

## Study on Odor Detection and Microbial Identification Method in Closed Water Area of Jiangxi Province

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*closed water area, odor detection, microbial decomposition*

### ABSTRACT

The problem of odor in water has become one of the most concerned issues of the public. The odor emitted from water will not only lead to deterioration of water quality, but also increase the cost of water treatment, which will have an adverse impact on the ecological environment. This paper takes the Doushui Lake water area as an example to study the odor detection and microbial identification methods by combining Sensory-GC with GC/MS, the research results show that: the water body of the Doushui Lake has a variety of odors, mainly grassy smell, musty smell, earthy smell, pungent smell, liquorice smell and burnt smell. There are four main substances, TCA, Geosmin,  $\beta$ -Cyclocitral and  $\alpha$ -Cedrol, and their highest concentrations reach 124 ng/L, 97 ng/L, 43 ng/L and 48 ng/L, respectively. The decomposition of algae by microorganisms produces volatile gas compounds, mainly are dimethyl disulfide and dimethyl tetra sulfide. In the decomposition process, the contents of these two compounds both increase first and decrease later.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

With the continuous improvement of people's living standards, the requirements for drinking water quality become more demanding. However, due to the acceleration of industrialization, water pollution has become increasingly serious [1]. The problem of odor in water has become one of the most concerned issues of the public. The odor emitted from the water will not only lead to deterioration of water quality, but also increase the cost of water treatment, which will have an adverse impact on the ecological environment [2]. However, some microorganisms contained in the water can oxidize and decompose odorous substances, and can effectively remove odor substances. Therefore, it is urgent to find out the sources and causes of odorous substances in water bodies and find a quick and effective odor removal method [3].

At present, the problem of water odor has aroused widespread concern around the world. Many experts and scholars at home and abroad have conducted targeted research and achieved numerous research results. Some scholars have studied the types and sources of odorous substances in water bodies [4, 5]; some scholars have studied the detection methods of odor substances in water [6-8]; and some scholars have studied the treatment of odorous substances in water [9, 10]. Taking the water area of the Doushui Lake in Jiangxi Province as an example, this paper studies the odor detection and microbial identification methods, which has intensified practical significance and can provide useful reference for the study of odor in other water bodies.

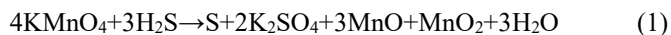
## 2. ANALYSIS OF RELATED THEORIES

### 2.1 Odor detection of water areas

At present, the odors in water bodies mainly include: earthy smell, rancid smell, fishy smell and grassy smell caused by plankton; smell of chlorobenzene and tar caused by industrial sewage [11]. The odor substances are mainly: 2-isopropyl-2-methoxypyrazine (IPMP), Geosmin, 2, 3, 6-trichloroanisole (TCA), etc. The causes of odor in water are mainly divided into two categories: one is caused by natural factors such as natural substances (such as sulfate, iron) in the soil layer, or hydrogen sulfide produced by lake sediment, or produced by the reproduction and rot of animals, plants and microorganisms (such as algae, zooplankton, various bacteria, etc.) in the water. The other category is caused by human factors, mainly the discharge of a large amount of industrial wastewater and domestic sewage into water bodies, and the wastewater can produce odorous substances [12].

For the control of odorous substances, the more traditional treatment processes mainly include coagulation, sedimentation, sand filtration, etc. Although these methods have a certain effect on the removal of odor, the effect is not ideal, and it is also necessary to rely on other advanced treatment processes, such as adding odor control agents (activated carbon, potassium permanganate, liquid chlorine, etc.) for the treatment [13].

The reaction formula of using potassium permanganate to remove hydrogen sulfide from water is:

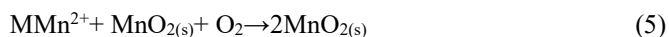


Usually, the pH value in the water body needs to be controlled at 6.5-7, and the generated sulfur and manganese dioxide that other precipitate can be removed by filtration. If the pH value is too high, the following reaction will occur:



The higher the pH of the water, the faster the reaction formulas (2) and (3) proceed.

If potassium permanganate reacts with reducing substances in the water, manganese dioxide is produced. Manganese dioxide has a strong adsorption capacity, and odorous substances in water can be adsorbed to the surface of manganese dioxide and precipitated and removed [14]. The chemical reaction formula is:



When the pH value of the water is 7.5-8, the removal rate of the odorous substance is higher.

## 2.2 Microorganisms in water area

Besides natural dwellers, microorganisms in water also include some foreign pathogenic microorganisms. Microorganisms that enter the water body from the outside are gradually dying due to their unsuitability for environmental conditions, but a small portion can survive for a long time. Most of the bacteria isolated from the water environment are Gram-negative bacilli. Bacteria with sheaths and appendages are mostly aquatic. As a primary producer, photosynthetic bacteria are particularly important in the circulation of water body elements [15].

