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Applications of Ion Exchange Materials in Chemical and Food Industries

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Contents

1 Use of Ion-Exchange Resins in Dehydration Reactions	1
María José Ginés-Molina, Juan A. Cecilia, Cristina García-Sancho, Ramón Moreno-Tost and Pedro Maireles-Torres	
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Catalytic Processes of Dehydration	2
1.2.1 Dehydration of Alcohols to Alkenes	2
1.2.2 Dehydration of Alcohols to Ethers	3
1.2.3 Dehydration of Carbohydrates	8
1.2.4 Other Dehydration Processes	13
1.3 Conclusion	15
References	16
2 The Application of Ion-Exchange Resins in Hydrogenation Reactions	19
Osarieme Uyi Osazuwa and Sumaiya Zainal Abidin	
2.1 Introduction	19
2.2 Ion-exchange resin as a catalyst and support in reaction processes	20
2.2.1 Hydrogenation reactions and catalysis	21
2.3 Ion-Exchange Resins as Catalyst and Support for Hydrogenation Reactions	23
2.3.1 Hydrogenation of Unsaturated Hydrocarbon Compounds Using Ion-Exchange Resins	24
2.3.2 Reduction, Removal, and Hydrogenation of Nitrates Using Ion-Exchange Resin	27
2.3.3 Hydrodechlorination Reaction Using Ion-Exchange Resin	29
2.4 Conclusions	30
References	31

Chapter 2

The Application of Ion-Exchange Resins in Hydrogenation Reactions



Osarieme Uyi Osazuwa and Sumaiya Zainal Abidin

Abstract Reaction processes with minimal energy consumption and potentials to generate renewable energy, alongside dynamism in catalyst functionality, are the driving force behind the use of ion-exchange resins and more specifically, heterogeneous ion-exchange resins over homogeneous catalysts. For hydrogenation reactions, ion-exchange resins have mainly been employed as a catalyst support. The synthesis entails implanting/impregnating metallic ions into the ion-exchange resin matrix. The major disadvantage of the ion-exchange resin is its low thermal stability which makes the resin disadvantageous for some specific types of reactions. Research is still ongoing toward obtaining resins able to withstand extreme temperature (above 200 °C). This chapter summarizes some selected applications of hydrogenation reactions using ion-exchange resins as catalyst support material. Some of its applications include hydrodesulphurization, hydrodenitrication, and hydrodechlorination which have been reviewed in this chapter.

2.1 Introduction

Ion exchange can be defined as a process where mobilized ions obtained from a liquid phase are replaced with ions bound to a functional ion present in a solid. Ion-exchange resin entails the existence of covalent and non-covalent bonds in relation to interactions as a result of ionic and electrostatic relationships between the chemicals [1]. Generally, ion-exchange resins can readily be applied as catalyst sup-

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