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学位論文の内容の要旨

Although anaerobic fermentation has been utilized widely to treat wastewater and solid-state organic waste, the efficient anaerobic system and process for the dry methane fermentation are rare in literatures. This study for doctoral thesis aims to exploit a Rotational Drum Fermentation System (RDFS) for dry methane fermentation, and mainly evaluate the acidogenic performance by the process parameters.

The acidogenic process is influenced by various factors, including: waste characteristics, operational parameters involving hydraulic retention time (HRT) , and environmental factors such as temperature, pH, reactor/fermentor configurations and oxidation-reduction potential (ORP) . Prior to the evaluation of acidogenic performances, the characteristics of start-up for rotational drum fermentation system are revealed using a batch experiment (chapter 2) .The following study evaluates the effects of HRT and the stirring medium (chapter 3) attached to the fermentor on the acidogenesis of the RDFS under mesophilic conditions, by characterizing system parameters such as pH, volatile acids (VA) and their distribution, volatile solid degradation, and the first order hydrolysis rate constant. The effects of temperature comprising mesophilic and thermophilic temperature on the acidogenic process also are evaluated (chapter 4) . In addition, the acidogenic process is improved for pH control by further phase separation into hydrolysis and acidogenic step (chapter 5) , and addition of leachate from a sound methane fermentor (chapter 6) . The results are summarized as the followings.

1. Startup Characteristics of Rotational Drum Fermentation System (RDFS)

The characteristics of stat-up for rotational drum fermentation system are revealed using a batch experiment in chapter 2. A bench-scale Rotational Drum Fermentation System (RDFS) was constructed. Characteristics of the RDFS for solid organic waste were determined. Slightly

diluted dairy manure was used as a substrate of the RDFS. RDFS improved the mixing of the fermentor content. The volatile acid and methane productivity showed the system feasibility for dry methane fermentation. Process parameters such as pH, VA and methane content were evaluated. The effects of operational conditions such as sludge-manure ratios (1:1, 1:2, 1:3, 1:5) and rotation time (30, 60, 120, 240minutes/day) of the RDFS were determined.

2. Effect of Hydraulic Retention Time (HRT) and Stirring Media on Acidogenic Process

Chapter 3 shows that a two-phase process can be employed to perform dry methane fermentation using a rotational drum fermentation system (RDFS). In the first phase, the acidogenic process is affected by many factors, such as pH, the organic loading rate, hydraulic retention time (HRT), temperature, and physical characteristics such as the stirring media in the fermentor. In this chapter, the effects of HRT and the stirring media in the fermentor on acidogenic performance were evaluated via system parameters involving volatile acids (VA) production and volatile solids (VS) degradation under mesophilic conditions. Using fresh soybean meal or Okara as substrates, two sequential experiments were conducted with a bench-scale RDFS. The first set of experiments was performed at HRTs of 15, 20, 25, and 30 days. A first order hydrolysis rate constant of $3.7 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ was calculated at pH values of 4.3~4.8. VS degradation and total VA (as acetic acid) ranged from 6.7 to 10.4%, and 13.3 to 16.0 g/L, respectively. Results of the second set of experiments showed that the stirring media accelerated the hydrolysis and acidification processes, with K_h values of $5.3 \sim 7.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$, and the VA spectrum was also influenced. However, some adverse effects from use of stirring media were also observed in the experiment. The combined results indicate that pH values have an important effect on the distribution of un-ionized VA and ionized VA. At the same time, accumulation of VA, especially unionized VA, inhibits the hydrolysis process regardless of the type of stirring media in the fermentor.

3. Performance of Acidogenic Process under Mesophilic and Thermophilic Condition

Chapter 4 described the acidogenic performances of RDFS under mesophilic and thermophilic conditions using fresh soybean meal as substrate. The results show that mesophilic condition is more favorable than thermophilic one when the mesophilic seeding sludge is used as inoculums. VA ranged from 8.1 to 16.9 g/L and VS degradation ratios decreased from 10.7 to 2.4% as the temperature increased from 35°C to 55°C. The excessive low pH (4.6~4.7) inhibited the hydrolysis of substrate (K_h of $5.7 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ and $1.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ for mesophilic and thermophilic condition, respectively) under both conditions.

