



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
FIRENZE

**Scuola di  
Ingegneria**



**Laboratori  
WALAB (Water, Wastewater and Waste  
treatment)  
Sedimenti contaminati**

Riccardo Gori

**GIORNATA DI ORIENTAMENTO  
SCUOLA DI INGEGNERIA**

**Firenze, 27 Ottobre 2014**



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**Il gruppo di ricerca**

Claudio Lubello e Piero Sirini - Professori

Riccardo Gori e Giulio Munz - Ricercatori

Cecilia Caretti, Mariangela Grassi e Giuseppe Cocchi –

Collaboratori a progetto

Tommaso Lotti, Alberto Mannucci – Assegnisti

Giacomo Bellandi, Sara Sguanci, Laura Palli, Francesca

Giaccherini – Dottorandi





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**Principali sedi di ricerca**

UNALAB - Laboratorio congiunto tra UNIFI, Publiacqua SpA, Acque SpA. La sede è presso l'impianto di depurazione di S. Colombano.

CER2CO - Laboratorio congiunto tra UNIFI e Cuoidepur. Sede: c/o Impianto Cuoidepur

GIDA SpA – Impianto di Baciacavallo e di Calice

Quadrifoglio SpA – Impianto di Case Passerini

Laboratorio presso la scuola di ingegneria nella sede di S. Marta



# CARBALA PROJECT

## Carbon Balancing for nutrient removal







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Temi di ricerca

Applicazione di processi e tecnologie innovative a diverse scale:

- laboratorio;
- pilota;
- piena scala.





- ✓ Rimozione dei nutrienti (Rimozione azoto da reflui concentrati per mezzo del processo SHARON-ANAMMOX)
- ✓ Sviluppo di processi biotecnologici innovativi
- ✓ Trattamento di acque di miniera
- ✓ Ottimizzazione dei processi di trattamento di acque e rifiuti
- ✓ Recupero di energia e materia dalle acque reflue e dai rifiuti
- ✓ Trattamento di effluenti gassosi (Rimozione solfuri e VOC da streams gassosi)
- ✓ Affinamento di reflui industriali ai fini del loro riutilizzo (processi di ossidazione avanzata, processi a membrana)
- ✓ Trattamento di reflui industriali (conciari, tessili, cartari, etc.)
- ✓ Recupero di energia e materia dalle acque e dai rifiuti
- ✓ Bonifica dei siti contaminati (rimozione dell'arsenico dalle acque)
- ✓ Trattamento dei residui della depurazione e dei trattamento dei rifiuti
- ✓ ...



# THE USE OF FUNGI IN BIOREMEDIATION

Non-specific  
Extracellular enzymes

- Laccase*
- Lignin Peroxidase*
- Manganese Peroxidase*

Involvement in the degradation and/or mineralization of:

Textile dyes

Pharmaceutical compounds

Olive mill wastewaters



Pesticides







## PETROCHEMICAL WASTEWATER

- ✓ Batch and bioreactor tests on **petrochemical wastewater**
- ✓ Significant COD removal after **combined treatment** with activated sludge
- ✓ Need of an **external growth substrate** (glucose or ligno-cellulosic material)







# PHARMACEUTICALS DEGRADATION

Experiments conducted on:

- ✓ **Atenolol**: beta-blocker, used for treatment of hypertension and some cardiac arrhythmias
- ✓ **Diclofenac** : non-steroidal anti inflammatory, used as antirheumatic and analgesic
- ✓ **Ketoprofen**: non-steroidal anti inflammatory, with analgesic and antipyretic action, used for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis

*Tests conducted during a stay at the “Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona”*

