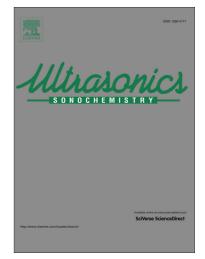
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Faezeh Moghzi, Janet Soleimannejad

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Sonochemical synthesis of a new nano-sized barium coordination polymer and its application as a heterogeneous catalyst towards sonosynthesis of biodiesel

Faezeh Moghzi^a and Janet Soleimannejad^{a*}

^a School of Chemistry, College of Science, University of Tehran, P.O. Box 14155-6455

Tehran, Iran

Abstract

A new nano-sized barium coordination polymer, { $(bipyH)[Ba_2(pydc)_2(Hpydc)(H_2O)_2]$ }_{n.nH2O} (1), (bipy=4,4'-bipyridine and H₂pydc=pyridine-2,6-dicarboxylic acid), has been sonochemically synthesized and fully characterized by scanning electron microscopy (SEM), X-ray powder diffraction (XRPD), FT-IR spectroscopy, thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) and elemental analyses. Compound 1 was structurally characterized by single crystal X-ray diffraction and it was shown that this compound consists of 1D anionic coordination polymers and bipyH⁺ cationic species that construct a three-dimensional supramolecular architecture *via* non-covalent interactions *i.e.* ion-pairing and hydrogen bonding. The role of compound 1 as a heterogeneous catalyst in the production of biodiesel was also investigated. A full conversion of soybean oil to biodiesel was accomplished in an exceptionally short timeframe through an ultrasonic-assisted transesterification process in the presence of compound 1.

Keywords: Nano; Barium coordination polymer; Catalyst; Biodiesel; Sonochemical process.

1. Introduction

Biodiesel has remarkable advantages compared to other alternative renewable fuels. Not only can it be produced from widespread bio-resources such as vegetable oils, animal fats and algal lipids, it is also nontoxic and biodegradable and has a high flash point, good lubrication properties and low gas emission without any sulfur or carcinogenic compounds during combustion [1-3].

Biodiesel is a mixture of fatty acid methyl esters obtained by the catalyzed or uncatalyzed reaction between triacylglycerols (TAGs) or free fatty acids (FFAs) and a short chain alcohol

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