4. Effect of Separation of Acidogenic and Hydrolysis Process on the Acidogenic Performance

In chapter 5, the effects of process configuration on acidogenic performance were evaluated via system parameters such as volatile and (VA) production, volatile solids (VS) degradation and particle size distribution under mesophilic conditions and an HRT of 20 days. Using fresh soybean meal or Okara as substrates, two process configurations-the cascade process and the solid recycle process-were employed to perform the experimental estimation. An apparent first-order hydrolysis rate constant of $9.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ for the cascade process at pH values of 4.5~4.6, which

was higher than that obtained by a previous study (chapter 3, $7.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$), and $5.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ for the solid recycle process at a pH of 4.4, which was lower than that obtained in chapter 3, were obtained. The apparent VS degradation ratio ranged from 9.6 to 16.5% and total VA (as acetic acid) from 10.8 to 16.7 g/L. Occupying ratios for ionized VA in both process configurations increased from 27.5% to 30.8% for the solid recycle process and to 35.5% for the cascade process. The acetic acid ratios also were elevated from 86% to 94.3% for the cascade process and to 93.3% for the solid recycle process. As regards the distribution of VS particle size, the addition of milling balls caused the mechanical breakdown of the large particles whereas generation of soluble solid was not significantly affected.

5. Effect of Leachate from Methanogenic Process on Acidogenic Performance

In chapter 6, the effects of leachate from a methanogenic process on acidogenic performance were evaluated under mesophilic condition and a total HRT of 20 days. Using fresh soybean meal or Okara as substrates, two process configurations—the cascade process and the solid recycle process—were employed to perform the experimental estimation. An apparent first-order hydrolysis rate constant of $15.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ for the cascade process at pH values of 4.6~5.1, which was higher than that obtained by a previous study (chapter 5, $9.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$), and $14.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ for the solid recycle process at pH of 5.0~5.4 which was much higher than that in a previous study (chapter 5, $5.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$), were obtained. The apparent VS degradation ratio ranged from 19.4 to 21.1% and total VA (as acetic acid) from 14.5 to 14.9 g/L. Occupying ratios for ionized VA increased from 30.8% to 68.5% for the cascade process and to 63.4% for the solid recycle process. However, the acetic acid ratios decreased from 94.3 to 72.6% for the cascade process and from 93.3 to 42% for the solid recycle process whereas the propionic acid butyric acid ratios increased in both acidogenic processes. As regards the distribution of VS particle size, the addition of both milling balls and leachate caused the generation of soluble solid while only mechanical breakdown of large particles occurred in fermentor without the leachate addition.

論文審査の結果の要旨

本研究論文は、メタン発酵法の適用範囲拡大を目的としてドライメタン発酵法に着目し、それを効率的に行うための回転ドラム発酵システム (Rotational Drum Fermentation System, RDFS) について、家畜糞尿や食品加工残渣を材料とするプロセスの実験的解析および速度論的評価を行い、そこで得られた装置開発・設計および操作条件策定のための知見を以下に示すようにとりまとめたものである。

RDFS によるドライメタン発酵のスタートアップ特性について: わずかに希釈した牛糞尿を基質とした場合でも、RDFS の採用によりリアクタ内容物の混合状態は良好であった。スタートアップについては、汚泥と牛糞尿の混合比 (1 : 1, 1 : 2, 1 : 3, 1 : 5) や攪拌時間 (30, 60, 120, 240 分/日) がリアクタ内で進行する酸生成プロセスおよびメタン生成プロセスのバランスを変化させることが示された。

