

**DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTROCHEMICAL
BIOSENSOR BASED ON NYLON-6 MEMBRANE**

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DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTROCHEMICAL BIOSENSOR BASED ON NYLON-6 MEMBRANE

by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT | ii |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS | iii |
| LIST OF TABLES | vii |
| LIST OF FIGURES | viii |
| LIST OF PLATES | xii |
| LIST OF SYMBOLS | xiii |
| LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS | xiv |
| ABSTRAK | xvi |
| ABSTRACT | xix |
| CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 1.1 Membrane as biological recognition interface for Immunosensor | 1 |
| 1.2 Challenges of protein immobilization | 3 |
| 1.3 Polyaniline as conductive electric transducer in immunosensor | 5 |
| 1.4 Membrane-based electrochemical biosensor for ascorbic acid detection | 7 |
| 1.5 Problem statement and importance of the research | 9 |
| 1.6 Research objectives | 11 |
| 1.7 Scope of study | 12 |
| 1.8 Thesis organization | 14 |
| CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW | 16 |
| 2.1 Biosensor | 16 |
| 2.2 Electrochemical signal transduction | 19 |
| 2.2.1 Amperometric | 21 |
| 2.2.2 Potentiometric | 27 |

| | | |
|-------|---|-----------|
| 2.2.3 | Conductometric | 29 |
| 2.3 | Membrane-based biosensor | 33 |
| 2.4 | Cross-linking | 44 |
| 2.5 | Design of Experiment (DoE) | 50 |
| 2.6 | Transducer | 52 |
| 2.7 | Future perspectives | 55 |
| | CHAPTER THREE: MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY | 57 |
| 3.1 | Introduction | 57 |
| 3.2 | Materials and Chemicals | 59 |
| 3.3 | Nylon-6 membrane preparation | 60 |
| 3.3.1 | Membrane's protein binding ability | 61 |
| 3.3.2 | Lateral wicking test | 62 |
| 3.3.3 | Porosity and characterization | 63 |
| 3.3.4 | The assembly of electrochemical biosensor and performance evaluation | 64 |
| 3.4 | Effects of glutaraldehyde integration conditions | 66 |
| 3.4.1 | Effect of integration time on nylon-6 membrane | 66 |
| 3.4.2 | Effect of pH of solution | 67 |
| 3.4.3 | Effect of concentration of glutaraldehyde | 67 |
| 3.4.4 | Statistical evaluation of integration condition interaction and independent factor | 68 |
| 3.4.5 | Properties of membrane integrated with glutaraldehyde | 68 |
| 3.5 | Synthesis of conductive polyaniline/iron oxide (PANI/Fe ₂ O ₃) nanocomposite | 69 |
| 3.5.1 | Modification of the PANI/Fe ₂ O ₃ nanocomposites | 71 |
| 3.5.2 | Performance of the conductometric-based biosensor | 72 |

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 3.6 | Membrane-based electrochemical biosensors for ascorbic acid determination via amperometric technique | 72 |
| 3.6.1 | Streptavidin-biotin interaction for electrochemical biosensor: to evaluate sensor working concept | 72 |
| 3.6.2 | Conjugation of ascorbic acid to polyaniline/iron (III) oxide (PANI/Fe ₂ O ₃) | 74 |
| 3.6.3 | Detection of ascorbic acid by electrochemical biosensor | 75 |
| CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION | | 77 |
| 4.1 | Synthesis of nylon-6 membrane as the sensor detection platform | 77 |
| 4.1.1 | Effect of polymer concentration | 77 |
| 4.1.2 | Effect of additive | 85 |
| 4.2 | Membrane integration by glutaraldehyde | 95 |
| 4.2.1 | Preliminary study of the glutaraldehyde integration Conditions | 95 |
| 4.2.1(a) | Effect of incubation time | 95 |
| 4.2.1(b) | Effect of pH | 100 |
| 4.2.1(c) | Effect of the concentration of glutaraldehyde | 104 |
| 4.2.2 | Effect of membrane formulation | 105 |
| 4.2.3 | Statistical analysis and ANOVA | 108 |
| 4.2.4 | Model validation and confirmation of the optimized result | 117 |
| 4.3 | Synthesis polyaniline-iron oxide nanocomposite as electrochemical-transducer for electrochemical biosensor | 123 |
| 4.3.1 | Effect of aniline monomer as electrochemical-transducer biosensor | 124 |
| 4.3.2 | Volume ratio of aniline monomer (AM) to ammonium persulfate (APS) to affect its functionality as an electric transducer | 134 |
| 4.4 | Detection of ascorbic acid (AA) by electrochemical biosensor | 137 |

