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Investigation of the Biological Treatability of Pistachio Processing Industry Wastewaters in a Batch-operated Aerobic Bioreactor

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Abstract

This study encompasses investigation of treatment of pistachio processing industry wastewaters in a batch reactor under aerobic conditions, calculation of kinetic parameters and comparison of different inhibition models. The mixed microorganism culture used in the study was adapted to pistachio processing industry wastewaters for nearly one month and then concentrations from 50-1000 mg L⁻¹ of pistachio processing industry wastewaters were added to the medium and treatment was investigated in batch experiments. The Andrews, Han-Levenspiel, Luong and Aiba biokinetic equations were chosen for the correlations between the concentration of pistachio processing industry wastewaters and specific growth rates, and the kinetic parameters in these biokinetic equations were calculated. The maximum specific growth rate, semi-saturated constant and inhibition constant parameters, included in the Aiba biokinetic equation providing best fit among the other equations, had values calculated as 0.25 h⁻¹, 19 mg L⁻¹, and 516 mg L⁻¹, respectively. The substrate value reaches maximum value and the specific growth rate at this concentration were calculated as 101.379 mg L⁻¹ and 0.1827 h⁻¹, respectively

Key points

- Pistachio processing industry wastewaters was characterized and aerobic treatment of pistachio processing industry wastewaters was carried out.
- The biokinetic parameters calculated with the Andrew, Luong, Han-Levenspiel and Aiba models.
- Chemical oxygen demand and phenol removal efficiencies were determined in a real wastewater.

Keywords Aiba biokinetic equation · Biological treatment · Mathematical modeling · Pistachio processing industry wastewater

Introduction

A member of the Anacardiaceae family, the pistachio includes only 11 species with the most economic species known to be *Pistacia vera L.* (Alma et al. 2004). The pistachio was first cultivated by the Hittites settling in southeast Anatolia and spread to Rome in the 1st century and then on to Spain and France. The transition of pistachio to America occurred in 1853-54 (Kashaninejad and Tabil 2011). The pistachio grows in suitable microclimates from the 30-45° parallels in both north and south hemispheres of the globe (FAO 2018). Globally, countries producing pistachio are generally located in the northern hemisphere, and among these countries, Iran, USA and Turkey have shared the top three places in terms of production amounts for many years (FAO 2018). Pistachio yields product in an economic sense in regions with hot and dry summers (mean 25 °C), but very cool winters (mean 7.2 °C) (Ayfer 1990, Bilim and Polat 2006). Known as the king of nuts, pistachio may be described as a concentrated energy pill due to richness in proteins, vitamins and other minerals and nutritional features (Woodroof 1967). Pistachio contains twice the protein and four times the phosphorus compared

to beef, in addition to being very rich in terms of potassium, iron, vitamin A and vitamin B1 (Woodroof 1967).

Pistachio harvest occurs in the second half of August and beginning of September in warm regions like Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa located in Turkey (Ayfer 1964, Onay and Jeffree 2000). Globally, the pistachio processing industry (PPI) is rapidly developing and Turkey is 3rd place in pistachio production after Iran and the USA (FAO 2018). In Turkey, a wet system is used to process pistachio and nearly 6 m³ wastewater per ton is formed (Fil et al. 2014). This rate shows variability linked to the size of the operation. Pistachio processing industry wastewater (PPIW) contains high organic matter with polluting properties like high chemical oxygen demand (COD), high total organic carbon (TOC) and high total phenol (Fil et al. 2014).

There are 6 separate stages followed in order to strip the pistachio of the outer red covering. These stages are soaking, flaking, washing and shelling, empty-full separation, drying and cracking processes, in order, and the processes in these stages are shown in Fig 1 (Tırnık et al. 2020).

As seen in Fig 1, investigations of the PPI show that mean 100 m³ day⁻¹ water is used during flaking and shelling. It is known that nearly 20 m³ wastewater may form after processing 1 ton of pistachio while this rate may vary linked to the size of the operation (Doğru 2010).

PPIW contains dense suspended solid matter and phenols in the structure, in addition to high organic matter with polluting properties. Treatment is very difficult due to the toxic pollutants and discharge of PPIW into the receiving environment without treatment causes serious environmental problems. Due to these environmental problems, many studies related to

treatment of PPIW were completed in countries where production occurs, especially; however, there are limited numbers of studies. Among studies about recycling and treatment of PPIW, a study investigated the effect of domestic wastewater treatment using the active sludge process on PPIW (Khademi et al. 2018), in addition to studies listing chemical and biological alternatives like coagulation/flocculation (Tırınk et al. 2020), Fenton (Demir and Rastgeldi 2018; Bayar et al. 2018), electrocoagulation (Fil et al. 2012; Güçlü 2014; Bayar et al. 2014; Yılmaz and Köksal 2017; Isik et al. 2020), electrooxidation (Fil et al. 2012; Fil et al. 2014; Isik et al. 2020), and anaerobic treatment (Gür 2016; Ozay 2018; Gür and Demirer 2019). As a result of the high chemical oxygen demand of PPIW, there are no studies encountered in the literature about aerobic treatment.

As there are limited numbers of studies about treatment of PPIW, studies performed about similar wastewater will be a guide. Studies to be performed about this topic will contribute to the global literature while offering technological and economic choices for treatment of PPIW. This study investigated the biological treatment under aerobic conditions of wastewater due to production and processing of pistachio cultivated in Gaziantep located in southeast Turkey. Additionally, kinetic parameter values were calculated using data obtained from experiments with mixed cultures under aerobic conditions.

Materials and Methods

Wastewater and chemical matters

The PPIW used in the study was obtained from pistachio processing factories located in Gaziantep province in two different periods and the wastewater characterization is shown in

Table 1 (Tırink et al. 2020). All chemical agents required for the study were obtained commercially (Merck and Sigma quality).

Experimental system

The study used a reactor with 500 mL volume for batch experiments and the experimental system is shown in Fig 2. The mixing rate, medium temperature and pH values were chosen as 150 rpm, 25 ± 1 °C, and 7.5 ± 0.5 , respectively. The reactor was continuously ventilated during batch experiments with dissolved oxygen (DO) values kept above 2 mg L^{-1} .

