

STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF ETHANOL AS AN ADDITIVE WITH A BLEND OF POULTRY LITTER BIODIESEL AND ALUMINA NANOPARTICLES ON A DIESEL ENGINE

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ABSTRACT

With the increasing population and rise in industrialization, the demand for petroleum reserves is increasing almost daily. This is causing depletion of the non-renewable energy resources. This work aims to find an alternative fuel for diesel engines. The use of poultry litter oil biodiesel obtained from poultry industry waste, which is a non-edible source for biodiesel, is very encouraging as an alternative fuel for diesel engines. The aim of this study is to observe and maximize the performance of poultry litter oil biodiesel by adding alumina nanoparticles and ethanol. The biodiesel is prepared with acid and the base catalysed transesterification of poultry litter oil with methanol using concentrated sulphuric acid and potassium hydroxide as catalysts. The experimentation is carried out on a CI engine with three different blends – B20 biodiesel blend, B20 biodiesel blend with 30 mg/L alumina nanoparticles, and B20 biodiesel blend with 30 mg/L alumina nanoparticles and 15 ml/L ethanol. The performance, combustion and emission characteristics of all three blends are compared with neat diesel. The results of the experiment show that ethanol as an additive improves the combustion and performance characteristics. It increases the brake thermal efficiency and peak cylinder pressure. It also reduces CO and UBHC emissions and there is a marginal increase in NO_x emissions as compared to neat diesel.

KEYWORDS: DIESEL ENGINE; POULTRY LITTER OIL METHYL ESTER; BIODIESEL; ALUMINA NANOPARTICLES; TRANSESTERIFICATION; ETHANOL; PERFORMANCE; COMBUSTION; EMISSION.

SHRNUTÍ

S rostoucím počtem obyvatel a nárůstem industrializace se den za dnem zvyšuje poptávka po ropných rezervách. To způsobuje vyčerpávání neobnovitelných zdrojů energie. Tato práce si klade za cíl nalézt alternativní palivo pro diesellové motory. Použití bionafty získané z oleje z použité podestýlky z chovů drůbeže, která představuje nekonzumovatelný zdroj pro výrobu bionafty jako alternativní palivo pro diesellové motory, je velmi slibné. Cílem této studie je pozorovat a maximalizovat výkon bionafty z oleje z použité drůbeží podestýlky přidáním nanočástic oxidu hlinitého a etanolu. Bionafta je připravována kyselinou a zásadou katalyzovanou transesterifikací oleje z použité drůbeží podestýlky a metanolem, kde jsou jako katalyzátory použity koncentrovaná kyselina sírová resp. draselný louh. Experimentace se provádí na vznětovém motoru s třemi různými druhy směsi – směs bionafty B20, směs bionafty B20 s 30 mg/L nanočástic oxidu hlinitého a směs bionafty B20 s 30 mg/L nanočástic oxidu hlinitého a 15 ml/L etanolu. Parametry výkonu, spalování a emisí všech tří směsí jsou srovnávány diesellovým palivem (naftou) bez přísad. Výsledky experimentu ukazují, že etanol jako aditivum zlepšuje parametry spalování a výkonu. Zvyšuje brzdovou tepelnou účinnost a maximální tlak ve válci. Dále snižuje emise CO a nespálených uhlovodíků, přičemž je zde marginální zvýšení emisí NO_x oproti naftě bez přísad.

KLÍČOVÁ SLOVA: DIESELOVÝ MOTOR; METYLESTER OLEJE Z POUŽITÉ PODESTÝLKY DRŮBEŽE; BIODIESEL (BIONAFTA); NANOČÁSTICE OXIDU HLINITÉHO; TRANSESTERIFIKACE; ETANOL; VÝKON; SPALOVÁNÍ; EMISE.



