

# Index

<b>Chapter 1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Historical overview of drinking water treatments	2
1.2 Historical over view of wastewater treatments	4
1.3 Disinfection by-products in waters	6
1.3.1 Occurrence, human health and environmental implications of DBPs in water	6
1.3.2 Precursors of DBPs	9
1.3.3 Formation mechanism of DBPs	13
1.4 Occurrence and origin of water pollutants	18
1.5 Water quality regulations	19
1.6 Control of DBPs and pollutants during water treatment	20
1.7 Advanced oxidation processes	25
1.7.1 Generalities	25
1.7.2 Catalytic AOPs	28
1.8 AOPs based on heterogeneous transition metal catalysts	32
1.9 AOPs based on carbocatalysts	35
1.10 Activated carbons as carbocatalysts for AOPs	36
1.11 Graphite- and graphene-based materials as carbocatalysts for AOPs	38
1.12 Nanodiamonds as AOPs carbocatalysts	41
1.13 References	45
<b>Chapter 2. Objectives .....</b>	<b>52</b>

**Chapter 3. Impact of chlorination and pre-ozonation on disinfection by-products formation from aqueous suspensions of cyanobacteria: *Microcystis aeruginosa*, *Anabaena aequalis* and *Oscillatoria tenuis* ..... 55**

3.1 Introduction	55
3.2 Materials and methods	59
3.2.1 Reagents	59
3.2.2 Experimental procedures and analysis	60
3.2.3 Cyanobacteria characterization	61
3.3 Results and discussion	61
3.3.1 Influence of the presence of cyanobacteria on chlorine demand during chlorination	63
3.3.2 Influence of cyanobacteria chlorination and pre-ozonation on DBP formation	65
3.4 Conclusions	77
3.5 References	78
3.6 Supplementary material	83

**Chapter 4. Engineering of activated carbon surface to enhance the catalytic activity of supported cobalt oxide nanoparticles in peroxymonosulfate activation ..... 91**

4.1 Introduction	91
4.2 Experimental section	94
4.2.1 Materials	94
4.2.2 Methods	94
4.2.3 Catalyst and activated carbon characterization	96
4.2.4 Catalytic activity and reaction analysis	97
4.3 Results and discussion	99
4.3.1 Support preparation and characterization	99
4.3.2 Metal supported on ACs	104

4.3.3	Catalytic activity	109
4.3.4	Reaction mechanism	121
4.4	Conclusions	123
4.5	References	124
4.6	Supplementary information	131

## **Chapter 5. Catalytic Ozonation Using Edge-Hydroxylated Graphite-Based Materials ..... 149**

5.1	Introduction	149
5.2	Experimental section	151
5.2.1	Materials	151
5.2.2	Characterization	153
5.2.3	Catalytic reactions	154
5.3	Results and discussion	156
5.3.1	Catalyst characterization	156
5.3.2	Catalytic activity	159
5.3.3	Role of dispersibility	169
5.4	Conclusions	171
5.5	References	172
5.6	Supplementary information	179

## **Chapter 6. Hybrid sp<sup>2</sup>/sp<sup>3</sup> nanodiamonds as heterogeneous metal-free ozonation catalysts ..... 189**

6.1	Introduction	189
6.2	Experimental section	191
6.2.1	Materials and methods	191
6.2.2	Characterization	192
6.2.3	Catalytic activity	192
6.3	Results and discussion	193
6.3.1	Catalyst preparation	193
6.3.2	Catalytic activity	199

6.3.3	Catalyst heterogeneity and stability	204
6.3.4	ROS during the carbocatalytic ozonation	210
6.4	Conclusions	211
6.5	References	213
6.6	Supplementary material	219
<b>Chapter 7. Conclusions .....</b>		<b>235</b>
<b>Chapter 8. Abstract of the Thesis .....</b>		<b>239</b>
<b>Chapter 9. Publications &amp; Conferences .....</b>		<b>243</b>

