

## BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

**Journal Full Title:** Journal of Biomedical Research & Environmental Sciences

**Journal NLM Abbreviation:** J Biomed Res Environ Sci

**Journal Website Link:** <https://www.jelsciences.com>

**Journal ISSN:** 2766-2276

**Category:** Multidisciplinary

**Subject Areas:** Medicine Group, Biology Group, General, Environmental Sciences

**Topics Summation:** 130

**Issue Regularity:** Monthly

**Review Process:** Double Blind

**Time to Publication:** 21 Days

**Indexing catalog:** [Visit here](#)

**Publication fee catalog:** [Visit here](#)

**DOI:** 10.37871 ([CrossRef](#))

**Plagiarism detection software:** iThenticate

**Managing entity:** USA

**Language:** English

**Research work collecting capability:** Worldwide

**Organized by:** [SciRes Literature LLC](#)

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**IndexCopernicus  
ICV 2020:  
53.77**

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Photocatalytic Degradation of Polyphenols and Polyaromatic Amines in Textile Industry Wastewaters by Nano-Cerium Dioxide Doped Titanium Dioxide and the Evaluation of Acute Toxicity Assays with Microtox and *Daphnia magna*

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## ABSTRACT

In this study, nano-cerium dioxide doped titanium-dioxide ( $\text{CeO}_2\text{-TiO}_2$ ) Nanocomposites (NCs) was used for the photocatalytic degradation of pollutant parameters (color, polyphenols, polyaromatics) from a textile industry wastewater (TI ww) treatment plant located in Izmir, Turkey, at different operational conditions such as at increasing photocatalytic time (0, 10, 15, 20, 30, 60, 90 and 120 min), at different  $\text{CeO}_2\text{-TiO}_2$  mass ratios (1%, 3%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 16%, 25%, 30%, 50%), at the different amounts of  $\text{CeO}_2$  (1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 15, 20 and 25 mg/L) under 130 W Ultraviolet (UV) and 35 W sun lights irradiations, respectively. Color, polyphenols (quercetin, fisetin, ellagic acid, carminic acid, luteolin, and curcumin) and polyaromatics [2,6-dimethylaniline (2,6-DMA), 2-aminoanisole (MOA), 2,4-toluenediamine (TDA), 2-naphthylamine (NA), 4,40-thiobisbenzenamine (TOA), 3,3-dichlorobenzidine (DCB) and 3,30-dimethoxybenzidine (DMOB)] removal efficiencies were observed between 78% and 99% during photocatalytic experiments, under 130 W UV light, at 15%  $\text{CeO}_2\text{-TiO}_2$  NCs, at 21°C, after 30 min irradiation time. 15%  $\text{CeO}_2\text{-TiO}_2$  NCs shows the highest photodegradation yield of color under both UV and visible-light irradiation, with maximum photodegradation rates of 99% and 98.5%, respectively, after 30 min irradiation time. 94.44% maximum Microtox acute toxicity yield was found in  $\text{CeO}_2\text{-TiO}_2$  NCs = 20 mg/L, at 5%  $\text{CeO}_2$  mass ratio, after 150 min photodegradation time at 60°C. 90% maximum *Daphnia magna* acute toxicity removal was obtained in  $\text{CeO}_2\text{-TiO}_2$  NCs = 20 mg/L, at 5%  $\text{CeO}_2$  mass ratio, after 150 min photodegradation time at 60°C. The results show that the  $\text{CeO}_2\text{-TiO}_2$  NCs has a high photocatalytic activity to remove the pollutants from TI ww.

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DOI: 10.37871/jbres1524

Submitted: 03 August 2022

Accepted: 08 August 2022

Published: 09 August 2022

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## Keywords

Cerium dioxide doped titanium dioxide nanocomposites; *Daphnia magna* and Microtox (with *Aliivibrio fischeri* or *Vibrio fischeri*) acute toxicity tests; Polyaromatics; Polyphenols; Textile industry wastewater

## Introduction

In recent years, Advanced Oxidation Processes (AOPs) have emerged as potentially powerful methods that are capable of transforming the pollutants into harmless substances [1] and that almost all rely on the generation of very reactive free radicals, such as the hydroxyl radical ( $\text{OH}^\bullet$ ) (redox potential = 2.8 V) [2]. AOPs, generally involving  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{O}_3$  or Fenton's reagent as oxidative species for the destruction of contaminants, are alternative techniques to eliminate dyes and other organics in wastewater [3-7]. Semiconductor photocatalysis has emerged

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

ECOTOXICOLOGY | ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION

VOLUME: 3 ISSUE: 8 - AUGUST, 2022



How to cite this article: Öztekin R, Sponza DT. Photocatalytic Degradation of Polyphenols and Polyaromatic Amines in Textile Industry Wastewaters by Nano-Cerium Dioxide Doped Titanium Dioxide and the Evaluation of Acute Toxicity Assays with Microtox and *Daphnia magna*. J Biomed Res Environ Sci. 2022 Aug 09; 3(8): 852-866. doi: 10.37871/jbres1524, Article ID: JBRES1524, Available at: <https://www.jelsciences.com/articles/jbres1524.pdf>

as a promising AOP that provides solutions to many environmental pollution problems [3,5-7].

As an important semiconductor material,  $\text{TiO}_2$  has been widely used as the photocatalyst because of its chemical and biological inertness, high stability against photocorrosion, non-toxicity, low cost, and excellent degradation for organic pollutants [8,9]. However, practical applications of the  $\text{TiO}_2$  are still quite limited, mainly due to the low quantum efficiency and the broad bandgap responding only to UV light [10]. In order to improve the photocatalytic properties of  $\text{TiO}_2$ , much effort has been made, including transitional metal ion or non metal element doping [11,12], co-deposition of metals [13] and dye sensitization [14].

Cerium oxide and  $\text{CeO}_2$  containing materials have been studied as a good alternative for the oxidation catalysts and supports. It has been shown that, when associated with transition metal oxides and noble metals, cerium oxide promotes oxygen storage and release to enhance oxygen ( $\text{O}_2$ ) mobility, and forms surface and bulk vacancies to improve the catalyst redox properties of the system [15,16].

Among them, coupling  $\text{TiO}_2$  with  $\text{CeO}_2$  attracts much attention because of the special f and d electron orbital structure and the special properties of  $\text{CeO}_2$  [16]. It has been found that the variable valences of Ce such as  $\text{Ce}^{4+}$  and  $\text{Ce}^{3+}$  make  $\text{CeO}_2$  possesses the excellent characteristics in transferring electrons and enhance the light absorption capability in near UV or UV [17]. Meanwhile, doping with  $\text{CeO}_2$  can double oxygen reserve and transfer capacity of the  $\text{TiO}_2$  photocatalysis [18]. Introducing  $\text{CeO}_2$  into the  $\text{TiO}_2$  framework could effectively extend the visible light response of  $\text{TiO}_2$  [19]. Many researchers have focused on preparing meso-structured  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs with a large surface area and controllable pore size to improve its photocatalytic activity [19]. The large surface area would improve the absorption and mass-transfer of target pollutants [20].

Pirkami, et al. [21] found 70% Reactive Red 19, 75% Acid Orange 7, and 74% Acid Red 18 removals with 30 mg/L nano-Ni- $\text{TiO}_2$  photocatalyst at pH = 7.0 and 25 °C. Shao, et al. [22] studied the photocatalytic degradation of Methylene Blue (MB) dye with the addition of photocatalyst carbon-based anatase-type  $\text{TiO}_2$  ( $\text{TiO}_2$ -C) hybrid aerogel NCs. The photocatalytic degradation removal at darkness condition was found as 33% for MB removal while the MB photodegradation removal was found as 98%, at 500 W UV light, after 150 min at  $\text{TiO}_2$ /C mass ratio of 0.902, at 25 °C [22]. Subramonian and Wu [23] found that 85.2% of 60 mg/L of MB was successfully decolorized under 1.0 g/L of  $\text{TiO}_2$  Nanoparticles (NPs) dosage and initial pH 10.5, under sun light irradiation. Ji, et al. [24] reported that  $\text{CeO}_2$  NPs powder and light irradiation, 98% of acid orange 7 (AO7) was decolorized at the irradiation time of 11 h.  $\text{CeO}_2$  NPs, which were used as a photocatalyst in decolorization of Reactive Orange 16 dye, were synthesized by the microemulsion method and were able to decolorize the aqueous solution

after 2 h [25]. At a reaction temperature of 100 °C and an initial pH of 5.0, was provided 98.1% color removal, 89.6% COD and 65.4% TOC reduction with 1 mg/L  $\text{TiO}_2$ - $\text{CeO}_2$  NCs catalyst [26]. The 10%  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs sample shows the highest photoactivity under both UV and visible-light irradiation, with the degradation rate of 95.3% and 57.5%, respectively [27]. Ameen, et al. [28] reported that the  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs as photocatalyst accomplished enormously high degradation of bromophenol (Bph) dye by nearly 72% within 3 h under visible-light (300 W Xe non arc lamp) illumination. Li, et al. [20] synthesized thermally stable mesoporous  $\text{ZrO}_2$ - $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs and demonstrated the photodegradation of rhodamine B dye by 90% within 160 min under visible light. The photocatalytic studies performed with real TI ww until now were not concern the photo-removals of polyphenols and polyaromatics using  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$ .

