

## CHAPTER IV

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

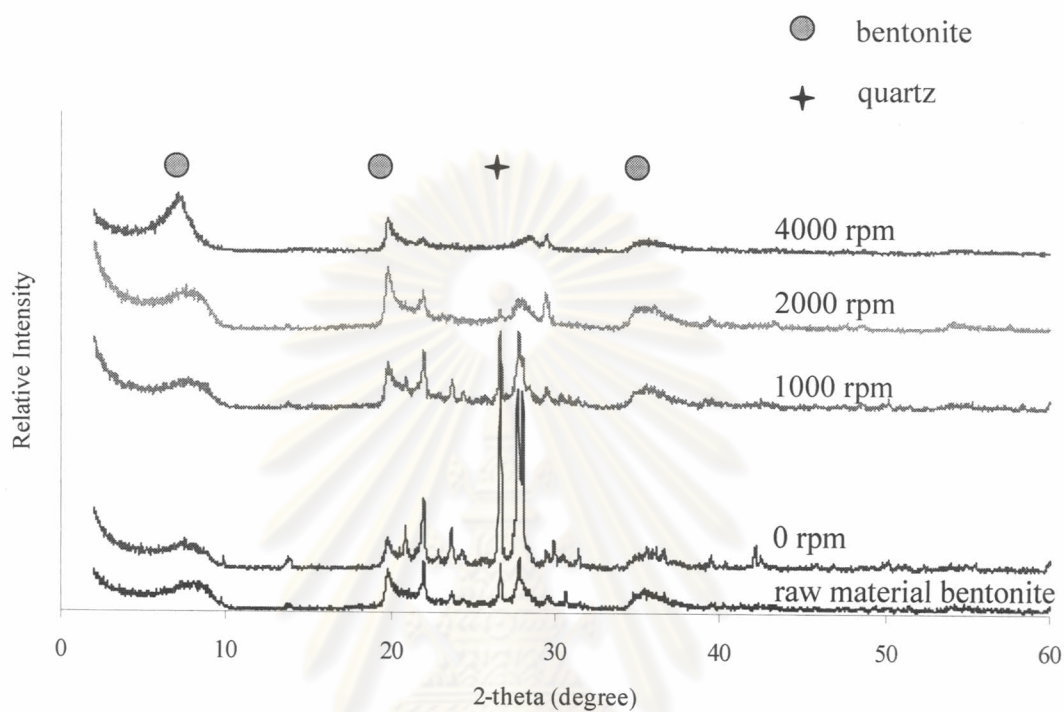
#### 4.1 Homoionic Clays

Homoionic hectorite and bentonite were prepared by purification and ion exchange method. In the purification process, quartz and other impurities were removed from bentonite by centrifugal technique. Quartz is the major component in rocks and minerals. It has low surface area and acidic site, which interrupts the analysis of clays. The Na ion is preferred to intercalate between the clay layers in order to obtain homoionic clays. The resulting products are white powder solid as the starting materials.

##### 4.1.1 Purification of Bentonite

XRD patterns of raw material bentonite and purified bentonites collected from different centrifugal speeds are shown in Figure 4.1. All samples show the characteristic peaks of bentonite at 2-theta range of 7, 19 and 35 degree. At the centrifugal speed of 2000 rpm and lower, the 2-theta peak at 26.5 degree which was assigned to quartz ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) phase exists in the solid, suggesting free silica remains as an impurity on bentonite samples. The quartz peak disappeared in purified bentonite collected from the centrifugal speed of 4000 rpm, suggesting free silica was removed from raw material bentonite. Table 4.1 summarizes the  $d_{001}$  spacing of all samples during purification process. All collected samples from different centrifugal speeds show the  $d_{001}$  spacing in the range of 10 to 11 Å. The  $d_{001}$  peak of purified bentonites slightly shifts from raw material bentonite; however, their XRD patterns still show the characteristic peaks of bentonite. Therefore, purified bentonite obtained from the centrifugal speed of 4000 rpm, which

impurities particles were mostly removed at the centrifugal speed of 2000 rpm, is chosen as starting bentonite clay.



**Figure 4.1** XRD patterns of raw material bentonite and purified bentonites collected from different centrifugal speeds.

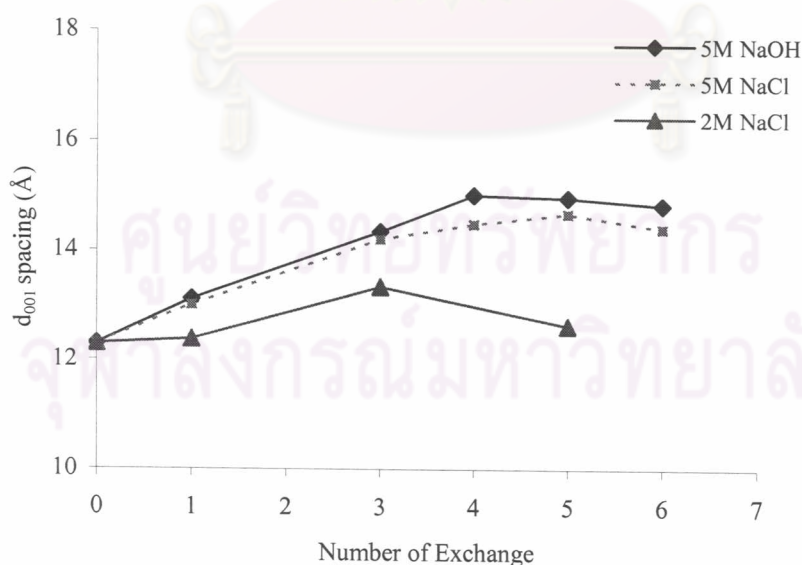
**Table 4.1** The  $d_{001}$  spacing of different centrifugal parts of bentonite

Samples	$d_{001}$ (Å)
Raw material bentonite	10.49
Particles collected at 0 rpm	11.07
Particles collected at 1000 rpm	10.74
Particles collected at 2000 rpm	10.82
Particles collected at 4000 rpm	11.96

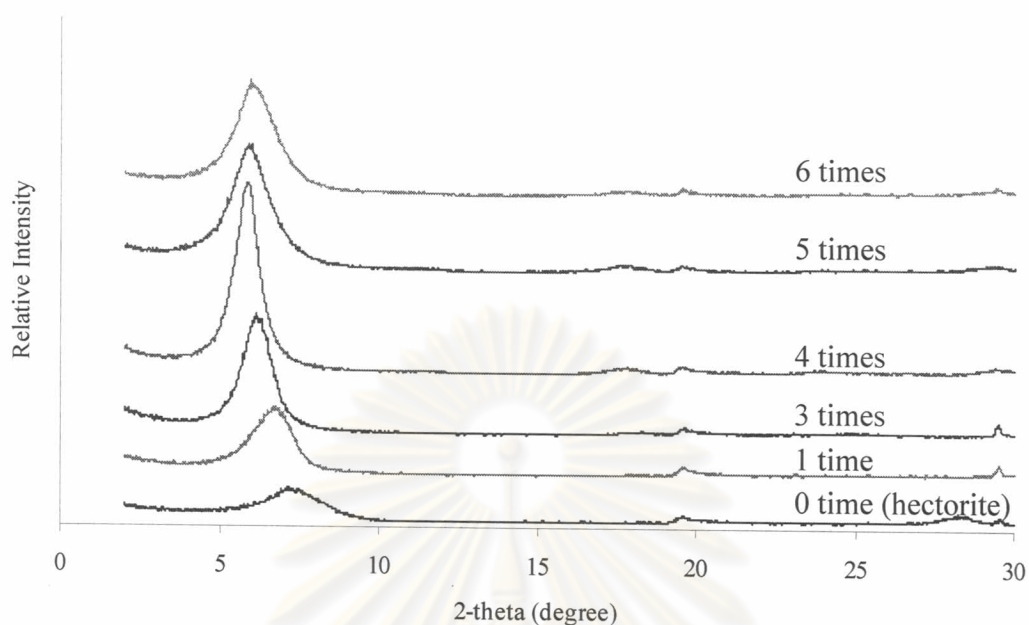
#### 4.1.2 The Effect of Na Sources and Concentrations

