



LE STUDIUM  
Loire Valley  
Institute for Advanced Studies



*Integrated Advanced Oxidation Processes  
used for the treatment of  
synthetic aqueous solutions  
containing organic micropollutants*

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# Sections

- Context - Micropollutants – long-term hazard to ecosystems
- Recently implemented technologies for MPs removal
- Efficiency of Ozonation and AC/Ozonation Coupling
- Objectives
- Main results
- Conclusions



# Micropollutants

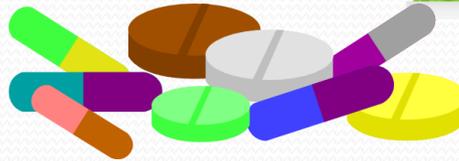
Households products: detergents, paints



Dyes and microplastics from textiles



Pharmaceutical products



Veterinary pharmaceuticals



Cosmetics



Pesticides

> 3000 chemicals are used as human pharmaceuticals

# Micropollutants



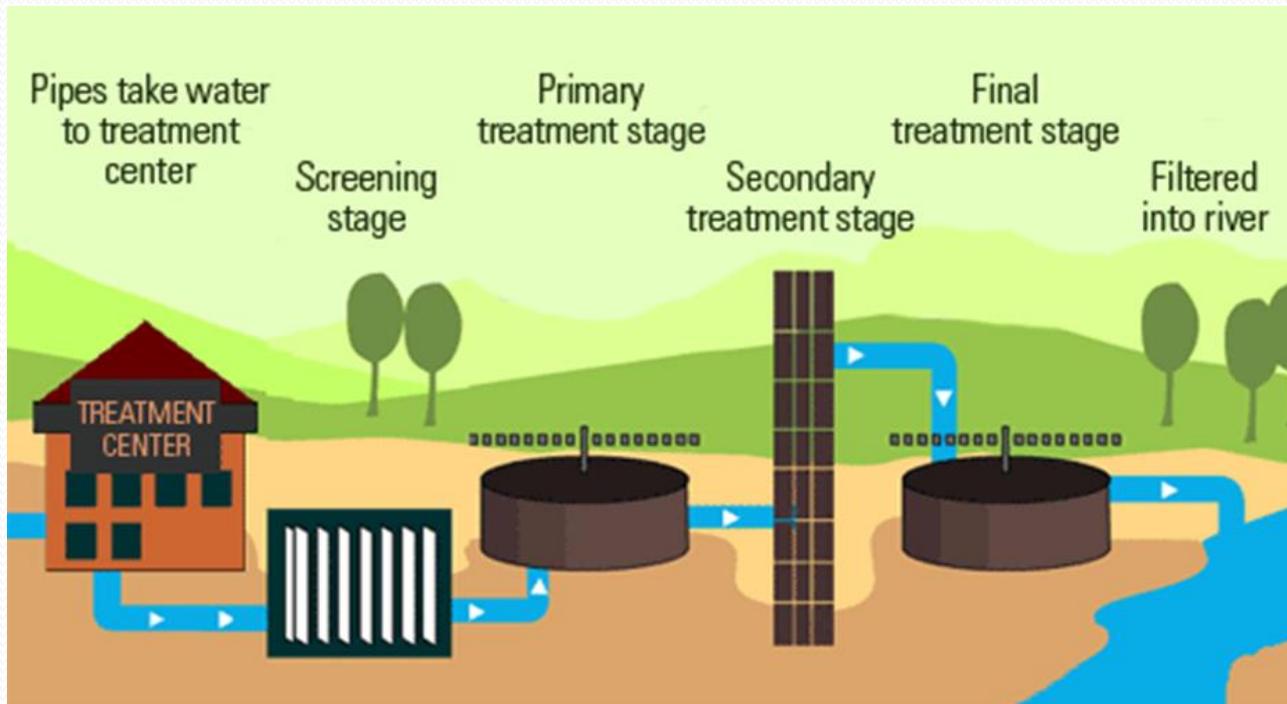
- > 100'000 synthetic compounds are registered in the EU
- About 30'000 synthetic compounds are in daily use
- Several hundred pesticides
- > 8000 chemicals as food supplements
- > 3000 chemicals are used as human pharmaceuticals

# Micropollutants - sources

- Micropollutants end up in wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs).

## Pharmaceuticals in WWTPs:

- 70% due to household use.
- 20% from livestock farming.
- 5% from hospital effluent.
- 5% from non-specific sources.



# Micropollutants -effects of prenatal and early postnatal exposure

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Doi: 10.1111/j.1742-7843.2007.00114.x

## The Faroes Statement: Human Health Effects of Developmental Exposure to Chemicals in Our Environment

Philippe Grandjean<sup>1,2</sup>, David Bellinger<sup>2</sup>, Åke Bergman<sup>3</sup>, Sylvaine Cordier<sup>4</sup>, George Davey-Smith<sup>5</sup>, Brenda Eskenazi<sup>6</sup>, David Gee<sup>7</sup>, Kimberly Gray<sup>8</sup>, Mark Hanson<sup>9</sup>, Peter van den Hazel<sup>10</sup>, Jerrold J. Heindel<sup>8</sup>, Birger Heinzow<sup>11</sup>, Irva Hertz-Picciotto<sup>12</sup>, Howard Hu<sup>13</sup>, Terry T-K Huang<sup>14</sup>, Tina Kold Jensen<sup>1</sup>, Philip J. Landrigan<sup>15</sup>, I. Caroline McMillen<sup>16</sup>, Katsuyuki Murata<sup>17</sup>, Beate Ritz<sup>18</sup>, Greet Schoeters<sup>19</sup>, Niels Erik Skakkebaek<sup>20</sup>, Staffan Skerfving<sup>21</sup> and Pal Weihe<sup>22</sup>

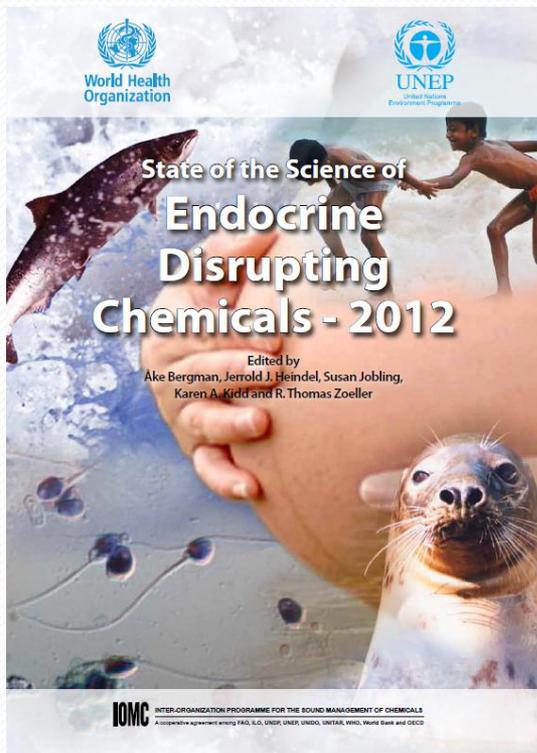
- The *Faroese Statement* warned of fetal exposure to toxic substances resulting in **lifelong effects**: reduced immune system, obesity, diabetes, cancers, ADHD, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's.
- Old toxicology “the dose makes the poison” must be replaced by “**the timing makes the poison**”.

**Prevention** should not await definitive evidence of causality when delays in decision-making would lead to the propagation of toxic exposures and harmful consequences.

# The State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)—2012

## Key concerns:

- Human and wildlife health depends on the ability to reproduce and develop normally (healthy endocrine system).
- Global rise in many hormonal diseases and disorders are also due to EDCs.
- Many endocrine-related diseases and disorders are on the rise.
- ~800 chemicals are known or suspected to be capable of interfering with hormone receptors, synthesis or conversion.



# The State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)—2012

## Metabolic disorders:

- Obesity, diabetes and metabolic syndrome are potentially sensitive to EDCs (“obesogens”).
- Exposures of animal models to a variety of chemicals during early development have been shown to result in weight gain

## Immune function and diseases:

- EDCs are at least partially responsible for the rise in the development of immune-related disorders.
- Systemic inflammation, immune dysfunction and immune cancers such as lymphoma and leukemia in humans are associated with EDC exposures.

## Neurodevelopmental disorders:

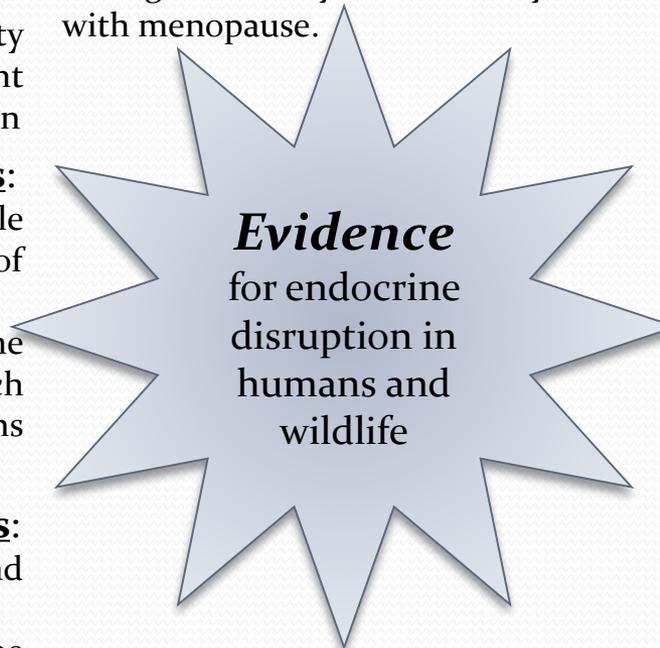
- Exposure to EDCs causes cognitive and behavioral deficits in humans
- involvement of thyroid hormone mechanisms in neurodevelopmental disorders in humans and wildlife

## Bone disorders:

- decreased bone mineral density or increased risk of bone fractures

## Female reproductive health:

- EDCs exposures can interfere with endocrine signaling of pubertal timing, fecundity and fertility and with menopause.



## Population declines:

- Wildlife species and populations continue to decline worldwide.

## Hormone-related cancers:

- increase in incidence of endocrine-related cancers in humans

## Male reproductive health:

- the incidence of testicular cancer has further increased in the European countries
- increases of genital abnormalities in babies and testis germ cell cancer in men
- The feminizing effects of estrogenic chemicals from sewage effluents on male fish is a widespread phenomenon.

## Sex ratio imbalances:

- EDC-related sex ratio imbalances have been seen in wild fish and mollusks
- Result in fewer male offspring in humans

## Thyroid-related disorders:

- The strength of evidence supporting a role for EDCs in disrupting thyroid function in wildlife adds credence to the hypothesis that this could occur in humans

## Adrenal disorders:

- the hypothalamic– pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis and the adrenal gland are targets for EDCs

# Pharmaceuticals in the environment—global occurrences\*



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## PHARMACEUTICALS IN THE ENVIRONMENT—GLOBAL OCCURRENCES AND PERSPECTIVES

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<sup>†</sup>IWW Water Centre, Department of Water Resources Management, Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany

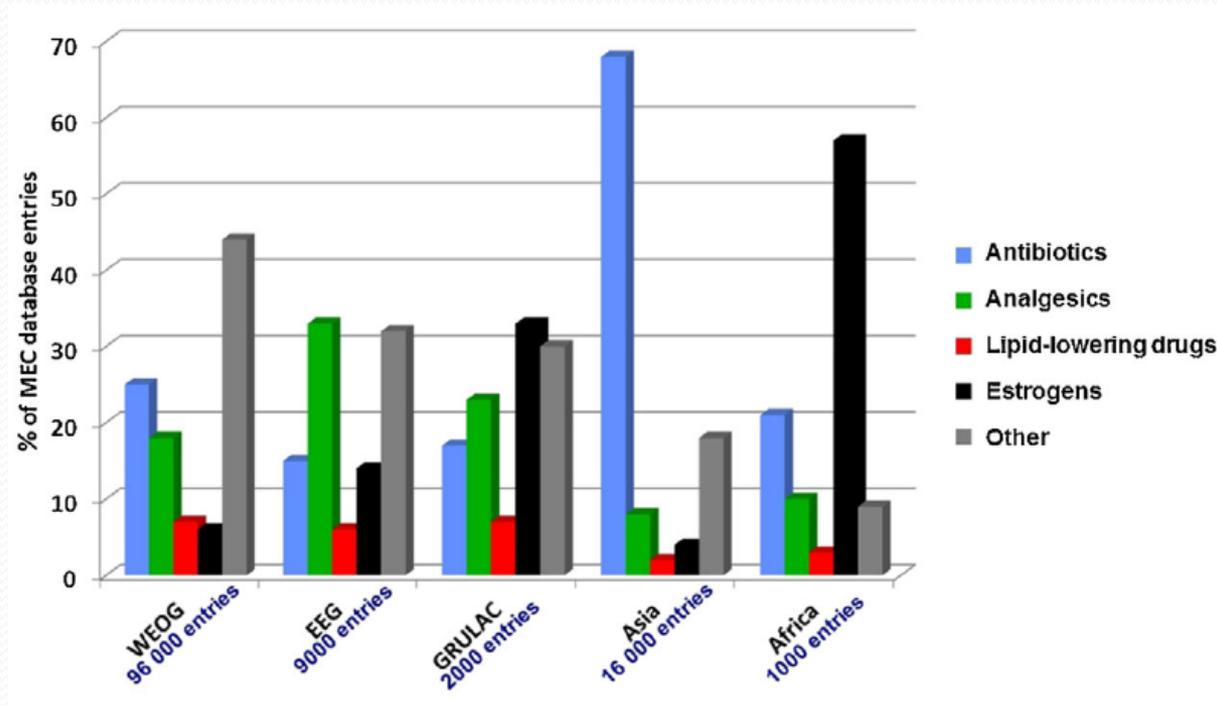
<sup>‡</sup>Section IV 2.2 Pharmaceuticals, Washing and Cleaning Agents, Umweltbundesamt (German Federal Environment Agency), Dessau, Germany

*(Submitted 27 February 2015; Returned for Revision 3 July 2015; Accepted 11 December 2015)*

# Pharmaceuticals in the environment—global occurrences\*

- In 2016, Beek & co reported a comprehensive literature review gathering results from 1016 original papers and 160 reviews.
- The authors collected measured environmental concentrations (MECs) for pharmaceuticals reported worldwide in surface water, groundwater, tap/drinking water, manure, soil, and other environmental matrices.
- Pharmaceuticals or their transformation products have been detected in the environment of 71 countries (from the 5 regions recognized by the United Nations).
- In total, 631 different pharmaceuticals were found at MECs above the detection limit.
- Sixteen substances were detected in each of the 5 UN regions.
- The anti-inflammatory drug diclofenac has been detected in environmental matrices in 50 countries, and concentrations found in several locations exceeded predicted no-effect concentrations
- The authors conclude that pharmaceuticals are a global challenge calling for approaches to prevent, reduce, and manage their entry into and presence in the environment.

