

1 **Catalytic ozonation by metal ions for municipal wastewater disinfection and**
2 **simultaneous micropollutants removal**

3
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15
16 **Abstract**

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18 This work evaluated the effects of Fe²⁺, Co²⁺ and Al³⁺ in municipal wastewater
19 disinfection through *E.coli* and *Pseudomonas spp* inactivation along with cellular adenosine
20 triphosphate (ATP) depletion. Simultaneously, the effect of catalytic ozonation of secondary
21 effluent on the removal of selected micropollutants with different ozone kinetics (acetamiprid,
22 dichlorvos and atrazine) was evaluated. *E.coli* and *Pseudomonas spp* inactivation increased
23 almost 20% with 1 mgL⁻¹ Fe²⁺, Co²⁺, Al³⁺ and 40% with 10 mgL⁻¹ Fe²⁺ compared with single
24 ozonation. The bacteria reactivation after the treatments showed that Fe²⁺ was the most effective
25 metal ion on inhibiting regrowth. The cellular ATP followed the same trend as the indicators
26 microorganisms inactivation, with significant reduction of ATP over the treatment compared to
27 single ozonation. Finally, the HO[•] exposure per consumed ozone ratio was applied for single
28 ozonation, Fe²⁺/O₃, Co²⁺/O₃ and Al³⁺/O₃ processes to evaluate and compare the contribution of
29 radical pathway on micropollutants abatement.

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37 **Keywords:** Metals ions; *E. coli*; *Pseudomonas spp*; *R_{HO3}*; O₃-resistant micropollutants.

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40 **1. Introduction**

41

42 Due to the excessive population growth and rapid urbanization, especially in developing
43 countries, there is an accelerated wastewater generation and the lack of convenient wastewater
44 treatment plants (WWTP) and drainage facilities. This context leads to the pollution of the water
45 resources, which makes their recycling and self-regulating capability very limited [1]. Effluents
46 coming from inefficient WWTP may cause serious problems to human health and the
47 environment since it may contain undesirable chemical constituents and pathogens [2]. Therefore,
48 wastewater disinfection is the most important step to protect ecosystem safety and human health
49 when reuse is the final goal [3,4].

50 Besides to disinfection, attention should also be given to chemical pollutants which have
51 great diversity and high degree of ecosystem toxicity [5,6]. Many of these compounds are mostly
52 present in very small concentrations ranging from $\mu\text{g/L}$ to below ng/L [7,8]. The incapability of
53 conventional wastewater treatments to effectively remove many pollutants such as
54 nonbiodegradable and toxic pollutants makes imperative that innovative methods for wastewater
55 treatment must continuously being explored, especially when the aim is the wastewater recycle
56 and reuse.

57 Advanced oxidation processes such as ozonation have been widely used for
58 microorganism's inactivation [9,10] demonstrating to be an efficient technique for urban effluents
59 disinfection, even in the inactivation of more resistant organisms than *Escherichia coli* [11,12].
60 Besides it appears as one of the most promising treatments for removal of organic contaminants
61 even in low concentrations [7]. However, its reactivity toward organic pollutants is selective.
62 Ozone reacts mainly with compounds by specific reaction pathways such as electrophilic,
63 nucleophilic or dipolar addition reactions (direct reaction with O_3) [13]. In contrast, the hydroxyl
64 radical (HO^\bullet) formed by O_3 decomposition is a nonselective oxidant and highly reactive with
65 organic pollutants [13, 14], which promotes the complete degradation of organic pollutants, even
66 reaching the mineralization of many micropollutants [15]. Therefore, ozone-resistant
67 micropollutants are abated almost exclusively by HO^\bullet oxidation during ozonation [16].

68 One of the strategies to promote greater generation of HO^\bullet is the catalytic ozonation,
69 through the insertion of transition metals in solution (homogeneous catalytic ozonation) or
70 through the addition of dispersed solid metal oxides (heterogeneous catalytic ozonation). The
71 mechanism of homogeneous catalytic ozonation follows two main pathways. The first one is
72 based on the acceleration of ozone decomposition by the generation of the $^\bullet\text{O}_2$ and $^\bullet\text{O}_3$ radicals
73 and subsequently HO^\bullet formation [11,17]. The other one is based on formation of complexes
74 between the catalyst and the organic compound, followed by a final oxidation reaction [18].
75 Therefore, metal ions are able to enhance the efficiency of single ozonation for the removal of
76 different organic compounds in aqueous solution, particularly those recalcitrant to direct ozone
77 oxidation [19].

78 Several works on literature demonstrated that metal-catalyzed homogeneous ozonation is
 79 efficient in treating wastewater, especially regarding the oxidation of micropollutants [20-22]
 80 while others are devoted to microorganisms inactivation [23,24]. However, there are few studies
 81 describing the microbial inactivation and micropollutants removal simultaneously in WWTP
 82 effluent samples [23,25].

83 Pesticides acetamiprid (ACMP), dichlorvos (DDVP) and atrazine (ATZ), considered as
 84 priority substances, have an uncontrolled use in several countries. These compounds call attention
 85 to the potential environment damages because these substances are toxic, persistent and able to
 86 bioaccumulate [26]. Due to the widespread employment of these pesticides, almost any water and
 87 wastewater stream contains such compounds [6, 27], therefore, the removal of this type of
 88 contaminant must be effective.

89 ACMP and ATZ are resistant to direct oxidation by ozone [28,29], while DDVP has a
 90 medium resistance [30]. Due to variation of micropollutants reactivity with ozone, the use of
 91 kinetic models to predict micropollutants removal such as the dynamic second order kinetic-based
 92 method that includes HO[•] exposure ($\int [HO \cdot] dt$) and total O₃ exposure ($\int [O_3] dt$) could be used
 93 (Equation 1), however the radicals availability remains still undetermined.

94

$$95 \quad -\ln([MP]/[MP]_0) = k_{MP,O_3} \int [O_3] dt + k_{MP,OH} \int [OH \cdot] dt \quad (1)$$

96 The kinetic modeling of removal of pesticides in the secondary effluent is also very
 97 important as it provides details of how they behave when they undergo treatment such as
 98 ozonation. Recently, Kwon et al. [31] developed a new kinetic parameter defined as the HO[•]
 99 exposure per consumed O₃ (Transferred Ozone Dose) (Equations 2 and 3).

100

$$101 \quad R_{OH,O_3} = \frac{\int [HO \cdot] dt}{TOD_t} \quad (2)$$

$$TOD = \int_0^t \frac{F_g}{V_{liq}} \cdot ([O_3]_{in} - [O_3]_{out}) \cdot dt \quad (3)$$

102

103 where F_g , V_{liq} represent the gas flow and the volume of the liquid phase respectively; t is the
 104 contact time; and $[O_3]_{in}$ and $[O_3]_{out}$ correspond to the inlet and outlet ozone concentrations in the
 105 gas phase, respectively.

106

107 A higher R_{OH,O_3} value indicates a higher HO[•] formation, so the HO[•] yield from O₃
 108 decomposition for different operation conditions or different wastewaters can be easily compared
 109 using the R_{OH,O_3} value. It can be easily determined through the monitoring of a HO[•] probe
 110 compound during ozonation [32], based on its very slow direct reaction with ozone and fast

111 reaction with OH[•] radicals [33], and is particularly interesting to be applied in the abatement
112 performance prediction of ozone recalcitrant micropollutants, like the ones included in this study,
113 through Equation 4 [34].

114

$$115 \quad -\ln\left(\frac{[MP]}{[MP_0]}\right) = k_{MP,OH\cdot} * R_{OH,O_3} * TOD \quad (4)$$

116

117

118 The main objective of this work was to evaluate the catalytic effect of Fe²⁺, Co²⁺ and Al³⁺
119 on ozone disinfection (through *E.coli* and *Pseudomonas spp* inactivation and cellular ATP
120 depletion) and micropollutants removal (ACMP, DDVP and ATZ) in municipal wastewater
121 samples. The catalytic ozonation effect on the inhibition of bacterial regrowth after the treatments
122 was also studied. Finally, the influence of Fe²⁺, Co²⁺ and Al³⁺ through the R_{OH,O_3} parameter was
123 verified along with the utility of the R_{OH,O_3} concept in the modelling of the catalytic ozonation.
124 As an OH radical probe compound was used the ACMP, which has k_{O_3} : 0.25 M⁻¹s⁻¹ and $k_{HO\cdot}$: 2.1 x
125 10⁹ M⁻¹s⁻¹ Cruz-Alcalde et al. [29].

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127 **2. Materials and methods**

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129 **2.1. Chemicals and reagents**

130 Acetamiprid, atrazine and 121 dichlorvos analytical standards used as target compounds,
131 iron(II) sulphate, cobalt(II) nitrate hexahydrate and aluminium sulphate hydrate, employed as a
132 catalysts, were acquired from Sigma-Aldrich (Germany). Ultrapure water was produced by a
133 filtration system (Millipore, USA). Pure oxygen 123 (≥ 99.999%) was supplied by Abelló Linde
134 (Spain). Acetonitrile and orthophosphoric acid were used as mobile phase for HPLC.
135 GranuCult™ and Chromocult® agar were acquired from Merck (Spain) and BacTiter-Glo™
136 Microbial Cell Viability Assay from Promega (Spain).

137 **2.2 Wastewater effluent**

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139 The secondary wastewater effluent was collected from a wastewater treatment plant
140 (WWTP) in the province of Barcelona (Spain), after an Integrated Fixed-Film Activated Sludge
141 (IFAS) treatment. The main quality parameters are listed in Table 1. (TOC: total organic carbon;
142 COD: chemical oxygen demand; BOD: Biochemical oxygen demand; UV₂₅₄: specific absorbance
143 at 254 nm; TSS: total suspended solids). All the effluent samples were stored at 4 °C prior to be
144 used in the experiments.

