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KINETIC REGULARITIES OF THE PROCESSES OF ACCUMULATION AND DESTRUCTION OF MICROORGANISMS IN WATER AT BUBBLING OF THE DIFFERENT GASES

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Received: February 09, 2011 / Revised: February 23, 2011 / Accepted: May 27, 2011

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Abstract. Kinetics of microorganisms accumulation (the first stage) and destruction (the second stage) in water dispersion in the air atmosphere and at bubbling of oxygen, argon and helium has been investigated. The accumulation of microorganism takes place in oxygen and in the air atmosphere at the first stage. The microorganisms destruction was observed at bubbling of the system by argon, helium during the whole process, however, in the air atmosphere and oxygen – in the second stage. Mathematical model of these two processes was elaborated and the rate constants of microorganisms destruction and propagation were calculated.

Keywords: mathematical model, microorganisms, accumulation, destruction, gases.

1. Introduction

In our previous researches the influence of ultrasound (US) treatment and simultaneous action of the US and gases of different nature have been studied in the process of water disinfection [1-4]. It was found that the effectiveness of bactericidal action of the US depends on the nature of bubbling gases under sonication conditions. Thus, the efficiency of destruction of *Sarcina* bacteria type under the combination of US action (v_{US} is 22 kHz, τ_{US} is 2 h) with the gases such as Ar, He, CO₂ and O₂ is 97; 95.3; 83.3 and 82.8 %, respectively [1]. The dependence of microbial destruction under the simultaneous Ar/US action depending on their initial concentration was investigated in [4].

The investigation of the water purification method under the US action of various microorganisms (MO) is marked by many positive results [5-10]. According to [11] the number of microorganisms (NM) ($105\text{--}150\cdot 10^3$ cells/ml

of polluted water is increased in 20 times under the ultrasonic treatment ($v_{US} = 22$ kHz) in the argon atmosphere, while at bubbling of argon only – in 1.2–1.8 times under the same conditions. The bacteria destruction in the presence of argon alone with the effectiveness of water disinfection of 88–94 % was observed in [11].

However, the influence of gases alone on the MO viability in water is not still understood today. Therefore, several studies were conducted by us with the aim of the detailed consideration of this process that may be important for grounding and understanding the process of water disinfection at bubbling gases into water.

2. Experimental

Microbial dispersions were prepared by adding microbes of the specific type into the deaerated distilled water for researches of the process of the NM change in the volume unit of water in the presence of different gases. The test-microorganisms were the spore formation *Bacillus cereus* bacteria type at the age of three days.

The microbial dispersion with $NM_0 = 10^3$ cells/cm³ was maintained at the stable temperature ($T = 303$ K) under stirring and without it. The gas exchange with atmospheric air of the microbial dispersion was provided under indicated conditions.

Oxygen, argon and helium were used as additional gases for the researches, which were bubbled into the microbial dispersion at the rate of ~ 1 cm³/s. The influence of gases on the motion of the process of the MO viability was studied at different concentration of the microbes: $NM_{01} = 7\cdot 10^4$ cells/cm³ and $NM_{02} = 11.57\cdot 10^4$ cells/cm³ – for argon; $NM_{01} = 3.4\cdot 10^4$ cells/cm³ and $NM_{02} = 4.8\cdot 10^4$ cells/cm³ – for helium. The influence of oxygen was investigated at high ($NM_0 = 7\cdot 10^4$ cells/cm³) and low

($NM_{01} = 2.7 \cdot 10^2$ cells/cm³ and $NM_{02} = 5 \cdot 10^2$ cells/cm³) concentrations of the MO. The duration of the process was 2 h.

The volume of the investigated dispersion (75 cm³) in the glass reactor was cooled by water during the whole process. The temperature of the microbial dispersion was 288 ± 1 K.

The MO were grown in a Petri plate on the nutrient medium – meat and peptone agar in the thermostat TS-80M-3 at $T = 310$ K for 48 h. The sowings of samples of microbial dispersion (1 cm³) into a Petri plate were held by means of a deep method.

The dynamics of the change of microbial number in time was determined. The correlation coefficients and the rate constants of accumulation (k_g) and destruction (k_d) of *Bacillus cereus* bacteria type in the atmosphere of different gases were expected.