Source of culture and culture media

The microorganisms used for removal in an aerobic medium for PPIW were obtained from active sludge from the precipitation pool of Erzincan Urban Wastewater Treatment Plant and from a continuously-fed milk industry wastewater feed tank. Later microorganisms were fed with PPIW as carbon source and attempts were made to ensure adaptation of microorganisms to the wastewater. To sustain the viability of microorganisms, a fluid culture medium with content given in Table 2 was used (Kul and Nuhoglu 2020; Ucu et al. 2010).

Analytic techniques

During the study, total phenol (TP) concentration was determined with the Folin-Ciocalteu method (Folin and Ciocalteu 1927; Atanassova et al. 2005) with suspended solid matter (SSM) and microorganism concentrations (X) determined spectrophotometrically at 525 nm wavelength (Nuhoglu and Yalcin 2005; Kul and Nuhoglu 2020). Additionally, for

confirmation, gravimetric microorganism concentrations were tested with the standard methods (APHA 1995). Nitrate and nitrite concentrations were measured with a Dionex ICS 3000 brand ion chromatography device, while total organic carbon (TOC) and total nitrogen (TN) measurements were made with a Teldyne-Tekmar Apollo 9000 analysis device. Phosphate analysis used ammonium vanadomolybdate with absorbance measured with a spectrophotometer at 400 nm wavelength. The pH and temperature in the reactor were measured and recorded continuously with a WTW brand multiline P4 model multiparameter measurement device according to the electrometric method. The DO amount was determined by dipping an oximeter probe into the sample according to the membrane electrode method. Other analyses were performed as shown in standard methods (APHA 1995).

Biological treatment and microbial kinetics

The performance of biological processes used for wastewater treatment is linked to the dynamics of the substrate used and microbial growth. Thus, effective design and operation of systems requires an understanding of the basic principles of biological reactions and microorganism proliferation. Kinetic models are used with the aim of defining the removal of nutritional material from wastewater within the framework of some basic assumptions. Most biological treatment processes are very complex, operate within mutual interactions and contain mixed microbiological populations. For this reason, mathematical modelling of wastewater treatment systems is important to a very high degree. Microbial growth kinetics explain the substrate oxidation in a biological reactor and the production of biomass forming the total suspended solid concentration. The simplest and most-commonly used model for wastewater treatment is Monod kinetics, which is shown in Eq 1 (Winkler 1981; Schugerl 1991; Tchobanoglous et al. 2003).

$$\mu = \frac{\mu_{max} * S}{K_s + S} \quad (1)$$

Here, μ is the specific reproduction rate (h^{-1}), S is the substrate concentration (COD concentration in PPIW ($mg L^{-1}$), and K_s is the semi-saturated constant ($mg L^{-1}$).

The K_s and μ_{max} values given in Eq 1 vary according to the microorganisms used and the substrate type limiting growth in the medium. The Monod equation is mainly used to define reactions occurring at low rates with very high cell concentrations. In situations where the reaction occurs more rapidly, deviations develop in the Monod characteristic curve and it is inadequate to define the reaction kinetics. Different mathematical models like Andrews (Andrews 1968), Luong (Luong 1987), Han-Levenspiel (Han and Levenspiel 1988) and Aiba (Aiba et al. 1968) are successful in defining the effect of substrate inhibition on bacterial activity rates and these equations are shown in order in Eqs 2-5. These equations are related to the specific growth rate, in addition to specific substrate consumption rates.

$$\text{Andrews} \quad \mu = \frac{\mu_{max} * S}{(K_s + S) + (1 + \frac{S}{K_i})} \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Luong} \quad \mu = \frac{\mu_{max} * S}{K_s + S} * \left[1 - \frac{S}{S_m} \right]^n \quad (3)$$

$$\text{Han-Levenspiel} \quad \mu = \mu_{max} \left[1 - \frac{S}{S_m} \right]^n * \frac{S}{S + K_s - \left[1 - \frac{S}{S_m} \right]^m} \quad (4)$$

$$\text{Aiba} \quad \mu = \frac{\mu_{max} * S}{K_s + S} * \exp\left(-\frac{S}{K_i}\right) \quad (5)$$

Here, K_i is the inhibition constant (mg L^{-1}) and S_m is the maximum substrate concentration that fully inhibits proliferation.

Calculation of kinetic parameter values

After microorganisms were habituated to PPIW in the aerobic medium for nearly one month, batch experiments began. For batch experiments, the microorganism concentration (X , mg L^{-1}) was fixed, while different concentrations of PPIW (S , mg L^{-1}) were added to Erlenmeyer flasks and the variation in concentrations of X , S and TP were monitored over time.

To calculate the specific reproduction rate (μ) in this study, Eq 6 was used. The logarithm of the concentration of X varying over time in each experiment was obtained and the values were plotted on a graph against time and the μ values were calculated from the linear section of the slope.

$$\ln X_t = \ln X_0 + \mu * t \quad (6)$$

Here, X_t is the microorganism concentration at time t (mg L^{-1}) and X_0 is the initial microorganism concentration (mg L^{-1}).

The initial concentrations of PPIW (S) and specific growth rates (μ) underwent non-linear regression considering the mathematical equations in Eqs 2-5. Using the obtained values, the biokinetic parameters in the Andrew, Luong, Han-Levenspiel and Aiba equations were

calculated using the non-linear calculation module in Statistica 7.0 software.

Mathematical model

To model the variation occurring in S and X values in the batch reactor, the two-component Aiba-based biokinetic model was chosen. The mathematical expressions used to calculate S and X values are given in Eqs 7-8.

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = -r_1 \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{dX}{dt} = r_2 \quad (8)$$

Using Equation 7 and Equation 8, the reaction rates were organized as given in Eqs 9-10.

$$r_1 = -\frac{\mu_{max} * S * X}{(K_s + S) * Y} * \exp\left(-\frac{S}{K_i}\right) \quad (9)$$

$$r_2 = \frac{\mu_{max} * S * X}{(K_s + S)} * \exp\left(-\frac{S}{K_i}\right) - b * X \quad (10)$$

Here, Y is the yield factor and b is the death constant (h^{-1}).

