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Influence of nanostructural catalyst in the synthesis of allyl phenyl ether and of its isomerization products

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INFLUENCE OF NANOSTRUCTURAL CATALYST IN THE SYNTHESIS OF ALLYL PHENYL ETHER AND OF ITS ISOMERIZATION PRODUCTS

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Introduction
Allyl phenyl ethers and allylphenols obtained as a result of its rearrangement are found practical application in various industries. They are used as compounds introducing are in composition of vitamins, herbicides, fungicides, inhibitors of microbiological corrosion of metals, as intermediates for the production of drugs, dyes and inhibitors of thermal oxidative degradation of polymers [1]. Attention to 2-allylphenol (2-AF) and its synthesis is due by the fact that this compound is the starting material for the production of a number of biologically active natural compounds.

Keywords: Fe/SiO2, TiO2, nanocatalyst, allyl phenyl ether, a mixture of ortho- and para-allylphenols, chromato-mass spectroscopy, rearrangement

VLIYANIE NANOSTRUKTURNOGO KATALIZATORA NA SINTEZ ALIIFENILIOVOGO EFIRA I PRODUKTOV EGO ISOMERIZACIИ

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also the main component in the synthesis of bi-functional benzoxazines, which activate the germination of wheat seeds and exhibited growth-regulating and anti-stress activity [3].

Allyl phenyl ether is an intermediate at synthesis of metabolites: diclofenac and nonsteroidal (didnt’-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) [4].

Recently interest to elaboration development of catalytically active porous metal oxides lies in obtaine uniform pore size of mesoporous materials (2-10 nm), which have allowed spatially hindered molecules to easily diffuse into internal active regions. The general synthesis of mesoporous metal oxides with large porouses in a semi-crystalline structure, including mesostructured SiO$_2$:TiO$_2$, is described in detail in [5–7].

A number of recent published works have been shown the high activity of zeolite catalysts in alkylation reactions [8]. The use of natural zeolite, clinoptilolite and mordenite, has been investigated [9]. The proposed method for their production has more advantages in comparison with traditional ones: high selectivity, less material and energy resources. Allyl phenyl ether was synthesized by intereaction of allyl alcohol with phenol (molar ratio = 1:1) in the presence of zeolite and hydroquinone (0.5 g per 0.5 mol of allyl alcohol). Allyl alcohol was introduced into a flask with a dried phenol complex on zeolites. The temperature of the reaction medium was to 250-300 °C. The reaction products were removed with diethyl ether and dried over MgSO$_4$. The obtained substances were analyzed by gas-liquid chromatography, and thin layer chromatography (TLC). The phenol alkylation with allyl bromide was previously studied with aim of selective synthesis of allyl phenyl ether in conditions of interphase catalysis (MPC) [9]. Depending on the reaction conditions along with the desired allyl phenyl ether, o-allylphenol, p-allylphenol were obtained, as well as small amounts of diallyl ether (owing to hydrolysis of allyl bromide to allyl alcohol and its further alkylation), as well as (o-allyl) phenol and (p-allyl) phenol. In reactions in the presence of MPA allyl phenyl ether was formed with more yield (56%) compared with the reaction without catalyst 12%. It was noted that the composition of phenol alkylation products depends on the pore size of zeolites. A mixture of allylated phenols was obtained with yield of 80%. It is known that at temperatures below 600 K the zeolite surface is coated with phenol, which forms a complex with the surface. In this case the formation allyl phenyl ether also was observed. It has been found that allyl phenols form at temperatures above 400 °C. Heating the allyl phenyl ether in conditions of the alkylation reaction leads to the formation of allylphenols with low yield. The yield of C-allylphenol has increases with increasing reaction temperature.

