

# Photocatalytic Degradation of Methylene Blue Using Silver Nanoparticles Synthesized from *Gymnema Sylvestre* and Antimicrobial Assay

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## Abstract

The present study reports about the catalytic degradation of methylene blue (MB) in presence of *Gymnema sylvestre* mediated synthesized silver nanoparticles (AgNPs). AgNPs was produced from green synthesis method using aqueous extract. Formation of AgNPs from the synthesis was confirmed by using UV-visible spectroscopy with the appearance of surface plasmon (SPR) bands around 370nm. Functional groups were identified by using FT-IR, the particle size and zeta potential of AgNPs concluded by DLS, the agglomeration in microstructure of biosynthesized AgNPs was revealed by field scanning electron microscope (SEM). The synthesized of Ag NPs showed three diffraction peaks at  $2\theta$  values of  $36.62^\circ$ ,  $42.51^\circ$  and  $65.84^\circ$  which corresponds to the (111), (200) and (220) planes of face-centered cubic. The AgNPs shown very good antimicrobial Assay towards microbes isolated from contaminated dye soil. The photocatalytic activity of the synthesized silver nanoparticles was examined by degradation of methylene blue under sunlight irradiation. Green synthesized silver nanoparticles were effectively degrading the dye nearly 95% at 7h of exposure time.

**Keywords:** *Gymnema sylvestre*; AgNPs; Photocatalytic activity; Dye degradation; Antimicrobial assay

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## Introduction

Nanotechnology deals with the synthesis of nanoparticles with controlled size, shape, and dispersity of materials at the nanometer scale length and their potential use for human well-being. Nanometer sized materials have a high surface area; and a high fraction of surface atoms have been studied because of their exclusive properties such as optic, electronic, and catalytic. Among all nanoparticles noble metal nanoparticles have enormous applications in diverse areas such as bioimaging, sensor, diagnosis, and novel therapeutic in biomedical field. Metallic silver and silver nanoparticles were recently applied as antimicrobial agents in various products such as cosmetics, animal feed coating of catheters, wound dressing and water purification with a minimal risk of toxicity in humans. Nowadays the biological systems were eagerly used for nanoscale material synthesis and assembly is an alternative method of physical and chemical process. Green approach of nanoparticles synthesis by biological entities has been gaining great advantages which are environmental benign, less toxic, and time consuming and, it is a single step process. Currently, plant and plant derived materials are used for nanoparticles synthesis which is more compatible than the microbe-mediated nanoparticles synthesis process because they eliminate the culture maintenance and are easy to handle. Nanoparticles synthesis by medicinal plants shows more benefit; they may enhance the antibacterial activity of silver nanoparticles, because the medicinally valuable active biomolecule present in the plants may bind on the surface of the nanoparticles and reduce the silver ions to silver nanoparticles Prasad & Elumalai [1]. Nanoparticles can be organized into four types namely carbon based, metal based, dendrimers and composites nanoparticles are also referred to as organic nanoparticles. Spherical and ellipsoidal carbon nanoparticles are called as fullerenes, while cylindrical ones are called nanotubes. Quantum dots, nanogold, Nano silver and metal oxides (titanium oxide) are examples of metal-based nanoparticles. Dendrimers are Nano sized polymers which can be synthesized to perform specific chemical functions. Composites are c nanoparticles with other nanoparticles or with larger sized and heavier compounds. Silver nanoparticles are most commonly used in water filters and biosensors Patil et al. [2]; Kumar et al. [3].

*Gymnema sylvestre* is a perennial woody vine that grows in tropical areas of India, Africa, and Australia and has been used for medicinal purposes in Ayurvedic medicine. Common names include gymnema, Australian cowplant, and Periploca of the woods, and the Hindi term gurmar which means "sugar destroyer". The leaves and extracts contain Gymnema acids, the major bioactive constituents that interact with taste receptors on the tongue to temporarily suppress the taste of sweetness Supraja et al. [4]. Dyes are defined as colored, ionizing and aromatic organic compounds which show affinity towards the substrate to which it is being applied and they are extensively utilized in the textile industry Nagati et al. [5]; Bonnia et al. [6]. These non-biodegradable substances must be removed from the environment and pose to be a dire environmental crisis. Many methods are regularly used for reducing dyes like activated carbon sorption, flocculation, electro coagulation, UV-light degradation and redox treatments Vanaja et al. [7]. However, due to the ineptitude of these methods in one way or the other, the present situation necessitates bet and improved removal methods. Lately, studies have found that Ag nano particles are good, highly efficient and stable catalysts under ambient temperature with visible light illumination for degrading organic compounds and dyes Hence, the purpose of the present study was to assess the degrading property of the synthesized silver nanoparticles from *Gymnema sylvestre* leaves extract towards methylene blue and Antimicrobial Assay.