1. INTRODUCTION

Conventional fossil fuels cause environmental pollution and with demand for them ever increasing, they are being depleted at a fast pace. This situation necessitates paying greater attention to alternative fuels from natural resources, such as biodiesel and ethanol-biodiesel blends. Both biodiesel and ethanol can be synthesized from feedstock, which is a renewable resource. The carbon in the biodiesel comes from the CO₂ present in the air, so the CO₂ engine emissions when running on biodiesel overall add much less to global warming compared to fossil fuels. Efforts have been made to replace petroleum-based fuels with as much biofuel as possible because biodiesel by itself cannot be entirely used as a fuel [13] (Xiaoyan Shi et al. 2006). Biodiesel can be produced using the process of transesterification of vegetable/animal oil or fat with a short-chain alcohol like methanol or ethanol. The reaction gives mono-alkyl esters which can be used as biodiesel. Neat oil cannot be used as a fuel mainly due to its high viscosity (28-40mm²/s), which leads to deposition of carbon particles in the injector in a CI engine. This causes poorer atomization of fuel particles into the combustion chamber [2] (Darunde Dhiraj S. et al. 2012). Since neat vegetable/animal oil or fat cannot be used as a fuel, transesterification is carried out to reduce the viscosity. Transesterification is the reaction between a triglyceride molecule (found in vegetable oil or animal fat) and excess alcohol in the presence of a catalyst, such as KOH, NaOH etc., to give methyl esters and glycerin as a by-product [11] (Sri Harsha Tirumala et al. 2012). The process occurs in several reversible steps where the triglyceride is converted to diglyceride, which is further converted to monoglyceride. These monoglycerides are then converted to esters and glycerol. The esters can be separated from glycerol using a separating funnel due to their density difference. In our experiment, the ester is called Poultry Litter Oil Methyl Ester [3] (Dr. Sadhik B. J. et al. 2012). At present, diesel fuel additives are used to lower the particulate emissions and enhance fuel characteristics such as oxidation rate. Additives also help to reduce emissions. One such additive are nanoparticles, which are pre-dissolved in the fuel and help increase the efficiency of the fuel and completion of the combustion process to reduce emissions of various harmful gases and particulate matter [8] (Nithin Samuel et al. 2015). With Aluminium oxide nanoparticles as an additive, an increase in brake thermal efficiency and a reduction in emissions were observed. Also, to increase the overall performance, combustion and emission characteristics of the engine, nanoparticles are the most suitable additive [9] (S.P. Venkatesan et al. 2015). To further improve the performance of the engine, the potential use of biodiesel with an ethanol blend was investigated. Ethanol improves the flow property of the fuel and helps ensure better atomization. It enhances the oxygen content of the fuel to help

reduce emissions. The potential of poultry litter biodiesel with a blend of ethanol as a renewable energy resource is presented in this paper.

2. TRANSESTERIFICATION

2.1 ESTERIFICATION SETUP

The oil used for biodiesel production was non-edible raw poultry litter oil. Production was carried out using a laboratory setup. The setup consisted of beakers, flasks, a thermometer and a magnetic stirrer with temperature control and adjustable stirring speed. The properties of diesel fuel and PLOME are listed according to ASTM standards in Table 4. The acid value of raw oil had been calculated using a standard titrimetric method as per European standard EN14104. A conical flask was used as a laboratory scale reactor to carry out the transesterification process. The magnetic stirrer consisted of a heating coil with adjustable temperature. The flask was kept on the stirrer and the mixture was heated. The temperature for the reaction was maintained at 50-60°C and the mixture was stirred at constant speed at all times. The esterification process was carried out in two steps since the oil viscosity was high.

2.2.1 ACID CATALYSED TRANSESTERIFICATION

Acid transesterification was carried out by pouring 1 litre of raw poultry oil into the conical flask and heating it to a temperature of 50°C. Once the oil reached this constant temperature, 500 ml of methanol was added and stirred for a few minutes. 10 ml of concentrated sulphuric acid was added to the mixture. This final mixture was maintained at a temperature of 50°C and stirred for 45 minutes at atmospheric pressure. The flask was removed from the stirrer and the mixture was allowed to settle. Two layers separate out and were visible to the naked eye. The layers were separated using a separating funnel. The top layer consisted of excess methanol, sulphuric acid and light impurities, which were removed. The lower layer was poured into a different flask for the next step of experimentation.

2.2.2 BASE CATALYSED TRANSESTERIFICATION

The final product from the first experimental setup of the acid catalysed process was used for alkaline esterification. The product was again heated to a temperature of 50°C in the flask. Meanwhile, 0.24 g of KOH was added to 100 ml of methanol in a beaker and thoroughly dissolved. This mixture was poured into the flask and heated at 50°C for 45 minutes. Once the heating was complete, the mixture was allowed to cool down. Again, layer separation was noticeable. This time the lower layer consisted of glycerol and impurities, which were discarded. The top layer