| | | |
|--|--|-----|
| 4.4.1 | Performance of membrane-based electrochemical to detect biotin: for membrane working concept | 138 |
| 4.4.2 | Conjugation of ascorbic acid (AA) to polyaniline/iron (iii) oxide (PANI/Fe ₂ O ₃) | 145 |
| 4.4.3 | Performance of membrane-based electrochemical to detect ascorbic acid (AA) | 147 |
| 4.4.4 | Sensitivity of nylon-6 membrane with 25 wt. % and 16 wt. % of nylon-6 polymer | 152 |
| 4.4.5 | Selectivity (interference study) | 160 |
| 4.4.6 | Analytical performance of biosensor | 164 |
| | | |
| CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION | | |
| 5.1 | Conclusions | 169 |
| 5.2 | Recommendations | 172 |
| | | |
| REFERENCES | | 174 |
| | | |
| APPENDICES | | |
| | | |
| LIST OF PUBLICATIONS | | |

LIST OF TABLES

| | | Page |
|-----------|--|-------------|
| Table 2.1 | Summary of different modified electrode/transducer | 24 |
| Table 2.2 | Different membrane as a support material in biosensing application | 39 |
| Table 2.3 | Condition procedures of the cross-linking reagent | 46 |
| Table 3.1 | List of materials and chemicals | 59 |
| Table 3.2 | Dope composition for nylon-6 membrane fabrication | 61 |
| Table 4.1 | Solution viscosity and porosity of nylon-6 membrane prepared in different polymer concentration | 79 |
| Table 4.2 | Effect of polymer concentration on protein binding | 108 |
| Table 4.3 | Design layout and response for mixture-process crossed-design | 110 |
| Table 4.4 | ANOVA, variance analysis and regression model from crossed design for membrane protein binding ability | 112 |
| Table 4.5 | ANOVA and variance analysis for membrane protein binding ability | 112 |
| Table 4.6 | Numerical optimization and verification for mixture-process crossed design | 119 |
| Table 4.7 | Ascorbic acid (AA) content in raw fruits | 168 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| | | Page |
|------------|--|-------------|
| Figure 2.1 | Market demand of biosensor through 2016-2026 | 16 |
| Figure 2.2 | Element and components of a biosensor | 17 |
| Figure 2.3 | A set up of potentiometric-based biosensor | 27 |
| Figure 2.4 | Schematic diagram of the conductometric-based biosensor on the (a) interdigitated gold electrode, (b) detection scheme, and (c) principle of the conductometric technique toward target | 30 |
| Figure 2.5 | (a) Schematic illustration of the conductometric-based biosensor and membrane assembly consisting of cellulose application and absorption pads and capture pad (b) Detection scheme of the lateral flow immunosensor based on the antibody functionalized capture membrane | 31 |
| Figure 2.6 | Schematic diagram of the pore formation process via Solvent Evaporation-Induced Phase Separation | 35 |
| Figure 3.1 | Schematic diagram for overall research procedures | 58 |
| Figure 3.2 | Schematic representation of the assembled immunosensor testing via pulse-mode measurement | 66 |
| Figure 3.3 | Schematic diagram of the membrane-based amperometric biosensor | 74 |
| Figure 4.1 | Lateral wicking speed of nylon-6 membranes synthesized using different polymer concentrations. Note: membrane N-16: 16 wt. %; N-18: 18 wt. %; N-23: 23 wt. %; N-25: 25 wt. %; N-28: 28 wt. %; NYL: commercial nylon-6 membrane | 80 |
| Figure 4.2 | Pore size distribution for N-16 and N-28 nylon-6 membranes | 82 |
| Figure 4.3 | Schematic diagram of chemical bonds between b-NHS and BSA | 83 |
| Figure 4.4 | BSA binding ability of the nylon-6 membranes synthesized using various polymer concentrations. Note: membrane N-16: 16 wt. %; N-18: 18 wt. %; N-23: 23 wt. %; N-25: 25 wt. %; N-28: 28 wt. %; NYL: commercial nylon-6 membrane | 84 |
| Figure 4.5 | Comparison of BSA binding ability ($\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$, bar graph) and porosity (% , line graph) of the nylon-6 membranes prepared by integrating different types of additives into the casting dope. Note: NYL: commercial nylon-6 membrane, N-16: | 86 |