In closed water area, the pH range is between 6.5 and 8.5, which is suitable for the growth of most microorganisms. Since oxygen is less soluble in water and is easily depleted by microorganisms, oxygen is an important limiting factor for the growth of microorganisms [16].

## 3. ODOR DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF MICROORGANISMS

### 3.1 Odor detection

There are many lakes in Jiangxi Province, among which there are three large closed water areas, namely the water areas of Xiannv Lake, Zhelin Lake and Doushui Lake. This paper selects the Doushui Lake as the research object and uses Sensory-GC to study the odor components in water body, it also uses GC/MS combination to monitor the odorous compounds in the water body.

First, set up 4 water sample collection points in Doushui Lake water area, and wash the glassware with acetone and dichloromethane before collecting the water samples. After sampling, label the glassware and record it and send back to the lab for testing.

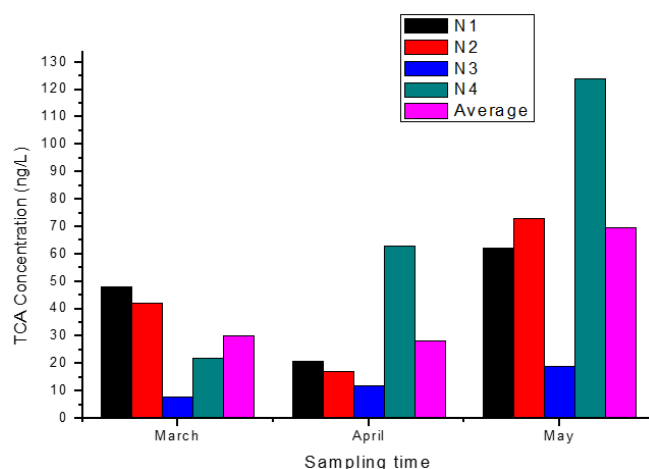
Through the detection of the collected water samples, the

main odors and main substances contained in Doushui Lake water area from March to May 2017 are shown in Table 1.

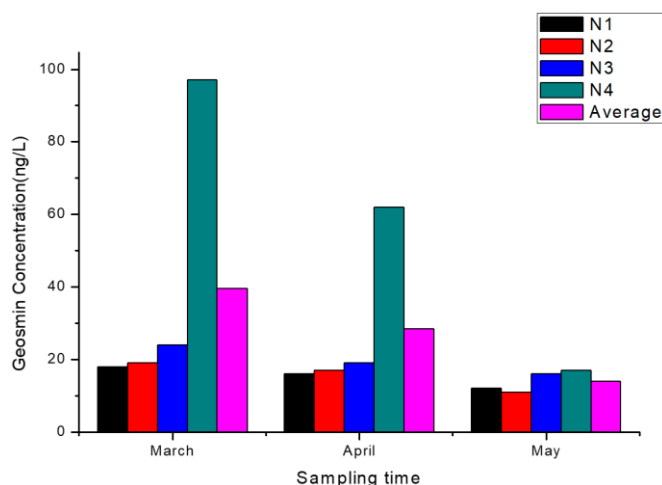
**Table 1.** Main odors and substances contained in Doushui Lake water area from March to May 2017

Odor description	Odor intensity	Check water sample/month	Note
Grassy	B	March, April, May	2,3,6-trichloroanisole, TCA
Geosmin	B	March, April, May	Geosmin
Earthy	C	March	
Pungent smell	A	March, April, May	
Liquorice	C	May	$\beta$ -Cyclocitral
Burnt smell	A	March, April, May	$\alpha$ -Cedrol

Figure 1 is a comparison of the concentrations of TCA at different sampling times for each water sample collection point. From the data in the figure, it can be found that the average concentration of TCA is the highest in May, and the concentrations in March and April are not much different. The concentrations of water sample collection points No. 1 and No. 2 were the lowest in April and the highest in May; the concentrations of water sample collection points No. 3 and No. 4 showed a gradual increase.



