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Title: Low-cost stainless-steel wool anodes modified with polyaniline and polypyrrole for high-

performance microbial fuel cells

Authors: Patil, Sunil A. (/jspui/browse?type=author&value=Patil%2C+Sunil+A.)

Keywords: Microbial fuel cells

Stainless steel wool Polyaniline Power density

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Citation: Journal of Power Sources, 379, pp. 103-114

Abstract:

A conducting polymer coated stainless-steel wool (SS-W) is proposed for use as a low-cost anode for microbial fuel cells (MFCs). When coated with polyaniline (PANi) and polypyrrole (PPy), the pristine SS-W, SS/PANi-W and SS/PPy-W anodes produced maximum current densities of  $0.30\pm0.04,\,0.67\pm0.05,\,0.56\pm0.07$  mA cm-2, respectively, in air-cathode MFCs. Also, based on achieved power density, both SS/PANi-W and SS/PPy-W achieved  $0.288\pm0.036$  mW cm-2 and  $0.187\pm0.017$  mW cm-2, respectively, which were superior to  $0.127\pm0.011$  mW cm-2 obtained with pristine SS-W. Further, in comparison with SS-P based anodes, all SS-W based anodes gave improved power densities under similar experimental conditions by at least 70%. Moreover, the charge transfer resistance of the SS-W was much lower (240 $\pm25\,\Omega$  cm-2) than for the SS-P (3192 $\pm239\,\Omega$  cm-2). The j0(apparent) values obtained for SS/PANi-W (0.098 $\pm0.007$  mA cm-2) and SS/PPy-W (0.036 $\pm0.004$  mA cm-2) anodes were also much higher than that of the pristine SS-W (0.020 $\pm0.005$  mA cm-2), as well as than those of all SS-P based anodes. The observed enhancement of the bioelectrocatalytic performances were well supported by physicochemical and electrochemical characterisation.

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