nylon-6 membrane without additive, N-16A: nylon-6 membrane with water as the additive, N-16B: nylon-6 membrane with methanol as the additive

| | | |
|-------------|--|-----|
| Figure 4.6 | Schematic representation for the: (a) formation of nylon-6 membrane, (b) interaction of the nylon-6 membrane with capture analyte (bovine serum albumin) | 90 |
| Figure 4.7 | Lateral wicking time taken by the nylon-6 membranes synthesized using different types of additives | 92 |
| Figure 4.8 | Electrical resistance response of electrochemical immunosensing performance of the nylon-6 membranes with different types of additives | 93 |
| Figure 4.9 | Effects of glutaraldehyde incubation time on BSA-membrane binding ability (16 wt. % of nylon-6 polymer during membrane preparation) | 96 |
| Figure 4.10 | FT-IR spectra of (a) pure glutaraldehyde (b) neat nylon-6 membrane (16 wt. %) and glutaraldehyde-integrated nylon-6 membranes (16 wt. %) prepared at pH 6 and incubation time of (c) 10 minutes (d) 40 minutes (e) 70 minutes | 98 |
| Figure 4.11 | Effects of pH of glutaraldehyde solution on BSA binding ability $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ | 101 |
| Figure 4.12 | Effects of concentration of glutaraldehyde solution on BSA binding ability $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ | 105 |
| Figure 4.13 | Diagnostic plots for membrane protein binding regression model for (a) normal distribution analysis (b) studentized residuals versus predicted (c) predicted versus actual | 114 |
| Figure 4.14 | Membrane protein binding for (a) 3D surface contour plots at 16 wt. %, 20.5 wt. % and 25 wt. %, (b) interacting effect between polymer concentration and incubation time at pH 9, (c) interacting effect between pH and incubation time at polymer concentration of 16 wt. % | 117 |
| Figure 4.15 | Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) curves of neat nylon-6 membrane (25 wt. %) and glutaraldehyde-integrated nylon-6 membrane (25 wt. %) at optimized condition (pH 9, 70 minutes) | 123 |
| Figure 4.16 | UV-Vis absorbance intensity and ionic conductivity properties of PANI-emeraldine salt (green color) produced at a different concentration of aniline monomer. Note: PANI was synthesized using constant volume ratio of AM: APS at 1:3 | 125 |

