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This is the author's manuscript

Original Citation:

Availability:

This version is available <http://hdl.handle.net/2318/1929550> since 2023-09-04T15:00:03Z

Publisher:

University of Ioannina

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Removal of recalcitrant organic pollutants by soybean peroxidase immobilized on cellulose-alginate hydrogels

Monica Rigoletto¹, Paola Calza¹, Debora Fabbri¹, Alexandre Santuchi da Cunha², Maria Laura Tummino³ and Enzo Laurenti¹

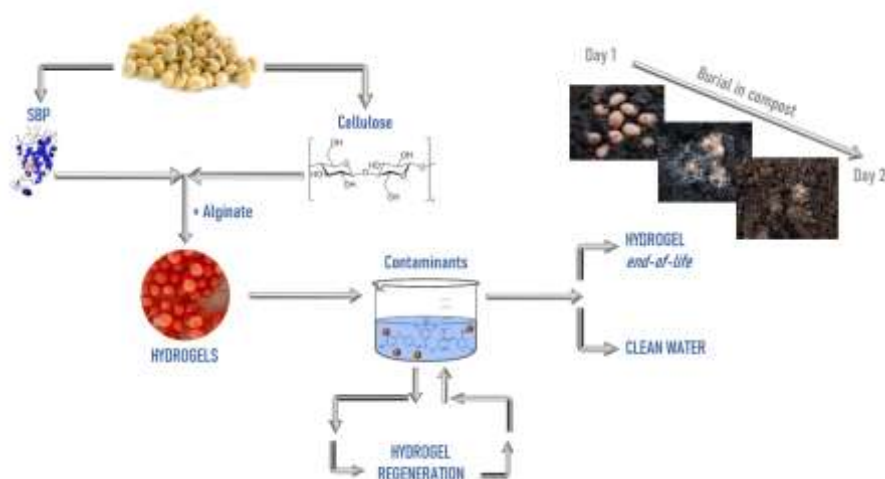
¹ Department of Chemistry, University of Torino, Via P. Giuria 5/7, 10125, Torino, Italy

² Department of Chemical Engineering, University of São Paulo, 05508010 São Paulo, Brazil

³ Institute of Intelligent Industrial Technologies and Systems for Advanced Manufacturing, Italian National Research Council, Corso G. Pella 16, 13900 Biella, Italy

monica.rigoletto@unito.it

Bioremediation is a very attractive approach for water treatment, especially enzyme-based strategies, since they offer good catalytic activity with milder reaction conditions, production of non-toxic compounds, and environmental friendliness. These aspects, together with the increasing attention toward the circular economy, promote the development of new materials with high added value from biomass waste. In this work [1], we focused our attention on Soybean hulls, an abundant soy processing residue (estimated around 25-28 million tons/year), rich in cellulose and also containing soybean peroxidase (SBP) [2], two interesting and versatile components exploitable for environmental treatments. Alginate and chemically modified cellulose functionalized with SBP were used to prepare fully bio-based hybrid hydrogels that we tested for the removal of Bisphenol A, 2,4,6-trichlorophenol and Triclosan from both ultrapure and real water spiked solutions. Through both adsorption and enzymatic catalysis, in 5 hours, all contaminants are successfully removed from the solution, with a corresponding significant reduction in acute toxicity. These materials show good efficiency retention for eight cycles of reuse and it is also confirmed in real water samples. Finally, the burial test in compost soil shows the biodegradability of the hydrogels proving the high eco-compatibility of the whole process.



Acknowledgements

This work is part of the project SusWater, funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement n. 101007578.

References

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- [2] Calza et al., *Environ. Sc. Poll. Res.* 23, 23742-23749 (2016). DOI 10.1007/s11356-016-7399-1