

## **Cyclodextrins in environmental technologies as shown in the 18th International Cyclodextrin Symposium**

The environmental application of cyclodextrins was one of the focuses of the 18<sup>th</sup> International Cyclodextrin Symposium held in Gainesville on May 19-21, 2016. Two of the 4 invited lectures, 7 of 24 oral presentations and 6 of 31 posters were related to this topic.

Prof. Thomas Boving (University of Rhode Island, Kingston, USA) gave an overview on the CD-enhanced remediation (CDER) technologies [1]. Compared to the traditional pump & treat methods, which use simply water for the extraction of the contaminants from the soil, flushing the soil with HPBCD solution is an efficient technology reducing the treatment time with an order or two magnitudes as it was proved in several field tests. The enhanced solubility is an advantage in the *in situ* oxidation technologies (ISCO), too, therefore the combination of peroxone ( $O_3 + H_2O_2$ ) activated sodium persulfate system and the solubility-increasing additive, HPBCD resulted in enhanced efficacy. HPBCD was found to lengthen the half life time of ozone. A field test conducted at a former fire-training area proved the beneficial effect of applying HPBCD. The major contaminants at the site, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, dichlorobenzene and tetrachloroethene were removed in this pilot-scale field test.

The European aspects were also shown (Eva Fenyvesi, CycloLab). In Europe most of the research was done on the catalytic effect of CDs in bioremediation of soils [2]. The benefits of RAMEB compared to HPBCD (higher solubilizing effect, enhanced decrease of octanol-water partition coefficient, elevated desorption of PAHs from aged contaminated soil, slow biodegradability and slight sorption to the soil) counterbalance the small price difference. A step-by-step scaling up of the technology was shown starting from the lab-scale biodegradability tests on soils spiked with transformer oil, through pilot scale experiment with aged contaminated soil to field demonstration at a highly contaminated site in a transformer station. The enhanced carbon dioxide content in soil air proved the increased microbial activity. The RAMEB-enhanced bioremediation resulted in reduced transformer oil content both in the soil and in the groundwater reducing the treatment time with 1–2 years.

In spite of the successful field demonstrations of the CD-enhanced technologies both in the US and in Europe, CDs are still not used for soil remediation (Why are CDs so unloved?) [3]. Is it possible that the stakeholders are not interested in applying efficient technologies?

Technical grade CDs usually with high salt content are used for environmental applications because of economic reasons. The presence of salts, however, has an influence on the partition of the contaminants between the phases including also CD as a pseudophase. A mathematical model describing the distribution of hydrocarbon contaminants in air–water–CD–solid sorbent system was introduced [4].

Novel filters were developed by Prof. Uyar's group using electrospinning [5]. These nanofibers made of HPBCD, HPGCD and methylated BCD are useful for air filtration. To reduce their solubility electrospinning combined with cross-linking was applied. The obtained poly-BCD nanofibers can remove dyes and PAHs from model wastewater solutions. Various cross-linking agents were studied [6, 7]. Electrospinning combined with thermal curing using citric acid as cross-linking agent successfully decreased the water-solubility [7]. Flavor/fragrance releasing material was produced by electrospinning of volatile antibacterial agents, such as menthol, vanillin, eugenol, geraniol and allyl isothiocyanate to replace other antibacterial agents of higher environmental concern [8].

The colloid stability as well as the photocatalytic effect of nano titanium dioxide was improved by using carboxymethyl-BCD-polymer [9]. The photodegradation of methylene blue as model contaminant in wastewater was accelerated.

Isoprene was polymerized in an eco-friendly way in aqueous solution by free radical polymerization using isoprene complexed by RAMEB [10].

CD/poly(amideimide) complexes were developed as novel binders/dispersants for lithium ion battery. BCD modified with poly(acrylic acid) oligomer was useful to complex poly(amideimide) binder and make it water-soluble [11]. The complex improved the dispersion of carbon nano-materials in water and made possible to shift from N-methylpyrrolidone solvent to water.

Self-healable polymeric material reduce the production of plastic waste and consumption of material and energy. Several CD-based self-healable materials were demonstrated at the symposium:

- Terpolymerization of acrylamide bearing BCD and that carrying adamantane results transparent film with self-healing properties both in hydrogel and xerogel form [12].
- Macroscopic complex formation of ferrocene and adamantane gels as guest gels and BCD gel as host gel is behind the self-healing properties of these systems [13].
- Crosslinking poly(2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate) and single wall carbon nanotubes self-healing, conductive material was obtained [14].
- UV-protective coating was developed by decorating titanium dioxide surface with BCD, then adsorbing vinyl adamantane. The vinyl groups were then polymerized and the resulting polymer with self-healing and UV-protective properties was used as a coating [15].



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*(-)-Epicatechin, (-)-Epigallocatechin, (-)-Epicatechin gallate, (-)-Epigallocatechin gallate*

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*Hibiscus cannabinus L., High pressure homogenization*

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Edited and produced by: CYCLOLAB  
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