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## Table of Contents

**Biodiesel Production from Crude Karanja Oil using Heterogenous Catalyst from Seashells** *A.A. Saleh, H. Dewi and H. Sinin* (pp. 1 - 11)

An Affordable Calibrated Hot Box-Heat Flow Meter Suitable for Thermal Performance Measurement of an Insulation Panel Hasila Jarimi and Yixin Wang (pp. 12 - 20)

Preliminary Experimental Study of Passive Solar Air Heating System in Drying Chilli under Malaysian Climates

Abdalla Abdur Rahman Shahbal and Khai Mun Ng (pp. 21 - 30)

Propect Evaluation of a Wind Farm Project for a Smart Campus in the Federal University of Kashere, Gombe State

Michael C. Ohakwere-Eze, Righteous Ombu, Udo A. A. and Mela S. Shimo (pp. 31 - 40)

Mechanical and Morphological Properties of Different Natural Fiber Reinforced Polylactic Acid Composites: A Review

S.F.K. Sherwani, S.M. Sapuan, Z. leman, E.S. Zainuddin and A. Khalina (pp. 41 - 47)

A Review on Green Cleaning During and Post Covid-19 Pandemic

A. Kamaruddin, N.N Zainol and M. A. Sulaiman (pp. 48 - 58)

Experimental Estimation of Water Velocity in a Selected Unregulated River (River Dindima) for Micro-hydrokinetic Potential

Michael C. Ohakwere-Eze, Righteous Ombu, James Audu, James Emmanuel and Henry I. Ikeri (pp. 59 - 67)

**The Impact of Green Spaces on Residential Property Values in Malaysia** *M.A Sulaiman, N.H Hashim, N.N Zainol, M.N Alias and W.Z Wan Yusoff* (pp. 68 - 77)

Theoretical Framework and Future Directions of Green Human Resource Management on Employee Engagement

A. Vinothini (pp. 78 - 92)

**Does Environmental Knowledge Moderate the Relationship Between Household Determinants' Intention to Practise Solid Waste Segregation-at-source? A Conceptual Paper** *K.W. Cheng, S. Osman, Z.M. Jusoh and J.L. Lau* (pp. 93 - 104)

### BIODIESEL PRODUCTION FROM CRUDE KARANJA OIL USING HETEROGENOUS CATALYST FROM SEASHELLS

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#### ABSTRACT

Gradual depletion of the world's petroleum reserves and impact of environmental pollution caused by combustion of fossil fuel, the search for substantial alternative energy resources such as biodiesel has gained importance. Biodiesel is a green fuel derived from plant oils or animal fats and consisting of long-chain fatty acid esters. In this study active calcium oxide catalyst was synthesized from Meretrix Lyrata (M.Lyrata) following calcination-hydration-dehydration technique. The catalytic feasibility of synthesized CaO was investigated in production of Karanja methyl ester (KME) from crude Karanja oil (CKO). KME was synthesized through esterification using  $H_2SO_4$  followed by transesterification utilizing CaO in a two-step reaction process of CKO and methanol. The *M.Lyrata* shells were calcined at 900°C and the catalyst samples were characterized by using FTIR, SEM, PSA, and BET-BJH spectrographic techniques. A maximum FAME conversion of 97.3% was obtained at optimum reaction conditions include methanol to oil ratio of 12:1, catalyst concentration of 2% wt, reaction temperature of 58 °C and reaction time of 2 h. In comparative study with the commercial CaO, M.Lyrata showed a higher catalytic activity. The catalyst reusability experiments ascertain reusability of CaO up to four reuse cycles had shown good efficiency. The economic comparative study confirms that CaO derived from *M.Lyrata* can be used as an alternative and feasible catalyst for the biodiesel production. The KME fuel properties were comply according to EN-14214 biodiesel fuel standards.

Keywords: Seashells, heterogenous catalyst, transesterification, Karanja biodiesel, Spectroscopy.

#### INTRODUCTION

Biodiesel, also known as fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) or fatty acid ethyl ester (FAEE) can be obtained from vegetable oils or animal fats [1]. The rapid depleting of fossil fuel, demand of engine fuels that has growing tremendously and unpredictable in the availability lead to be the crucial factor to explore on alternative renewable fuel sources that able to supplement fossil fuels[2]–[4]. In recent years, biodiesel had shown exciting potential and receiving worldwide attention where it is known as a substitute for petro-based diesel fuel. Biodiesel has been known for its sustainability, non-toxic, biodegradability, less gaseous pollutant emissions and easy usability as fuel to be used in conventional diesel engines without any major modifications as compared to petroleum diesel[5]. Production of biodiesel was over 5 billion gallons in 2010.