TABLE 1: Fuel properties
TABULKA 1: Vlastnosti paliv

Sl. No.	Property	ASTM Method	Limits (B100)	Units	Diesel	PLOME
1	Colour	-	-	-	Orange	Pale Yellow
2	Density	D941	-	kg/m ³	850	737
3	Kinematic viscosity, 40°C	D445	1.9-6	mm ² /s	2.5	5.48
4	Calorific value	D2015	-	kJ/kg	42000	29000
5	Fire point	D93	-	°C	56	178
6	Flash point	D93	130 min.	°C	50	154
7	Cetane index	D613	47 min.	-	55	61

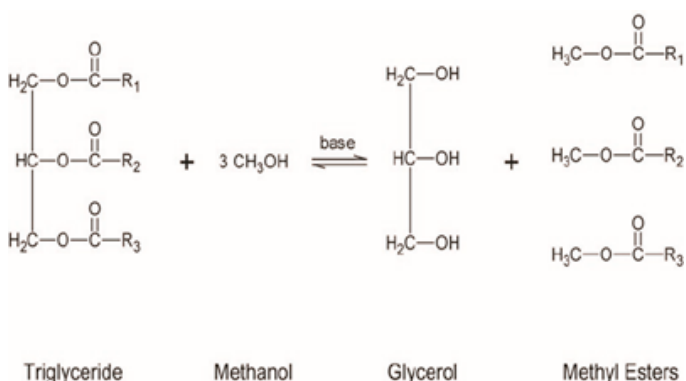


FIGURE 1: Mechanism of the transesterification process
OBRAZEK 1: Mechanismus procesu transesterifikace

was the methyl ester, which was separated using the separating funnel. This ester contained some impurities and was therefore water washed. Hot distilled water, 10% by volume, was sprayed over the surface of the ester and gently stirred. The water carried impurities and settled down at the bottom of the flask. The top layer (yellow colour) was the biodiesel which was separated and collected.

2.2.3 PREPARATION OF BLEND

B20PLOME was prepared by mixing 20% by volume biodiesel with 80% by volume diesel in a beaker and stirring it for 15 minutes at constant room temperature. B20PLOME30A was prepared by adding 30 mg of alumina nanoparticles to 1 litre of B20PLOME biodiesel blend. B20PIOME30A15E was prepared by adding 15 ml/l of pure ethanol to the B20PLOME30A blend.

2.2.4 ADDITION OF ALUMINA NANOPARTICLES

The nanoparticles were added to B20PLOME biodiesel fuel with the help of an ultrasonicator at a frequency of 24 kHz. The process was carried out for 30 minutes. The mass fraction of the nanoparticles was 30 mg/l. It was weighed using an electronic

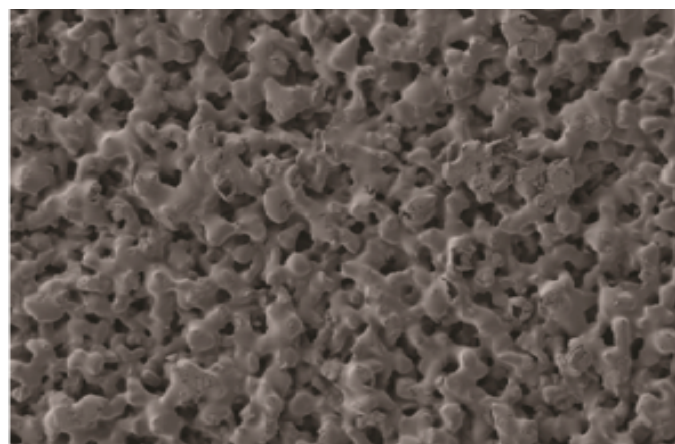
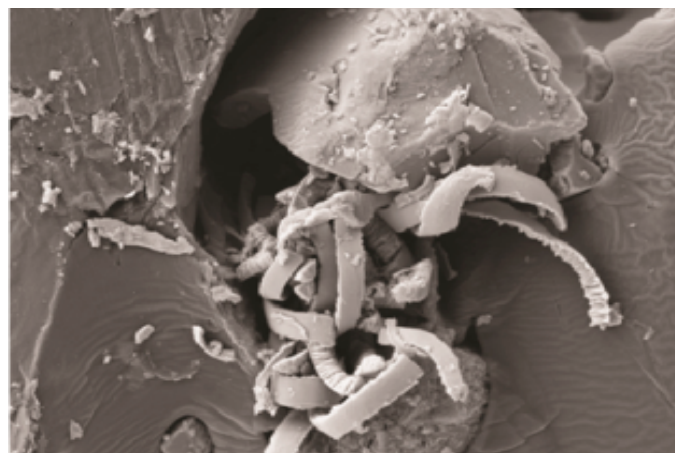


