นายกิตติภณ วิวัฒนางกูร

สถาบันวิทยบริการ จฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

วิทยานิพนธ์นี้เป็นส่วนหนึ่งของการศึกษาตามหลักสูตรปริญญาวิศวกรรมศาสตรมหาบัณฑิต สาขาวิชาวิศวกรรมเคมี ภาควิชาวิศวกรรมเคมี คณะวิศวกรรมศาสตร์ จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย ปีการศึกษา 2548 ISBN 974-17-5408-6 ลิขสิทธิ์ของจุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

CONTINUOUS DEMULSIFICATION OF CRUDE PALM OIL IN WATER USING FIBER COALESCER

Mr.Kittipon Wiwattanangkul

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Engineering Program in Chemical Engineering Department of Chemical Engineering

Faculty of Engineering
Chulalongkorn University
Academic Year 2005
ISBN 974-17-5408-6

Thesis Title

CONTINUOUS DEMULSIFICATION OF CRUDE PALM

OIL IN WATER USING FIBER COALESCER

Βv

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กิตติภณ วิวัฒนางกูร: การทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชั่นแบบต่อเนื่องของน้ำมันปาล์มคิบในน้ำ โดยใช้ตัวกลางแบบเส้นใย (CONTINUOUS DEMULSIFICATION OF CRUDE PALM OIL IN WATER USING FIBER COALESCER). อ. ที่ปรึกษา: อ.คร.เจิคศักดิ์ ไชยคุนา, 53 หน้า ISBN 974-17-5408-6

การวิจัยนี้ เป็นการศึกษาการทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันของน้ำมันปาล์มคิบกับน้ำ โดยตัวกลาง ในการช่วยรวมตัวในระบบแบบต่อเนื่อง อิมัลชันที่ใช้ในการทดลองเป็นอิมัลชันของน้ำมันปาล์ม คิบกับน้ำที่มีน้ำมันปาล์มคิบกระจายตัวอยู่ในน้ำคิดเป็นร้อยละ 1 ของน้ำหนักน้ำ นำอิมัลชันไหล ผ่านหอแก้วขนาดเส้นผ่านศูนย์กลางภายใน 15 มิลลิเมตร ที่บรรจุเต็มด้วยเส้นใยคือ เส้นใยปาล์ม เส้นใยไนล่อน และเส้นใยโพลีเอสเทอร์ ทำการทดลองที่สภาวะความสูงของหอ 100 300 และ 500 มิลลิเมตร ความเร็วการไหลของอิมัลชัน 0.75 1.50 และ 2.25 มิลลิเมตรต่อวินาที และที่อุณหภูมิ 60 70 และ 80 องศาเซลเซียส ตามลำดับ

ผลการศึกษาพบว่าการใช้ตัวกลางสามารถช่วยให้น้ำมันปาล์มแยกตัวออกมาจากอิมัลชันได้
เส้นใยปาล์มมีประสิทธิภาพในการทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันดีที่สุด ความเร็วการไหลของอิมัลชัน
และความสูงของหอตัวกลางเพิ่มขึ้นมีผลให้การแยกตัวของน้ำมันมีค่าเพิ่มขึ้น อุณหภูมิสูงขึ้นส่งผล
ให้การแยกตัวของน้ำมันออกมามีค่าลดลง

สถาบันวิทยบริการ จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

ภาควิชา	วิศวกรรมเคมี	ลายมือชื่อนิสิต	กิศติภณ	วิรัยระจากร	
สาขาวิชา	วิศวกรรมเคมี	ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์	์ที่ปรึกษา	//	

4670218721 : MAJOR CHEMICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT KEY WORD: DEMULSIFICAION/COALESCENCE/LIQUID-LIQUID SEPARATOR/FIBER COALESCER

KITTIPON WIWATTANANGKUL: CONTINUOUS DEMULSIFICATION OF CRUDE PALM OIL IN WATER USING FIBER COALESCER. THESIS ADVISOR: JIRDSAK TSCHEIKUNA, Ph.D., 53 pp. ISBN 974-17-5408-6

In this study, demulsification of crude palm oil in water using fiber as a coalescer was investigated. The experiments were conducted in a continuous system. Oil-in-water emulsion containing 1%wt of crude palm oil dispersed in water was used as a feedstock. The emulsion was allowed to flow through a glass column with an inner diameter of 15 mm. packed with palm fiber, nylon fiber and polyester fiber. The experiments were conducted at media heights of 100, 300 and 500 mm, flow velocities of 0.75, 1.50 and 2.25 mm/sec and operating temperatures of 60°C, 70°C, and 80°C, respectively.

The results showed that coalescing media can be used to separate oil from oil-in-water emulsion. Palm fiber showed the best demulsification efficiency. Increasing flow velocity and media height results an increase of oil removal. Increasing operating temperature results in decreasing of oil removal.

สถาบันวิทยบริการ จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

ACKNOWLEDEGEMENTS

The Author would like to express his gratitude and appreciation to his advisor, Dr.Jirdsak Tscheikuna for his guidance, valuable help and supervision during this study. In addition, he is also grateful to Assistant Professor Dr. Vichitra Chongvisal, Assistant Professor Dr. Varong Pavarajarn, and Assistant Professor Dr.Seeroong Prichanont for consulting and surfing as chairman and member of the thesis committee, respectively.

Furthermore, he would like to thank his parents for their encouragement and financial support throughout this study.

Finally, many thanks go to his friends and all those who encouraged him over the year of his study.



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Palm oil mill is one of the major agricultural industries in the southern part of Thailand. Palm fresh fruit bunches are unloaded on a ramp and put into the containers for stabilization. The sterilized bunches were put into a rotary drum threshers where the fruits will be separated from their bunch stalk and discharged into vertical steam-jacketed drums (digesters). Hot water is added into the digester to facilitate homogenization. A continuous screw press system is generally used to extract the palm oil. This system produces raw crude oil which contains high concentration of suspended matter, resulting in difficulties in oil water separation and high organic loading. Although the conventional procedure for oil separation from both water and suspended solids is the "settling tank" method, this procedure has low separation efficiency. Separated oil floating on top of the settling tank is collected by a funnel system and sent to the oil purification system. The settling tank underflow is collected in the sludge tank and subsequently treated to recover remaining oil. As a result Bottom sludge of the settling tank has high oil content, high concentration of organic substances (both in a dissolved form and suspended solids) and water soluble substances. Liquid effluent from the palm oil mill usually contains 1%wt of crude palm oil in the form of oil-in-water emulsion. The effluent is sent to waste water treatment facility before discharging.

Separation of crude palm oil from emulsion is difficult because palm oil emulsion is quite stable. There are many way to separate oil-in-water emulsion. Demulsification by coalescing media is normally use to separate oil from oil-in-water emulsion. The coalescing media is packed inside a column or vessel and emulsion is allowed to flow through packed medium. Droplet in emulsion flows approaching to the medium and attach on the surface. Other droplets that later approaching coalesce each other become the larger droplet. Larger droplets will detach from the medium. The medium can be fibrous or particulate type.

There are Many study about coalescence of oil from oil-in-water emulsion. Li and Gu (2004) studied the coalescence of the oil-in-water emulsions through fibrous and granular beds. The instow crude oil, mineral oil and tap water were used in the experiment. They reported that the media can cause droplet coalesce and become a larger droplet. Fiber media has more efficiency than the granular media at some intermediate superficial velocities. Briscoe B.J. et al. (2000) studied separation of oil from oil-inwater emulsion using fibrous fabric. An di-n-butyl phthalate was used as dispersed phase of oil-in-water emulsion. The Kevlar fibers were used as coalescing media. They reported that increasing the flow velocity and fabric thickness were both increasing the separation efficiency. Amaralikit (2005) studied the separation of crude palm oil dispersion in water by using coalescing media. Palm fiber, synthetic fiber and premice stone was used as coalescing media. 1%wt of crude palm oil dispersed in water was used as oil-in-water emulsion. He reported that palm fiber has more efficiency than others and the rate of demulsification increase when the flow velocity increases but the rate of demulsification decrease when the temperature increases.

In this research, coalescence of palm oil in oil-in-water emulsions through fiber bed packed-column was examined under several conditions. 1%wt of palm oil dispersed in deionized water was used as oil-in-water emulsion. Palm fiber, nylon fiber and polyester fiber was used as coalescing media. This media was packed in a glass column with an internal diameter of 15 mm. with packing density of 3×10^{-4} g/mm³. The media height was set at 100, 300 and 500 mm. with flow velocity of 0.75, 1.50 and 2.25 mm/s and temperature of 60° C, 70° C and 80° C respectively.

The objectives of this research are to study an effect of coalescing media types, flow velocity, media heights, and temperature on demulsification of palm oil in continuous system. The results of studying are used to develop the more efficiency of extraction process in the palm oil mills.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEWS

2.1 The Colloidal State

A colloidal dispersion comprises a collection of small particles, droplets, or bubbles of one phase, having at least one dimension between about 1 and 1000 nm, and dispersed in a second phase. Either or both phases may be in gas, liquid, solid, or supercritical phase states. Matter of colloidal size, just above atomic dimensions and overlapping with the emerging regime of nanotechnology, exhibits physicochemical properties that differ from those of the constituent atoms or molecules yet are also different from macroscopic material.

Systems containing colloidal-sized particles, droplets, or bubbles are important because they feature prominently, in both desirable and undesirable contexts, in a wide variety of practical disciplines, products, and industrial processes. The problems associated with colloids are usually interdisciplinary in nature and a broad scientific base is required to understand them completely.

The colloid is made two principal distinctions: lyophobic (thermodynamically unstable) and lyophilic (thermodynamically stable) colloidal dispersions. If the dispersion medium is aqueous then the terms hydrophobic and hydrophilic, respectively, are used. Lyophilic colloids are formed spontaneously when the two phases are brought together because the dispersion is thermodynamically more stable than the original separated state. The term lyophilic is less frequently used in modern practice because many of the dispersions that were once thought of as lyophilic are now recognized as single-phase systems in which large molecules are dissolved. Lyophobic colloids are not formed spontaneously on contact of the phases because they are thermodynamically unstable compared with the separated states. These dispersions can be formed with mechanical energy input via some form of agitation such as that provided by a propeller-style mixer, a colloid mill, or an ultrasound generator. The resulting suspension may have considerable stability as a metastable dispersion. Examples of lyophobic colloidal dispersions are emulsions, foams and particle suspensions. Examples of lyophilic colloidal dispersions are surfactant micelles, protein solutions, and viruses.

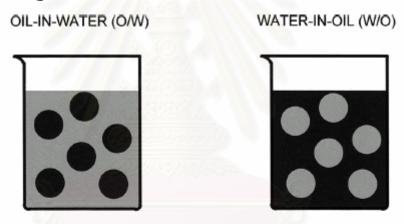
Simple colloidal dispersions are two-phase systems, comprising a dispersed phase of small particles, droplets or bubbles, and a dispersion medium (or dispersing phase) surrounding them. A variety of types of colloidal dispersions occur, as illustrated in Table 2.1. Although the classical definition of colloidal species (droplets, bubbles, or particles) specifies sizes of between one nanometre and one micrometre, in dealing with practical applications the upper size limit is frequently extended to tens or even hundreds of micrometres. For example, the principles of colloid science can be usefully applied to emulsions whose droplets exceed the 1 mm size limit by several orders of magnitude. At the other extreme, the field of nano-technology is pushing the lower size limit for organized structures below 1 nm. To give some idea of the sizes involved here, the diameter of a human blood cell is about 7500 nm (7.5 mm), that of an individual haemoglobin molecule is about 2.8 nm, while that of an oxygen molecule is about 0.16 nm.

Table 2.1 Types of colloidal dispersion.

