PURIFICATION OF PHET WAX USING CRYSTALLIZATION AND SUPERCRITICAL CARBON DIOXIDE EXTRACTION

Mr. Sanyapong Rangsansvasti

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Science

The Petroleum and Petrochemical College, Chulalongkorn University
in Academic Partnership with

The University of Michigan, The University of Oklahoma,
Case Western Reserve University and Institut Français du Pétrole
2007

Thesis Title:

Purification of Phet Wax Using Crystallization

and Supercritical Carbon Dioxide Extraction

By:

Sanyapong Rangsansvasti

Program:

Petroleum Technology

Thesis Advisors:

Assoc. Prof. Chintana Saiwan

Dr. Thammanoon Sreethawong

Assoc. Prof. Somkiat Ngamprasertsith

Dr. Emmanuel Behar

Accepted by the Petroleum and Petrochemical College, Chulalongkorn University, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science.

(Assoc. Prof. Nantaya Yanumet)

Thesis Committee:

(Assoc. Prof. Chintana Saiwan)

Contar Sum

Somked Manynosulith

(Assoc. Prof. Somkiat Ngamprasertsith)

(Dr. Emmanuel Behar)

(Assoc. Prof. Kunchana Bunyakiat)

K. Bunyahint.

(Dr. Thammanoon Sreethawong)

(Mr. Somporn Rassadanukul)

ABSTRACT

473011063: Petroleum Technology Program

Sanyapong Rangsansvasti: Purification of Phet Wax Using

Crystallization and Supercritical Carbon Dioxide Extraction

Thesis Advisors: Assoc. Prof. Chintana Saiwan, Dr. Thammanoon

Sreethawong, Assoc. Prof. Somkiat Ngamprasertsith, and

Dr. Emmanuel Behar 68 pp.

Keywords: Paraffin Wax/ Crystallization/ Supercritical Fluid CO₂ Extraction /

Simulation Distillation Gas Chromatograph

Wax deposition problems found during crude oil production transportation can cost millions of dollars a year. In Thailand, the wax deposition in transportation wagons is removed and then disposed of, and the company loses the opportunity to profit from the wax. To enable value addition to the wax, separating and de-oiling it using several processes can be done. The sludge wax was first characterized by simulation distillation gas chromatograph (SimDist-GC). Then, crystallization and supercritical fluid CO₂ extraction methods were investigated to separate and purify the wax. Toluene, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), and a toluene/MEK mixture were used as solvents and the effects of solvent type, solvent amount (solvent to wax ratio), and solvent composition (MEK to toluene ratio) on the crystallization, as well as important extraction parameters, such as pressure, extraction time, and CO₂ flow rate in the supercritical fluid CO2 extraction, were also investigated. The results showed that a purified wax obtained by using crystallization with the mixed solvent in a ratio of 1:1 had the highest purity (over 98%), while those obtained from the supercritical fluid CO₂ extraction had lower purity (over 95%). Supercritical fluid CO2 extraction, however, appeared to be an attractive option for purification of wax without the use of a liquid-based solvent.

บทคัดย่อ

ศัลขพงษ์ รังสรรค์สวัสดิ์ : การทำไขจากแหล่งน้ำมันดิบเพชรให้บริสุทธิ์โดยวิธีการตก ผลึกไข และการสกัดด้วยการ์บอนไดออกไซด์ที่สภาวะเหนือวิกฤต (Purification of Phet Wax Using Crystallization and Supercritical Carbon dioxide Extraction) อ. ที่ปรึกษา : รศ. ดร. จินตนา สายวรรณ์, ดร. ธรรมนูญ ศรีทะวงศ์, รศ. ดร. สมเกียรติ งามประเสริฐสิทธิ์, และ ดร. เอ็มมานูเอล เบฮาร์ 68 หน้า