In the present study,  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs was firstly used for the photocatalytic degradation of pollutant parameters (color, polyphenols, polyaromatics) from the TI ww treatment plant in Izmir, Turkey, at different operational conditions such as at increasing photocatalytic time (0, 10, 15, 20, 30, 60, 90 and 120 min), at different  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  mass ratios (1%, 3%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 16%, 25%, 30%, 50%), at the different amounts of  $\text{CeO}_2$  (1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 15, 20 and 25 mg/L) under 130 W UV light and 35 W sun light irradiations and at 21 °C, respectively. Color, polyphenols (quercetin, fisetin, ellagic acid, carminic acid, luteolin, and curcumin) and polyaromatics [2,6-dimethylaniline (2,6-DMA), 2-aminoanisole (MOA), 2,4-toluenediamine (TDA), 2-naphthylamine (NA), 4,4'-thiobisbenzenamine (TOA), 3,3'-dichlorobenzidine (DCB) and 3,3'-dimethoxybenzidine (DMOB)] removal efficiencies were observed during photocatalytic experiments. Therefore, the acute toxicity assays of TI ww samples with the addition of  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs was evaluated with Microtox (*Vibrio fischeri*) and *Daphnia magna* acute toxicity tests.

## Materials and Methods

### Raw wastewater

The TI ww used in this study contains color (> 70 1/m), total phenol (> 233 mg/L),  $\text{COD}_{\text{dis}}$  (> 770 mg/L) and high  $\text{BOD}_5$  (> 251 mg/L) concentrations with a  $\text{BOD}_5/\text{COD}_{\text{dis}}$  ratio of 0.39. The characterization of TI ww was shown in table 1 for minimum, medium and maximum values.

### Operational conditions

The operational conditions were summarized in table 2. Time (0, 10, 15, 20, 30, 60, 90 and 120 min), at different  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  mass ratios (1%, 3%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 16%, 25%, 30%, 50%), at the different amounts of  $\text{CeO}_2$  (1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 15, 20 and 25 mg/L) under 130 W UV and 35 W sun lights irradiations, respectively. Color, polyphenols (quercetin, fisetin, ellagic acid, carminic acid, luteolin, and curcumin) and polyaromatics [2,6-dimethylaniline (2,6-

**Table 1:** Characterization values of TI ww (n = 3, mean values  $\pm$  SD).

Parameters	Values		
	Minimum	Medium	Maximum
pH	5.10 $\pm$ 0.18	5.65 $\pm$ 0.20	6.20 $\pm$ 0.22
DO (mg/L)	1.32 $\pm$ 0.05	1.43 $\pm$ 0.05	1.54 $\pm$ 0.05
ORP (mV)	86.00 $\pm$ 3.01	107.55 $\pm$ 3.76	129.10 $\pm$ 4.52
TSS (mg/L)	286.00 $\pm$ 10.01	360 $\pm$ 12.6	434.00 $\pm$ 15.20
TVSS (mg/L)	193.00 $\pm$ 6.8	242.10 $\pm$ 8.47	291.20 $\pm$ 10.2
COD <sub>total</sub> (mg/L)	932.60 $\pm$ 32.62	1171.40 $\pm$ 41.00	1410.10 $\pm$ 49.40
COD <sub>dissolved</sub> (mg/L)	771.30 $\pm$ 27.00	968.8 $\pm$ 33.91	1166.30 $\pm$ 40.82
TOC (mg/L)	463.30 $\pm$ 16.22	582.90 $\pm$ 20.40	702.40 $\pm$ 24.60
BOD <sub>5</sub> (mg/L)	252.60 $\pm$ 8.84	315.4 $\pm$ 11.04	378.20 $\pm$ 13.24
BOD <sub>5</sub> /COD <sub>dis</sub>	0.37 $\pm$ 0.02	0.39 $\pm$ 0.014	0.41 $\pm$ 0.02
Total N (mg/L)	25.70 $\pm$ 0.90	30.96 $\pm$ 1.08	36.22 $\pm$ 1.27
NH <sub>4</sub> -N (mg/L)	1.87 $\pm$ 0.07	2.25 $\pm$ 0.08	2.63 $\pm$ 0.092
NO <sub>3</sub> -N (mg/L)	8.10 $\pm$ 0.28	10.2 $\pm$ 0.36	12.20 $\pm$ 0.43
NO <sub>2</sub> -N (mg/L)	0.14 $\pm$ 0.005	0.16 $\pm$ 0.006	0.18 $\pm$ 0.006
Total P (mg/L)	8.90 $\pm$ 0.31	11.05 $\pm$ 0.39	13.20 $\pm$ 0.46
PO <sub>4</sub> -P (mg/L)	6.34 $\pm$ 0.22	8.03 $\pm$ 0.28	9.72 $\pm$ 0.34
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-2</sup> (mg/L)	1250.10 $\pm$ 43.80	1560.8 $\pm$ 54.63	1871.40 $\pm$ 65.50
Color (1/m)	71.80 $\pm$ 2.51	89.05 $\pm$ 3.12	106.30 $\pm$ 3.72
Total phenol (mg/L)	234.00 $\pm$ 8.19	702.00 $\pm$ 24.57	936.00 $\pm$ 32.76
TAAAs (mg benzidine / L)	1790.20 $\pm$ 62.66	3580.14 $\pm$ 125.31	5370.10 $\pm$ 188.00

**Table 2:** Operational conditions under 130 W UV and 35 W sun light irradiations.

Parameters				
Time (min)	CeO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs mass ratios (%)	CeO <sub>2</sub> NPs (mg/L)	Polyphenols	Polyaromatics
0	1%	1	quercetin	2,6-dimethylaniline (2,6-DMA)
10	3%	3	fisetin	2-aminoanisole (MOA)
15	5%	5	ellagic acid	2,4-toluenediamine (TDA)
20	10%	8	carminic acid	2-naphthylamine (NA)
30	15%	10	luteolin	4,40-thiobisbenzenamine (TOA)
60	16%	15	curcumin	3,3-dichlorobenzidine (DCB)
90	25%	20		3,30-dimethoxybenzidine (DMOB)
120	30%	25		
	50%			

DMA), 2-aminoanisole (MOA), 2,4-toluenediamine (TDA), 2-naphthylamine (NA), 4,40-thiobisbenzenamine (TOA), 3,3-dichlorobenzidine (DCB) and 3,30-dimethoxybenzidine (DMOB)] removal efficiencies were observed during photocatalytic experiments.

### Analytical methods

pH, T(°C), ORP (mV), TSS, TVSS, DO, BOD<sub>5</sub>, COD<sub>total</sub>, COD<sub>dissolved</sub> and TOC were monitored following Standard Methods 2550, 2580, 2540 C, 2540 E, 5210 B, 5220 D, 5310, 5520 B, respectively [29]. Total-N, NH<sub>4</sub>-N, NO<sub>3</sub>-N, NO<sub>2</sub>-N, Total-P, PO<sub>4</sub>-P, total phenol and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>-2</sup> were measured with

cell test spectroquant kits (Merck, Germany) at a spectroquant NOVA 60 (Merck, Germany) spectrophotometer (2003). The characterization of TI ww was shown in table 1 for minimum, medium and maximum values.

Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) was used for the identification, Gas Chromatography Nitrogen Phosphorous Detection (GC-NPD) for the quantification and Gas Chromatography Flame Ionization Detection (GC-FID) for the determination of purity. The base peak of DCB, N-acetyl-DCB and N,N'-diacetyl-DCB was 252 m/z. The other main peaks were 294 m/z for N-acetyl-DCB, and 294 and 336 m/z for N,N'-diacetyl-DCB.

Polyphenols measurement was performed following the Standard Methods 5520 B [29] with a Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) (Hewlett-Packard 6980/HP5973MSD). Mass spectra were recorded using aVGTs 250 spectrometer equipped with a capillary SE 52 column (0.25 mm ID, 25 m) at 220°C with an isothermal program for 10 min. The total phenol was monitored as follows: 40 mL of TI ww was acidified to pH = 2.0 by the addition of concentrated HCl. Phenols were then extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic phase was concentrated at 40°C to about 1 mL and silylized by the addition of N,O-bis (trimethylsilyl) acetamide (BSA). The resulting trimethylsilyl derivatives were analysed by GC-MS (Hewlett-Packard 6980/HP5973MSD). Polyphenols such as quercetin, fisetin, ellagic acid, carminic acid, luteolin, curcumin and polyaromatics such as 2,6-DMA, MOA, TDA, NA, TOA, DCB and DMOB were determined GC-MS (Hewlett-Packard 6980/HP5973MSD).