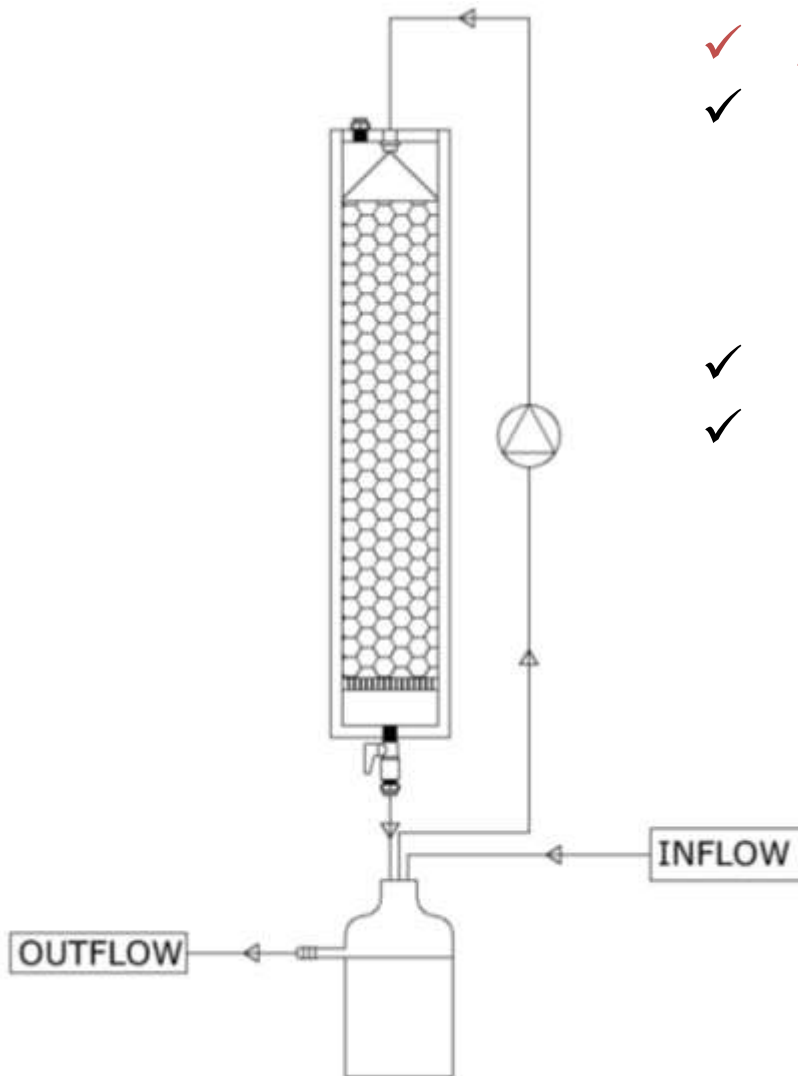
# BIOREACTOR



- Pulsed-air bioreactor
- $V=1.5L$
- Biomass:  $2.5 \div 3.5$  g/L
- pH=4.5
- Carbon source: glucose
- HRT (in continuous process): 40h

# TRICKLING FILTER

- ✓ **Attached** biomass
- ✓ Filter bed made of **biodegradable supports** (e.g. *luffa cylindrica*), which acts both as physical support and growth substrate for fungi
- ✓ pH = **4.5 ÷ 5.5**
- ✓ Capture of reactor off-gas for **monitoring of fungal growth** by CO<sub>2</sub> production



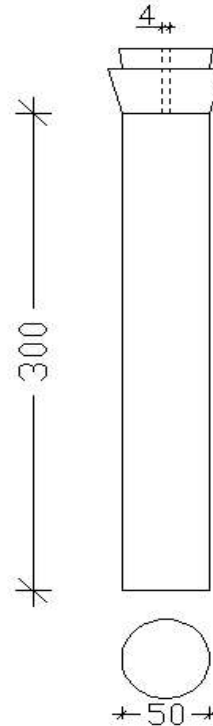


# THE BIOREACTOR

- ✓ **Packed** bed bioreactor
- ✓ Bed made of **straw**
- ✓ **Continuous** process
- ✓ HRT = **3 d**
- ✓ Influent **pH = 7**
- ✓ **Non-sterile** conditions
- ✓ Work time: **3 months**

## Observed parameters:

- ✓ pH (daily)
- ✓ Lac and MnP production (daily)
- ✓ Polymers concentrations by HPLC (3 times/week)
- ✓ COD (weekly)
- ✓ bCOD (monthly)





# INTRODUCTION

## GRANULAR BIOMASS APPLICATION

- ❑ **Dense and strong microbial structure**
- ❑ **Excellent settleability**
- ❑ **High biomass retention**
- ❑ **Ability to withstand high organic loading rates**
- ❑ **Tolerance to toxic compounds**

AEROBIC



ANAEROBIC (ANAMMOX)