##### Hectorite

The relationship between the  $d_{001}$  spacing of hectorites and the number of Na-exchange is shown in Figure 4.2. It has clearly seen that the  $d_{001}$  spacings of Na-clays are higher than of the untreated one, which suggests Na ions intercalate between the clay layers. When the concentration of NaCl solution increases from 2M to 5M, the  $d_{001}$  spacing increases and becomes quite stable around 14 Å after ion exchange with 5M NaCl for four times. When the sodium sources between NaCl and NaOH were compared, it is found that the  $d_{001}$  spacing of hectorite treated with NaOH is higher than that treated with NaCl as shown in Table A-1. Figure 4.3 shows XRD patterns of hectorites treated with 5M NaOH. The clay characteristic peaks remain in all XRD patterns but changing to lower value of 2-theta, suggesting that Na ions intercalate into the clay layers and NaOH does not destroy the clay structure. The  $d_{001}$  spacings are quite stable around 15 Å when hectorite is treated more than four times. Therefore, hectorite treated with 5M NaOH for five times was chosen as a starting homoionic clay, which is named Na-Hectorite.



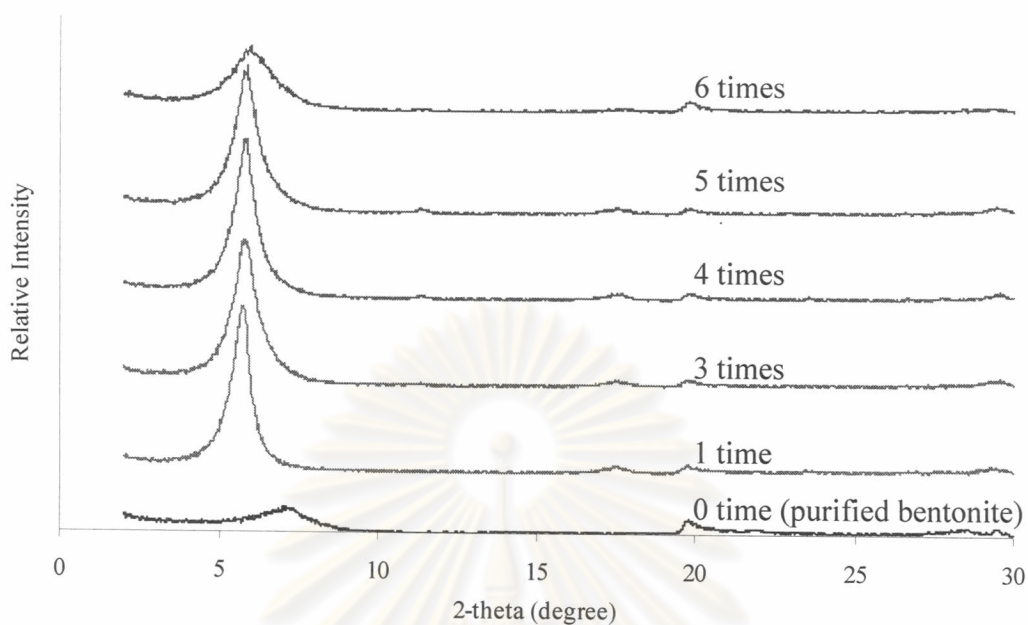
**Figure 4.2** The relationship between the  $d_{001}$  spacings of hectorite and the number of Na exchange.



**Figure 4.3** XRD patterns of hectorite treated with 5M NaOH.

### Bentonite

Purified bentonite collected from the centrifugal speed of 4000 rpm, which impurities were removed at the centrifugal speed of 2000 rpm, was also treated with 5M NaOH. The XRD patterns of bentonite treated with 5M NaOH are shown in Figure 4.4 and the  $d_{001}$  spacing are summarized in Table 4.2. From XRD, the 2-theta value of bentonite treated with 5M NaOH is lower than untreated one suggesting Na ions intercalate into the clay layers and NaOH does not destroy the clay structure. The  $d_{001}$  spacing of Na-Bentonite was quite stable when bentonite was treated since three times. Bentonite, treated with 5M NaOH three times, is selected as a starting homoionic clay, which is named Na-Bentonite.



**Figure 4.4** XRD patterns of purified bentonite treated with 5M NaOH.

**Table 4.2** The  $d_{001}$  spacing of bentonite treated with 5M NaOH

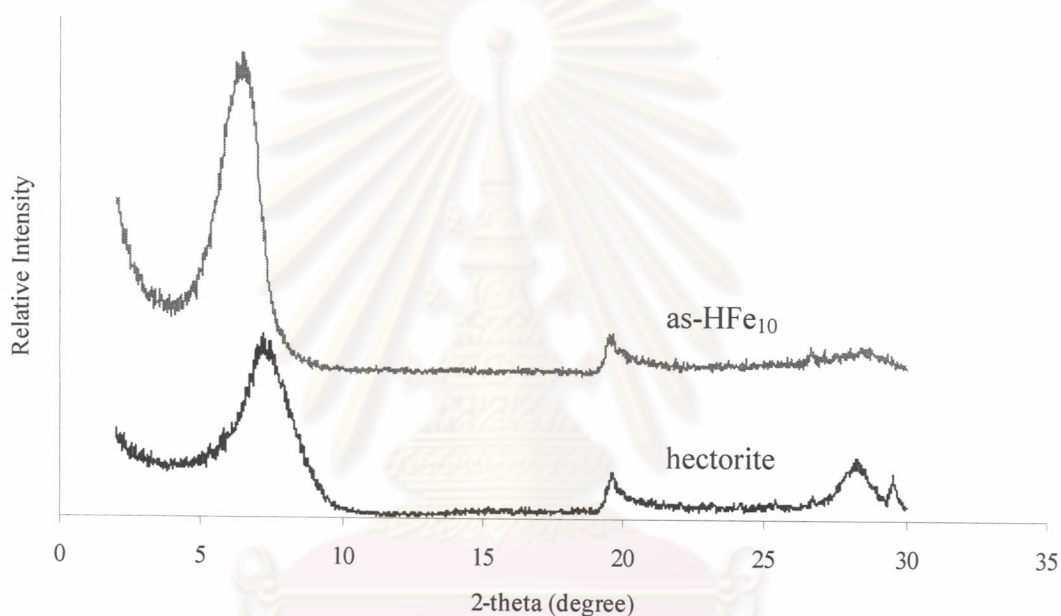
Number of exchange	$d_{001}$ (Å)
Purified bentonite	11.96
1	15.22
3	14.91
4	14.81
5	14.81
6	14.42

#### 4.2 The Characterization of Fe-pillared and Ga-doped Fe-pillared Clays

Fe-pillared and Ga-doped Fe-pillared clays were successfully synthesized. The obtained products are deep-red solids. The XRD patterns of all samples are shown in Figures 4.5 to 4.9. The shift of  $d_{001}$  reflection peak of clays was observed in all calcined samples. The synthesized method was successfully reproduced.