### Preparation of nano CeO<sub>2</sub> - TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs under laboratory conditions

0.3 g of cerium nitrate (Ce(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O, 98.5%, Daejung chemicals) was dispersed in 20 mL ethanol (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH) and a separate solution of titanium butoxide (97%, Sigma-Aldrich) in a mixture of ethanol:deionized water (DI H<sub>2</sub>O) (20 mL/10 mL) was prepared. Afterwards, both the solutions were mixed and at pH = 10.0 was maintained by the dropwise addition of ammonia solution (NH<sub>3</sub>, 98%, Daejung chemicals). The entire reaction solution was transferred into the teflon-beaker and sealed into a stainless steel autoclave and kept at 120°C for 48 h. After completion of the reaction, the autoclave was cooled at room temperature and the product was filtered, washed thoroughly with DI H<sub>2</sub>O, and dried overnight at 80°C. The as-synthesized material was calcined at 450°C with the ramp rate of 5°C/min.

### Characterizations

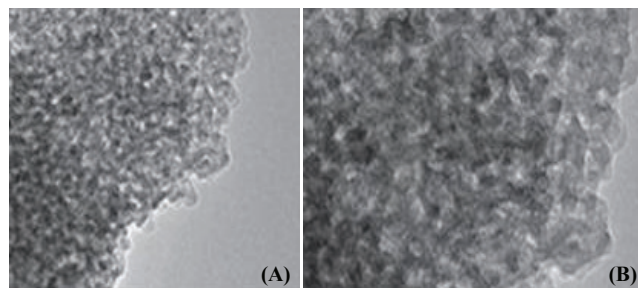
The morphological observations were observed by field emission scanning electron microscope (FESEM, Hitachi S-4700) and transmission electron microscopy (TEM, JEM-2010-JEOL).

All experiments were carried out three times and the results given as the means of triplicate samplings. Individual TI ww concentrations are given as the mean with Standard Deviation (SD) values.

## Results and Discussion

### Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) analysis results

TEM was used to investigate the morphological characterizations of the synthesized CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs. Figure 1a shows bare TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs of spherical morphology with the average particle size of 20 nm. CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs (Figure 1b) displays two distinctive morphologies of large CeO<sub>2</sub> NPs and



**Figure 1** a). Bare TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs of spherical morphology with the average particle size of 20 n. b). Two distinctive morphologies of large CeO<sub>2</sub> NPs and small TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs.

small TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs. The large CeO<sub>2</sub> NPs are uniformly embedded into TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs, indicating well mixing of CeO<sub>2</sub> into TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs. The embedded large hexagonal CeO<sub>2</sub> NPs along with small TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs are synthesized CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs. The diffraction peaks at 28.3°, 32.8°, 47.2°, 56.1° and 69.3° are assigned to the cubic fluorite structure of CeO<sub>2</sub> [30]. The diffraction peaks at 25.3° corresponds to TiO<sub>2</sub> phase in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs. The synthesized CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs presents red shift to higher wavelength at 465 nm, indicating the incorporation of Ce cations into the lattice of TiO<sub>2</sub>. Further, the band gap (Eg) value of 2.67 eV for CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs is lower than bare TiO<sub>2</sub> (Eg = 3.18 eV) which again confirms the incorporation of CeO<sub>2</sub> into TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs (data not shown). The lowering in Eg value of CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs is an indication of the red shifting from UV to the visible region due to the substitution of Ti<sup>4+</sup> cations by Ce<sup>4+</sup> cations in TiO<sub>2</sub> network as well as by Ti<sup>4+</sup> titanium deficiency created per unit cell [V<sup>1+</sup> Ti<sup>4+</sup>] as reported by [30].

### X-rays Diffraction (XRD) analysis results

Figure 2a shows (XRD) of synthesized CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs. The diffraction peaks at 28.3°, 32.8°, 47.2°, 56.1° and 69.3° are assigned to the cubic fluorite structure of CeO<sub>2</sub> [30]. The diffraction peaks at 25.3° corresponds to TiO<sub>2</sub> phase in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs. Figure 2b shows the ultraviolet-diffused reflectance spectroscopy (UV-DRS) of bare TiO<sub>2</sub> and CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs. The characteristic absorption band at 390 nm corresponds to O<sub>2</sub><sup>1-</sup>, Ti<sup>4+</sup> charge transfer and related to electron excitation from valence band to the conduction band in TiO<sub>2</sub> [30]. The synthesized CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs presents red shift to higher waveleng that 465 nm, indicating the incorporation of Ce cations into the lattice of TiO<sub>2</sub>. Further, the band gap (Eg) value of 2.67 eV for CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs is lower than bare TiO<sub>2</sub> (Eg = 3.18 eV) which again confirms the incorporation of CeO<sub>2</sub> into TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs. The lowering in Eg value of CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs is an indication of the red shifting from UV to the visible region due to the substitution of Ti<sup>4+</sup> cations by Ce<sup>4+</sup> cations in TiO<sub>2</sub> photooxidation as well as by Ti<sup>4+</sup> titanium deficiency created per unit cell [V<sup>1+</sup> Ti<sup>4+</sup>].

### Effect of the amount of CeO<sub>2</sub> loading in the CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs

The photocatalytic activity of TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs was enhanced by



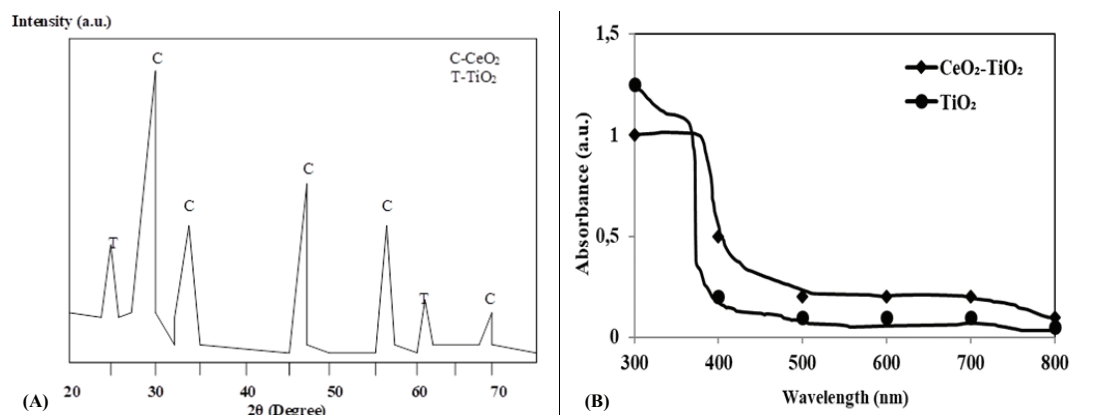
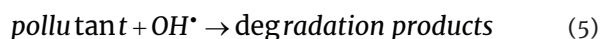


Figure 2 XRD patterns a) and UV-vis spectra b) of CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs.

the addition of CeO<sub>2</sub> from 1 mg/L to 3 mg/L, 5 mg/L, 8 mg/L, 10 mg/L, 15 mg/L, 20 mg/L and 25 mg/L CeO<sub>2</sub> has multi functional role (data not shown). It traps electrons, which retarded electron-hole recombination and increasing O<sub>2</sub><sup>1-•</sup> for degradation of the pollutants by the Equation 1, Equation 2, Equation 3, Equation 4 and Equation 5:



The results indicated that the photocatalytic activities increases with increasing the amount of cerium (Ce) dopant until a maximum is reached at 15 wt% (data not shown). This behavior might be associated with the separation of photoinduced electron-hole pairs. Further increasing in Ce content up to 20 wt% leads to a decline in the catalytic activity (data not shown). As the concentration of CeO<sub>2</sub> phase increases, the impurity band would become broader and thus the charge separation gap became narrower and the recombination of electron-hole pairs would be rapid. There are two factors which limited the amount of Ce loading: (i) blockage of active sites by excess amounts of Ce introduced in the photocatalysts and (ii) an increase in opacity and light scattering of CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs at a high concentration leads to a decrease in the passage of irradiation through the sample [31,32].

### Effect of two CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs concentrations with 5% and 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratios and pure NPs on the photodegradation yields of color under 130 W UV power

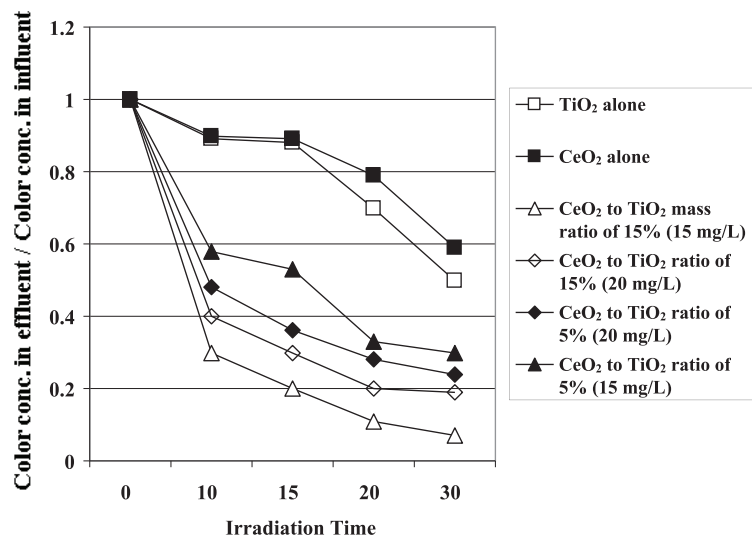
The photocatalytic degradation rate of color with 20 mg/L pure CeO<sub>2</sub> NPs, 20 mg/L pure TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs and CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub>

NCs = 15 mg/L with 5% and 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratios and CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L with 5% and 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratios, respectively, under 30 min with 130 W UV irradiation are shown in figure 3. This figure demonstrates that the pure TiO<sub>2</sub>, pure CeO<sub>2</sub> exhibited low color photodegradation rates (64% and 60%, respectively) since the catalyst could not be effectively activated by visible lights due to big energy band gaps (3.18 eV for TiO<sub>2</sub> and 2.88 eV for CeO<sub>2</sub>) (data not shown). Modification of TiO<sub>2</sub> with CeO<sub>2</sub> resulted in abrupt increase of the color photodegradation efficiency owing to the CeO<sub>2</sub>-photosensitization as reported by Liu, et al. [27]. However, the yields of color photodegradation increases as well as the concentration of CeO<sub>2</sub> increases from 5% to 15%. The TI ww sample containing 15 mg/L CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs with 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio shows the highest photoactivity for color degradation under UV irradiation, with the mineralization rate of 99.3%. 20 mg/L CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs with a CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio of 15% exhibited a color photodegradation rate of 82%.