# Pharmaceuticals in the environment—global occurrences\*



- MEC = measured environmental concentration;
- EEG = Eastern Europe Group;
- GRULAC = Latin American and Caribbean States;
- WEOG = Western Europe and Others Group (North America, New Zealand, Australia).

# Pharmaceuticals in the environment—global occurrences\*

Table 1. Number of countries in each United Nations group in which positive detection of pharmaceutical substances in surface waters, groundwater, and/or tap or drinking water has been reported<sup>a</sup>

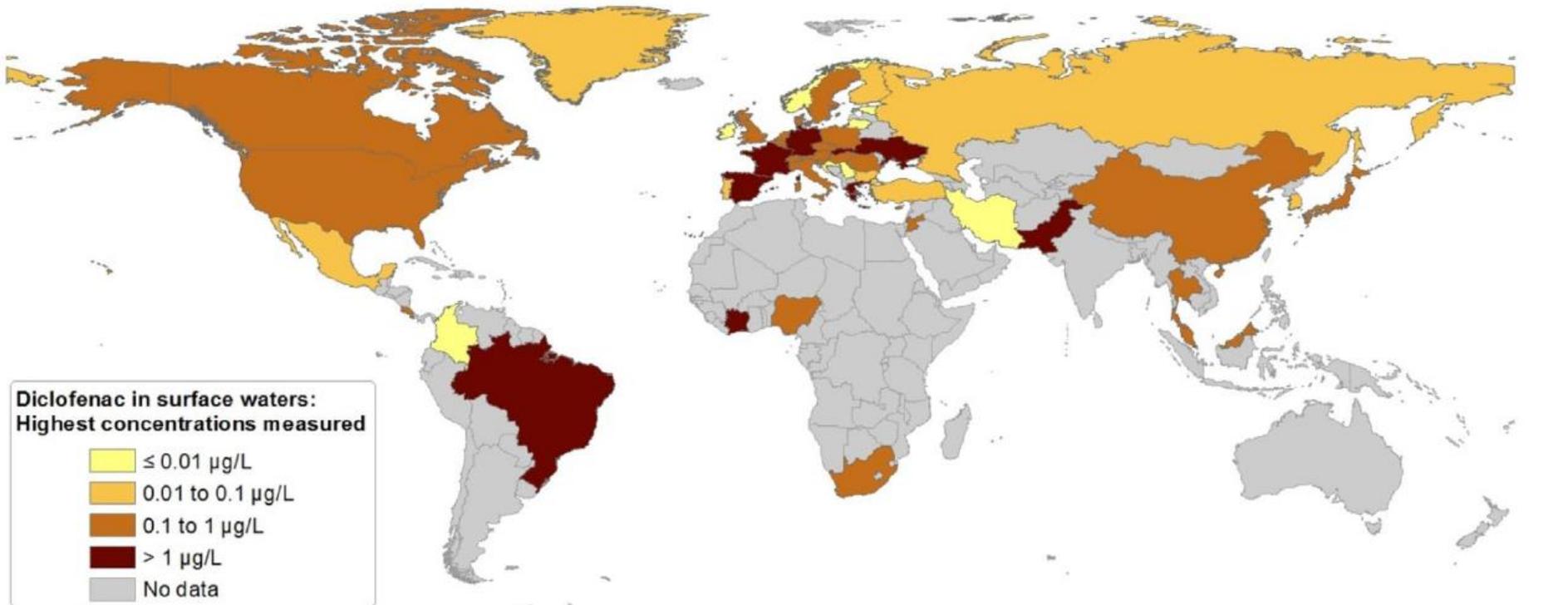
Pharmaceutical substance	Therapeutic group	Africa	Asia-Pacific	EEG	GRULAC	WEOG	Global
Diclofenac	Analgesics	3	8	13	3	23	50
Carbamazepine	Antiepileptics	3	6	13	2	24	48
Ibuprofen	Analgesics	3	8	10	2	24	47
Sulfamethoxazole	Antibiotics	5	9	10	2	21	47
Naproxen	Analgesics	2	8	10	2	23	45
Estrone	Estrogens	1	10	6	2	16	35
Estradiol	Estrogens	2	9	4	2	17	34
Ethinylestradiol	Estrogens	1	8	3	2	17	31
Trimethoprim	Antibiotics	2	9	3	2	13	29
Paracetamol	Analgesics	1	6	4	3	15	29
Clofibric acid	Lipid-lowering drugs	1	3	5	2	12	23
Ciprofloxacin	Antibiotics	1	5	1	2	11	20
Ofloxacin	Antibiotics	1	4	1	1	9	16
Estriol	Estrogens	1	1	2	1	10	15
Norfloxacin	Antibiotics	1	4	1	2	7	15
Acetylsalicylic acid	Analgesics	1	4	1	2	7	15

<sup>a</sup>These 16 substances are the only ones that have been found in each region.

EEG = eastern Europe; GRULAC = Latin America and Caribbean; WEOG = western Europe and others.

- Residues of 16 pharmaceutical substances were detected in the surface, drinking, and groundwater of all the UN regions.
- Other 4 pharmaceutical substances have been found in the environment nearly as often as diclofenac: carbamazepine (antiepileptic), sulfamethoxazole (antibiotic), ibuprofen, and naproxen (both analgesics).
- Other therapeutic groups that have been detected in the environment include estrogens, such as estrone and ethinylestradiol.

# Pharmaceuticals in the environment—global occurrences\*



Maximum diclofenac concentrations reported in surface waters in each country

- Diclofenac is the most often detected pharmaceutical in the environment.
- Maximum concentrations of **>1 mg/L** often occur downstream of sewage-treatment plants in densely populated areas.

# Micropollutants – “Rhine” solutions

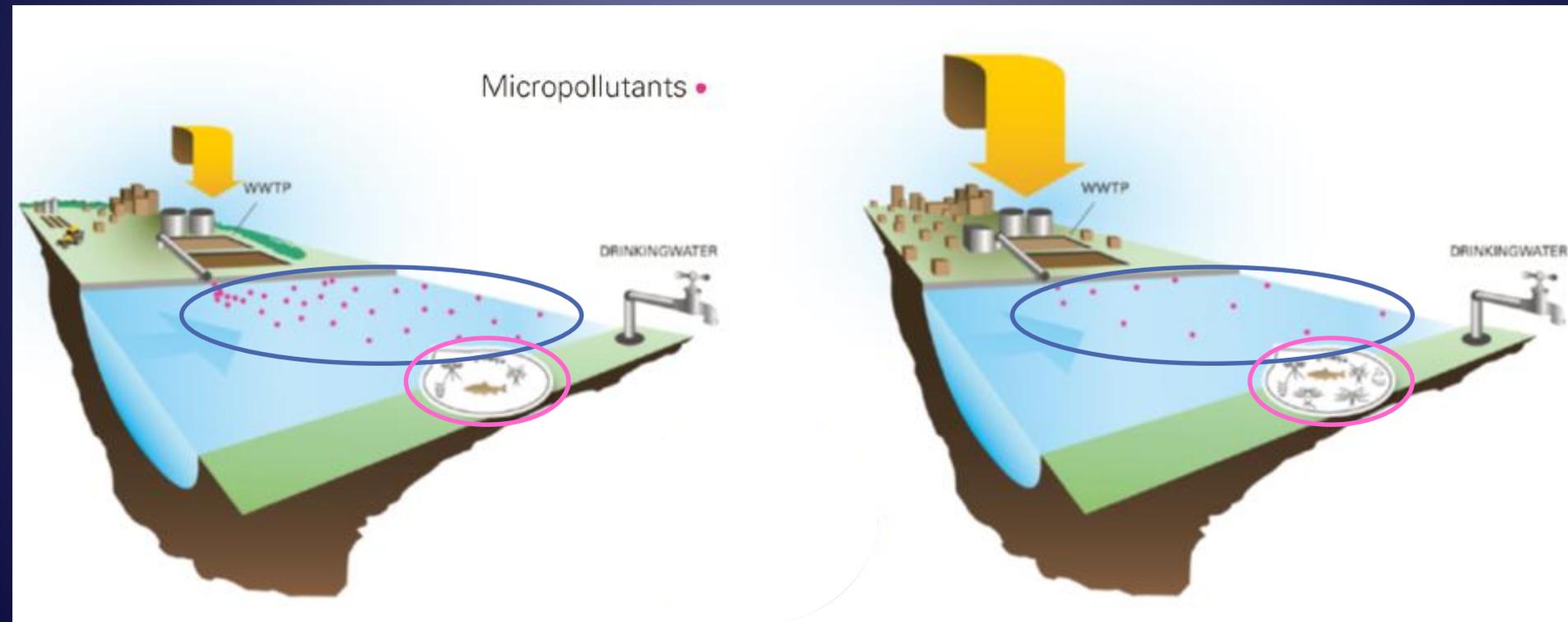


- Since 1950 Germany and France, and afterwards Luxemburg, the Netherlands and Switzerland have founded the **International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR)** .
- **October 2013** -Communiqué of the 15th conference of Rhine Ministers, Basel.
- An agreement was made toward a significant reduction in the discharge of persistent MPs derived from different sources.

# Micropollutants - THE SWISS National STRATEGY for upgrading WWTPs

March 2014 – water protection act

Wastewater treatment towards MPs removal



# Micropollutants - THE SWISS National STRATEGY for upgrading WWTPs

## **Sound scientific and technical basis:**

2002-2007: Swiss National Research Program (NRP) 50, “Endocrine Disruptors: Relevance to Humans, Animals and Ecosystems”

2006-2010, project “Strategy MicroPoll”: quantifying loads and toxicities of MPs from WWTP effluents

**Based on Broad Societal and Political Acceptance:** Reports in the Swiss media on the occurrence of pharmaceuticals in streams and drinking water raised public awareness and stimulated public concern

**Technically Feasible:** Most MPs are removed by O<sub>3</sub> and PAC adsorption followed by filtration.

**Manageable:** A limited number of proxy compounds are monitored by HPLC-MS/MS. Removal performance can be controlled by the ozone concentration or PAC dose.

**Pragmatic:** 100 out of 700 WWTPs are considered for upgrading based on the anticipated MP load and capacity for dilution in the receiving water.