## Materials and Methods

### Collection of leaves and preparation of Ag NPs

Leaves of *Gymnema sylvestre* were collected from the Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India. 10g wet weight of fresh leaves was cut into fine pieces and washed with distilled water and boiled with 100mL of double distilled water for 10min at 60 °C. Boiled mixture was filtered through Whatman No. 1 filter paper and collects the supernatant of leaf extract to that 90ml of silver nitrate solution is added left for overnight when there is a color changes from color less to brown indicate the formation of AgNPs and remaining leaf solution stored at 4 °C for further studies.

### Collection of dye sample

The Dye sample were collected from Tirupur industry from Tirupur District in Tamilnadu, India. These dye samples were sended to Biotechnology department, Thiruvalluvar University, Vellore and the microbes were collected from dye soil samples through serial dilution and pure microbes were isolated by using streaking method in nutrient agar medium for bacteria and potato dextrose agar for fungi.

### Characterization of silver nanoparticles

The UV-Vis spectrum of this solution was recorded in spectra 50 ANALYTIKJENA Spectrophotometer, which was operated in the wavelength range of 400-800nm. The FT-IR spectrum was taken in the mid IR region of 400-4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The spectrum was recorded using attenuated total reflectance technique. The crystalline structure of the nanoparticles was determined using the XRD technique. The XRD pattern was recorded using computer

controlled XRD-system, JEOL, and Model: JPX-8030 with Cu K $\alpha$  radiation (Ni filtered=13,418 Å) at the range of 40kV, 20A. The aqueous suspension of the synthesized nanoparticles was filtered through a 0.22 $\mu\text{m}$  syringe driven filter unit, and the hydro dynamic diameter (HDD) of the distributed nanoparticles was measured by the principle of dynamic light scattering (DLS) using Nanopartica (HORIBA, SZ-100) compact scattering spectrometer, the surface morphological studies of the AgNPs samples were carried out with scanning electron microscope (SEM) (Hitachi's SU6600) at magnification ranging from 10 to 600,000 operated at an accelerating voltage of 30kV.

### Photocatalytic degradation of dye

Typically, 10mg of methylene blue dye was added to 1000mL of double distilled water used as stock solution. About 10mg of biosynthesized silver nanoparticles was added to 100mL of methylene blue dye solution. A control was also maintained without addition of silver nanoparticles. Before exposing to irradiation, the reaction suspension was well mixed by being magnetically stirred for 30min to clearly make the equilibrium of the working solution. Afterwards, the dispersion was put under the sunlight and monitored from morning to evening sunset. At specific time intervals, aliquots of 2-3mL suspension were filtered and used to evaluate the photocatalytic degradation of dye. The absorbance spectrum of the supernatant was subsequently measured using UV-Vis spectrophotometer at the different wavelength. Concentration of dye during degradation was calculated by the absorbance value at 650nm Supraja et al. [8].

