Effects of TiO$_2$ on the laccase enzyme immobilization and the bisphenol-A removal of the ceramic membranes

Samunya Sanguanpak$^a$,*, Witaya Shongkittikul$^a$, Anucha Wannagon$^a$, Chart Chiemchaisri$^b$

$^a$National Metal and Materials Technology Center (MTEC), National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), 114 Thailand Science Park, Pahonyothin Rd., Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120, Thailand, Tel. +66-256-46500, Fax +66-256-46368, email: samunys@mtec.or.th (S. Sanguanpak), wityatas@mtec.or.th (W. Shongkittikul), anuchaw@mtec.or.th (A. Wannagon)

$^b$Department of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Kasetsart University, Bangkok 10900, Thailand, email: fengccc@ku.ac.th

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**ABSTRACT**

This research investigates the effects of titanium dioxide (TiO$_2$) on the laccase enzyme immobilization and the BPA removal performance of the ceramic membranes. There were four types of experimental ceramic membranes: the ceramic membrane, TiO$_2$-coated membrane, laccase-immobilized membrane, and laccase-immobilized TiO$_2$-coated membrane. The laccase concentrations were varied between 0, 500, 2500 and 5000 U L$^{-1}$. The experimental results revealed that TiO$_2$ improved the laccase immobilization as TiO$_2$ increased the membrane surface area, formed the mesoporous structure and induced the stronger binding between the membrane surface and the enzyme. Moreover, the laccase-immobilized TiO$_2$-coated membrane with 5000 U L$^{-1}$ laccase concentration achieved the highest BPA removal efficiency of 93%. The TiO$_2$-coated membrane could achieve a higher BPA removal efficiency (31%) than the ceramic membrane (9%) and the 500 U L$^{-1}$ laccase-immobilized membrane (20%). The finding was attributable to the improved degradation of organic pollutants as a result of higher photocatalytic performance under visible light and the enhanced organic-pollutants adsorption capacity of the TiO$_2$-coated membrane.

*Corresponding author.

**Keywords:** Ceramic membranes; TiO$_2$; Laccase enzyme; Bisphenol-A removal