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Catalytic Wet Air Oxidation of Aromatics

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Aromatics are important water pollutants, which are discharged from various industries. Their effects are ranging from modifying the photosynthetic reactions in water bodies to altering cellular metabolism and DNA in humans. Physical, chemical, and biological methods were all investigated for the removal of such pollutants from wastewater. In many situations, due to the high toxicity and resistance to biological treatments, chemical destruction of the organic compounds, to carbon dioxide and water, is desired. Wet Air Oxidation (WAO) is one of the available technologies, suitable for high organic loads and/or toxic contaminants. The main disadvantage of this method is the need of elevated temperatures and pressure. Alternatively, WAO in the presence of a catalyst, Catalytic Wet Air Oxidation (CWAO), reduces the severity of the reaction conditions, therefore reducing the cost of wastewater treatment. As research in the CWAO field expands strongly, this issue proposes to gather the latest developments in terms of catalytic systems and process requirements.

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