| | | |
|-------------|--|-----|
| Figure 4.17 | Mechanism of (a) oxidative polymerization process in formation of the emeraldine salt and (b) electrochemical redox states and the corresponding doped form of polyaniline (Song and Choi, 2013) | 128 |
| Figure 4.18 | FTIR spectra of the HCl-dope PANI | 129 |
| Figure 4.19 | Resistance responses of biosensor performance at varying concentrations of AM. Note: PANI was synthesized using constant volume ratio of AM: APS at 1:3 | 133 |
| Figure 4.20 | UV-Vis absorbance intensity and ionic conductivity properties of PANI prepared at a different volume ratio of AM: APS. Note: AM concentration was set constant at 0.2 M | 135 |
| Figure 4.21 | Resistance responses of biosensor performance with varying volume ratio of AM: APS. Note: PANI was synthesized using constant AM concentration of 0.2 M | 137 |
| Figure 4.22 | Response of Cyclic voltammograms on (a) bare carbon electrode and (b) attached 25 wt. % nylon-6 membrane on the surface of the carbon electrode. Note: solid line — is referred to the blank solution (0.05 M phosphate buffer, pH 7.4) and dotted line --- is referred to the biotin solution (200 µg/mL biotin dissolved in phosphate buffer, pH 7.4) | 140 |
| Figure 4.23 | Response of Cyclic voltammograms on (a) nylon-6 membrane carbon electrode and (b) nylon-6 membrane carbon electrode immobilized with streptavidin. Note: solid line — is referred to the biotin solution, and --- line is referred to the biotin/PANI solution | 143 |
| Figure 4.24 | UV-Vis absorbance value of AA (296 nm wavelength) for different testing solution | 145 |
| Figure 4.25 | Response of cyclic voltammograms on nylon-6 membrane carbon electrode. Note: solid line — is referred to the testing of AA solution, dotted line ---- is referred to the interaction between AA and ascorbate oxidase (immobilized on the nylon-6 membrane) and bold line — is representing the detection of AA/PANI nanocomposite to the immobilized ascorbate oxidase on nylon-6 membrane | 148 |
| Figure 4.26 | Schematic diagram of chemical reactions to immobilize ascorbate oxidase on nylon-6 membrane and its current responses when detected with AA analyte (electron transfer from AA to carbon electrode) | 149 |
| Figure 4.27 | Response of Cyclic voltammograms on 25 wt. % of nylon-6 | 153 |

membrane carbon electrode testing with 50 mM AA solution (dotted --- and solid black lines — are referred to the membranes with and without immobilization of ascorbate oxidase, respectively) and 50 mM citric acid (dotted ---- and solid— red lines are referred to the membrane with and without immobilization of ascorbate oxidase, respectively)

| | | |
|-------------|--|-----|
| Figure 4.28 | Response of (a) Cyclic voltammograms, (b) Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) and (c) Differential pulse voltammograms (DPV) on 16 wt. % nylon-6 membrane carbon electrode tested with 50 mM AA (dotted --- and solid — black lines are referred to the membrane with and without immobilization of ascorbate oxidase, respectively) and 50 mM citric acid (dotted ---- and solid — red lines are referred to the membranes with and without immobilization of ascorbate oxidase, respectively) | 155 |
| Figure 4.29 | Typical example of a Nyquist Plot | 158 |
| Figure 4.30 | Response of (a) cyclic voltammograms, and (b) differential pulse voltammograms (DPV) on nylon-6 membrane carbon electrode with a different volume ratio of CA: AA (c) standard curve for selectivity | 161 |
| Figure 4.31 | (a) Response of cyclic voltammograms and (b) Standard curve for nylon-6 membrane carbon electrode with different concentration of ascorbic acid. Note: 0 mM of AA, means only buffer solution | 165 |
| Figure 4.32 | Lineweaver-Burk plot to calculate the K_m | 167 |

LIST OF PLATES

| | | Page |
|------------|--|-------------|
| Plate 3.1: | Lateral wicking test setup | 63 |
| Plate 4.1 | SEM photomicrographs demonstrating the top surface (left images) and cross-section (right images) of (a) neat nylon-6 membrane (N-16); (b) nylon-6 membrane with water (N-16A); (c) nylon-6 membrane with methanol (N-16B) | 87 |
| Plate 4.2 | SEM micrographs of (a) neat nylon-6 membrane (16 wt. %) and nylon-6 membranes (16 wt. %) integrated at glutaraldehyde pH 6 and (b) 10 minutes (c) 40 minutes (d) 70 minutes | 99 |
| Plate 4.3 | SEM micrographs of (a) neat nylon-6 membrane (16 wt. %) and nylon-6 membranes (16 wt. %) integrated at 40 minutes and (b) pH 6 (c) pH 7.5 (d) pH 9 (e) contrast of neat nylon-6 membrane and nylon-6 integrated at 40 minutes and (f) pH 6 (g) pH 7.5 (h) pH 9 | 103 |
| Plate 4.4 | SEM micrographs of nylon-6 membrane synthesized with (a, b) 16 wt. % and (c, d) 25 wt. % of nylon-6 polymers. Left images represent membrane before integration with glutaraldehyde and right images showed the glutaraldehyde-integrated membrane | 106 |
| Plate 4.5 | SEM micrographs of nylon-6 membrane with 25 wt. % (a) neat nylon-6 (b) glutaraldehyde-integrated on nylon-6 membrane from preliminary study (pH 6, 40 minutes) (c) the optimize condition (pH 9, 70 minutes) | 121 |
| Plate 4.6 | TEM image of (a) PANI (b) PANI/Fe ₂ O ₃ nanocomposite synthesized at aniline concentration of 0.2 M and AM: APS volume ratio at 1:3 | 130 |
| Plate 4.7 | Color of the different testing solution | 147 |