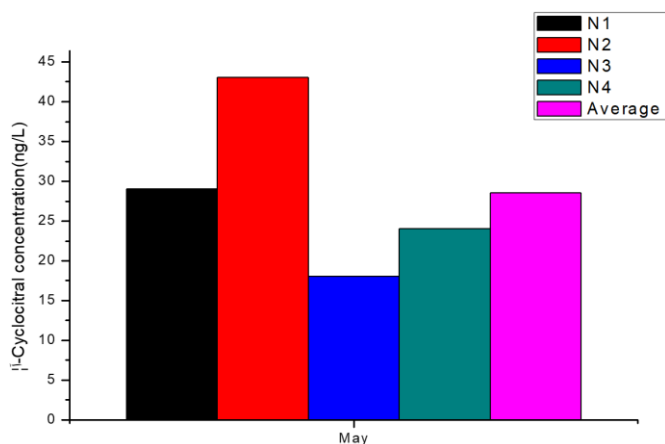
**Figure 1.** TCA concentration profile



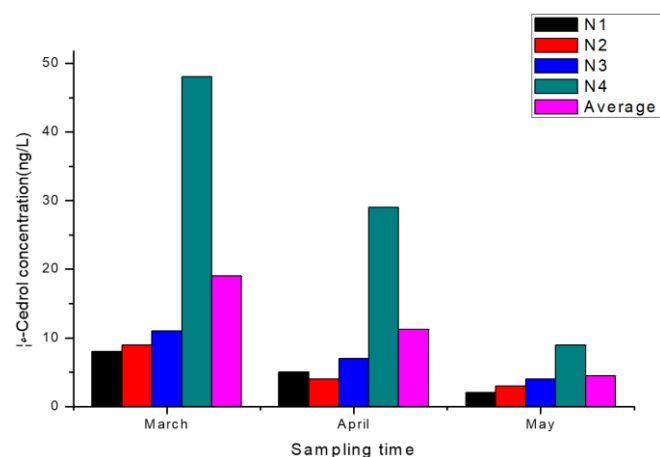
**Figure 2.** Geosmin concentration profile

Figure 2 is a comparison of the concentrations of Geosmin at different sampling times for each water sample collection point. From the data in the figure, it can be found that the average concentration of Geosmin is the highest in March, and the concentrations of the four water sample collection points tend to decrease gradually, among them, the concentration of the water sample collection point No. 4 is significantly higher than that of other water sample collection points.

Figure 3 is a comparison of  $\beta$ -Cyclocitral concentrations of each water sample collection point at May 2017. From the data in the figure, it can be found that the concentration of  $\beta$ -Cyclocitral is the highest at collection point No. 2, which is 43 ng/L; the lowest concentration is at the No. 3 collection point, it is 18 ng/L. The average concentration is 28.5 ng/L.



**Figure 3.**  $\beta$ -Cyclocitral concentration profile



**Figure 4.**  $\alpha$ -Cedrol concentration profile

Figure 4 is a comparison of  $\alpha$ -Cedrol concentrations of each water sample collection point at different sampling times. From the data in the figure, it can be found that the average concentration of  $\alpha$ -Cedrol is the highest in March, and the concentrations of the four water sample collection points tend to decrease gradually. Among them, the concentration of the water sample collection point No. 4 is significantly higher than the concentration of other water sample collection points.

### 3.2 Microbial decomposition

Closed water areas are prone to produce large amounts of algae, and the decomposition of algae by microorganisms produces volatile gas compounds, which are mainly dimethyl

disulfide and dimethyl amine. The decomposition of microorganisms is affected by temperature, and this paper mainly sets three temperature conditions of 15 °C, 25 °C and 35 °C to study the composition of algae decomposition products and the changes in their contents.

First, take some algae from the Doushui Lake water area, filter the water through a gauze and place it into a glassware, then culture it in the dark, and record the sample data at different temperatures.

**Table 2.** Regression equation and correlation coefficient of each substance under different room temperature

Temperature	Compound name	Regression equation	Correlation coefficient
15 °C	Dimethyl disulfide	$Y = -0.08624 + 2.438X$	0.9983
	Dimethyl amine	$Y = -0.00643 + 1.349X$	0.9994
25 °C	Dimethyl disulfide	$Y = -0.14872 + 6.539X$	0.9986
	Dimethyl amine	$Y = -0.00853 + 1.572X$	0.9979
35 °C	Dimethyl disulfide	$Y = -0.17592 + 7.423X$	0.9981
	Dimethyl amine	$Y = -0.04573 + 2.659X$	0.9995

From the data in Table 2, it can be found that there is a linear relationship between dimethyl disulfide and dimethyl amine at different temperatures, and the correlation coefficient exceeds 0.9975.

In addition, in the process of detecting algae in the Doushui Lake water area, it was found that the contents of dimethyl disulfide and dimethyl amine both increased first and then decreased under different temperature conditions.

## 4. CONCLUSION

(1) This paper used Sensory-GC and GC/MS combination to study the odor in the water body of Doushui Lake water area in Jiangxi Province. It was found that the water body of Doushui Lake has many odors, mainly are grassy smell, musty smell, earthy smell, pungent smell, liquorice smell and burnt smell, and there are four main substances, TCA, Geosmin,  $\beta$ -Cyclocitral and  $\alpha$ -Cedrol, and their highest concentrations reach 124 ng/L, 97 ng/L, 43 ng/L and 48 ng/L, respectively.

(2) The decomposition of algae by microorganisms produces volatile gas compounds, mainly are dimethyl disulfide and dimethyl amine, and the content of these two compounds both increased first and then decreased during the decomposition process.

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