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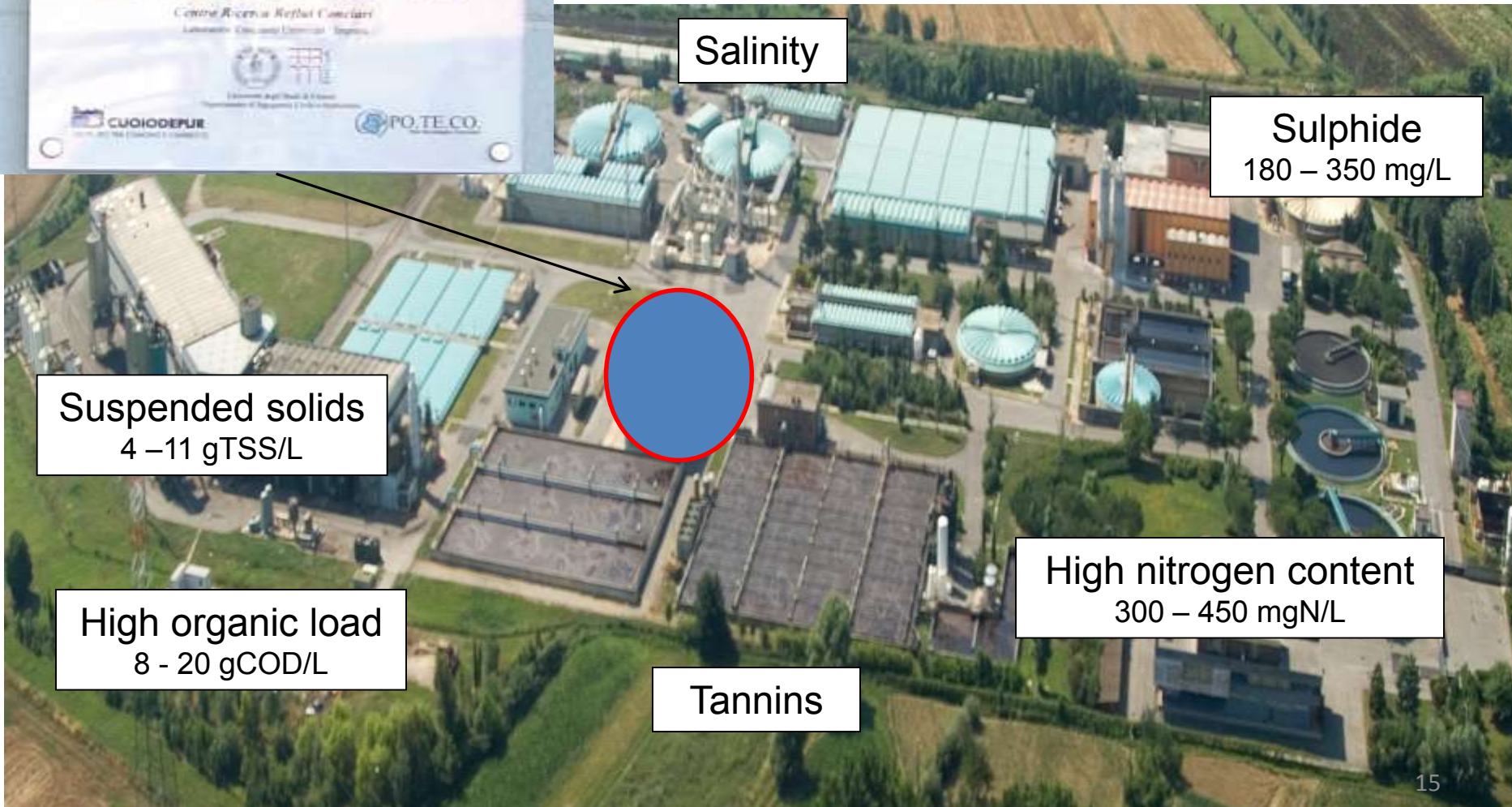
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About 100 Tanneries located between Florence and Pisa



Salinity

Sulphide  
180 – 350 mg/L

Suspended solids  
4 – 11 gTSS/L

High organic load  
8 - 20 gCOD/L

High nitrogen content  
300 – 450 mgN/L

Tannins



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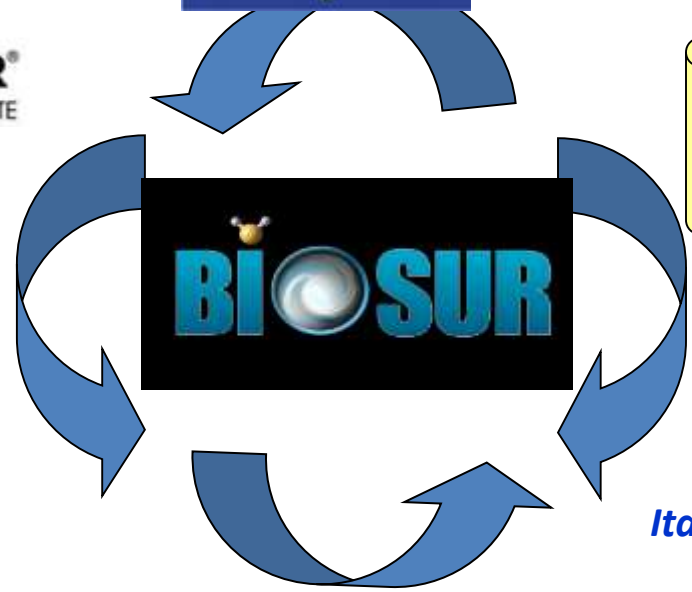


End user and demonstration site



University of Florence  
Dept of Civil and Environmental  
Engineering

Biotechnologies for  
wastewater and gaseous  
effluents treatment



Microbial communities  
characterization



University of Pisa  
Dept of Biology



Italprogetti Engineering SpA

Design, construction, operation of the  
prototype

**LIFE+11 ENV/IT/0075**

“Rotating bioreactors for sustainable hydrogen sulphide removal”