145

146 **Table 1.** Characterization of secondary effluent samples

Parameters	Units	Values	Parameters	Units	Values
<i>E.coli</i>	CFU (Log ₁₀)	4.34 ± 0.46	K ⁺	mg L ⁻¹	42.11 ± 1.36
<i>Pseudomonas spp</i>	CFU (Log ₁₀)	3.46 ± 0.21	Na ⁺	mg L ⁻¹	270.28 ± 18.2
pH	-	7.20 ± 0.33	S ²⁻	mg L ⁻¹	61.65 ± 5.03
Turbidity	NTU	10.4 ± 1.06	Fe ²⁺	mg L ⁻¹	0.18 ± 0.03
UV ₂₅₄	Abs	0.40 ± 0.05	Al ³⁺	mg L ⁻¹	-
COD	mgO ₂ L ⁻¹	60.75 ± 1.02	Co ²⁺	mg L ⁻¹	-
BOD	mgO ₂ L ⁻¹	27.62 ± 1.77	Cu ²⁺	mg L ⁻¹	0.09 ± 0.03
TOC	mg L ⁻¹	16.35 ± 10.2	SO ₄ ⁻	mg S L ⁻¹	160.88 ± 20.17
TSS	mg L ⁻¹	68.0 ± 0.21	NO ₂ ⁻	mg N L ⁻¹	0.1 ± 0.03
Alkalinity	CaCO ₃ L ⁻¹	405.54 ± 49.33	NO ₃ ⁻	mg N L ⁻¹	0.55 ± 0.21
Mg ²⁺	mg L ⁻¹	40.82 ± 5.02	Ca ²⁺	mg L ⁻¹	118.12 ± 7.98

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148

149 **2.3 Ozonation of wastewater effluents**

150

151 Ozonation experiments were performed in a 1.5 L jacketed reactor, operated in semi-
 152 continuous mode, without pH adjustment and unfiltered wastewater. The experiments were
 153 carried out at the natural pH of the wastewater and was followed during the reaction
 154 (Supplementary information Table S-1). Disinfection analysis were carried out with the indicator
 155 microorganisms naturally present in the effluent. The pesticides ATZ, DDVP and ACMP (Table
 156 2) were spiked simultaneously to the sample and the same method was used for their analysis.
 157 For the micropollutants quantification, the linearity between the concentration of each pesticide
 158 and the area peaks were calculated and different concentrations in order to produced peaks of
 159 similar area, being 50, 200 and 100 µg L⁻¹ of ATZ, DDVP and ACMP, respectively. Blank tests
 160 were performed to assess if the target micropollutants affected the bacterial inactivation and
 161 quantification. For this, triplicate tests were performed with the effluent without any type of
 162 treatment and then, the quantification of the indicator microorganisms were compared in the
 163 presence and absence of the contaminants.

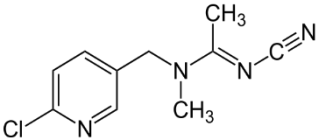
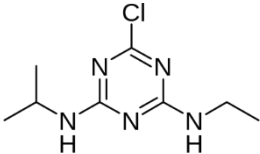
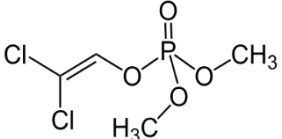
164 For comparison purposes single ozonation and catalytic ozonation (Fe²⁺/O₃, Co²⁺/O₃ and
 165 Al³⁺/O₃) with 1 mg L⁻¹ of Fe²⁺, Co²⁺ and Al³⁺ and 10 mg L⁻¹ of Fe²⁺ were carried out.

166

167 **Table 2.** Pesticides characteristics

168

Pesticide	Group	Chemical formula	Structure
Acetamiprid		C ₁₀ H ₁₁ CIN ₄	

	Neonicotinoid		
Atrazine	Triazines	$C_8H_{14}ClN_5$	
Dichlorvos	Chlorinated organophosphorus	$C_4H_7Cl_2O_4P$	

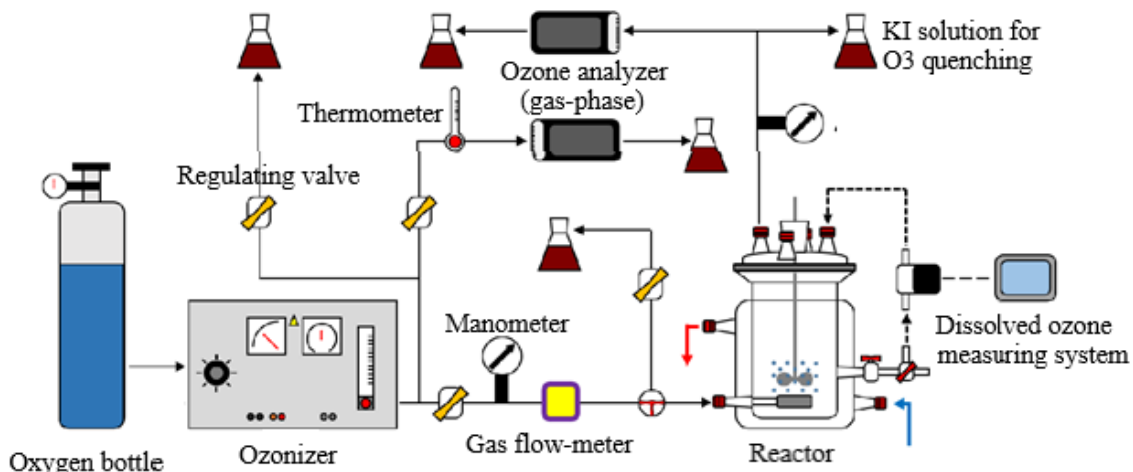
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171 Ozone was produced by a lab ozonator (Sander, Germany) and injected at the bottom of
 172 the reactor by means of a porous diffuser. A mechanical mixing system ensured the good contact
 173 between liquid and gas phases. The gas flow rate and the inlet ozone concentration were
 174 maintained at 0.2 Lmin^{-1} and 10 mgL^{-1} respectively. Inlet and outlet gas-phase ozone
 175 concentrations were continuously monitored by two BMT 964 ozone analyzers (BMT
 176 Messtechnik, Germany) placed up and downstream of the reactor, respectively. The ozone
 177 concentration in the aqueous phase was measured by means of a Q45H/64 dissolved O_3 probe
 178 (Analytical Technology, USA) which was connected to a liquid recirculation stream. A complete
 179 description of the ozonation system can be found elsewhere [33]. The reaction medium was
 180 maintained at a temperature of $20 \pm 2 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and under stirring conditions. Samples were withdrawn
 181 at 0, 3, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 min and the microbiological parameters were immediately
 182 analyzed; the remaining samples were stored at $4 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

183 The dead volume of the reactor was corrected by means of TOD calculations [33]. To
 184 ensure reproducibility the runs were repeated three times and the results were presented as average
 185 with standard deviation (SD). The Student's t-test was used to compare the experimental data and
 186 the significance was accepted when the null hypothesis (p) was less than 0.05.

187



188

189 **Figure 1.** Ozonation setup schematic.

190

191 2.4 Analytical methods

192

193 After collection in bottles of 25 L, the samples were transported to the laboratory and
 194 stored at 4 °C. The characterization was performed as soon as samples arrived at the laboratory
 195 and experiments were performed with less than 1 hour interval between the triplicates.

196 Bacterial inactivation measurements were carried out with Chromocult® TBX agar for
 197 the *Escherichia coli* bacteria count and GranuCulture™ CFC agar for *Pseudomonas spp* bacteria
 198 count. The respective agars were prepared in plates according to indications of the manufacturer
 199 and subsequently incubated for 24 hours at 40 °C.

200 Samples for regrowth experiments were taken from the middle to the end (25, 30 and 36
 201 mgL⁻¹ of TOD) of disinfection experiments and were incubated at 22 ±2 °C for 24, 48 and 72 h
 202 and plated on Chromocult® TBX agar and GranuCulture™ CFC agar, for *E.coli* and *Pseudomonas*
 203 *spp* bacteria count after regrowth, respectively.

204 To the cellular ATP analysis, a measuring kit BacTiter-Glo™ Microbial Cell Viability
 205 Assay (Promega, Barcelona, Spain) was used. The BacTiter-Glo™ reagent containing the ATP
 206 releasing agents and the luciferase enzymes was prepared according to the manufacturer's
 207 guidelines. The data were collected as relative light units (RLU) and converted to ATP (M) by
 208 means of a calibration curve employing a series of rATP standards (Promega Corp.) ranging from
 209 10⁻⁷ μM to 1 μM. Extracellular ATP was quantified by measuring ATP after filtering each sample
 210 through a 0.20 μm sterile syringe filter and then, cellular ATP was calculated by subtracting
 211 extracellular ATP from total ATP. All experiments were carried out in triplicates and average
 212 values and standard deviation were plotted as colony forming units (CFU) per mL for bacteria
 213 and as C/C₀ for ATP depletion.

214 The concentrations of ACMP, DDVP and ATZ were quantified by means of a high-
215 performance liquid chromatograph (HPLC) equipped with a diode array detector (DAD), all
216 supplied by Agilent (1260 Infinity) and Teknokroma Mediterranea Sea18 (250 mm × 4.6 mm and
217 5 µm size packing) column. The mobile phase consisted on a 35:65 volumetric mixture of
218 acetonitrile and Milli-Q water acidified at pH 3 by the addition of H₃PO₄. The flow rate was
219 maintained at 0.7 mL min⁻¹, and the detection wavelength was set to 205, 220 and 250 nm for
220 DDVP, ATZ and ACMP, respectively. Finally, UV absorbance data was determined with a
221 DR6000 UV VIS spectrophotometer (Hach, USA).