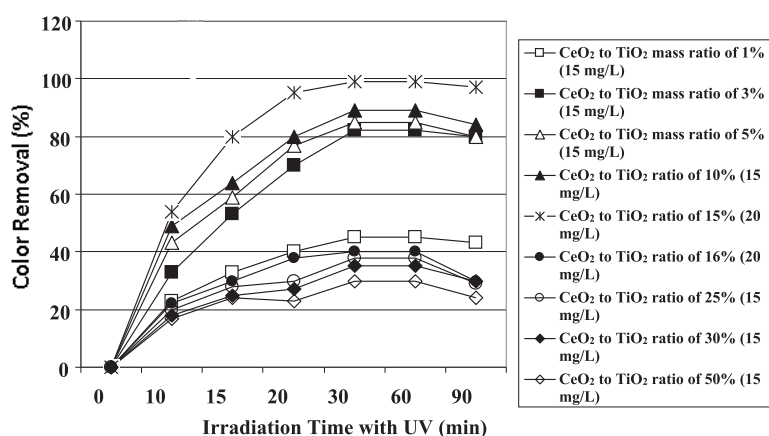
### Effect of irradiation times and CeO<sub>2</sub> NPs mass ratios in the CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs on the photooxidation of color in TI ww under UV and sun light irradiations

The maximum color removal yields were observed after 30 min UV and sun light irradiations times with powers of 130 W and 35 W (Figure 3). From figure 4 it can be seen that the photocatalytic activity of prepared CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs increases with the increase of Ce content from 1% to 2%, to 5% and to 15% after 30 min irradiation time at an UV power of 130 W at constant CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs concentrations of 15 mg/L for color photodegradation.

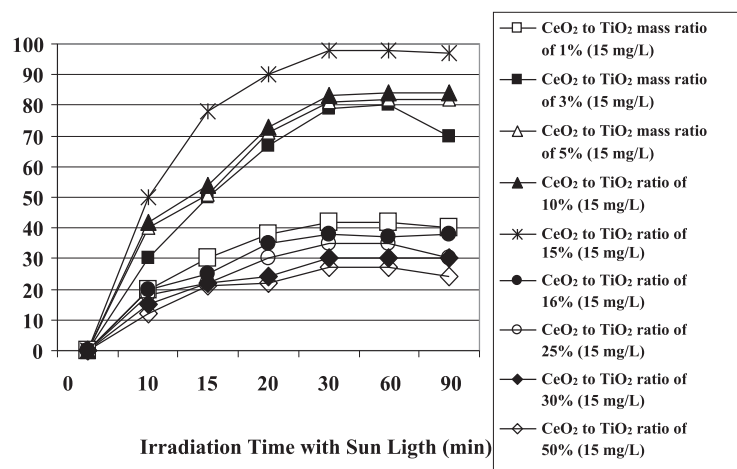
However, the color removals decrease as well as the concentration of CeO<sub>2</sub> NPs increases from 16 to 50%. 15% CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs shows the highest photodegradation yield of color under both UV and visible-light irradiation, with maximum photodegradation rates of 99% and 98.5%, respectively, after 30 min irradiation time (Figures 4,5). This fact is consistent with its smaller particle size, larger surface area, lower concentration of Ce<sup>3+</sup> and highest concentration of surface Hydroxyl (OH) groups. This can also be attributed



**Figure 3** Effects of  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs concentrations and mass ratios of  $\text{CeO}_2$  on the  $\text{TiO}_2$  to photocatalytic rates of color in the TI ww under 130W UV irradiation at original TI ww at pH = 6.2 and at 21°C, respectively.



**Figure 4** Effect of irradiation time and  $\text{CeO}_2$  mass ratios in the  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs on color removal under 130W UV irradiation at original TI ww at pH = 6.2 and at 21°C, respectively.



**Figure 5** Effect of irradiation time and  $\text{CeO}_2$  mass ratios in the  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs on color removal under 35W sun light irradiation at original TI ww at pH = 6.2 and at 21°C, respectively.

to the fact that when doping content of  $\text{CeO}_2$  NPs is an optimum amount, the  $\text{CeO}_2$  NPs well dispersed on the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface can act as electron-hole separation centers. The minimum color removal yields with photodegradation were found for 15 mg/L  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs concentrations with 30% and 50%  $\text{CeO}_2$  mass ratios. When the doping  $\text{CeO}_2$  NPs concentration exceeds a certain amount ( $\geq 15\%$ ), the trap center may become the recombination center of photo-generated electrons and holes. Meanwhile, the excessive ceria result in agglomeration of  $\text{CeO}_2$  NPs, which will scatter the incident light, lowering the photoquantum efficiency of the photocatalytic reaction as reported by Liu, et al. [27]. After 30 min irradiation time the color yield remained constant or decreased slightly at all  $\text{CeO}_2$  to  $\text{TiO}_2$  mass ratios.

The majority of color has been degraded within first 28 min. Thus, the synthesized  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs could be a good visible-light driven photocatalyst for the degradation of color originating from the dyes in the TI ww as catalyst under light illumination. The mechanism of color photodegradation can be summarized as follows: Upon 130 W light illumination,  $\text{CeO}_2$  firstly absorbs light and the photoexcited electron moves to the Conduction Band (CB) of  $\text{CeO}_2$  where CB level is higher than the CB level of  $\text{TiO}_2$  NPs. The photoexcited electrons inject into CB of  $\text{TiO}_2$  which easily scavenges the electrons to produce the large amount of reactive holes. The existence of mixture of  $\text{Ce}^{3+}/\text{Ce}^{4+}$  oxidation states on the surface of nano  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$ , denote the NCs is not fully oxidized, so that  $\text{Ce}^{4+}$  can easily capture electrons and prevent the combination of photo-generated electrons and holes, resulting in a higher quantum efficiency of photocatalytic reaction [33]. Secondly, the photo-induced electrons in the  $\text{TiO}_2$  can drift to the  $\text{CeO}_2$  under the inner electric field between  $\text{CeO}_2$  and  $\text{TiO}_2$  due to the energy band bending in space charge region. It is more helpful for the separation of photoinduced electron-hole pairs in  $\text{TiO}_2$ , resulting in the improvement of photocatalysis under UV illumination [30]. In addition, with the doping of

$\text{CeO}_2$ , the abundant surface OH groups exist on the surface of  $\text{TiO}_2$ , which can be attacked by photoinduced holes and yield surface  $\text{OH}^\bullet$  with high oxidation capability [27].

### Polyphenols in TI ww

The dyes in the textile industry is the main source of the color. The dyes used to color textiles are flavonoid compounds carotenoids, hydroxyketones, anthraquinones, naphthoquinones, flavones, flavonols, flavonones, indigoids and related compounds. Polyphenolic compounds that are expected to be found in the textile dyes are ellagic acid (simple phenolic acid); catechin, rutin, myricetin, luteolin, kaempferol, apigenin, morin, fisetin (flavonoids); curcumin (curcuminoid), carminic acid, purpurin and alizarin (having a core anthraquinone structure). Among these polyphenols; quercetin, fisetin, ellagic acid, carminic acid, luteolin and curcumin concentrations were monitored as color polyphenols in TI ww.