# From interdisciplinary research to application through pilot scale testing



Prof. G. Petroni  
Dept of **Biology**  
University of  
Pisa



Prof. C. Varese  
Dept. of Biology  
University Turin



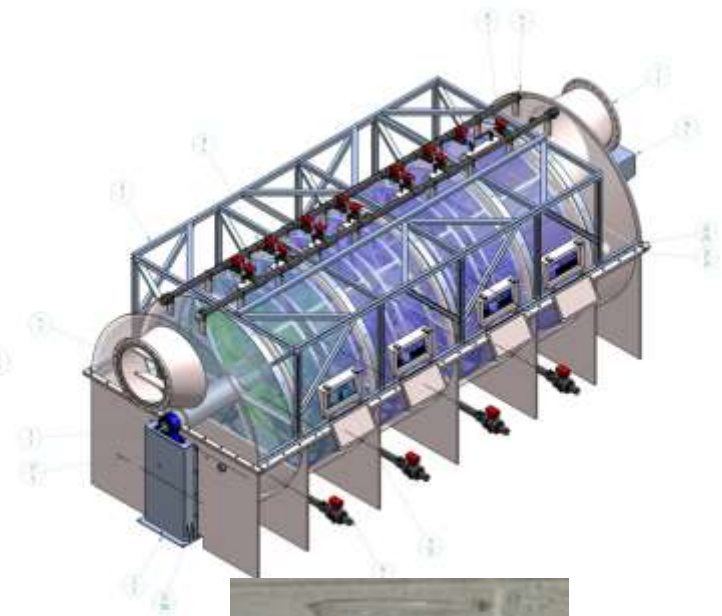
Prof. M. Tredici  
Dept. of  
**Agricultural  
Biotechnology**  
University Florence

CER<sup>2</sup>CO



Water for the World





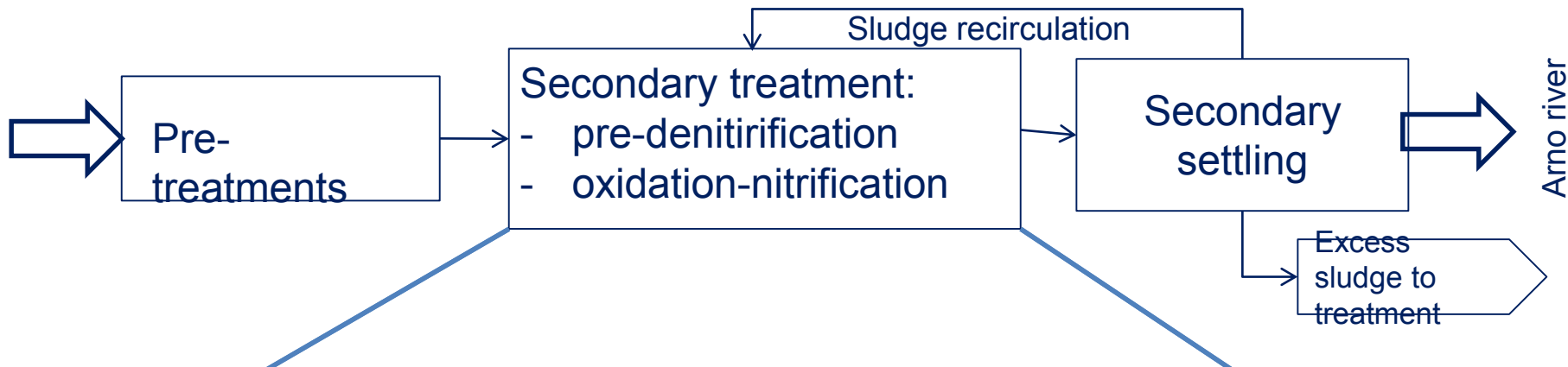


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Attività in piena scala

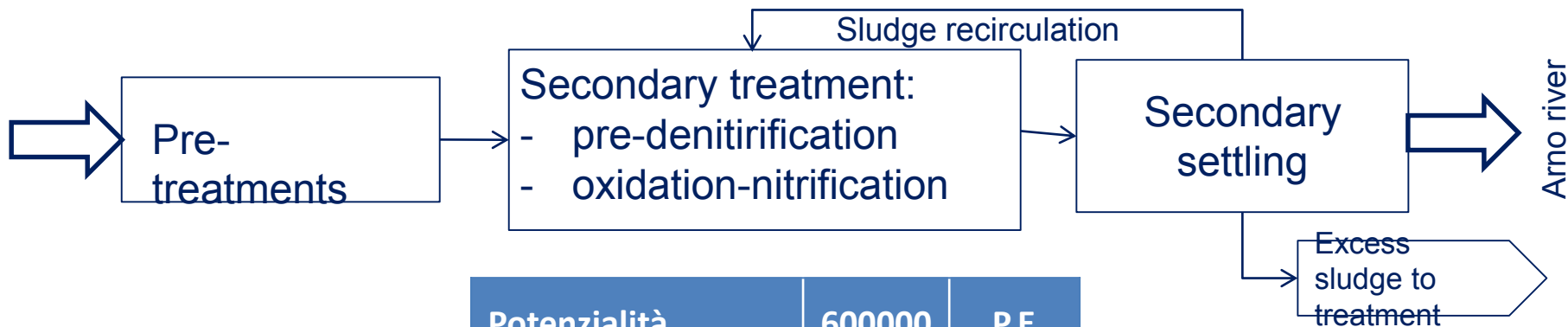
WW from Florence







WW from Florence



Potenzialità	60000	P.E.
Portata in ingresso	240000	m <sup>3</sup> /d
Età del fango	20-30	d

