Sensors and Actuators B 255 (2018) 2844–2852

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Sensors and Actuators B: Chemical

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/snb

Research Paper

A whole cell bio-optode based on immobilized nitrite-degrading microorganism on the acrylic microspheres for visual quantitation of nitrite ion

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 8 June 2017
Received in revised form 20 August 2017
Accepted 15 September 2017
Available online 18 September 2017

Keywords:
Nitrite
Raoutella planticola
Edible bird's nest
Optode
Reflectance

ABSTRACT

A microspheres-based microbial optosensor for NO_2^- ion quantitation was constructed by using immobilized *Raoutella planticola* (*R. planticola*), the bacterium expressing NAD(P)H nitrite reductase (NiR) enzyme, which was isolated from local edible bird's nest (EBN) *via* microbial technique. The whole cells and the lipophilic Nile Blue chromoionophore (NBC) were physically adsorbed on the self-adhesive photocurable poly(*n*-butyl acrylate-co-*N*-acryloxysuccinimide) [poly(nBA-NAS)] microspheres, whilst the reduced co-enzyme NAD(P)H was covalently immobilized on the succinimide-functionalized acrylic microspheres *via* peptide link to produce a reagentless nitrite biosensing system. As the microbial bio-optode responded to nitrite through colour change from blue to pink, a facile reflectometric approach was adopted to measure reflectance intensity at 639 nm, before and after reaction with nitrite at optimum pH 8. The optosensor could quantify NO_2^- ion concentration within a dynamic linear response range of 0.5–400 mg L^{-1} with a limit of detection (LOD) of 0.2 mg L^{-1}. The large surface area to volume ratio of the acrylic microspheres allowed solid-state diffusional mass transfer of the substrate to occur at micro-bio-optode surface, and an equilibrium response was achieved within 5 min. The practical feasibility of using the bio-optode for nitrite assay in food matrix sample showed good agreement with standard ion chromatography method.

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https://doi.org/10.1016/j.snb.2017.09.102
0925-4005/