#### 4.2.1 Intercalation of Fe-precursor into Clay Layer

XRD patterns of hectorite and  $\text{Fe}_{10}$ -intercalated hectorite (as- $\text{HFe}_{10}$ ) are shown in Figure 4.5. The  $d_{001}$  reflection peak of as- $\text{HFe}_{10}$  was shifted from the 2-theta of 7 degree to 6.48 degree. The  $d_{001}$  spacing, which calculated from 2-theta value of as- $\text{HFe}_{10}$ , is higher than pure hectorite. The result can be described by intercalation of iron precursor which is larger than hydrated Na ion.

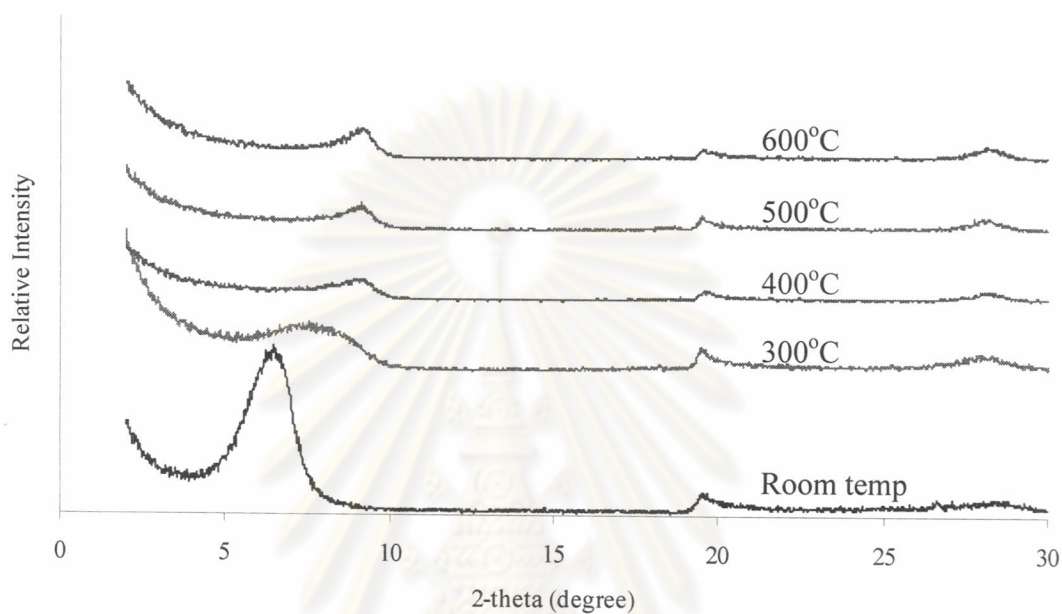


**Figure 4.5** XRD patterns of hectorite and as- $\text{HFe}_{10}$ .

#### 4.2.2 Effect of Calcine Temperature

In order to find an optimal temperature for transformation of iron precursor to iron oxide in pillared clay, as- $\text{HFe}_{10}$  was calcined between 300 and 600°C. Figure 4.6 shows XRD patterns of  $\text{HFe}_{10}$  at various temperatures. It has been seen that all  $\text{HFe}_{10}$ s show characteristic peak of  $d_{001}$  without destruction of clay structure and the  $d_{001}$  spacing decreases with increasing calcined temperature as shown in Table 4.3. Since 400°C, the  $d_{001}$  spacing dropped to around 9.6 Å and it remains constant when the calcine temperature was higher than 400°C. In this work, Fe-pillared clay with higher  $d_{001}$

spacing is preferred because the organic reactants for catalytic reactions can be intercalated in pore site. At this point, the appropriate calcine temperature at 300°C is chosen for this study.



**Figure 4.6** XRD patterns of  $\text{HFe}_{10}$  at various calcined temperatures.

**Table 4.3** The  $d_{001}$  spacing of  $\text{HFe}_{10}$  at various calcined temperatures

Temperature (°C)	$d_{001}$ (Å)
Room	13.62
300	11.87
400	9.68
500	9.67
600	9.61

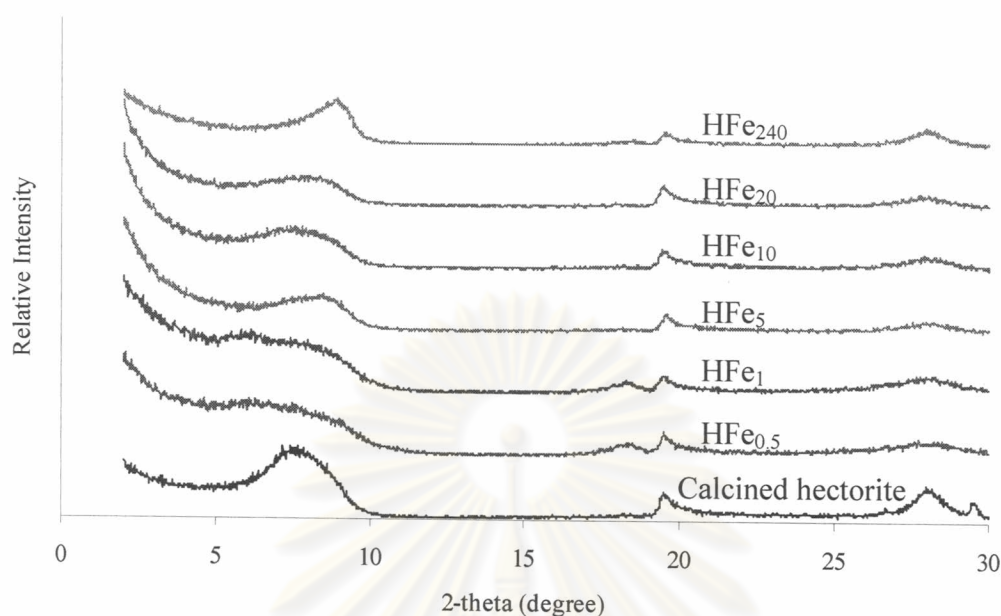
### 4.2.3 Effect of Iron Loading

In order to investigate effect of iron loading in pillaring agent on structure of catalyst, the amount of Fe in pillaring agent was varied between 0.5 to 240 meq per gram of clay and all as-synthesized products were calcined at 300°C for 5 h. After calcination, the  $d_{001}$  spacing of all Fe-pillared hectorite differs from as-synthesized and calcined hectorite as shown in Table 4.4. It can be explained that water molecules which is absorbed between clay layers were removed and precursors were converted to iron oxide at calcine condition. From the difference in  $d_{001}$  spacing, the Fe-precursors are claimed to occupy in the interlayer[28,42]. This conclusion is supported by the data of AAS and  $N_2$  adsorption-desorption isotherm as described in 4.2.5 and 4.2.7, respectively.