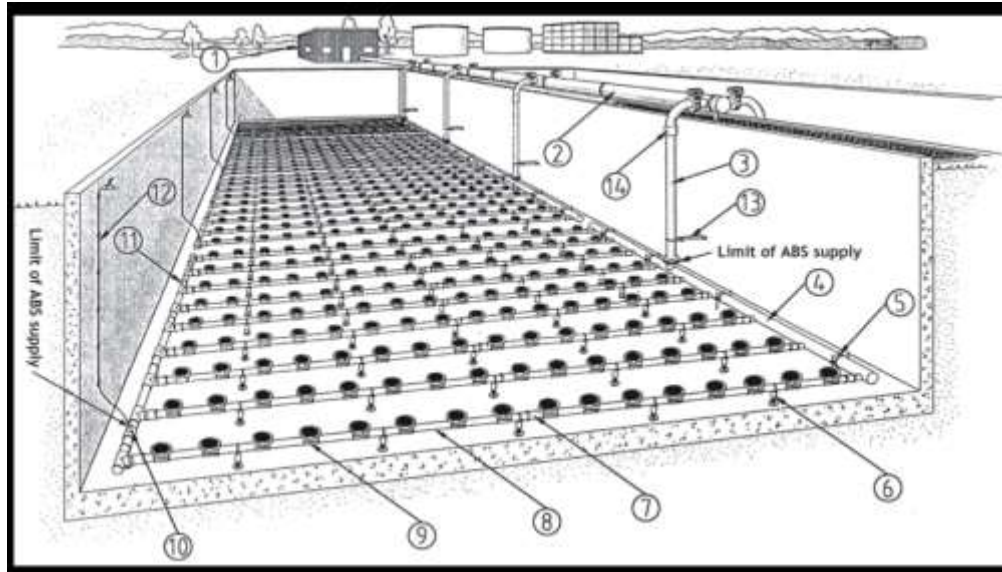
Parameter	Unit	IN*	OUT*
N-NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	mg/l	19.4	0.51
N-NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>	mg/l	-	n.d.
N-NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	mg/l	-	6.8
Ntot	mg/l	19.9	8.4
BOD	mg/l	48.3	3.6
COD	mg/l	145.6	16.8
P	mg/l	2.42	1.71
SST	mg/l	94.6	4.9







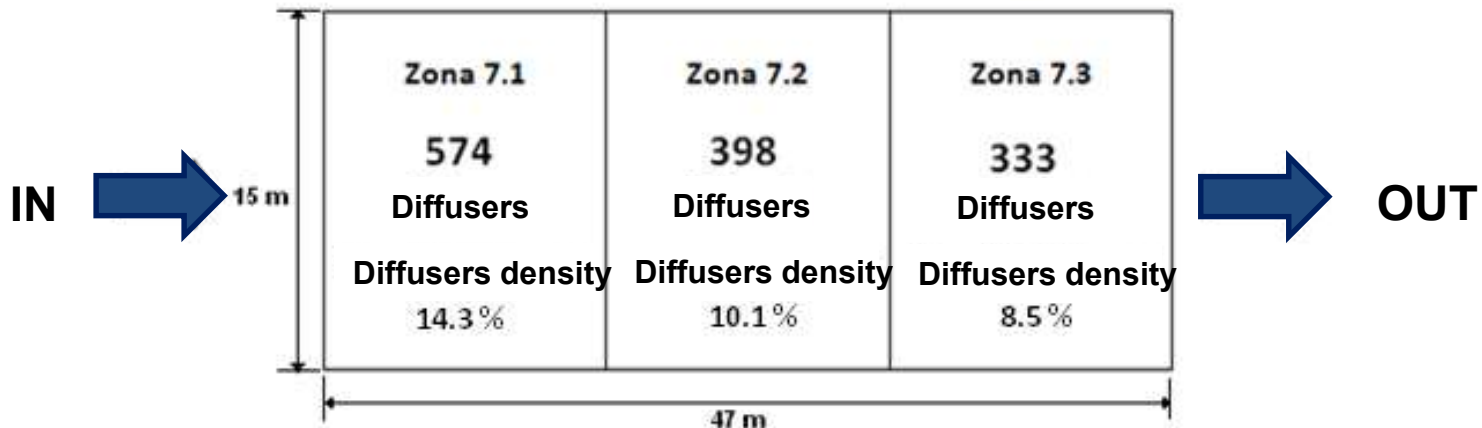
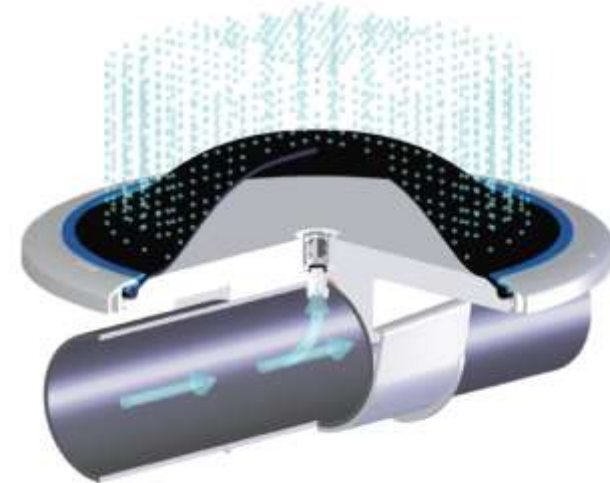
# AERATION SYSTEM



