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PREPARATION OF NATURAL RUBBER AND SILICA COMPOSITES FUNCTIONALIZED
WITH SULFONIC ACID GROUP AND THEIR APPLICATION AS CATALYSTS IN
ESTERIFICATION

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งานวิจัยนี้มีจุดประสงค์เพื่อศึกษาการเตรียมคอมโพสิตของยางธรรมชาติและซิลิกาที่มีหมู่ฟังก์ชันด้วยกรดซัลโฟนิก ผ่านวิธีอินซิทู โซล-เจล ร่วมกับการฟังก์ชันด้วยหมู่กรดซัลโฟนิก และการประยุกต์เป็นตัวเร่งปฏิกิริยาในเอสเทอโรฟิเคชัน เริ่มต้นด้วยการศึกษาการเตรียมคอมโพสิตของยางธรรมชาติและเอกซ์ไนโอลามะเขียวรัลซิลิกา (NR/HMS) ที่สังเคราะห์ผ่านวิธีอินซิทู โซล-เจล ในตัวทำละลายเดตระไซโอดีฟูแรน (THF) โดยใช้เตตราแอกโซทิลอโทไฮคลิกเกต (TEOS) เป็นวัตถุดิบซิลิกา จากนั้นนำคอมโพสิตที่เตรียมได้ไปวิเคราะห์ลักษณะสมบัติทางกายภาพและเคมีโดยใช้เทคนิควิเคราะห์ขั้นสูงต่างๆ นอกจากนี้ยังศึกษาผลกระทบของสัดส่วนของผสมในการเตรียมคอมโพสิตอัลกัชนะโครงสร้างและสมบัติความพรุน จากผลวิเคราะห์ที่ได้พบว่า NR/HMS แสดงค่าพื้นผิวที่สูง ปริมาตรรูพรุนสูง การกระจายตัวขนาดรูพรุนแคบ และการจัดเรียงตัวของโครงสร้างแบบเอกซ์ไนโอลที่มีความเป็นระเบียบสูง รวมถึงแสดงสมบัติความไม่ชอบน้ำ ต่อจากนั้นทำการศึกษาการเตรียมคอมโพสิตของยางธรรมชาติและเอกซ์ไนโอลามะเขียวรัลซิลิกาที่มีหมู่ฟังก์ชันด้วยกรดซัลโฟนิก (NR/HMS-SO₃H) ซึ่งเตรียมโดยใช้สัดส่วนผสมของ 3-เมอร์แคปโตโพรพิลไตรเมทธอกซีไซเลน (MPTMS) ต่อเตตราแอกโซทิลอโทไฮคลิกเกต (TEOS) หลายสัดส่วน จากนั้นทำการศึกษาลักษณะสมบัติทางกายภาพและเคมี ลักษณะโครงสร้างและสมบัติความพรุน ของ NR/HMS-SO₃H คอมโพสิตที่เตรียมขึ้นเปรียบเทียบกับเอกซ์ไนโอลามะเขียวรัลซิลิกาที่มีหมู่ฟังก์ชันด้วยกรดซัลโฟนิก (HMS-SO₃H) จากผลวิเคราะห์ที่ได้พบว่า NR/HMS-SO₃H มีความเป็นกรดสูง และแสดงข้อดีของลักษณะความพรุนแบบโมโนฟอร์สัร์วัมกับสมบัติความไม่ชอบน้ำจาก การคอมโพสิตกับยางธรรมชาติ สุดท้ายทำการศึกษาสมรรถนะเชิงเร่งปฏิกิริยาของคอมพอสิตที่เตรียมได้ในเอสเทอโรฟิเคชันกับกรดคาร์บอซิลิก hairy นิดกับเอทานอล จากการศึกษาพบว่า ตัวเร่งปฏิกิริยาชนิดคอมมิลต์ NR/HMS-SO₃H มีความว่องไวในการเร่งเอสเทอโรฟิเคชันที่เหนือกว่า HMS-SO₃H และคอมพอสิตของแอนฟิออกอนและซิลิกา (SAC-13) นอกจากนี้ NR/HMS-SO₃H ยังมีความสามารถในการกลับมาใช้ซ้ำสำหรับการเร่งเอสเทอโรฟิเคชันอย่างน้อย 4 รอบ