222 During the experiments, the pH was monitored being that it remained 7.2±1.3. The
223 concentration of 10 mgL⁻¹ Fe²⁺ was also analysed with the purpose of verifying if there was no
224 precipitation of the same, which would entail in the decrease of the efficiency of the treatment.
225 To quantify soluble iron, analyses of Fe²⁺ and total Fe were performed during the experiments.
226 The iron content was determined according to the 1,10-phenantroline standardized procedure
227 (ISO 6332) by spectrophotometer Hach Lange DR 3900 at 510nm.

228

229

230 3. Results and discussions

231

232 3.1 Wastewater disinfection

233

234 The kinetic study of inactivation of microorganisms by ozone in wastewater disinfection
235 was carried out by estimating the inactivation through established mathematical model of pseudo-
236 first order.

$$237 \ln\left(\frac{[N]}{[N_0]}\right) = -kt \quad (4)$$

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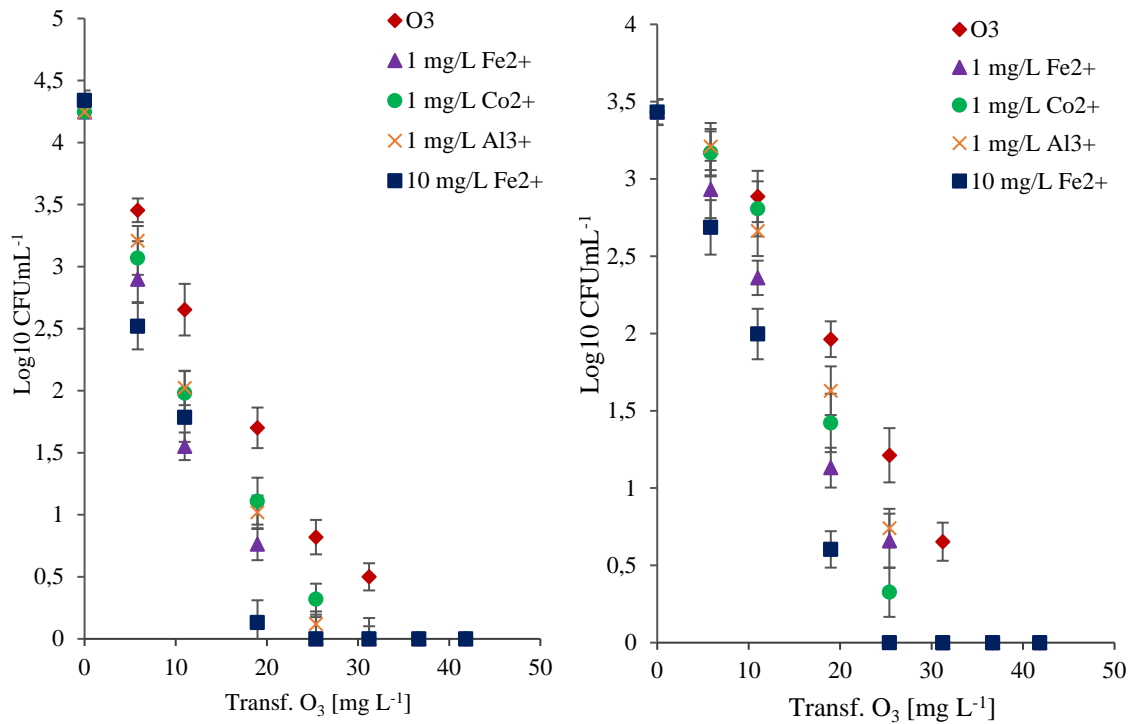
239 where N₀ is the number of microorganisms at time t=0; N the number of vital microorganisms at
240 time t; k the rate constant for the inactivation; t: the contact time.

241

242 The blank tests performed in presence and absence of the pesticides did not present
243 significant statistical differences (see Supplementary information F S-2).

244 Figure 2 shows the inactivation of *E. coli* and *Pseudomonas spp* after ozonation of
245 secondary effluent samples spiked with 50, 200 and 100 µgL⁻¹ of ATZ, DDVP and ACMP,
246 respectively in absence and in presence of 1 and 10 mgL⁻¹ of Fe²⁺, 1 mgL⁻¹ of Co²⁺ and 1 mgL⁻¹
247 of Al³⁺. The tests performed with 10 mgL⁻¹ of Co and Al are not presented, since the performance
248 improvement compared with single ozonation was not significant for this concentration of ions
249 (see Supplementary information F S-3).

250 According to Student's t-test, the results indicated that the inactivation of *E. coli* and
 251 *Pseudomonas spp* could be enhanced by the presence of Fe^{2+} , Co^{2+} and Al^{3+} and consequently
 252 there is a synergism in the combined use of these metal ions and O_3 in disinfection of real
 253 wastewaters. Inactivation of *E. coli* and *Pseudomonas spp* in the presence of metals was
 254 significantly different from single ozonation ($p < 0.05$) and 10 mgL^{-1} of Fe was highly significant
 255 ($p < 0.01$), as can be seen in figure 2 A and B.
 256



257 **Figure 2.** Disinfection of wastewater by ozonation, $1 \text{ mgL}^{-1}\text{Fe}^{2+}/\text{O}_3$, $1 \text{ mgL}^{-1}\text{Co}^{2+}/\text{O}_3$, 1 mgL^{-1}
 258 $\text{Al}^{3+}/\text{O}_3$ and $10 \text{ mgL}^{-1}\text{Fe}^{2+}/\text{O}_3$. Inactivation of *E. coli* (A) and *Pseudomonas spp* (B).
 259

260
 261 As shown in Figure 2A, a faster decrease in *E. coli* (CFU log₁₀) concentration occurs
 262 after the addition of metals ions. Due to the characteristics of this effluent, the instantaneous ozone
 263 dose (IOD) is high (31 mgL^{-1} TOD). Therefore, at the beginning of the treatment, the catalytic
 264 effect of the metals is not perceptible (see Supplementary information F S-4).

265 After 20 mgL^{-1} of TOD, a reduction of 3.3 and 4.2 logs of *E. coli* was observed with 1
 266 and 10 mgL^{-1} Fe^{2+} respectively, 3.2 logs with 1 mgL^{-1} Co^{2+} and 2.8 logs with 1 mgL^{-1} Al^{3+} , while
 267 only 2.5 logs reduction was measured for single ozonation. For *Pseudomonas spp* (Figure 2B) for
 268 the same TOD a reduction about 2.3 and 3.0 logs with 1 and 10 mgL^{-1} Fe^{2+} respectively, 2.4 logs
 269 with 1 mgL^{-1} Co^{2+} and 2.2 logs with 1 mgL^{-1} Al^{3+} were observed, while only 1.7 logs reduction
 270 was measured for single ozonation. Considering complete inactivation of *E.coli* and

271 *Pseudomonas spp*, while single ozonation required 36 mgL⁻¹ of TOD, in presence of 1 mgL⁻¹ Fe²⁺,
 272 Co²⁺ and Al³⁺ required 30 mgL⁻¹ and with 10 mgL⁻¹ Fe just 22 mgL⁻¹. Positively, the presence of
 273 studied metals ions increased ozone disinfection capability, having almost doubled in the presence
 274 of Fe²⁺.

275 The main consequence of this catalytic effect is the saving in energy requirements for
 276 disinfection of wastewaters. The energy costs were estimated considering operational costs
 277 related to industrial ozone production, which according to Katsoyiannis et al. has an
 278 average value of 15 kWh [34], the energy consumption is reduced from 0.54 kWh/m³ for single
 279 ozonation, to 0.45 kWh/m³ for 1 mgL⁻¹ Fe²⁺, Co²⁺ and +Al³⁺ and just to 0.33 kWh/m³ for 10 mgL⁻¹
 280 Fe²⁺ representing an energy savings of almost 40% in the particular case of 10 mgL⁻¹ Fe²⁺. Based
 281 on the work of Nielsen et al. [35] which estimates 0.0027 €/m³ for 1mgL⁻¹ TOD it can be estimate
 282 the savings in euros/m³ (Table 3).

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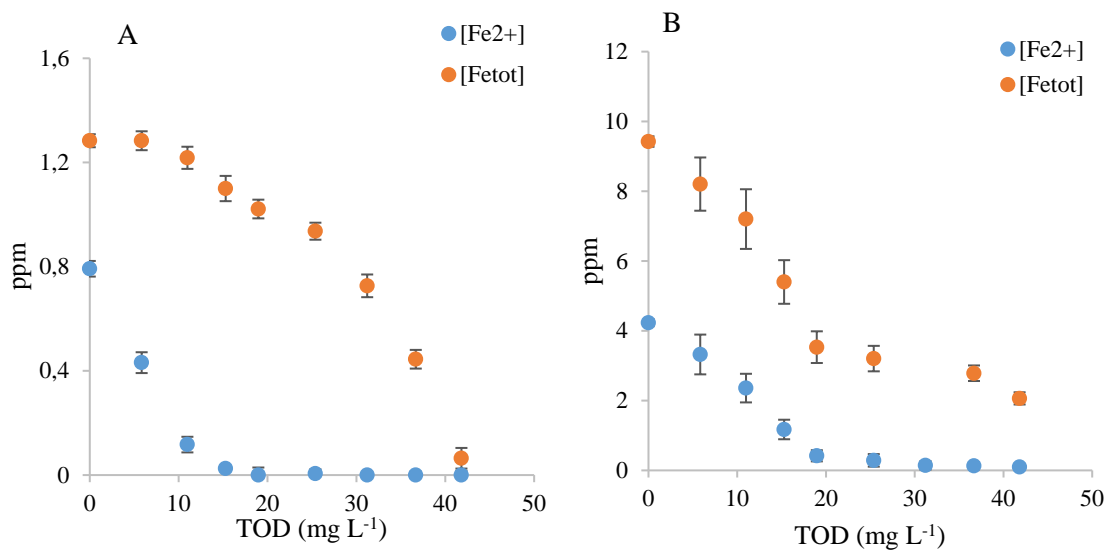
284 Table 3. Estimated treatment costs per cubic meter in Euro and energy requirements in kWh for
 285 the treatments tested.