### Antimicrobial activity of plant biosynthesized silver nanoparticles

The antimicrobial activity of *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extracts silver nanoparticles was examined based on colony formation by *in-vitro* Petri dish assays (disc diffusion). Each fungal and bacterial isolate was cultured on growth media that induced prolific conidia and bacterial production. The fungus isolates were grown on potato dextrose agar medium, and bacterial isolates were grown on nutrient agar medium. Conidia were collected from cultures that were incubated at 37 °C for 10days (fungi), and bacterial cultures were collected from cultures that were incubated at 37 °C for 2 days for (bacteria) and diluted with sterile, deionized water to a concentration of 106spore'sml<sup>-1</sup>. Aliquots of the conidial suspension and bacterial suspension were mixed with serial concentrations of silver preparations to a final volume of 1ml and were also mixed with sterile, deionized water as control. A 10 $\mu\text{l}$  subsample of the conidia and *Gymnema sylvestre* silver mixture stock was taken at 30 $\pm$ 0.8, 100 $\pm$ 1.1 and 170 $\pm$ 1.4ppm after silver treatments and diluted 100-foldwith the deionized water. A 10 $\mu\text{l}$  aliquot of the diluted spore suspension was spread on PDA (Becton, Dickson and Company, Sparks, MD) medium. Three PDA plates for fungi and three NAplates for bacteria per each combination of exposure silver concentration were tested. The filter paper disc dipped in different ppm and inserted on mediums (PDA), and then, the plates were incubated at 37 °C for 2-4 days for fungi and bacteria, respectively. The average number of colonies from silver-treated

spore suspensions (fungi) and (bacteria) was compared with the number on the water control (percent colony formation). The zone size was determined by measuring the diameter of the zone in mm Aneja 2003; Supraja et al. [9].

### Statistical analysis

All the data from three independent replicate trials were subjected to analysis using Statistical package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16.0. The data are reported as the mean  $\pm$ SD.

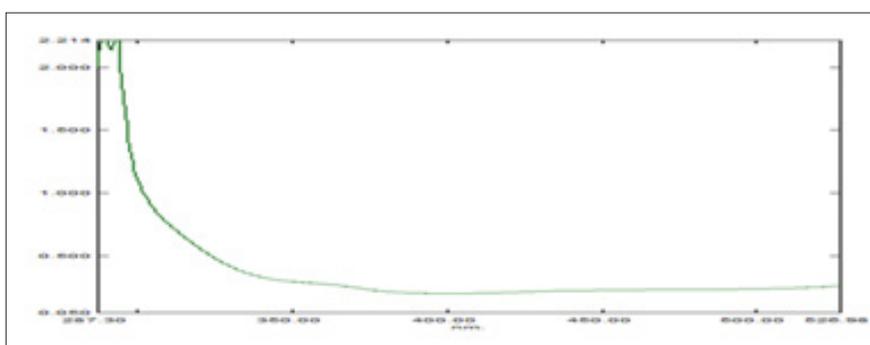
### Result and Discussion

UV-visible spectroscopy characterization method was then used to monitor formation of AgNPs synthesized from *Gymnema sylvestre* (Figure 1) and its properties. The absorption of light by the nanoparticles at different wavelengths provides an indication of particle size, while the breadth of the peaks signifies the particle size distribution. The characteristic SPR band of AgNPs is in the range of 370nm Edeoga et al. [10]. The overall observations suggest

that the bio-reduction of (silver ions) Ag (+) to Ag (0) was confirmed by UV-Vis spectroscopy (Figure 2).



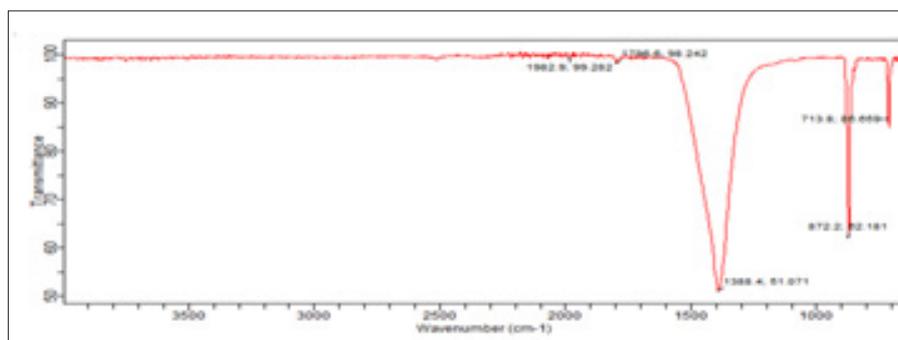
**Figure 1:** *Gymnema sylvestre* leaves.



**Figure 2:** UV-Visible spectrum of *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extract mediated synthesized silver nanoparticles.