FIGURE 2: Transmission electron microscope image of alumina nanoparticle
OBRAZEK 2: Obrázek elektronového mikroskopu hliníkových nanočástic

weighing machine with readability of 1 mg. The ultrasonication technique disperses the nanoparticles in a base fluid, which in this case was the biodiesel fuel. It is the best suited technique since it prevents the aggregation of nanoparticles by agitating the particles using pulsating ultrasonic frequencies. The alumina nanoparticle specification is shown in Table 1. Figure 2 shows the morphology of alumina nanoparticles. Surfactants were added to lower the surface tension between the liquid fuel and solid nanoparticles in order to stabilize the nanoparticles.

2.2.5 ADDITION OF ETHANOL

Ethanol was added with a composition of 15 ml of ethanol per litre of B20PLOME30A biodiesel fuel. The mixing process was carried out by constant stirring on the magnetic stirrer for 30 minutes without any heating, maintaining the mixture at room temperature. This final mixture is designated B20PLOME30A15E.

3. ENGINE TEST

The engine test was conducted on a single cylinder four-stroke diesel engine with injection timing of 23 degrees BTDC, injection pressure of 180, 17.5:1 compression ratio and a speed



TABLE 2: Specification of alumina nanoparticles
TABULKA 2: Vlastnosti hliníkových nanočástic

Properties	Specification
Chemical name	Gamma Aluminium Oxide (Alumina, Al ₂ O ₃) Nanopowder, gamma phase, 99.9%
Average particle size	20–50 nm
Appearance	White
Melting point	2045 °C
Boiling point	2980 °C
Density	3.9 g/cm ³

TABLE 3: Specifications of the OROTECH exhaust gas analyser
TABULKA 3: Specifikace analyzátoru výfukových plynů OROTECH

Measurement Parameters	Range	Resolution
Carbon monoxide (CO)	0–10% vol.	0.001% vol.
Hydrocarbon (HC)	0–9999% ppm vol.	1.0 ppm vol.
Oxides of nitrogen (NO _x)	0–5000 ppm vol.	1.0 ppm vol.

TABLE 4: Specification of the AVL437C smoke meter
TABULKA 4: Specifikace kouřoměru AVL437C

Measurement Parameters	Range	Resolution
Opacity	0–99.9%	0.1%
Linearity	±0.1 m ⁻¹	
Repeatability	±0.1 m ⁻¹	
Response time- physical	< 0.4 seconds	
Response time- electrical	< 1 millisecond	
Warm up time at atm. conditions	< 7 minutes	
Engine RPM	400–9990 RPM	10 RPM
Engine oil temperature	0-150°C	1°C
Operating temperature	5°C to 50°C	
Smoke measuring cell length	215mm (430mm folded length)	

of 1500 RPM. The engine was initially hand cranked with a pure diesel supply to bring it to a steady state. The engine was coupled to an eddy current dynamometer that allowed varying of the engine load from no-load to full load. The engine test rig was computerized and both the engine and dynamometer were interfaced to a control panel in a computer. The computer had 'Engine Analysis Software' which recorded test parameters such as temperature, air flow rate, fuel flow rate, load etc. It also plotted the engine performance characteristics such as brake thermal efficiency, heat release rate etc. The load was varied in four steps from no-load to full load. The engine was run with B20PLOME, B20PLOME30A and B20PLOM30A15E whilst keeping all the above conditions constant. The performance, combustion and emissions tests were carried out. An OROTECH Exhaust Gas Analyzer, as specified in Table 2, was used for exhaust gas analysis. The AVL437C Smoke Meter, as specified in Table 3, was used for recording smoke opacity.