**Table 4.4** The  $d_{001}$  spacing of Fe-pillared clays

Samples	$d_{001}(\text{Å})$
Calcined hectorite	11.62
HFe <sub>0.5</sub>	14.45
HFe <sub>1</sub>	14.45
HFe <sub>5</sub>	10.69
HFe <sub>10</sub>	11.87
HFe <sub>20</sub>	11.17
HFe <sub>240</sub>	9.96
HFe <sub>10</sub> Ga <sub>1</sub>	10.42
HFe <sub>10</sub> Ga <sub>1</sub> I	10.53
Calcined bentonite	11.35
BFe <sub>5</sub>	9.81
BFe <sub>10</sub>	9.75
BFe <sub>20</sub>	9.68

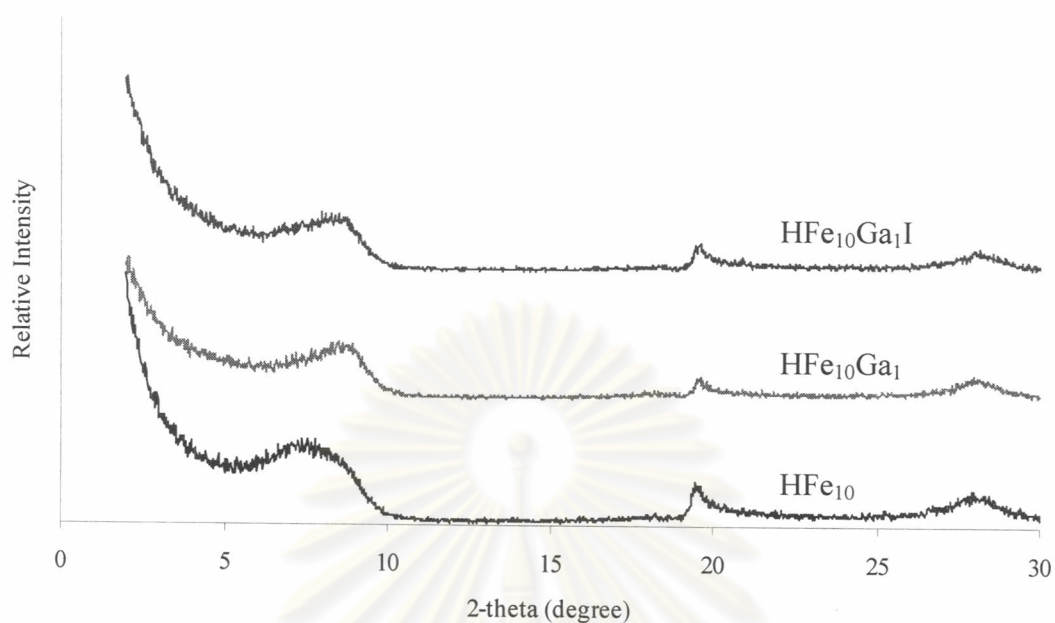




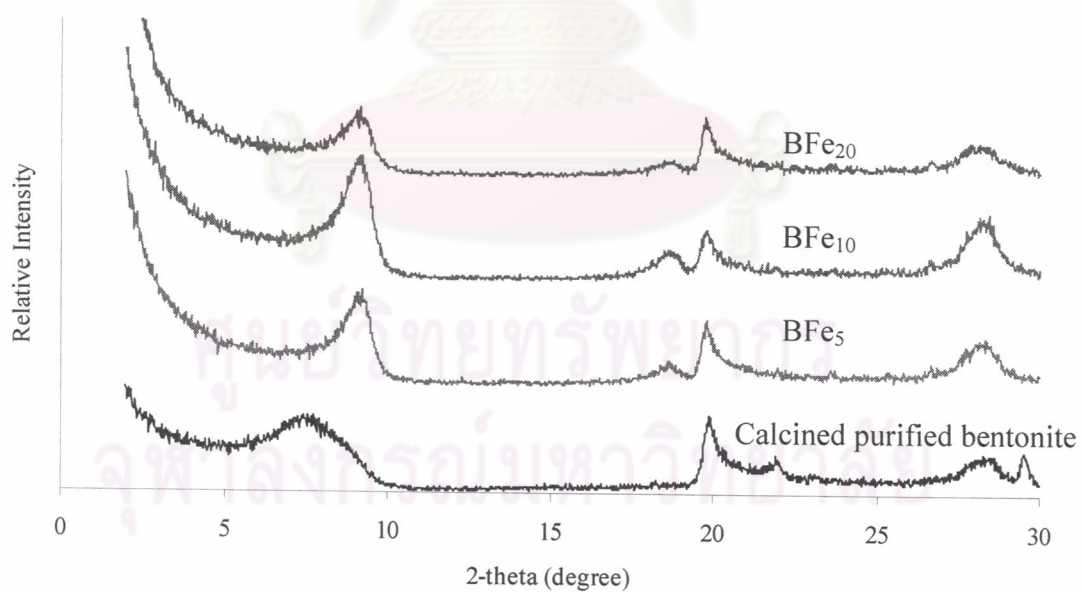
**Figure 4.7** XRD patterns of calcined hectorite and Fe-pillared hectorites with various iron contents.

The  $d_{001}$  spacing of Fe-pillared hectorites depends on the amount of iron in pillaring agent.  $\text{HFe}_{0.5}$  and  $\text{HFe}_1$  show peak at 2-theta of 6.12 with a shoulder at 8.42 degree indicating that Fe-precursors do not intercalate in all clay layers[43]. The low  $d_{001}$  spacing is observed in  $\text{HFe}_{240}$  which due to the intercalation of small Fe-precursor cluster.

Ga-doped  $\text{Fe}_{10}$ -pillared hectorites were synthesized by two methods *i.e.* direct intercalation ( $\text{HFe}_{10}\text{Ga}_1$ ) and impregnation ( $\text{HFe}_{10}\text{Ga}_1\text{I}$ ). The  $d_{001}$  spacings of  $\text{HFe}_{10}\text{Ga}_1$  and  $\text{HFe}_{10}\text{Ga}_1\text{I}$  are summarized in Table 4.4. The results show that the  $d_{001}$  spacings of  $\text{HFe}_{10}\text{Ga}_1$  and  $\text{HFe}_{10}\text{Ga}_1\text{I}$  are slightly different from that of  $\text{HFe}_{10}$ . Their XRD patterns compared with  $\text{HFe}_{10}$  are shown in Figure 4.8. The characteristic peaks of clay are observed in both Ga-doped  $\text{Fe}_{10}$ -pillared hectorites, indicating that gallium does not affect the clay structure.



