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PYROLYSIS HAS A HIGH POTENTIAL FOR RECYCLING AGRICULTURAL PLASTIC

Catalytic Pyrolysis of Agricultural Plastic Waste Preliminary Study

Joahnn H. PALACIOS¹, Stéphane GODBOUT¹, Maria Camila DIAZ-ACOSTA^{1,2,3}, Patrick BRASSARD¹, Dan ZEGAN¹, Étienne LE ROUX¹, Patrice SEERS³

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AIM

- To study thermochemical recycling of waste agricultural plastics by catalytic pyrolysis in order to obtain a fuel

HYPOTHESIS

- It is possible to improve the production of pyrolytic oil of low-density polyethylene by using zeolite ZSM-5 as a catalyst

OBJECTIVE

- To study the influence of the quantity of zeolite ZSM-5 catalyst on the pyrolytic oil production.

METHODS

- Feedstock: Low-density polyethylene (LDPE); spherical pellets (2.5 mm diameter)
- Pyrolysis: Auger reactor (figure 1) at 559 °C and 24 min of residence time
- Catalyst: Zeolite ZSM-5 in pellets
- Study variable: Catalyst quantity (0, 13, 27 and 40 mg) for 130 g of LDPE plastic

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Condensed product yield was reduced by using the catalytic system (13.6-33.6%)
- Condensed products seem to be more homogeneous increasing catalyst
- Adequate consistency (reproducibility) of the method: low standard deviation (SD) and relative standard deviation (RSD)
- The increase of the solid residence time from 3 to 24 min increased the condensed product yield, from 33.4% to 52.7%, respectively. (compared to Godbout et al., 2017)

CONCLUSIONS

- The condensed products were not in a oily form (appearance is like cream)
- Carbon chains have to be reduced even more (pre- or post-treatment needed)
- Condensed product obtained from pyrolysis with catalyst was more homogeneous
- Catalytic system reduced yield
- Long residence time favored condensed product yield

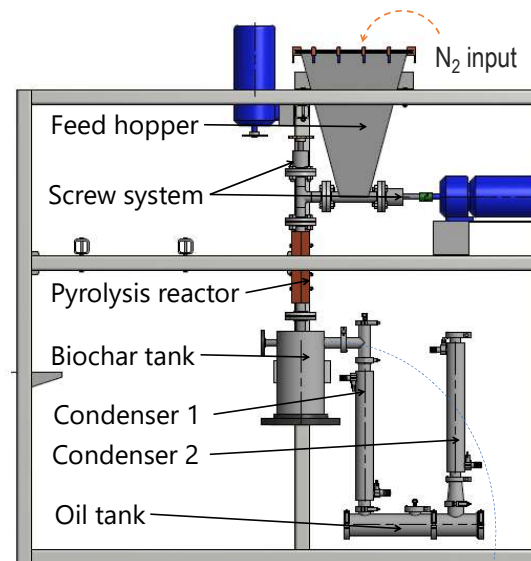


Figure 1. Schema of Auger reactor used for pyrolysis of plastic

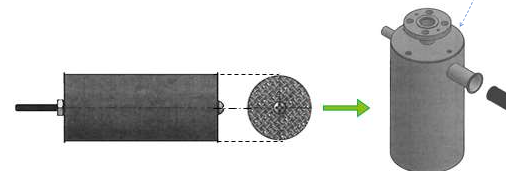


Figure 2. Schematic view of the cartridge for the catalytic system (left) for placing in the char canister (right) of the pyrolysis reactor



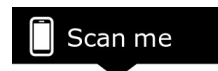
Figure 3. Plastic feedstock (LDPE) and condensed fractions

Table 1. Mass and yield of each pyrolysis product

Pyrolytic product	Without catalyst		With catalysis					
			Cartridge 1 (13 g)		Cartridge 2 (27 g)		Cartridge 3 (40 g)	
	(g)	(%)	(g)	(%)	(g)	(%)	(g)	(%)
Condensed product	68.5	52.7%	51.8	39.8%	57.25	44.0%	45.5	35.0%
SD.			0.00		1.77		1.27	
RSD.			0.0%		3.1%		2.8%	
Solid from char canister	56.1	43.2%	50.8	39.1%	57	43.8%	60.8	46.8%
SD.			1.13		3.11		0.57	
RSD.			2.2%		5.5%		0.9%	
Gas and losses	5.4	4.2%	27	21.1%	16	12.1%	24	18.2%
SD.			1.13		4.88		1.84	
RSD.			4.1%		31.0%		7.8%	

Table 2. Heating value and total energy of condensed products (condenser 1)

Pyrolysis experience	Without catalyst		Cartridge 1 (13 g)		Cartridge 2 (27 g)		Cartridge 3 (40 g)	
	C1	R1	C1	R1	C1	R1	C1	R1
Heating value (MJ/kg)	44.50	44.23	45.10	45.14	45.56	44.96	45.31	45.11
SD.			0.120	0.147	0.383	0.053	0.052	
RSD.			0.3%	0.3%	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%	
Total energy (MJ)	0.76	1.90	0.91	1.19	1.10	1.01	0.83	0.84
SD.				0.179	0.096	0.007	0.094	0.187
RSD.				15.1%	8.8%	0.7%	11.3%	22.3%



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joahnn.palacios@irda.qc.ca