ปัญหาการสะสมตัวของไขน้ำมันคิบซึ่งเกิดขึ้นส่วนใหญ่ระหว่างการขนส่ง ผลเสียคิดเป็นมูลค่าหลายล้านเหรียญสหรัฐต่อปี สำหรับประเทศไทย ไขที่เกิดขึ้นในระหว่างการ ขนส่งจะถูกกำจัดออกจากตู้ขนส่งและนำไปกำจัดทิ้ง ซึ่งทำให้บริษัทสูญเสียโอกาสในการใช้ ประโยชน์จากไขในส่วนนี้ การเพิ่มมูลค่าให้แก่ไขสามารถทำได้หลายกระบวนการ งานวิจัยนี้ มุ่งเน้นที่กระบวนการแยกไขโดยทำไขให้บริสุทธิ์ด้วยการกำจัดน้ำมันซึ่งปนอยู่ในไขนั้น น้ำมันดิบจะถูกวิเคราะห์สัคส่วนที่เป็นน้ำมันและสัคส่วนที่เป็นไขด้วยเครื่องแก๊ซโครมาโตรกราฟ สำหรับงานวิจัยชิ้นนี้ใช้วิธีการทำไขให้บริสุทธิ์โคยการตกผลึกด้วยตัวทำละลาย โดยใช้ตัวทำ ละลายโทลูอื่น เมทิลเอทิลคีโตน และตัวทำละลายผสมระหว่างโทลูอื่นกับเมทิลเอทิลคีโตน และ อัตราส่วนการผสมระหว่างตัวทำละลายกับไขน้ำมันคิบ ศึกษาผลกระทบของชนิดตัวทำละลาย และอัตราส่วนการผสมระหว่างโทลูอื่นกับเมทิลเอทิลกีโตนในตัวทำละลายผสม ประสิทธิภาพในการทำไขน้ำมันดิบให้บริสุทธิ์ งานวิจัยนี้ยังศึกษากระบวนการแยกไขโดยวิธีการ สกัดด้วยก๊าซการ์บอนไดออกไซด์ที่สภาวะเหนือวิกฤติ โดยศึกษาผลกระทบของเวลาที่ใช้การสกัด ความคันที่สภาวะเหนือวิกฤติ และอัตราการใหลของก๊าซการ์บอนใคออกใชด์ ที่มีต่อประสิทธิภาพ ในการทำไขน้ำมันดิบให้บริสุทธิ์อีกด้วย จากผลการทดลองพบว่ากระบวนการตกผลึกด้วยตัวทำ ละลายโดยใช้ตัวทำละลายผสมระหว่างโทลูอื่นกับเมทิลเอทิลดีโตนเท่ากับ 1:1 สามารถทำให้ไขมี ความบริสทธิ์มากถึง 98 เปอร์เซนต์ และจากกระบวนการสกัดด้วยก๊าซการ์บอนไดออกไซด์ที่ ถึงแม้ว่าไขที่ได้จาก เปอร์เซนต์ สภาวะเหนือวิกฤติพบว่าไขมีความบริสุทธิ์มากกว่า 95 กระบวนการสกัดด้วยก๊าซคาร์บอนไดออกไซด์ที่สภาวะเหนือวิกฤติมีความบริสุทธิ์น้อยกว่าจาก กระบวนการตกผลึกด้วยตัวทำละลาย แต่ก็ยังถือได้ว่าเป็นกระบวนการที่น่าสนใจในการนำก๊าซ คาร์บอนไดออกไซด์มาใช้ประโยชน์โดยไม่ต้องใช้ตัวทำละลายของเหลวซึ่งอาจส่งผลต่อสภาวะ แวคล้อม

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work has been a very good experience. It would not be successful without the assistance of the following individuals and organization.

The author is grateful for the partial scholarship and partial funding of the thesis work provided by the Petroleum and the Petrochemical college; and the National Excellence Center for the Petroleum, Petrochemicals, and Advanced Materials, Thailand.

I am grateful for funding provided by the PTTEP Public Company Limited.

I would like to give the deepest appreciation to Assoc. Prof. Chintana Saiwan, Dr. Thammanoon Sreethawong, and Dr. Emmanuel Behar for providing invaluable recommendation, knowledge, and encouragement throughout this research. This thesis would not be completed without their consistent help.

My great appreciation goes to Assoc. Prof. Kunchana Bunyakiat, Assoc. Prof. Somkiat Ngamprasertsith, and Mr. Somporn Rassadanukul, my thesis committee for their well-intentioned suggestions and the comments are greatly acknowledgd. In addition, I would like to thank Mr. Robert Wright for helping improve my English usage.

I would like to extend my thanks to all staffs and my friends at The Petroleum and Petrochemical College for their support, help, and encouragement.