**Figure 4.8** XRD patterns of  $\text{HFe}_{10}$  and Ga-doped Fe-pillared hectorites.



**Figure 4.9** XRD patterns of calcined purified bentonite and Fe-pillared bentonite with various iron contents.

For the bentonite support, Table 4.4 shows  $d_{001}$  spacing of calcined purified bentonite and Fe-pillared bentonite. The  $d_{001}$  reflection peak of Fe-pillared bentonites ( $BFe_x$ ) was also shifted to lower value compared with calcined purified bentonite and it is quite constant around  $10\text{\AA}$  as shown in Figure 4.9. This result can be described earlier in Fe-pillared hectorite.

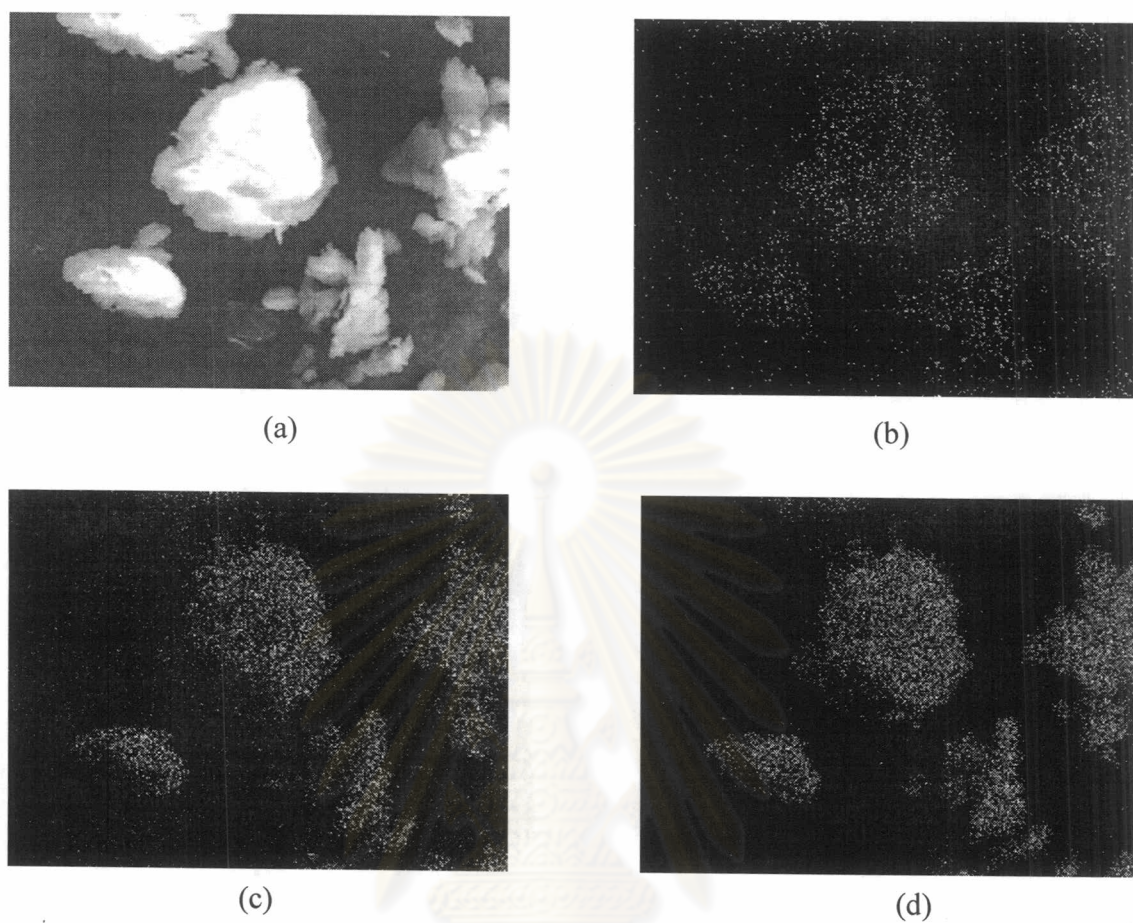
#### 4.2.4 Scanning Electron Microscope

The surface morphology of hectorite and Fe-pillared hectorite were investigated using SEM. SEM images of hectorite and  $HFe_{10}$  are shown in Figure 4.10. Hectorite shows the layer structure. It has been seen that clay-layered structure is observed in  $HFe_{10}$  indicating that  $HFe_{10}$  still have layer structure.



**Figure 4.10** SEM images of hectorite (a) and  $HFe_{10}$  (b).

To investigate distribution of metal on Fe-pillared clay, elemental ion mapping of  $HFe_{10}$  was performed and photographs are shown in Figure 4.11. It can be explained that Fe ion is homogeneous distribution in the clay structure. Besides, no aggregation of  $Fe_2O_3$  was observed on the clay surface suggesting that Fe precursors intercalate in the clay layer as  $Fe_2O_3$  after calcination.



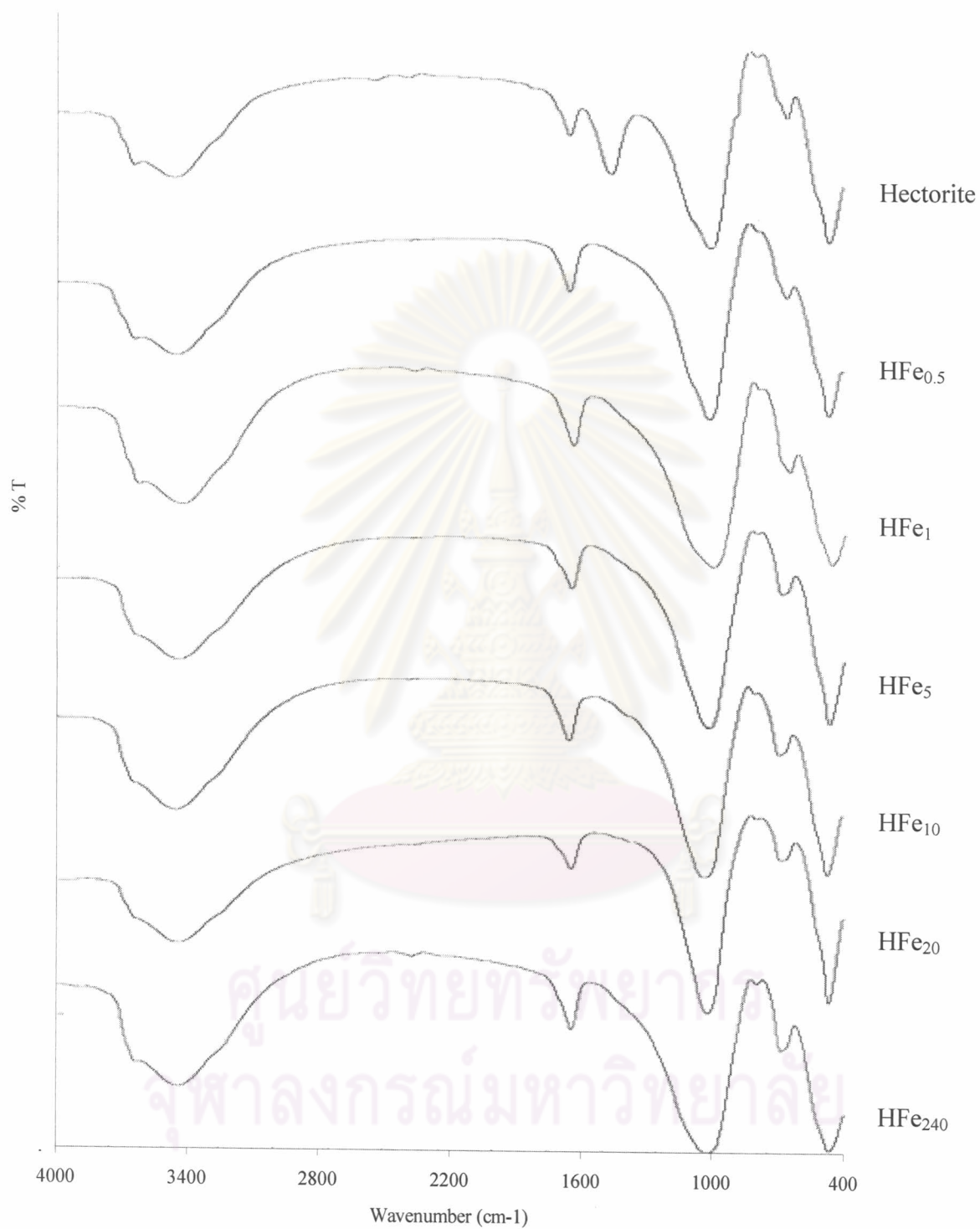
**Figure 4.11** SEM of  $\text{HFe}_{10}$  (a), and its elemental ion mapping images: Fe ion (b), Mg ion (c) and Si ion (d).

