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Microbial Fuel Cell: Design and Operation

Shaikh Jumma[1]*, Dr Niranjan Patil[1], Rituja Pandhre[2]

[1] Department of Microbiology, Abasaheb Garware College, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, India

[2]Department of Biotechnology, Modern College Shivajinagar, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, India

Review Article

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***For Correspondence**

Department of Microbiology, Abasaheb Garware College, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, India.

E-Mail: shaikh.sahil70@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

The requests of energy on the planet proceed to quicken and this triggers the worldwide energy emergency and ecological Pollution. The dependence on fossil powers oil and gas is unsustainable as a result of its limited, exhausting supplies and effect on environment. Accordingly analysts are concentrating on option, renewable and carbon nonpartisan energy sources which are essential for natural and financial supportability. MFC is a bioreactor that proselytes concoction energy present in the natural or inorganic compound substrates to electrical energy through synergist responses of microorganisms. We infer that for further improvement of MFC innovation a more prominent spotlight on the comprehension of its parts, microbial procedures, components of confinements and plans of the development the in MFC frameworks is obligatory, keeping in mind the end goal to be streamlined and vast scale framework grew; with the goal that it will be practical and to expand power creation. This paper intended to survey on the present microbiology learning in power generation, the materials and techniques used to construct the innovation and the applications to MFC innovation likewise highlighted. The development and examination of MFCs require information of various experimental and engineering fields, going from microbiology and electrochemistry to materials and ecological designing

INTRODUCTION

Momentum Prediction for the worldwide energy has prompted hunt down exchange assets. The non-renewable assets of energy are exhausting at a speedier rate in the present situation. Subsequently, there is the quest for high productive energy changes and approaches to use the other renewable energy sources. Energy units are a standout amongst the most critical subjects in the examination. The primary part of power device examination is to lessen the expense and disentangling execution conditions. As of late, specialists are attempting to discover the arrangement through biotechnology [1-3].

WORKING PRINCIPLE

Microbial fuel cells MFCs are devices that utilization microorganisms as the catalysts to oxidize natural and inorganic matter and create current [4-8]. Electrons delivered by the microscopic organisms from these substrates are exchanged to the anode negative terminal and stream to the cathode positive terminal connected by a conductive material containing a resistor, or worked under a heap i.e., delivering power that runs a gadget Figure 1. By tradition, positive current streams from the positive to Electrons can be exchanged to the anode by electron mediators or transports [6-8], by direct membrane layer related electron exchange [8], or by alleged nanowires [9-11] delivered by the microorganisms, or maybe by different up 'til now unfamiliar means. Substance goes between, for example, neutral red or anthraquinone-2, 6-disulfonate AQDS, can be added to the framework to permit power generation by microscopic organisms not able to generally utilize the cathode [12-18]. On the off chance that no exogenous mediators are added to the framework, the MFC is delegated a "mediator less" MFC despite the fact that the component of electron exchange may not be known [18]. In many MFCs the electrons that achieve the cathode join with protons that diffuse from the anode through a separator and oxygen added from air; the subsequent item is water [12, 19-21]. Compound oxidizers, for example, ferricyanide or Mn IV, can likewise be utilized in spite of the fact that these must be supplanted or recovered 6, 18-20. On account of metal particles, for example, Mn that are decreased from Mn IV to Mn II, microscopic organisms can catalyze the reoxidation of the metal utilizing broke up oxygen 19, 20. Microbially catalyzed electron freedom at the anode and consequent electron utilization at the cathode, when both procedures are supportable, are the characterizing qualities of a MFC. Utilizing a conciliatory anode comprising of a chunk of Mg combination [22, 23] does not, for instance, qualify the framework as a MFC as no microscopic organisms are required for catalyzing the oxidation of the fuel. Frameworks that utilize proteins or catalyst not specifically delivered in situ by the microbes in a manageable way are considered here as enzymatic biofuel cells and are all around checked on somewhere else [24]. MFCs worked utilizing blended culture of microbes at present accomplishes generously more prominent power densities than those with immaculate culture of one type microbes [25-27].

In one late test, in any case, a MFC indicated high power era utilizing an unadulterated society, yet the same gadget was not tried utilizing adjusted blended societies and the cells were become remotely to the gadget [28-38]. Group examination of the microorganisms that exist in MFCs has so far uncovered incredible differences in structure [6, 39-42]. We accept, taking into account existing information, and new information from individual research facilities, that numerous new sorts of microscopic organisms will be found that are equipped for anodophilic electron exchange electron exchange to an anode or even interspecies electron exchange electrons moved between microbes in any structure. MFCs are being built utilizing an assortment of materials, and in constantly expanding differences of setups. These frameworks are worked under a scope of conditions that incorporate contrasts in temperature, pH, electron acceptor, terminal surface zones, reactor size, and operation time. Possibilities