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SAK DINUN NUNTANG: PREPARATION OF NATURAL RUBBER AND SILICA COMPOSITES FUNCTIONALIZED WITH SULFONIC ACID GROUP AND THEIR APPLICATION AS CATALYSTS IN ESTERIFICATION ADVISOR: ASST. PROF. CHAWALIT NGAMCHARUSSRIVICHAI, Ph.D., CO-ADVISOR: ASST. PROF SIRILUX POOMPRADUB, Ph.D., PROF TAKASHI TATSUMI, Ph.D., 136 pp

The main objectives of this study were the preparation propylsulfonic acid-functionalized mesoporous composites based on natural rubber (NR) and hexagonal mesoporous silica (HMS) via the in situ sol-gel technique and the simultaneous functionalization with organo-sulfonic acid groups, in order to use them as catalysts in esterification. Firstly, a series of NR/HMS composites was prepared in tetrahydrofuran (THF) via an in situ sol-gel process using tetraethylorthosilicate (TEOS) as a silica precursor. The physicochemical properties of the composites were characterized by various techniques. In addition, the effects of the gel composition on the structural and textural properties of the NR/HMS composites were investigated. NR/HMS exhibited the high BET surface area, large pore volume, narrow pore size distribution and high order hexagonal structure, including hydrophobicity. After that, the propylsulfonic acid functionalized mesoporous composites based on natural rubber and hexagonal mesoporous silica (NR/HMS-SO₃H) were prepared by varying 3-mercaptopropyl trimethoxysilane (MPTMS) to tetraethylorthosilicate (TEOS) molar ratio. The physicochemical, textural and structural properties of acidic composites were compared with acidic hexagonal mesoporous silica (HMS-SO₃H). The acidic composites possessed high acidity, high mesoporosity of HMS and the hydrophobicity of the NR. Finally, their catalytic activities were tested in the esterification of various carboxylic acids with ethanol. The NR/HMS-SO₃H catalysts possessed a superior specific activity to HMS SO₃H and silica-supported Nafion® catalyst (SAC-13). Moreover, NR/HMS-SO₃H catalysts exhibited reusability in esterification at least 4 cycles.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BET	=	Brunner-Eller-Teller
BJH	=	Barret-Joyner-Halenda
DDA	=	Dodecylamine
DTA	=	Differential Thermal Analysis
FTIR	=	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy
GC	=	Gas chromatography
HMS	=	Hexagonal Mesoporous Silica
MPTMS	=	3-mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane
MAS	=	Magic Angle Spinning
NMR	=	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
NR	=	Natural Rubber
SEM	=	Scanning Electron Microscope
TEM	=	Transmission Electron Microscopy
TEOS	=	Tetraethylorthosilicate or tetraethoxysilane
TGA	=	Thermo Gravimetric Analysis
THF	=	Tetrahydrofuran
XRD	=	X-Ray Diffraction



NOMENCLATURE

$^{\circ}\text{C}$	=	Degree Celsius
g	=	Gram
mL	=	Milliliter
min	=	Minute
h	=	Hour
cm^{-1}	=	Unit of wavenumber
a_0	=	The repeat distance between pore centers of the hexagonal structure
d_{100}	=	d-spacing of plane (100)
S_{BET}	=	BET specific surface area ($\text{m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$)
S_{ext}	=	External surface area ($\text{m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$)
D_p	=	Pore diameter (nm)
V_p	=	Total pore volume ($\text{cm}^3 \text{ g}^{-1}$)
V_p	=	Mesopore volume ($\text{cm}^3 \text{ g}^{-1}$)
V_m	=	Monolayer adsorbed volume ($\text{cm}^3 \text{ g}^{-1}$)

