Thermal decomposition of micrcrystalline cellulosein sub- and supercritical organic solvents

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Thermal decomposition of microcrystalline cellulose with sub/supercritical m-xylene, dodecane, 1,4-dioxane, and methanol were studied. In addition, the effects of surface acid catalysts (Si-NSM-SO3H and modified activated carbon) and hydrogen on cellulose conversion have been investigated using high pressure and temperature reactor. The composition of liquid products has been analyzed by GS-MS. The applied temperatures were 300°C, 350°C and 400°C in thermal decomposition experiments. The addition of hydrogen led to improving conversion ratio about 4-7% in all the solvents except dodecane. In the case of 1,4-Dioxane, the best conversion ratio showed lower temperature condition, 300°C. In methanol condition, the addition of heterogeneous surface acid catalyst (Si-NSM-SO3H) at 300°C led to significant increase in conversion ratio from 58.1% to 87.8%. However, it didn't influence on conversion in aprotic solvents.