3.1 UNCERTAINTY ANALYSIS

The uncertainties of the parameters are calculated by sequential perturbation. The average uncertainties of measured and calculated parameters are air flow rate (1.1%), liquid fuel flow rate (0.1%), gas flow rate (2%), engine load (0.1%), engine speed (1.3%), cylinder pressure (0.8%), temperature (1.0%) and LCV of liquid fuel (1.0%). Based on these, the calculated accuracy of the performance and combustion studies of the engine is found to be within ±4.6%. However, the accuracy of the emission study is found to be ±4.6%. The maximum values of coefficient of variance (COV) of the performance parameters, viz., BTE and BSFC are 3 and 4% respectively. Whereas, the combustion emission parameters, namely Peak Cylinder Pressure, Ignition Delay, CO, HC and NO_x, are shown to have COVs of 5, 4, 2, 2 and 6% respectively.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

4.1.1 BRAKE THERMAL EFFICIENCY

Figure 3 shows the variation of BTE with load. The BTE of all the blends increased as load increases. The maximum load on the engine was 30 Nm of torque and the brake mean effective pressure at maximum load was 4 bar. The B20PLOME blend showed an increase in BTE due to better combustion. This is due to the oxygen content within the methyl ester. The addition of nanoparticles (B20PLOME30A) further improved BTE because of the enhanced surface area to volume ratio, which leads to more fuel reacting with air causing rapid evaporation and combustion. B20PLOME30A15E blend showed a further increase in the combustion efficiency due to additional oxygen content from



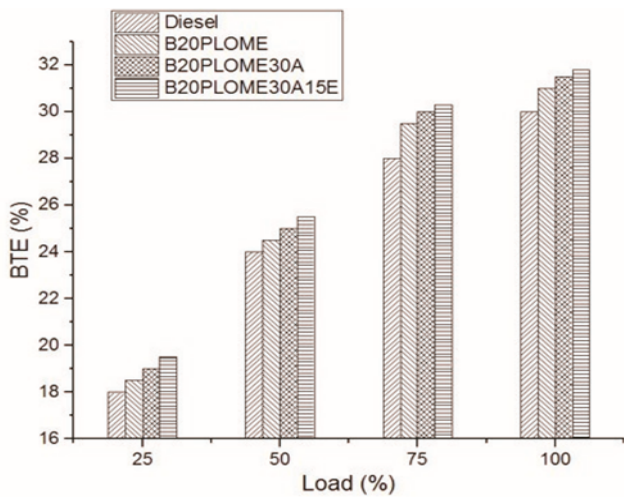


FIGURE 3: Variation of BTE with load
OBRÁZEK 3: Změna tepelné účinnosti v závislosti na zátěži

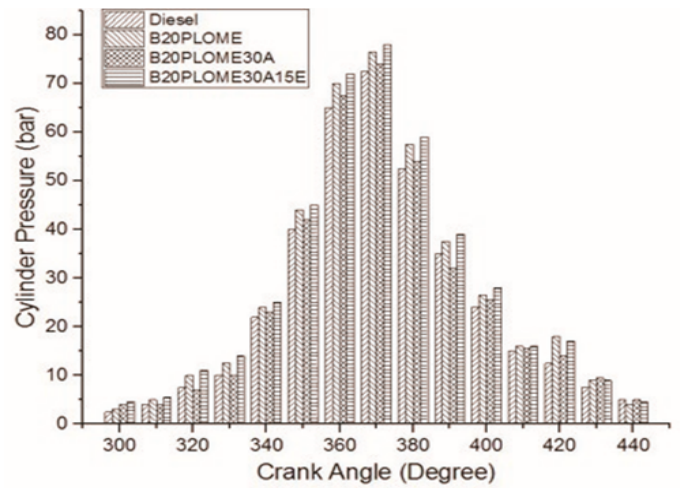


FIGURE 4: Variation of cylinder pressure with crank angle
OBRÁZEK 4: Změna tlaku ve válci v závislosti na natočení klikového hřídele

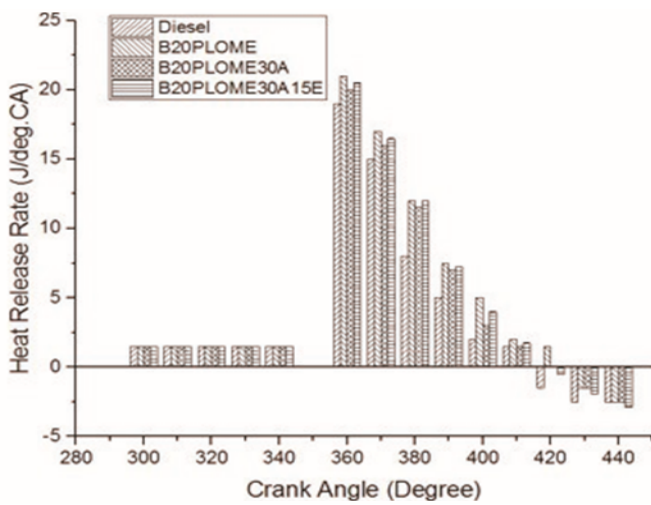


FIGURE 5: Variation of HRR with crank angle
OBRÁZEK 5: Změna HRR v závislosti na poloze klikového hřídele