HRT と攪拌媒体が RDFS の酸生成プロセスに及ぼす影響について：豆腐おからを投入したベンチスケール RDFS において、15、20、25、30 日の各 HRT に対して得られた定常値は、pH で 4.3~4.8、有機固形物 (VS) の分解率 (%) で 6.7~10.4、VA (g/L) で 13.3~16.0 の範囲にあり、RDFS が酸生成プロセスとして機能することを確認した。一方、VS 基準の加水分解定数は $3.7 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ であり、既往のデータと比較して小さかった。RDFS のリアクタ内にボールや切削刃等の攪拌媒体を投入することにより、加水分解定数を $5.3 \sim 7.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ の値にまで増加させることが出来た。また、pH は電離有機酸と非電離有機酸の分布に重要な影響を与えると同時に、非電離有機酸の蓄積は発酵槽の攪拌媒体の種類に関係なく加水分解プロセスを阻害することが示された。

発酵温度が酸生成 RDFS に及ぼす影響について：中温と高温で馴養した種汚泥を用いて、中温発酵と高温発酵を行う HRT 20 日の酸生成 RDFS の特性を評価した結果、中温発酵の RDFS が高温発酵の RDFS より VA 生成および VS 分解特性に優れていること、どちらの発酵においても過度の低 pH が酸生成を阻害すること等が明らかとなった。

プロセス構成が RDFS の酸生成特性に与える影響について：豆腐おからを基質として用いながら、カスケード法と固形物返送法について、その酸生成特性を検証した。カスケード法について得られた見かけの加水分解定数は、pH4.5~4.6 の定常状態で $9.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ であり、前述値 ($7.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$) よりも大きかったのに対して、固形物返送法について得られた加水分解定数は pH4.4 で $5.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ であり、これは前述値よりも小さかった。両法のみかけの VS 除去率と総 VA (酢酸基準) はそれぞれ 9.6~16.5%、10.8~16.7g/L の範囲にあった。総 VA に占める電離 VA の比率は、固形物返送法で 27.5~30.8%への増加があったのに対して、カスケード法では 35.5%への増加があり、また酢酸の総 VA に占める割合はカスケード法で 86~94.3%、固形物返送法で 86~93.3%であった。VS の粒径分布特性は、粉碎用ボールのリアクタへの投入が粗大固形物の機械的な粉碎に効果的であると認められたものの、可溶性固形物の顕著な生成を促進するには至らなかったことを示唆した。

メタン発酵上澄液の返送が RDFS 酸生成特性に与える影響について：豆腐おからを用いて、カスケード法と固形物返送法の 2 つの方式について、メタン発酵上澄液 (以下、浸出液) を投入する酸生成特性を実験的に明らかにした。見かけの加水分解速度定数は、pH4.6~5.1 のカスケード法において前述の $9.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ よりも高い $15.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ であり、pH5.0~5.4 の固形物返送法においては、前述の $5.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ よりもかなり大きい $14.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ であった。みかけの VS 分解率、総 VA (酢酸)、電離有機酸率は、それぞれカスケード法で 21.1%、14.5g/L、30.8 から 68.5%への増加であり、固形物返送法では 19.4%、14.9g/L、30.8 から 63.4%への増加であった。しかし総 VA に占める酢酸の比率はカスケード法で 94.3 から 72.6%に、固形物返送法で 93.3 から 42%へと減少し、プロピオン酸や酪酸の両プロセスに占める比率は増加した。有機固形物の粒径分布によれば、粉碎ボールと浸出液の酸生成への投入は可溶性固形物の生成を促したが、浸出液添加の無い発酵槽においては大きな粒子の機械的な粉碎が生じただけだった。

以上本論文で得られた知見は、RDFS によるドライメタン発酵の特性を理論的かつ実験的に明らかにすると同時に、ドライメタン発酵向け RDFS の開発・設計・操作のための貴重な基礎資料を提供するものであることから、学位論文として十分な価値を持つものと判定した。