LIST OF SYMBOLS

| | |
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| E_{we} | Applied potential (V) |
| ca. | Approximately |
| R_{ct} | Charge transfer resistance (Ohm) |
| NYL | Commercial nylon-6 membrane |
| C | Concentration of AA (mM) |
| I | Current response (mA) |
| Z_{im} | Imaginary part of Nyquist plots on the y-axis |
| R^2 | Linear regression correlation coefficients |
| I_{max} | Maximum current |
| V_A | Membrane's apparent volume (mm ³) |
| V_E | Membrane's existent volume (mm ³) |
| K_m | Michaelis–Menten constant (mM) |
| N-16 | Nylon-6 polymer with 16 wt. % |
| N-18 | Nylon-6 polymer with 18 wt. % |
| N-23 | Nylon-6 polymer with 23 wt. % |
| N-25 | Nylon-6 polymer with 25 wt. % |
| N-28 | Nylon-6 polymer with 28 wt. % |
| N-16A | Nylon-6 membrane (polymer 16 wt. %) with water |
| N-16B | Nylon-6 membrane (polymer 16 wt. %) with methanol |
| ϵ | Porosity of the nylon-6 membranes (%) |
| Z_{re} | Real part of Nyquist plots on the x-axis |
| I_{ss} | Steady-state current |
| wt. % | Weight percentage |

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| AA | Ascorbic acid |
| Ag/AgCl | Silver/silver chloride |
| AM | Aniline Monomer |
| APS | Ammonium peroxydisulfate |
| ANOVA | Analysis of variance |
| BCA | Bicinchoninic acid assay |
| b-IgG | Biotinylated goat anti-mouse IgG |
| b-NHS | N-hydroxysuccinimidobiotin |
| BSA | Bovine serum albumin |
| CA | Citric acid |
| CP | Conducting polymers |
| CV | Cyclic voltammetry |
| DHA | Dehydroascorbic acid |
| DMF | <i>N, N</i> -dimethylformamide |
| DoE | Design of Experiment |
| DPV | Differential pulse voltammograms |
| EB | Emeraldine base |
| EIS | Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy |
| FESEM | Field emission scanning electron microscope |
| FTIR | Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy |
| GA | Glutaraldehyde |
| GCE | Glassy carbon electrode |
| HCl | Hydrochloric acid |
| Fe ₂ O ₃ | Iron oxide |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| LB | Leucoemeraldine base |
| LOD | Limit of detection |
| PANI | Polyaniline |
| PANI/Fe ₂ O ₃ | Polyaniline-iron oxide |
| PB | Pernigraniline base |
| Pt | Platinum |
| PVA | Polyvinyl alcohol |
| PVC | Polyvinyl chloride |
| PVDF | Polyvinylidene fluoride |
| TGA | Thermogravimetric analysis |
| TEM | Transmission electron microscopy |

