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Short Paper

**Environmental effect of Sudan I-IV: adsorption behaviors and potential risk on soil**

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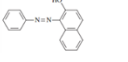

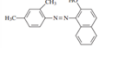

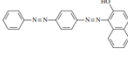

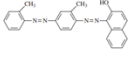
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Sudan dyes ; Soil ; Adsorption ; Toxicity

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Sudan dyes (Table 1) [1], a class of synthetic azo dyes and classified as category 3 carcinogens by the International Agency for Research on Cancer [2], have been received considerable attention all over the world, especially in the past decade, which are found to be non-authorized and illegally added into food products, such as chili-, curry-, curcuma- and palm oil-containing foodstuffs, meats, spice mix, as well as feedstuffs and feed poultry, to enhance or maintain the appearance due to their intensive color and low price [3,4]. In addition, they are extensively applied in industrial and scientific areas, such as oils, textiles, plastics, waxes, inks, films, cosmetic products, shoe and floor polishing, and spirit varnishing [5-7]. Obviously, there exist a variety of potential sources for environmental contamination by Sudan dyes, thus threatening human health and the safety of ecosystems. It is reported that sub parts per billion levels of Sudan dyes were present in paprika fruits during the vegetation process, particularly, Sudan I existed in almost all samples, including paprika fruits, soils and agronomic materials from some fields in China [8], the levels in soils were significantly elevated by vegetation treatments, and pesticides and fertilizers constitute the major source of Sudan I contamination [9]. Till now, the investigation on contaminative behavior and environmental effects is rarely involved, and biogeochemical cycles of Sudan dyes are rarely concerned either.

**Table 1 The chemical information of Sudan I-IV**

Chemical	Name	CAS Nr.	MW	Structure
Sudan I	 1-(phenylazo)-2-naphthalenol	842-07-9	248.0949	
Sudan II	 1-[(2,4-dimethylphenyl)azo]-2-naphthalenol	3118-97-6	276.1261	
Sudan III	 1-(4-phenylazophenylazo)-2-naphthalenol	85-86-9	352.1323	
Sudan IV	 o-tolylazo-o-tolylazo-beta-naphthalenol	85-83-6	380.1636	

Sudan dyes could enter into ecosystems via various routes to cause environmental pollution, and azo dyes including Sudan dyes were usually selected as model pollutants, as being large classes of organic pollutants in effluent and resistant to biodegradation [10,11]. However, relevant studies about their environmental behaviors and effects are rarely reported, although it is of great importance and necessity accounting for

their potential environmental contamination from various sources, and little is known about their environmental behaviors and toxicological effects on soil, and soil-water and soil-air interfaces. Herein, we carried out the studies on the adsorption behavior of Sudan I-IV, and their short term and mid-long term toxicological effects on a coastal soil, including the effects on soil enzyme activities (catalase, urease and alkaline phosphatase) under 2d and 7d, the effects on soil functional bacteria (nitrogen-fixing bacteria, ammonia-oxidizing bacteria and denitrification bacteria) under 14d, and the effects on soil microbial community diversity (community composition structure and diversity indexes) under 30d. It is expected that relevant researches on their environmental behaviors and ecological effects in environmental systems would be concerned and addressed.

Our results showed that the amount of Sudan I-IV adsorbed on soil increased accordingly with the increasing concentration of Sudan dyes in aqueous solution, and Sudan II and IV were more likely adsorbed on the tested soils than Sudan I and III based on their maximum adsorption amount. However, for Sudan I, III and IV, in some high concentrations (under the treatment of 75 mg/L for Sudan III, 100 mg/L for Sudan I and IV), the adsorption was significantly increased, and then came back to the "normal" level (under the treatment of 100 mg/L for Sudan III) [1]. In addition, Sudan I-IV can pose potential risk on soil enzyme activities, functional bacteria and microbial community diversity, and there exist variation among different Sudan dyes, treatments and exposure time.

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