Thus, the using of this catalyst in result of its simple extraction using an external magnet, high stability and efficient recirculation, has been contributed to production of economical and stable allyl phenyl ethers. In the work of Wu and Lo [11] was shown that the quaternary ammonium membrane can be used as an effective interfacial catalyst for alkylation of phenol in a membrane reactor. Today, ion-exchange membranes are the most advanced separation membranes. They are successfully used in the desalination of sea water, the recovery of metal ions from wastewater, and electrodialysis experiments. The reaction system selected for further investigations consisted from allyl bromide and phenol, with a quaternary ammonium salt deposited on the membrane as a three-phase catalyst in an organic solvent or alkaline solution. Two types of anion-exchange membranes (TMA, A172) with different functional groups of tert-amines were obtained by the reaction of a membrane copolymer consisting from chloromethylstyrene and divinylstrene with various amines (trimeylamine and tri-n-butyramine). The study showed that the TMA and A172 membranes can be properly used as a catalyst increasing the reaction ability of phenol alkylation [12].

In this regard, systematic investigations by production of allyl ethers and allyl phenols with using of nanostructured catalytic systems are actual fundamental problem.

**Material and methods**

Tetraethylorthosilicate (TEOS, Shin-Etsu Chemical Chemical.) was used as a source of silica. Titanium isopropoxide (TIPt, Ti(OiPr)$_3$), tetrabutyl titanate (TBT, Ti(Obu)$_4$), titanium tetrachloride (TiCl$_4$) or a 30% solution of titanium sulfate (Ti(SO$_4$)$_2$) were used as sources of titanium. Acetylacetone (acac) was used as a chemical modifier to control the reactivity of TIPt. Poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG) with an average molecular weight of 20,000 was used as the polymer component to induce phase separation. Aqueous solutions of 60% nitric acid (HNO$_3$) and 35% hydrochloric acid (HCl) were used as hydrolysis and polycondensation catalysts.
All chemicals except TEOS were purchased from Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd. They were used without further purification.

**Synthesis Procedures**

Titanium dioxide-silica samples were prepared using several mixing methods of mixing to control the dispersion of Ti in a SiO₂ network [14]. At preparing samples with using titanium isopropoxide (TITP) as a precursor to titanium dioxide, the co-gelation method was used. At which, the required amount of polyethylene glycol (PEG) with an average molecular mass 20,000 was dissolved in aqueous solution of nitric acid. In another vessel tetraethylorthosilicate (TEOS) and TITP were mixed. The PEG solution was poured into an alkoxides mixture at stirring in coaling ice bath. A homogeneous solution is obtained after stirring for several minutes, which matured at 25,30 or 50 °C for 1 day. After that, the gels were left at 50 °C for 1 week to dry. The dried gels were calcined at 600 or 900 °C. The titanium dioxide content was on level 7,6 mass. %.

**Synthesis of allyl phenyl ether**

In a three-necked round-bottom flask connected with stirrer, a dropping funnel and a reflux condenser, sodium alcohol solution of phenol phenate is poured and allyl bromide was introduced at working stirrer (molar ratio of sodium phenolate to allyl bromide = 1:1). The dropping funnel was replaced by thermometer, the reaction mixture was heated during 1 hour in a water bath at temperature of 70-80 °C. A white precipitate of NaBr is formed as a result of the reaction. The reaction products were identified by TLC (thin layer chromatography) with one spot with Rf = 0.783, what has corresponded to the Rf value of allyl phenyl ether. After cooling the reaction mixture, the precipitate was filtered. Ethyl alcohol was distilled from the filtrate under ordinary conditions; then, allyl phenyl ether was isolated by fractional distillation under vacuum. The reaction yield was 81%. In order to determine the composition of the products chromat-mass spectrometry was performed. The analysis showed that the obtained mixture has contained: 78% allyl phenyl ether, 12% 2-allyl phenol. A thin-layer chromatography plate (TLC) DC-Fertigfolien ALUGRAM® Xtra SIL G/UV<sub>254</sub> (Germany) were used, the appearance of spots was determined under the action of UV lamp on the plates. Solvent system benzene: ethyl acetate (3:1).