At initial, color exhibits the maximum absorption wavelength at  $\lambda = 620$  nm after 20 min photodegradation at 130 W UV using  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs = 15 mg/L with 15%  $\text{CeO}_2$  mass ratio (Figure 6). The maximum absorption wavelength was 560 nm with only 15 mg/L  $\text{CeO}_2$  concentration while the maximum absorption wavelengths were 560 and 580 nm at 15 mg/L pure nano- $\text{TiO}_2$  and pure nano- $\text{CeO}_2$ . The absorbance intensity of color gradually decreases with the increase of exposed time from 20 to 30 min, indicating the drastic decrease in the concentration of color originating from dyes in TI ww. The absorption wavelength  $\lambda$  decreased to 110 nm after 30 min for  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs = 15 mg/L with 15%  $\text{CeO}_2$  mass ratio while the adsorption wavelentghs decreased to around 300 nm in both commercial nanoparticles (Figure 6). A reasonably high degradation rate of 99.3% of color within 30 min is detected over the surface of  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs catalyst whereas, very low degradation rates (6% and 23%) is obtained when TI ww degradation takes place over

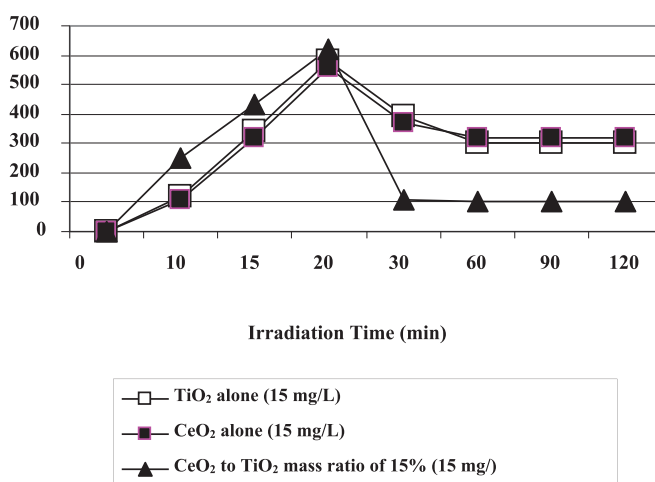


Figure 6 Absorbances of color versus produced NCs and commercial NPs under 130W UV irradiation.



the surface of commercial  $\text{CeO}_2$  and  $\text{TiO}_2$  catalysts under 130 W UV light illumination. The high color removal efficiency observed in this photocatalytic process is due to the fact that azo bond cleavage is easier in color giving polyphenols.

The maximum polyphenol yields were obtained after 30 min irradiation time under UV (Figure 7). The maximum photooxidation yields for quercetin, fisetin and ellagic acid polyphenols were high (99%; 98% and 97%, respectively) while the yields for carminic acid, luteolin and curcumin polyphenols were slightly low (88%, 82% and 80%, respectively). The electron orbital structure and the special properties of  $\text{CeO}_2$  NPs has been found that the variable valences of Ce such as  $\text{Ce}^{4+}$  and  $\text{Ce}^{3+}$  make  $\text{CeO}_2$  NPs possesses the excellent characteristics in transfer- ring electrons and enhance the light absorption capability in near ultraviolet or ultraviolet [20]. Meanwhile, doping with  $\text{CeO}_2$  NPs can double  $\text{O}_2$  reserve and transfer capacity of the  $\text{TiO}_2$  NPs photocatalysis [20]. Based on the catalytic mechanism, the increasing  $\text{O}_2$  adsorbed on the surface of particle can easily capture electron, which prohibits the undesirable recombination of electron-hole pair and greatly improves the catalytic oxidation activity.

### Polyphenol metabolites

From 120 mg/L quercetin; 20 mg/L isorhamnetin (3'-O-methyl quercetin), and 46 mg/L tamarixetin (4'-O-methyl quercetin) produced as metabolites of quercetin polyphenol after 10 min photooxidation with  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs = 15 mg/L at 15%  $\text{CeO}_2$  mass ratio (Table 3). From 60 mg/L fisetin polyphenol, 40 mg/L 3',4'-catechol generated. From 80 mg/L ellagic acid, 43 mg/L 3,8-dihydroxy-6H-dibenzopyran-6-one), 15 mg/L 3-Hydroxyurolithin and 10 mg/L 7-Hydroxy-3,4-benzocoumarin produced (Table 3).

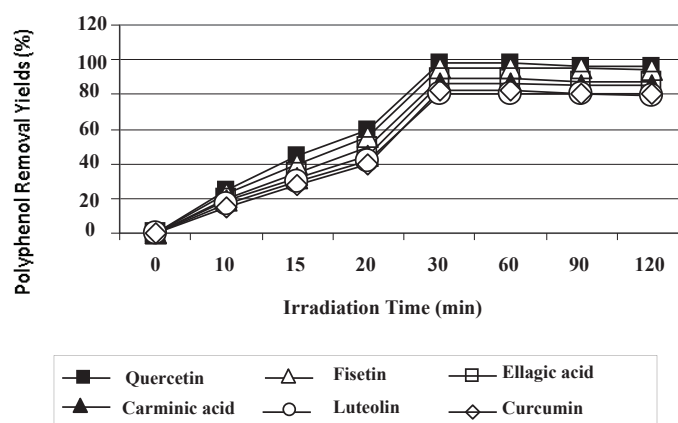
The polyphenols transformed by photodegradation of polyphenols by ring cleavage, decarboxylation and dehydroxylation reactions under UV. Carminic acid

metabolites were C-glucopyranosyl flavokermesic acid and glucopyranosyl-dioxoanthracene via hydroxylation under UV (Table 3). From 120 mg/L carminic acid 30 mg/L C-glucopyranosyl flavokermesic acid and 20 mg/L glucopyranosyl-dioxoanthracene produced. Two methylated isomers of luteolin was observed as luteolin metabolites. Methylation probably occurred on ring to give 3'- or 4'-O-methyl luteolin. 3'-methyl luteolin and the 4'-methyl isomer were found as metabolites of luteolin after 10 min illumination with 130 W UV, at  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs = 15 mg/L at 15%  $\text{CeO}_2$  mass ratio. From 80 mg/L luteolin 20 mg/L 3'-methyl luteolin and 18 mg/L 4'-methyl isomer produced. From 89 mg/L curcumin 34 mg/L bisdemethoxycurcumin (BDMC), 20 mg/L O-glucuronide (COG) and 8 mg/L curcumin O-sulfate (COS) produced after 10 min irradiation.

Quercetin metabolites such as isorhamnetin and tamarixetin removal efficiencies were 98% and 96%, after 30 min irradiation time (Table 3). Fisetin metabolites such as 3'-4'-catechol removal efficiency was 94%, after 30 min irradiation time (Table 3). Ellagic acid metabolites such as 3,8-dihydroxy-6H dibenzopyran-6-one, 3-hydroxyurolithin, 7-hydroxy-3,4-benzocoumarin removal efficiencies were 90%, 93%, and 94%, respectively, after 30 min irradiation time (Table 3). Carminic acid metabolites such as C-glucopyranosyl flauokermesic, glucopyranosyl-dioxoanthracene removal efficiencies were 84% and 86%, after 30 min irradiation time (Table 3). Luteolin metabolites such as 3'-methyl luteolin, 4'-methyl isomer removal efficiencies were 80% and 78%, after 30 min irradiation time (Table 3). Curcumin metabolites such as bisdemethoxycurcumin, o-glucuronide, curcumin o-sulfate removal efficiencies were 78%, 74%, and 72%, respectively, after 30 min irradiation time (Table 3).

### Aromatic amines in TI ww

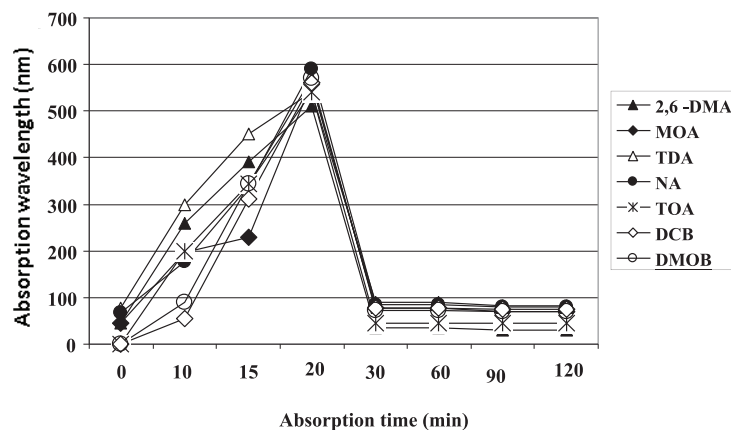
Figure 8 shows the UV-Vis absorbance of individual aromatic amines with the exposed time of 0-120 min. After



**Figure 7** Removals of polyphenols via photooxidation using  $\text{CeO}_2$ - $\text{TiO}_2$  NCs = 15 mg/L with 15%  $\text{CeO}_2$  mass ratio, under 130W UV, at pH = 6.2 and at 21°C, respectively.

**Table 3:** Removal efficiencies of polyphenol metabolites after 10 min and 30 min irradiation with CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs under 130 W UV power.

