

Supporting Information

The Usage of Silica Xerogel From African Sugarcane Leaves as a Catalyst in Biodiesel Production Through Transesterification

Ncamisile Nondumiso Maseko ^{a,*}, Dirk Enke ^{b,a}, Pius Adewale Owolawi ^c, Samuel Ayodele Iwarere ^d, Oluwatobi Samuel Oluwafemi ^{e,f}, Jonathan Pocock ^a

^a Discipline of Chemical Engineering, University of KwaZulu-Natal, 238 Mazisi Kunene Road, Glenwood, Durban, 4041, South Africa; masekon@ukzn.ac.za; pocockj@ukzn.ac.za

^b Institute of Chemical Technology, Universität Leipzig, Linnéstr. 3, 04103 Leipzig, Germany; dirk.enke@uni-leipzig.de

^c Department of Computer Systems Engineering, Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, 0152, South Africa, owolawipa@tut.ac.za

^d Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Pretoria, Lynnwood Road, Hatfield, Pretoria, 0028, South Africa, samuel.iwarere@up.ac.za

^e Department of Chemical Sciences (Formerly Applied Chemistry), University of Johannesburg, Doornfontein Campus, P.O. Box 17011, Doornfontein 2028, South Africa; oluwafemi.oluwatobi@gmail.com

^f Centre for Nanomaterials Science Research, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa

Correspondence: masekon@ukzn.ac.za; Tel.: +2731-360-3329

The biodiesel separation process that took place.

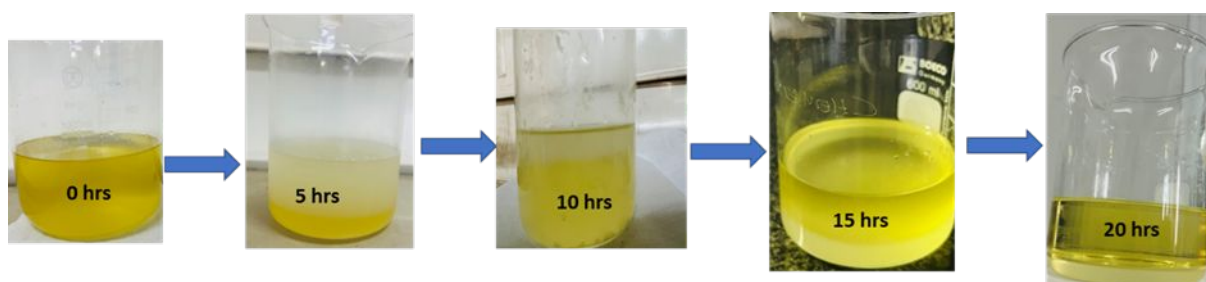


Figure S1: Biodiesel separation process after transesterification

Transesterification of canola oil with methanol in the presence of silica xerogel from sugarcane leaves as a catalyst at 65 °C reaction temperature, 3 wt% catalyst loading, 6:1 methanol to oil ratio and 60 mins reaction time.

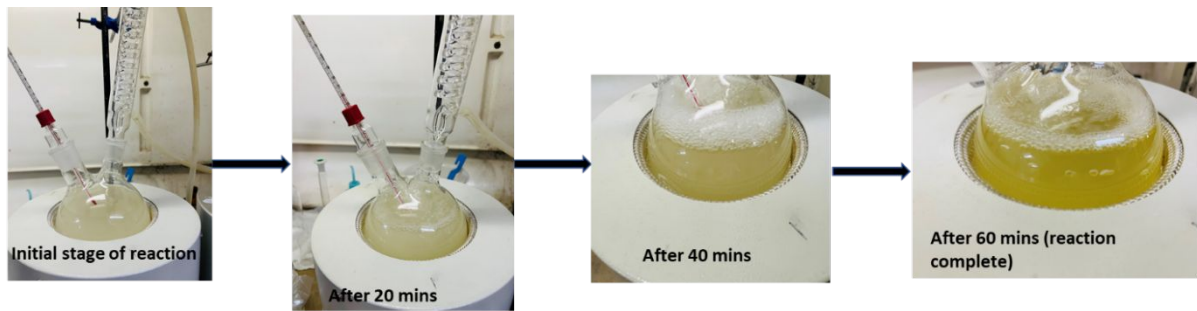


Figure S2: Transesterification using silica xerogel from sugarcane leaves as a catalyst