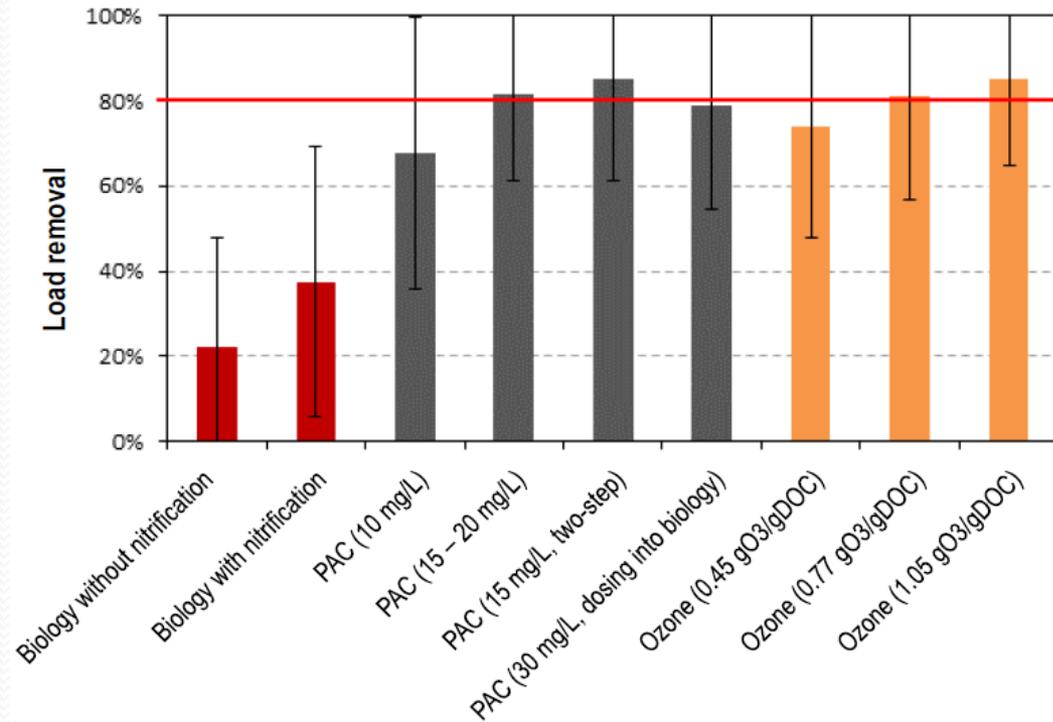
**Adaptable in time:** The upgrade will be realized over 20 years, allowing enough time to select the optimal technologies.

**Financially Feasible:** Are expected 20% higher costs for WWTPs serving >80 000 persons, and up to 50% for WWTPs of lower capacity. Investment costs: 1.3 billion \$ (yearly costs: 0,130 billion \$)

# Recently implemented technologies for MPs removal

- Two technologies considered at **real-scale**:
  - Ozonation
  - Powdered Activated Carbon
- PAC removes MPs
- Ozonation transforms MPs
- Ozonation leads also to partial disinfection
- **No** full mineralization of target compounds is achieved

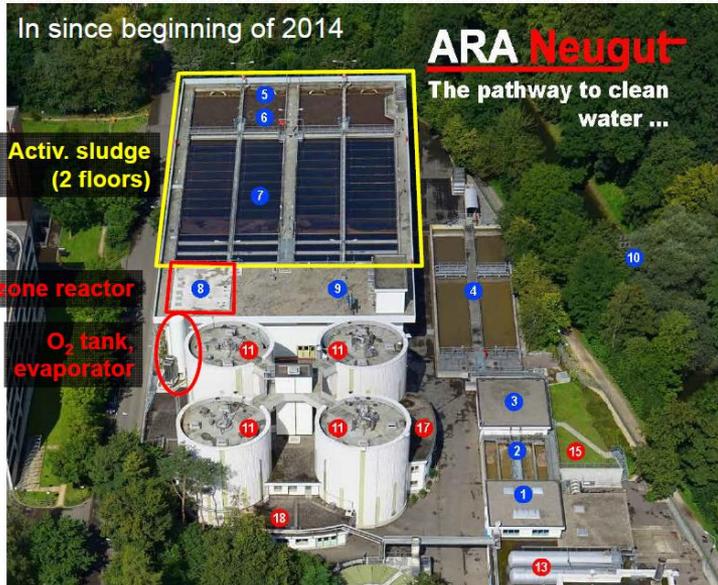
Comparison of MPs removal by Biological treat., PAC and Ozonation



Source: Pilot experiments Eawag, Kloten/Opfikon, Lausanne, Regensdorf

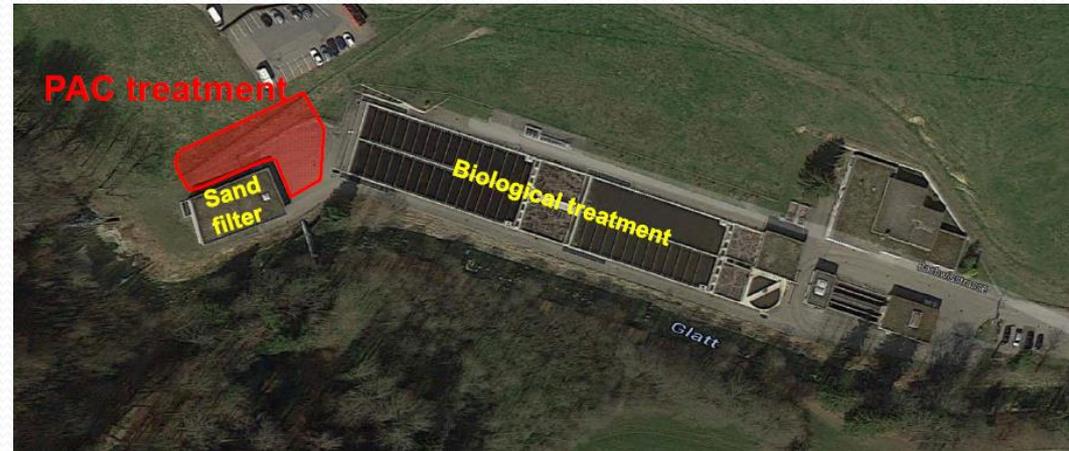
# Recently implemented technologies for MPs removal

## AraNeugut WWTP, Dübendorf, Switzerland



In 2014 the WWTP in Dubendorf has been provided with an ozonation treatment step

## WWTP Bachwis, Herisau, Switzerland



Set into operation in May 2015

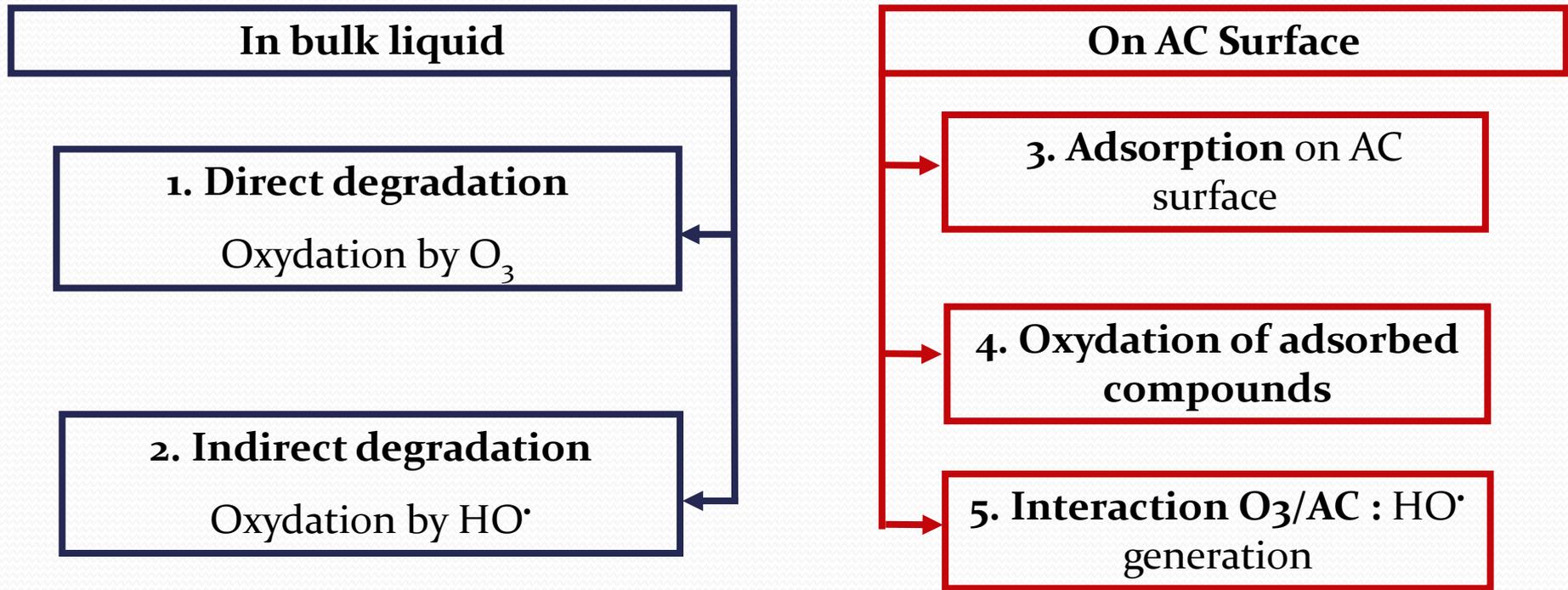
Influent: municipal + textile industry - industrial compounds with low reactivity towards Ozone

PAC unit prior to sand filter

# Efficiency of Ozonation and AC/Ozonation Coupling

## - prior work -

- Principle : Simultaneous use of  $O_3$  and AC
- Action : Synergistic effects



$O_3$  : oxidant

AC: adsorbent, reactional support, radical initiator and promotor

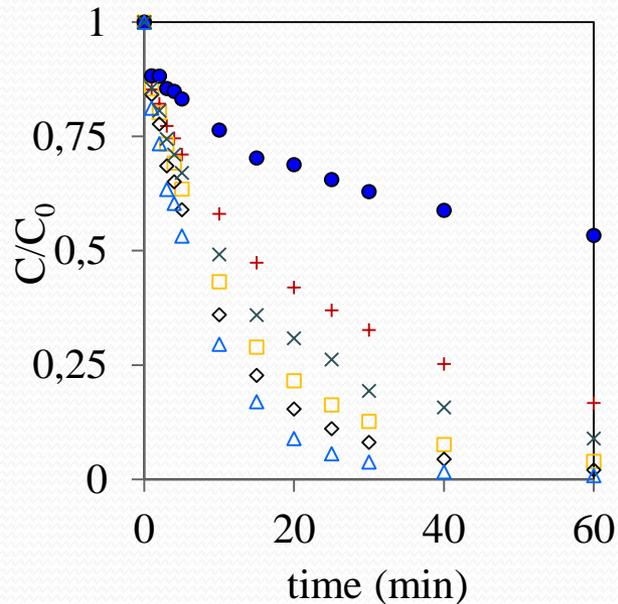
# Model pharmaceutical micropollutants

Molecules	Class	pKa	Solubility (g/L) (25°C)	Molecular Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )
Carbamazepine	Anti-epileptic	13.9	0.018	210.32
Sulfamethoxazole	Antibiotic	1.7; 5.6	0.6	204.59
Ketoprofen	Analgesic	4.1 - 4.4	0.051	233.79
Fluoxetine hydrochloride	Antidepressive	9.5 - 10.1	14	274.37
Metoprolol tartrate	Betablocker	9.7	50	274.25
Terbutaline hemisulfate	Bronchodilatator	8.8	213	222.28

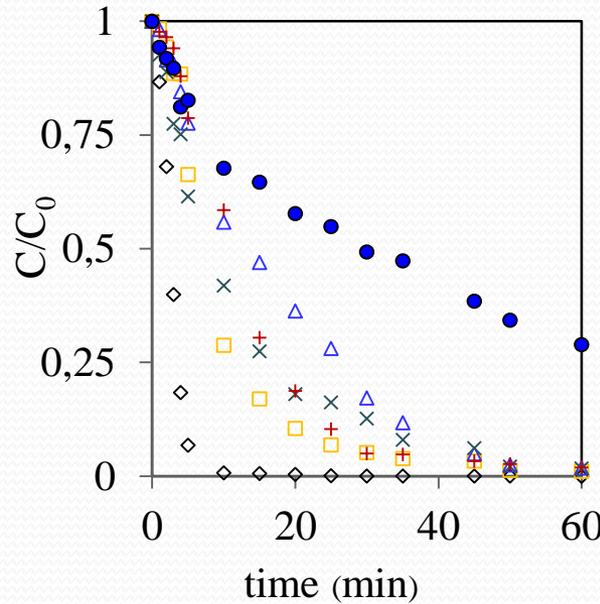
Criteria : different pharmaceutical classes, weakly removed by conventional methods

