

PATHOGENS INACTIVATION KINETICS IN CO-DIGESTION OF SWINE MANURE AND SWINE CARCASS

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ABSTRACT: Swine intensive production increases the necessity of efficient manure management and treatment. Additionally, animal carcasses disposal inside or outside animal rearing farms is under concern and object of discussion because biosecurity protocols. Anaerobic digestion has a potential to convert biodegradable organic carbon into biogas. Swine manure and swine carcass co-digestion could be a feasible alternative to treat these residues and generate a renewable energy source. However, biodigestion has limited capacity to remove pathogenic micro-organisms and this must be studied to minimize the biologic risks and assure safe disposal and use of digestate. Considering this, the objective of this study was to evaluate the *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) and *Salmonella enterica* – serovar Senftenberg (*S. Senftenberg*) inactivation kinetics during swine manure and swine carcass co-digestion. The inactivation experiments were conducted in triplicates, where different inactivation strategies were performed at two temperatures (24°C and 37°C). Two swine carcass/swine manure ratios were studied (3 kg_{carcass}·m⁻³_{manure} and 15 kg_{carcass}·m⁻³_{manure}). *S. Senftenberg* was total inactivated after 10 days for both temperature and both ratios of swine carcass/swine manure. At 37°C and ratio of 3 kg_{carcass}·m⁻³_{manure} *E. coli* was total inactivated after 10 days and at ratio 15 kg_{carcass}·m⁻³_{manure} after 8 days. At 24°C it were necessary 25 days and 31 days for relations 15 kg·m⁻³ and 3 kg·m⁻³ respectively. Digestion temperature influenced the inactivation process being more pronounced for *E. coli*. In batch reactors operating at 37°C it is suggested hydraulic retention time (HRT) greater than 10 days for total elimination of *E. coli* and *S. Senftenberg*, while at 24°C for at least 30 days.

Keywords: Animal residues, *E. coli*, *S. Senftenberg*.

INTRODUCTION

Swine intensive production increases the necessity of efficient manure management and treatment, because the amount of waste produced (Kunz et al., 2012). Additionally, animal carcasses management and disposal are other big challenges to be dealt in modern swine production systems. Recent studies have demonstrated the possible co-digestion of swine manure and swine carcasses (Massé et al., 2008; Rajagopal et al., 2014; Tápparo et al., 2016).

However, as well as swine carcass, swine manure presents numerous pathogenic micro-organisms, including, *Salmonella* sp., PCV2 and others (Viancelli et al., 2012). Studies have identified these microorganisms in swine wastewater after anaerobic digestion at room temperature (Viancelli et al., 2013; Fongaro et al., 2014). Biodigestion has limited capacity to remove pathogenic micro-organisms and this must be studied to minimize the biologic risks and assure safe disposal and use of digestate. Pathogens present in animal manure are a serious issue, once can pose a risk to public and environmental health (Top et al., 2009).

Considering this, the present study aimed to evaluate *E. coli* and *S. Senftenberg* inactivation kinetics during co-digestion of swine manure and swine carcasses at 24°C and 37°C temperatures, and with different proportions of carcass/manure.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Manure and Carcass sampling: representative manure samples from a gestation sow house were collected on a swine farm in Concórdia, Santa Catarina, Brazil. For swine carcasses, samples were prepared using a representative portion of swine carcass (composted for meat, fat and skin) after grinding < 4mm.

Inactivation experiments: conducted using 500 mL glass flasks, with triplicates for each condition. Swine carcass/manure mixture was inoculated with 10^5 colonies forming units (CFUs) of *S. Senftenberg* and *E.coli*. Four inactivation strategies were performed using two temperatures (24°C and 37°C) and two swine carcass/swine manure ratios ($3 \text{ kg}_{\text{carcass}} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}_{\text{manure}}$ and $15 \text{ kg}_{\text{carcass}} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}_{\text{manure}}$). These ratios represent one and five times the swine mortality (7%) and manure production ($16.2 \text{ L}_{\text{animal}} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$) in gestation sows house from Brazilian farms (FATMA 2014; MACHADO, 2014).

***E.coli* analysis:** during the experiment 6 mL (liquid and solid fraction) was collected and submitted to tenfold serial dilution in 0.9% saline. Subsequently, *E.coli* cells present in 1 mL of each dilution were quantified using Chromocult® Coliform Agar (Merck, Germany) following the manufacturer's instructions. The results were expressed as colony-forming units (CFUs).

***S. Senftenberg* analysis:** during the experiment 6 mL (liquid and solid fraction) was collected and submitted to tenfold serial dilution in 0.9% saline. Subsequently, *S. Senftenberg* cells were quantified in xylose-lysine-deoxycholate agar (Merck, Germany) as described by Magri et al., 2013. The results were expressed as colony-forming units (CFUs).

Statistical analysis: Decimal decay rates (T90 values) and inactivation rate (k) were derived from the slopes of the statistical relationships between microbial numbers and time obtained by linear regression analysis (Microsoft's Excel 2010).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results are based on the batch digesters (Tápparo et al, 2016). *S. Senftenberg* was totally inactivated after 10 days in both temperatures and both ratios of swine carcass/swine manure.

At 37°C and ratio of $3 \text{ kg}_{\text{carcass}} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}_{\text{manure}}$, *E.coli* was totally inactivated after 10 days, and at $15 \text{ kg}_{\text{carcass}} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}_{\text{manure}}$ ratio after 8 days. At 24°C were necessary 25 days and 31 days for relations $15 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$ and $3 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$ respectively (Figure 1a). According to Pandey et al., (2011) and Franke-Whittle and Insam (2013), temperature is the most important factor which influences the pathogen inactivation during anaerobic digestion. Results from the present study showed that *E. coli* was more resistant than *S. Senftenberg*.

