# DEHYDROXYLATION OF GLYCEROL TO PROPYLENE GLYCOL OVER COPPER/ZINC OXIDE-BASED CATALYSTS: EFFECT OF CATALYST PREPARATION



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Preparation

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#### **ABSTRACT**

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Because of the rapid development of biodiesel production by the transesterification of vegetable oil, large quantities of glycerol are available as a reaction by-product. One of the most attractive routes to convert glycerol to high value-added products is the catalytic dehydroxylation of glycerol to propylene glycol. In this study, the catalytic activity of dehydroxylation reaction was investigated over CuZnO/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts prepared by incipient wetness impregnation at various calcination temperatures. The maximum activity and stability was obtained for the catalyst calcined at 500°C. At the same calcination temperature, the performance of the CuZnO/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts prepared by co-precipitation was also examined. It was found that the stability of the co-precipitated catalyst was higher than those of the impregnated catalyst. The TEM, TPR, and XRD measurements revealed that a better catalytic performance of the co-precipitated catalyst was assigned to the highly dispersed copper oxide species in spinel-like matrix.

## บทคัดย่อ

อิสริยา เฉิดดิลก: การผลิตโพรพิลีนไกลคอลจากกลีเซอรอล โดยตัวเร่งปฏิกิริยาที่มีทองแดง
และสังกะสืออกไซค์เป็นส่วนประกอบพื้นฐาน:ผลกระทบของวิธีเตรียมตัวเร่งปฏิกิริยา
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เพื่องจากมีการผลิตไบโอดีเซลโดยกระบวนการทรานเอสเตอริฟิเคชัน(Tranesterification) เพิ่มมากขึ้นทำให้ปริมาณของกลีเซอรอลซึ่งเป็นผลพลอยได้จากปฏิกิริยาเพิ่มมากขึ้นเช่นกัน ดังนั้นการ นำกลีเซอรอลไปเปลี่ยนเป็นสารเคมีที่มีมูลค่าสูงขึ้นเช่น โพรเพนไดออลโดยผ่านปฏิกิริยาดีไฮดรอก ซิเลชัน (Dehydroxylation) โดยใช้ตัวเร่งปฏิกิริยาถือเป็นทางเลือกหนึ่งที่น่าสนใจ งานวิจัยนี้ได้ศึกษา ประสิทธิภาพของตัวเร่งปฏิกิริยาทองแดงและสังกะสืออกไซด์บนอะลูมินา (CuZnO/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) ในการทำ ปฏิกิริยาดีไฮดรอกซิเลชันโดยเดรียมตัวเร่งปฏิกิริยาด้วยวิซีเอิบชุ่ม (Incipient wetness impregnation) โดยใช้อุณหภูมิในการเผาที่ เตกต่างกัน จากการศึกษาพบว่า ตัวเร่งปฏิกิริยาที่ใช้อุณหภูมิในการเผาที่ 500 องศาเซลเซียส มีประสิทธิภาพและความเสถียรสูงกว่าเมื่อเทียบกับตัวเร่งปฏิกิริยาที่ใช้อุณหภูมิอื่น นอกจากนี้ งานวิจัยจังได้ศึกษาประสิทธิภาพของตัวเร่งปฏิกิริยาที่เดรียมโดยผ่านวิซีการตกตะกอนร่วม (Co-precipitation) โดยเผาที่อุณหภูมิ 500 องศาเซลเซียส พบว่า ตัวเร่งปฏิกิริยาที่เดรียมโดยวิซี ตกตะกอนร่วมมีประสิทธิภาพและความเสถียรสูงกว่าตัวเร่งปฏิกิริยาที่เดรียมโดยวิซีเอิบชุ่ม ทั้งนี้ เนื่องจากการกระจายตัวที่ดีของทองแดงออกไซด์ในโครงสร้างสปีเนล ซึ่งวิเคราะห์ได้จากเทคนิก TEM, TPR, และ XRD.

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