PEMBANGUNAN BIOPENDERIA ELEKTROKIMIA BERASASKAN MEMBRAN NILON-6

ABSTRAK

Jutaan manusia mati disebabkan ketiadaan dan ketidakbolehcapaian kemudahan diagnostik terutamanya dalam mengawal penyakit-penyakit penting, yang mana membawa kepada pembangunan biopenderia yang progresif. Malangnya, pengoksidaan secara langsung analit sasaran pada elektrod terdedah bagi biopenderia adalah proses tidak boleh balik dan memerlukan upaya lebih yang tinggi, menyebabkan kotoran elektrod dan kepekaan yang rendah. Elektrod yang terubahsuai membran nilon-6 telah dicadangkan untuk mengatasi masalah ini. Sebagai satu immunocerakin, tindakbalas biokimia antara analit sasaran dan tawanan berlaku pada permukaan membran nilon-6, kemudian diterjemahkan kepada isyarat rintangan yang boleh diukur. Kajian ini menjelaskan ciri morfologi bagi nilon-6 sebagai membran penjerapan protin dan pengaruh mereka dalam antaramuka pengecaman biologi. Membran nilon-6 disintesis melalui penyongsangan fasa kering dengan kepekataan berbeza bagi polimer nilon-6 dalam julat 16 wt. % hingga 28 wt. % dan pelbagai jenis bahan tambah (air dan metanol) dalam larutan 'dope'. Membran nilon-6 yang dibangunkan, N-16B, dengan 16 wt. % nilon-6 polimer dan metanol sebagai bukan pelarut telah memperlihatkan kelajuan sisi penyumbuan yang terpantas (1.07 mm/saat) dan kapasiti penjerapan protin yang sangat baik, ($1,650.00 \pm 85.84 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$). Kajian semasa mendedahkan kepentingan morfologi membran yang mempengaruhi kepekaan dan keberkesanan peranti pengesan imun. Isu kestabilan dalam penjerapan biomolekul telah diatasi dengan mengintegrasikan glutaradehid (GA) ke atas membran nilon-6 sebelum penjerapan

prolin. Kajian awal telah dijalankan untuk mengkaji kesan masa inkubasi, pH dan kepekatan GA pada pengikatan prolin ke atas polimer nilon-6. Keadaan optimum bagi integrasi GA ditemui pada 40 minit masa inkubasi, pH 7.5 dan 1 wt. % kepekatan GA. Analisis statistik dengan program rekabentuk silang dilakukan dan keadaan integrasi GA optimum dari analisis statistik didapati pada 25 wt. % bagi polimer nilon-6, 75 wt.% campuran pelarut + tak larut, pH 9.0 dan 70 minit masa inkubasi. Keputusan eksperimen menunjukkan bahawa GA sebagai penyambung lintang pada keadaan optimum mampu mencapai sangkutan GA yang lebih baik untuk penjerapan prolin yang terakhir. Kajian lanjut telah meneroka penyediaan polianilina-ferum (III) oksida (PANI/Fe₂O₃) yang konduktif yang berfungsi sebagai pemindaharuh isyarat elektrik, untuk menukar interaksi elektrokimia kepada satu isyarat ketahanan yang dapat diukur. PANI disintesis melalui pempolimeran beroksida bagi monomer anilina (AM) dengan kehadiran ammonium persulfat (APS). 0.2 M kepekatan AM and 1:3 nisbah sukatan AM:APS didapati menghasilkan PANI dengan tindakbalas konduktiviti ionik yang tertinggi pada 7.565 ± 0.262 mS/cm. Kajian telah mengkaji semula aspek menarik bagi keadaan yang berlainan oleh PANI sebagai satu bahan konduktif yang penting untuk peranti elektronik/elektrik. Seterusnya, penderia amperometri berasaskan-membran telah dipasang dan aktiviti elektrokimia antara asid askorbat (AA, analit sasaran) dan askorbat oksidase (analit tawanan) telah dinilai. Had pengesanan bagi penderia didapati pada 5.77 mM dan pemalar *Michaelis-Menten* (K_m) dikira sebanyak 26.76 mM. Tindakbalas bagi spektroskopi galangan elektrokimia (EIS), voltammetry kitaran (CV) dan voltammograms denyutan kebezaan (DPV) dijalankan untuk menganalisis dua lapis elektrokimia ke atas elektrod kerja. Membran nilon-6 yang dibangunkan telah menyediakan satu pelantar pengesanan yang menjanjikan untuk

pembinaan penderia dan sesuai untuk aplikasi praktikal dalam analisis farmaseutikal atau klinikal dan tanaman pertanian.

DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTROCHEMICAL BIOSENSOR BASED ON NYLON-6 MEMBRANE

ABSTRACT

Millions of people die due to the unavailability and inaccessible of diagnostics facilities especially in controlling crucial diseases, which led to the progressive development of biosensor. Unfortunately, direct oxidation of target analyte at the bare electrode of a biosensor is an irreversible process and requires a high overpotential, resulted in electrode fouling and low sensitivity. Nylon-6 membrane modified electrodes have been proposed to overcome this problem. As an immunoassay, the biochemical reaction between target and capture analyte takes place on the surface of the nylon-6 membrane, then translated to measurable resistance signal. The present study elucidates the morphology characteristic of nylon-6 as protein immobilization membrane and their influences in biological recognition interface. The nylon-6 membranes were synthesized via dry phase inversion with different concentration of nylon-6 polymer in a range of 16 wt. % to 28 wt.% and different types of additives (water and methanol) in dope solution. The developed nylon-6 membrane, N-16B, with 16 wt. % nylon-6 polymer and methanol as non-solvent had demonstrated the fastest lateral wicking speed (1.07 mm/sec) and excellent protein immobilization capacity ($1,650.00 \pm 85.84 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$). The current study revealed the importance of membrane morphology that affects the sensitivity and effectiveness of an immuno-sensing device. The stability issue in biomolecule immobilization has been overcome by integrating glutaraldehyde (GA) onto nylon-6 membrane prior to protein immobilization. The preliminary study was carried out to study the effect of incubation time, pH and concentration of GA on protein

binding of the nylon-6 polymer. The optimum conditions of GA integration were found at 40 minutes of incubation time, pH 7.5 and 1 wt. % of GA concentration. Statistical analysis using crossed design programme was performed and the optimum GA integration conditions from the statistical analysis were found at 25 wt. % of the nylon-6 polymer, 75 wt. % of mixture solvent + nonsolvent, pH 9.0 and 70 minutes of incubation time. The experimental results showed that the GA as a cross-linker reagent at optimum conditions was able to achieve better GA attachment for latter protein immobilization. Further study has been explored on the preparation of conductive polyaniline-iron oxide (PANI/Fe₂O₃) that served as the electrical signal transducer, to convert the electrochemical interactions to a measurable resistance signal. PANI was synthesized via oxidative polymerization of aniline monomer (AM) in the presence of ammonium persulfate (APS). 0.2 M concentration of AM and 1:3 volume ratio of AM:APS were found to produce PANI logged with the highest ionic conductivity response at 7.565 ± 0.262 mS/cm. The study had reviewed the interesting aspect of different state of PANI as one of the important conducting material for electronic/electrical devices. Subsequently, a membrane-based amperometric sensor was assembled and electrochemical activities ascorbic acid (AA, target analyte) and ascorbate oxidase (capture analyte) were evaluated. The detection limit of the sensor was found at 5.77 mM and the Michaelis–Menten constant (K_m) was calculated as 26.76 mM. Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS), cyclic voltammetry (CV) and differential pulse voltammograms (DPV) responses were carried out to analyze the electrochemical double layer on the working electrode. The developed nylon-6 membrane has provided a promising detection platform for sensor construction and suitable for practical application in pharmaceutical or clinical analysis and agricultural crops.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Membrane as biological recognition interface for immunosensor

Modern technology has achieved better enhancement and sophistication in providing treatment, monitoring and controlling the spread of crucial diseases, especially those related to waterborne and foodborne outbreaks (Ivnitski *et al.*, 2000, Low *et al.*, 2012). Due to the unavailability or inaccessibility of diagnostic facilities, a rapid construction, on-site examination, and user-friendly detection system is progressively developed to overcome such problem. Under such a scenario, immunosensor has emerged as a potential detection system for an effective monitoring of pathogen (Donmez *et al.*, 2015, Hosseini *et al.*, 2014, Kolosovas-Machuca *et al.*, 2015, Nandakumar *et al.*, 2008, Pohanka *et al.*, 2007, Waiyapoka *et al.*, 2015), contaminant and toxic material in the biotechnology applications (Grover *et al.*, 2015, Hsiue *et al.*, 2004, Khaksarinejad *et al.*, 2015, Srivastava *et al.*, 2014, Zahedi *et al.*, 2016). The biomolecules immobilization is the key factor that determined the sophisticated development of an immunosensors (Dong *et al.*, 2013, García *et al.*, 2012).