# Efficiency of Ozonation and AC/Ozonation Coupling

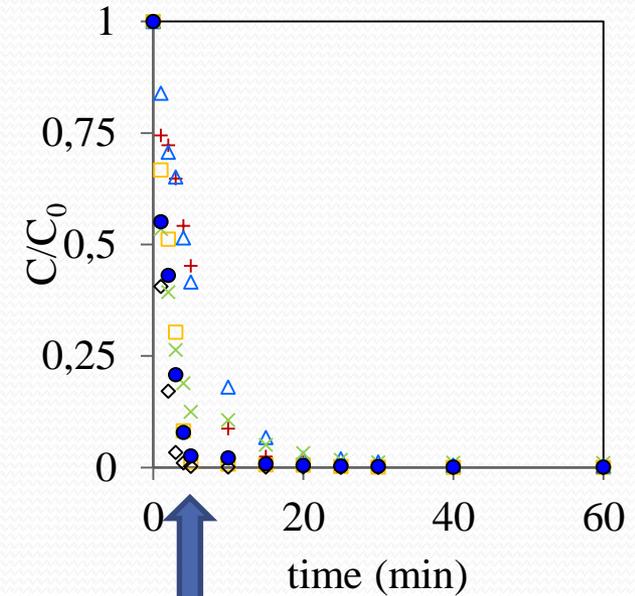
adsorption



ozonation



O<sub>3</sub>/AC coupling



pH 3

$C_i = 18 \text{ mg/L}$

terbutaline

metoprolol

fluoxetine

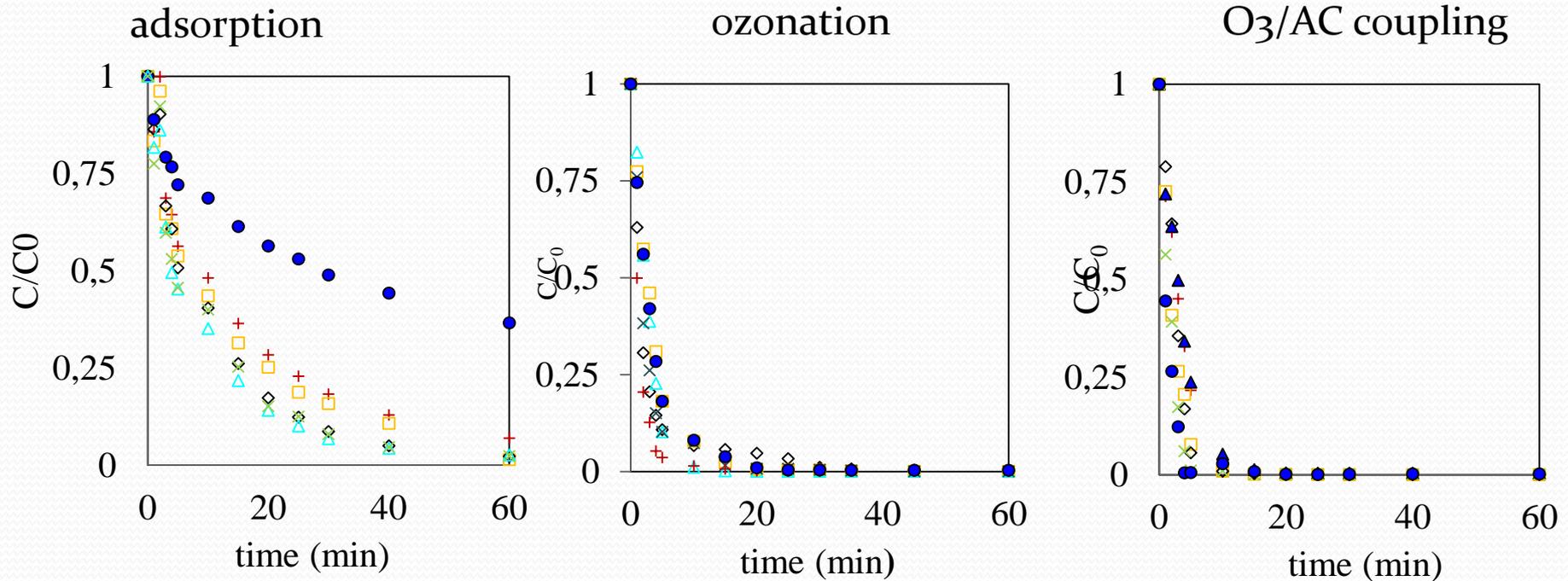
sulfamethoxazole

carbamazepine

ketoprofen

Complete removal  
of CBZ after 3min

# Efficiency of Ozonation and AC/Ozonation Coupling



terbutaline

metoprolol

fluoxetine

sulfamethoxazole

carbamazepine

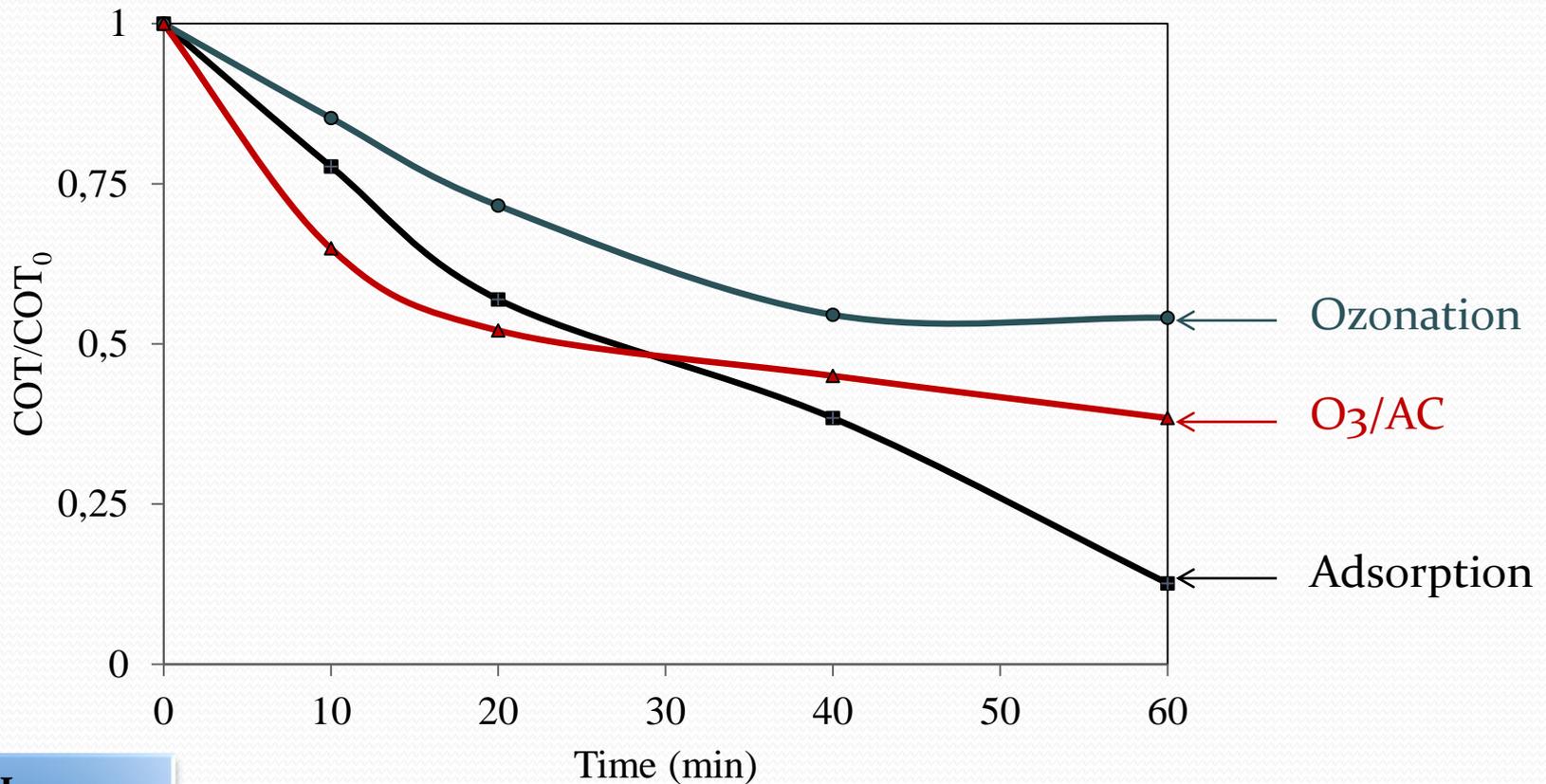
ketoprofen

pH 7

$C_i = 18 \text{ mg/L}$

# Efficiency of Ozonation and AC/Ozonation Coupling

## TOC evolution



pH 7

$C_i = 18 \text{ mg/L}$

$O_3/AC$  : Mineralization close to 60 %

# Efficiency of Ozonation and AC/Ozonation Coupling

## Conclusions and perspectives

### • Adsorption

- No by-product

- Slow
- Depends on pollutant
- Pollutant load not destructed
- Regeneration of AC

### • Ozonation

- Faster than adsorption

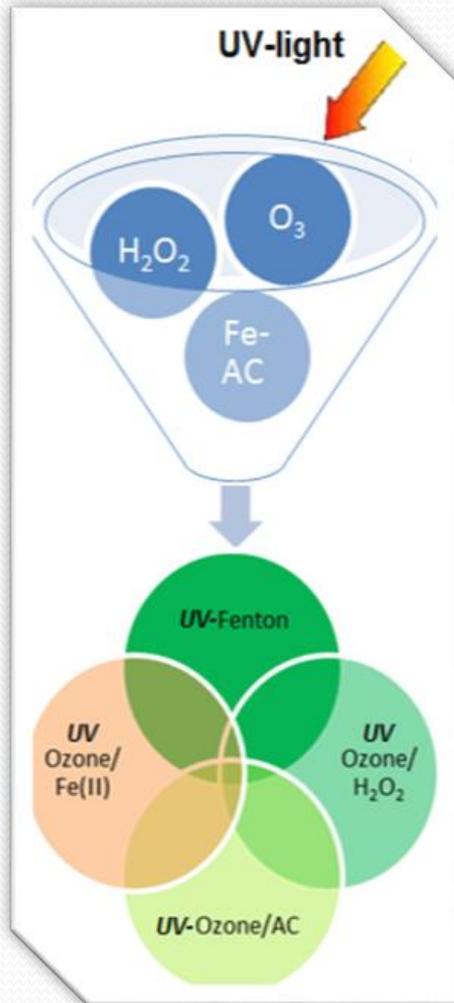
- Toxic by-products poorly removed
- **Depends on pollutant**
- Depends on operating conditions

### • O<sub>3</sub>/AC coupling

- Fast pharmaceuticals removal
- No influence of operating conditions
- No influence of compounds
- Advanced mineralization can be obtained

- Toxic by-products still present
- Full mineralization still not achieved

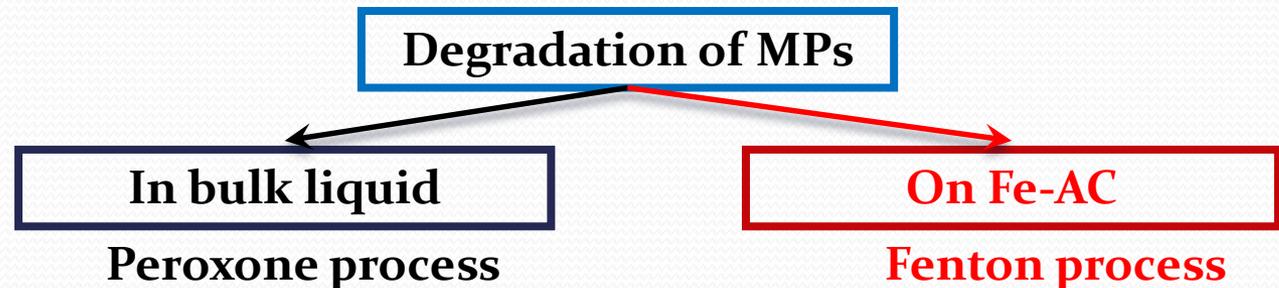
# Developing a new advanced treatment technique for micropollutants removal from water and wastewater



## Photo-Fenton-Peroxone System

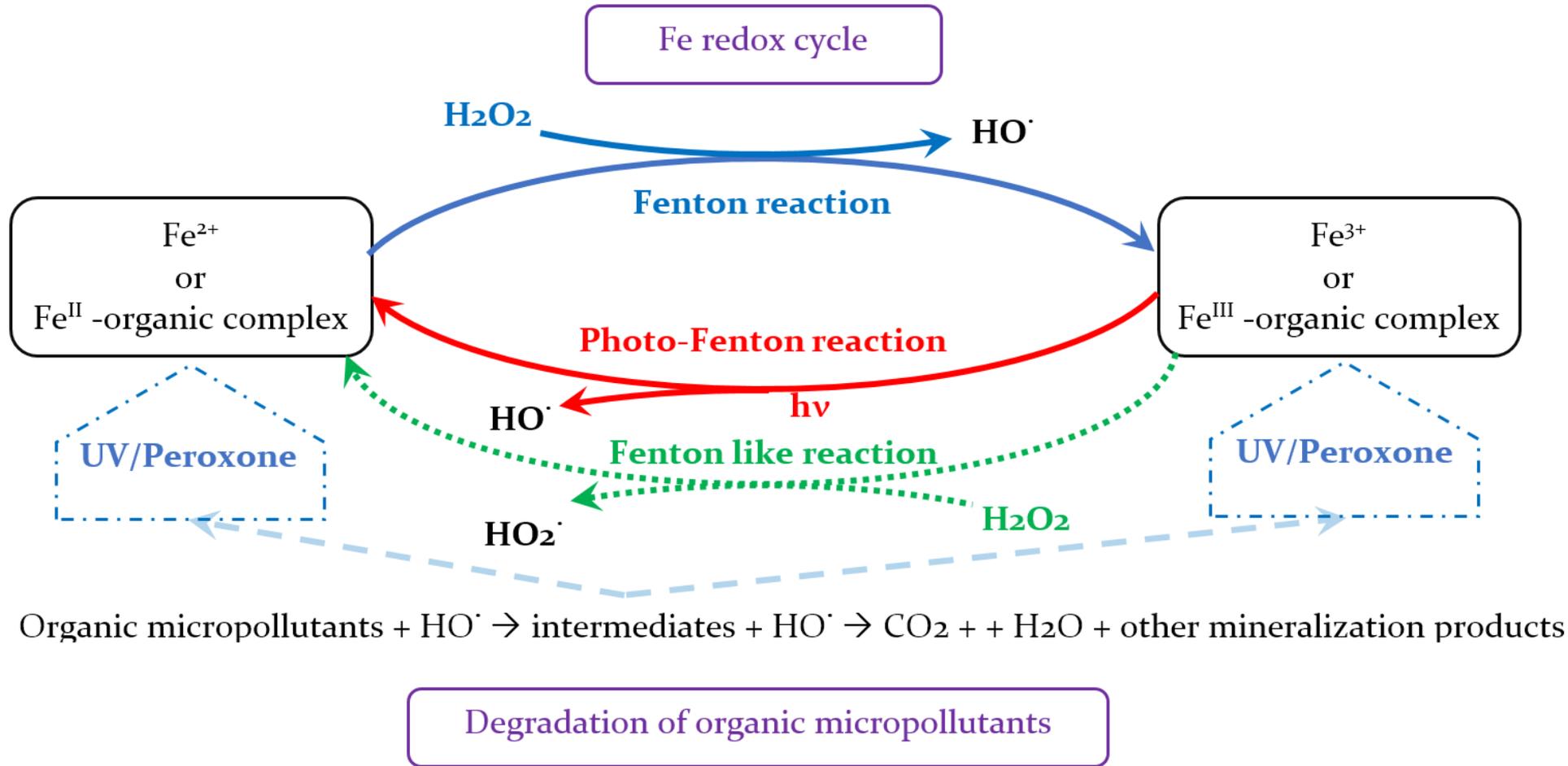
- Principle : Simultaneous use of UV-light, Fe-AC, O<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>
- Action : Synergetic effects