Treatment	TOD [mgL ⁻¹]	Operational costs [€/m ³]	Energy requirements [kWh/m ³]	Savings %
Single ozonation	36	0.097	0.54	-
1mgL ⁻¹ metals ions/O ₃	30	0.081	0.45	17
10 mgL ⁻¹ Fe ²⁺ /O ₃	22	0.060	0.33	39

286

287

288 From these results it is clear that the effect of Fe²⁺ addition on the ozone oxidation
 289 efficiency becomes more significant. The results of Fe²⁺ in solution fit well with those of
 290 disinfection (Figure 3). With initial addition of 1 mgL⁻¹, Fe²⁺ disappeared from solution at 20
 291 mgL⁻¹ TOD, whereas with initial addition of 10 mgL⁻¹ Fe²⁺ it was still present until 36 mgL⁻¹ TOD,
 292 maintaining its catalytic improvement along the treatment. At the same time, total iron content
 293 decreased because, as Fe³⁺ was generated, it precipitated and/or coordinated with organic
 294 compounds present in the water matrix.



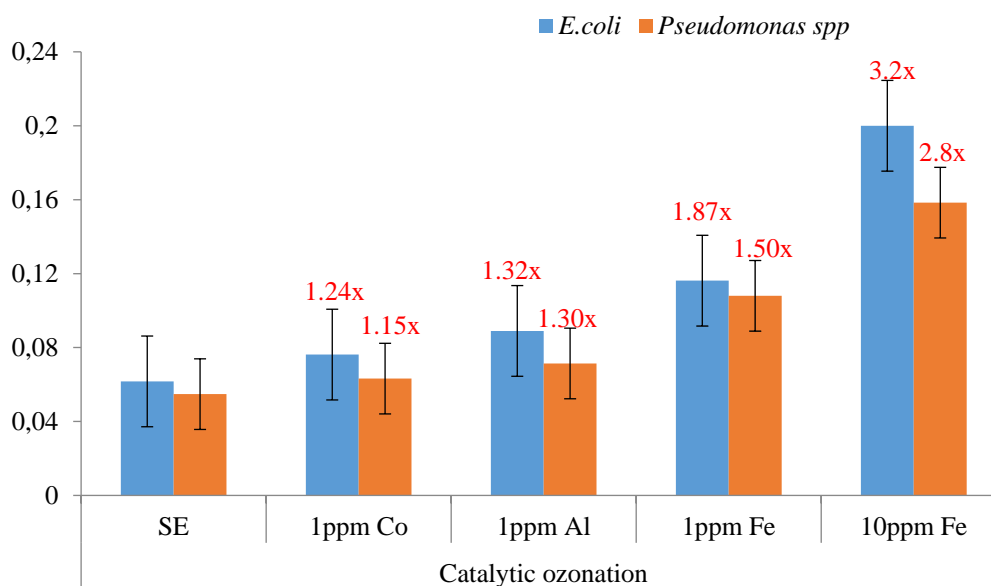
295 **Figure 3.** Fe²⁺ and total Fe quantification during the experiments in function of TOD. (A): 1 mgL⁻¹
 296 Fe²⁺, (B): 10 mgL⁻¹ Fe²⁺

297

298

299 What must also be observed in Figure 2 is the higher resistance of *Pseudomonas spp* to
 300 the treatment by ozone, since it have lower inactivation rate than the *E. coli* (1 log less). These
 301 results agree with bibliography [38-40], where it was also demonstrated that *E. coli* was more
 302 susceptible to the ozone disinfection compared to *Pseudomonas spp*.

303 All these observations are clearly reflected when compared the pseudo-first-order
 304 reaction rate constants k (min⁻¹), as shown in Figure 4. It seems that ozonation in presence of 1
 305 mgL⁻¹ of Fe²⁺, Co²⁺ and Al³⁺ ions as well as 10 mgL⁻¹ of Fe²⁺, kinetics of disinfection for both *E.*
 306 *coli* and *Pseudomonas spp* have increased significantly ($p < 0.05$), between 1.2 and 3.2 times for
 307 *E. coli* and 1.15 and 2.8 times for *Pseudomonas spp*. The lower disinfection kinetics of
 308 *Pseudomonas spp* presented in this study confirm their higher resistance to disinfection compared
 309 with *E. coli*, as already discussed above.



310

311 **Figure 4.** Pseudo first order kinetic constants calculation for the ozonation wastewater
 312 disinfection in the presence and absence of catalysts. (SE: secondary effluent).

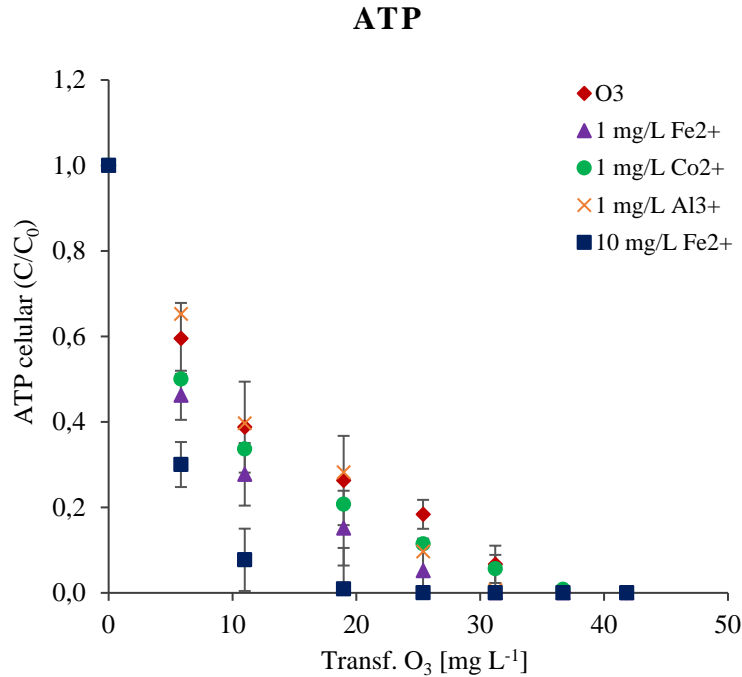
313

314 The analysis of cellular ATP is used for the indirect evaluation of disinfection. It consists
 315 in the measurement of ATP, a molecule used in all cells as a carrier of free energy and phosphate
 316 groups to drive many chemical reactions. It intervenes in all the energy transactions that take
 317 place in cells and can therefore be used as an indicator for microbial activity [41].

318 The decline in microbial activity (as measured through cellular ATP determination) also
 319 followed the same trend as the inactivation of *E. coli* and *Pseudomonas spp.* (Figure 5). It is noted
 320 that the addition of Fe^{2+} , Co^{2+} and Al^{3+} ions to the reaction media provided a significant reduction
 321 ($p < 0.05$) of ATP over the treatment compared with single ozonation.

322 The total elimination of cellular ATP occurred again at 36 mgL^{-1} of TOD for single ozone,
 323 while in the presence of 1 mgL^{-1} of metals and 10 mgL^{-1} of Fe^{2+} the ozone dose needed decreased
 324 to 30 and 20 mgL^{-1} , respectively. In both methods, the $CFU \text{ mL}^{-1}$ (log 10) and the microbial ATP
 325 cells concentration decreased with the increased of ozone dosage. Rauch et al. [42] found that the
 326 response of the biomass recovery-ATP method indicated a significant direct correlation to the
 327 microbial population reduction observed in heterotrophic plate count (HPC) and Colilert®
 328 methods using both pure *E. coli* culture and secondary municipal wastewater effluent. Shawn et
 329 al. [43] demonstrated the correlation between ATP bioluminescence measurements and
 330 quantitative microbiology.

331



332

333 **Figure 5.** Quantification of ATP cellular in function of TOD.

334

335 Depending on the effluent quality, the ozone dose needed to achieve complete
 336 inactivation of indicator organisms varies extensively [44]. Complex water matrices with high
 337 loads of pathogens and chemical pollutants negatively affect the efficiency of disinfection and
 338 pollutant removal [45]. This indicates how important it is to save ozone in the disinfection of
 339 wastewater, unlike what happens in drinking water. Reported ozone needs in literature for
 340 secondary effluents with high TSS and COD, to meet the totally indicators inactivation, such as
 341 the effluent under study, were consistently very high, from 15 to 40 mg L⁻¹ [46-49]. That
 342 represents energy requirements between 225 to 600 kWh/m³. However, in this study, the addition
 343 of 1 mgL⁻¹ of metals resulted in an economy of 17% (540 to 450 kWh/m³) and with 10 mgL⁻¹ of
 344 Fe of almost 40% (540 to 330 kWh/m³) in the ozone energy requirement (kWh/m³).