Polyphenol Metabolites		After 10 min		After 30 min		Remaining conc. (mg/L)
Names	Influent Conc. (mg/L)	Ce <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs Conc. (mg/L)	Rem. Yields (%)	Ce <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs Conc. (mg/L)	Rem. Yields (%)	
Quercetin metabolites						
Isorhamnetin	20	15.6	22	0.4	98	0.4
Tamarixetin	46	36.34	21	1.84	96	1.84
Fisetin metabolites						
3'-4'-catechol	40	30	25	2.4	94	2.4
Ellagic acid metabolites						
3, 8-dihydroxy-6H dibenzopyran-6-one	43	32.25	25	4.3	90	4.3
3-hydroxyurolithin	15	12	20	1.05	93	1.05
7-hydroxy-3,4-benzocoumarin	10	7.8	22	0.6	94	0.6
Carminic acid metabolites						
C-glucopyranosyl flauokermesic	30	24.3	19	4.8	84	4.8
Glucopyranosyl-dioxanthracene	20	15.2	24	2.8	86	2.8
Luteolin metabolites						
3'-methyluteolin	20	16.2	19	4	80	4
4'-methylisomer	18	14.22	21	3.96	78	3.96
Curcumin metabolites						
Bisdemethoxycurcumin	34	27.88	18	7.48	78	7.48
O-glucuronide	20	16	20	5.2	74	5.2
Curcumin O-sulfate	8	6.16	23	2.24	72	2.24



**Figure 8** UV-vis absorbances of individual aromatic amines after photodegradation at 130W UV power using 15 mg/L CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs with 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at pH = 6.2 and at 21°C.

20 min photooxidation the aromatic amines namely 2,6-DMA, MOA, TDA, NA, TOA, DCB and DMOB exhibited the maximum absorption wavelength at 515, 520, 580, 600, 540, 590 and 592 nm, respectively. The absorbance intensity of these aromatic amines decreased to 94, 95, 98, 90 and 88 nm with the increase of exposed time from 0 to 30 min, indicating the drastic decrease in the concentration of aromatic amines. A reasonably high degradation rate by 89–99% of aforementioned aromatic amines within 30 min are

detected over the surface of CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs catalyst whereas, low photodegradation rates (1%, 3%, 6%, 8% and 10%) are obtained when aromatic amine photodegradation takes place over the surface commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> and CeO<sub>2</sub> catalysts under visible light illumination.

The maximum yield was observed as 99% for DCB aromatic amine while the yields for MOA and NA were calculated as 98% and 97%, respectively after 30 min

irradiation time at a power of 130 W UV (Figure 9). TDA was removed with a yield of 88% while the yield for TOA was recorded as 92% after 30 min photooxidation (Figure 9).

### Aromatic amine metabolites

The formation of possible intermediates of 2,6-DMA, MOA, TDA, NA, TOA and DCB aromatic amines

is illustrated in table 4. The intermediates of aromatic amines clearly reveal that the multiple fragmentation of aromatic amine macromolecule can lead the complete mineralization with the ending products of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O. DCB metabolites are N-acetyl-DCB and N,N'-diacetyl-DCB while N-phenylacetamide (acetanilide, NPA) and N-acetylated metabolites such as 5-OH-2-NA, 7-OH-2-

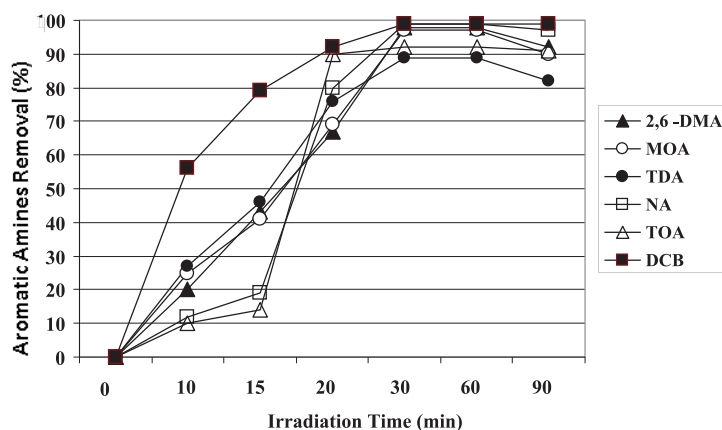


Figure 9 Photooxidation yields of decomposed TI ww for aromatic amines under 130W UV power, at 21°C with 15 mg/L CeO<sub>2</sub> - TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs, respectively.

Table 4: Removal efficiencies of aromatic amines metabolites after 10 min and 30 min irradiation with CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs under 130 W UV power.

Aromatic amines metabolites		After 10 min		After 30 min		Remaining conc. (mg/L)
Names	Influent conc. (mg/L)	Ce <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs conc. (mg/L)	Removal Eff. (%)	Ce <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs conc. (mg/L)	Removal Eff. (%)	
DCB metabolites						
N-acetyl-DCB	200	92	54	8	96	8
N,N'-diacetyl-DCB	90	45	50	4.5	95	4.5
2, 6-DMA metabolites						
4-hydroxy-2,6-dimethylaniline	670	549.4	18	40.2	94	40.2
2-amino-3-methylbenzoic acid	450	369	18	13.5	97	13.5
2, 6-dimethylnitrosobenzene	100	81	19	7	93	7
3, 5-dimethyl-4-iminoquinone	34	27.2	20	1.7	95	1.7
MOA metabolites						
cis-1, 2-dihydroxy-3-methoxycyclohexa-3,5-diene	80	65.6	18	3.2	96	3.2
2-methoxyphenol	60	48.6	19	3	95	3
Catechol	20	16.2	19	1.4	93	1.4
Trace amounts of phenol	3	2.49	17	0.27	91	0.27
TDA metabolites						
4-acetylamino-2-aminotoluene	40	29.6	26	5.6	86	5.6
2,4-diacetylaminotoluene	80	60.8	24	12.8	84	12.8
4-acetylamino-2-aminobenzoic acid	40	31.2	22	7.6	81	7.6
2,4-diacetylaminobenzoic acid	10	7.8	22	1.7	83	1.7
TOA metabolites						
Benzidine	20	18.2	9	1.8	91	1.8
Mono-acethyl benzidine	120	110.4	8	12	90	12
Acethyl benzidine	30	27.6	8	3	90	3
C1 <sup>+</sup>	25	23.25	7	3	88	3
Ethane	20	18.4	8	1.6	92	1.6
NA metabolites						
DMOB metabolites						

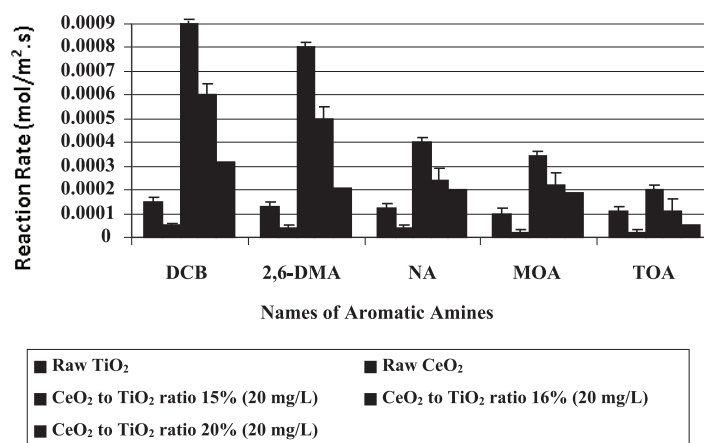
NA and 8-OH-2-NA were detected as NA metabolites. From 350 mg/L DCB 200 mg/L N-acetyl-DCB and 90 mg/L N,N'-diacetyl-DCB produced. 2000 mg/L 2,6-DMA metabolized principally to 670 mg/L 4-hydroxy-2,6-dimethylaniline (4-HDMA), to 450 mg/L 2-amino-3-methylbenzoic acid (2-AMBA), to 100 mg/L 2,6-dimethylnitrosobenzene and to 34 mg/L 3,5-dimethyl-4-imino-quinone during 130 W UV irradiation within 30 min photooxidation at 21°C at 15 mg/L CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, respectively. 250 mg/L MOA was converted to 80 mg/L cis-1,2-dihydroxy-3-methoxycyclohexa-3,5-diene (anisole-2,3-dihydrodiol), to 60 mg/L 2-methoxyphenol, to 20 mg/L catechol, and to trace amounts of phenol (3 mg/L) after 30 min photodegradation at 21°C with 15 mg/L CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, respectively. 360 mg/L TDA metabolites were 40 mg/L 4-acetyl-amino-2-aminotoluene, 80 mg/L 2,4-diacetylaminotoluene, their phenolic derivatives (40 mg/L 4-acetyl-amino-2-aminobenzoic acid and 10 mg/L 2,4-diacetylaminobenzoic acid) after 30 min irradiation times at 130 W UV power and at 21°C, respectively. 300 mg/L TOA metabolites are 20 mg/L benzidine, 120 mg/L mono-acetyl benzidine, 30 mg/L acetyl benzidine, 25 mg/L Cl<sup>-</sup> and 20 mg/L ethane after 30 min photodegradation, at 21°C with 15 mg/L CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, respectively.

