

PHOTOCATALYTIC OXIDATION OF NITRITE IN WATER TO NITRATE

S. Punchihewa

Recently the photochemical methods for decontamination of water have received a great deal of attention. It has been found that organic matter and agrochemical contaminants in water can be completely mineralized by irradiation with sunlight in the presence of semiconductor photocatalysts. We have found that the nitrite in water is converted into the nitrate by irradiation in the presence of oxygen and titanium dioxide. As nitrate is a less hazardous contaminant, this method could be adapted in the treatment of water.