3. Results and Discussion

Investigation of the change of NM in the volume unit of distilled water in time in the air atmosphere showed that it increases on the first stage and then decreases slowly (Fig. 1). The rate of MO growth (the first

stage) is equal for the processes in a stationary regime and at a constant rotation of the dispersion. Obviously, the medium of MO growth contains nutrient substances and oxygen, which are needed for growth and accumulation of MO. The rate of the MO destruction (the second stage) is slower when the dispersion is being mixed. It can be connected with the aggregation and the sedimentation of MO or with the low rate of oxygen diffusion into the cells in the volume of microbial dispersion. At the same time when the dispersion of MO was aerated by argon and helium, the NM decreases in the volume unit of the system from the beginning of the process (Figs. 2 and 3). The rate of the MO destruction was higher in the first case than in the second one. The shape of curves of the NM change in the volume unit of dispersion at bubbling of oxygen (Figs. 4 and 5) is similar to the curves in the air atmosphere (Fig. 1), but the rate of MO growth and destruction is larger (Table).

The rate of the MO destruction can be described by the kinetic reaction equation of the first order:

$$-dNM / dt = k_d NM \quad (1)$$

where k_d is the rate constant of microorganism destruction, s⁻¹; NM is the number of microorganisms in the volume unit of dispersion, cells/cm³.

Table

The correlation coefficients (R_d^2 , R_g^2) and the rate constants of microorganism destruction (k_d) and accumulation (k_g)

Conditions	R_d^2	k_d, s^{-1}	R_g^2	k_g, s^{-1}
In air atmosphere under mixing	0.620	$(2.7 \pm 0.4) \cdot 10^{-8}$	0.907	$(9.25 \pm 0.08) \cdot 10^{-6}$
In air atmosphere without mixing	0.899	$(9.0 \pm 0.3) \cdot 10^{-8}$	0.907	$(9.25 \pm 0.08) \cdot 10^{-6}$
O ₂ bubbling	0.954	$(1.07 \pm 0.05) \cdot 10^{-4}$	0.967	$(9.76 \pm 0.06) \cdot 10^{-4}$
He bubbling	0.937	$(8.16 \pm 0.07) \cdot 10^{-5}$	-	-
Ar bubbling	0.893	$(2.3 \pm 0.1) \cdot 10^{-4}$	-	-

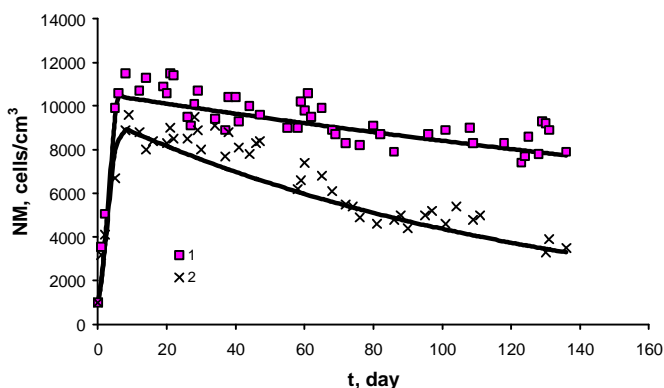


Fig. 1. Change of NM in the volume unit of dispersion in air atmosphere at mixing of the system (1) and without mixing (2). Experimental data are described by the points. Theoretical curves are calculated according to the Eq. (13).

Conditions: $NM_0 = 10^3$ cells/cm³; $T = 303$ K; $P = 0.1$ MPa

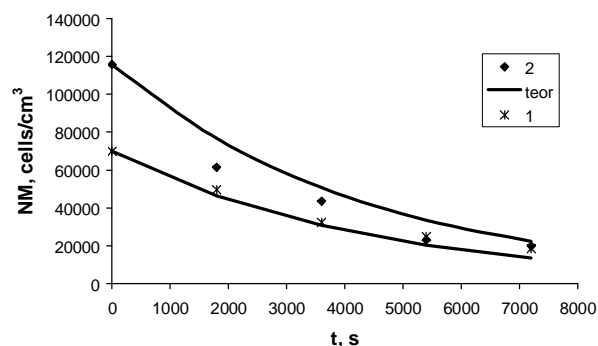


Fig. 2. Change of NM in the volume unit of dispersion at bubbling of the system by argon at different NM_0 . Experimental data are described by the points. Theoretical curves are calculated according to the Eq. (3). Conditions: $NM_{01} = 7 \cdot 10^4$ cells/cm³ (1); $NM_{02} = 11.57 \cdot 10^4$ cells/cm³ (2); $T = 288 \pm 1$ K; $P = 0.1$ MPa