Dispersed phase	Dispersion medium	Name
Liquid	Gas	Liquid aerosol
Solid	Gas	Solid aerosol
Gas	Liquid	Foam
Liquid	Liquid	Emulsion
Solid	Liquid	Sol, suspension
Gas	Solid	Solid foam
Liquid	Solid	Solid emulsion
Solid	Solid	Solid suspension

2.2 Emulsion

Emulsions are colloidal dispersions in which a liquid is dispersed in a continuous liquid phase of different composition. The dispersed phase is sometimes referred as the internal (disperse) phase and the continuous phase is referred as the external phase. Practical emulsions may well contain droplets that exceed the classical size range limits given above, sometimes ranging upwards to tens or hundreds of micrometres. Most emulsions are one of the liquid is aqueous while the other is hydrocarbon and referred as oil. Two types of emulsion are readily distinguished in principle, depending upon which kind of liquid forms the continuous phase: oil-in-water (O/W) for oil droplets dispersed in water and waterin-oil (W/O) for water droplets dispersed in oil as shown in figure 2.1.



WATER-IN-OIL-IN-WATER (W/O/W) OIL-IN-WATER-IN-OIL (O/W/O)



Figure 2.1 Type of emulsion:(Upper) The two simplest kinds of emulsions, oil-in-water (O/W) and water-in-oil (W/O). (Lower) The next level of complexity, water-in-oil-in-water (W/O/W) and oil-in-water-in-oil (O/W/O). The droplet sizes have been greatly exaggerated. (Laurier, 1992)

Practical situations are not always so simple and one may encounter double emulsions, that is, emulsions that are oil-in-water-in oil (0/W/0) and water-in-oil-in-water (W/O/W). For example, 0/W/0 denotes a double emulsion, containing oil droplets dispersed in aqueous droplets that are in turn dispersed in a continuous oil phase. The double emulsion droplets can be quite large (tens of mm) and can contain many tens of droplets of the ultimate internal phase.

Most emulsions are not thermodynamically stable, but as a practical matter, quite stable emulsions can occur that resist demulsification treatments and may be stable for weeks/months/years. Most meta-stable emulsions that will be encountered in practice contain oil, water and an emulsifying agent (or stabilizer) which is usually a surfactant, a macromolecule, or finely divided solids. The mulsifier may be needed to make the emulsion easier to form, or it may form a protective film, that helps keep the emulsion from breaking.

2.3 Demulsification

The emulsions are composed primarily of immiscible liquids. Separation should be the natural tendency of these liquid, providing a density differential between the liquid exists. How ever, the emulsion is stable with a given environment or emulsifying agent so, demulsification will occur when the given environments or emulsifying agent is neutralized. The rate of gravitational settling or rising is dependent on the surface tension of droplets that form the internal phase of the emulsion. Larger droplets have less surface tension as function of mass so, anything that increasing droplet size will increase the rate of separation.

Creaming

Due to the density differences between most edible oils and water, there is a tendency of the oil phase to concentrate at the top of the food emulsion. The rate of creaming can be lowered by reducing the droplet size, lowering the density difference between oil and the aqueous phase, and

increasing the viscosity of the medium. In addition, the creaming rate is dependent on the volume fraction of the dispersed phase.

Inversion

Inversion refers to the process in which an emulsion suddenly changes form, from O/W to W/O. or vice versa. The exact mechanism of inversion remains unclear, although obviously some processes of coalescence and dispersion are involved. In the region of the inversion point multiple emulsions may be encountered. The process is also not always exactly reversible. That is, hysteresis may occur if the inversion point is approached from different sides of the composition scale.

Flocculation

Flocculation is defined as a process by which two or more droplets aggregate without losing their individual identity. Bridging flocculation occurs in the presence of macromolecular emulsifying agents in an emulsion. Emulsion droplets flocculate through interaction of the adsorbed macromolecules between droplets. Bridging flocculation is a very complex phenomena and greatly depends on the size, type, amount of the macromolecules used in the system. In addition, rate of flocculation can be affected by the pH and ionic strength of the aqueous environment. Interactions among protein, polysaccharide, and water soluble surfactants can also affect the stability of the emulsion.

Coalescence

Coalescence is the process when two or more droplets collide to each other and results in the formation of one larger droplet. Coalescence involves breaking the interfacial film and is irreversible. At extreme, a planar interface exists between the homogeneous lipid phase and the homogeneous aqueous phase. Various factors, such as solubility of the emulsifier, pH, salts, emulsifier concentration, phase-volume ratio, temperature, and properties of the film, affect coalescence stability of emulsion.

Further steps have to be taken if coalescence is to be promoted. These steps may be mechanical, thermal, or chemical.

Chemical Demulsification

An emulsion will often break if the emulsifying agent is chemically altered. Emulsions stabilized with alkali-metal soaps are broken on adding acid or metal ions. Emulsions stabilized with anionic agents can be broken by adding a cationic detergent. A more subtle chemical effect is to alter the HLB (Hydrophile-Lipophile Balance) number. This procedure depends on the two solutes being able to comicellize, which allows them to blend so intimately that the mixture behaves as a unit of intermediate HLB. Thus an O/W emulsion stabilize with an agent of high HLB may be vulnerable to the addition of an agent of low HLB.

Mechanical Demulsification

The rate of demulsification can be promoted by agitation, as in a blender. Many emulsions are sensitive to high shear, which throws the droplets into one another with consequent coalescence. Centrifugation is another mechanical method to accelerate creaming or breaking.

Thermal Demulsification

Most emulsions are less stable at higher temperatures, as the adsorption of the stabilizer decreases with temperature. In some cases the emulsifying agent is thermally decomposed. The PIT is the temperature at which the emulsion inverts, which is also the temperature at which it is least stable. Demulsification can then occur by heating or cooling the emulsion to the PIT.

Coalescing media demulsification

The droplets can coalesced with each other by using coalescing media. The media is placed to obstruct the way of emulsion flowing through. The droplets will hit and attach on the media surface. The later attaching droplets will coalesce each other and become a larger droplet. When droplets are big enough to win the holding force between droplets and media surface, the large droplets will detach from the media and final separate.

2.4 Demulsification by coalescing media

Coalescing media is used to accelerate the merging of many droplets to form a larger droplet on the surface of the medium. Coalescers exhibit a three steps method of operation as shown in figure 2.2.

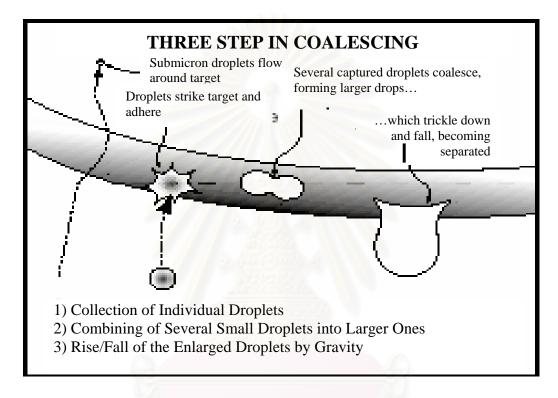


Figure 2.2 Three steps of coalescing (ACS industries, L.P.)

step 1 droplet capture

The first step of colacing is to capture the droplet on the surface of medium. The surface of medium has also special properties with droplet such as oleophilic property for capture oil droplet. Whether a medium is hydrophilic (like water) or oleophilic (like oil) depends on the solid/liquid interfacial tension between it and the disperse phase. In general an organic dispersed phase "wets organic (that is plastic or polymeric) media", as there is a relatively strong attraction between the two, while an aqueous disperse phase preferably "wets inorganic media" such as metal of glass.

Step 2 droplet coalescence

The next step is droplet coalescence with other attached droplets. The droplets that come later will hit the previous one and being coalesces. This step depends on medium property, the higher lyophilic property with dispersed phase will keep the droplets on the surface of medium longer, the increasing rate of coalescence it is.

Step 3 droplet detaching from the medium
When droplets come large enough to win the
interfacial tension between the medium and itself.
Droplets will detach from the medium and final
separate from the continuous phase.

Coalescer types

In commercial coalescer can be devied into three types such as plate coalescer, packed coalescer and membrane coalescer.

Plate coalescer

Plate coalescer consist of inclined sheets of metal or plastic placed inside a vessel. The sheets are placed and angled such that the flow of droplets containing liquid impings on the plates. When the droplets hit the plates, they form film on the plate surface that increasing the film thickness as more droplets hit the surface and rising, sinking or detaching from the plates become larger droplets. This type of coalescer is cheap, requires minimum maintenance and is tolerant of solid but this coalescer type can be operate with the density different more than 50 kg/m³ of internal and external phase. Plate coalescer are commonly used in the petrochemical industry because of their tolerance of solid.

Packed coalescer

Packed coalescer is vessel of column packed with coalescing medium. The medium can be solid parctcle or fiber that can be made from metal, ceramic of polymer. Packing can be direct packing in the vessel (or column) or packing in coalescer cartridges. More commonly used are the coalescer cartridges because it easily replaced when the maintenance is required. The advantages of these types are that can be used to readily coalescence droplets size down to 25 μm , that

the coalescing medias (cartridges) are cheap and high contacting area but this type can supports little tolerance of solid because the system can be blocked by amounts of solids. The important factor of these type of coalescer are mostly flowing velocity and media length.

Membrane coalescer

This type of coalescer is most efficiency. The media made from solid porous material and are formed into dead-end tubes. The dispersion steam flow directly to the pore and form the external surface of the coalescer. The coalescing mechanism is preferential wetted of the coalescing media by the dispersed phase that the coalescer is now have the dispersion surface to correct the other droplet by itself. This and density different less than 10 kg/m3 but these type is not allowed the any kind of solid tolerant, so there need additional filtration upstream of the coalescer to prevent this.

Radmila et al. (1997) studied the separation of oil-in-water emulsion by bed coalescence using polyurethane foam chips as the filter media in a steady-state regime, including gravity settling. A study was made of the effect of working conditions such as fluid velocity of 10, 13, 16, 19, 30, 35, 40, and 45 m h^{-1} , bed length of 3, 5, 7, 10, and 15cm, and influent oil content of 500mg L^{-1} , 800mg L^{-1} , 1100mg L^{-1} , 1400mg L^{-1} and 2000mg L^{-1} on the effluent oil concentration and separation efficiency. When the fluid velocity exceeds its critical value, the influence of concentration and bed length is changed. The increase in the influent concentration causes an increase in the effluent concentration, the more so the higher the fluid velocity. The obtained empirical equations may serve to choose the working parameters, ensuring a desired effluent concentration and separation efficiency.

Radmila et. al. (2004) studied the effect of polymeric fibers on steady-state bed coalescence of an oil-in-water emulsion. The polyethylene, polyester, polyurethane were used as fibers, and naphthenic-base oil was used as the dispersed phase. The study was made of the effect of emulsion flow velocity at 16-70 m h^{-1} . The bed coalescence efficiency was followed

via the effluent oil concentration and critical velocity. The unexpectedly large differences in critical velocities obtained on the investigated materials correlated well with the critical surface tension.

Chieu et. al. studied several important variables on non-steady-state and steady-state bed coalescence. Their results showed that oil-wet media were more effective than water-wet media in removing dispersed oil from water. They tested three different fibrous materials such as polyester, polypropylene, and glass, using similar bed geometry. They reported that polyester and polypropylene felts exhibited a higher efficiency compared to glass. Higher removal efficiencies could be achieved with deeper coalescence bed. A minimum oil saturation of 10% and 15% was found to be necessary for maximum coalescence within the experimental systems studied. An increase in oil removal efficiency can be anticipated as the fibrous bed becomes saturated with oil.