The yield factor for substrate concentrations (dry biomass weight/substrate weight) was calculated using Eq 11.

$$Y = \frac{\Delta X}{\Delta S} \quad (12)$$

Results

Removal from PPIW under aerobic conditions

For nearly one month, microorganisms used for removal from PPIW were habituated to PPIW under aerobic conditions. Later, initial microorganism concentrations were kept fixed and substrate with amounts varying from 50 to 1000 mg L⁻¹ were added and batch experiments began. During the study, mixing rate was 150 rpm, pH value was 7.5±0.5 and temperature was set to 25±1 °C. The variation over time for different initial X, S and TP concentrations in the study is shown in Fig 3.

Fig 3 shows the easily degraded organic portion of PPIW was consumed by microorganisms over time. As the initial concentration S increased in the study, the adaptation time for microorganisms lengthened and in parallel with this, the removal durations of the S concentrations increased.

Removal kinetics for PPIW in batch reactor under aerobic conditions

One of the most important points that requires care when revealing the proliferation kinetics of microorganisms is choosing the equation showing the correlation between μ and S. Data obtained from the graphs in Fig 3 and with the aid of Eq 6 calculated the μ value by taking the variation in the X value over time. For each S₀ value, the μ values obtained in the exponential breeding phase and coefficients using Eqs 2-5 were obtained and shown in Table 3, along with the graphs in Fig 4.

All these models mathematically express the inhibition effect of enzymes and substrates on proliferation of microorganisms. When deciding on the type of inhibition when attempting enzyme inhibition, the first step is determination of the inhibition type with graphic methods. Rapid development of computer technology in recent years has ensured linearization of enzyme inhibition kinetics and determination with non-linear regression solution techniques without requiring graphic methods. The non-linear regression solution techniques provide fit of experimental data to many inhibition models and selection of the most appropriate model is linked to a variety of assessment criteria. Statistical parameters are one of these assessment criteria. In the literature, there are many studies related to proliferation of microorganisms in the presence of inhibitors. In these studies, many parameters like μ_{\max} , K_s and K_i can be determined with graphic methods or with non-linear regression solution techniques (Antunes et al. 2003).

Assessment of results obtained after kinetic analyses used the boundary conditions included in Table 4 (Luong 1987). Among models abiding by the boundary conditions, the kinetic coefficients for the model with smallest $\sum(\mu-\mu_i)^2$ total were taken and the model with best fit to experimental results was identified using Table 3. Here, μ_e^* is the largest μ value measured during experiments.

The biokinetic parameters (μ_{\max} , K_s , K_i , S_m , n and m) calculated with the Andrew, Luong, Han-Levenspiel and Aiba models in studies with similar wastewater and in this study are comparatively presented in Table 5.

As can be seen in Table 5, pure and mixed cultures were used to obtain the kinetic profile in biodegradation processes. The μ_{\max} value calculated in this study was identified as 0.2517 h^{-1} according to the Aiba biokinetic model with best fit. Additionally, the K_s value in this study was $19.9013 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ which is relatively smaller than values calculated in other studies, which may be explained by the high affinity of the mixed culture for PPIW. The K_i value was $516.434 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ which shows that PPIW may have inhibitory effects at relatively higher concentrations. The literature shows that differences observed between biokinetic coefficients may be linked to many factors like environmental factors, differences in dominant microbial species and degree of adaptation of microbial cultures to wastewater.

Investigation of fit with Aiba model

Eqs 9-10 were solved at the same time to calculate the model for variations in S and X values within the reactor over time. Eqs 9-10 used the Aiba model coefficients. The model accepting $Y=0.32 \text{ g g}^{-1}$ and $b=0.001 \text{ h}^{-1}$ was applied to initial concentrations from $50\text{-}1000 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$. Results obtained at the end of experiments may be seen in Fig 5.

Fig 5 shows the values obtained for experiments with different S_0 concentrations with S and X values in the reactor found with simultaneous solution of a 2-component simple model range. The real-time increase in S and X values found higher values than in the model. Profiles obtained using the same model coefficients for S and X showed deviations from these values. To improve these deviations, the Berkeley Madonna program curve-fit feature was used and the program was operated again with $b=0.0005\text{-}0.008 \text{ h}^{-1}$ and $Y=0.2\text{-}1 \text{ g g}^{-1}$. The mean of the

different Y and b values found for wastewater concentrations between 50-1000 mg L⁻¹ were 0.3 g g⁻¹ and 0.0005 h⁻¹, respectively. The results obtained with these new optimum Y and b values can be seen on Fig 6.

Due to the complicated compounds in PPIW, none of the trialed models were successful in reflecting the measured substrate variation profiles. All of the trialed models predicted that the substrates would be degraded in shorter durations. Contrary to this, as can be seen on graphs obtained using this data, the model appears to be successful in showing the X variation.

Of the three biokinetic constants included in the Aiba biokinetic equation, K_i measures the inhibition intensity caused by the inhibitory material, K_s is the semi-saturated constant and μ_{max} value explains half of the measured S concentration. The K_s value also shows the affinity of the microorganism for the substrate. Additionally, if there is a substrate inhibitor, it is not possible to observe the real μ_{max} value. Thus, K_s gains an assumptive meaning. In this situation, if dμ/dS=0, the S value reaches maximum value (S*) and the μ value (μ*) at this concentration must be calculated as given in Eqs 13-14 (Nuhoğlu and Yalçın 2005, Kul and Nuhoğlu 2020).

$$S^* = \sqrt{K_s K_i} \quad (13)$$

$$\mu^* = \frac{\mu_{max}}{2\left(\sqrt{\frac{K_s}{K_i}}\right)+1} \quad (14)$$

The inhibition value given in Eq 14 reflects not just the K_i value but also the K_s/K_i ratio. Large K_s/K_i and small μ* values are associated with μ_{max}, and this is the largest inhibition degree (Nuhoğlu and Yalçın 2005). Using the kinetic constant values calculated for μ_{max}, K_s and K_i with the aid of Eqs 13-14, the S* and μ* values were calculated as 101.379 mg L⁻¹ and 0.1827

h^{-1} , respectively (Nuhoğlu and Yalçın 2005, Kul and Nuhoğlu, 2020). The graphs obtained with the aid of these calculated values are shown in Fig 7.