**Microforated disks ABS PIK 3000**

Area of diffuser = 0.06 m<sup>2</sup>

Diffusers/line = 1305

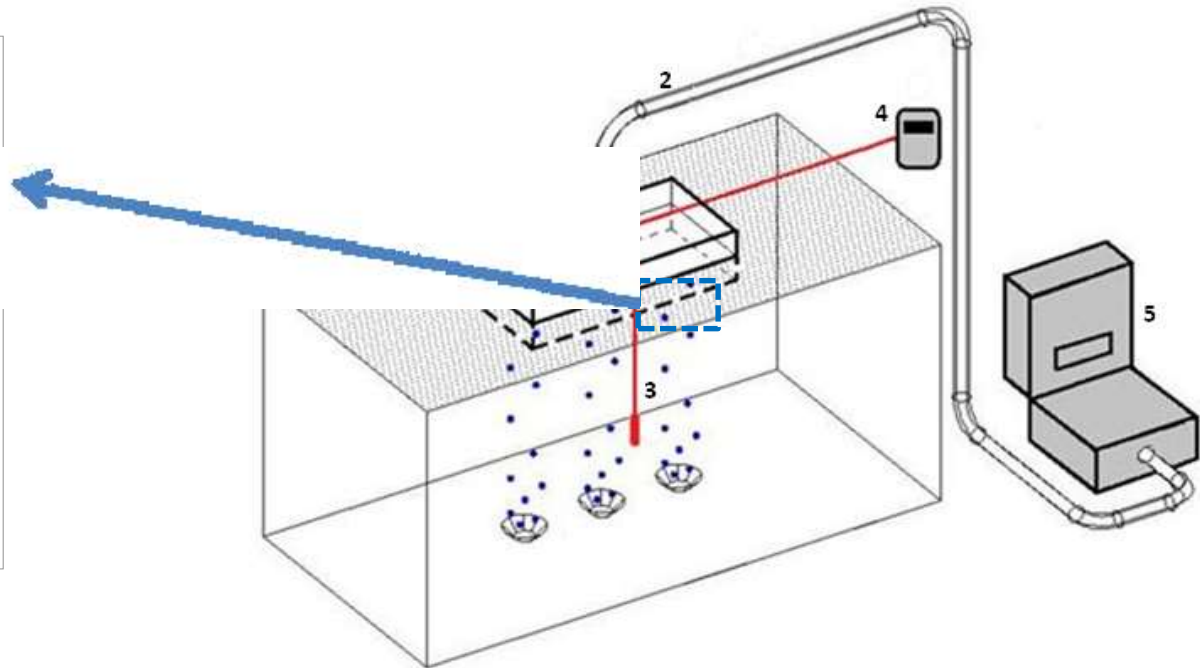
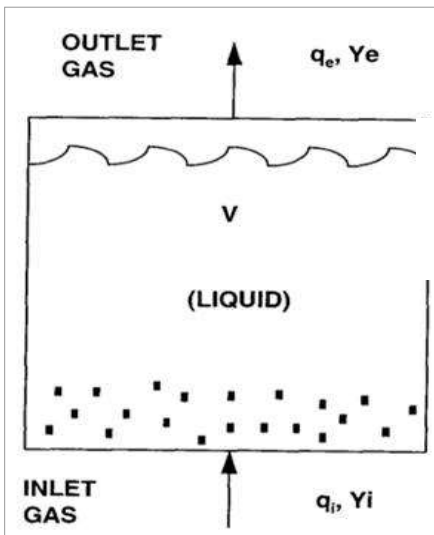


The **off-gas method** is a technique developed for monitoring the oxygen transfer efficiency of air diffused aeration systems (*Redmon et al., 1983*).

