

# Euro Materials 2020: Transformation of Zn-ENMs during the anaerobic digestion - Maryam Al-Ejji, Qatar

Maryam Al-Ejji

## Abstract

Engineering nanomaterials (ENMs) have been extensively used in particular consumer products which likely reach the natural system such as ecosystem during their use and disposal. Therefore, their impact has brought critical attention to be investigated. Understanding the risks, providing details and information about the particle's mechanisms and their state of art at the point of exposure to environmental species must be developed. In this work, the transformation and speciation of zinc oxide engineered nanomaterial (ZnO ENMs) had been investigated under environmental samples. ZnONPs were incubated in cell culture medium, green freshwater algae and spiked in an anaerobic digestion system. The dissolution and morphology of ZnONPs in OECD-MOPs medium were identified to show their behaviour during ageing and after spiking the ZnONPs to the algae. The same was applied to samples of the anaerobic digestion after sampling. Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) was used to show the morphology mostly by using STEM, and the speciation of ZnONPs was found by ray-absorption spectroscopy (Diamond light source, Oxfordshire UK). By applying the linear combination fitting for the resulted spectra, we found that the transformation of ZnONPs has partially sulfided to be ZnS and for ZnSNPs has a minor species of  $Zn_3(PO_2)_4$  with an absorbed Zn to Fe-oxyhydroxides also there is still some Zn under process of dissolution.

## Biography

Dr Maryam Alejji works as research associate in centre for advanced materials in Qatar University. She holds a Bachelor of Physics degree from Qatar University and master of material science and engineering from University of Sheffield. She received her PhD in material science and engineering from Imperial college of London. Her research focuses on the characterisation of engineering nanomaterials (ENMs) during their transformation in environmental system. The impact, bioavailability and speciation of ENMs in marine organisms.

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Maryam Al-Ejji

Centre for Advanced Materials, Qatar University, Doha P. O. Box 2713, Qatar E-mail: [maryam.alejji@qu.edu.qa](mailto:maryam.alejji@qu.edu.qa)