FT-IR spectrum of the biosynthesized silver nanoparticles using *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extract (Figure 3) The peak present at  $1982\text{cm}^{-1}$  reveals the presence of C-H stretching vibration of alkynes,  $1796\text{cm}^{-1}$  reveals the presence of C-H stretching vibration of alkanes,  $1388\text{cm}^{-1}$  reveals the presence of C-H stretching vibration of aldehydes,  $872$  and  $713\text{cm}^{-1}$  reveals the presence of

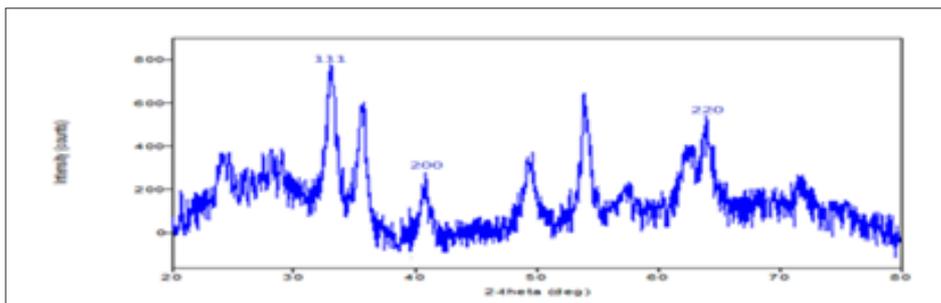
C-Br stretching vibration of alkyl halides. The nanoparticles are bound to the functional organic groups (carboxyl and amine) from the *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extract, and these functional groups may act as template, reducing and capping agents of silver nanoparticles Arun et al. [11].



**Figure 3:** FT-IR spectrum of *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extract mediated synthesized silver nanoparticles.

The powder XRD pattern was recorded for the identification of phases exhibited by the biosynthesized AgNPs. The synthesized AgNPs showed five diffraction peaks (Figure 4) at  $2\theta$  values of  $36.62^\circ$ ,  $42.51^\circ$  and  $65.84^\circ$  which corresponds to the (111), (200)

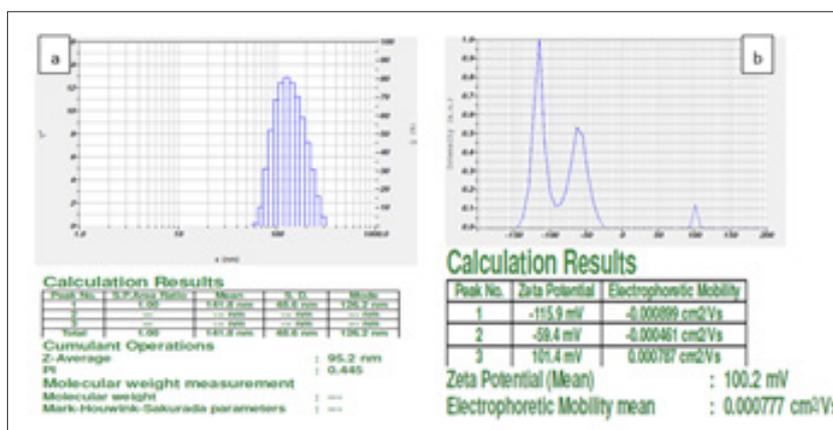
and (220) planes of face-centered cubic the peak corresponding to the (111) plane is more intense than that of other planes suggesting the predominant growth of AgNPs along (111) direction Supraja et al. [8].



**Figure 4:** XRD spectrum of *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extract mediated synthesized silver nanoparticles.

Particle size and zeta potential values were measured using Nanopartica SZ-100 (HORIBA). The zeta potential spectra for the *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extract nanoparticles were recorded zeta potential verses intensity spectra with zeta potential (mV) on

x-axis and intensity (a.u) on y-axis particle size of 95.2nm and zeta potential of 100.2mV were recorded (Figure 5a&5b), Here the zeta potential value of the silver nanoparticles indicated good stability with high potential Sri Sindhura et al. [12].