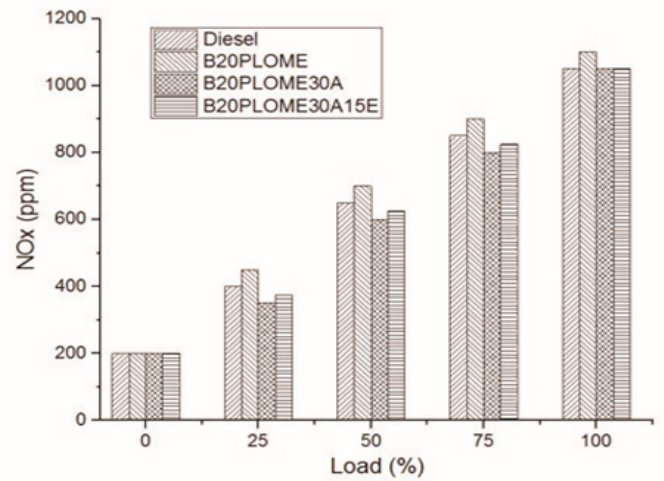


FIGURE 6: Variation of NO_x with load
OBRÁZEK 6: Změna emisí NO_x v závislosti na zátěži

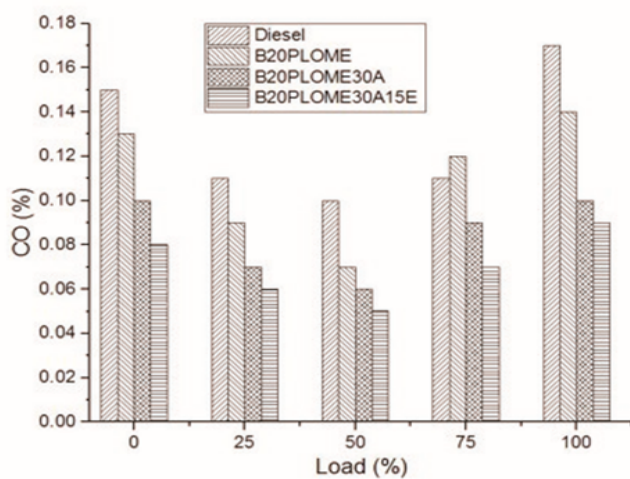


FIGURE 7: Variation of CO with load
OBRÁZEK 7: Změna emisí CO v závislosti na zátěži

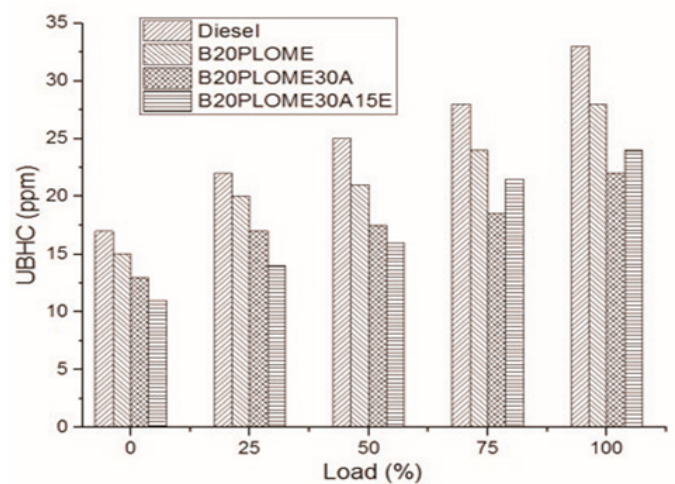


FIGURE 8: Variation of UBHC with load
OBRÁZEK 8: Změna UBHC v závislosti na zátěži



ethanol. Ethanol also decreased the density and viscosity of the fuel, which improved atomization.