**Objective: Degradation of micropollutants (pharmaceuticals) commonly found in municipal wastewater**



**Applications: upgrade of wastewater treatments plants, valorization of agricultural waste as activated carbon**

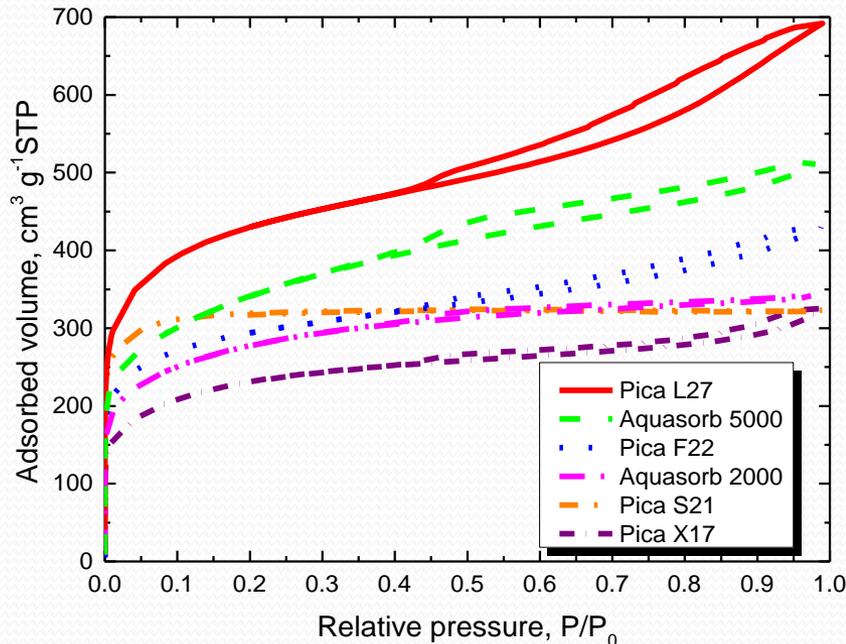
# Developing a new advanced treatment technique for micropollutants removal from water and wastewater



# Characterization of Activated Carbon Materials

## - textural properties -

N<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms (77 K) -Micromeritics ASAP 2020



L27, AS5000, F22 X17: Hysteresis indicates the presence of mesopores

S21, AS2000: micropores

L27, F22: well developed porosity

AS5000: average porosity

AS2000, X17: low porosity

**Textural properties of several commercial activated carbons**

Material adsorbant	$W_0$ (cm <sup>3</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )	$L_0$ (Å)	$S_{ext}$ (m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )	$S_{micro}$ (m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )	$S_{total}$ (m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )
Pica L27	0,57	18,5	444	616	1060
Aquasorb AS5000	0,44	15,4	257	571	828
Pica F22	0,40	12,7	256	630	886
Aquasorb AS2000	0,36	13,5	75	533	608
Pica S21	0,40	8,7	43	920	963
Pica X17	0,33	14,3	157	462	619

# Characterization of Activated Carbon Materials

## - chemical properties -

$\text{pH}_{\text{PZC}}$  : Point of zero charge – pKa distribution method  
 Functional groups: Boehm method

L27: numerous surface groups

AS2000, AS5000, S21, X17:

few surface groups

L27: acid surface

F22, S21: neutral surface

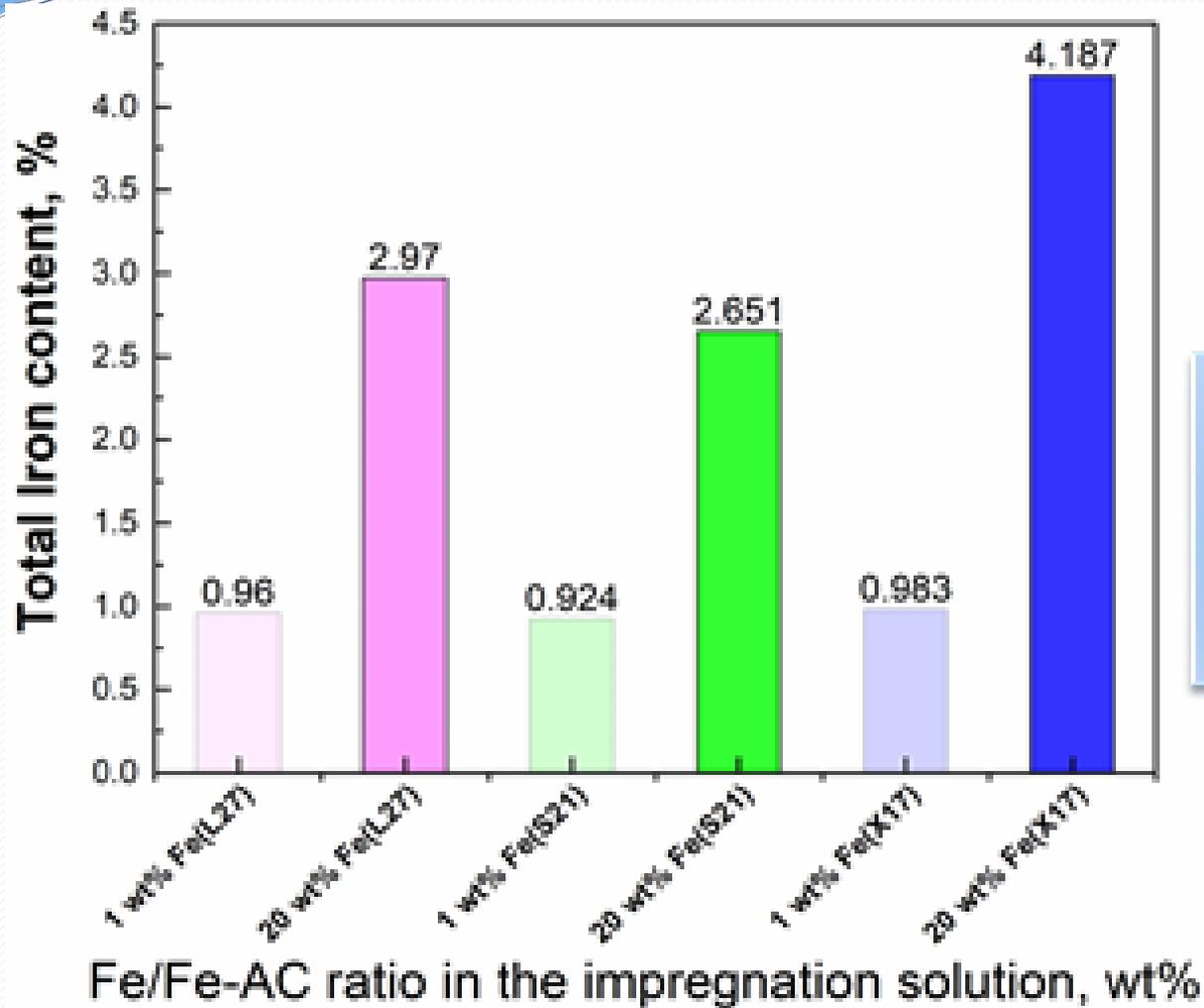
AS2000, AS5000, X17: alkaline surface

### Chemical properties of several commercial activated carbons

	<i>Carboxylic groups</i> (meq g <sup>-1</sup> )	<i>Phenolic groups</i> (meq g <sup>-1</sup> )	<i>Lactone groups</i> (meq g <sup>-1</sup> )	<i>Acid groups</i> (meq g <sup>-1</sup> )	<i>Alkaline groups</i> (meq g <sup>-1</sup> )	$\text{pH}_{\text{PZC}}$
Pica L27	0.81	0.30	0.46	1.57	0.18	3.0
Aquasorb AS5000	0.11	0.16	0.05	0.32	0.38	8.3
Pica F22	0.13	0.14	0.05	0.32	0.26	7.5
Aquasorb AS2000	0.03	0.07	0.02	0.12	0.16	9.3
Pica S21	0.05	0.30	0.03	0.35	0.33	7.4
Pica X17	0.15	0	0.02	0.20	0.85	9.7

# Characterization of Activated Carbon Materials

## - total Iron content -

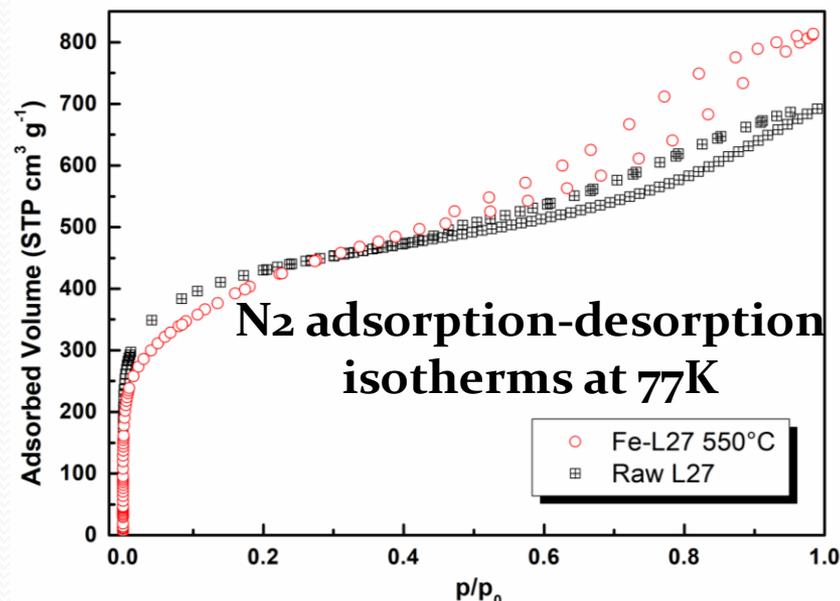


Iron content increases with the augmentation of the Fe amount contacted with AC

Total iron content increases in the order: Fe-S21 < Fe-L27 < Fe-X17

# Characterization of Fe-Activated Carbons

## - textural properties-



### Textural properties of Fe-impregnated ACs

Material adsorbant	$W_0$ (cm <sup>3</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )	$L_0$ (Å)	$S_{ext}$ (m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )	$S_{micro}$ (m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )	$S_{total}$ (m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )
raw L27	0.57	18.5	444	616	1060
Fe-L27, T 550°C	0.50	26.4	748	379	1127
raw S21	0.47	9.7	18	969	987
Fe-S21, T 550°C	0.57	9.7	85	1175	1260
raw X17	0.29	15.1	130	384	514
Fe-X17, T 550°C	0.31	16.2	192	383	575

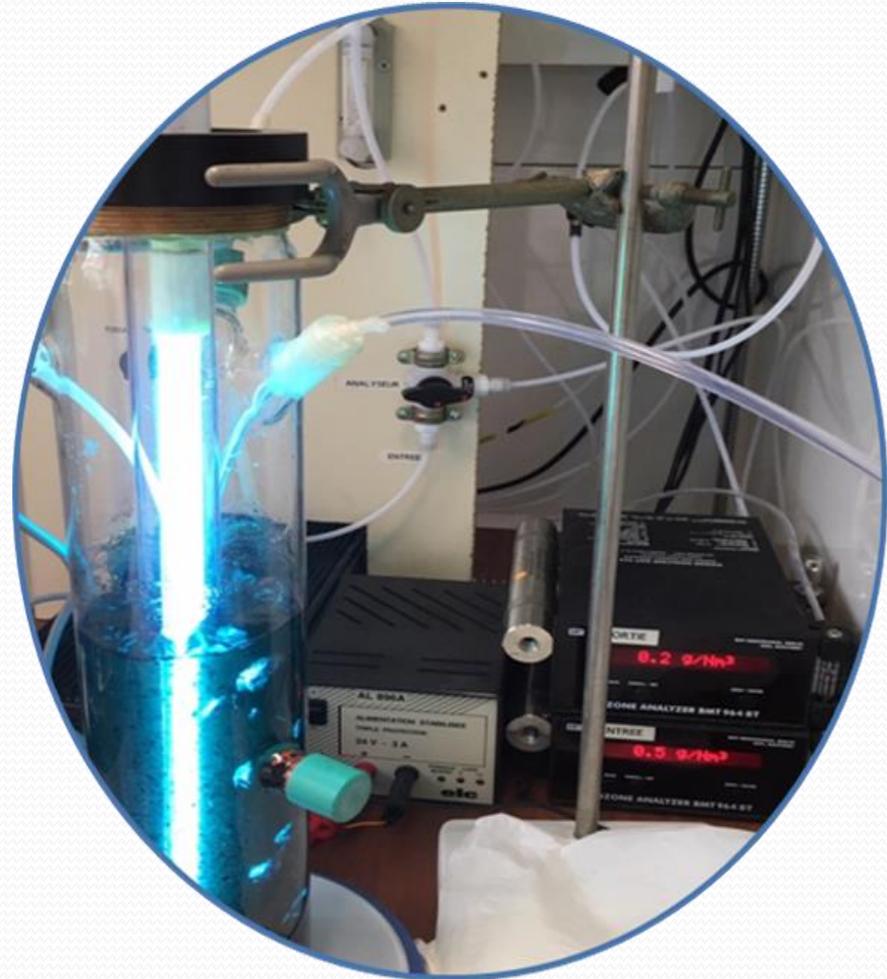
Fe-L27 – developed mesoporosity (micropores partially blocked by Fe impregnation).