345 As demonstrated by Arslan et al. [36] and Sauleda and Brillas [37], Fe²⁺ catalyzes the
 346 decomposition of O₃ to generate hydroxyl radicals following a distinct mechanism. The direct
 347 reaction of Fe²⁺ with ozone in the Fe²⁺/O₃ system resulting in the production of HO[•] (Eqs 5 – 12):



350 FeO²⁺ is also able to oxidize Fe²⁺ to Fe³⁺, at a slower rate, with the termination of the
 351 chain reaction:



353 Ozone is an excellent disinfectant and is able to inactivate even more resistant pathogenic
 354 microorganisms such as protozoa where conventional disinfectants fail [13]. Among the
 355 mechanisms of microorganisms inactivation, it can be cited the oxidation of the cell wall,

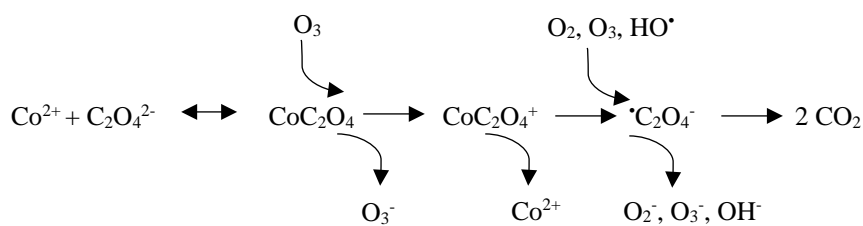
356 reactions with HO[•] by-products, damage of cell components: enzymes, proteins, DNA, RNA and
 357 breakage of C-N bonds [50-52]. There are also many mechanisms of microorganisms inactivation
 358 by ions metals, which includes: deterioration in membrane cell structure or oxidation of
 359 membrane lipids, interference with cellular vital functions by the affinity for ionic metals form
 360 with sulfo hydroxyl group inside the cell, damage or destruction to several intracellular
 361 components, i.e. DNA and protein damage by reactive oxygen species formed by reduced metal
 362 cations [53,54]. However, in this study, the concentrations of metal ions used were very low,
 363 being far from those able to cause inhibition in the bacteria (MIC), as it can be observed in
 364 Morrison et al. [55] and Schoonen et al. [56] works.

365 Wu et al. [57] and Gracia et al. [58] reported that catalytic ozonation using metal ion
 366 increases the HO[•] generation from ozone in aqueous solution and the oxidation of the compound
 367 occurs both directly and indirectly. Khuntia et al. [19] determined the enhancement of HO[•] radical
 368 generation from ozone for the catalytic ozonation using Fe(III), Fe(II), Mn(II) and Cu(II) and the
 369 results showed that catalytic ozonation was more efficient than that the single ozonation.

370 The iron-catalysed ozonation, in addition to the equations 6-8, also may share reactions
 371 with the classical Fenton homogeneous process. The interaction of ozone and water is known to
 372 produce hydrogen peroxide, which may produce hydroxyl radicals [59]:

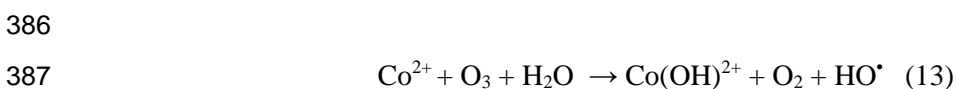


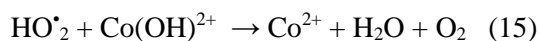
378 Besides to reacting directly with ozone there is evidence that metals can form complexes
 379 with compounds and generate radicals that catalyze ozonation, as can the example of Pines and
 380 Reckhow [18] for cobalt(II)oxalate/ozone (Scheme 1).



381
 382 Schem 1: Oxalic acid catalytic ozonation mechanism by means of the Co(II)/O₃ system.
 383

384
 385 Besides complex formation, cobalt can interact directly with ozone (Eq. 13-15).





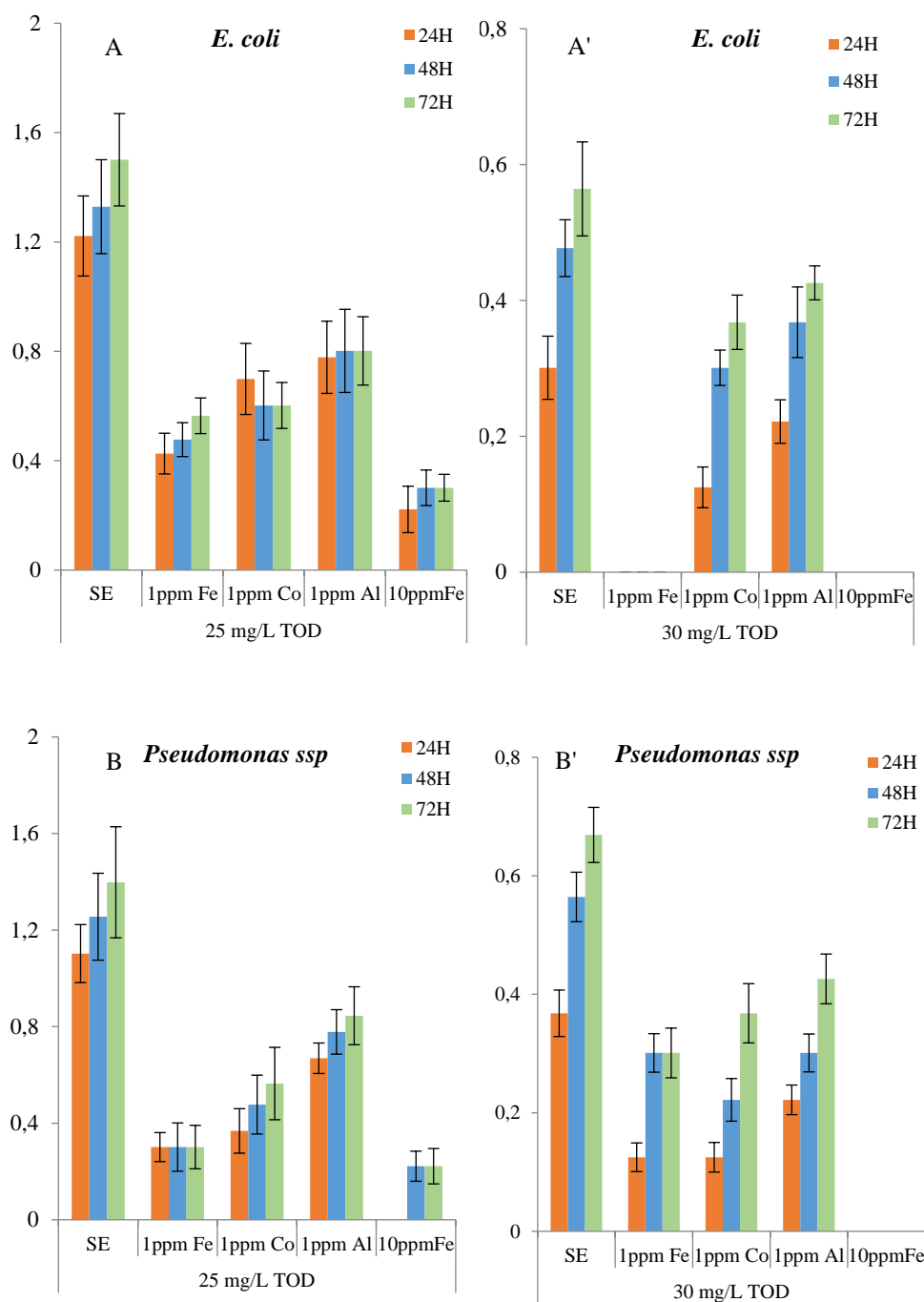
390
391 There were very few studies involving Al^{3+} as a catalyst for ozonation and therefore its
392 mechanism of action was not described. von Sonntag and von Gunten [16] report that for metals
393 ions with both valence 2 and 3, the reactions are governed by O-transfer reactions and ozone
394 adducts are likely intermediates.

395 Okawa et al. [60] found in their work that the degradation rate in addition of Al^{3+} to the
396 ozonation system was almost the same as that with no metal ion. Al_Defiery and Gopal [61]
397 reported that with 10 mgL^{-1} of Al^{3+} no catalytic effects were found, but when adding 100 mgL^{-1}
398 this metal exerted catalytic effect. The works cited differ from the results found in this study,
399 since with the addition of 1 mgL^{-1} there was an increase in the production of hydroxyl radicals
400 (R_{OH}) and with that, an improvement in the rate of removal of pesticides.

403 **3.1.2 Bacterial Regrowth**

404
405 Ozone doses should eliminate and/or reduce the concentration of pathogenic
406 microorganisms to values that exclude any risk to human health. There are pathogenic bacteria
407 such as *E. coli* that have a "dormancy" mechanism during wastewater treatments [62] and may
408 then become reactive under certain conditions. In this context, in order to reuse the treated
409 effluent, it is necessary to include a more detailed evaluation of the role of treatment. If the
410 treatment is not efficient, the reuse can be an agent of propagation and dissemination of pathogens.
411 Therefore, it is very important to evaluate the regrowth capacity of the disinfection indicator
412 microorganisms.

413 *E.coli* and *Pseudomonas spp.* regrowth tests were carried out at effluents treated with
414 TODs of 25, 30 and 36 mgL^{-1} and after 24, 48 and 72 hours from the completion of treatment. In
415 Figure 6 only 25 mgL^{-1} (A and B) and 30 mgL^{-1} (A' and B') of TODs are presented for both
416 indicator microorganisms, because at the dosage of 36 mgL^{-1} TODs there was no regrowth in any
417 sample for both indicator microorganisms. In the presence of both concentrations of Fe^{2+} , for the
418 both indicator microorganisms tested, the criteria required for non-potable purposes, such as
419 agriculture, landscape, public parks, and golf course irrigation according to EPA was reached
420 [63].