E.coli and *S. Typhimurium* inactivation studies on mesophilic anaerobic digestion treating dairy manure, demonstrated that *E.coli* could take about 80 days for total inactivation, while *S. Typhimurium* can be achieved between 30 and 35 days (PANDEY et al., 2016).

Table 1 presents linear regression equation results, with R^2 , inactivation rate ($-k$) and T90 (time necessary for 90% inactivation). The values of T90% for *E.coli* and *S. Senftenberg* did not vary according to the carcass amount for both temperatures, suggesting that the amount of carcass added per m^3 of manure does not influence the time required for inactivation of 1 log. Comparing the k values between model microorganisms, *E. coli* at 24 °C were significantly more stable than *S. Senftenberg* and *E. coli* at 37 °C.

CONCLUSION

Digestion temperature influenced the inactivation process being more pronounced for *E. coli*. This suggested that mesophilic temperature is more indicated than room temperature for pathogen inactivation in swine carcass and swine manure co-digestion, specially for *E. coli*. In batch reactors operating in the 37°C it is suggested hydraulic retention time (HRT) greater than 10 days for total elimination of *E.coli* and *S. Senftenberg*, while at 24°C for at least 30 days.

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Table 1. S. Senftenberg and *E.coli* median T90, inactivation rate and R² for four different studied strategies.

	T		S. Senftenberg		E.coli		
	(°C)	-k (days)	T90 (days)	R ²	-k (days)	T90 (days)	R ²
3kg _{carcass} m ⁻³ manure	24	0.4851	2.0	0.8856	0.3310	3.0	0.8452
	37	0.4092	2.5	0.7652	0.6200	1.6	0.9761
15kg _{carcass} m ⁻³ manure	24	0.5090	2.0	0.8893	0.3184	3.1	0.9407
	37	0.3902	2.5	0.8616	0.5692	1.6	0.1562

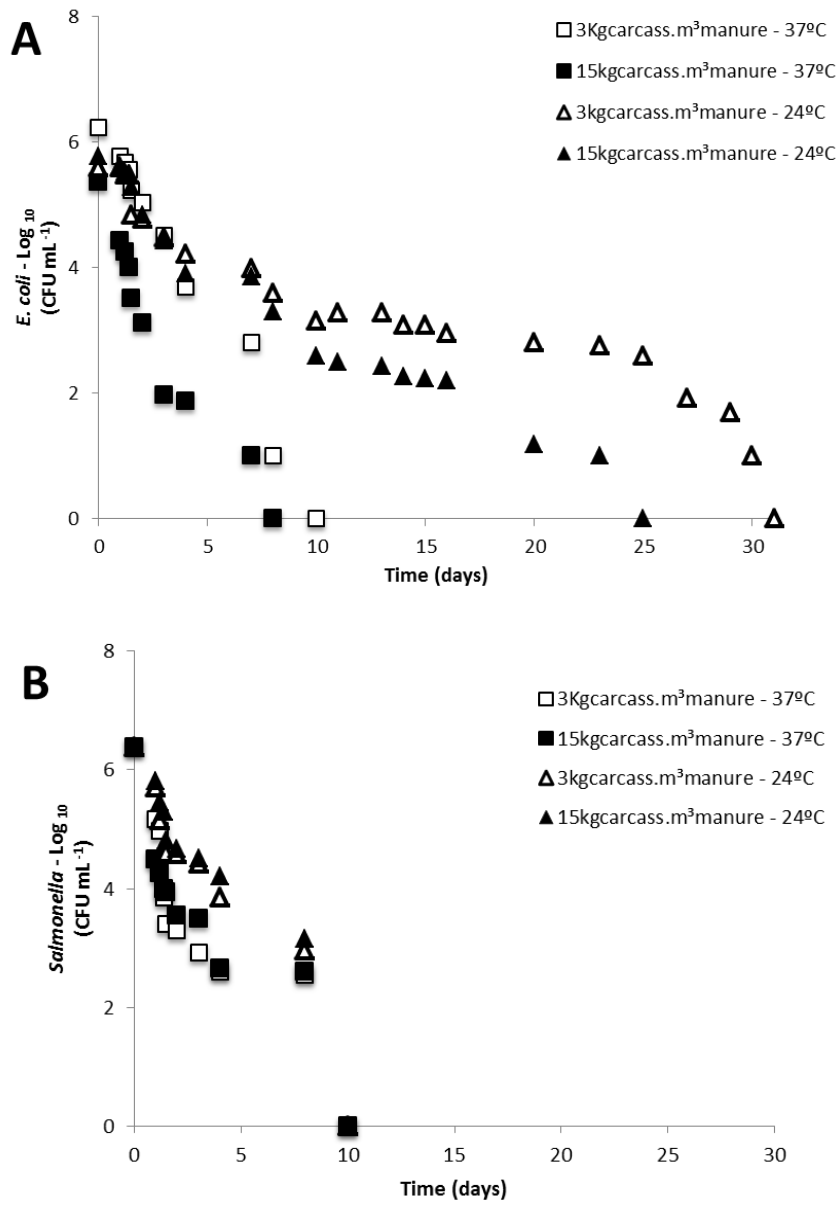


Figure 1. a) *E. coli* (CFU mL⁻¹); b) *S. Senftenberg* (CFU mL⁻¹) inactivation during the swine carcasses and swine manure anaerobic co-digestion at 37°C and 24°C.