DCB metabolites such as N-acetyl-DCB, N,N'-diacetyl-DCB removal efficiencies were 96% and 95%, after 30 min irradiation time (Table 4). 2,6-DMA metabolites such as 4-hydroxy-2,6-dimethylaniline, 2-amino-3-methylbenzoic acid, 2,6-dimethylnitrosobenzene, 3,5-dimethyl-4-imino quinone removal efficiencies were 94%, 97%, 93%, 95%, respectively after 30 min irradiation time (Table 4). MOA metabolites such as cis-1,2-dihydroxy-3-methoxycyclohexa-3,5-diene, 2-methoxyphenol, catechol, trace amount of phenol removal efficiencies were 96%, 95%, 93%, 91%, respectively, after 30 min irradiation time (Table 4). TDA metabolites such as 4-acetyl-amino-2-aminotoluene, 2,4-diacetylaminotoluene, 4-acetyl-amino-

2-aminobenzoic acid, 2,4-diacetylaminobenzoic acid removal efficiencies were 86%, 84%, 81%, 83%, respectively, after 30 min irradiation time (Table 4). TOA metabolites such as benzidine, mono-acetyl benzidine, acetyl benzidine, Cl<sup>-</sup>, ethane removal efficiencies were 91%, 90%, 90%, 88%, 92%, respectively after 30 min irradiation time (Table 4). Reaction rates of aromatic amines metabolites (DCB, 2,6-DMA, NA, MOA and TOA) illustrated in figure 10.

**Effect of increasing CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs concentrations with 5% and 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratios on the acute toxicity removal efficiencies in TI ww at increasing photodegradation time and temperature** Effect of increasing CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs concentrations with 5% and 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratios on the microtox acute toxicity removal efficiencies in TI ww at increasing photodegradation time and temperature: The initial EC<sub>90</sub> values at pH = 7.0 was found as 825 mg/L at 25°C (Table 5, Set 1). After 60 min, 120 and 150 min of photodegradation the EC<sub>90</sub> values decreased to EC<sub>55</sub> = 414 mg/L to EC<sub>20</sub> = 236 mg/L and to EC<sub>10</sub> = 165 mg/L in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L, at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 30°C (Table 5, Set 3). The toxicity removal efficiencies were 38.89%, 77.78% and 88.89% after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L, at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 30°C (Table 5, Set 3).

The EC<sub>90</sub> values decreased to EC<sub>50</sub>, to EC<sub>15</sub> and to EC<sub>5</sub> after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in TiO<sub>2</sub> = 20 mg/L, at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 60°C (Table 5, Set 3). The EC<sub>50</sub>, the EC<sub>15</sub> and the EC<sub>5</sub> values were measured as 550 mg/L, 540 and 500 mg/L, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L, at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 60°C. The toxicity removal efficiencies were 44.44%, 83.33% and 94.44% after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L, at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 60°C (Table 5, Set 3). 94.44% maximum Microtox acute toxicity yield was found in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L, at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, after 150 min photodegradation time at 60°C (Table 5, Set 3).



**Figure 10** Reaction rates of aromatic amines metabolites (DCB, 2,6-DMA, NA, MOA and TOA).

**Table 5:** Effect of increasing CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs concentrations with 5% and 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratios on Microtox acute toxicity in TI ww at 130 W UV light irradiation, at 30°C and at 60°C, respectively.

No	Parameters	Microtox Acute Toxicity Values, *EC (mg/L)							
		25°C							
		0. min	60. min	120. min	150. min				
		*EC <sub>90</sub>	*EC	*EC	*EC				
1	Raw ww, control	825	EC <sub>70</sub> = 510	EC <sub>60</sub> = 650	EC <sub>50</sub> = 640				
		30°C				60°C			
		0. min	60. min	120. min	150. min	0. min	60. min	120. min	150. min
		*EC <sub>90</sub>	*EC	*EC	*EC	*EC <sub>90</sub>	*EC	*EC	*EC
		825	EC <sub>70</sub> = 580	EC <sub>50</sub> = 580	EC <sub>40</sub> = 550	825	EC <sub>55</sub> = 550	EC <sub>40</sub> = 590	EC <sub>30</sub> = 690
3	CeO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 5% CeO <sub>2</sub> mass ratio	825	EC <sub>60</sub> = 422	EC <sub>25</sub> = 241	EC <sub>15</sub> = 168	825	EC <sub>55</sub> = 419	EC <sub>20</sub> = 266	EC <sub>10</sub> = 150
	CeO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 15% CeO <sub>2</sub> mass ratio	825	EC <sub>60</sub> = 421	EC <sub>25</sub> = 239	EC <sub>15</sub> = 167	825	EC <sub>55</sub> = 414	EC <sub>20</sub> = 232	EC <sub>10</sub> = 161
	CeO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 5% CeO <sub>2</sub> mass ratio	825	EC <sub>5</sub> = 414	EC <sub>20</sub> = 236	EC <sub>10</sub> = 165	825	EC <sub>50</sub> = 550	EC <sub>15</sub> = 540	EC <sub>5</sub> = 500
	CeO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 15% CeO <sub>2</sub> mass ratio	825	EC <sub>65</sub> = 408	EC <sub>30</sub> = 230	EC <sub>20</sub> = 162	825	EC <sub>60</sub> = 403	EC <sub>25</sub> = 218	EC <sub>15</sub> = 148

\*EC values were calculated based on COD<sub>dis</sub> (mg/L).

The EC<sub>90</sub> values decreased to EC<sub>60</sub> = 422 mg/L to EC<sub>25</sub> = 241 and to EC<sub>15</sub> = 168 mg/L after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L, at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 30°C (Table 5, Set 3). The EC<sub>90</sub> values decreased to EC<sub>60</sub> = 421 mg/L to EC<sub>25</sub> = 239 and to EC<sub>15</sub> = 167 mg/L after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L, at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 30°C. The EC<sub>90</sub> values decreased to EC<sub>65</sub> = 408 mg/L to EC<sub>30</sub> = 230 and to EC<sub>20</sub> = 162 mg/L after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L, at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 30°C. The Microtox acute toxicity removals were 83.33%, 83.33% and 77.78% in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, and in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, respectively, after 150 min photodegradation time at 30°C. It was obtained an inhibition effect of CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio to *Vibrio fischeri* after 150 min photodegradation time at 30°C (Table 5, Set 3).

The EC<sub>90</sub> values decreased to EC<sub>55</sub> = 419 mg/L to EC<sub>20</sub> = 266 and to EC<sub>10</sub> = 150 mg/L after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 60°C (Table 5, Set 3). The EC<sub>90</sub> values decreased to EC<sub>55</sub> = 414 mg/L to EC<sub>20</sub> = 232 and to EC<sub>10</sub> = 161 mg/L after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L, at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 60°C. The EC<sub>90</sub> values decreased to EC<sub>60</sub> = 403 mg/L to EC<sub>25</sub> = 218 and to EC<sub>15</sub> = 148 mg/L after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L, at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 60°C. The

Microtox acute toxicity removals were 88.89%, 88.89% and 83.33% in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio and in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, respectively, after 150 min photodegradation time at 60°C. It was observed an inhibition effect of CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio to *Vibrio fischeri* after 150 min photodegradation time at 60°C (Table 5, Set 3).

**Effect of increasing CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs concentrations with 5% and 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratios on the *Daphnia magna* acute toxicity removal efficiencies in TI ww at increasing photodegradation time and temperature:** The initial EC<sub>50</sub> values were observed as 850 mg/L at 25°C (Table 6, Set 1). After 60 min, 120 and 150 min of photodegradation the EC<sub>50</sub> values decreased to EC<sub>30</sub> = 350 mg/L to EC<sub>15</sub> = 240 mg/L and to EC<sub>10</sub> = 90 mg/L in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 30°C (Table 6, Set 3). The toxicity removal efficiencies were 40%, 70% and 80% after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 30°C (Table 6, Set 3).

The EC<sub>50</sub> values decreased to EC<sub>25</sub> to EC<sub>10</sub> and to EC<sub>5</sub> after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 60°C (Table 6, Set 3). The EC<sub>25</sub>, the EC<sub>10</sub> and the EC<sub>5</sub> values were measured as 150 mg/L, 60 and 375 mg/L, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L, at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 60°C. The toxicity removal efficiencies were 50%, 80% and 90% after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times,



**Table 6:** Effect of increasing CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs concentrations with 5% and 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratios on *Daphnia magna* acute toxicity in TI ww, at 130 W UV light irradiation, at 30°C and at 60°C, respectively.

No	Parameters	<i>Daphnia magna</i> Acute Toxicity Values, *EC (mg/L)							
		25°C							
		0. min		60. min		120. min		150. min	
		*EC <sub>50</sub>	*EC	*EC	*EC	*EC	*EC	*EC	*EC
1	Raw ww, control	850		EC <sub>45</sub> = 625		EC <sub>40</sub> = 370		EC <sub>30</sub> = 155	
		30°C				60°C			
		0. min	60. min	120. min	150. min	0. min	60. min	120. min	150. min
		*EC <sub>50</sub>	*EC	*EC	*EC	*EC <sub>50</sub>	*EC	*EC	*EC
2	Raw ww, control	850	EC <sub>40</sub> = 470	EC <sub>35</sub> = 230	EC <sub>25</sub> = 115	850	EC <sub>35</sub> = 375	EC <sub>30</sub> = 212	EC <sub>20</sub> = 75
3	CeO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 5% CeO <sub>2</sub> mass ratio	850	EC <sub>35</sub> = 450	EC <sub>20</sub> = 145	EC <sub>15</sub> = 260	850	EC <sub>30</sub> = 130	EC <sub>15</sub> = 425	EC <sub>10</sub> = 340
	CeO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 15% CeO <sub>2</sub> mass ratio	850	EC <sub>35</sub> = 450	EC <sub>20</sub> = 175	EC <sub>15</sub> = 100	850	EC <sub>30</sub> = 425	EC <sub>15</sub> = 140	EC <sub>5</sub> = 90
	CeO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 5% CeO <sub>2</sub> mass ratio	850	EC <sub>30</sub> = 350	EC <sub>15</sub> = 240	EC <sub>10</sub> = 90	850	EC <sub>25</sub> = 150	EC <sub>10</sub> = 60	EC <sub>5</sub> = 375
	CeO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 15% CeO <sub>2</sub> mass ratio	850	EC <sub>40</sub> = 300	EC <sub>25</sub> = 170	EC <sub>20</sub> = 52	850	EC <sub>35</sub> = 250	EC <sub>20</sub> = 110	EC <sub>15</sub> = 11

\*EC values were calculated based on COD<sub>dis</sub> (mg/L).

respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L, at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 60°C (Table 6, Set 3). 90% maximum *Daphnia magna* acute toxicity removal was obtained in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L, at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, after 150 min photodegradation time at 60°C (Table 6, Set 3).

