



## ZnO nanoparticles and biocidal effect of nanostructured ZnO films on *Escherichia coli*

Nabila Bouasla<sup>a</sup>, Sihem Abderrahmane<sup>a,\*</sup>, Sameh Athmani<sup>a</sup>, Amel Oulabbas<sup>a</sup>, Mohamed Bououdina<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Laboratoire d'Ingénierie de Surfaces (L.I.S), University Badji Mokhtar, BP 12, 23000 Annaba, Algeria, Tel. +213670056720; email: [abderrahmanesihem@yahoo.fr](mailto:abderrahmanesihem@yahoo.fr) (S. Abderrahmane), Tel. +213657685029; email: [nbouasla@yahoo.fr](mailto:nbouasla@yahoo.fr) (N. Bouasla), Tel. +213671203902; email: [samehathmani@yahoo.fr](mailto:samehathmani@yahoo.fr) (S. Athmani), Tel. +213668152031; email: [ameloulabbas@hotmail.com](mailto:ameloulabbas@hotmail.com) (A. Oulabbas)

<sup>b</sup>Department of Physics, College of Science, University of Bahrain, PO Box 32038, Bahrain, Tel. +97317437585; email: [mboudina@gmail.com](mailto:mboudina@gmail.com)

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### ABSTRACT

The biocidal effect of ZnO nanostructured films was studied using *Escherichia coli* ATCC 43897. The ZnO nanoparticles were synthesized in diethylene glycol by using zinc acetate forced hydrolysis. X-ray diffraction analysis confirmed the formation of single wurtzite-type ZnO phase with a crystallite size of 20.59 nm. Transmission electron microscopy observations revealed spherical-shaped particles in the nanoscale regime with a mean particle size of 21.96 nm. It was found that the addition of trioctylphosphine during synthesis favored much improved dispersion of ZnO nanoparticles, with smaller particle size; that is, 16.28 nm. Meanwhile, ZnO film grown onto glass substrate by spin-coating revealed single phase with the formation of aggregates ( $\approx 700$ ) having mushroom-like morphology formed of very fine particles in the nanoscale regime. The as-deposited nanostructured films exhibited a hydrophilic character. The classical bacteriological and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy measurements enabled the biocidal effect of ZnO nanostructured films with 94% inactivation efficiency after 90 min of contact time.

*Keywords:* ZnO; Spin-coating; Nanostructured film; Biocide effect; *E. coli*; EIS

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\* Corresponding author.