The reaction products were identified by method IR (Perkin Elmer Spectrurm IR, Version 10.06.1) and NMR H<sup>1</sup> and C<sup>13</sup> (Unity 400 plus ICPASR Uz, Si(CH₃)₃ standard) Solvent C₆D₆. For chromatography-mass spectrometry, MassHunter/GCMS/1/597 instruments (Agilent technologies) were used.

**Allyl phenyl ether** bp = 192 °C; in vacuum Tp = 115 °C, d<sub>20</sub> = 1.5223, Rf = 0.783, n<sub>20</sub> = 1.5207, IR spectra (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>), 682-750 (monosubstituted benzene), 923-990 (-CH=CH₂), 1219-1240 (asymmetric stretching vibrations of the bond-C-O-C-), 1031,85 (symmetrical stretching vibrations of the bond C-O-C), 3040,88 (C-H bonds in the aromatic ring), 1494, 1586, 1598 (-C=C- in the aromatic ring).

NMR H<sup>1</sup> (Unity 400 plus ICPASR Uz, Si(CH₃)₃ standard) Solvent C₆D₆; chemical proton shift δ 6,7 (d, 2H, ArH) and 7,1 (t, 3H, ArH), 4,05 (m 2H, O-CH₂), 4,8 va 5,1 (m, 2H, = CH₂), 5,7 (m, 1H = CH).

C<sup>13</sup> spectrum (100 MHz, C₆D₆) d = 35,18; 68,92; 115,38; 116,19; 117,37; 121,19; 128,39; 130,05; 134,13.

For chromatography-mass spectrometry MassHunter/GCMS/1/597 instruments were used. Agilent technologies. Fragmented mass-spectrum ions with m/z C₅H₁₀O is shown below:

![Allyl phenyl ether structure](image)

**Preparation of Nanocatalyst**

The Fe/SiO<sub>2</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> catalytic system was prepared by following method: FeCl₃·6H₂O and SiO₂·TiO₂ were weighed in amount of 2·10⁻⁴ grams on analytical balance. Nanocatalyst powder was added to dissolved in 2 ml of FeCl₃·6H₂O water. The obtained system was heated at stirring, then has been dried at a temperature of 120 °C.

**Allyl phenyl Ether Isomerization Reactions**

The reaction was carried out in a threeneck round-bottomed flask with a capacity of 250 ml. The flask was connected which thermometer and a reflux condenser closed by a calcium chloride tube. A 6 ml of allyl phenyl ether solution was poured, in solution 2·10⁻⁴ mol SiO₂·TiO₂·FeCl₃·6H₂O. Within an hour the mixture is heated at temperature 90-95 °C. The second spot was identified by TLC, the Rf value of which has corresponded to α-allylphenol (Rf = 0,55). A comparison of IR spectroscopy of a mix-
The results of the analysis of the synthesis products of allyl phenyl ether by gas chromato-mass spectroscopy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retention time</th>
<th>Peak area</th>
<th>Concentration, %</th>
<th>Substance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.571</td>
<td>38101630</td>
<td>3.841253</td>
<td>Phenol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.247</td>
<td>777644661</td>
<td>78.399</td>
<td>Allyl phenylether</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.784</td>
<td>120396210</td>
<td>12.13786</td>
<td>2-Allylphenol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.042</td>
<td>6015321</td>
<td>0.60644</td>
<td>p-Allylphenol</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.324</td>
<td>23825500</td>
<td>2.401991</td>
<td>Allyl (o-allyl) phenyl ether</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.57</td>
<td>20096911</td>
<td>2.026089</td>
<td>Allyl (p-allyl) phenyl ether</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results and discussion
The initial stage in the synthesis of allyl phenyl ether was the production of sodium phenolate by dissolving sodium in absolute alcohol and adding phenol in calculated amounts. A reaction was carried out by reacting the obtained sodium phenolate with allyl bromide. The reaction of sodium phenolate with allyl bromide in solution of ethyl alcohol proceeds easily with formation of crystals of sodium bromide with yield of 90%.