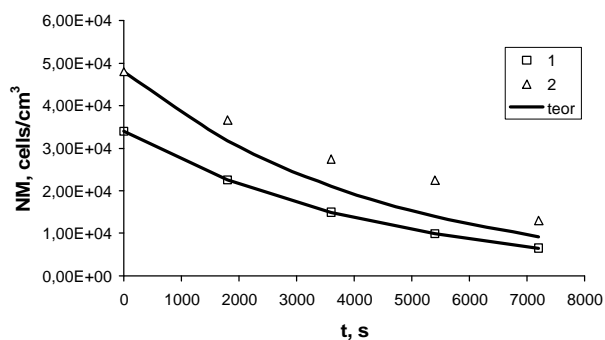


Fig. 3. Change of NM in the volume unit of dispersion at bubbling of the system by helium at different NM_0 . Experimental data are described by the points. Theoretical curves are calculated according to the Eq. (3). Conditions: $NM_{01} = 3.4 \cdot 10^4$ cells/cm³ (1); $NM_{02} = 4.8 \cdot 10^4$ cells/cm³ (2); $T = 288 \pm 1$ K; $P = 0.1$ MPa

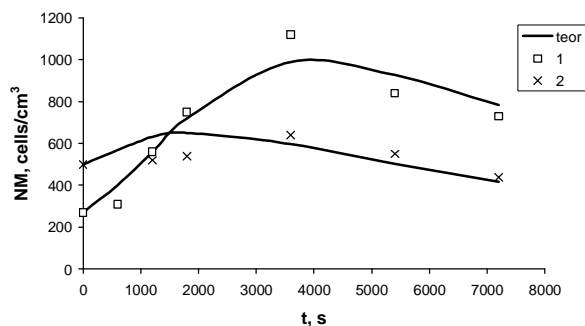


Fig. 4. Change of NM in the volume unit of dispersion at bubbling of the system by oxygen at the low NM_0 . Experimental data are described by the points. Theoretical curves are calculated according to the Eq. (13). Conditions: $NM_{01} = 2.7 \cdot 10^2$ cells/cm³ (1); $NM_{02} = 5 \cdot 10^2$ cells/cm³ (2); $T = 288 \pm 1$ K; $P = 0.1$ MPa

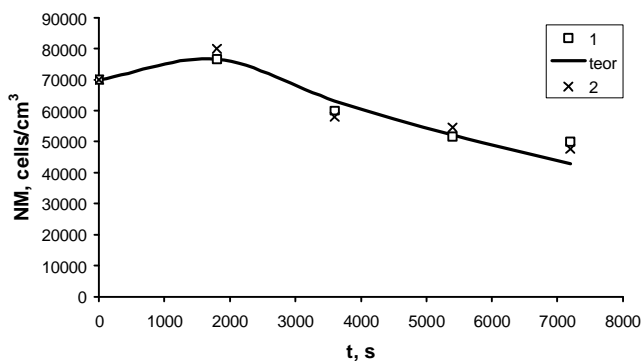


Fig. 5. Change of NM in the volume unit of dispersion at the bubbling of the system by oxygen at the high NM_0 . Experimental data are described by the points. Theoretical curves are calculated according to the Eq. (13). Conditions: $NM_0 = 7 \cdot 10^4$ cells/cm³ (1, 2); $T = 288 \pm 1$ K; $P = 0.1$ MPa

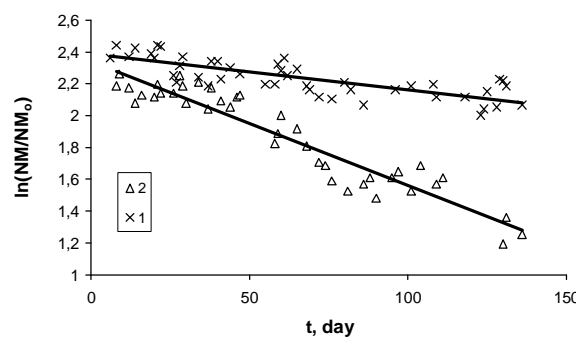


Fig. 6. Dependence of NM in the volume unit of dispersion on time in coordinates of the Eq. (2) in the air atmosphere with mixing the system (1) and without mixing (2)