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#### 4.2.5 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR)

The FT-IR spectra of hectorite and Fe-pillared hectorites with Fe content up to 240 meq per gram of hectorite are shown in Figure 4.12. It has been reported that Si-O bond stretching vibration shows FT-IR band at  $\sim 1000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  with a shoulder at  $1200\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The bands at  $1630$  and  $3400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  belong to the O-H bending and stretching of water, respectively[44]. The absorption bands at  $1450$  and  $3600\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are due to the O-H bending and the stretching of hydroxyl groups in clay sheet, respectively[45]. The band at  $980\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is due to the Si-OH bond. The Si-O bonds in framework structure[46] are shown at  $800$  and  $470\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

All Fe-pillared hectorites ( $\text{HFe}_x$ ) with various iron contents still show the absorption bands about  $800$  and  $470\text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicating that the Si-O bonds in the framework structure remain. Therefore, the intercalation of Fe precursor does not destroy the clay-layer structure. Due to the formation of Si-O-Fe bond, the Si-O band was shift from  $1003$  to  $1022\text{ cm}^{-1}$  with an increase in iron contents, whereas hectorite shows the Si-O band at  $999\text{ cm}^{-1}$ [45]. The absorption band at  $1450\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is not observed in all Fe-pillared hectorite because the proton of the O-H bending of hydroxyl groups in clay sheet is removed by OH ion in the exchangeable process.



**Figure 4.12** FT-IR spectra of hectorite (HFe<sub>0</sub>) and Fe-pillared hectorites (HFe<sub>x</sub>).

#### 4.2.6 Determination of Iron and Gallium Contents

The iron contents in calcined samples were analyzed by AAS technique. Table 4.5 reports the iron contents in form of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ . The iron contents in calcined samples are higher than pure clays. For Fe-pillared hectorites, the iron contents increase with increasing amount of iron in pillaring agent. The iron contents are quite constant when iron in pillaring agent is raised from 5 to 20 meq per gram of clay. It may be explained by the limitation of cation exchange capacity (CEC) in hectorite. The smectite clay, hectorite and bentonite has CEC about 100 meq per gram[31]. If the iron in pillaring agent is higher than 10 meq, it can be difficult to intercalate into the clay layer. Because iron can be reduced by  $\text{O}_2$  in air, it can coagulate to iron oxide cluster which does not intercalate into clay layer[47]. It is also possible that due to the character of Fe-precursors, diffusion between the clay layer is slow and intercalation is limited which leads to deposition of Fe-species on the external surface[47]. This explanation can be seen on the  $\text{HFe}_{240}$  whose the iron content was dropped to 12.30%.

For Fe-pillared bentonites, iron content was in the same trend as Fe-pillared hectorite. It can be concluded that the difference of metal in octahedral clay framework does not affect the intercalation of iron pillaring precursors. Bentonite is composed of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  in octahedral sheet whereas hectorite is  $\text{MgO}_2$ .

**Table 4.5** The iron contents in clays and Fe-pillared clays

Samples	% $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$
Hectorite	1.60
$\text{HFe}_{0.5}$	4.81
$\text{HFe}_1$	7.99
$\text{HFe}_5$	21.83
$\text{HFe}_{10}$	24.61
$\text{HFe}_{20}$	22.36
$\text{HFe}_{240}$	12.30

**Table 4.5 (continued)** The iron contents in clays and Fe-pillared clays

Samples	% Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Bentonite	6.61
BFe <sub>5</sub>	29.69
BFe <sub>10</sub>	30.19
BFe <sub>20</sub>	31.41

The amount of gallium in Ga-doped HFe<sub>10</sub> was analyzed by ICP and data in form of Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> are summarized in Table 4.6. HFe<sub>10</sub>Ga<sub>1</sub>I exhibits higher gallium content than HFe<sub>10</sub>Ga<sub>1</sub> because HFe<sub>10</sub>Ga<sub>1</sub> was synthesized by co-ions intercalation method. Thus, the amount of gallium cooperated in the structure may be less than the direct impregnation.

**Table 4.6** The iron and gallium contents in hectorite and Ga-doped Fe-pillared hectorite

Samples	% Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	% Ga <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Hectorite	1.60	0.03
HFe <sub>10</sub> Ga <sub>1</sub>	19.03	1.19
HFe <sub>10</sub> Ga <sub>1</sub> I	19.24	3.39

#### 4.2.7 Nitrogen Adsorption-Desorption

The BET specific surface area and pore diameter of Fe-pillared clays (HFe<sub>x</sub> and BFe<sub>x</sub>) are shown in Table 4.7. The Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherm and pore size distribution of clays and Fe-pillared clays are shown in Figures A-1 to A-11. The reversible distorted type IV isotherms are observed for all Fe-pillared clays indicating that Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in calcined samples converted clay-layered structure (2D structure) to micro-mesoporous structure (3D structure). Therefore, the BET specific surface areas of Fe-pillared clays were higher than pure clays. The BET specific surface area of Fe-pillared clays depends on iron content. As iron contents in calcined samples are increased, the BET specific surface areas are also increased and it becomes constant when the iron content reaches 10 meq. This result correlates with XRD pattern and the



data of iron content described earlier in 4.2.3 and 4.2.6, respectively. Until the iron content was 240 meq, the BET specific surface area was dropped to 105 m<sup>2</sup>/g because HFe<sub>240</sub> had lower iron content and d<sub>001</sub> spacing value than the others as described earlier in 4.2.3 and 4.2.6.