Mass balance of oxygen in gas phase

Oxygen transferred to the liquid phase = oxygen removed from the gas phase

$$OTE [\%] = \frac{O_{2 IN} - O_{2 OUT}}{O_{2 IN}} \cdot 100$$





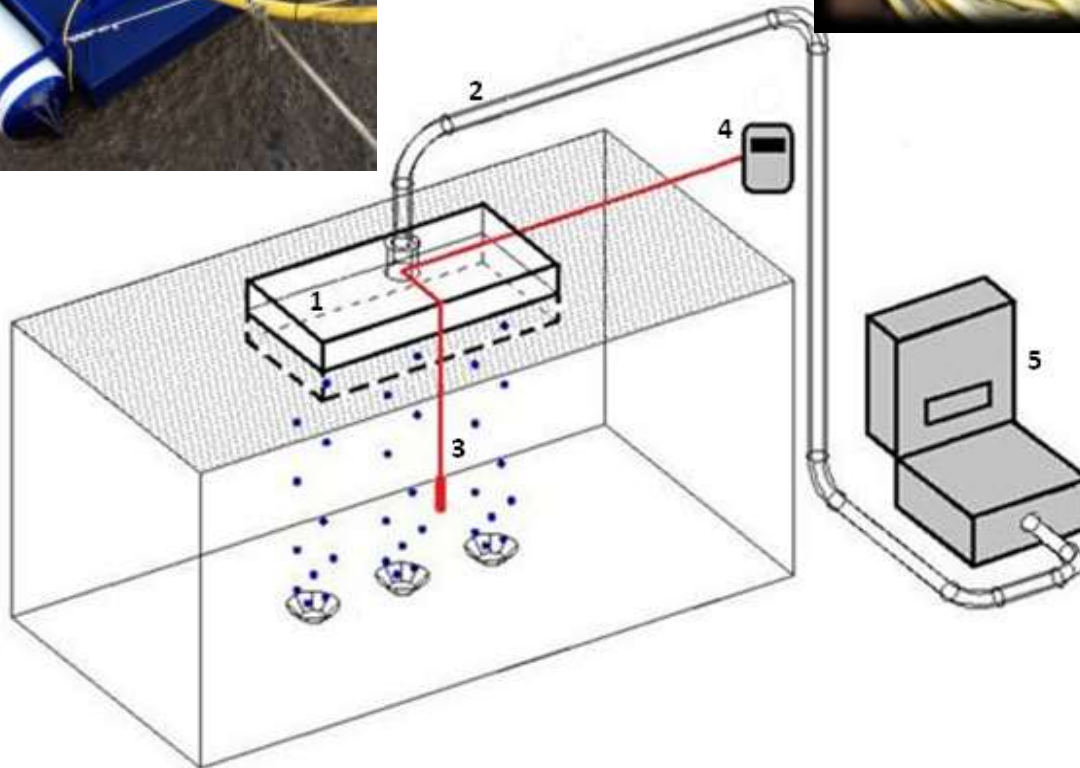
- 1. Hood for off-gas collection
- 2. Connection pipe between the hood and the analyzer