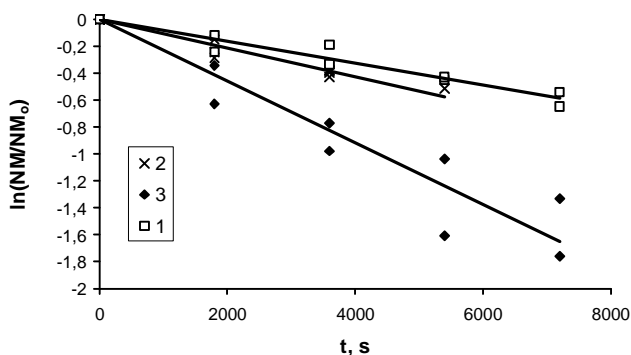


Fig. 7. Dependence of NM in the volume unit of dispersion on time in coordinates of the Eq. (2) at bubbling of the system by helium (1), oxygen (2) and argon (3)

The experimental data of the decrease of the NM in the volume unit of dispersion in the air atmosphere (Fig. 6) and at bubbling of the dispersion by oxygen, argon and helium (Fig. 7) are linear in coordinates of the Eq. (2) that is obtained by the integration of the Eq. (1).

$$\ln(NM / NM_0) = -k_d t \quad (2)$$

The correlation coefficients and the values of the rate constants are presented in the Table.

The change of the NM in the volume unit of dispersion can be calculated according to the Eq. (3), that is obtained from the Eq. (2).

$$NM = NM_0 \exp(-k_d t) \quad (3)$$

The theoretical curves (Figs. 2 and 3), calculated according to the Eq. (3), are described quit well by the experimental data of the NM decrease in the volume unit of the dispersion at bubbling of the system by argon and helium.

The rate of the MO accumulation can be described by the equation:

$$dNM / dt = k_g NM [S] \quad (4)$$

where k_g is the rate constant of the NM increase in the volume unit of the dispersion; $[S]$ is the concentration of the nutrient substances in the medium.

The rate of the decrease of nutrient substances concentration in the medium can be described by the equation:

$$-d[S] / dt = k_n NM [S] \quad (5)$$

where k_n is the rate constant of the nutrient substances spending.

The Eq. (6) can be obtained by division of the Eq. (4) by the Eq. (5):

$$-dNM / dt = k_g / k_n d[S] \quad (6)$$

The integration of the Eq. (6) at the initial conditions $NM = NM_0$, $[S] = [S]_0$, where NM_0 is the initial NM in the volume unit of the dispersion.

Denotation the initial concentration of nutrient substances in the system as $[S]_0$ leads to the Eq. (7):

$$NM - NM_0 = \frac{k_g}{k_n} ([S]_0 - [S]) \quad (7)$$

The differential of the equation of NM change in the volume unit of the dispersion can be obtained from the Eqs. (5) and (7):

$$dNM / dt = k_g NM ([S]_0 - \frac{k_n}{k_g} (NM - NM_0)) \quad (8)$$

The integration of the Eq. (8) at the initial conditions $t = 0$, $NM = NM_0$ leads to the linear dependence of the NM and the initial concentration of nutrient substances in time:

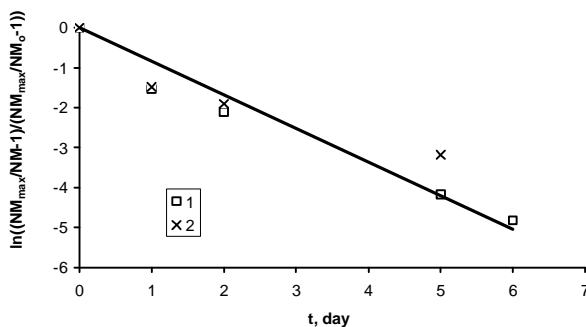


Fig. 8. Dependence of NM in the volume unit of dispersion on time in coordinates of the Eq. (11) in the air atmosphere with mixing the system (1) and without mixing (2)

$$\ln(NM_0 (\frac{k_g}{k_n} [S]_0 + NM_0 - NM) / (NM \frac{k_g}{k_n} [S]_0)) = - (k_g [S]_0 + k_n NM_0) t \quad (9)$$

At the first approximation the concentration of the nutrient substances in the system equals to zero at maximum of the NM in the volume unit of the dispersion on the kinetic curve. Therefore the Eq. (7) can be transformed into the Eq. (10):

$$[S]_0 = \frac{k_n}{k_g} (NM_{\max} - NM_0) \quad (10)$$

where NM_{\max} is the maximum number of microorganisms on the kinetic curve in the air atmosphere or at bubbling of the system by oxygen.