When Fig 7 is investigated, all the trialed models predicted the substrate would be degraded in shorter durations. Contrary to this, as can be seen from graphs obtained using data for the model, more successful graphs were obtained when the S^* and μ^* values were used to show S and X variations.

Discussion

In this study attempting to treat the significant pollutant of PPIW in a batch reactor under aerobic conditions, the following results were obtained.

The study used a mixed microorganism culture obtained from Erzincan urban active sludge facility and adapted to PPIW for nearly 1 month and investigated the treatment of PPIW with different amounts from 50-1000 mg L⁻¹ in batch experiments. Due to the biologically easily degraded organic matter content, at the end of 12 hours removal efficiency was 83% for 50 mg L⁻¹ substrate concentration, 85% for 100 mg L⁻¹ substrate concentration, 87% for 250 mg L⁻¹ substrate concentration, 88% for 500 mg L⁻¹ substrate concentration, 87% for 750 mg L⁻¹ substrate concentration and 84% for 1000 mg L⁻¹ substrate concentration.

The Andrews, Han-Levenspiel, Luong and Aiba biokinetic equations were chosen for the association between initial PPIW concentration and specific growth rate and the kinetic parameters in these equations were calculated. Considering the regression coefficients (R^2) and $\sum(\mu-\mu_i)^2$ values for the curves drawn using the model equations and kinetic parameter

values, the biokinetic equation with best fit among the equations was the Aiba. The values for the μ_{\max} , K_s and K_i parameters included in this equation were calculated as 0.25 h^{-1} , 19 mg L^{-1} , and 516 mg L^{-1} , respectively.

Large K_s/K_i and small μ^* values are associated with μ_{\max} and this is the largest inhibition degree. Using the kinetic constant values calculated for μ_{\max} , K_s and K_i , the S^* and μ^* values were calculated as $101.379 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ and 0.1827 h^{-1} . It appeared that the simulation operated with these values was much more efficient.

Author contribution ST and AN conceived and designed research. ST conducted experiments. ST and SK analyzed data. SK wrote the manuscript. All authors read and approved the manuscript.

Data availability Some or all data, models, or code that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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Compliance with Ethical Standards

Ethical approval This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

Conflicts of interest Sevtaç Tırınk declares that she has no conflict of interest. Alper Nuhuğlu declares that he has no conflict of interest. Sinan Kul declares that he has no conflict of interest.

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Table 1. Characterization of the PPIW

Measured parameter	Unit	1st period	2nd period
TCOD	mg L ⁻¹	20 891	15 700
DCOD	mg L ⁻¹	9 137	4 520
PCOD	mg L ⁻¹	11 754	11 184
TSS	mg L ⁻¹	9 600	6 100
TSM	mg L ⁻¹	16 384	11 710
TOC	mg L ⁻¹	3 410	3 225
TN	mg L ⁻¹	125.5	116
BOD (final)	mg L ⁻¹	3 742	3 074
TP	mg L ⁻¹	1 750	354.34
P	mg L ⁻¹	52.26	13.45
Ammonia	mg L ⁻¹	1.31	1.02
Oil	mg L ⁻¹	11.37	9.6
pH	mg L ⁻¹	5.99	5.5
Temperature	°C	18	18
Conductivity	ms cm ⁻¹	2.69	2.67
Turbidity	NTU	995	990
Cl ⁻	mg L ⁻¹	-	290.67
NO ₃ ⁻	mg L ⁻¹	-	0.61
SO ₄ ²⁻	mg L ⁻¹	-	37.32
PO ₄ ³⁻	mg L ⁻¹	-	6.7
Na ⁺	mg L ⁻¹	-	337.79
NH ₄ ⁺	mg L ⁻¹	-	2.58
K ⁺	mg L ⁻¹	-	650.8
Mg ⁺	mg L ⁻¹	-	24.18
Ca ⁺	mg L ⁻¹	-	121.127

Table 2. Content of liquid culture media (for 100 g L⁻¹ COD)

Chemical agent	Unit	Amount
Ammonium sulfate ((NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄)	mg L ⁻¹	72.22
Magnesium sulfate (MgSO ₄ .7H ₂ O)	mg L ⁻¹	10
Iron III chloride (FeCl ₃ .6H ₂ O)	mg L ⁻¹	0.1
Manganese sulfate (MnSO ₄ . H ₂ O)	mg L ⁻¹	10
Calcium chloride (CaCl ₂)	mg L ⁻¹	2
Potassium phosphate (KH ₂ PO ₄)	mg L ⁻¹	50
Potassium diphosphate (K ₂ HPO ₄)	mg L ⁻¹	100

Table 3. Kinetic parameters obtained after modeling

Model	μ_{\max}	K_s	K_i	S_m	m	n	R^2	$\sum(\mu-\mu_i)^2$
Andrews	1.1257	126.969	53.7951	-	-	-	0.9542	$1.35 \cdot 10^{-3}$
Luong	0.1894	4.6084	-	1000	-	1.0908	0.9653	$1.39 \cdot 10^{-3}$
Han-Levenspiel	0.1896	5.6131	-	1000	1	1.0991	0.9653	$1.39 \cdot 10^{-3}$
Aiba	0.2517	19.9013	516.4340	-	-	-	0.9827	$4.9 \cdot 10^{-4}$

Table 4. Boundary conditions

$K_s \leq K_i$
$\mu_e^* \leq \mu_{\max} \leq 3\mu_e^*$
$K_s \leq 1\,000 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$

Table 5. Comparison of calculated biokinetic parameters with data obtained from similar wastewater