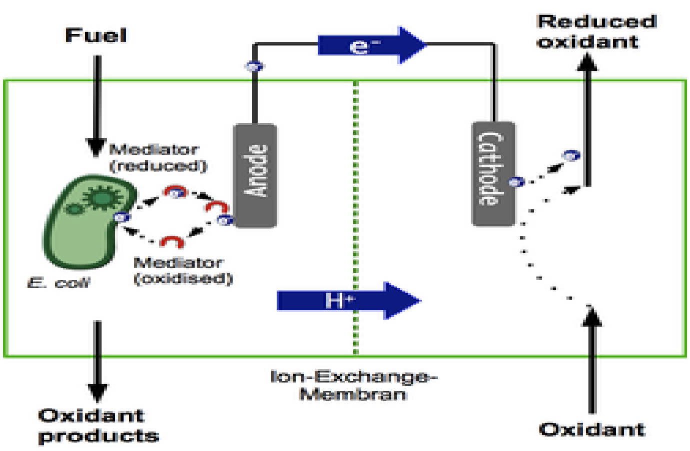

Figure 1: Working standards of a MFC Not to scale: A bacterium in the anode compartment exchanges electrons got from electron giver glucose to the anode cathode. This happens either through direct contact, nanowires, or portable electron transports little circles shows to the last layer related transport. While electron creation protons are likewise delivered in overabundance [44-46]. These protons relocate through the cations exchange film CEM into the cathode chamber. The electrons stream from the anode through an outer resistance or burden to the cathode where they respond with the last electron acceptor oxygen and protons [47].

MFC DESIGN AND OPERATION

There are fundamental parts of MFCs which are critical in developments. Electrodes, wirings, and salt bridge have a critical part. Salt bridge is supplanted with Proton exchange membrane in PEM power device [44-52]. Despite the fact that it improves the expense yet taking care of and the power production both get upgraded, in this manner expanding the convenience and productivity of the framework. Aside from that MFC can be design by many ways, but major designs are fall under three categories

1. Single chambered MFC
2. Double chambered MFC
3. Stacked MFC

Single chambered MFC

There are many design of single chambered MFC available and can be construct in different ways. Standard Single chambered MFC can be seen in the figure 2. In this design anode and cathode are not placed in different compartment. They are simple anode compartment where there is no definitive cathode compartment and may not contain proton exchange membranes as shown in Figure 2 [53-57]. Porous cathodes form one side of the wall of the cathode chamber utilizing oxygen from atmosphere and letting protons diffuse through them. They are straightforward anode compartment where there is no complete cathode compartment and may not contain PEM as appeared in Figure 2 [58-62]. Permeable cathodes structure one side wall of the cathode chamber using oxygen from air and letting protons diffuse through them. They are very easy to build up than the two MFC and in this manner have discovered broad use and research interests recently. The anodes are ordinary carbon terminals yet the cathodes are either permeable carbon cathodes or PEM reinforced with adaptable carbon fabric cathodes [63-69]. Cathodes are frequently secured with graphite in which electrolytes are poured in unfaltering style which carries on as catholytes and keep the layer and cathode from drying. In this manner water administration or better liquid administration is a critical issue in such single chambered energy components [70-72]

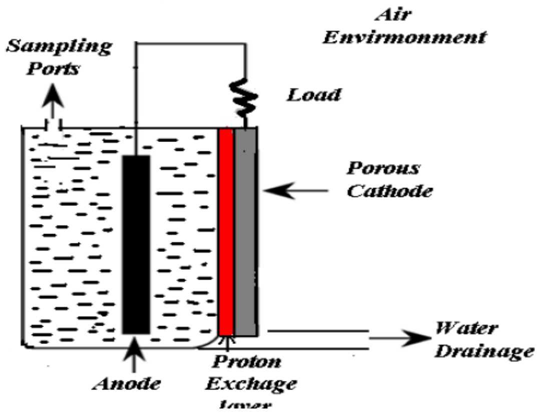

Figure 2. Single chamber MFC: In this model both anode and cathode electrode are fixed into the same chamber and connected by external wire.

Double chambered MFC

To design and construct two chambered MFC various types of material can be used like plastic and stainless still with coating [73-75]. These two compartments are either separated by proton exchange membrane or salt bridge. H type of MFC is very commonly used design. Figure 3B the two chambers are called as anode chamber and cathode chamber. Then the electrode can be fixed into each chamber. Material of the electrode can be of carbon or graphite. Carbon brush or carbon clothes can be used as an electrode. Anode and cathode electrode are connected by external wires to complete the electrical circuit [76-80].