The effectiveness of biomolecule immobilization strongly depends on the membrane material (the detection platform) (Betty, 2016, Sadeghi *et al.*, 2015) that provides excellent stability, fast lateral wicking speed and reduces biomolecule desorption (Yong *et al.*, 2010). As an immunoassay, the biochemical reaction between antigen and antibody takes place on the surface of the porous membrane, which is greatly influenced by the membrane morphology and its intrinsic chemical composition. The membrane material should be insoluble in water and has a high

binding capacity to the specifically targeted biomolecules (Pundir *et al.*, 2008). By manipulating the structure of the membrane support, a sensor's bio-catalytic efficiency can be easily achieved to produce an effective and accurate immunological analysis (Ahmad *et al.*, 2016). Recently, polymeric porous membranes offer the most available support material for recognition interface in biosensing applications. The drive to improve the response signal, increase sensitivity, lower detection limit and better reproducibility are the reason of the growing need of the polymeric porous membrane (Luo *et al.*, 2017, Santhy *et al.*, 2018, Tang *et al.*, 2019). Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) (Braiek *et al.*, 2018, Luo *et al.*, 2017), polyvinyl chloride (PVC) (Afkhami *et al.*, 2014, Ezzeldin *et al.*, 2012, K Gupta *et al.*, 2011, Santhy *et al.*, 2018), polysulfone (Zhao *et al.*, 2016), nylon-6 (Tang *et al.*, 2019, Yaqoob *et al.*, 2016) and polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) (Chen *et al.*, 2015, Zhao *et al.*, 2015) are the most potential polymeric porous membrane in development of biosensing application.

Among these polymeric membranes, nylon-6 is the most desirable material and is proven to be a suitable immobilization platform (Jackeray *et al.*, 2010). This polymer comprises of high mechanical strength (Salapare *et al.*, 2015, Shakaib *et al.*, 2013, Zhou *et al.*, 2013), good stability and high resistance towards microbial attack (Pant *et al.*, 2013b). Nylon-6 membrane is commonly produced by phase inversion technique through immersion precipitation (Chang *et al.*, 2013, Lin *et al.*, 2002, Shakaib *et al.*, 2013, Shih *et al.*, 2012, Sobhanipour and Karimi, 2013) or dry phase inversion (Fatarella *et al.*, 2014, Leo *et al.*, 2011, Pant *et al.*, 2013a, Pant *et al.*, 2013b, Yan *et al.*, 2007). Liu *et al.* (2013), reported the use of nylon-6 membrane as a porous matrix to immobilize antibody in the detection of two main serum biomarkers for down syndrome, which were β -human chorionic gonadotrophin (β -

HCG) and α -fetal protein (AFP). The nylon-6 membrane was chosen as the sensor's detection platform because of its large total surface area, high mechanical strength, and good biocompatibility. Antibodies were first immobilized onto the nylon-6 membrane surface, so as to capture the target antigens to form the immunocomplexes (antibodies–antigens) prior to react with the labelled antibodies to form the triplex “sandwich” structures. Then the target antigen will be detected through photoluminescence. A low detection limit of the biosensor at 1×10^{-6} IU/L for β -HCG and 1 ng/mL for AFP were detected within the short assay time (Liu *et al.*, 2013).

Biosensor is the most effective method in monitoring and detection of target interest. In biosensing application, biomolecules immobilization is the key factor to determine the effectiveness of the developed biosensor. Biomolecule immobilization strongly depends on the membrane material (the detection platform). Polymeric membrane is the most desirable material for biomolecules immobilization. Among of the polymeric membrane, nylon-6 has proved to be an effective detection platform. However, due to the lower hydrophilicity of the membrane, had limit the usage of the membrane in biosensing application.

1.2 Challenges of protein immobilization

Immobilization process is defined as the attachment of biomolecules to a substrate surface resulting in a reduction or loss of mobility (Rusmini *et al.*, 2007). The attachment of the protein onto a surface should not affect the protein conformation and its function for fully retain biological activity. There are many immobilization techniques, includes physical adsorption, covalent and bioaffinity