



Water Research <wr-eo@elsevier.com>
To: m.verawaty@awmc.uq.edu.au, marieskaverawaty@yahoo.com

Fri, 7 June 2013 at 3:46 pm ☆

Re manuscript: WR22625R2.
Title: Breakage and growth toward a stable aerobic granule size during the treatment of wastewater.
Authors: Marieska Verawaty, M.Sc; Stephan Tait, PhD; Maite Pijuan, PhD; Zhiguo Yuan, Prof; Philip Bond, PhD.
Corresponding author: Mrs. Marieska Verawaty.

Dear Mrs. Verawaty,

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Megha Shivakumar,
Journal Manager

On behalf of the Editor
Water Research



Water Research <wr-eo@elsevier.com>
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Mon, 10 Dec 2012 at 8:15 am

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Mon, 4 Mar 2013 at 11:05 am ☆

Re manuscript: WR22625

Title: Breakage and growth toward a stable aerobic granule size during the treatment of wastewater
Authors: Marieska Verawaty, Stephan Tait, PhD, Maite Pijuan, PhD, Zhiguo Yuan, Prof, Philip Bond, PhD
Corresponding author: Mrs. Marieska Verawaty

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I can now inform you that the reviewers and editor have evaluated your manuscript. As you will see from the comments below and on <http://ees.elsevier.com/wr/>, publication in its present form is not recommended, and major revision is being requested.

The deadline for revision is 1 month from now, 03 Apr 2013. Please note your paper may be withdrawn if not submitted by the due date.

Please consider the reviews to see if revision would be feasible. For a revised version we require 3 separate items:

1. Revision Notes explaining how and where (citing line number) each point of the Editor's/Reviewers' comments has been addressed. Should you disagree with any part of the reviews, please explain why.
 2. A version of the revised manuscript showing the new/changed text using track changes or highlighting (submission item "Revision, changes marked"). To facilitate further review, add line numbers in the text.
 3. A clean version of the revised manuscript, also with line numbers.
 4. Please remove all files not needed for the new version, but do include all files needed for the new version, and strictly follow the formatting requirements as presented in the Guide for Authors.
- Note that for the text source files only are allowed at revision: Word or LaTeX, no PDF. A PDF, however, is allowed for the tracked-changes version.
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COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR AND/OR REVIEWERS

Thank you for submitting your paper to the Water Research Your manuscript was revised by two Reviewers with expertise in the area and assessed by me. A Major Revision is recommended. Please answer to all the questions addressed by the Reviewers and in particular the following aspects have to be considered in the revision.

- Reduce Length of the Introduction
- Statistical treatment of data should be provided
- The main achievements should be highlighted and impact of reactor operating parameters should be deeply discussed.

Reviewer #1: This ms is on an interesting topic, dealing with aerobic granular sludge for treating wastewater, a subject of current interest in the field. My major criticism is that the paper is mainly observational; the authors do not withdraw implications of the observed results in relation to providing guidelines in reactor start up or operation. That should have been included. Please see some more specific points below.

Highlights are too repetitive. More quantitative information should be provided. The 5 sentences could be merged in 2 sentences.

1. Very long introduction - Should be more concise with objectives clearly stated at the end
2. Abstrat - there should be some quantitative data here. Also, there are sentences not supported by the data. E.g. " and was ascribed to the effects of substrate limitations toward the inner core of large granules." - How do the authors support evidence for this?
3. L 130-144 - Description of the parent reactor - has this been published? If "yes", there should be reference to it, if "no" that should belong to Results?
4. L 175 - "Small showed poor biological treatment performance, and so the size analysis was not considered valid for the testing of the Critical Size hypothesis. Consequently, the dataset of the present experiments was augmented with the data from an experiment previously reported by the authors (Pijuan et al. 2011)." - The authors should clarify this. Was biological treatment performance poor due to granule size? The authors could not relate those two parameters? It seems strange that the dataset is depleted due to poor performance. Even if performance was low, the hypothesis should be tested.
5. " the seed granules of SBRSsmall_Pijuan were of a relatively small size (median size of 235 μm)." - How does that compares in size? That was fed with what? Same wastewater?
6. L 220 - "Malvern Mastersizer instrument described above." - There is no reference to that previous to this statement.
7. Fig 1 - Authors only hold 4 data points for each reactor, terms of analysis? It must be, there are no standard deviations. Was the objective to start with different biomass? Size was already a variable, but it's clear in the graph that also the concentration was different.
8. Fig 3 and fig 4 F could be plotted together to more easily see change of pattern from beginning to end in each reactor.
9. Why did the authors not hold the experiment for a bit longer?
10. Discussion should be improved
11. First paragraphs of Discussion are similar to Introduction.
12. Discussion of granule size obtained here with other reported studies in the literature?
13. Discussion on relation of granule size and performance?
14. Authors should clarify their perception of Critical granular size. For process stability? What about start up?
15. What are the implications of the observed results in relation to providing guidelines in reactor start up or operation? This should be discussed and in my opinion should be one of the major outcomes of the paper, in order to highlight its relevance in the field.
16. What is the major advance in the state of the art?