Wastewater	Model	μ_{\max} (h ⁻¹)	K_s (mg L ⁻¹)	K_i (mg L ⁻¹)	K (mg L ⁻¹)	S_m	n	m	Reference
Olive Mill Wastewater	Aiba	0.302	22.306	623.496	-	-	-	-	Kul and Nuhoğlu, 2020
	Haldane	0.428	45.335	207.967	-	-	-	-	
	Tseng	0.099	79.563	0.1	-	1.802	-	-	
	Yano and Koga	0.18	3.613	1327.466	1189.181	-	-	-	
Tannins	Haldane	0.545±0.194	0.119±0.065	0.234±0.129	-	-	-	-	Tramšek et al., 2006
	Edwards	0.319±0.045	0.066±0.013	0.732±0.168	-	-	-	-	
	Luong	0.358±0.061	0.063±0.019	-	-	0.972±0.338	0.832±0.666	-	
	Aiba	0.481±0.081	0.096±0.027	0.557±0.086	-	-	-	-	
Cellulose production	Andrew	0.536	2.43	2.42	-	-	-	-	Agarwal, Mahanty et al., 2009
	Han-Levenspiel	0.162	58.73	-	-	14.91	0.622	34.98	
	Luong	0.367	2.48	-	-	1681	220.1	-	
	Aiba	0.369	2.49	7.59	-	-	-	-	
Phenol removal	Han-Levenspiel	0.2901	252.1	-	-	720	1	1	Dey and Mukherjee, 2010
	Luong	0.1291	59.39	-	-	1148	0.9	-	
	Aiba	0.2579	200.3	502	-	-	-	-	
Phenol removal	Luong	0.0238	46.67	-	-	400	2.1	-	Saravanan, Pakshirajan et al., 2011
	Han-Levenspiel	0.0257	40.55	-	-	400	0.6	1	
PPIW	Andrew	1.1257	126.97	53.7951	-	-	-	-	This study
	Han-Levenspiel	0.1896	5.6131	-	-	1000	1.099	1	
	Luong	0.1894	4.6084	-	-	1000	1.099	-	
	Aiba	0.2517	19.9013	516.434	-	-	-	-	

Figure List

Fig 1. Production process in the PPIW

Fig 2. Experimental setup used during batch experiments

Fig 3. Variation in X, S and TP concentrations for PPIW with different initial concentrations

Fig 4. Fit of data obtained from PPIW with biological substrate inhibition models

Fig 5. Fit of Aiba biokinetic model to data obtained

Fig 6. Fit of Aiba biokinetic model with obtained data for optimum Y and b values

Fig 7. Fit of Aiba biokinetic model with data for data obtained using S^* and μ^*



Fig 1.

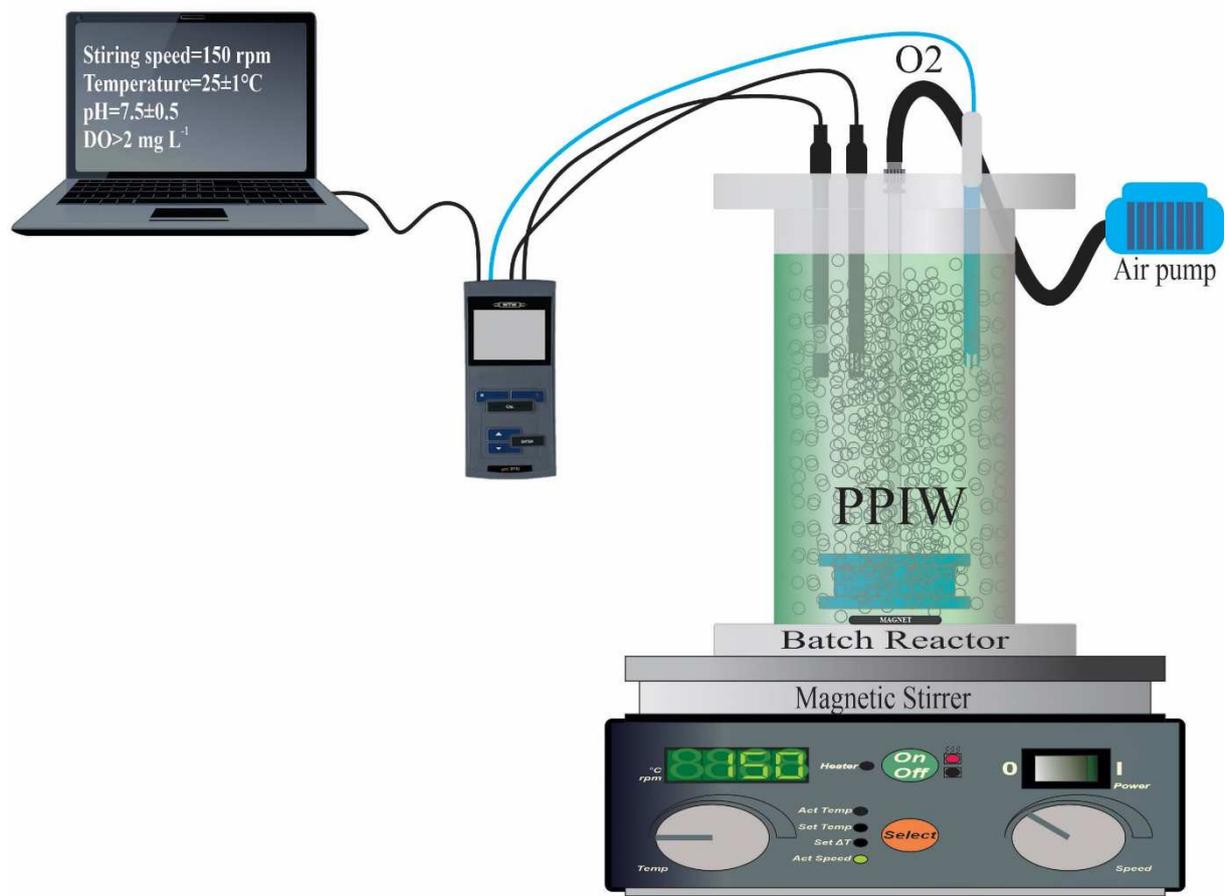


Fig 2.

