

**EFFECT OF REACTION TIME IN TRANSESTERIFICATION FOR
BIODIESEL PRODUCTION USING CALCIUM OXIDE SUPPORT
ON ALUMINIUM OXIDE AS CATALYST**

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ABSTRACT

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Biodiesel fuel is promising source to replace diesel fuel that can be produced transesterification process. The objective of this study is to examine the effect of transesterification time to the percentage yield of fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) formed. Calcium oxide support on aluminium oxide, heterogeneous base catalyst is used to carry out transesterification process. The transesterification process is carried out in a condition at 65°C reaction temperature, 2g catalyst and 9:1 methanol to oil ratio. The different reaction time shows significant value in the percentage yield. The time varied from three hour to seven hour. Highest production of FAME is found at five hours which gives out 63%. The catalyst was characterized by Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) and Field emission scanning electron microscope (FESEM). FTIR result for calcium oxide show band at 946.68cm⁻¹ indicates the existence of carbonate species and band at 667.26cm⁻¹ for Al₂O₃ spectrum represent stretching vibration of alumina. Agglomeration of CaO and Al₂O₃ can be seen at band 595.38cm⁻¹ for Ca-O-Al. FESEM result show the agglomeration of catalyst after calcined. The types of fatty acid presence in the rubber seed oil is analyse using gas chromatography mass spectra resulting four types of fatty acid found during the analysis. The fatty acids found are palmitic acid, stearic acid, linoleic acid and linolenic acid. Therefore, Cao/Al₂O₃ showed a good catalytic characteristic which produced high percentage of FAME.

TABLE OF CONTENT

	PAGE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF ABBREVIATION	viii
ABSTRACT	ix
ABSTRAK	
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background of study	1
1.2 Problem statement	4
1.3 Significance of study	5
1.4 Objectives of study	6
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Biodiesel from rubber seed oil	7
2.2 Catalyst	
2.2.1 Heterogeneous and homogenous	10
2.2.2 Support on catalyst	11
2.2.3 Calcium oxide (Cao)	12
2.3 Effect of parameter	12
2.4 Transesterification reaction of rubber seed oil	14
2.5 The usage of methanol and ethanol	16
CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY	
3.1 Raw material	17
3.2 Chemical	17
3.3 Apparatus	18
3.4 Soxhlet extraction	18
3.5 Catalyst preparation	19
3.6 Characterization of catalyst	19
3.7 Transesterification reaction	20
3.8 Gas chromatography analysis	21

CHAPTER 4 RESULT AND DISCUSSION	
4.1 Effect of reaction time towards FAME production	22
4.2 Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy	26
4.3 Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) analysis	29
4.4 Composition of FAME (GC-analysis)	35
CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	
5.1 Conclusion	37
5.2 Recommendation	39
CITED REFERENCES	40
APPENDICES	43
CURRICULUM VITAE	44

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Caption	Page
2.1	Hexadecane	7
2.2	FAME (Fatty Acid Methyl Ester)	8
2.3	General equation of transesterification of triglyceride	14
4.1	Percentage yield versus reaction time	22
4.2	FESEM image of Calcium oxide (CaO)	23
4.3	FESEM image of Aluminium oxide (Al ₂ O ₃)	23
4.4	Uncalcined Calcium oxide /Al ₂ O ₃	24
4.5	Calcined Calcium oxide /Al ₂ O ₃	24
4.6	FTIR spectra of Al ₂ O ₃	26
4.7	FTIR spectra of Calcium oxide (CaO)	27
4.8	FTIR spectra of uncalcined CaO/Al ₂ O ₃	28
4.9	FTIR result of calcined CaO/Al ₂ O ₃	29
4.10	Composition of FAME in GC-analysis	31