4.2 COMBUSTION CHARACTERISTICS

4.2.1 PEAK CYLINDER PRESSURE

The variation of peak pressure displayed by the different fuels for various crank angles is shown in Figure 4. At full load, the peak pressure of B20PLOME was higher than that of diesel for all loads. This can be attributed to the longer ignition delay and higher oxygen content in the case of B20PLOME. At full load, B20PLOME30A showed higher peak pressure than pure diesel due to higher ignition delay and more complete combustion because of the improved surface area volume ratio. For B20PLOME30A15E, the combustion pressure increased due to better mixing of air and fuel, which resulted in better combustion, and the addition of ethanol results in a lower cetane number of the blend and hence longer ignition delay [6] (Krzysztof Gorski et al. 2011).

4.2.2 HEAT RELEASE RATE

Figure 5 shows the variation of HRR for various crank angles. B20PLOME displays a marginal increase in HRR when compared to diesel. At full load, HRR was slightly greater than diesel due to more oxygen molecules being present in B20PLOME than in diesel. B20PLOME30A shows a marginal increase in HRR compared to diesel because of better combustion, improved atomization and rapid evaporation. The HRR of B20PLOME30A was slightly lower than B20PLOME because the addition of nanoparticles causes advancement in combustion. B20PLOME30A15E showed higher HRR than B20PLOME30A because the longer ignition delay due to addition of ethanol causes rapid combustion in the premixed phase and results in an increase of HRR [12] (V. Arul MozhiSelvan et al. 2009).

4.3 EMISSION CHARACTERISTICS

4.3.1 OXIDES OF NITROGEN

Figure 6 shows the variation of NO_x for various loads. Atmospheric nitrogen is stable at normal temperature and pressure, and exists as a diatomic molecule. However, inside the engine cylinder, where it is subjected to high temperature and pressure, it reacts with oxygen to form various oxides. These are designated NO_x . NO_x formation is a strongly time and temperature dependent phenomena. NO_x emissions increased with increasing load for all fuels because as load increases, the temperature of the combustion chamber and rate at which temperature rises in the cylinder also increases. The HRR was high in the case of B20PLOME as a result of the temperature inside cylinder increasing rapidly, thereby increasing NO_x emissions when compared to diesel. The NO_x emissions of B20PLOME30A appear to decrease marginally compared to that of diesel, which was

because the catalytic behaviour of nanoparticles promotes the reaction in the forward direction and form final products with the least thermal break down of the hydrocarbon compounds. The B20PLOME30A15E blend showed a marginal increase in NO_x emissions when compared to diesel. This can be attributed to the higher heat release rate of the B20PLOME30A15E blend.

4.3.2 CARBON MONOXIDE EMISSIONS

Figure 7 shows the variation of CO emissions for various loads. CO emissions decreased at part load and again increased at full load conditions for all fuels. The B20PLOME blend showed a decrease in CO emissions when compared to diesel. This can be attributed to the higher oxygen content in the methyl esters. The catalytic behaviour of nanoparticles, improved ignition characteristics of alumina nanoparticles and the shortening of ignition delay further decreased the CO emissions of the B20PLOME30A blend when compared to the B20PLOME blend. The higher oxygen content of the B20PLOME30A15E blend further promoted the oxidation of CO to CO_2 and decreased CO emissions when compared to the B20PLOME blend [5] (K. Ramarao et al. 2015).

4.3.3 UNBURNT HYDROCARBONS (UBHC)

Figure 8 shows the variation of UBHC emissions for various loads. The UBHC emissions for all fuels increased with increasing load. UBHC emissions for all blends are lower than for diesel. At full load, B20PLOME, B20PLOME30A and B20PLOME30A15E showed respectively a 21.2%, 37.5% and 30.3% reduction in UBHC emissions when compared to diesel. The B20PLOME blend is comprised of animal fat oil methyl esters, i.e., it contains hydrocarbon chains whose one end of the chain is oxygenated. The presence of oxygen in biodiesel promotes combustion that leads to lowering the hydrocarbon emissions [10] (Senthil Kumar et al. 2001). The B20PLOME30A blend showed a further decrease in UBHC emissions, which can be attributed to the catalytic behaviour of alumina nanoparticles. The alumina nanoparticles were responsible for shortening the ignition delay and hence further reduced UBHC emissions [14] (Yetter R. et al. 2009). At lower loads the B20PLOME30A15E blend displayed a decrease in UBHC emissions when compared to B20PLOME30A. However, at loads above 50% an increase in UBHC emissions was observed when compared to B20PLOME30A. This is because of the lower combustion temperature caused by the higher latent heat of vaporisation of ethanol [4] (Hwanam Kim et al. 2010).