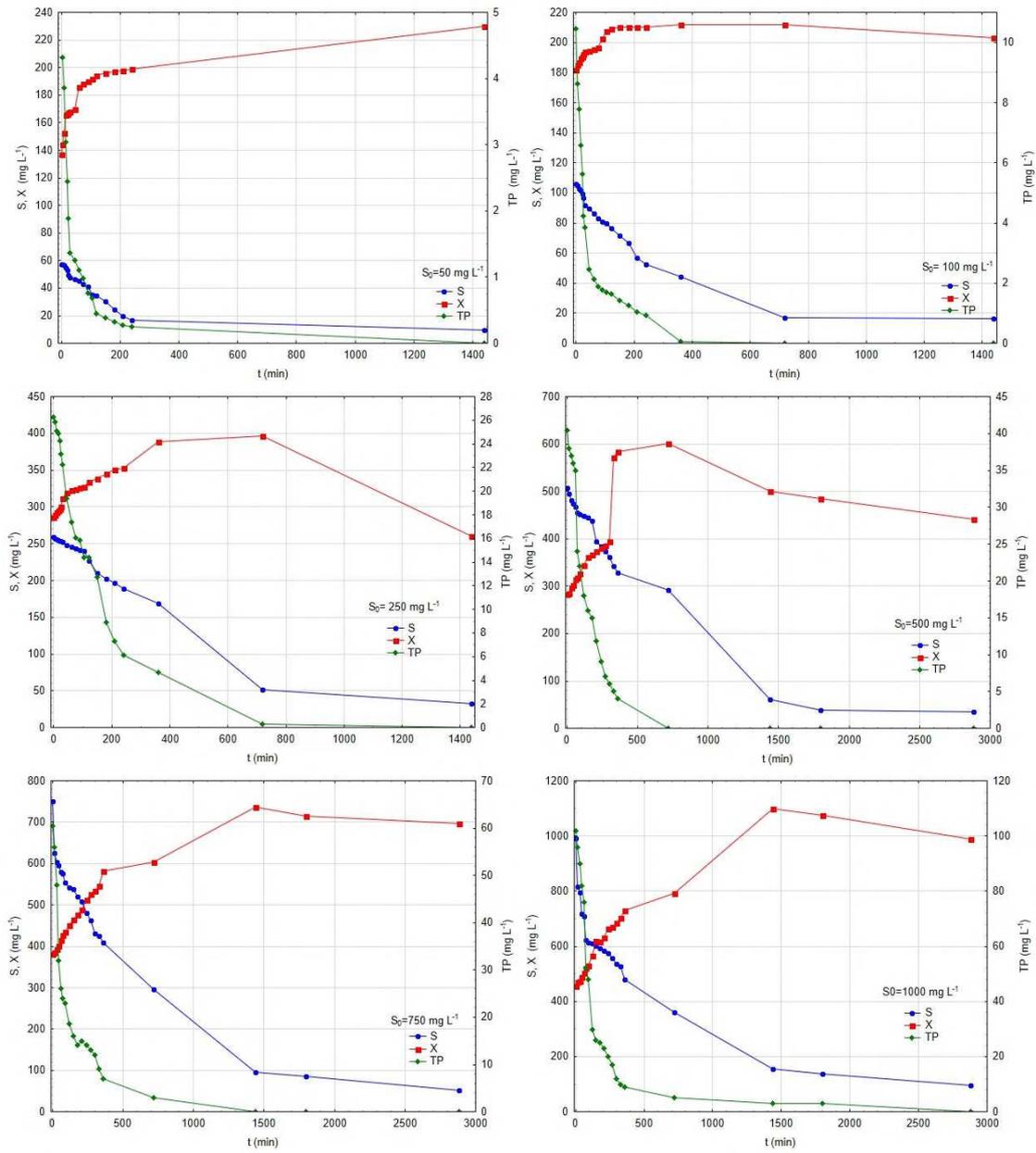


Fig 3.

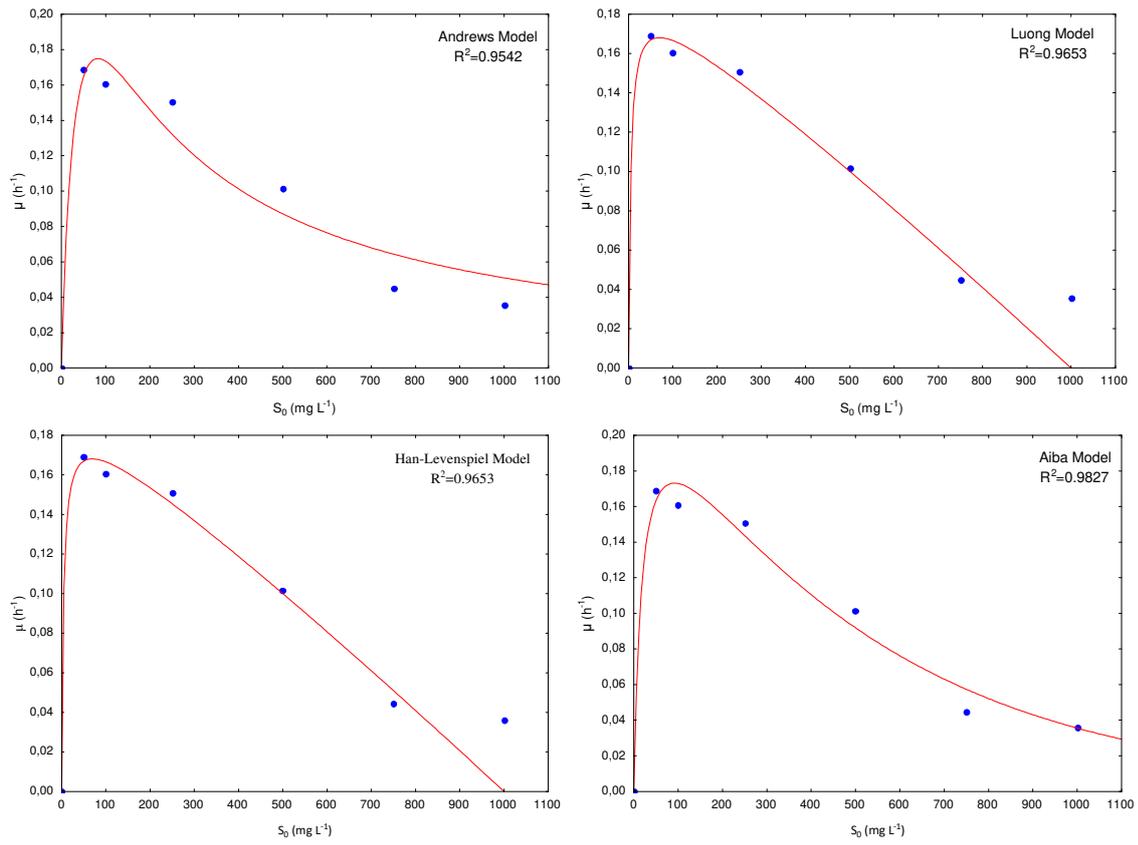


Fig 4.

