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Recent progress on catalyst development in biomass tar steam reforming: toluene as a biomass tar model compound

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Abstract

Scientists are currently focusing on eco-friendly and non-polluting fuels, and the production of H₂ from biomass has recently garnered attention. Valorization of biomass via catalytic gasification has been proposed as a potential solution to the environmental problems associated with CO₂ emissions and global warming. Nonetheless, the process generates tar as a by-product, which poses numerous difficulties for the reaction process. Recently, steam reforming has become a promising method for tar conversion since steam potentially contributes more H₂ to the reaction. However, the reaction is endothermic and hence requires the use of a catalyst. This leads to the global challenge which is designing an affordable anti-coking sintering resistance catalyst. This review reports on advances made in the development of catalytic biomass tar reforming, focusing mainly on toluene as the biomass tar model compound. Recent developments in the toluene catalytic steam reforming, reaction pathways, catalyst deactivation studies, and catalyst development were comprehensively reviewed. In addition, the functions of active sites, support, and promoter in the performance of toluene steam reforming were discussed concurrently. The review concluded with an insight into the prospects and challenges of biomass tar reforming technology, as well as a few recommendations for future catalyst development. © 2023, The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of Springer Nature.

Author Keywords

Biomass; Gasification; Hydrogen; Steam reforming; Toluene

Index Keywords

Catalyst deactivation, Catalytic reforming, Gasification, Global warming, Hydrogen, Sintering, Steam, Steam reforming, Tar, Toluene; Biomass tar, Catalytic gasification, Eco-friendly, Environmental problems, Polluting fuels, Recent progress, Tar model compounds, Tar reforming, Valorisation,]+ catalyst; Biomass

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