Fe-S21 – developed microporosity

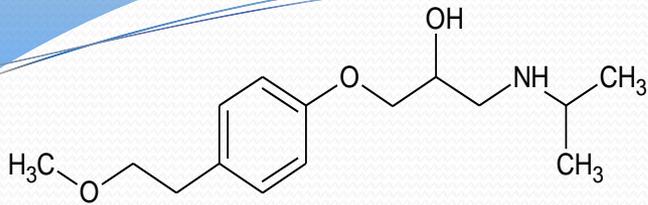
Fe-X17 – developed mesoporosity

# Experimental set-up – batch photoreactor

- Initial pH values: 3, 7 and 9
- Monosolute:  $C = 200 \text{ mg/L}$
- Mixture:  $C = 18 \text{ mg/L}$
- $[\text{O}_3] \approx 20 \text{ g/Nm}^3$
- catalyst :  $0.4 \text{ g/L}$
- $[\text{H}_2\text{O}_2] = 250 \text{ mg/L}$



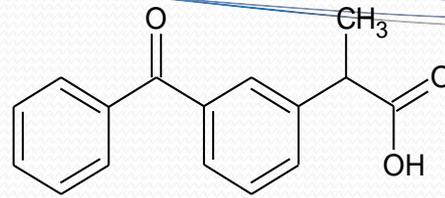
# Model pharmaceutical micropollutants



**Metoprolol (MTP)**

**Betablocker**

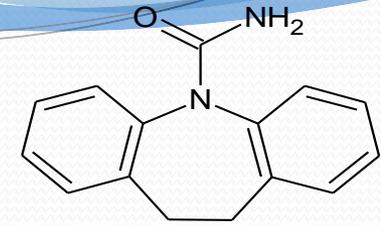
Solubility (g/L) = 50



**Ketoprofen (KTP)**

**Analgesic**

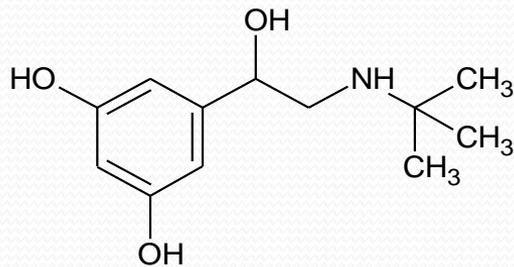
Solubility (g/L) = 0.051



**Carbamazepine (CBZ)**

**Anti-epileptic**

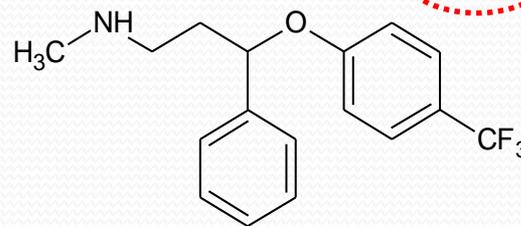
Solubility (g/L) = 0.018



**Terbutaline (TBL)**

**Bronchodilatator**

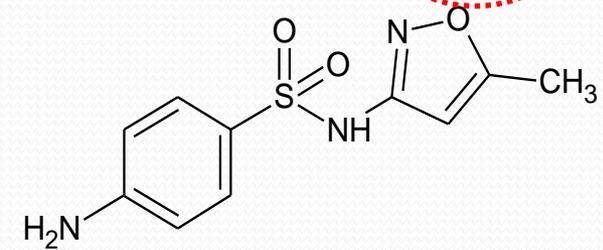
Solubility (g/L) = 213



**Fluoxetine (FXT)**

**Antidepressive**

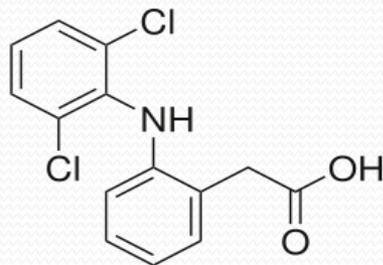
Solubility (g/L) = 14



**Sulfamethoxazole (SFX)**

**Antibiotic**

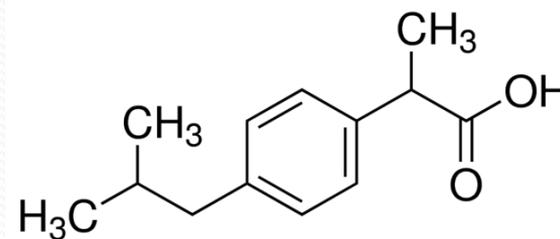
Solubility (g/L) = 0.6



**Diclofenac (DCF)**

**Analgesic**

Solubility (g/L) = 50



**Ibuprofen (IBP)**

**Analgesic**

Solubility (g/L) = 100

## Analytical methods

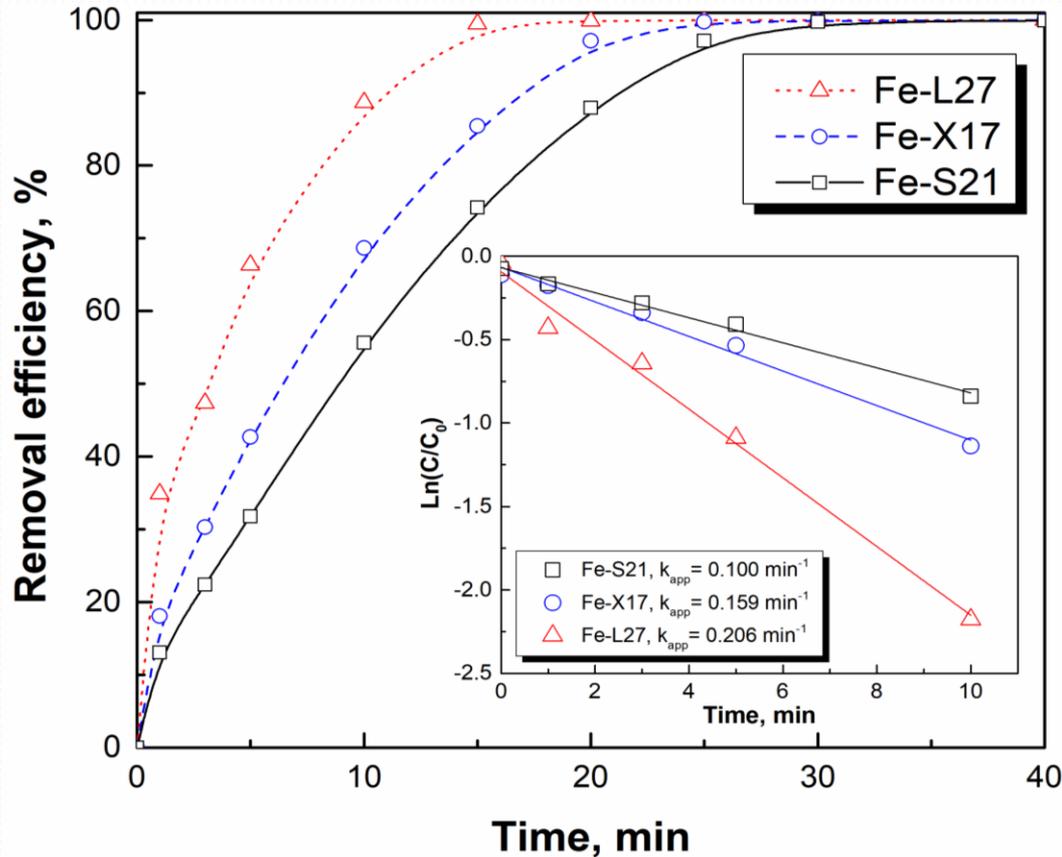


- HPLC – High Performance Liquid Chromatographie



- TOC – Total Organique Carbon

# Photocatalytic tests - effect of AC matrix -



**S21 provided the lowest degradation rate (complete removal efficiency in 30 min).**

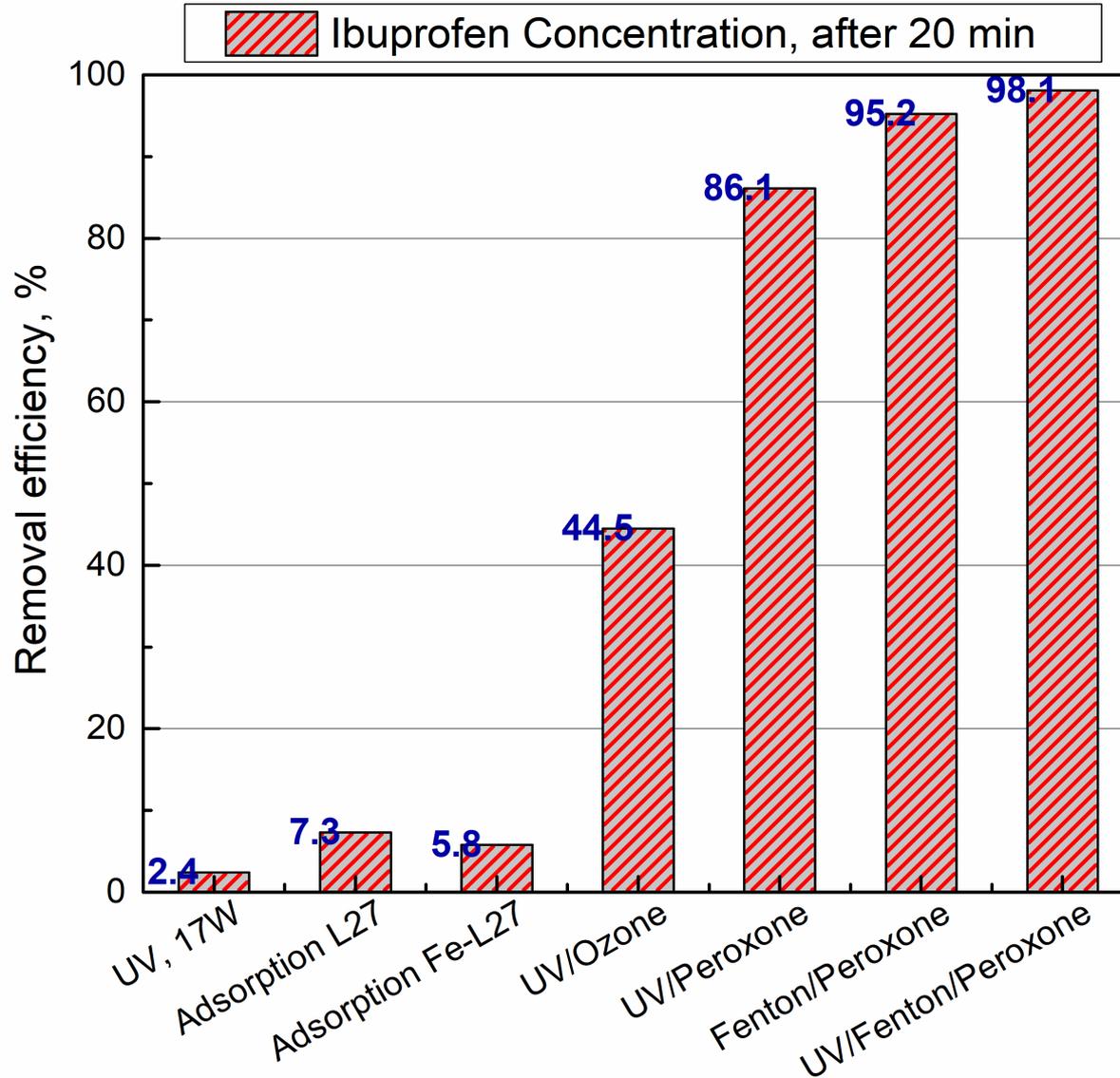
**X17 - complete IBP removal efficiency after 25 min.**

**L27 presents considerable acidic groups and has a well-developed porosity structure – complete IBP removal efficiency after 15 min.**