**Table 4.7** The BET specific surface area and pore diameter of Fe-pillared clays

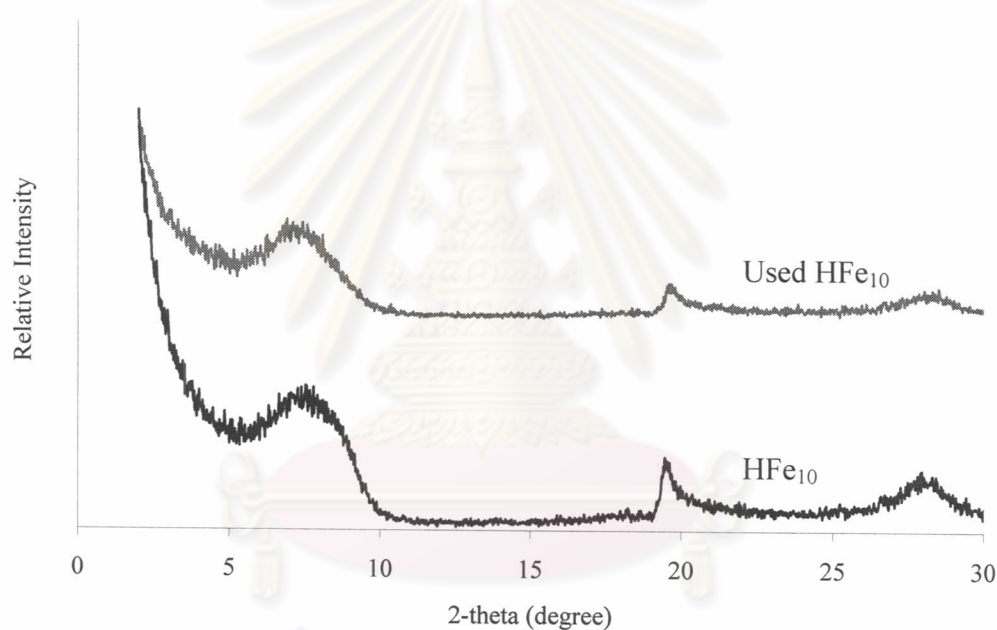
Samples	BET specific surface area (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	BJH pore diameter (Å)
Hectorite	74.82	-
HFe <sub>0.5</sub>	81.79	38.12
HFe <sub>1</sub>	109.00	38.22
HFe <sub>5</sub>	145.18	38.16
HFe <sub>10</sub>	176.08	38.17
HFe <sub>20</sub>	175.14	38.08
HFe <sub>240</sub>	105.92	38.08
Bentonite	71.06	-
BFe <sub>5</sub>	187.60	38.17
BFe <sub>10</sub>	153.63	38.20
BFe <sub>20</sub>	160.76	38.13

The BET specific surface areas of Ga-doped Fe-pillared hectorites from two synthesized methods are compared with hectorite and HFe<sub>10</sub> as shown in Table 4.8. HFe<sub>10</sub>Ga<sub>1</sub> and HFe<sub>10</sub>Ga<sub>1</sub>I show higher BET specific surface areas than hectorite but slightly lower comparing with HFe<sub>10</sub>. Especially, for HFe<sub>10</sub>Ga<sub>1</sub>I, gallium deposited on the pore wall of HFe<sub>10</sub> causing the BET specific surface area and pore diameter being reduced. However, Ga-doped Fe-pillared hectorites still show reversible distorted type IV isotherms which indicate that they have micro-mesoporous structure also.

**Table 4.8** The BET specific surface area and pore diameter of hectorite, HFe<sub>10</sub> and Ga-doped Fe-pillared hectorites

Samples	BET specific surface area (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	BJH pore diameter (Å)
Hectorite	74.82	-
HFe <sub>10</sub>	176.08	38.17
HFe <sub>10</sub> Ga <sub>1</sub>	162.23	38.03
HFe <sub>10</sub> Ga <sub>1</sub> I	163.76	37.63

### 4.3 Used Catalyst



**Figure 4.13** XRD patterns of HFe<sub>10</sub> and used HFe<sub>10</sub>.

XRD patterns of HFe<sub>10</sub> and used HFe<sub>10</sub> are shown in Figure 4.13. The results show that both samples have the same structure with  $d_{001}$  spacing of 11.86 Å, suggesting the structure of catalyst did not destroy after the reaction. Although the catalyst was recalcined at 300°C for 5h, the structure of clay catalyst was still remained. However, the BET surface area of used catalyst decreases as shown in Table 4.9. It may be due to blocking of organic compound in catalyst pore.

**Table 4.9** The BET specific surface area and pore diameter of HFe<sub>10</sub> and used HFe<sub>10</sub>

Catalysts	BET specific surface area (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	BJH pore diameter (Å)
HFe <sub>10</sub>	176.08	38.17
used HFe <sub>10</sub>	116.94	38.36

#### 4.4 Catalytic Activity of Fe-pillared and Ga-doped Fe-pillared Clays in Alkylation Reaction

Alkylation of benzene with 1-dodecene to produce phenyldodecane was selected for testing the catalytic activity of Fe-pillared clays and gallium-doped Fe-pillared clay. The reaction temperature and time were varied to find the optimal condition.

Phenyldodecane has five isomers, *i.e.* 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-phenyldodecanes, as shown in Figure A-14[48-49]. The isomer products were identified by GC-MS and the mass spectra are shown in Figures A-15 to A-19. The parent peak observed at  $m/z = 105$  in Figure A-15 is assigned to the ion of 2-phenyldodecane. The parent peaks observed at  $m/z = 91$  and 119 in Figure A-16 are assigned to the 3-phenyldodecane ion. The parent peaks observed at  $m/z = 91$  and 133 in Figure A-17 are assigned to the 4-phenyldodecane ion. The parent peaks observed at  $m/z = 91$  and 147 in Figure A-18 are assigned to the 5-phenyldodecane ion. The parents peak observed at  $m/z = 91, 105, 119, 161$  and 175 in Figure A-19 are assigned to the 6-phenyldodecane ion.

In this research, phenyldodecane was focused as a main product. Therefore, the products occurred from isomerization of 1-dodecene *e.g.* 2-dodecene and 4-dodecene [48] were reported as the other products.

##### 4.4.1 Effect of Temperature

HFe<sub>10</sub> was used as a catalyst for obtaining the best reaction temperature. The catalytic activity of HFe<sub>10</sub> is summarized in Table 4.10. At room temperature, the alkylation of benzene with 1-dodecene does not occur but with increasing temperature,

the conversion of 1-dodecene and the selectivity to phenyldodecane product increases. The selectivity to 2-phenyldodecane isomer also decreases from 58 to 49% when the reaction temperatures are raised to 150°C. Even though, there was no difference in the selectivity to phenyldodecane product and 2-phenyldodecane isomer after 100°C, conversion of 1-dodecene at 120°C was slightly higher than others. Therefore, the reaction temperature at 120°C was chosen for further investigation.