Finally, I would like to express the sincerest gratitude to my parents, and my family for endless love, understanding, and everything in my life.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

			PAGE
	Title P	age	i
	Abstra	ct (in English)	iii
	Abstra	ct (in Thai)	iv
	Ackno	wledgements	v
	Table of Contents List of Tables		
	List of	Figures	xi
CHA	PTER		
	I INTRODUCTION		1
	11	LITERATURE REVIEW	2
	Ш	EXPERIMENT	10
		3.1 Materials	10
		3.2 Equipment	10
		3.2.1 Continuous Supercritical Fluid Carbon Dioxide	
		Extraction	10
		3.2.2 Batch Dissolution Using Supercritical Solvent	
		(Toluene, MEK, and Mixture of Toluene and MEK)	11
		3.2.3 Simulation Distillation Gas Chromatograph	11
		3.3 Methodology	11
		3.3.1 Crystallization by Using Solvents	11
		3.3.2 Crystallization by Using Supercritical Solvent	13
		3.3.3 Supercritical Fluid Carbon Dioxide Extraction	
		of The Sludge Wax	13

CHAPTER		PAGE
	3.3.4 Supercritical Fluid (CO ₂) Extraction of	
	The Wax in Methyl ethyl ketone Solution	14
	3.4 The Experimental Design	15
	3.4.1 Supercritical fluid carbon dioxide extraction	15
IV	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	20
	4.1 Characterization of Sludge Wax	20
	4.2 Wax Purification by Crystallization	20
	4.2.1 Wax Purification by Crystallization Using Solvents	20
	4.2.1.1 Effect of solvent types	20
	4.2.1.2 Effect of solvent composition	
	(MEK:Toluene ratio)	25
	4.2.1.3 Effect of solvent amount (solvent to wax ratio)	26
	4.3 Wax Purification by Crystallization Using	
	Supercritical Solvents	30
	4.4 Wax Purification by Supercritical Fluid Extraction	34
	4.4.1 Wax Purification by Supercritical Fluid Carbon	
	Dioxide Extraction of The Original Sludge Wax	34
	4.4.1.1 Effect of extraction time	34
	4.4.1.2 Effects of Factor on The Extracted Amount	36
	4.4.1.3 Effects of Factor on The Percentage of	
	Remaining Oil	41
	4.4.1.4 Supercritical Fluid Carbon Dioxide Extraction	
	with The Optimum Condition	44
	4.5 Wax Purification by Supercritical Fluid Carbon Dioxide	
	Extraction of The Wax-Methyl ethyl ketone Solution	47

CHAPTER			PAGE
v	CONCLUSIO	ONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	51
	REFERENC	ES	52
	APPENDICI	ES	
	Appendix A	Calculation of The Amount of Solvent Used in	
		The Supercritical State	54
	Appendix B	Hydrocarbon Composition of The Original	
		Sludge Wax	59
	Appendix C	The Oil and Wax Content in Each Fraction from	
		Different Processes	60
	Appendix D	Chromatogram of a Purified Wax Obtain from	
		Difference Process	63
	CURRICUL	UM VITAE	68

LIST OF TABLES

ΓABLE	
Two levels of the three investigated factors	16
All treatment combinations corresponding to the	
experimental condition	17
Total number of run and label in the 2 ³ design	
Algebraic signs for calculating the effects in 2 ³ design	18
The oil and wax content in each fraction obtained from	
different solvents	22
The yield, amount of wax, and purity of the desired product	
(precipitate) obtained from different solvents.	22
The oil and wax content in each fraction obtained from	
different solvent to wax ratio	26
The yield, amount of wax, and purity of the desired product	
(precipitate) obtained from different solvent to wax ratio.	27
The oil and wax content in wax-supercritical mixtures,	
precipitate, and filtrate obtained from different supercritical	
solvents	31
The yield, amount of wax ,and purity of the desired product	
(precipitate) obtained from different solvents.	31
The observed response of all experiments at several	
conditions	36
Analysis of variance for the extracted amount	38
Analysis of variance for the percentage of remaining oil	42
Oil and wax content in extracted and remaining fractions	
obtained from different extraction times	44
The yield, amount of wax ,and purity of the desired product	
(precipitate) obtained from different solvent to wax ratio.	45
	Two levels of the three investigated factors All treatment combinations corresponding to the experimental condition Total number of run and label in the 2³ design Algebraic signs for calculating the effects in 2³ design The oil and wax content in each fraction obtained from different solvents The yield, amount of wax, and purity of the desired product (precipitate) obtained from different solvents. The oil and wax content in each fraction obtained from different solvent to wax ratio The yield, amount of wax, and purity of the desired product (precipitate) obtained from different solvent to wax ratio. The oil and wax content in wax-supercritical mixtures, precipitate, and filtrate obtained from different supercritical solvents The yield, amount of wax, and purity of the desired product (precipitate) obtained from different solvents. The observed response of all experiments at several conditions Analysis of variance for the extracted amount Analysis of variance for the percentage of remaining oil Oil and wax content in extracted and remaining fractions obtained from different extraction times The yield, amount of wax, and purity of the desired product