Sareen et. al. have investigated the effect of various bed materials such as cotton, dyne, glass, polyethylene, polypropylene, Teflon and a mixture of several of them on steady-state coalescence of an oil-in-water emulsion. The experiments were varied the fluid velocity form 3.6 to 63 mh⁻¹, the density of the investigated bed material from 900 to 2500 kg m-1, and the fiber diameter from 8 to 46 um. Dispersed phase viscosity was varied form 1.4 to 137 centipoises. For a mixed-fiber bed with a specific ratio of fiber species, there is an optimum bed depth for best performance. High-speed cinephotomicrographic observations at 100 and up to 4,000 frames/sec. indicated that fiber wettability is not the most important factor for successful operation.

Sharifi and Shaw (1996) studied the separation of secondary oil in water dispersions in packed-bed coalescers. Both fluid properties of Toluene, Sunflower oil, Engine oil, n-Decane, and Tap water were studied, viscosity of 0.00107, 0.0574, 0.0453, 0.00092, and 0.001 Pa.s, interracial tension of 0.0189, 0.0085, 0.0242, and 0.0473 N/m, density of 866.7, 911.7, 880, 760, and 997 kg/m³, and surface

properties of Teflon, polypropylene, polyethylene, PVC, glass, stainless steel, and ceramic (Berl saddles were varied. In this study show that while drops from all size ranges varied from 90 to 100 µm coalesce on packing surfaces, secondary drops are also produced during drop detachment from all packing surfaces and the net coalescence rate for secondary drops is low. Our principal conclusions are that the maximum size of secondary drops produced on packing surfaces is independent of the nature of the packing material, and that this drop size can be expressed as a simple function of the physical properties of the dispersion.

Jingguan and Yongan (2004) studied the coalescence of the oil-in-water emulsions through fibrous and granular beds. Three different coalescing media are used in this study, which include polypropylene fibers and nylon fibers for the fibrous beds and polypropylene particles for the granular beds. The major purpose of this study is to examine the effects of some controlling parameters on the coalescence performance. Controlling parameters are Flow rate varied to include 206.21, 308.92, 468.59, and 542.68 ml/min, inlet oil concentration of 2000, 5000, and 10,000 ppm, bed length at the three outlets of 20, 40 and 70 cm, and Fiber size of two different fibrous materials, both of which are oleophilic. The polypropylene fiber with the characteristic size of 170 µm and the other is the nylon fibers with the characteristic size of 80 µm. In the parametric studies, first, it has been found that the overall coalescence efficiency is not a monotonous function of flow rate in the granular beds. The coalescence efficiency is higher at some intermediate superficial velocities. Secondly, the higher the inlet oil concentration is, the lower the overall coalescence efficiency is. Thirdly, the coalescence performance is insensitive to the length of the granular bed tested in this study. It has also been found that the coalescence performance is better for a fibrous bed packed with smaller fibers.

B.J. Briscoe et. al. (2000) studied the separation process of oil-in-water emulsion. The emulsion consisting of oil (di-n-butyl phthalate) droplets in distillated water was made to flow, at

various rates through a membrane comprising of a mat of aramid (du Pont, USA, Kevlar™ 49) fiber. The parameters of this experiment are oil phase concentration about 0-10 g/liter, flow rate of 70, 100, and 130 of capillary head height and the number of fabric thickness with 1-4 layers. An increase in the oil phase concentration of the emulsion causes an increase in the separation efficiency and an optimum concentration that provides the maximum separation is identified. Increasing the flow rate and the fabric thickness, obtained by using multiple layers of fabric, were both found to lower the separation efficiency. It was observed that the Kevlar™ fabric had a natural saturation oil phase limit, which was reached more rapidly for the thicker fabrics. The critical oil exposure volume (COEV), (saturation volume) was calculated to be between 0.66-2.82x10⁻³ m³ of oil per m² of flux area of fabric per fabric layer for different fabric thickness. However, the values are not the absolute natural saturation limits.

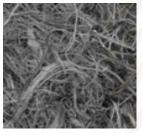
Amaralikit (2004) studied the separation of crude palm oil in water by using the coalescing media. Palm fiber, synthetic fiber and pumice stone was used as coalescing media in this experiment. The experiments were conducted in a batch system. An oilin-water emulsion consisting of 1%wt palm oil dispersed in water and was allowed to flow through coalescing media packed column. The parameters were set at temperatures of 60°C, 70°C and 80°C, and flow velocities of 0.12, 0.25, 0.40 and 0.50 mm/sec respectively. He reported that palm fiber, synthetic fiber and pumice stone can be used as coalescing media for demulsification of palm oil. Palm fiber was having a significantly high rate on demulsification while synthetic fiber and pumice stone was having only a slight improvement. Increasing flow velocity of emulsion through the bed resulted an increasing in the rate of demulsification for palm fiber but it had a slight effect on synthetic fiber and pumice stone. High operating temperature tended to reduce the rate of dumulsification.

CHAPTER III

EXPERIMENTAL AND ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES

3.1 Experimental Technique

The experiments were conducted in a glass column with inner diameter of 15 mm and column height of 500 mm. Three difference of fiber were use as coalescing media, those are palm fiber, nylon fiber and polyester fiber. The fiber size diameters are approximately 0.86 mm, 0.64 mm, 0.48 mm. Each medium was packed into the column with packing density approximately 3×10^{-4} g/mm³. Figure 3.1 shows the photograph of each fiber medium.







Nylon Fiber



Polyester Fiber

Figure 3.1 Coalescing media

The oil-in-water emulsion was prepared by homogenizing crude palm oil in deionized water. An oil-in-water emulsion was having 1%wt of palm oil in water that was used as feedstock. The emulsion was placed into the temperature controlled system and connected with coalescing media column as shown in Figure 3.2. The emulsion was pumped into packed column. An outlet stream was flowed out at the side of the column depended on the media height. The outlet stream was collected into the container. A 10 ml samples were taken from outlet container and feedstock every 30 minutes for oil content analysis. The outlet emulsion was removed after taking sample and started with a new collection at the next 30 minutes outlet. The process was continued until established the steady state condition. The steady state condition established when at least three exiting emulsion concentrations were approximately the same value. The experiments were conducted with

the medium of palm fiber, nylon fiber, and polyester fiber, media height of 100 mm, 300 mm and 500 mm at flow velocity of 0.75 mm/s, 1.50 mm/s and 2.25 mm/s, and operating temperature of 60° C, 70° C and 80° C.

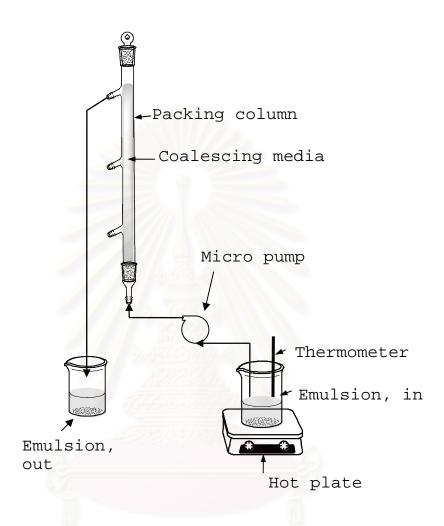


Figure 3.2 The experimental apparatus

3.2 Analytical Technique

A modified version of Partition-Gravimetric for determination of oil content in the emulsion is use to determine amount of palm oil in water emulsion in this study.

Sample Preparation

- 1. Ten mililiters of sample is taken every 20 minutes during each experiment.
- 2. The sample is then acidified with 1 ml of aquaous solution of 1:1 HCl in a sample test tube. The almount of acid should be enough to obtain a pH of 2.
- 3. The sample is centrifuged for 5 minutes.

Analytical Procedures

- 1. The sample in the test tube is transferred to a separatory funnel.
- 2. The test tube is carefully rinsed with 10 ml hexane. The rinsed haxane is added to the solution in the separatory funnel.
- 3. The separatory funnel is shaken vigorously for 2 min.
- 4. The separatory funnel is placed on the ring stand to allow separation of phases.
- 5. Aqueous phase and small amount of organic phase are drainned into original sample test
- 6. Solvent phase is drainned through a funnel containing a filter paper and 10 gram of Na₂SO₄, both of which have been hexanerinsed, into a pre-weighted beaker.
- Aqueous phase and small amount of organic phase are extracted again following step 1 to 6. The sovent phase is added to previous solvent.
- 8. Hexane is evaporated from solvent phase by placing the beaker in an oil bath controlled at 85°C.
- 9. After the evaporation is completed, the beaker is dried in an oven at a temperature of 103°C for 15 min.
- 10. The beaker is allowed to cool to room temperature in a dessicator before it is weighted.

11. An amount of oil in the sample can be calculated from the weight of oil in the beaker.

A schematic diagram of analytic apparatus is shown in Figure 3.3.

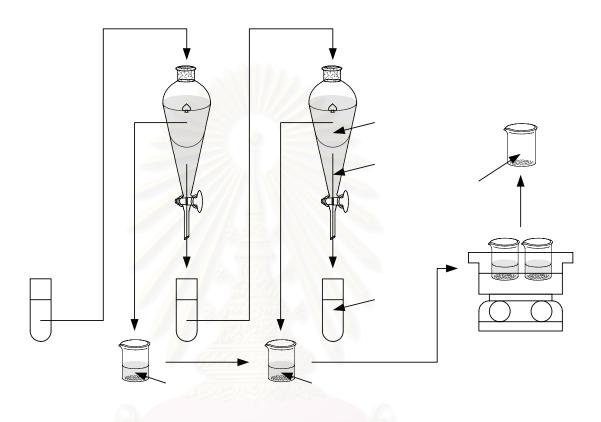


Figure 3.3 Schematic diagrams of analytical apparatus

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3.3 Experimental and Analytical Error

Experimental Error

In this section, the experiments were conducted to verify repeatability, an average, and a standard deviation value of the experiment. Equation 3.1 and Equation 3.2 define an average value and percent deviation respectively.

Average value,
$$\overline{X} = \frac{\sum x}{n}$$
 (3.1)

Percent deviation from average value =
$$\frac{\sqrt{(X-\overline{X})^2}}{\overline{X}} \times 100$$
 (3.2)

Three experiments conducted using palm fiber media, were operated at flow velocity of 2.25 mm/s, media height of 500 mm and operating temperature of 60°C. The experimental results, average results and maximum deviation results are shown in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Average percents oil removal and maximum percent deviation on experiment of palm fiber media with flow velocity of 2.25 mm/s, media height of 500 mm and operating temperature of 60°C.

	A TAN		
Experiment	Oil removal	Average oil	maximum
21120221110110	(%)	removal (%)	deviation (%)
1	45.83		
2	42.52	43.1	6.33
3	40.95	ายเขารถาร	7

The result shows that the maximum experimental error is approximately 6.33%.

Analytical Error

In this section, the experiment was conducted to verify analytical error. Five samples of emulsion feedstock were taken from the experiment in the same time. The samples should represent the same oil content. Error in each sample analysis would be error in transferring the oil from an emulsion into hexane. The results are calculated percents deviation and summarized in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 Oil content analysis and maximum percents deviation on analytical error experiment.

Oil content (%wt)					Average oil	Maximum
Experiment number					content	deviation
1 2 3 4 5		(%wt)	(%)			
0.969	0.996	0.965	1.003	0.956	0.978	2.56

The result shows that the maximum percents deviation of oil content analysis is 2.56%.



CHAPTER IV

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Demulsification of crude palm oil from oil-inwater emulsion by fiber coalescer was studied in a continuous flow system. The oil-in-water emulsion having 1%wt of crude palm oil dispersed in water was used as feedstock. Palm fiber, nylon fiber and polyester fiber were used as coalescing media and were packed into a glass column with an internal diameter of 15 mm. Experiments were conducted on each media at several values of flow velocity, media height and temperature. Oil sample were collected at the outlet of the system and the oil contents were analyzed. The oil content analysis method is described in Chapter III. Steady state condition was established when at least three consecutively taken sample showed approximately the same value. Gravitational demulsification of oil-in-water emulsion was also studied in a batch system. Removal of oil in both case were compared. Experemental results of each experiment are summarized in Appendix A. Removal of oil from oil-in-water emulsion is defined and calculated using Equation 4.1 and 4.2 for batch and continuous flow system respectively.