The Eq. (11) can be obtained using the Eqs. (9) and (10):

$$\ln((\frac{NM_{\max}}{NM} - 1) / (\frac{NM_{\max}}{NM_0} - 1)) = -k_n NM_{\max} t \quad (11)$$

Figs. 8 and 9 show that experimental data on the MO propagation in the air atmosphere and at bubbling of the system by oxygen are described quit well by the straight line in the coordinates of the Eq. (11). The correlation coefficients and the rate constants are presented in the Table.

The Eq. (10) can be transformed into the equation:

$$NM = \frac{NM_{\max}}{1 + (\frac{NM_{\max}}{NM_0} - 1) \exp(-k_n NM_{\max} t)} \quad (12)$$

The change of the NM in the volume unit of the dispersion in the air atmosphere and at bubbling of the system by oxygen can be obtained by summarizing the Eqs. (11) and (12).

$$NM = \frac{NM_{\max} \exp(-k_d t)}{1 + (\frac{NM_{\max}}{NM_0} - 1) \exp(-k_n NM_{\max} t)} \quad (13)$$

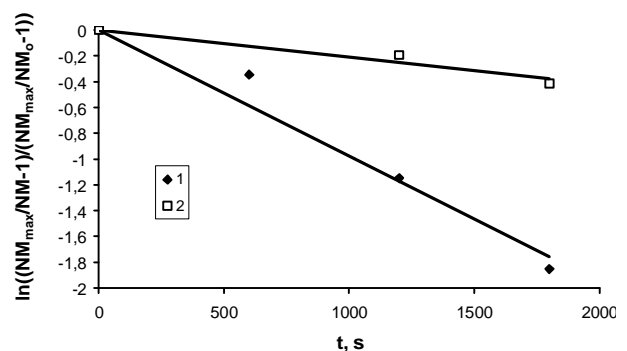


Fig. 9. Dependence of NM in the volume unit of dispersion on time in coordinates of the Eq. (11) at bubbling of the system by oxygen at different NM_0 in the volume unit of the system. Conditions: 270 cells/cm³ (1) and at 500 cells/cm³ (2)

Theoretical curves (Figs. 1 and 4-5), calculated according to the Eq. (13), are described quite well by the experimental data on the change of the *NM* in the volume unit of the dispersion in the air atmosphere (Fig. 1) and at bubbling of the system by oxygen (Figs. 4 and 5).

Table shows that the rate constants of the MO accumulation are larger in the air atmosphere and oxygen in comparison with their destruction under same conditions and also shows that the rate constants of the MO destruction at bubbling of the system by oxygen, argon and helium are larger than in the air atmosphere.

4. Conclusions

Mathematical model, proposed by us, allows to describe the processes of accumulation and destruction of microorganisms in water in the presence of gases of different nature. It was determined that the processes of *NM* increases at the first stage under the air and oxygen atmosphere conditions the processes of MO destruction at bubbling of all investigated gases (atmospheric air, oxygen, argon and helium) are described by the kinetic reactions equations of the first order.

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КІНЕТИЧНІ ЗАКОНОМІРНОСТІ ПРОЦЕСІВ НАГРОМАДЖЕННЯ І РУЙНУВАННЯ МІКРООРГАНІЗМІВ У ВОДІ ПРИ БАРБОТУВАННІ РІЗНИХ ГАЗІВ

Анотація. Досліджено кінетику нагромадження (I стадія) і руйнування мікроорганізмів (II стадія) у водній дисперсії в атмосфері повітря і при барботуванні кисню, аргону і гелію. Нагромадження мікроорганізмів при барботуванні системи киснем і в атмосфері повітря відбувається на першій стадії. Загибель мікроорганізмів спостерігалась при барботуванні аргоном, гелієм протягом всього процесу, однак в атмосфері повітря та кисню – на другій стадії. Розроблена математична модель обох процесів та обчислені константи швидкості нагромадження і руйнування мікроорганізмів.

Ключові слова: математична модель, мікроорганізми, нагромадження, руйнування, газ.