The EC<sub>50</sub> values decreased to EC<sub>35</sub> = 450 mg/L to EC<sub>20</sub> = 145 and to EC<sub>15</sub> = 260 mg/L after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L, at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 30°C (Table 6, Set3). The EC<sub>50</sub> values decreased to EC<sub>35</sub> = 450 mg/L to EC<sub>20</sub> = 175 and to EC<sub>15</sub> = 100 mg/L after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L, at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 30°C. The EC<sub>50</sub> values decreased to EC<sub>40</sub> = 300 mg/L to EC<sub>25</sub> = 170 and to EC<sub>20</sub> = 52 mg/L after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L, at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 30°C. The *Daphnia magna* acute toxicity removals were 70%, 70% and 60% in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> = 15 mg/L at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio and in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, respectively, after 150 min photodegradation time at 30°C. It was observed an inhibition effect of CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> = NCs = 20 mg/L at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, to *Daphnia magna* after 150 min photodegradation time at 30°C (Table 6, Set 3).

The EC<sub>50</sub> values decreased to EC<sub>30</sub> = 130 mg/L to EC<sub>15</sub> = 425 and to EC<sub>10</sub> = 340 mg/L after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L, at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 60°C (Table 6, Set 3). The EC<sub>50</sub> values decreased to EC<sub>30</sub> = 425 mg/L to EC<sub>15</sub> = 140 and to EC<sub>5</sub> = 90 mg/L after 60 min, 120 and 150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L, at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 60°C. The EC<sub>50</sub> values decreased to EC<sub>35</sub> = 250 mg/L to EC<sub>20</sub> = 110 and to EC<sub>15</sub> = 11 mg/L after 60 min, 120 and

150 min photodegradation times, respectively, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L, at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, at 60°C. The *Daphnia magna* acute toxicity removals were 80%, 90% and 70% in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio and in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, respectively, after 150 min photodegradation time at 60°C. It was observed an inhibition effect of CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio to *Daphnia magna* after 150 min photodegradation time at 60°C (Table 6, Set3).

Increasing the CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs concentrations from 15 mg/l to 20 mg/L did not have a positive effect on the decrease of EC<sub>50</sub> values as shown in table 6 at Set 3. CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs concentrations > 20 mg/L decreased the acute toxicity removals by hindering the photodegradation process. Similarly, a significant contribution of increasing CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs concentration to acute toxicity removal at 60°C after 150 min of photodegradation time was not observed. Low toxicity removals found at high CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs concentrations could be attributed to their detrimental effect on the *Daphnia magna* (Table 6, Set 3).

**Direct Effects of CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs concentrations with 5% and 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratios on the acute toxicity of microtox and *Daphnia magna* in TI ww:** The acute toxicity test was performed in the samples containing in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio and in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, respectively. In order to detect the direct responses of Microtox and *Daphnia magna* to the increasing CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs concentrations with 5% and 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratios, the toxicity test were performed without TI ww. The initial EC values and the EC<sub>50</sub> values were measured in the samples

**Table 7:** The responses of Microtox and *Daphnia magna* acute toxicity tests in addition of increasing CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs concentrations with 5% and 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratios without TI ww after 150 min photodegradation time.

CeO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs Concentrations (mg/L)	Microtox Acute Toxicity Test			Daphnia magna Acute Toxicity Test		
	Initial EC <sub>50</sub> values (mg/L)	Inhibitions after 150 min	EC values (mg/L)	Initial EC <sub>50</sub> values (mg/L)	Inhibitions after 150 min	EC values (mg/L)
CeO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 5% CeO <sub>2</sub> mass ratio	EC <sub>10</sub> = 25	-	-	EC <sub>10</sub> = 40	-	-
CeO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 15% CeO <sub>2</sub> mass ratio	EC <sub>15</sub> = 80	4	EC <sub>1</sub> = 4	EC <sub>20</sub> = 100	6	EC <sub>3</sub> = 6
CeO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 5% CeO <sub>2</sub> mass ratio	EC <sub>20</sub> = 150	6	EC <sub>4</sub> = 7	EC <sub>30</sub> = 200	7	EC <sub>6</sub> = 12
CeO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 15% CeO <sub>2</sub> mass ratio	EC <sub>25</sub> = 220	8	EC <sub>6</sub> = 10	EC <sub>40</sub> = 300	10	EC <sub>8</sub> = 16

containing increasing CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs concentrations with 5% and 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratios, after 150 min photodegradation time. Table 7 showed the responses of Microtox and *Daphnia magna* to increasing TiO<sub>2</sub> concentrations.

The acute toxicity originating only from CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 5% mass ratio, to CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 15% mass ratio, to CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 5% mass ratio, to and to CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 15% mass ratio, respectively, were found to be low (Table 7). At CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 5% mass ratio did not exhibited toxicity to *Vibrio fischeri* and *Daphnia magna* before and after 150 min photodegradation time. The toxicity attributed to the CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 15 mg/L at 15% mass ratio, to CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 5% mass ratio, to and to CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 15% mass ratio, respectively, were found to be low in the samples without TI ww for the test organisms mentioned above. The acute toxicity originated from the CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs decreased significantly to EC<sub>1</sub>, EC<sub>4</sub> and EC<sub>6</sub> after 150 min photodegradation time. Therefore, it can be concluded that the toxicity originating from the CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs is not significant and the real acute toxicity throughout photodegradation was attributed to the TI ww, to their metabolites and to the photodegradation by-products (Table 7).

## Conclusion

The results show that 15 mg/L CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> nanocomposite with a CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio of 15%wt shows the highest photodegradation yield of color under both UV and visible-light irradiation, with maximum photo-degradation rates of 99% and 98.5%, respectively, after 30 min irradiation time. The maximum photooxidation yields for quercetin, fisetin and ellagic acid polyphenols were high (99%, 98% and 97%, respectively) while the yields for carminic acid, luteolin and curcumin polyphenols were slightly low (88%, 82% and 80%, respectively). The maximum yield was observed as 99% for DCB aromatic amine while the yields for MOA and NA were calculated as 98% and 97%, respectively after 30 min irradiation time at a power of 130 W UV.

94.44% maximum Microtox acute toxicity yield was found in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L, at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, after 150 min photodegradation time at 60°C. It was observed an inhibition effect of CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub>

mass ratio to *Vibrio fischeri* after 150 min photodegradation time at 30°C and at 60°C, respectively.

90% maximum *Daphnia magna* acute toxicity removal was obtained in CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L, at 5% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio, after 150 min photodegradation time at 60°C. It was obtained an inhibition effect of CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs = 20 mg/L at 15% CeO<sub>2</sub> mass ratio to *Daphnia magna* after 150 min photodegradation time at 30°C and 60°C, respectively. As a result, it can be concluded that the toxicity originating from the CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs is not significant and the real acute toxicity throughout photodegradation was attributed to the TI ww, to their metabolites and to the photodegradation by-products.

The CeO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> NCs samples showed strong spectral response in the visible region and exhibited high photocatalytic activity under UV or visible irradiation compared with pure nano-TiO<sub>2</sub> and nano-CeO<sub>2</sub>. It is an economical and environmentally sustainable method to utilize sunlight as a natural source of energy to treat dye wastewater through photocatalytic process.

## Acknowledgment

This research study was undertaken in the Environmental Microbiology Laboratories at Dokuz Eylül University Engineering Faculty Environmental Engineering Department, İzmir, Turkey. The authors would like to thank this body for providing financial support.

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**How to cite this article:** Öztekin R, Sponza DT. Photocatalytic Degradation of Polyphenols and Polyaromatic Amines in Textile Industry Wastewaters by Nano-Cerium Dioxide Doped Titanium Dioxide and the Evaluation of Acute Toxicity Assays with Microtox and *Daphnia magna*. *J Biomed Res Environ Sci.* 2022 Aug 09; 3(8): 852-866. doi: 10.37871/jbres1524, Article ID: JBRES1524, Available at: <https://www.jelsciences.com/articles/jbres1524.pdf>