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16. What is the major advance in the state of the art?

Reviewer #2. Breakage and growth toward a stable aerobic granule size during the treatment of wastewater

The size of granular sludge in aerobic SBRs is a critical parameter influencing the performance of the reactor. In this study, the authors present data on the changes in particle size of aerobic granules in SBRs fed with abattoir wastewater. The authors test a rather attractive hypothesis that granule size would equilibrate to certain stable value, depending on the reactor operating conditions. If the reactor started with granules with size smaller than the "critical size", they grew by accretion and, on the other contrary, if the starting granules were bigger, they became smaller by attrition. In either case the reactor, over a period of time, tends to get populated with granules of the "critical size". The breakup of larger granules to smaller particles is assumed to be caused by substrate limitation at the granule core, leading to cell death and lysis and ultimately to loss of structural stability of the granule. Do the authors mean that the organisms at the core of the granule decide the ultimate granule size?

The introduction, though a bit lengthy, is well-written and presents a clear backdrop to the study. However, some of the text could be shifted to the Discussion, to make it more interesting. Overlapping portions must be deleted. The highlights can be rewritten to encompass all important features of the study. The graphical abstract, a reproduction of Figure 5, does not appear to take into account the statement that granule size increase takes place via active growth at the core, causing three-dimensional expansion (lines 76-80).

It is stated that among the three granular sludge sizes, SBRsmall did not show good biological treatment performance (line 175). It appears that the size fractionation was done arbitrarily and no consideration was given to performance aspect (one would have expected the authors to conduct a few trial experiments to take care of such minor aspects). Experimental section (2.3) is further complicated by the introduction of a SBRsmall_Pijuan reactor, actually from a previous experiment. The reactor had, in fact, employed a different volume and MLVSS and it was not clear to what extent these parameters influenced the experimental outcome. There is no mention about these aspects in the Discussion.

Another notable lapse is the absence of any statistical treatment of data to show the differences, if any, between the reactors. The whole inference is based on visual comparison on the dataset.

The data presented in Table 2 does not really gel with the main theme of the paper, which tests a hypothesis regarding critical granule size.

Finally, it is desirable to provide a takeaway message from the study. However, the conclusion that granule size gravitate towards a critical size corresponding to the prevailing operating conditions such as waste water characteristics, aeration, reactor geometry, mixing and sludge concentration needs to be moderated in light of the fact that the authors did not really undertake a parametric study on their specific effects. The linkage with the parameters, therefore, remains largely hypothetical.

Other minor points


Line 183-185. If the authors had passed crushed granular sludge through a sieve with 180 μm pore size, how was that the obtained sludge had a median size of 235 μm? LI 249-250: as per the Fig 1, the MLVSS values are in mg/L, while in text the same numbers are expressed in g/L! LI 425. Please specify what are these differences in operating conditions.

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 **Water Research** <wr-ee@elsevier.com>
To: m.verawaty@awmc.uq.edu.au, marieskaverawaty@yahoo.com Wed, 3 Apr 2013 at 1:46 pm ☆

Water Research
Title: Breakage and growth toward a stable aerobic granule size during the treatment of wastewater
Authors: Marieska Verawaty, Stephan Tait, PhD, Maite Pijuan, PhD, Zhiguo Yuan, Prof, Philip Bond, PhD

Dear Marieska,

The PDF for your submission, "Breakage and growth toward a stable aerobic granule size during the treatment of wastewater" has now been built and is ready for your approval. Please view the submission before approving it, to be certain that it is free of any errors. If you have already approved the PDF of your submission, this e-mail can be ignored.

