Isopropylbenzene Disproportionation over Large-Pore Zeolites

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While isopropylbenzene disproportionation is one of the potential technologies for disopropylbenzene production, its reaction intermediates have not been experimentally observed yet. Here we present GC-MS evidence that not only mono-isopropylated diphenylisopropane derivatives but also one mono-isopropenylated diphenylisopropanes are serving as one of key reaction intermediates of this disproportionation reaction over large-pore zeolites (H-Y, H-beta, and H-mordenite). We also propose a new bimolecular diphenylpropane-mediated reaction pathway for the formation of diisopropylbenzenes and benzene over large-pore zeolites based on the GC-MS results obtained.