For determination of the composition of the mixture products chromato-mass spectroscopy was used (Table 1).

Allyl phenyl ether was purified from allylphenol impurities by washing benzene solution of the mixture Kleisen alkali, and the residue after drying was distilled in vacuum. Chromatographically pure allyl phenyl ether was obtained.

Allyl phenyl ether isomerization can be carried out with using of various catalysts. The use of acid catalysts in the isomerization reaction has accelerated reaction of polyallylation and polymerization of olefins.

The rearrangement of allyl phenyl ether in the presence of small amounts of FeCl$_3$·6H$_2$O was accompanied by the predominant formation of allylphenol [13], what significantly has complicated the directed synthesis of o- and p-allylphenols. In the reaction of phenol (with excess) with allyl acetate small amounts of FeCl$_3$·6H$_2$O (molar ratio phenol:allyl acetate:FeCl$_3$·6H$_2$O = 5:1:4·10$^{-4}$) were used as a catalyst at a temperature of 74-75 °С for 5 hours, allyl phenyl ether, 2- and 4-allyl phenols have been formed. Determine of composition of the...
reaction products in the analyzed mixture was performed (by using GLC Rxi-624SilMS instrument of Restek, USA company. GLC conditions: column length 30 m, with inner diameter 0.25 mm, column temperature - 200 °С, temperature injector – 220 °С, temperature FID1-220 °С, V \( \text{N}_2 = 50 \text{ ml/min} \)). The analysis of the sample has showed following contents of components (%): Allyl phenyl ether - 43,3; o-allyl phenol - 16,3; p-allylphenol - 40,4.

Therefore, the allyl phenyl isomerization reaction was carried out in the presence of small amounts of the new Fe/SiO\(_2\)·TiO\(_2\) nanocatalyst which not previously wasn’t used and described in the literature. The rearrangement reaction scheme is shown below:

![Reaction scheme](image)

The rearrangement mechanism can be explained by formation of a cyclic transition state:

![Transition state](image)

The duration of the reaction was determined by TLC with an interval of half hour in solvent system benzene:ethyl acetate = 2:1 (volume ratio). An hour after the start of the reaction, an o-allylphenol spot was identified with a value \( R_f = 0.55 \).

Results of IR spectroscopy of allyl phenyl ether and the isomerization product, were the duration of reaction confirmed. The vibrations of the CH bond in the aromatic ring 3040.88, asymmetric stretching vibrations of the C-O-C bond 1230.36 cm\(^{-1}\), symmetrical stretching vibrations of the C-O-C bond 1031.85 cm\(^{-1}\), and stretching vibrations, \(-\text{O-CH}_2\) were observed in 990.49 cm\(^{-1}\). In the IR spectrum of isomerization products, was served increasing the peak of stretching vibrations of the group — OH 3436.32 cm\(^{-1}\), stretching vibrations of the CH bond in the aromatic ring 3077.36 cm\(^{-1}\). Valence vibrations of the C-O bond were observed in the region of 1219.37-1240.15 cm\(^{-1}\), deformation vibrations of the -OH group at 1329.17 cm\(^{-1}\). Also, the stretching vibrations of the C-O-C bond significantly decreased, which has proved the conversion of ether into phenol.

The GC-MS results of mixture of isomerization reaction products are summarized in Table 2. The GC-MS data confirmed that the content of the o-isomer mixture was 56.39%. Other products have less concentrations which are confirmed by shift of equilibrium to 2-allylphenol and selectivity of reaction.

### Conclusion

The results of the experiments showed the possibility of using small amounts of nanostructured Fe/SiO\(_2\)·TiO\(_2\) catalyst in the isomerization reaction of allyl phenyl ether at a temperature of 90-95 °С. And at this, it is possible to selectively obtain with predominant yield 2-allylphenol, which is compounds that has found application in various fields of the national economy.

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