4.3.4 SMOKE OPACITY

Figure 9 shows the variation of smoke opacity with load. It was observed that the smoke opacity of exhaust gases increases with load for all fuels. Smoke emission is closely related to the ignition delay, volatility and fuel oxygen content. The extended ignition



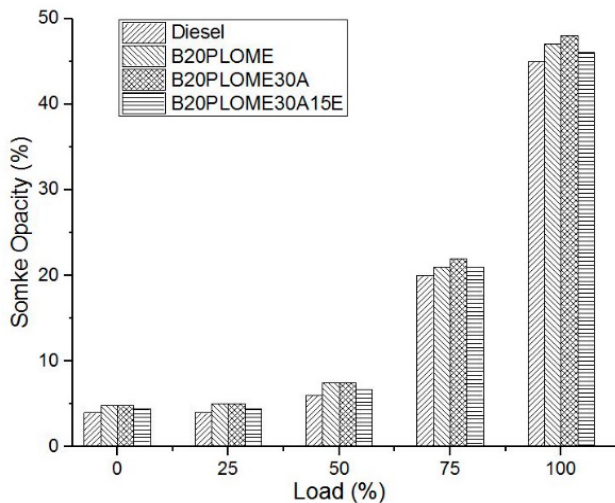


FIGURE 9: Variation of smoke opacity with load
OBRAZĚK 9: Změna kouřivosti v závislosti na zátěži

delay and high volatility can improve the fuel-air mixing process, and the oxygen in fuel can reduce the formation of soot precursors and enhance soot oxidation [15] (Zunqing Zheng et al. 2016). Due to the higher viscosity of B20PLOME and B20PLOME30A, the volatility and air-fuel mixing of these blends was poor. Also, since the molecules of B20PLOME and B20PLOME30A were heavier, they lead to an increase in smoke opacity of exhaust gases when compared to diesel [1] (Baluswamy T et al. 2007). It can be observed that the smoke opacity of B20PLOME30A15E was marginally higher than that of diesel and lower than that of B20PLOME and B20PLOME30A. This is because adding ethanol to the blend increased the oxygen content and volatility and reduced soot precursor concentration [7] (M. Mofijur et al. 2015).

5. CONCLUSION

The engine tests were conducted with B20PLOME, B20PLOME30A and B20PLOME30A15E from no load to full load conditions and the corresponding performance, combustion and emission characteristics were studied in comparison with diesel. The following results were observed – upon transesterification of poultry litter oil, it was observed that there was a reduction in kinematic viscosity and density whereas the calorific value was observed to increase. All the three blends showed increased BTE when compared to diesel. B20PLOME30A15E showed a 10.7% increase in BTE when compared to diesel. The highest cylinder pressure was recorded for B20PLOME30A15E. The addition of ethanol increases the volatility and oxygen content, which promotes combustion and as a result a further reduction in CO emissions and smoke opacity were observed when compared to B20PLOME and B20PLOME30A. The addition of ethanol increases the ignition delay period, and as a result B20PLOME30A15E shows maximum peak cylinder pressure

and hence the NO_x emissions of B20PLOME30A15E were marginally higher than that of B20PLOME30A. At 50% load, the UBHC emissions of B20PLOME30A15E were marginally higher than that of B20PLOME30A; this is due to higher latent heat of vaporisation of ethanol, which reduces the combustion temperature. This proves that poultry litter oil biodiesel with alumina nanoparticles and ethanol as an additive can be used as a renewable and environmentally friendly fuel, minimising the use of mineral diesel. Also, poultry litter oil can be utilized as a fuel through this waste management technique.

LIST OF NOTATIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CI	Compression Ignition
BTDC	Before Top Dead Centre
BP	Brake Power
BTE	Brake Thermal Efficiency
HRR	Heat Release Rate
CO	Carbon Monoxide
NO _x	Oxides of Nitrogen
UBHC	Unburnt Hydrocarbons
O ₂	Oxygen
ppm	Parts per million
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
PLOME	Poultry Litter Oil Methyl Ester
B20	20% Biodiesel + 80% Diesel
B20PLOME	20% Poultry Litter Methyl Ester + 80% Diesel
B20PLOME30A	20% Poultry Litter Methyl Ester + 80% Diesel + 30mg/l AL ₂ O ₃
B20PLOME30A15E	20% Poultry Litter Methyl Ester + 80% Diesel + 30mg/l AL ₂ O ₃ + 15ml Ethanol/l

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