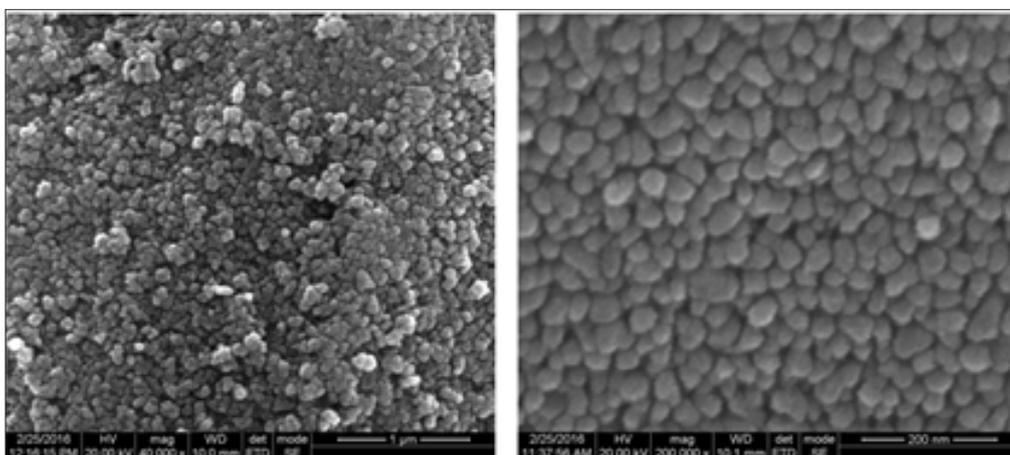


**Figure 5:** DLS spectrum

(a) Particle size (b) Zeta potential of *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extract mediated synthesized silver nanoparticles.

SEM image shows the size and shape of the biosynthesized silver nanoparticles using *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extract. Size of the nanoparticles was observed at different magnifications. Spherical and rhombohedral shape of nanoparticles with high agglomeration was noted with the size range from 1µm to 200-400nm (Figure

6). Polydispersed nanoparticles were observed in SEM image and revealed the result of UV-Vis spectrophotometer. The surfaces of aggregated nanoparticles were shown to be rough. Aggregation of nanoparticles took place due to the insufficiency of capping agent in the leaf extract to synthesis of nanoparticles Prabha et al. [13].



**Figure 6:** SEM analysis of *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extract mediated synthesized silver nanoparticles

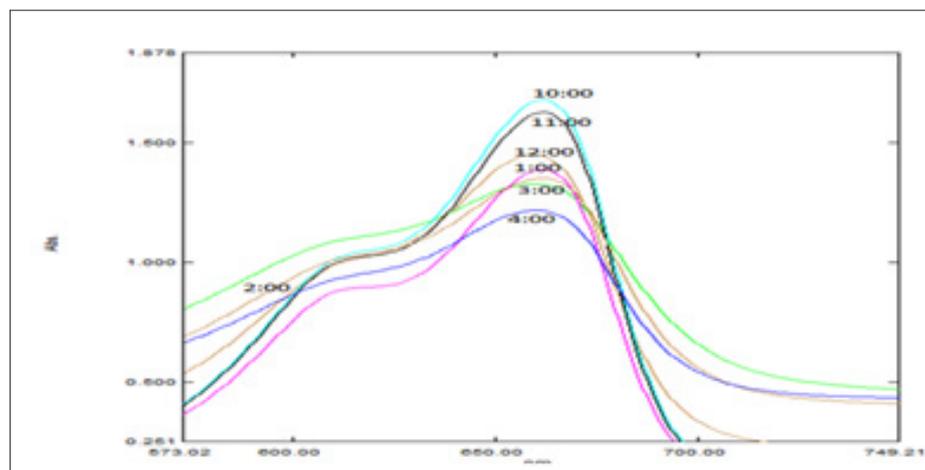
### Photocatalytic degradation of dye

Photocatalytic degradation of methylene blue was carried out by using green synthesized silver nanoparticles under solar light. Dye degradation was initially identified by color change. Initially, the color of dye shows deep blue color changed into light blue after the 1h of incubation with silver nanoparticles while exposed to solar light (Figure 7 & 8). Thereafter light blue was changed into light green. Finally, the degradation process was completed at 7hand was identified by the change of reaction mixture color to colorless.