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WR22625R1: Acknowledgement revision Yahoo!Inbox

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To: m.verawaty@awmc.uq.edu.au, marieskaverawaty@yahoo.com
Wed, 3 Apr 2013 at 2:02 pm

Ref.: "Breakage and growth toward a stable aerobic granule size during the treatment of wastewater" (Mrs. Marieska Verawaty)

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Thu, 4 Apr 2013 at 8:42 am

Article Title: Breakage and growth toward a stable aerobic granule size during the treatment of wastewater
Corresponding Author: Mrs. Marieska Verawaty

Dear Mrs. Verawaty,

Your submission entitled "Breakage and growth toward a stable aerobic granule size during the treatment of wastewater" has been received by Water Research. However, before we can proceed with the review process we ask you to address the following:

The highlights provided do not meet the requirements. Please amend your research highlights so that they consist of 3 to 5 brief bullet points which convey the core findings of your work. Please ensure EACH bullet point does NOT exceed 85 characters (including spaces). Please log onto Elsevier Editorial System as an Author:

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WR22625R1 Editor decision - revise Yahoo/Inbox

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To: m.verawaty@awmcuq.edu.au, marieskaverawaty@yahoo.com

Re manuscript: WR22625R1.
Title: Breakage and growth toward a stable aerobic granule size during the treatment of wastewater.
Authors: Marieska Verawaty, Stephan Tait, PhD, Maite Pijuan, PhD, Zhiguo Yuan, Prof, Philip Bond, PhD.
Corresponding author: Mrs. Marieska Verawaty.

Dear Mrs. Verawaty,

I can now inform you that the reviewers and editor have evaluated your manuscript. I am pleased to say that it has been favourably received and publication with minor revision is recommended (see below and on <http://ees.elsevier.com/wri/>).

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3. A clean version of the revised manuscript, also with line numbers.
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6. Be sure to check that the references cited in the text match those listed in the References section and the other way round, as errors may lead to a significant delay in processing your paper.

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Authors: Marieska Verawaty, M.Sc, Stephan Tait, PhD, Maite Pijuan, PhD, Zhiguo Yuan, Prof, Philip Bond, PhD.
Corresponding author: Mrs. Marieska Verawaty.

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Verawaty M, Tait S, Pijuan M, Yuan Z, Bond PL: Breakage and growth towards a stable aerobic granule size during the treatment of wastewater. Water Res

From: Kery Ernst-BioMedLib (kery@bmlmail.com)
To: marieskaverawaty@yahoo.com
Date: Thursday, 12 November 2015 at 03:46 am GMT+7

For your article

Verawaty M, Tait S, Pijuan M, Yuan Z, Bond PL: Breakage and growth towards a stable aerobic granule size during the treatment of wastewater. Water Res; 2013 Sep 15;47(14):5338-49
PMID: 23866127

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List 1: Top 20 Articles, in the Domain of Article 23866127, Since 2013 (publication date of the domain article)

1. Breakage and growth towards a stable aerobic granule size during the treatment of wastewater.
Verawaty M, Tait S, Pijuan M, Yuan Z, Bond PL.
Water Res; 2013 Sep 15;47(14):5338-49.
2. A proposed aerobic granules size development scheme for aerobic granulation process.
Dahalan FA, Abdullah N, Yuzir A, Olsson G, Salmiati, Hamdzah M, Din MF, Ahmad SA, Khalil KA, Anuar AN, Noor ZZ, Ujang Z.
Bioresour Technol; 2015 Apr;181:291-6.
3. Simulation of wastewater treatment by aerobic granules in a sequencing batch reactor based on cellular automata.
Benzhai H, Lei L, Ge Q, Yuwan P, Ping L, Qingxiang Y, Haili W.
Bioprocess Biosyst Eng; 2014 Oct;37(10):2049-59.
4. [Formation and characterization of aerobic granules in a pilot-scale reactor for real wastewater treatment].
Yang SF, Zhang JJ, Zou GL, Du ZL.
Huan Jing Ke Xue; 2014 May;35(5):1850-6.

16. Characteristics of aerobic granulation at mesophilic temperatures in wastewater treatment.
Cui F, Park S, Kim M,
Bioresour Technol; 2014 Jan;151:78-84.
17. Nickel biosorption by discharged biomass from wastewater treatment bioreactor: size plays a key role.
Zhou D, Yang Y, Li Y, Xu Z, Dong S.
Appl Microbiol Biotechnol; 2015 Mar;99(6):2829-38.
18. The treatment of solvent recovery raffinate by aerobic granular sludge in a pilot-scale sequencing batch reactor.
Long B, Yang CZ, Pu WH, Yang JK, Jiang GS, Dan JF, Zhang J, Zhang L.
J Water Health; 2015 Sep;13(3):746-57.
19. Continuous flow aerobic granular sludge reactor for dairy wastewater treatment.
Bumbac C, Ionescu IA, Tiron O, Badescu VR.
Water Sci Technol; 2015;71(3):440-5.
20. Aerobic granulation strategy for bioaugmentation of a sequencing batch reactor (SBR) treating high strength pyridine wastewater.
Liu X, Chen Y, Zhang X, Jiang X, Wu S, Shen J, Sun X, Li J, Lu L, Wang L.
J Hazard Mater; 2015 Sep 15;295:153-60.

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