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Isomer Shifting of Polychlorinated Biphenyls(PCBs) by Heat Treatment

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Abstract

Isomer shifting of polychlorinated biphenyls(PCBs) by heat treatment was investigated. A mixture of Japanese commercial PCBs; Kanechlor-400 or Kanechlor -600, was placed in the ampoules and the solvent was evaporated. After being sealed, the ampoules were heated. Temperature, heating time and atmosphere were experimental parameters. And addition of copper powder as a catalyst and H₂O as a source of hydrogen was also tried. Although heating degraded about 75% of all the isomers of PCBs, congener distribution was not altered by heating only whatever the conditions were. However in the presence of Cu, commercial PCBs were dechlorinated with producing the highly ortho chlorinated congeners.

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