The adsorption of Ag nanoparticles on the methylene blue solution was initially low and further increased with constant increase in time and the percentage of dye degradation. Altogether, the photocatalytic properties of Ag nanoparticles in visible light may be well due to excitation of Surface Plasmon Resonance, However, at the same time more photo-catalyst would also have induced greater aggregation, which resulted in the decrease in the surface area of the photo-catalyst, making a significant fraction of the catalyst to be inaccessible to adsorbing the dye Vanaja et al. [7].



**Figure 7:** Photo-catalytic degradation of methylene blue using *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extract mediated synthesized silver nanoparticles.



**Figure 8:** Graph showing UV-visible spectrum of different time intervals of Photo-catalytic degradation of methylene blue using *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extract mediated synthesized silver nanoparticles.

### Antimicrobial assay

Silver nanoparticles obtained from *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extract have shown very strong inhibitory action against fungal *sp*, Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria (Figure 9&10). Three concentrations of AgNPs (170,100,50ppm) were prepared and were applied against an array of fungal species viz, *Aspergillus niger*, *Rhizopus stolonifer*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Fusarium oxysporium* and bacterial species viz, *E. Coli*, *Bacillus pantothenicus*, *Pseudomonas fluorescence* and *Salmonella typhimurium*. The higher concentration (170ppm) of leaf mediated synthesized AgNPs showed significant antimicrobial effect (Table 1&2) compared with

other concentrations (100,50ppm) seen in leaf, but when compared to bacterial concentrations fungi shown very good antimicrobial activity towards all concentrations. The inhibitory action of the microbes may be attributed to the loss of replication ability of DNA upon treatment with the silver ion, besides the fact that expression of ribosomal sub-unit proteins as well as some other cellular proteins and enzymes essential to ATP production becomes inactivated Kouvaris et al. [14]. But to understand the mechanisms of action of these agents, more detailed chemical structure elucidation of the bioactive components followed by therapeutic investigations and toxicological assessment are required.



**Figure 9:** Antibacterial activity of different concentrations (50,100,170ppm) of *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extract mediated synthesized silver nanoparticles.



**Figure 10:** Antifungal activity of different concentrations (50,100,170ppm) of *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extract mediated synthesized silver nanoparticles.

**Table 1:** *In-vitro* antibacterial studies against bacterial pathogens using *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extract mediated synthesized silver nanoparticles.

S. No	Bacteria Names	170ppm±1.4ppm	100ppm±1.1ppm	50ppm±0.8ppm
1	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	1.3±0.07	0.9±0.05	0.5±0.03
2	<i>Salmonella typhimurium</i>	1.8±0.08	1.3±0.06	1.0±0.02
3	<i>Pseudomonas</i>	1.2±0.1	0.8±0.09	0.5±0.07
4	<i>Bacillus pantothenicus</i>	2.6±0.4	1.8±0.2	1.2±0.09

**Table 2:** *In-vitro* antifungal studies against fungal pathogens using *Gymnema sylvestre* leaf extract mediated synthesized silver nanoparticles..

S. No	Fungi names	170ppm ±1.4ppm	100ppm±1.1ppm	50ppm±0.8ppm
1	<i>Aspergillus Niger</i>	2.5±0.6	2.1±0.4	1.4±0.08
2	<i>Aspergillus flavus</i>	4.2±0.9	3.5±0.7	1.6±0.5
3	<i>Rhizopus stolonifer</i>	3.1±0.9	2.4±0.6	2.2±0.3
4	<i>Fusarium oxysporium</i>	4.0±0.9	3.7±0.8	3.0±0.5

## Conclusion

Green nanotechnology is gaining importance due to the elimination of harmful reagents and provides effective synthesis of expected products in an economical manner. Green synthesis of silver nanoparticles shows more compatible, ecofriendly, low cost, and less time-consuming process. Herein, the silver nanoparticles were synthesized by using plant leaf extract of *Gymnema sylvestre*

leaf extract, the photocatalytic activity of green synthesized silver nanoparticles was evaluated by choosing methylene blue dye. The main absorption peak at 650nm decreased gradually with the extension of the exposure time indicating the photocatalytic degradation of methylene blue dye. The present study, it is found that the use of natural renewable and eco-friendly reducing agent used for synthesis of silver nanoparticles exhibits excellent

photocatalytic activity against dye molecules and can be used in water purification systems and dye effluent treatment

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