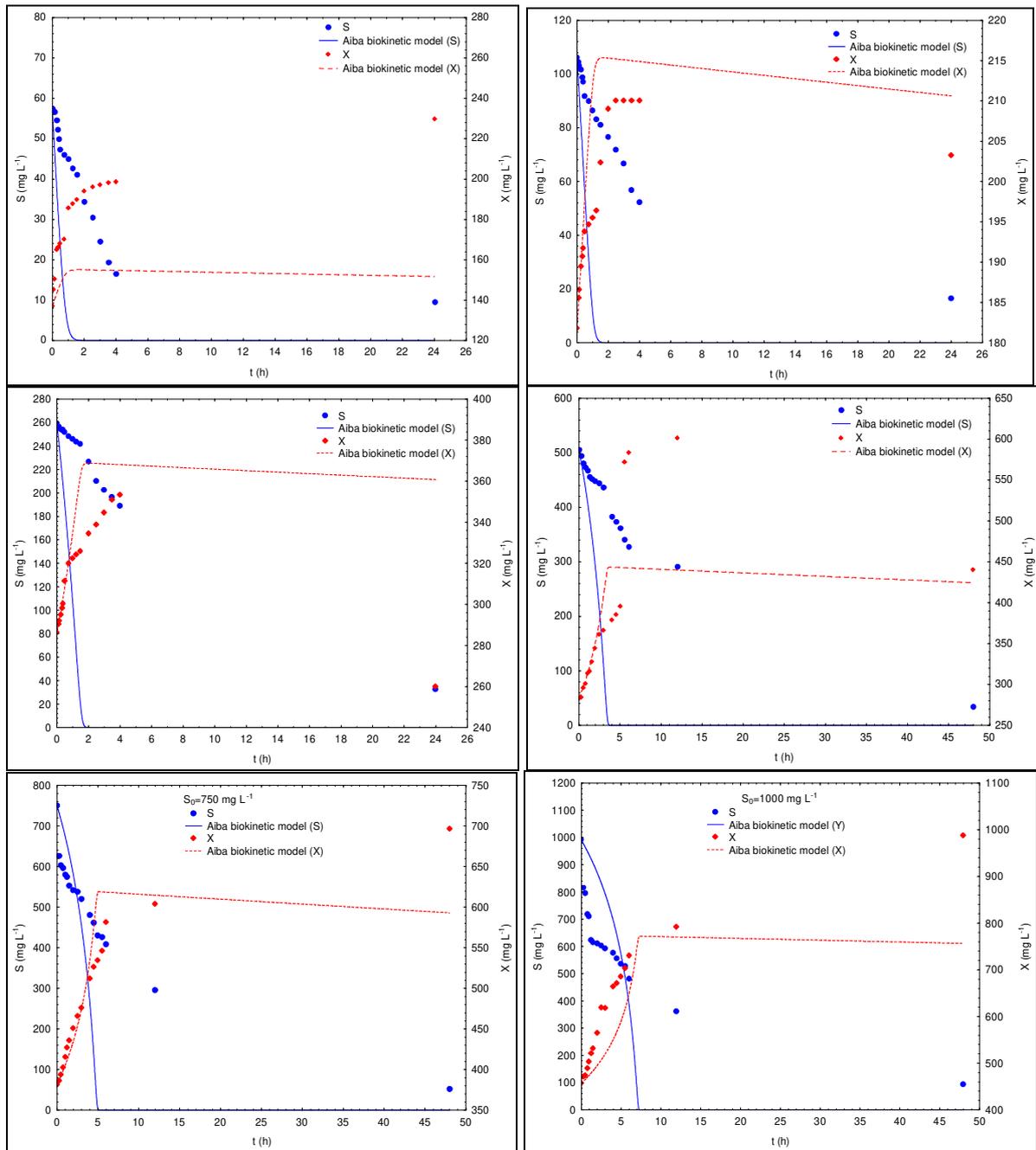


Fig 5.