422 **Figure 6.** Bacterial regrowth (A) *E. coli* and (B) *Pseudomonas spp* at 25 mgL⁻¹ and 30 mgL⁻¹
 423 TODs.

424

425 The metals addition had a clear inhibitory effect on the reactivation of *E. coli* and
 426 *Pseudomonas spp* when compared with single ozonation. According to the Student's t test for *E.*
 427 *coli*, treatments with the presence of metals differed significantly ($p < 0.05$) from the single O₃
 428 tests for both 25 and 30 mgL⁻¹ of TOD. However, for *Pseudomonas spp* only treatments with 25
 429 mgL⁻¹ of TOD differed significantly ($p < 0.05$) from single O₃ tests.

430 With 25 mgL⁻¹ of TOD the *E.coli* (Figure 6A) regrowth rate decreased 4.6 times with 1
431 mgL⁻¹ of Fe²⁺, 2.5 times with 1 mgL⁻¹ of Co²⁺ and 1.7 times with 1 mgL⁻¹ of Al³⁺, compared with
432 single ozonation and 2.4 times with 1 mgL⁻¹ of Fe²⁺ and Co²⁺ and 1.4 times with 1 mgL⁻¹ of Al³⁺
433 for 30 mgL⁻¹ of TOD (Figure 6A'). Meanwhile, for *Pseudomonas spp.* the decreased was 2.7, 2.5
434 and 1.9 times for 25 mgL⁻¹ of TOD (Figure 6B) and 2.2, 1.8 and 1.6 for 30 mgL⁻¹ of TOD (Figure
435 6B') for Fe²⁺, Co²⁺ and Al³⁺, respectively.

436 Iron was the metal that had the greatest influence on the inhibition of both indicator
437 microorganisms' reactivation. It is observed for the treatments with Fe²⁺ in the Figure 6A' that 30
438 mgL⁻¹ TOD there was no regrowth of *E. coli* and in the Figure 6B' the regrowth of *Pseudomonas*
439 *spp* did not increase from 48 to 72 hours, while for the other metals there is a minimal increase
440 with the each analyzed time.

441 Kim et al. [64] and Rodrigues et al. [59] also related that Fe²⁺ can generate oxidants such
442 as HO[•], Fe(IV), O₂⁻, and H₂O₂ if oxygen is present, and these reactive oxidants generated are
443 responsible for microorganisms' inactivation. It is also reported that these oxidants cause serious
444 damage to cell membrane integrity and respiratory activity.

445 According to the purpose of reuse, it is necessary to meet the standards required in the
446 legislation. The low regrowth rates presented, after the addition of metals, particularly Fe, would
447 allow the treated effluent reuse in different activities, according to EPA [63], Spanish Royal
448 Decree [65] and Brazilian legislation [66] since the regrowth rate did not reach 1 log10 for any
449 of the treatments. This means that with only 25 mgL⁻¹ of TOD (375 kWh/m³) it is possible to reuse
450 this effluent on the cited areas, representing an energy saving of almost 30% of the overall energy
451 requirement.

452

453

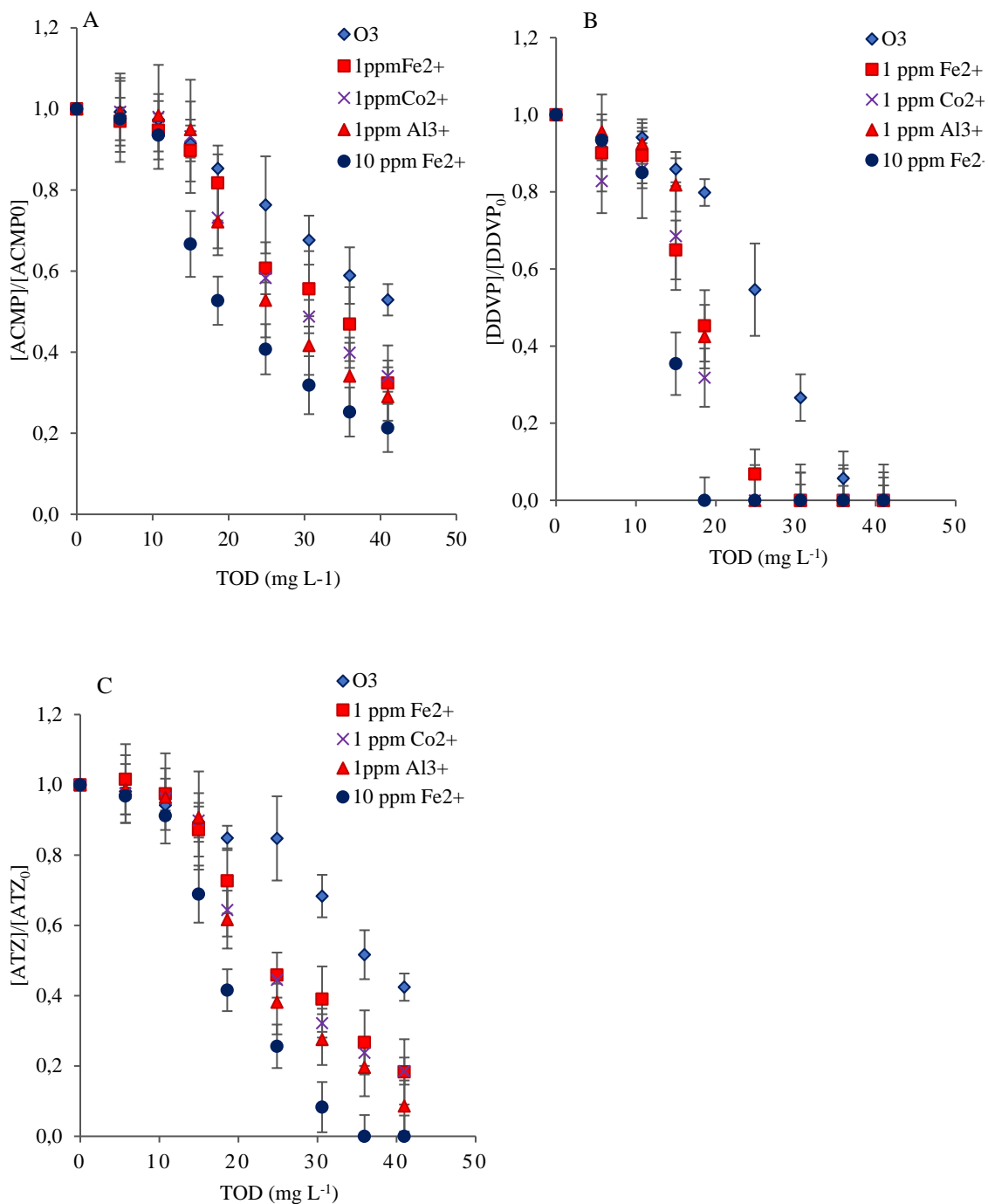
454 **3.2 Pesticides degradation**

455

456 Another concern in recycled effluent is the removal of micropollutants. Figure 7 shows
457 the degradation of ACMP, DDVP and ATZ with single ozonation, O₃/1mgL⁻¹ Fe²⁺, O₃/1mgL⁻¹
458 Co²⁺, O₃/1mgL⁻¹ Al³⁺ and O₃/10mgL⁻¹ Fe²⁺, as a function of TOD.

459 It can be observed in figure 7B that DDVP was degraded much more easily by single
460 ozone than ACMP and ATZ (Figure 7A and 7C), even though it is present in a concentration 2
461 times higher than ACMP and 4 times higher than ATZ. Comparing the pesticides kinetic constants
462 with molecular ozone, which are listed in Table 4, it is observed that the DDVP shows moderate
463 reactivity with molecular ozone while ACMP and ATZ are ozone-resistance compounds. On the
464 other hand, all compounds have high reactivity with the HO[•], with a magnitude order of 10⁹ M⁻¹s⁻¹.
465

466 It is also perceived that the metals have a catalytic effect in the three pesticides removal.
 467 Thus, for each pesticide, according to the Student's t test, when the means of the different
 468 treatments (absence and presence of 1 and 10 mgL⁻¹ Fe²⁺, 1 mgL⁻¹ Co²⁺ and Al³⁺) were compared,
 469 the metals ions presence showed statistically significant differences (p<0.05) and this significance
 470 increased with 10 mgL⁻¹ Fe (p<0.01). The ACMP degradation increased between 1.45 to 1.66
 471 times, DDVP increased between 2.70 to 5.0 times and ATZ between 1.5 to 2.1 times with the
 472 addition of 1 mgL⁻¹ Fe²⁺, Al³⁺, Co²⁺ and 10 mgL⁻¹ Fe²⁺.



473
 474 **Figure 7.** Degradation of (A) ACMP, (B) DDVP and (C) ATZ. \diamond O₃; \square O₃/1mgL⁻¹ Fe²⁺; Δ
 475 O₃/1mgL⁻¹ Al³⁺; \times O₃/1mgL⁻¹ Co²⁺; \circ O₃/10 mgL⁻¹Fe²⁺.

476

477 **Table 4.** Kinetic constant of ACMP, ATZ, DDVP with HO[•] and O₃

478

	k_{O_3}	k_{HO^\bullet}	References
ACMP	0.25 M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹	2.1 x 10 ⁹ M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹	Cruz-Alcalde et al. [29]
ATZ	6 M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹	3.0 x 10 ⁹ M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹	Acero et al. [28]
DDVP	590 M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹	2.2 x 10 ⁹ M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹	Cruz-Alcalde et al. [30]

479

480

481 In general, when ozone is dissolved, it is consumed in two steps: first the rapid ozone
482 consumption step which can be represented by the parameter IOD (instantaneous ozone demand)
483 and the rather slower decay step or second stage. In the first stage the direct reaction to ozone
484 predominates and in the second stage (after IOD) the radical pathway, mainly hydroxyl radical
485 predominates [32].