**Ibuprofen degradation tests in presence of Fenton-like catalysts prepared with GAC support of different  $pH_{PZC}$ . Inset plot: pseudo-first order kinetics**

# Treatment tests

## - in relation to IBP concentration -



pH 7

$C_i = 200 \text{ mg/L}$

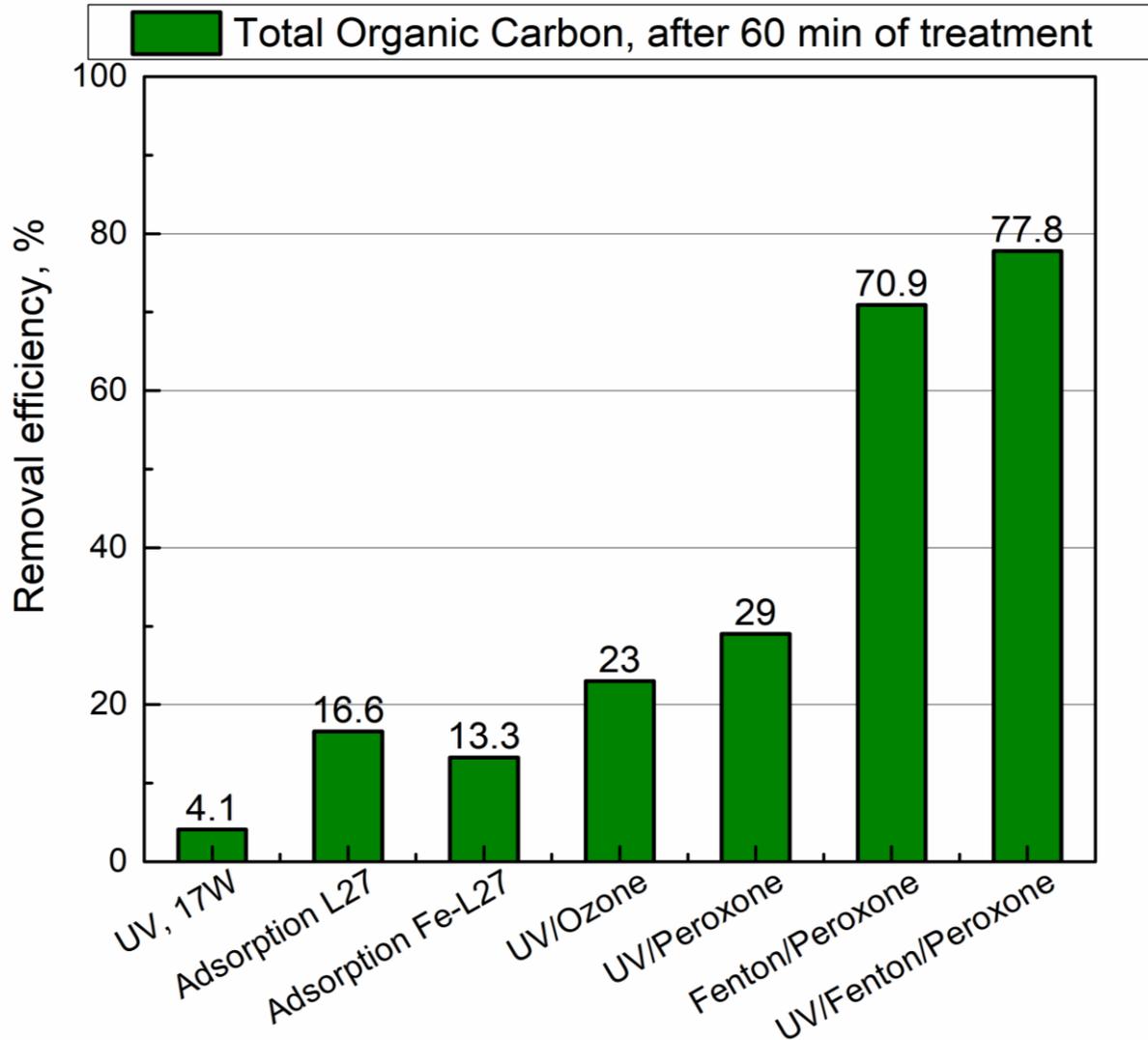
Peroxone and Fenton-Peroxone provide high removal efficiencies in relation to C<sub>IBP</sub> after only 20 min of treatment.

After 2h, even Ozonation results in >99% RE in relation to C<sub>IBP</sub>.

Fe impregnation of AC has low influence on the adsorption capacity

# Treatment tests

## - in relation to the mineralization degree -



pH 7

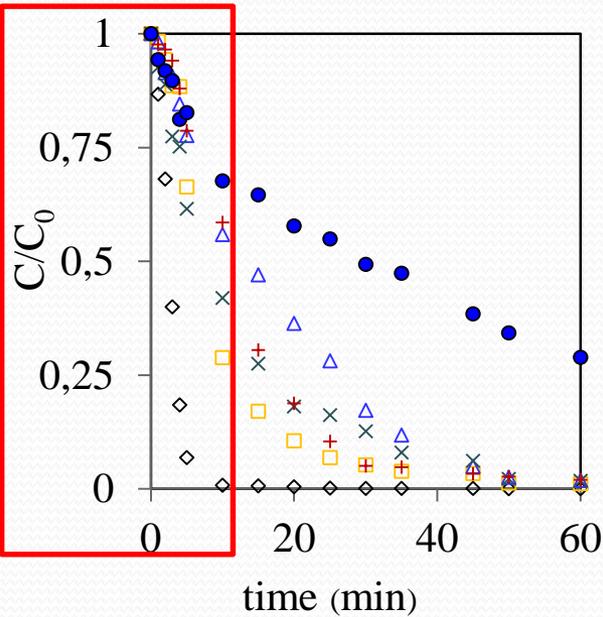
$C_i = 200 \text{ mg/L}$

**In terms of mineralization, Fenton-based processes make the difference.**

**Ozonation and Peroxone processes degrade the molecule to a rather large degradation product.**

# Efficiency of Ozonation, AC/Ozonation coupling, and photo-Fenton peroxone process

ozonation



O<sub>3</sub>/AC coupling

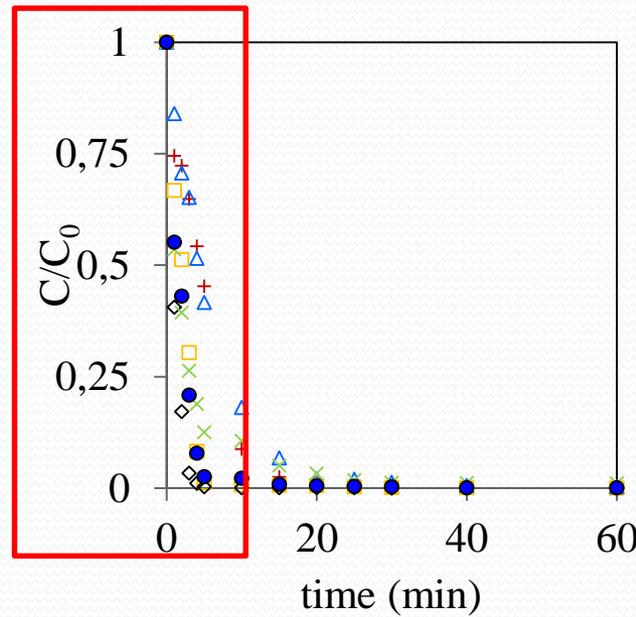
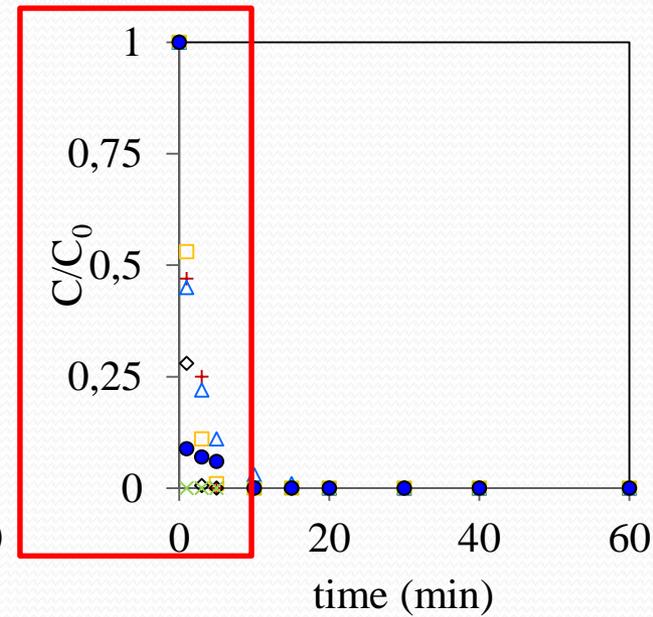


photo-Fenton peroxone



terbutaline

metoprolol

fluoxetine

sulfamethoxazole

carbamazepine

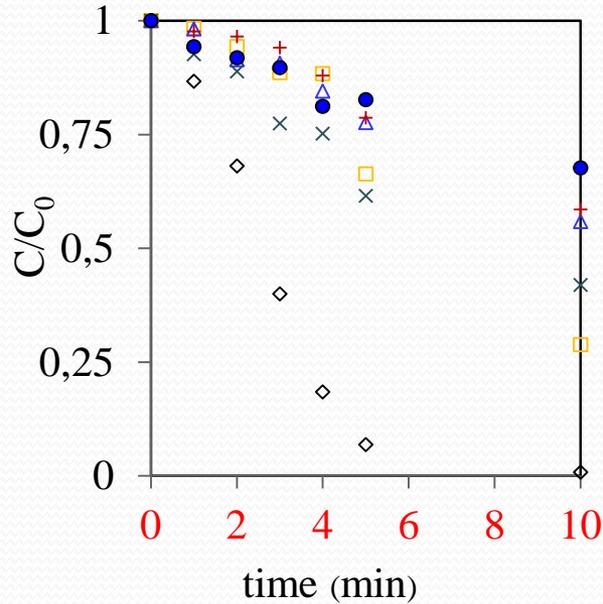
ketoprofen

pH 3

$C_i = 18 \text{ mg/L}$

# Efficiency of Ozonation, AC/Ozonation coupling, and photo-Fenton peroxone process

ozonation



O<sub>3</sub>/AC coupling

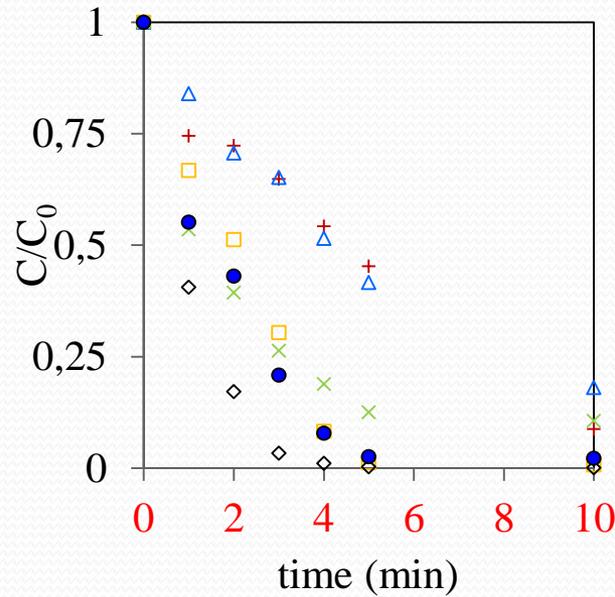
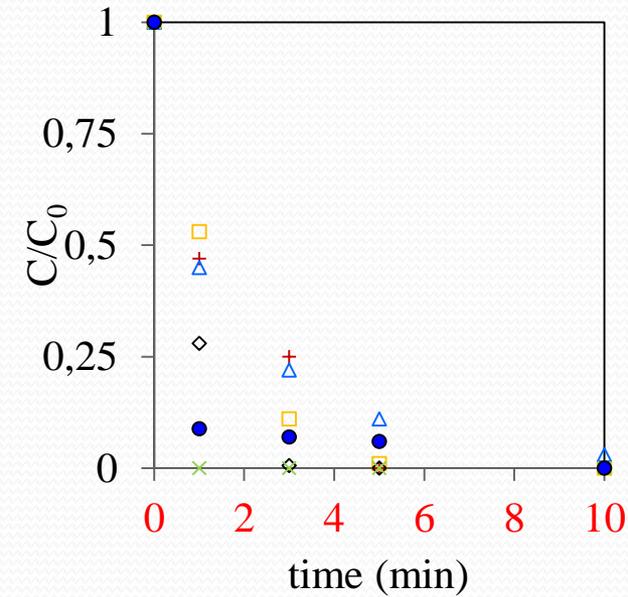