Percent oil removes =
$$\frac{(C_o - C_x)}{C_o} \times 100$$
 (4.1)

Where C_o is initial oil content (%wt) C_x is oil content at t = t_x (%wt)

Percent oil removes =
$$\frac{(C_{inlet} - C_{outlet})}{C_{inlet}} \times 100$$
 (4.2)

Where C_{inlet} is inlet oil content (%wt) C_{outlet} is outlet oil content (%wt)

Discussion of the results is divided into six sections as:

Section 4.1: Gravity separation of palm oil from oil-in-water emulsion

Section 4.2: Separation of palm oil from oil-inwater emulsion by flowing through empty column

Section 4.3: Effect of media type on demulsification of palm oil

Section 4.4: Effect of emulsion flow velocity on demulsification of palm oil

Section 4.5: Effect of media height on demulsification of palm oil

Section 4.6: Effect of operating temperature on demulsification of palm oil

4.1 Gravity separation of palm oil from oil-in-water emulsion

A set of experiments was conducted study the separation of crude palm oil emulsion by gravity force. The emulsion, 1%wt of crude palm oil dispersed in deionized water, was put into a beaker and placed on the temperature controlled system at temperature of 60°C, 70°C and 80°C. A sample was taken every 2 minutes and analyzed for oil content. The experimental results are shown in Table A1 in Appendix A. Equation 4.1 is used to calculate oil removal. The calculated results are summarized in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Oil removal by gravity separation

Time	Oil removal (%)				
(min)	60°C	70°C	80°C		
0	0	0	0		
2	1.1	2.5	3.0		
4	2.3	4.0	4.2		
6	3.5	5.2	5.9		
8	4.3	6.4	7.0		
10	5.3	6.9	7.6		

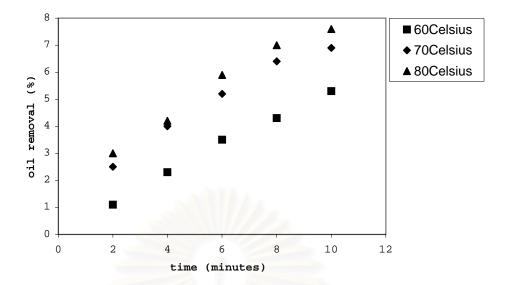


Figure 4.1 Results of oil removal by gravity separation.

Figure 4.1 shows oil removal as a function of time by gravity force at different operating temperatures. The results show that the amount of oil in the emulsion decrease with time and 1.1-7.6% of oil is separated by gravity force.

It was observed during the experiment that small oil droplets float on the surface of the emulsion. The observation shows that fine droplets of palm oil can separate itself from the emulsion. Self separation takes time because the dispersion of the droplets is stable. Dispersion of emulsion is stable because of a small droplet size and a presence of an interfacial film on droplets in emulsions. suspended droplets do not settle out or float rapidly and the droplets do not coalesce quickly. Normally, oil droplets can come together in three different processes: creaming (sedimentation), aggregation, and coalescence. Creaming is the opposite of sedimentation and results from a density difference between the two liquid phases. In aggregation, two or more droplets clump together, touching only at certain points and with virtually no change in total surface area. In coalescence, two or more droplets fuse together to form a single larger unit with a reduced total surface area. Oil droplets in an emulsion will have some tendency to settle according

to Stoke's law as shown in Equation 4.3. Uncharged spherical droplets in a fluid will sediment if its density is greater than that of the fluid the driving force is that gravity; the resisting force is viscous and is approximately proportional to the droplet velocity, when the forces are match.

$$v = \frac{2r^2(\rho_2 - \rho_1)g}{9\eta}$$
 (4.3)

Where v is velocity of oil droplet r is radius of oil droplet ρ_2 is density of water ρ_1 is density of oil ρ_2 is viscosity of oil droplet

Oil with high viscosity has an ability to hold up more water droplets than oil with lower viscosity. The viscosity of oil can be reduced by the application of heat. Lowering the viscosity increases both the rate at which water droplets settle and the mobility of water droplets. This phenomena leads to collisions and is coalescence of the droplets which interns increase the rate of separation.

4.2 Separation of palm oil from oil-in-water emulsion by flowing through empty column

A set of experiment was conducted using an empty glass column to verify its effect on demulsification of crude palm oil in oil-in-water emulsion. One %wt of crude palm oil in water was used as feedstock. The experiments were conducted at temperature of 60°C, 70°C and 80°C. The feedstock was pumped into the column at flow velocities of 0.75 mm/s, 1.50 mm/s and 2.25 mm/s. Column height were set at 100 mm, 300 mm and 500 mm. The emulsion was allowed to flow through the column until steady state condition were established before the sample were taken for analysis. The results of experiment were summarized in Table A2 in Appendix A. Oil removal for each experiment are calculated using Equation 4.2 and are summarized in Table 4.2.

Table	4.2	Oil	removal	from	flowing	through	empty
column st	udy						

Flow	Tomporaturo	Oil	removal	(왕)
velocity	Temperature (°C)	columr	n height	(mm)
(mm/s)	(C)	100	300	500
	60	9.20	9.50	9.90
0.75	70	8.06	8.95	9.28
	80	7.96	7.98	8.92
	60	4.90	5.20	5.70
1.5	70	5.27	5.25	5.49
	80	4.73	4.88	5.12
	60	4.20	3.90	5.00
2.25	70	4.49	4.72	4.93
	80	3.90	4.07	5.27

Table 4.3 The comparison between gravity separation and flowing through empty column at temperature of 60°C

Flow velocity (mm/s)	Column hieght (mm)	Resident time (min)	Oil removal by flowing through empty column (%)	Oil removal by gravity (%)
0.75	100	5	9.2	2.9
0.75	300	8	9.5	4.3
0.75	500	10	9.9	5.3
1.5	100	4	4.9	2.3
1.5	300	5	5.2	2.9
1.5	500	6	5.7	3.5
2.25	100	2	4.2	1.1
2.25	300	3	3.9	1.7
2.25	500	5	5.0	2.9

Table 4.3 shows the comparison between gravity separation and flowing through empty column in term of resident time at temperature of 60° C.

The results indicate that removal of palm oil emulsion is enchanced by flowing the emulsion through empty column. The removal efficiency depend on flow velocity of the emulsion. Renold's number of each flow velocity was calculated and shown in Table 4.4. The flows of emulsion for all experiments are in laminar flow region. At this rate of flow, a laminar

film was established on the wall surface of the column. Some droplets flow in streamline in the layer close to the column and hit the wall of the column. The droplets wet the wall and form the oil film on the wall like a single plate coalescer.

Table 4.4 The Renold's number estimated for each flow velocity of flowing through empty column.

Flow velocity (mm/s)	Renold's number
0.75	24
1.5	47
2.25	71

4.3 Effect of media type on demulsification of palm oil

A set of experiment was conducted to verify effect of media type on demulsification of palm oil from oil-in-water emulsion. The oil-in-water emulsion was having 1%wt of crude palm oil dispersed in water and was used as feedstock. Palm fiber, nylon fiber and polyester fiber are used as coalescing media. The selected media were packed into a glass column with internal diameter of 15 mm. the feedstock was pumped into the column at flow velocity of 0.75 mm/s, 1.50 mm/s and 2.25 mm/s. Media height were set at 100 mm, 300 mm and 500 mm. The experiments were conducted at temperature of 60°C, 70°C, and 80°C. Steady state condition was established when at least three consecutively taken sample showed approximately the same oil content value as shown in Figure 4.2.



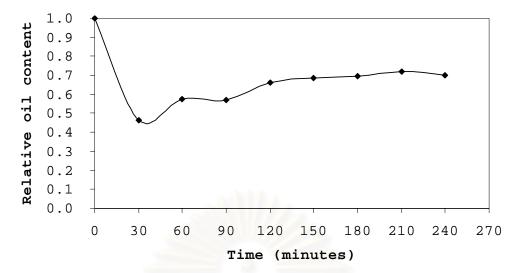


Figure 4.2 Relative oil content against time during experiment of palm fiber media, flow velocity of 0.75 mm/s, media height of 500 mm and operating temperature of 60°C

Figure 4.2 shows that exiting emulsion was decreased on the first 30 minutes of experiment and then increased until approximately the same values. Because the coalescing media demulsification exhibit three steps: droplet capture, droplet coalescence and droplet detaching. As a result, droplet capture process was more occurred than each other in period of first 30 minutes until media surface saturated with oil. After 150 minutes, the relative oil content was given approximately the same value, which was indicated to the experiment established steady state condition.

The experimental results are shown in Table A2 in Appendix A in steady state values. Oil removal for all experiments is calculated using Equation 4.2 and are summarized in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5 Percent oil removal of each experiment

Media	Flow	Temperature	Oil	removal	_ (%)
type	velocity	°C	Media height(mm		
суре	(mm/s)	C	100	300	500
		60	7.60	11.28	29.50
	0.75	70	7.40	11.00	23.60
		80	7.31	10.40	22.24
Palm		60	17.40	26.20	38.50
fiber	1.5	70	14.20	24.00	38.20
TIDEL		80	11.70	18.20	37.70
		60	17.22	25.64	45.83
	2.25	70	16.81	24.16	44.04
		80	15.85	23.79	40.64
	0.75	60	9.86	12.57	19.52
		70	6.82	11.56	18.39
		80	6.39	11.32	18.30
Nylon	1.5	60	10.79	17.40	20.81
fiber		70	7.98	12.95	20.23
riber		80	7.38	12.92	18.66
		60	7.46	14.83	20.48
	2.25	70	7.07	12.65	19.90
		80	6.17	10.26	18.28
	A Section	60	12.41	19.23	26.06
	0.75	70	12.33	17.68	25.05
		80	10.75	16.72	24.84
Polyester		60	20.43	27.12	31.41
fiber	1.5	70	17.05	23.64	29.15
		80	16.76	22.61	27.28
		60	25.31	30.53	34.51
	2.25	70	24.33	27.35	33.71
		80	22.08	24.14	32.03

It was observed during the experiments that large oil droplets were flowed out from column. Oil droplets coalesced with each other and floated on the surface of sample collection container. The observation indicates that coalescing media work as a collector of small oil droplets. The small droplets combine with each other and form larger droplets.

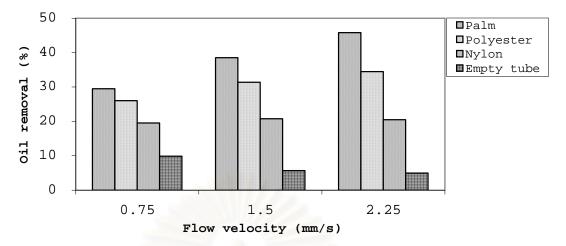


Figure 4.3 Comparison of each media against flow velocity at media height of 500 mm and temperature of 60°C

Figure 4.3 shows the comparison of each media in oil removal against flow velocity at media height of 500 mm and temperature of 60°C . The results show that removal of oil from oil in water emulsion can be enhanced using coalescing media in all cases. The results also show that palm fiber has greater oil removal efficiency than other media and high flow velocity increases the oil removal efficiency.

All fibers were tested for ability of palm oil and water to wet the surface of the fiber. Each medium was weighted for its dry weight and is put into a beaker containing oil or water at specified temperature. The medium was taken out from beaker and placed on a screen inside a temperature controlled oven to allow liquid separate from the medium. The wetted medium was weight again to find the weight of liquid that can wet the medium. Weight ratio of amount of oil on the medium and dry medium divided by the weight ratio of water on the medium and dry medium designated as relative oil wettability and is shown in Equation 4.3.