H-shape frameworks are worthy for essential parameter examination, for example, looking at force creation utilizing new materials, or sorts of microbial groups that emerge amid the debasement of particular mixes, however they normally deliver low power densities. The measure of power that is created in these frameworks is influenced by the surface range of the cathode with respect to that of the anode [81-86] and the surface of the membrane [87]. The power density P delivered by these frameworks is ordinarily constrained by high interior resistance and cathode based losses [88-95]. Whenever contrasting power created by these frameworks, it bodes well to look at them on the premise of similarly measured anodes, cathodes, and membrane Using ferricyanide as the electron acceptor in the cathode chamber expands the force thickness because of the accessibility of a decent electron acceptor at high fixations [96]. Ferricyanide Expanded force by 1.5 to 1.8 times contrasted with a Pt-catalyst cathode and disintegrated oxygen.

A B

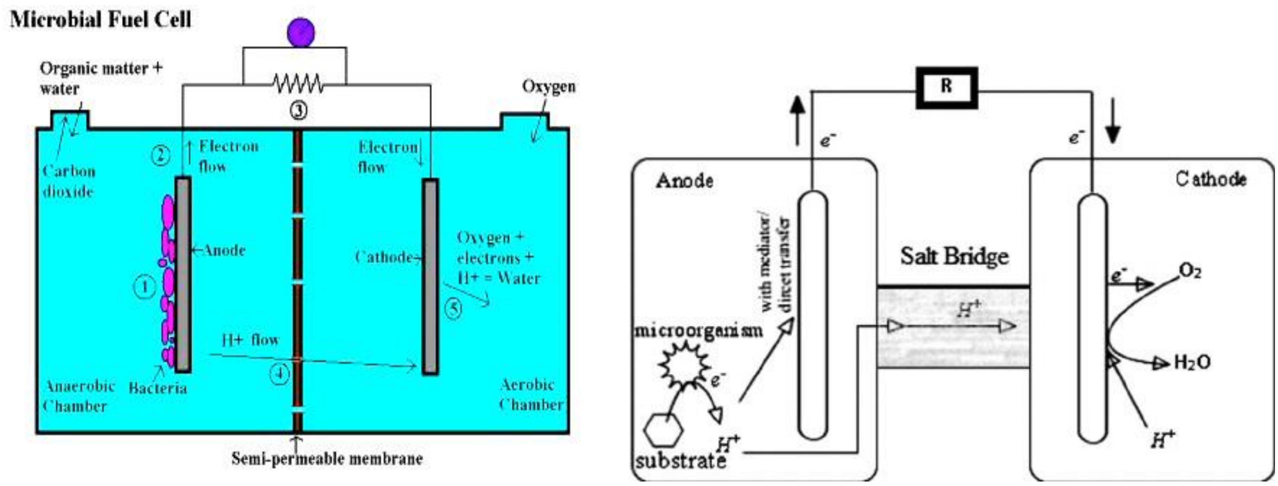

Figure 3: A Two chambered MFC separated by proton exchange membrane. B Two chambered MFC separated by salt bridge [67, 68]

Stacked MFC

These are another kind of development in which power devices are stacked to frame battery of fuel cell.[97] This sort of development doesn't influence every cell's individual Coulombic proficiency however in together it expands the yield of by and large battery to be similar to ordinary force sources as appeared in figure 4. These can be either stacked in arrangement or stacked in parallel [98-99]. Both have their own particular significance and are high in force proficiency and can be for all intents and purposes used as force.

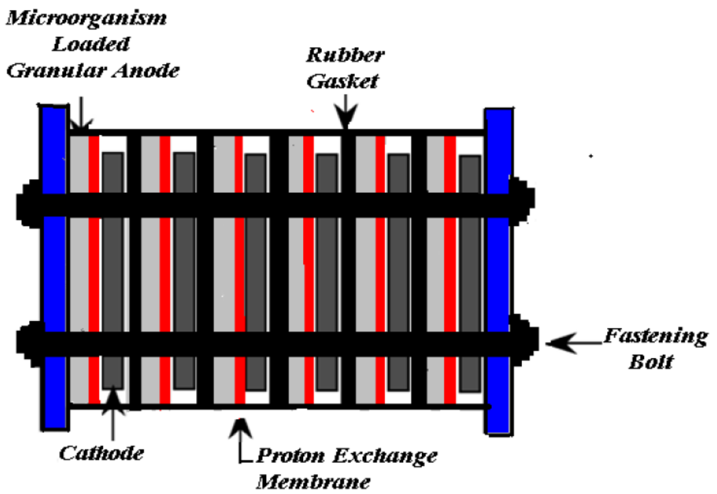

Figure 4: Schematic Design of Stacked type Microbial Fuel Cell

CONCLUSION

Production of electricity using PEM is more than the normal salt bridge MFC. Use of PEM increases the cost of construction of MFC. There is a need to find out the alternative to PEM, which can work as a mediator to exchange the electron efficiently at minimal cost. Further study on the design of MFC can be done before implementing on the large scale.

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