photo-Fenton peroxone



pH 3

$C_i = 18 \text{ mg/L}$

terbutaline

metoprolol

fluoxetine

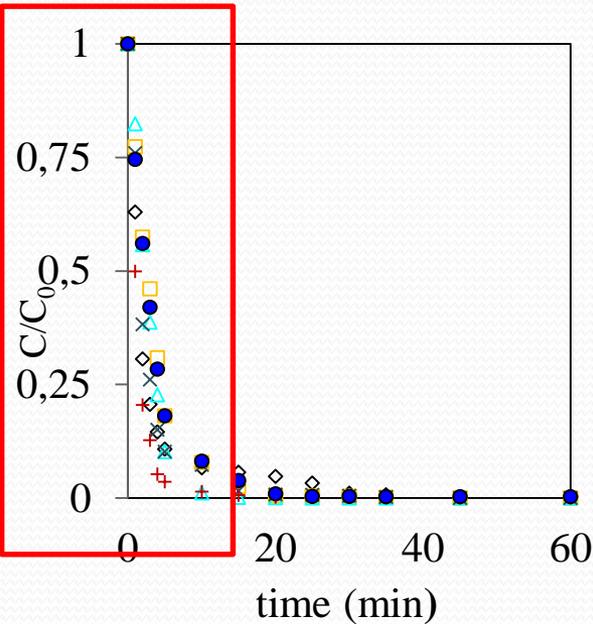
sulfamethoxazole

carbamazepine

ketoprofen

# Efficiency of Ozonation and AC/Ozonation Coupling

ozonation



O<sub>3</sub>/AC coupling

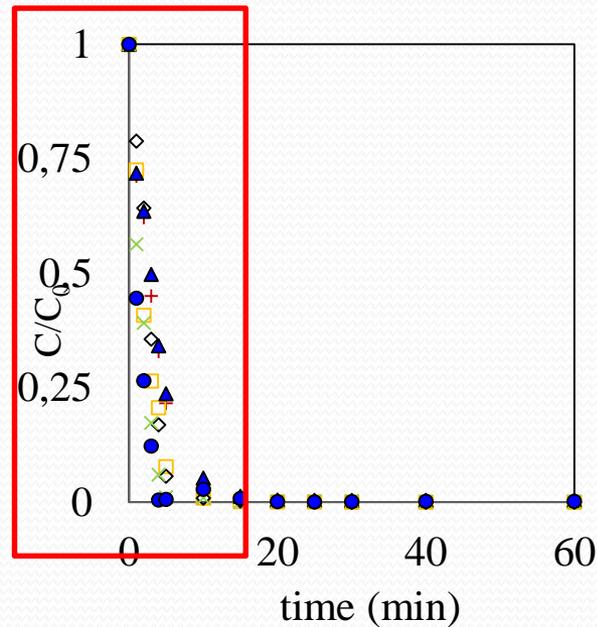
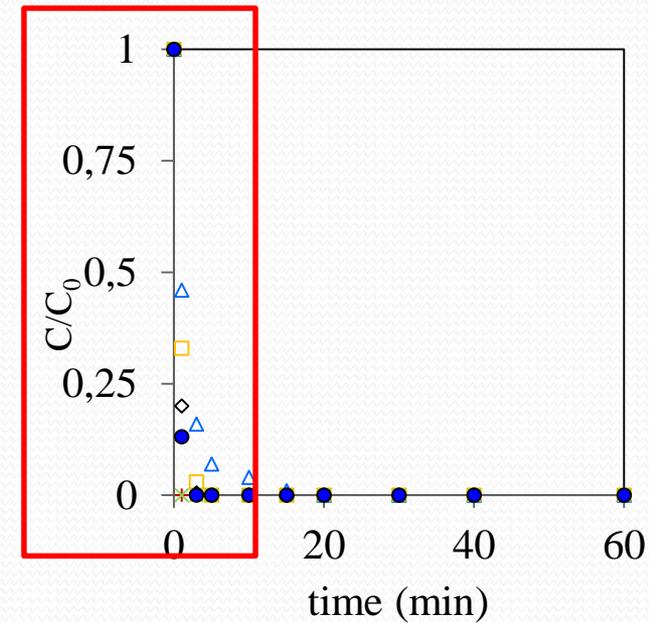


photo-Fenton peroxone



terbutaline

metoprolol

fluoxetine

sulfamethoxazole

carbamazepine

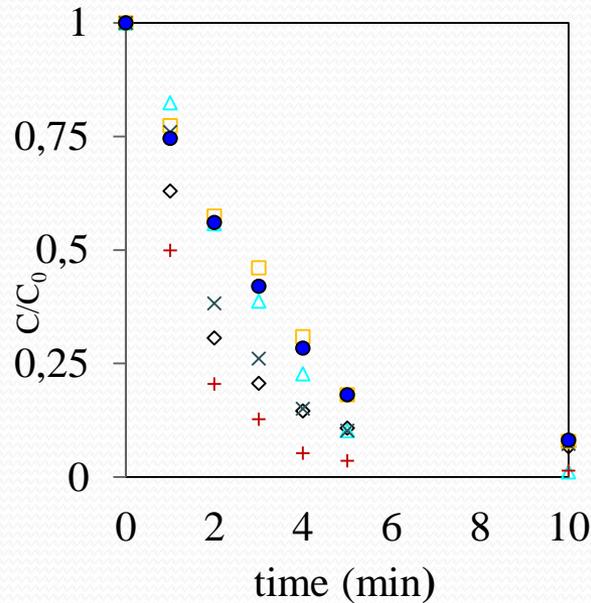
ketoprofen

pH 7

$C_i = 18 \text{ mg/L}$

# Efficiency of Ozonation and AC/Ozonation Coupling

ozonation



O<sub>3</sub>/AC coupling

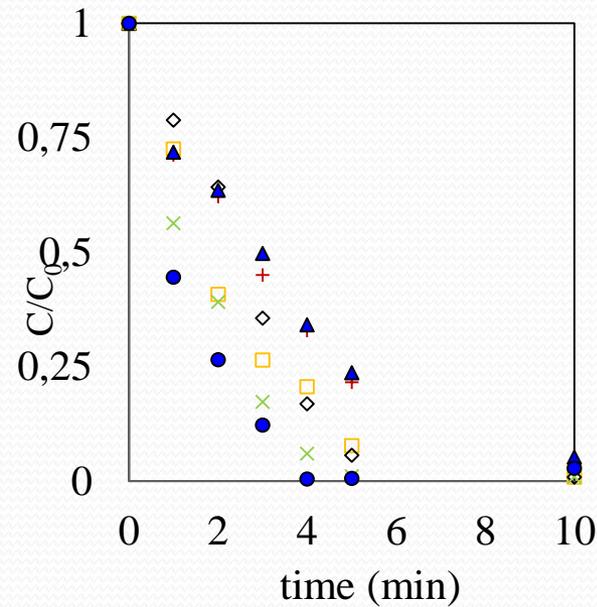
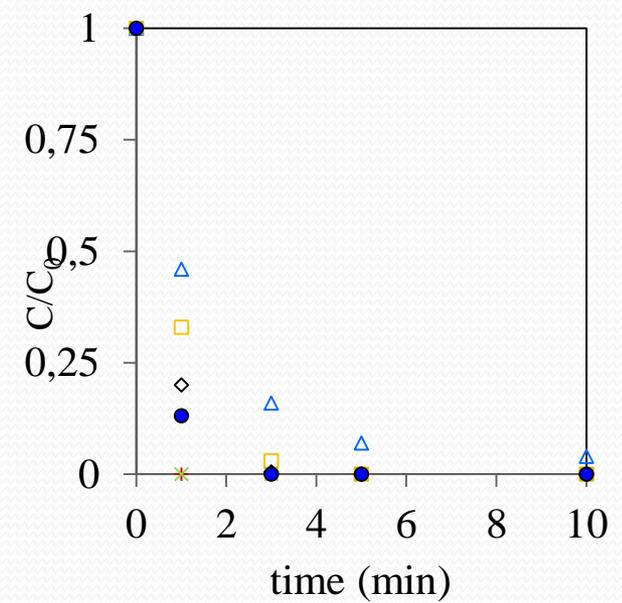


photo-Fenton peroxone



pH 7

$C_i = 18 \text{ mg/L}$

terbutaline

metoprolol

fluoxetine

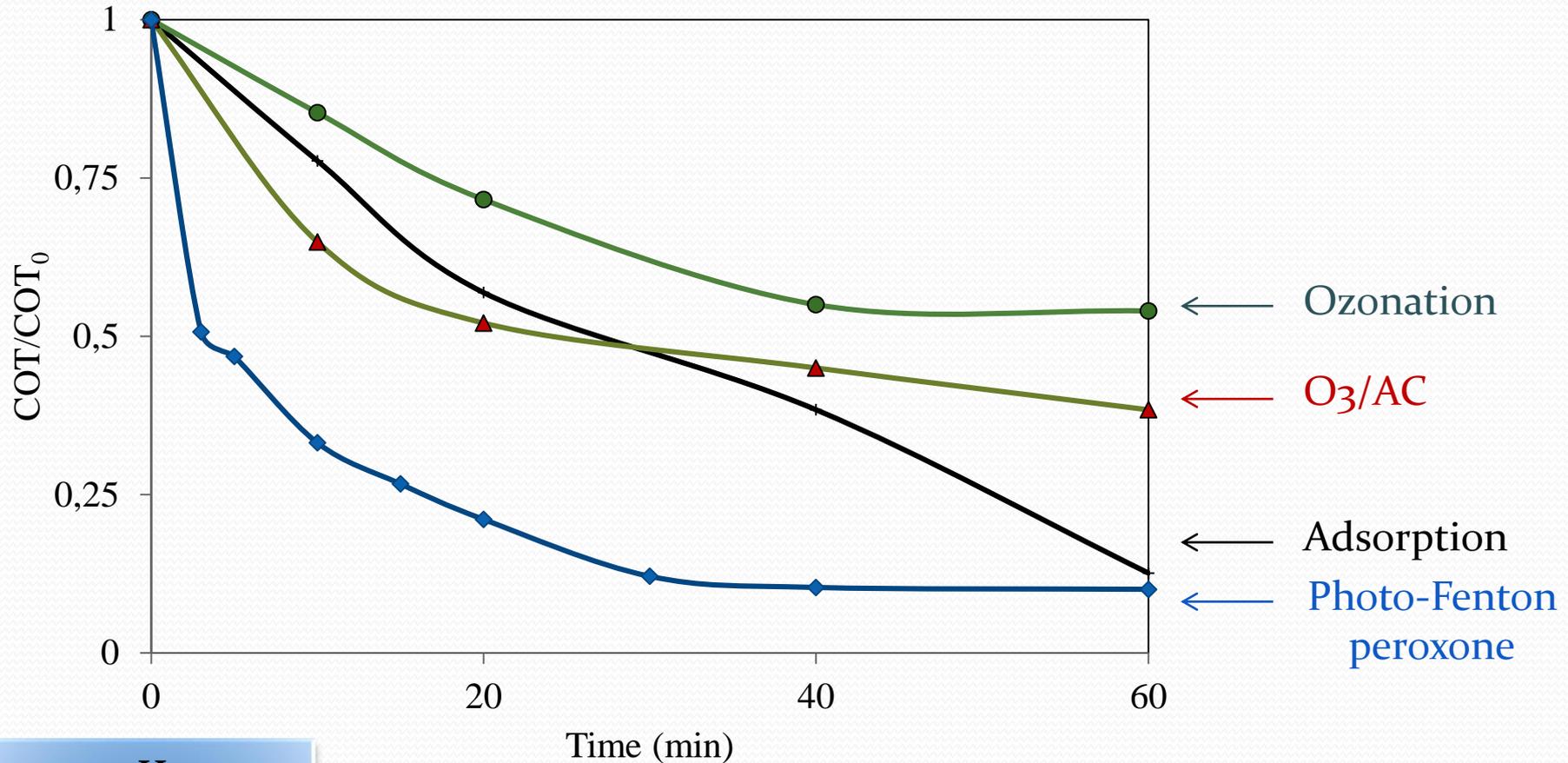
sulfamethoxazole

carbamazepine

ketoprofen

# Efficiency of Ozonation and AC/Ozonation Coupling

## TOC evolution



pH 7

$C_i = 18 \text{ mg/L}$

Photo-Fenton peroxone : Mineralization >90 %

# Conclusions

- ✓ It was found that the chemical properties of AC surface are critical in the selection of the proper matrices of Fenton-like catalysts.
- ✓ Among the investigated ACs, the acid surfaced AC provides the optimal micromedium to conduct the heterogeneous Fenton.
- ✓ The integration of the Fenton process by using Fe-impregnated ACs results in remarkable enhancement of the mineralization process.
- ✓ Heterogeneous Fenton based on Fe-impregnated ACs provides good removal efficiencies even at neutral pH of the treated aqueous solution.
- ✓ The use of a low pressure UV-C lamp of only 17W (UV-C Output: 5,7 W at 254 nm) enhances the Fenton-peroxone process.

# Ongoing work

- ✓ Elaboration of mesoporous and acid-surfaced ACs from agricultural waste as support for Fe.
- ✓ Collaboration study with ICOA Orléans on the degradation mechanisms of Ibuprofen and Diclofenac. Identification of the by-products generated during the integrated treatment process.
- ✓ Collaboration study with CEMHTI Orléans on the toxicity of the treated solutions.
- ✓ Optimization of the parameters (Fe-AC dose, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> dose, O<sub>3</sub> mass flow rate) of the integrated treatment technique in terms of removal efficiency, degree of mineralization and toxicity.



Thank you for your attention!

Acknowledgments:



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Institute for Advanced Studies