Where w_{oil} is weight of wetted palm oil on the medium

 $\ensuremath{w_{\text{water}}}$ is weight of wetted water on the medium

 W_{medium} is weight of dry medium

Table 4.6 Relative wettability of each media

Fiber type	Relative	Relative oil wettability				
riber type	60°C	70°C	80°C			
palm fiber	1.525	1.338	1.212			
nylon fiber	1.347	1.162	1.003			
polyester fiber	1.404	1.349	1.160			

Table 4.6 shows the relative oil wettability of each medium at different temperature. The results show that all medium have relative wettability value than 1 indicating that oil can stay on the surface of the medium at higher amount than water. All fibers have oleophilic ability with palm oil. Media with higher relative wettability has higher tendency to capture oil droplets on its surface and hold on longer. Palm fiber has higher value of wettability than other fiber which should result in higher ability to collect oil droplets. The attached droplets would then wet and form film on the surface of fiber and this film start to grow. A larger droplet resulting from the growth of this film would detach from the surface due to its destructive of the main emulsion flow.

Media et al. (1976) studied the influence of packing wettability on coalescence by tranular packed bed coalescer. They reported that oil removal ability increased with increasing oil wettability of bed meterial.

Amaralikit (2004) studied the batch demulsification of crude palm oil in water by using coalescing media. He reported that the media with higher wettability have more effective to separate oil from water.

4.4 Effect of emulsion flow velocity on demulsification of palm oil

In this section, effect of emulsion flow velocity on demulsification of palm oil from oil-inwater emulsion was studied. The experiments were conducted at emulsion flow velocity of 0.75, 1.5 and 2.25 mm/s respectively. The experimental results are shown in Table A2, Appendix A.

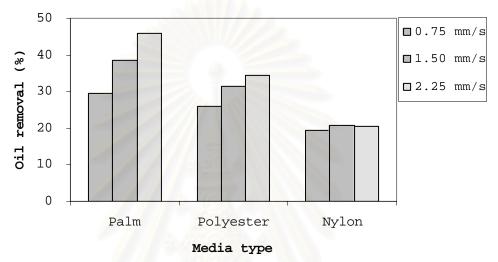


Figure 4.4 Comparison of flow velecity against media type at media height of 500 mm and temperature of 60°C

Figure 4.4 shows comparison of oil removal at a temperature of 60°C of each media. It is observed that the oil removal increase when the emulsion flow velocity increases for palm fiber and polyester fiber medium. Hazlett (1969) studied the coalescence phenomena in a fibrous filter bed system. He suggested that the coalescence of water droplets proceeds through step: approach of droplets to a fiber. Increasing of flow velocity of emulsion through fibrous bed would increase the amount of droplets approaching the fiber which increasing the amount of droplets attached on the fiber. Experiments conducting of other temperatures also show the same results.

Amaralikit (2004) studied the demulsification of crude palm oil-in-water emulsion using fibrous

coalescing media in batch system. He reported that the similarly results that the increasing the flow velocity, the demulsification efficiency increased.

4.5 Effect of media height on demulsification of palm oil

In this section, the effect of media height on demulsification of palm oil from oil-in-water emulsion was studied. The experiments are conducted by varying the packed column height at 100 mm, 300 mm and 500 mm. The experimental results are shown in Table A2, Appendix A.

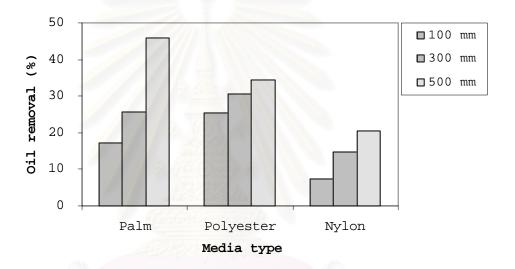


Figure 4.5 Comparison of each media height against media type at flow velocity of 2.25 mm/s and temperature of 60°C

Figure 4.5 shows the comparison of each media height against media type at flow velocity of 2.25 mm/s and temperature of 60°C. The results show that oil removal increase when the media height increase. Increasing of media height is actually the increasing of resident time. Longer resident time would result in the chance of the droplets have more contact time with the medium surface. Experiments conducting at other flow velocities and temperatures also show the same results.

Ramila et. al. studied the coalescence of oilin-water emulsion using polyurethane foam bed at various bed length. He reported that the separation efficiency increase when the bed length increase. Briscoe (2000) studied the coalescing of oil droplets using fibrous fabric. He reported that increasing fiber thickness gave larger droplet size.

J. Li and Y. Gu studied the coalescence of oil-in-water emulsion using fiber and granular bed. They report that bed length has some effect to the oil droplet size. The accumulative frequency of oil droplet size at outlet is lower than the inlet if it is compared at the same droplet size. After the emulsion flowed through the coalescing media the overall droplet size becomes larger depending on the bed length.

4.6 Effect of operating temperature on demulsification of palm oil

In this section, the effect of operating temperature on demulsification of palm oil from oilin-water emulsion was studied. The experiments were conducted at temperature of 60° C, 70° C and 80° C. The experimental results are shown in Table A2, Appendix A.

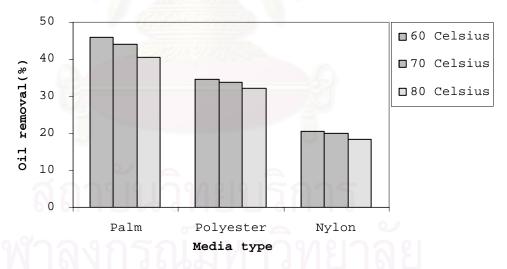


Figure 4.6 Comparison of each operating temperature against media type at flow velocity of 2.25 mm/s of and media height of 500 mm

Figure 4.6 shows the oil removal comparison of each media at different temperature at flow velocity of 2.25 mm/s and media height of 500 mm. The results

show that oil removal slightly decreases with increasing operating temperature. Experiments conducting at other flow velocities and media heights also show the same results.

The phenomena can also be explained using Hazlett(1969)'s concept of coalescence. An increase in temperature of the solution would decrease the viscosity and density of droplets on the surface of the media. A decrease in attachment of the droplets would reduce an amount of the enlarge droplet on the surface of the media result in a high number of small droplets remaining in the emulsion.

Amaralikit (2004) reported the similarly in separation of crude palm oil emulsion in batch system. He discussed that the increasing of operating temperature would decrease the viscosity and density of the emulsion and will decrease the attaching of the oil droplets to the media surface, results in high number of small droplets remaining in the emulsion.

However, the temperature phenomena can also be explained using the wettability property that was described in Section 4.3. An increasing the temperature would decrease the oil wettability of the medium. Lower value of oil wettability would result in lower ability to collect oil droplets on the surface of medium.



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

The following conclusions are drawn from the study:

- 1. Coalescing media demulsification is greater than gravity separation.
- 2. Palm fiber is highest efficiency to coalescence oil from oil-in-water emulsion.
- 3. Increasing flow velocity and media height results the increasing percentage of oil removal.
- 4. Increasing operating temperature is slightly effect of decreasing the percentage of oil removal.

5.2 Recommendations

Recommendation for future studies and research are as follows:

- 1. The experiment should be conducted the factor of pressure drop across the coalescing media to verify the effect of pressure drop on the coalescence performance.
- 2. Media size is the important factor in coalescence process. The experiment should be varied the media size to study the effect of media size on coalescence performance.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Table A1 Gravity separation experimental results

time (min)	oil content				
cime (miii)	60°C	70°C	80°C		
0	0.946	0.92	0.993		
2	0.936	0.897	0.963		
4	0.924	0.883	0.951		
6	0.913	0.873	0.934		
8	0.905	0.861	0.923		
10	0.896	0.857	0.918		

Table A2 Conditions and results of each experiment.

					Inlet	outlet
Exp		flow	temp	media	oil	oil
no.	type of media	velocity	(°C)	height	content	content
		(mm/s)	()	(mm)	(%wt)	(%wt)
1	- ////	0.75	60	100	0.983	0.893
2	- // // //	0.75	60	300	0.927	0.839
3	- // //	0.75	60	500	0.974	0.878
4	- //	0.75	70	100	0.930	0.855
5	- 10 4	0.75	70	300	0.939	0.855
6	-	0.75	70	500	0.938	0.851
7	-	0.75	80	100	0.927	0.853
8	-0	0.75	80	300	0.978	0.900
9	-15	0.75	80	500	0.940	0.856
10	-<8	1.5	60	100	0.942	0.896
11	- (1)	1.5	60	300	0.973	0.922
12	-	1.5	60	500	0.968	0.913
13	- 0	1.5	70	100	0.929	0.880
14	ส-กาง เจ	1.5	70	300	0.933	0.884
15	6 / -6 U I	1.5	70	500	0.948	0.896
16	-	1.5	80	100	0.992	0.945
17	201922005	1.5	80	300	0.954	0.907
18	9111-61111	1.5	80	500	0.970	0.920
19	9 -	2.25	60	100	0.979	0.938
20	-	2.25	60	300	0.951	0.914
21	-	2.25	60	500	0.961	0.913
22	-	2.25	70	100	0.936	0.894
23	-	2.25	70	300	0.934	0.890
24	<u>-</u>	2.25	70	500	0.954	0.907
25	-	2.25	80	100	0.968	0.930
26	-	2.25	80	300	0.957	0.918
27	_	2.25	80	500	0.965	0.914
28	palm fiber	0.75	60	100	0.931	0.847

Table A2 Conditions and results of each experiment. (continued)

The large of media Color Content						Inlet	outlet
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(mm/s)		type of media	velocity		height		
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	72	palm fiber	1.5	70	500	0.936	0.579

Table A2 Conditions and results of each experiment. (continued)

		6.3		ı ·	Inlet	outlet
Exp		flow	temp	media	oil	oil
no.	type of media	velocity	(°C)	height	content	content
		(mm/s)	, ,	(mm)	(%wt)	(%wt)
73	palm fiber	1.5	80	100	1.032	0.926
74	palm fiber	1.5	80	100	0.933	0.809
75	palm fiber	1.5	80	100	0.955	0.844
76	palm fiber	1.5	80	300	0.942	0.788
77	palm fiber	1.5	80	300	0.947	0.754
78	palm fiber	1.5	80	300	0.979	0.806
79	palm fiber	1.5	80	500	0.978	0.605
80	palm fiber	1.5	80	500	0.981	0.628
81	palm fiber	1.5	80	500	0.927	0.565
82	palm fiber	2.25	60	100	1.002	0.818
83	palm fiber	2.25	60	100	0.986	0.802
84	palm fiber	2.25	60	100	0.981	0.837
85	palm fiber	2.25	60	300	1.073	0.769
86	palm fiber	2.25	60	300	1.079	0.815
87	palm fiber	2.25	60	300	0.999	0.758
88	palm fiber	2.25	60	500	0.932	0.529
89	palm fiber	2.25	60	500	0.976	0.514
90	palm fiber	2.25	60	500	1.002	0.532
91	palm fiber	2.25	70	100	0.987	0.806
92	palm fiber	2.25	70	100	1.006	0.843
93	palm fiber	2.25	70	100	0.951	0.8
94	palm fiber	2.25	70	300	1	0.729
95	palm fiber	2.25	70	300	0.979	0.745
96	palm fiber	2.25	70	300	1.033	0.811
97	palm fiber	2.25	70	500	1.028	0.594
98	palm fiber	2.25	70	500	1.05	0.589
99	palm fiber	2.25	70	500	0.965	0.521
100	palm fiber	2.25	80	100	1.023	0.857
101	palm fiber 🤍	2.25	80	100	1.01	0.857
102	palm fiber	2.25	80	100	1.02	0.855
103	palm fiber	2.25	80	300	0.992	0.757
104	palm fiber	2.25	80	300	0.967	0.769
105	palm fiber	2.25	80	300	1.032	0.753
106	palm fiber	2.25	80	500	1.04	0.631
107	¶ palm fiber	2.25	80	500	1.023	0.6
108	palm fiber	2.25	80	500	1.006	0.591
109	nylon fiber	0.75	60	100	0.959	0.869
110	nylon fiber	0.75	60	100	0.925	0.86
111	nylon fiber	0.75	60	100	0.911	0.791
112	nylon fiber	0.75	60	300	0.878	0.767
113	nylon fiber	0.75	60	300	0.927	0.812
114	nylon fiber	0.75	60	300	0.884	0.772
115	nylon fiber	0.75	60	500	0.978	0.772
116	nylon fiber	0.75	60	500	0.99	0.797

