Lipase-catalyzed Esterification of Structural Butanol Isomers in Supercritical Carbon Dioxide

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Lipase-catalyzed esterification of structural butanol isomers and n-butyric acid was investigated in supercritical carbon dioxide. The experiments were performed in a high pressure cell for 7 hrs with a stirring rate of 200 rpm at 323.15 K and 130 bar. The enzyme, Candida Antarctica lipase B (CALB), was used in whole system as a catalyst. The experimental results were analyzed by GC-FID using a INNOWAX capillary column. The conversion yield and the initial velocity of the esterification reaction in supercritical carbon dioxide were compared with those in ambient condition.