486 At the beginning of ozonation, the degradation of all pesticides was slow, since
487 wastewater had more reacting compounds with molecular ozone, minimizing ozone
488 decomposition into HO[•]. However, for TOD higher than 30 mgL⁻¹ and particularly in the presence
489 of metals ions, pesticides depletion rates had a significant improvement (p < 0.05). This behavior
490 also applies to DDVP, which despite having a higher kinetic constant with molecular ozone, had
491 its degradation potentiated by metals as well. The micropollutants degradation enhancement was
492 significantly increase in the presence of Fe²⁺ ions. Again, metals ions catalyze the decomposition
493 of molecular O₃ into HO[•], particularly after IOD completion, causing a much faster reaction of
494 the pesticides with HO[•] and consequently an overall faster degradation.

495 In the work of Cruz-Alcalde et al. [29] the removal of ACMP by the both possible
496 transformation routes was analyzed, that is, direct by molecular ozone and indirect by the HO[•]. It
497 was found that the degradation by means of direct reaction barely occurred, therefore the ozone
498 decomposition into HO[•] is the key of ACMP removal, while another work [30] reported that both
499 ozone and HO[•] can play an important role in DDVP abatement. Zhu et al. [22] compared the effect
500 of single, homogeneous and heterogeneous catalytic ozonation on ATZ degradation and its results
501 showed that homogeneous catalytic oxidation by leached Fe ions increased the atrazine
502 degradation when compared with single ozonation.

503 From the works found in the literature dealing with catalytic ozonation and disinfection,
504 most are involved with heterogeneous catalysis, thus this work demonstrated the importance of
505 the catalytic effect of metals in simultaneous disinfection and elimination of O₃ recalcitrant
506 micropollutants.

507

508 **3.3 Comparison of oxidation efficiency: Determination of R_{OH, O_3}**

509

510 The methodology described by Cruz-Alcalde et al. [33] was applied to calculate the R_{OH, O_3}
 511 parameter for each experimental conditions assayed. ACMP is the most ozone recalcitrant
 512 compound among the three tested pesticides (see Table 4), thus the wastewater effluent was
 513 spiked with $100 \mu\text{gL}^{-1}$ of ACMP as HO^* probe compound, and then ozonized for 60 min under the
 514 different studied operational conditions (in presence and absence of 1 and $10 \text{ mgL}^{-1} \text{ Fe}^{2+}$, 1 mgL^{-1}
 515 Co^{2+} and $1 \text{ mgL}^{-1} \text{ Al}^{3+}$). Table 4 data was used to deduct the accumulated hydroxyl radical
 516 exposure according to equation 4. Experimental plots of $\int[\text{HO}^*]dt$ versus TOD (consumed ozone,
 517 according to the employed experimental methodology) were performed to obtain the R_{OH, O_3} values
 518 for each experimental conditions (see Supplementary information F S-5). Table 5 shows the R_{OH, O_3}
 519 values resulted, which were different before (Stage 1) and after (Stage 2) IOD (31 mgL^{-1}).

520

521 **Table 5.** R_{OH, O_3} plot obtained during ozonation of wastewater effluent samples and TOD to 50%
 522 of ACMP degradation. $[\text{ACMP}]_0 = 100 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$, as flow rate: 0.2 L min^{-1} ; Inlet (gas) ozone
 523 concentration: $10 \text{ mg O}_3 \text{ L}^{-1}$ at STP conditions. First stage: before IOD (31 mgL^{-1}); second stage:
 524 after IOD.

525

Process	R_{OH, O_3}	
	Stage 1	Stage 2
Single ozonation	1.51×10^{-7}	4.82×10^{-7}
$1 \text{ mgL}^{-1} \text{ Co}^{2+}/\text{O}_3$	2.23×10^{-7}	9.43×10^{-7}
$1 \text{ mgL}^{-1} \text{ Al}^{3+}/\text{O}_3$	1.05×10^{-7}	9.60×10^{-7}
$1 \text{ mgL}^{-1} \text{ Fe}^{2+}/\text{O}_3$	2.64×10^{-7}	9.10×10^{-7}
$10 \text{ mgL}^{-1} \text{ Fe}^{2+}/\text{O}_3$	1.25×10^{-6}	8.20×10^{-7}

526

527

528 R_{OH, O_3} values increased in the second stage for conditions tested as expected, which means
 529 that more hydroxyl radicals were available for oxidation. During early stage of ozone-based
 530 processes, there is an almost instantaneous ozone consumption exerted by O_3 direct reacting
 531 matter, both organic and inorganic, present in the highly polluted secondary wastewater effluent.
 532 Once this matter is partially oxidized, this consumption decreased, increasing the ozone
 533 decomposition into hydroxyl radicals. Moreover, metals ions addition, excepting Al^{3+} (Table 5),
 534 caused a significantly increased of R_{OH, O_3} values in the first stage of ozonation ($p < 0.05$),
 535 particularly the presence of $10 \text{ mgL}^{-1} \text{ Fe}^{2+}$ ($p < 0.01$), although it was in the second stage where all
 536 metals ions presence remarkably increased of R_{OH, O_3} values. Metals ions accelerated the
 537 decomposition of molecular ozone into hydroxyl radicals, resulting in more radical formation per
 538 transferred ozone. This increase was almost 1.8 and 8.2 times higher than the single ozonation for

539 1 and 10 mgL⁻¹ Fe and 1.5 times more for 1 mgL⁻¹ Co (first stage) and almost 2.0 times for all
540 metals ions addition (second stage) (see Table 4).

541 It should be noted that in the second stage of ozonation 10 mgL⁻¹ of Fe has less effect on
542 R_{OH} values than 1 mgL⁻¹. This may be related to the fact that the oxidation of Fe²⁺ into Fe³⁺
543 generated precipitates that decrease the catalytic effect of this metal (see Figure 3). This result
544 agrees with Kishimoto and Ueno [67] study, which Fe²⁺ appears to be associated with no
545 significant effect in the second stage of ozonation due to the formation of precipitates throughout
546 the treatment.

547

548 **3.4 Prediction of micropollutants removal by homogeneous catalytic ozonation based on** 549 **$R_{OH\ O_3}$ concept**