Table A2 Conditions and results of each experiment. (continued)

		6.3		7 '	Inlet	outlet
Exp		flow	temp	media	oil	oil
no.	type of media	velocity	(°C)	height	content	content
		(mm/s)	, ,	(mm)	(%wt)	(%wt)
117	nylon fiber	0.75	60	500	0.9	0.738
118	nylon fiber	0.75	70	100	0.94	0.878
119	nylon fiber	0.75	70	100	0.887	0.816
120	nylon fiber	0.75	70	100	0.957	0.901
121	nylon fiber	0.75	70	300	0.831	0.726
122	nylon fiber	0.75	70	300	0.933	0.813
123	nylon fiber	0.75	70	300	0.871	0.791
124	nylon fiber	0.75	70	500	1	0.809
125	nylon fiber	0.75	70	500	0.901	0.72
126	nylon fib <mark>er</mark>	0.75	70	500	0.977	0.821
127	nylon fiber	0.75	80	100	0.865	0.812
128	nylon fiber	0.75	80	100	0.78	0.744
129	nylon fiber	0.75	80	100	0.879	0.805
130	nylon fiber	0.75	80	300	0.925	0.834
131	nylon fib <mark>e</mark> r	0.75	80	300	0.95	0.845
132	nylon fiber	0.75	80	300	0.955	0.83
133	nylon fib <mark>e</mark> r	0.75	80	500	0.966	0.78
134	nylon fiber	0.75	80	500	0.907	0.759
135	nylon fib <mark>e</mark> r	0.75	80	500	1.035	0.835
136	nylon fiber	1.5	60	100	0.921	0.82
137	nylon fiber	1.5	60	100	0.915	0.824
138	nylon fiber	1.5	60	100	0.93	0.823
139	nylon fiber	1.5	60	300	0.83	0.695
140	nylon fiber	1.5	60	300	0.835	0.684
141	nylon fiber	1.5	60	300	0.902	0.741
142	nylon fiber	1.5	60	500	0.95	0.743
143	nylon fiber	1.5	60	500	0.942	0.745
144	nylon fiber	1.5	60	500	0.948	0.761
145	nylon fiber	1.5	70	100	0.842	0.781
146	nylon fiber	1.5	70	100	0.822	0.757
147	nylon fiber	1.5	70	100	0.762	0.695
148	nylon fiber	1.5	70	300	1	0.874
149	nylon fiber	1.5	70	300	1.031	0.894
150	nylon fiber	1.5	70	300	0.973	0.847
151	nylon fiber	1.5	70	500	1.039	0.825
152	nylon fiber	1.5	70	500	1.062	0.846
153	nylon fiber	1.5	70	500	0.998	0.801
154	nylon fiber	1.5	80	100	0.969	0.904
155	nylon fiber	1.5	80	100	0.947	0.871
156	nylon fiber	1.5	80	100	0.876	0.811
157	nylon fiber	1.5	80	300	0.869	0.761
158	nylon fiber	1.5	80	300	0.831	0.725
159	nylon fiber	1.5	80	300	0.935	0.808
160	nylon fiber	1.5	80	500	0.93	0.757

Table A2 Conditions and results of each experiment. (continued)

		6.7		2.1	Inlet	outlet
Exp		flow	temp	media	oil	oil
no.	type of media	velocity	(°C)	height	content	content
		(mm/s)	, ,	(mm)	(%wt)	(%wt)
161	nylon fiber	1.5	80	500	0.929	0.759
162	nylon fiber	1.5	80	500	0.968	0.783
163	nylon fiber	2.25	60	100	1.029	0.958
164	nylon fiber	2.25	60	100	0.991	0.919
165	nylon fiber	2.25	60	100	0.96	0.881
166	nylon fiber	2.25	60	300	1.015	0.879
167	nylon fiber	2.25	60	300	1.047	0.9
168	nylon fiber	2.25	60	300	0.966	0.801
169	nylon fiber	2.25	60	500	0.979	0.791
170	nylon fiber	2.25	60	500	1.061	0.841
171	nylon fiber	2.25	60	500	0.995	0.781
172	nylon fiber	2.25	70	100	0.872	0.835
173	nylon fiber	2.25	70	100	0.901	0.808
174	nylon fiber	2.25	70	100	0.829	0.774
175	nylon fib <mark>e</mark> r	2.25	70	300	0.954	0.83
176	nylon fiber	2.25	70	300	0.991	0.878
177	nylon fib <mark>e</mark> r	2.25	70	300	0.97	0.839
178	nylon fiber	2.25	70	500	0.935	0.741
179	nylon fib <mark>er</mark>	2.25	70	500	0.978	0.801
180	nylon fiber	2.25	70	500	1.098	0.869
181	nylon fiber	2.25	80	100	0.906	0.852
182	nylon fiber	2.25	80	100	0.863	0.812
183	nylon fiber	2.25	80	100	0.859	0.802
184	nylon fiber	2.25	80	300	1.04	0.928
185	nylon fiber	2.25	80	300	1.008	0.937
186	nylon fiber	2.25	80	300	0.948	0.825
187	nylon fiber	2.25	80	500	0.921	0.756
188	nylon fiber	2.25	80	500	0.972	0.794
189	nylon fiber	2.25	80	500	0.978	0.797
190	polyester fiber	0.75	60	100	1.067	0.931
191	polyester fiber	0.75	60	100	1.087	0.964
192	polyester fiber	0.75	60	100	1.116	0.969
193	polyester fiber	0.75	60	300	1.067	0.851
194	polyester fiber	0.75	60	300	1.067	0.861
195	polyester fiber	0.75	60	300	1.086	0.889
196	polyester fiber	0.75	60	500	1.074	0.8
197	polyester fiber	0.75	60	500	1.082	0.791
198	polyester fiber	0.75	60	500	1.016	0.754
199	polyester fiber	0.75	70	100	0.915	0.805
200	polyester fiber	0.75	70	100	0.957	0.837
201	polyester fiber	0.75	70	100	0.99	0.867
202	polyester fiber	0.75	70	300	0.981	0.805
203	polyester fiber	0.75	70	300	0.952	0.797
204	polyester fiber	0.75	70	300	0.946	0.768

Table A2 Conditions and results of each experiment. (continued)

		6.3		7.1	Inlet	outlet
Exp		flow	temp	media	oil	oil
no.	type of media	velocity	(°C)	height	content	content
		(mm/s)	, ,	(mm)	(%wt)	(%wt)
205	polyester fiber	0.75	70	500	0.806	0.605
206	polyester fiber	0.75	70	500	0.903	0.66
207	polyester fiber	0.75	70	500	0.85	0.652
208	polyester fiber	0.75	80	100	0.905	0.799
209	polyester fiber	0.75	80	100	0.864	0.775
210	polyester fiber	0.75	80	100	0.839	0.753
211	polyester fiber	0.75	80	300	0.951	0.786
212	polyester fiber	0.75	80	300	0.957	0.794
213	polyester fiber	0.75	80	300	0.927	0.781
214	polyester fiber	0.75	80	500	0.983	0.732
215	polyester fiber	0.75	80	500	0.984	0.748
216	polyester fiber	0.75	80	500	0.943	0.709
217	polyester fiber	1.5	60	100	0.927	0.741
218	polyester fiber	1.5	60	100	0.965	0.77
219	polyester fiber	1.5	60	100	0.94	0.742
220	polyester fiber	1.5	60	300	0.961	0.691
221	polyester fiber	1.5	60	300	1.023	0.741
222	polyester fiber	1.5	60	300	0.988	0.734
223	polyester fiber	1.5	60	500	0.934	0.663
224	polyester fib <mark>er</mark>	1.5	60	500	0.986	0.646
225	polyester fiber	1.5	60	500	0.957	0.663
226	polyester fiber	1.5	70	100	0.901	0.757
227	polyester fiber	1.5	70	100	0.944	0.792
228	polyester fiber	1.5	70	100	0.908	0.735
229	polyester fiber	1.5	70	300	0.899	0.689
230	polyester fiber	1.5	70	300	0.893	0.68
231	polyester fiber	1.5	70	300	0.936	0.714
232	polyester fiber	1.5	70	500	0.854	0.576
233	polyester fiber	_1.5	70	500	0.891	0.632
234	polyester fiber	1.5	70	500	0.902	0.669
235	polyester fiber	1.5	80	100	1.013	0.831
236	polyester fiber	1.5	80	100	1.057	0.894
237	polyester fiber	1.5	80	100	1.006	0.836
238	polyester fiber	1.5	80	300	1.008	0.779
239	polyester fiber	1.5	80	300	1.049	0.809
240	polyester fiber	1.5	80	300	1.003	0.78
241	polyester fiber	1.5	80	500	0.986	0.718
242	polyester fiber	1.5	80	500	1.007	0.714
243	polyester fiber	1.5	80	500	0.975	0.725
244	polyester fiber	2.25	60	100	0.975	0.746
245	polyester fiber	2.25	60	100	0.961	0.721
246	polyester fiber	2.25	60	100	0.961	0.697
247	polyester fiber	2.25	60	300	0.955	0.666
248	polyester fiber	2.25	60	300	0.997	0.68

Table A2 Conditions and results of each experiment. (continued)

Exp	type of media	flow velocity (mm/s)	temp	media height (mm)	Inlet oil content (%wt)	outlet oil content (%wt)
249	polyester fiber	2.25	60	300	0.995	0.701
250	polyester fiber	2.25	60	500	0.947	0.617
251	polyester fiber	2.25	60	500	0.951	0.622
252	polyester fiber	2.25	60	500	0.961	0.631
253	polyester fiber	2.25	70	100	1.011	0.781
254	polyester fiber	2.25	70	100	1.048	0.803
255	polyester fiber	2.25	70	100	0.997	0.729
256	polyester fiber	2.25	70	300	1.022	0.755
257	polyester fiber	2.25	70	300	1.042	0.734
258	polyester fiber	2.25	70	300	1.055	0.777
259	polyester fiber	2.25	70	500	0.968	0.654
260	polyester fiber	2.25	70	500	1.043	0.704
261	polyester fiber	2.25	70	500	1.056	0.674
262	polyester fiber	2.25	80	100	1.007	0.781
263	polyester fiber	2.25	80	100	1.002	0.797
264	polyester fiber	2.25	80	100	0.958	0.744
265	polyester fiber	2.25	80	300	0.998	0.75
266	polyester fiber	2.25	80	300	1.043	0.799
267	polyester fiber	2.25	80	300	1.051	0.797
268	polyester fib <mark>er</mark>	2.25	80	500	0.849	0.562
269	polyester fiber	2.25	80	500	0.872	0.588
270	polyester fiber	2.25	80	500	0.895	0.629



APPENDIX B

LIST OF PUBLICATION

1. Kittipon Wiwattanangkul and Jirdsak Tscheikuna, "Continuous Demulsification of Crude Palm Oil in Water Using Fiber Coalescer", Fifteenth Thai Institute of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry Conference, Chonburi, Thailand, October 27-28, 2005, 132



การทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันแบบต่อเนื่องของน้ำมันปาล์มดิบกับน้ำ โดยใช้ตัวกลางแบบเส้นใย

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ถนนพญาไท เขตปทุมวัน กรุงเทพมหานคร 10330