TABL	Æ	PAGE
4.12	The oil and wax content obtained from supercritical fluid	
	carbon dioxide extraction of the wax-methyl ethyl ketone	
	solution	48

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE		PAGE	
2.1	Phase diagram of carbon dioxide.	7	
3.1	Diagram of the crystallization process	12	
3.2	Schematic of the supercritical fluid CO ₂ extraction apparatus	14	
3.3	Diagram of the supercritical fluid (CO ₂) extraction of the		
	wax-methyl ethyl ketone solution	15	
4.1	Chromatogram of the original sludge wax	20	
4.2	Chromatograms of a residue, precipitate, and filtrate from		
	different solvents: (a) residue from MEK solution, (b)		
	precipitate from MEK solution, (c) filtrate from MEK		
	solution, (d) residue from toluene solution, (e) precipitate		
	from toluene solution, (f) filtrate from toluene solution, (g)		
	residue from mixed solvent solution, (h) precipitate from		
	mixed solvent solution, and (i) filtrate from mixed solvent		
	solution	24	
4.3	Oil content in a precipitate obtained from different MEK to		
	toluene ratios	25	
4.4	Percentage of oil and wax content in residue obtained from		
	different solvent to wax ratios	27	
4.5	Percentage of oil and wax content in precipitate obtained		
	from different solvent to wax ratios	28	
4.6	Percentage of oil and wax content in filtrate obtained from		
	different solvent to wax ratios	28	
4.7	Chromatograms of a wax- supercritical solvent mixture,		
	precipitate, and filtrate obtained from different supercritical		
	solvents: (a) wax- supercritical MEK mixture, (b) precipitate		
	from supercritical MEK mixture, (c) filtrate from		

FIGU	FIGURE	
	supercritical MEK mixture, (d) wax- supercritical toluene	
	mixture, (e) precipitate from supercritical toluene mixture,	
	(f) filtrate from supercritical toluene mixture, (g) wax-	
	supercritical mixed solvents, (h) precipitate from wax-	
	supercritical mixed solvent, and (i) filtrate from wax-	
	supercritical mixed solvent	33
4.8	The effect of extraction time on the amount and accumulated	
	amount of extracted fraction (Bar: amount; Line:	
	accumulated amount)	35
4.9	Normal probability plot of all effects on the extracted	
	amount	37
4.10	Main effects and interaction plots for (a) extraction time, (b)	
	pressure, (c) CO ₂ flow rate, (d) time-pressure interaction, (e)	
	time-CO2 flow rate interaction, and (f) pressure-CO2 flow	
	rate interaction	40
4.11	Normal probability plot of all effects on the percentage of	
.	remaining oil	41
4.12	Main effects and interaction on remaining oil (a) Extraction	
	time, (b) Pressure, (c) CO2 flow rate, (d) Time-pressure	
	interaction, (e) Time-CO ₂ flow rate interaction, and (f)	
	Pressure-CO ₂ flow rate interaction	43
4.13	Percentage of oil and wax in a remaining fraction obtained	
	from supercritical fluid CO2 extraction with different	
	extraction time	45
4.14	Percentage of oil and wax in an extracted fraction obtained	
	from supercritical fluid CO2 extraction with different	
	extraction time	46
4.15	Chromatograms of (a) the extracted fraction, and (b) wax	
	after supercritical fluid carbon dioxide extraction	47

FIGUI	RE	PAGI
4.16	Chromatograms of the (a) residue, (b) first fraction (clear	
	brown solution), and (c) second fraction (dark yellow	
	colloid) obtained from supercritical fluid carbon dioxide	
	extraction of the wax-methyl ethyl ketone solution	50