- 3. LDO probe



- 4. Oxymeter probe



- 5. Off-gas analyzer





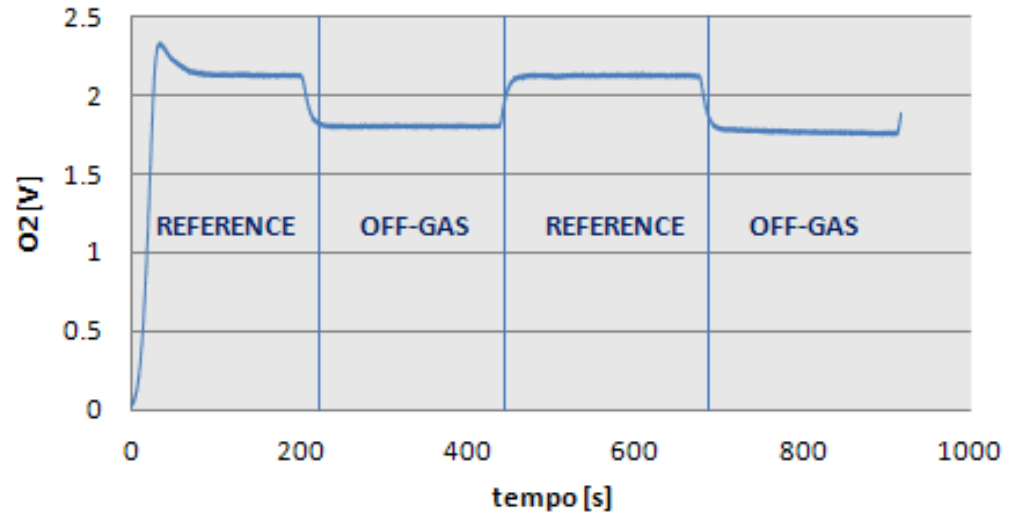


## Off-gas analyzer

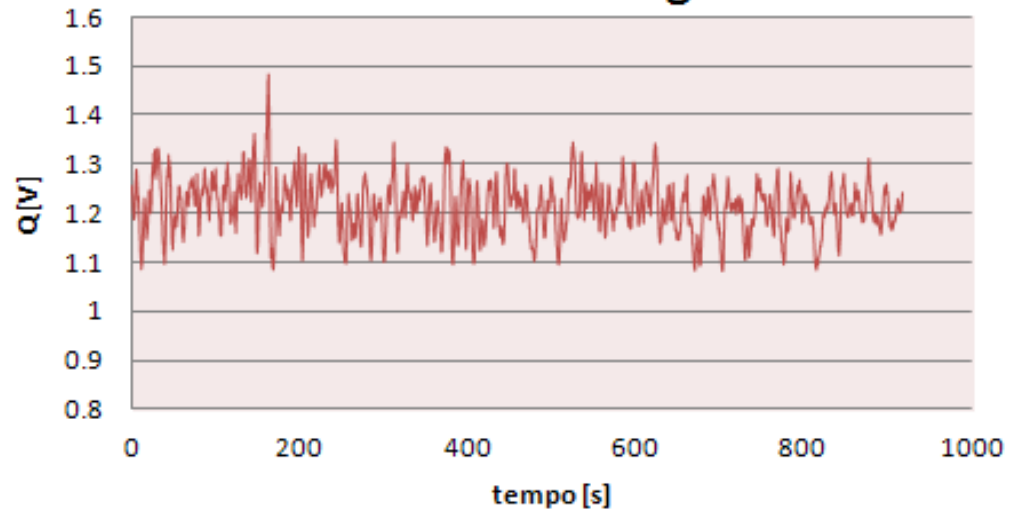
- Measurement of oxygen conce
- Measurement of the off-gas f



Contenuto di Ossigeno nel flusso di gas



Portata di Off-gas

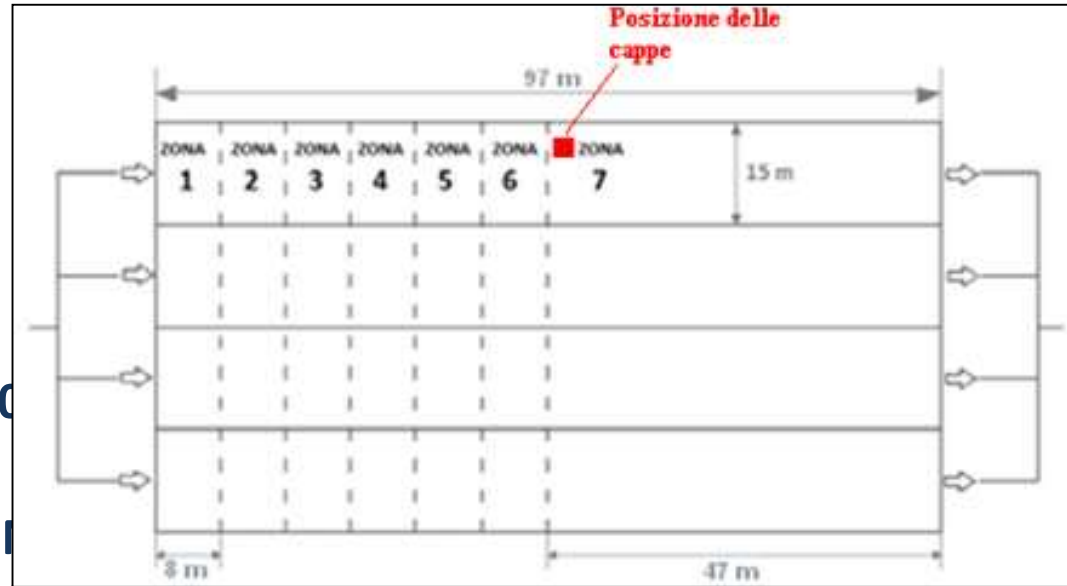




- Tedlar bag (10 l, Pumping rate 0



- Passive sampler



- ✓
- ✓ 10:00-22:00 / 8:15-9:45
- ✓ F
- ✓ T



- ✓ N
- ✓ 1
- ✓ F
- ✓ T

- Samples in vials close to off-gas hoods

**N<sub>2</sub>O e VOCs**



Sample frequency: 1 h

- Sampling of both WWTP's and oxidation tank influent and effluent (close to off-gas hoods)

**COD, N-NH<sub>4</sub>, N-NO<sub>2</sub>, N-NO<sub>3</sub>, N<sub>tot</sub>**







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Grazie per  
l'attenzione!

**Riccardo Gori – University of Florence**

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