บทคัดย่อ

การวิจัยนี้ เป็นการศึกษาการแยกน้ำมันปาล์มดิบที่กระจายตัวอยู่ออกจากน้ำโดยอาศัยตัวกลางแบบเส้นใยช่วยให้เกิดการ รวมตัวของหยดน้ำมัน โดยการทดลองนี้จะทำในลักษณะแบบต่อเนื่อง โดยอิมัลชันที่ใช้จะมีการกระจายตัวของน้ำมันปาล์มดิบ ในน้ำอยู่คิดเป็นร้อยละ 1 ของน้ำหนักน้ำ ไหลผ่านตัวกลางชนิดเส้นใยสองชนิดคือเส้นใยปาล์มและเส้นใยในล่อนที่บรรจุอยู่ใน ท่อแก้วทรงกระบอกขนาดเส้นผ่านศูนย์กลาง 15 มิลลิเมตร ทำการศึกษาที่ความสูงของหอ 100 300 และ 500 มิลลิเมตร และ อัตราการไหลของ อิมัลชัน 0.75 1.5 และ 2.25 มิลลิเมตรต่อวินาที ตามลำดับ

ผลการศึกษาพบว่า การทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันของน้ำมันปาล์มดิบกับน้ำแบบต่อเนื่องโดยอาศัยตัวกลางชนิด เส้นใย ปาล์มและเส้นใยในล่อน สามารถทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันได้ดีกว่าการทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันโดยอาศัยแรงโน้มถ่วงตาม ธรรมชาติ เมื่อความสูงของหอเพิ่มขึ้น อัตราการทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันมีค่าสูงขึ้น และเมื่อเพิ่มความเร็วการใหลของอิมัลชัน พบว่าอัตราการทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันมีค่าสูงขึ้นเช่นกัน และเส้นใยปาล์มสามารถทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันได้ดีกว่าเส้นใยใน ล่อน โดยเส้นใยปาล์มสามารถทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันได้ร้อยละ 45 ของอิมัลชันเริ่มต้น ที่ความสูงของหอ 500 มิลลิเมตร และความเร็วการใหลของอิมัลชัน ที่ความสูงของหอ 500 มิลลิเมตร และความเร็วการใหลของอิมัลชัน 2.25 มิลลิเมตรต่อวินาที

คำสำคัญ: อิมัลชัน เส้นใย ตัวกลางช่วยในการรวมตัว

สถาบันวิทยบริการ จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

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1. บทน้ำ

ในกระบวนการผลิตน้ำมันปาล์มมาตรฐาน มีการใช้ใอ น้ำเป็นตัวพาให้น้ำมันหลุดออกจากผลปาล์มได้ง่ายและเร็ว ขึ้น ดังนั้นของเหลวที่ได้จากกระบวนการผลิตส่วนใหญ่ ประกอบด้วย น้ำและน้ำมัน เมื่อของเหลวทั้งสองชนิดนี้ต้อง ไหลผ่านปั้มและอุปกรณ์ต่าง ๆ ในกระบวนผลิตทำให้ บางส่วนของของเหลวทั้งสองแตกตัวและกระจายตัวอยู่ใน ลักษณะของอิมัลชัน ซึ่งหลังจากผ่านกระบวนการแยก ของเหลวทั้งสองออกจากกันแล้ว พบว่ายังเหลือน้ำมัน บางส่วนกระจายตัวอยู่ในน้ำในรูปของอิมัลชันประมาณร้อย ละ 1 ของน้ำหนักน้ำ ดังนั้นควรมีการพัฒนาอุปกรณ์การ แยกให้ดีขึ้น เพื่อลดการสูญเสียน้ำมันปาล์ม เพิ่มผลผลิต และสามารถช่วยลดค่าใช้จ่ายในการบำบัดของเสียจาก กระบวนการผลิตได้

อิมัลชัน (Emulsion) คือของผสมที่ประกอบไปด้วย ของเหลวที่ไม่ละลายเข้าด้วยกันไม่น้อยกว่า 2 ชนิด อัน ประกอบไปด้วยของเหลวชนิดหนึ่งซึ่งเรียกว่าวัฏภาค ภายใน (Internal phase) ถูกทำให้กระจายตัวอยู่ใน ของเหลวอีกชนิดหนึ่งซึ่งเรียกว่า วัฏภาคต่อเนื่อง (Continuous phase) อิมัลชันสามารถแบ่งออกได้เป็น 2 ชนิดใหญ่ๆ คือ อิมัลชันแบบน้ำมันในน้ำ (Oil in water emulsion, O/W) และอิมัลชั้นแบบน้ำในน้ำมัน (Water in emulsion, W/O) แต่ในบางกรณี การแบ่งประเภท อิมัลชันแบบนี้ยังไม่ครอบคลุมทั้งหมด เช่นในระบบที่เป็น อิมัลชันแบบ น้ำมันในน้ำในน้ำมัน (Oil in water in oil, O/W/O) ซึ่งเป็นรูปแบบหนึ่งของอิมัลชั้นแบบหลายวัฏภาค (Multiple emulsion) ที่มีลักษณะเป็นแบบ น้ำมันเล็กๆ กระจายตัวอยู่น้ำที่กระจายตัวอยู่น้ำมันที่เป็นวัฏภาค ต่อเนื่อง

รูปแบบการทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันมีหลายวิธี เช่น
การทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันโดยอาศัยแรงโน้มถ่วง
(Gravity) การทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันทางเคมี(Chemical demulsifier) การทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันโดยการกวน (Agitation) การทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันโดยอาศัยพลังงาน (Energy) และการทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันโดยอาศัย ตัวกลาง (Coalescer) การทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันโดย อาศัยตัวกลางคือ การนำตัวกลางไปวางขวางทางไหลของ อิมัลชัน หยดของเหลวที่มาก่อนจะชนและติดอยู่บนผิวของ ตัวกลาง หยดของเหลวที่ตามมาจะชนแล้วรวมตัวกับหยด

ของเหลวที่ติดอยู่ก่อน ทำให้หยดของเหลวมีขนาดใหญ่ขึ้น เมื่อหยดของเหลวมีขนาดใหญ่ขึ้นจนเอาชนะแรงยึดติดกับ ผิวตัวกลาง หยดของเหลวจะหลุดออกจากตัวกลางแล้ว แยกวัฎภาคกันในที่สุด

ตรีธาร อัมราลิขิต (2004) ทำการทดลองทำลายความ เป็นอิมัลชันร้อยละ 1 ของน้ำมันปาล์มดิบกับน้ำโดยอาศัย ตัวกลางในระบบแบบกะ (Batch) ของตัวกลาง 3 ชนิดคือ เส้นใยปาล์ม เส้นใยสังเคราะห์ และเม็ดหิน พบว่า การ ทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันโดยอาศัยตัวกลางมีประสิทธิภาพ สูงกว่าการใช้แรงโน้มถ่วงตามธรรมชาติ และเส้นใยปาล์มมี ประสิทธิภาพในการแยกน้ำมันปาล์มออกมาได้มากที่สุด

Briscoe (2000) และคณะ ทำการศึกษาการแยกตัวของ อิมัลชันของน้ำมัน (di-n-butyl phthalate) กับน้ำโดยเส้นใย ถักเคฟลา (Kevlar) ที่ความเร็วการไหล ความหนาของชั้น เส้นใยถัก และความเข้มขันของน้ำมันต่างๆกัน พบว่า ความเร็วการไหลที่เพิ่มขึ้น ความหนาของชั้นเส้นใยที่ เพิ่มขึ้น และความเข้มขันเริ่มตันที่เพิ่มขึ้น ส่งผลให้ ประสิทธิภาพการแยกตัวออกมาของน้ำมันสูงขึ้น

Jingquan Li Yongan Gu (2004) ได้ทำการศึกษาการ ช่วยรวมตัวของน้ำมันในน้ำของตัวกลางชนิดเส้นใยและแบบ เม็ด โดยใช้ตัวกลางเส้นใยโพรไพลีน เส้นใยในล่อน และ โพรไพลีนชนิดเม็ด โดยใช้น้ำมันดิบ และน้ำมันแร่ (mineral oil) เป็นอิมัลชัน จากการศึกษาพบว่า ความเร็วการไหลที่ ไม่สูงเกินไปจะช่วยให้ประสิทธิภาพของการรวมตัวสูงขึ้น ประสิทธิภาพจะเพิ่มขึ้นเมื่อความเร็วการไหลเพิ่มขึ้น และ ประสิทธิภาพจะลดลงเมื่อความเข้มขันเริ่มตันของน้ำมันใน น้ำสูงขึ้น และความยาวของตัวกลางจะมีผลไม่มากต่อ ประสิทธิภาพในตัวกลางแบบเม็ด และตัวกลางแบบเส้นใย จะมีประสิทธิภาพสูงกว่าในตัวกลางแบบเม็ด

2. การทดลอง

2.1 วัตถุดิบและสารเคมี

น้ำมันปาล์มดิบ น้ำบริสุทธิ์ปราศจากประจุ (De-ionised water) เส้นใยปาล์ม เส้นใยในล่อน

2.2 อุปกรณ์

2.2.1 หอตัวกลางทำจากแก้วขนาดเส้นผ่านศูนย์กลาง 15 มิลลิเมตร ยาว 500 มิลลิเมตร

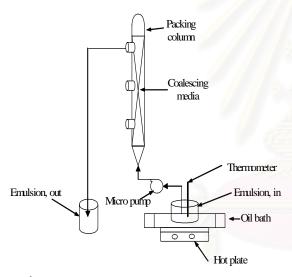
- 2.2.2 ปั้มท่อขนาดเล็ก (Micro tube pump) และท่อยาง ซิลิโคน
- 2.2.3 เครื่องปั่นผสมอิมัลชัน
- 2.2.4 เครื่องให้ความร้อนและชุดควบคุมอุณหภูมิ
- 2.2.5 เครื่องชั่งน้ำหนักทศนิยม 4 ตำแหน่ง

2.3 การเตรียมกิมัลชัน

อุ่นน้ำมันปาล์มดิบและน้ำให้ร้อนที่อุณหภูมิประมาณ 60 องศาเซลเซียส ผสมน้ำมัน 10 กรัมต่อน้ำ 1 ลิตร ด้วย เครื่องปั่นผสมอิมัลซัน แล้วตั้งไว้ในระบบควบคุมอุณหภูมิ

2.4 วิธีการทดลอง

นำตัวกลางบรรจุในหอตัวกลางให้เต็ม ที่ความหนาแน่น บรรจุประมาณ 3x10⁻⁴ g/mm³ ต่อเข้ากับระบบปั๊มอิมัลชัน ตามรูปที่ 1



รูปที่ 1 การต่ออุปกรณ์ทำการทดลองของหอตัวกลาง

การทดลองประกอบไปด้วย 2 ชุด ชุดแรกแรกคือชุดการ ทดลองการทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันโดยอาศัยแรงโน้มถ่วง ตามธรรมชาติ และการไหลผ่านหอเปล่า ชุดที่สองคือการ ทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันโดยอาศัยตัวกลาง

การทดลองในส่วนแรก เริ่มด้วยการผสมอิมัลชันแล้ว แบ่งออกเป็นสองส่วน ส่วนแรกให้ต่อเข้ากับระบบหอเปล่าที่ ปราศจากตัวกลาง เก็บตัวอย่างที่ความเร็วการไหล 0.75 1.5 และ 2.25 มิลลิเมตรต่อวินาที ความสูงของหอ 100 300 และ 500 มิลลิเมตร ตามลำดับ ที่ทางออกของหอเปล่า ส่วน ที่สองตั้งไว้ในระบบควบคุมอุณหภูมิ เก็บตัวอย่างตามเวลา ที่ใช้ในการเก็บตัวอย่างในส่วนแรก การทดลองในชุดที่สอง เตรียมอิมัลชันแล้วต่อเข้ากับ ระบบหอที่บรรจุตัวกลางเสร็จเรียบร้อย การดำเนินการ ทดลองกระทำเช่นเดียวกันกับชุดการทดลองหอเปล่า