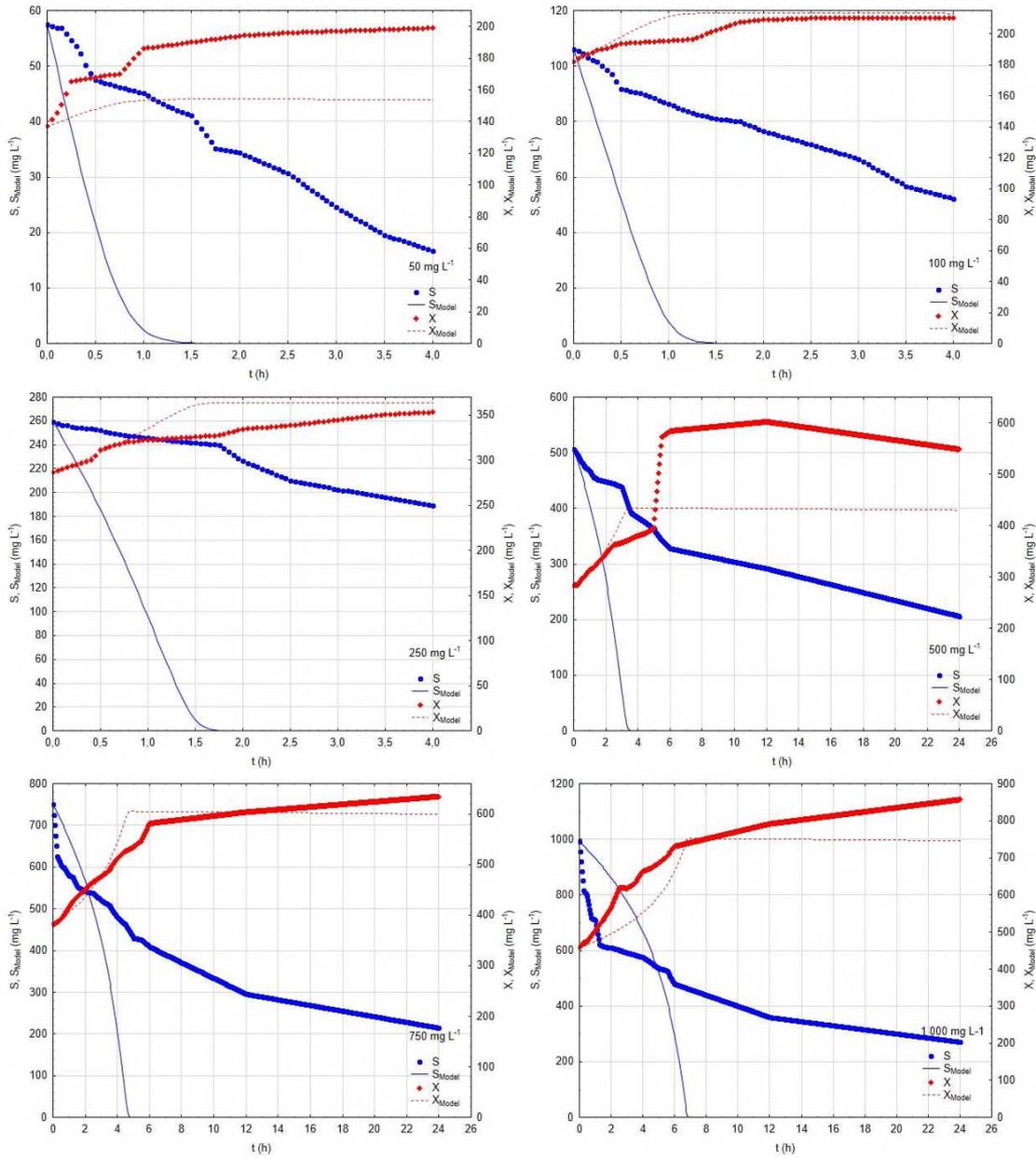


Fig 6.

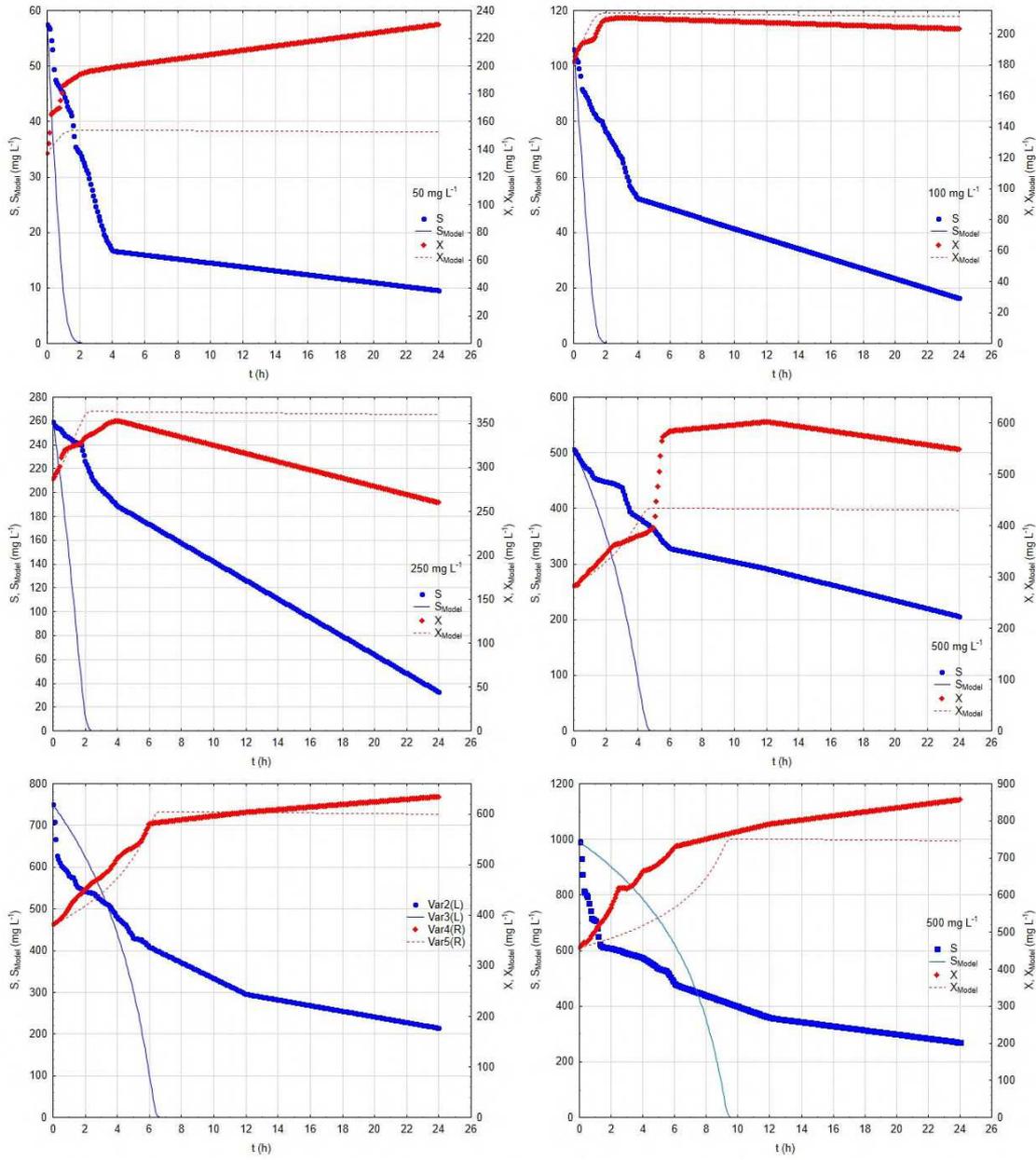


Fig 7.

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