**Table 4.10** Catalytic activity of HFe<sub>10</sub> with various reaction temperatures

Temp. (°C)	Time (min)	%C <sub>12</sub> conversion	% Selectivity to		% Selectivity to phenyl isomer				
			Phenyldodecane	Others	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-
R.T.	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
60	30	3.33	6.93	93.07	58.55	17.91	11.35	7.60	4.61
80	30	8.20	8.25	91.75	59.81	17.46	10.69	7.44	4.61
100	30	69.82	21.78	78.23	49.68	21.01	13.06	9.93	6.31
120	30	72.50	21.15	78.85	45.27	21.09	14.23	11.64	7.77
150	30	69.27	21.11	78.89	49.15	20.78	13.25	10.40	6.44

#### 4.4.2 Effect of Reaction Time

HFe<sub>10</sub> is also used as catalyst for obtaining the best reaction time. The results from Table 4.11 show that at 120°C, the conversion of 1-dodecene and the selectivity to phenyldodecane product increase with increasing reaction time. The highest conversions of 1-dodecene and the selectivity to phenyldodecane product were obtained when reaction time was expanded to 600 min. On the contrary, the selectivity to 2-phenyldodecane was decreased while other isomers were increased. Although the selectivity to phenyldodecane product was not different between the reaction time at 15 and 30 min, conversion of 1-dodecene at 30 min was higher than that at 15 min. Therefore, the optimal reaction time would be 30 min.

**Table 4.11** Catalytic activity of HFe<sub>10</sub> with various reaction times

Temp. (°C)	Time (min)	%C <sub>12</sub> conversion	% Selectivity to		% Selectivity to phenyl isomer				
			Phenyldo- decane	Others	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-
120	15	43.31	19.79	80.21	51.44	20.06	12.68	9.68	6.15
120	30	72.50	21.15	78.85	45.27	21.09	14.23	11.64	7.77
120	240	86.70	35.57	64.43	34.30	20.60	17.38	16.09	11.63
120	600	99.72	43.31	56.69	30.93	20.31	18.02	15.55	15.22

#### 4.4.3 Effect of Iron Content

From the previous results, the optimal reaction condition was set at 120°C for 30 min and used for studying the effect of iron content in the reaction. The catalytic activity of Fe-pillared hectorites is compared with iron oxide (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, hematite) and pure hectorite in Table 4.12. The alkylation of benzene with 1-dodecene does not occur without catalyst and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> does not catalyze the reaction. For the Fe-pillared clays, the catalytic activity depends on iron contents. Conversions of 1-dodecene and selectivity to phenyldodecane product increased with increasing iron content in the pillared clay and become decreased when the iron content in pillaring agent is too high. This result is in agreement with the BET specific surface area of catalyst being discussed earlier.

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**Table 4.12** Catalytic activity of hectorite, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Fe-pillared hectorites

Catalysts	%C <sub>12</sub> conversion	% Selectivity to		% Selectivity to phenyl isomer				
		Phenyldo- decane	Others	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-
No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hectorite	7.74	1.60	98.40	61.90	17.62	9.27	6.98	4.23
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HFe <sub>1</sub>	7.31	5.60	94.41	53.60	18.78	12.39	9.20	6.04
HFe <sub>5</sub>	60.84	20.31	79.69	52.08	20.43	12.35	9.30	5.83
HFe <sub>10</sub>	72.50	21.15	78.85	45.27	21.09	14.23	11.64	7.77
HFe <sub>20</sub>	41.67	14.42	85.59	54.08	19.61	11.69	9.19	4.60
HFe <sub>240</sub>	30.60	16.50	83.51	53.81	19.65	11.51	9.55	5.50

Fe-pillared bentonites (BFe<sub>x</sub>) were also tested for the catalytic activity at 120° for 30 min. The activity of all BFe<sub>x</sub>s are compared with purified bentonite and summarized in Table 4.13. The catalytic activity depends on iron contents. All BFe<sub>x</sub>s show the conversion of 1-dodecene and the selectivity to phenyldodecane product as high as HFe<sub>x</sub>. Moreover, 2-phenyl isomer is also preferred than other isomers. From the catalytic results of HFe<sub>x</sub> and BFe<sub>x</sub>, it can be concluded that type of clays (hectorite and bentonite) do not affect on the catalytic activity in this reaction.

**Table 4.13** Catalytic activity of bentonite and Fe-pillared bentonites

Catalysts	%C <sub>12</sub> conversion	% Selectivity to		% Selectivity to phenyl isomer				
		Phenyldo- decane	Others	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-
Bentonite	7.05	1.13	98.87	53.02	19.40	12.46	8.54	6.58
BFe <sub>5</sub>	61.41	15.96	84.02	53.35	20.90	11.83	8.58	5.36
BFe <sub>10</sub>	68.20	22.85	77.16	47.60	21.64	13.47	10.41	6.88
BFe <sub>20</sub>	61.57	15.01	84.99	54.96	20.46	11.38	8.19	5.03

#### 4.4.4 Effect of Gallium in Ga-Doped Fe-pillared Hectorite

The catalytic activity of Ga-doped Fe<sub>10</sub>-pillared hectorites are shown in Table 4.14. Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> does not catalyze the alkylation of benzene with 1-dodecene. The conversion of 1-dodecene was decreased from 72 to 44% when gallium was added to clay. This can be explained by the lower BET specific surface area of Ga-doped Fe<sub>10</sub>-pillared hectorite. The Ga-doped Fe<sub>10</sub>-pillared hectorite synthesized by direct intercalation shows lower conversion of 1-dodecene than those synthesized by impregnation. This might be due to the difference in gallium content in the catalyst. However, both catalysts mainly produce 2-phenyldodecane up to 55%.

**Table 4.14** Catalytic activity of Ga-doped HFe<sub>10</sub>

Catalysts	%C <sub>12</sub> conversion	% Selectivity to		% Selectivity to phenyl isomer				
		Phenyldo- decane	Others	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-
HFe <sub>10</sub>	72.50	21.15	78.85	45.27	21.09	14.23	11.64	7.77
Ga <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HFe <sub>10</sub> Ga <sub>1</sub>	44.02	17.11	82.89	57.80	19.23	10.37	7.89	4.71
HFe <sub>10</sub> Ga <sub>1</sub> I	59.05	24.56	75.44	55.61	19.90	11.33	8.34	4.83

#### 4.4.5 Reused Catalyst

The reusing of catalyst was studied using HFe<sub>10</sub>. Although the catalyst was recalcined at 300°C for 5h as the fresh catalyst, the lower BET surface area of used catalyst are observed (as shown in Table 4.9). The used catalyst not only exhibits lower conversion of 1-dodecene, but the selectivity to phenyldodecane product are also decreased. Both catalysts prefers to produce 2-phenyldodecane isomer product than other isomers up to 45%.

**Table 4.15** Catalytic activity of  $\text{HFe}_{10}$ 

Cycle of reaction	%C <sub>12</sub> conversion	% Selectivity to		% Selectivity to phenyl isomer				
		Phenyldodecane	Others	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-
1	72.50	21.15	78.85	45.27	21.09	14.23	11.64	7.77
2	55.68	17.97	82.03	57.08	19.79	10.78	7.78	4.57



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