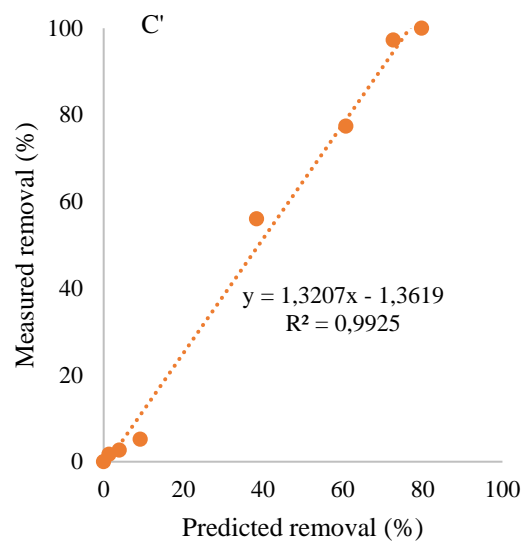
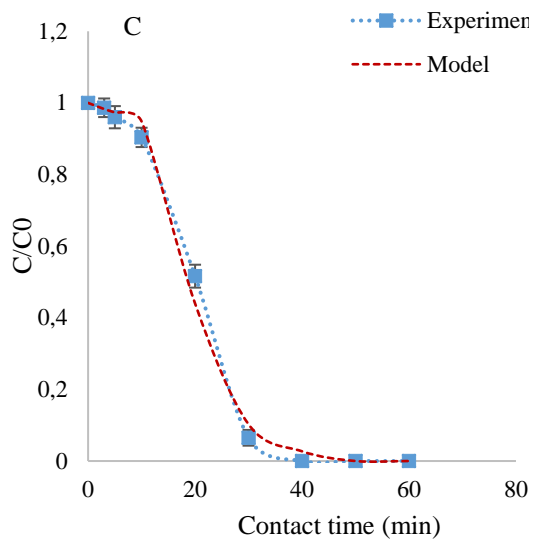
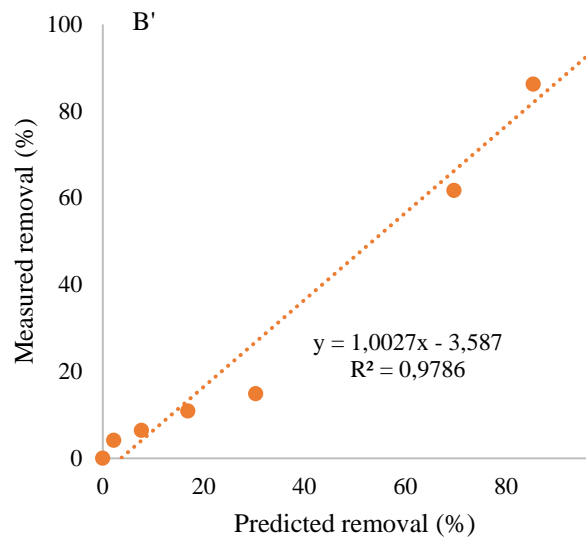
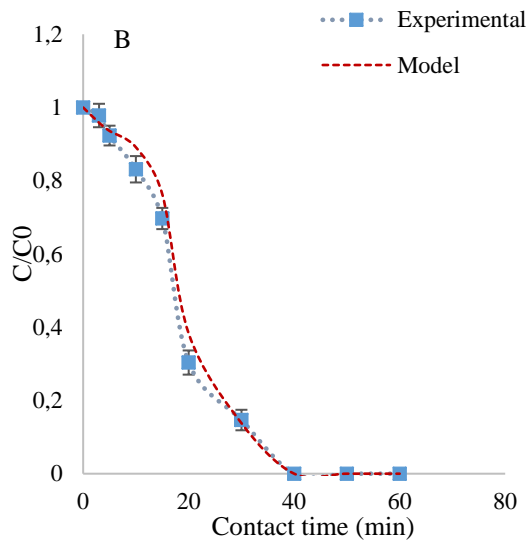
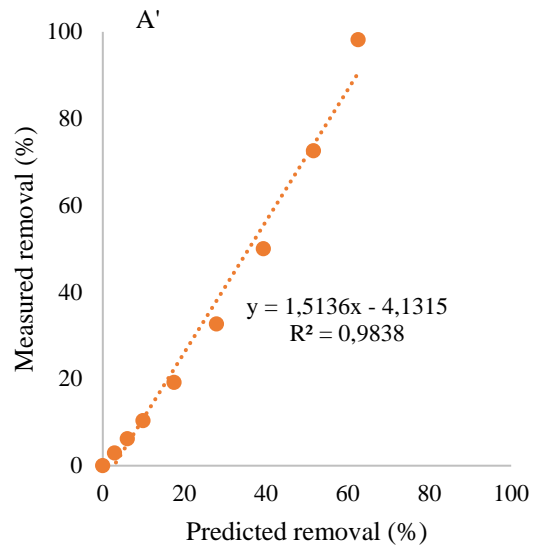
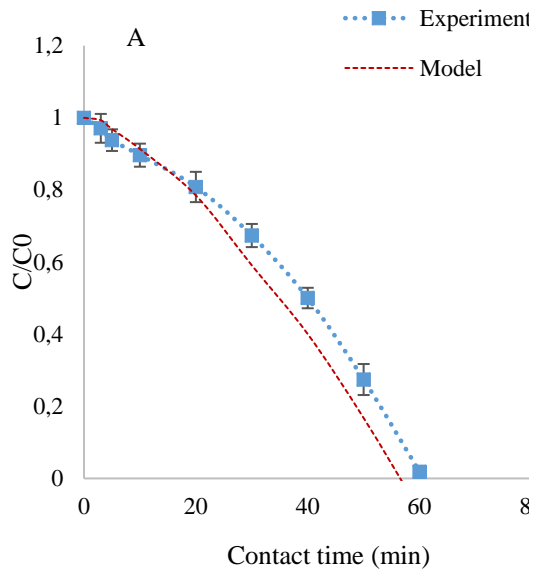
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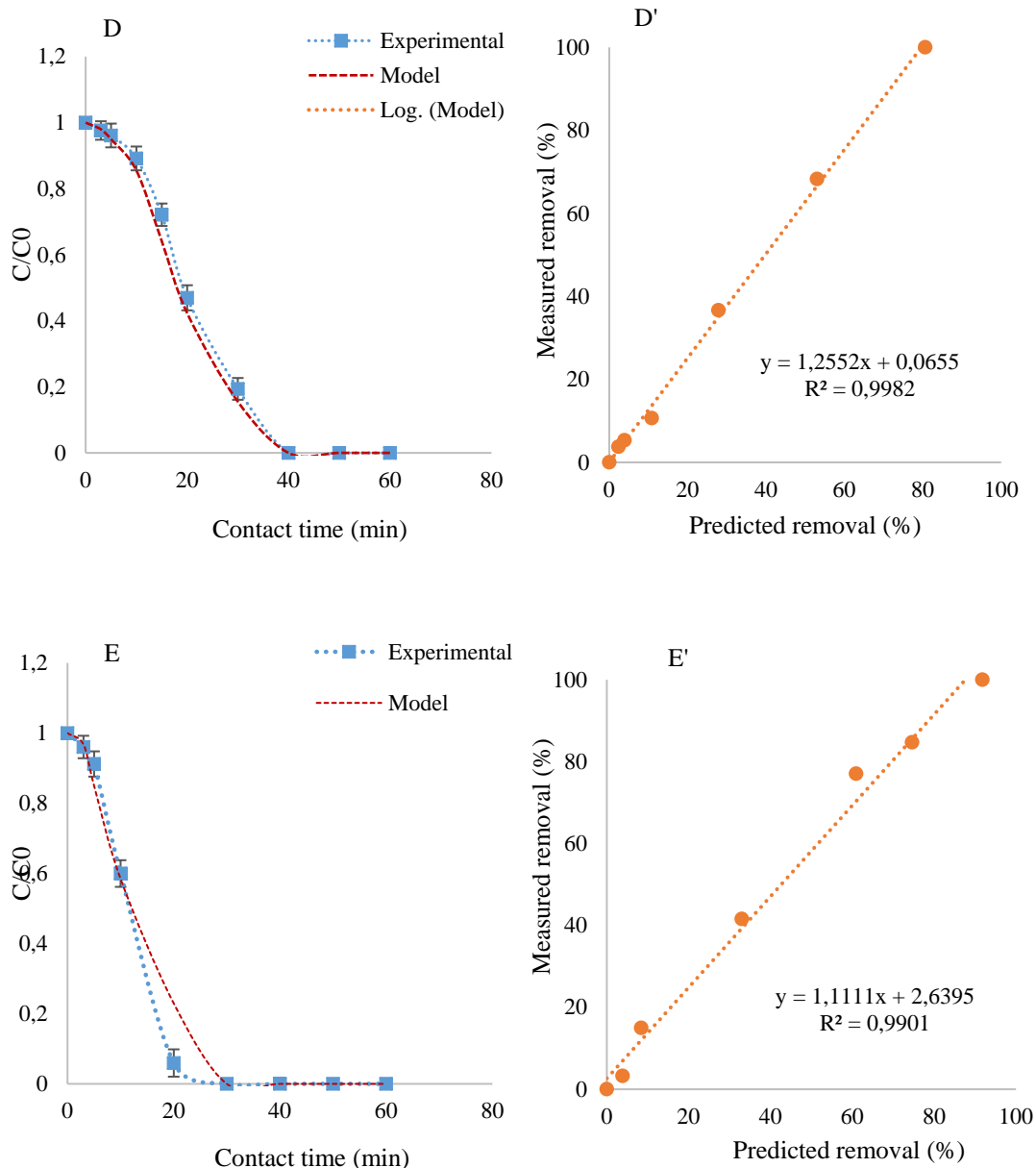
551 According to the $R_{OH\ O_3}$ definitions (Eq 1 and 2), the removal of the ATZ O₃-resistant
552 micropollutant can be predicted by Equation 4 [33]. The prediction of DDV was also performed,
553 however it has a moderate reaction with molecular ozone, so the model underestimating the
554 degradation of itself (Supplementary F S-6).

555 A comparison was made between the experimental results and the model predictions for
556 the ATZ removal and its correlation in the two stages for all metals tested (Figure 8). All the
557 experimental results presented an excellent correlation with the values of the model ($R^2 > 0.98$).

558 It is noted that for both single ozonation and metals ions/O₃, the model can be used
559 satisfactorily to predict the abatement efficiency of ozone-recalcitrant micropollutants. It can be
560 seen in Figures 8A, (single ozonation), that the model overestimated and, in the Figure 8E
561 (10mgL-1Fe²⁺), underestimated ATZ degradation, however these estimation deviations were not
562 significant ($p > 0.05$).

563





564 **Figure 8.** Comparison between the experimental results and the model predictions for the ATZ
 565 removal and your correlation. (A and A': Single ozone), (B and B': $O_3 + 1 \text{ mgL}^{-1} \text{ Fe}^{2+}$), (C and
 566 C': $O_3 + 1 \text{ mgL}^{-1} \text{ Al}^{3+}$), (D and D': $O_3 + 1 \text{ mgL}^{-1} \text{ Co}^{2+}$), (E and E': $O_3 + 10 \text{ mgL}^{-1} \text{ Fe}^{2+}$).

567

568

569

570 **4. Conclusions**

571

572 According to the results some conclusions are drawn as following:

573

- 574 (1) The disinfection performance was improved by metals ions/ O_3 , as can be observed through
 575 *E. coli* and *Pseudomonas spp* inactivation and ATP cellular depletion. It was also clear that
 576 the addition of the ions to ozonation acts as a regrowth inhibitor of both indicator
 577 microorganisms.

- 578 (2) The improvement of metal ions on $R_{OH\text{O}_3}$ values occurred significantly for both stages of
579 ozonation (before and after initial ozone demand), for all tested metals.
- 580 (3) The modelling results based on $R_{OH\text{O}_3}$ values demonstrate that, for both single ozonation and
581 metals ion/ O_3 , the atrazine depletion can be predicted satisfactory ($R^2 > 0.97$), being a useful
582 tool for the generalized prediction of ozone resistant micropollutants abatement.
- 583 (4) Of the metal ions tested, Fe^{2+} was the one that exerted the most significant effect in both in
584 disinfection and micropollutants removal.
- 585 (5) The metals ions addition to the ozonation system provided saving in the ozone energy
586 requirement (kWh/m^3) for disinfection and pesticides abatement. To achieve 50%
587 degradation of ACMP (most O_3 -resistant compound) using 10 mgL^{-1} Fe, only 22 mgL^{-1} of
588 TOD were needed, almost 50% less than that for single O_3 . For the wastewater disinfection
589 to reuse, it was necessary 25 mgL^{-1} of TOD, almost 30% less than the single O_3 to respect the
590 limits of Brazilian, Spanish and American legislations. This means savings between 30-50%
591 of total ozone requirements for the micropollutants depletion and disinfection.

592

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596

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