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Short Communication

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Effect of torrefaction pretreatment on the pyrolysis of rubber wood sawdust analyzed by Py-GC/MS

Wei-Hsin Chen ^{1,2,*}, Chao-Wen Wang ¹, Gopalakrishnan Kumar ³, Patrick Rousset ^{4,5},
Tzu-Hsien Hsieh ⁶

1. Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan 701, Taiwan
2. Research Center for Energy Technology and Strategy, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan 701, Taiwan
3. Department of Environmental Engineering, Daegu University, South Korea
4. CIRAD, UPR BioWooEB, F-34398 Montpellier, France
5. Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment- Center of Excellence on Energy Technology and Environment-King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Bangkok, Thailand
6. Green Technology Research Institute, CPC Corporation, Kaohsiung, 811, Taiwan

* Corresponding author;

E-mail: weihsinchen@gmail.com; chenwh@mail.ncku.edu.tw

Abstract

The aim of this study was to investigate the effect of torrefaction on the pyrolysis of rubber wood sawdust (RWS) using pyrolysis–gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (Py-GC/MS). Three typical torrefaction temperatures (200, 250, and 300 °C) and pyrolysis temperatures (450, 500, and 550 °C) were considered. The results suggested that only diethyl phthalate, belonging to esters, was detected at the torrefaction temperatures of 200 and 250 °C, revealing hemicellulose degradation. With the torrefaction temperature of 300 °C, esters, aldehydes, and phenols were detected, suggesting the predominant decomposition of hemicellulose and lignin. The double-shot pyrolysis indicated that the contents of oxy-compounds such as acids and aldehydes in pyrolysis bio-oil decreased with rising torrefaction temperature, implying that increasing torrefaction severity abated oxygen content in the bio-oil. With the torrefaction temperature of 300 °C, relatively more cellulose was retained in the biomass because the carbohydrate content in the pyrolysis bio-oil increased significantly.

Keywords: Torrefaction; Pyrolysis; Bio-oil; Py-GC/MS; Double-shot analysis.

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