Horizontal Flow Constructed Wetlands
<b>H<sub>G</sub></b>	= Reactor height to accommodate gas collection and storage
<b>H<sub>L</sub></b>	= Reactor height based on liquid volume
<b>HRT</b>	= Hydraulic Retention Time
<b>H<sub>T</sub></b>	= Total reactor height
<b>HUASB</b>	= Hybrid Up-flow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket reactor
<b>MLSS</b>	= Mixed Liquor Suspended Solids
<b>MLVSS</b>	= Mixed Liquor Volatile Suspended
<b>Na</b>	= Not Available
<b>NRC</b>	= National Research Center
<b>°C</b>	= Temperature
<b>OMW</b>	= Olive Mill Wastewater
<b>OLR</b>	= Organic Loading Rate
<b>pH</b>	= Hydrogen ion concentration
<b>PVA</b>	= Polyvinyl Alcohol
<b>PVAF</b>	= Polyvinyl Alcohol Fiber
<b>Q</b>	= Flow rate
<b>RF</b>	= Rumen Fluid
<b>SDB</b>	= Sludge Drying Bed
<b>SI-ABR</b>	= Single Influent Anaerobic Baffled Reactor
<b>SLR</b>	= Sludge Loading Rate
<b>S<sub>o</sub></b>	= Influent COD, kg COD/m <sup>3</sup> BOD
<b>SRT</b>	= Solid Retention Time
<b>SS</b>	= Suspended Solids
<b>SW</b>	= Synthetic Wastewater

**T** = Time  
**TACR** = Thermophilic Anaerobic Contact Reactor  
**TDS** = Total Dissolved Solids  
**TN** = Total Nitrogen  
**TOC** = Total Organic Carbon  
**TS** = Total Solids  
**TSS** = Total Suspended Solid  
**UASB** = Up-flow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket  
**UASR** = Up-flow Anaerobic Sponge Reactor  
**VFA** = Volatile Fatty Acid  
**VFCWs** = Vertical Flow Constructed Wet lands  
**V<sub>L</sub>** = Total liquid volume of reactor  
**V<sub>n</sub>** = nominal (effective) liquid volume of reactor, m<sup>3</sup>  
**V<sub>s</sub>** = Volatile Solids  
**V<sub>w</sub>** = volume of water  
**WHPCO** = Wet Hydrogen Peroxide Catalytic Oxidation  
**WWTP** = Wastewater Treatment Plant

# **“LIST OF FIGUERS”**

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Fig. 2.1</b>	Waste-water treatment unit operation and processed	4
<b>Fig 2.1</b>	Series of An-aerobic Waste-water treatment systems	5
<b>Fig. 2.2</b>	Type of an-aerobic treatment processes	7
<b>Fig. 2.3</b>	An-aerobic suspended growth treatment processes	8
<b>Fig. 2.4</b>	Schematic figure of UASB process & some modification	8
<b>Fig. 2.5</b>	The Implementation of a reactor in nature Source: SANIMAS (2005)	11
<b>Fig. 2.6</b>	Schematic views of alternative sludge blanket processes	11
<b>Fig. 2.7</b>	Up-flow an-aerobic attached growth treatment reactor	12
<b>Fig. 2.8</b>	Representation the diagram of a hybrid anaerobic baffled reactor through Rongrong et al. 2011	13
<b>Fig. 2.9</b>	Schematic diagram of the "SCSTR" by Alrawi et al. 2011	14
<b>Fig. 2.10</b>	Representation the diagram of an experimental set-up by Gong et al. 2011	15
<b>Fig. 2.11</b>	Graphic the diagram of an experimental set-up by Benis et al. 2010	16
<b>Fig. 2.12</b>	Profile of (A) COD and (B) BOD concentration variations by Benis et al. 2010	17
<b>Fig. 2.13</b>	Schematic view and the flow chart of the TACR by Şentürk et al. 2010	1
<b>Fig. 2.14</b>	Graphic the block diagram of the required treatment outlines by El-Kamah et al. 2010	11
<b>Fig. 2.15</b>	Graphic the diagram of the planning treatment system by El-Kamah et al. 2010	11
<b>Fig. 2.16</b>	ASR system and flow regime Al-karimiah et al. 2011	12
<b>Fig. 2.17</b>	Experimental set-up of integrated system (WHPCO-Anaerobic treatment) by El-Gohary et al. 2009	13
<b>Fig. 2.18</b>	Representation the diagram of the "UASB" reactor sort through El-Gohary et al. 2009	13
<b>Fig. 2.19</b>	Representation the diagram of the "HUASB" reactor sort through Banu et al. 2008	15
<b>Fig. 2.20</b>	Representation of the anaerobic hybrid reactor (not scaled) by Kumar et al. 2008	17
<b>Fig. 2.21</b>	Single influent ABR (SI-ABR) and Divisional influent ABR (DI-ABR) by Ju-wei et al. 2011	19
<b>Fig. 2.22</b>	The granular bed baffled reactor ( <u>GRABBR</u> ) by Shanmugam and Akunna. 2010	22
<b>Fig. 2.23</b>	Schematic representation of the CABR with packing made of hollow-sphere bamboo by Feng et al. 2009	22
<b>Fig. 3.1</b>	An-aerobic baffled reactor, all dimensions in m	24
<b>Fig. 3.2</b>	Sludge in reactor = $1/2 V_w$	26
<b>Fig. 3.3</b>	Temperature regulator	26
<b>Fig. 3.4</b>	Installation of the system and method of feeding	26
<b>Fig. 3.5</b>	Tank feeding, and constant head tank	27
<b>Fig. 3.6</b>	Shape of the sponge (A. Before treatment, B. After treatment)	28
<b>Fig. 3.7</b>	Shape of the fiber (A. Before treatment, B. After treatment)	29
<b>Fig. 3.8</b>	Reactor A, reactor B and reactor C systems and laboratory apparatus, general view	30
<b>Fig. 3.9</b>	Steps of test (COD) (A, sample collection, B, put sample in vial, C, Digestion of the sample by heating, and D, Read result COD)	34
<b>Fig. 3.10</b>	pH measurement	35
<b>Fig. 4.1</b>	COD removal efficiency obtained until to the steady state stage for ABR (A)	37
<b>Fig. 4.2</b>	The COD removal efficiency for ABR (A) in steady state stage	38
<b>Fig. 4.3</b>	Relationship between pH and COD concentration for ABR (A) in operation stage	38
<b>Fig. 4.4</b>	COD removal efficiency to shock load for ABR (A)	39
<b>Fig. 4.5</b>	pH and COD concentration in shock load stage for ABR (A)	41
<b>Fig. 4.6</b>	Performance of ABR (A) for each compartment in shock load	42
<b>Fig. 4.7</b>	Performance of reactor A for each compartment in shock load stag	44
<b>Fig. 4.8</b>	COD removal efficiency to final stage for ABR (A)	44
<b>Fig. 4.9</b>	pH values to final stage for ABR (A)	46
<b>Fig. 4.10</b>	The COD removal efficiency for ABR (B)	47
<b>Fig. 4.11</b>	The pH values for ABR (B)	49