2.5 การเก็บตัวอย่าง

เก็บตัวอย่างประมาณ 10 มิลลิลิตรที่เวลา 0 นาที แล้ว เปิดปั๊มเพื่อให้อิมัลชันไหลเข้าระบบหอตัวกลาง เก็บ ตัวอย่างทุกๆ 30 นาที แล้ววิเคราะห์ผล ดำเนินการทดลอง ต่อไป จนได้ค่าความเข้มข้นของอิมัลชันคงที่อย่างน้อย 3 ตัวอย่าง เพื่อยืนยันว่าระบบเข้าสู่สภาวะคงตัว (Steady state)

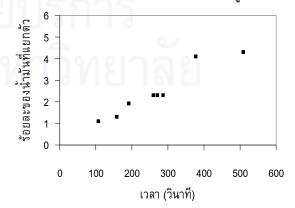
2.5 การวิเคราะห์ผล

วิเคราะห์ความเข้มขันของน้ำมันในน้ำโดยวิธีมาตรฐาน ASTM D-4281

3. ผลการทดลอง

3.1 ผลการทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันโดยอาศัยแรงโน้ม ถ่วงและโดยการไหลผ่านหอเปล่า

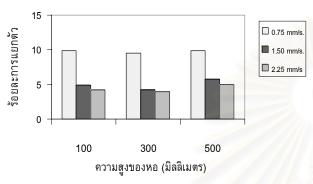
งานวิจัยในส่วนนี้ศึกษาการทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันโดย แรงโน้มถ่วงเพื่อเปรียบเทียบกับการทำลายความเป็น อิมัลชันโดยอาศัยตัวกลางในการช่วยรวมตัวที่เวลาการไหล ผ่าน (Resident time) เท่ากัน โดยเตรียมอิมัลชันของน้ำมัน ปาล์มดิบกับน้ำที่ความเข้มข้นร้อยละ 1 โดยน้ำหนัก ตั้งไว้ ในระบบควบคุมอุณหภูมิ เก็บตัวอย่างและวิเคราะห์ที่เวลา การไหลผ่านเดียวกันกับการทดลองการทำลายความเป็น อิมัลชันโดยอาศัยตัวกลาง ได้ผลการทดลองดังรูปที่ 2



รูปที่ 2 แสดงผลการทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันโดยอาศัยแรง โน้มถ่วงที่เวลาการไหลผ่านเดียวกับการทำลาย ความเป็นอิมัลชันโดยอาศัยตัวกลาง

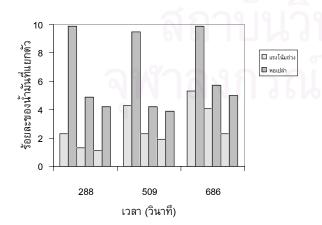
จากผลของรูปที่ 2 พบว่าการทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชั้น โดยอาศัยแรงโน้มถ่วงเทียบกับเวลาไหลผ่านของการทำลาย ความเป็นอิมัลชั้นโดยอาศัยตัวกลางสามารถแยกน้ำมันได้ ประมาณร้อยละ 1.1-5.3 เท่านั้น

การทดลองอีกส่วนคือการทดลองการทำลายความเป็น อิมัลชันโดยการไหลผ่านหอเปล่าที่ปราศจากตัวกลาง ได้ผล การทดลองดังรูปที่ 3



รู**ปที่ 3** การทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันโดยการใหลผ่านหอ เปล่าที่อัตราการใหลและความสูงของหอต่างๆ

จากผลของรูปที่ 3 พบว่าการทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชัน โดยการไหลผ่านหอเปล่าสามารถแยกน้ำมันได้ประมาณ ร้อยละ 3.9-9.9 และจากผลของรูปที่ 4 เปรียบเทียบร้อยละ การแยกตัวโดยแรงโน้มถ่วงกับการไหลผ่านหอเปล่า โดย เปรียบเทียบที่เวลาเท่ากัน พบว่าการแยกตัวของน้ำมันใน ระบบไหลผ่านหอเปล่าสูงกว่าการแยกโดยอาศัยแรงโน้ม ถ่วงทั้งนี้เนื่องจากการไหลของอิมัลชันช่วยเพิ่มโอกาสการ ชนกันและการรวมตัวกันของเม็ดน้ำมัน ซึ่งส่งผลให้เม็ด น้ำมันรวมกันได้เร็วกว่าการอาศัยแรงโน้มถ่วงตามธรรมชาติ

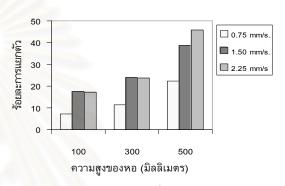


ร**ูปที่ 4** เปรียบเทียบการแยกตัวของน้ำมันปาล์มดิบออก จากน้ำโดยอาศัยแรงโน้มถ่วงตามธรรมชาติและการ ไหลผ่านหอเปล่า

3.2 ผลการทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันโดยอาศัยตัวกลาง แบบเส้นใยในการช่วยรวมตัว

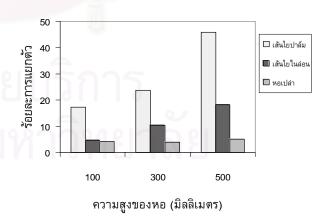
3.2.1 ผลของความสูงของหอ

เมื่อความสูงของหอเพิ่มขึ้น ร้อยละของการแยกตัวของ น้ำมันมีค่าเพิ่มขึ้น เนื่องจากผลของความสูงของหอเพิ่มขึ้น ทำให้เวลาไหลผ่านของอิมัลชันในหอตัวกลางเพิ่มขึ้น หยด น้ำมันมีโอกาสรวมตัวกันมีขนาดใหญ่ขึ้น (Briscoe, 2000) ดังรูปที่ 5



ร**ูปที่ 5** ร้อยละการแยกตัวของน้ำมันปาล์มดิบที่อัตราการ ไหลและความสูงของหอต่างๆ ของตัวกลางชนิดเส้น ใยปาล์ม

เมื่อเปรียบเทียบกับการทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันโดย แรงโน้มถ่วงพบว่าได้ผลดังรูปที่ 6

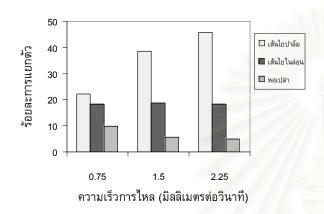


ร**ูปที่ 6** ร้อยละการแยกตัวของน้ำมันปาล์มดิบ ที่ความเร็ว การไหล 2.25 มิลลิเมตรต่อวินาที

จากผลของรูปที่ 6 แสดงให้เห็นว่า การทำลายความ เป็นอิมัลซันโดยอาศัยตัวกลางสามารถแยกน้ำมันออกมาได้ มากกว่าการไหลผ่านหอเปล่า โดยสามารถแยกได้ถึงร้อยละ 45 ของปริมาณน้ำมันทั้งหมดที่กระจายตัวอยู่ในน้ำ

3.2.2 ผลของอัตราการไหลของอิมัลชัน

ผลของอัตราการใหลของอิมัลชั้นเพิ่มขึ้น ร้อยละการ แยกตัวมีค่าเพิ่มขึ้นที่ความสูงของหอเท่ากัน ดังแสดงในรูป ที่ 7



รู**ปที่ 7** ร้อยละการแยกตัวของน้ำมันปาล์มดิบของความเร็ว การไหลต่างๆ ความสูงของหอ 500 มิลลิเมตร

ผลจากรูปที่ 6 พบว่าอัตราการไหลที่เพิ่มขึ้นส่งผลให้ อัตราการชนกัน การรวมตัวกันของเม็ดน้ำมันสูงขึ้น ทำให้ น้ำมันสามารถแยกตัวออกมาได้มากขึ้น โดยสำหรับเส้นใย ปาล์ม การแยกตัวของน้ำมันปาล์มดิบจากร้อยละ 7 ถึงร้อย ละ 45 ของน้ำมันปาล์มดิบเริ่มต้นที่อัตราการไหล 0.75 ถึง 2.25 มิลลิเมตรต่อวินาที ตามลำดับ และเส้นใยในล่อนการ แยกตัวของน้ำมันปาล์มดิบเกิดขึ้นเพียงร้อยละ 10 ถึง ร้อย ละ 20 ของน้ำมันปาล์มดิบเริ่มต้นเท่านั้น

Hazlett (1969) ได้ศึกษาปรากฏการณ์รวมตัวกันใน ระบบเส้นใยกรอง และได้อธิบายไว้ว่าการเพิ่มความเร็วการ ไหลของอิมัลชันเป็นการเพิ่มจำนวนหยดน้ำมันที่เข้าชนผิว ของเส้นใยต่อหนึ่งหน่วยเวลา ส่งผลให้การรวมตัวของหยด น้ำมันเกิดขึ้นเร็วขึ้น แยกตัวออกมาได้มากขึ้น

3.2.3 ผลของเส้นใยต่างชนิดกัน

การทดลองส่วนนี้ทำการเปรียบเทียบประสิทธิภาพการ ช่วยการรวมตัวของตัวกลางระหว่างเส้นใยธรรมชาติคือเส้น ใยปาล์มและเส้นใยสังเคราะห์คือเส้นใยในล่อน ซึ่งเส้นใยทั้ง สองต่างมีคุณสมบัติความชอบน้ำมันและไม่ชอบน้ำ เหมือนกัน จากผลในรูปที่ 7 พบว่าทั้งเส้นใยปาล์มและเส้นใยใน ล่อนสามารถช่วยแยกน้ำมันออกมาได้สูงกว่าการแยกด้วย ใช้แรงโน้มถ่วงตามธรรมชาติ และเส้นใยปาล์มสามารถช่วย แยกน้ำมันปาล์มดิบออกมาได้มากกว่าเส้นใยไนล่อน เพราะว่าเส้นใยปาล์มมีความขรุขระ ความเป็นรูพรุนสูงกว่า เส้นใยสังเคราะห์ เม็ดน้ำมันจึงสามารถติดอยู่บนพื้นผิวของ เส้นใยปาล์มได้นานกว่า รวมตัวกันมีขนาดใหญ่กว่าก่อน หลุดออกจากผิวของตัวกลาง (ตรีธาร, 2005)

5. สรุปผลการทดลอง

- การทำลายความเป็นอิมัลชันโดยอาศัยตัวกลางในการ ช่วยรวมตัวในระบบต่อเนื่องสามารถช่วยรวมตัวน้ำมัน ปาล์มดิบที่กระจายตัวอยู่ในน้ำได้ดีกว่าการทำลาย ความเป็นอิมัลชันโดยอาศัยแรงโน้มถ่วงตามธรรมชาติ
- 2. ร้อยละการแยกตัวของน้ำมันปาล์มดิบกับน้ำในระบบ ต่อเนื่องเพิ่มขึ้นเมื่อความยาวของตัวกลางเพิ่มขึ้น
- 3. เมื่อเทียบที่เวลาการไหลผ่านเท่ากัน ในระบบที่ดำเนิน ไปแบบต่อเนื่อง อัตราการไหลเพิ่มขึ้นร้อยละการ แยกตัวของน้ำมันปาล์มดิบกับน้ำมีค่าเพิ่มขึ้น
- 4. เมื่อเปรียบเทียบระหว่างประสิทธิภาพของการช่วย รวมตัวระหว่างเส้นใยปาล์มและเส้นใยในล่อน พบว่า เส้นไยปาล์มมีประสิทธิภาพสูงกว่าเส้นใยในล่อน

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