

EPOXY COMPOSITES FILLED WITH NATURAL CALCIUM CARBONATE. 3. EPOXY COMPOSITES OBTAINED IN THE PRESENCE OF MONOCARBOXYLIC DERIVATIVE OF EPIDIAN-6 EPOXY RESIN

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Abstract. A monocarboxylic derivative of Epidian-6 with free epoxy and carboxylic end groups (MCDER) has been synthesized using Epidian-6 epoxy resin and sebacic acid. The structure of MCDER was confirmed by a spectral analysis. The thermal stability of MCDER has been established and the formation of cross-linked films based on epoxy-oligomeric mixtures consisting of Epidian-5, TGM-3 oligoesteracrylate, and polyethylene polyamine has been studied in its presence. By means of IR spectroscopy, the chemistry of the mixtures formation has been established. Physico-mechanical characteristics and morphology of the epoxy-oligomeric mixture based samples which were filled with CaCO₃ have been determined.

Keywords: epoxy resin, sebacic acid, oligoesteracrylate, CaCO₃, hardener, IR- and NMR-spectroscopy, cross-linking, physico-mechanical properties, SEM.

1. Introduction

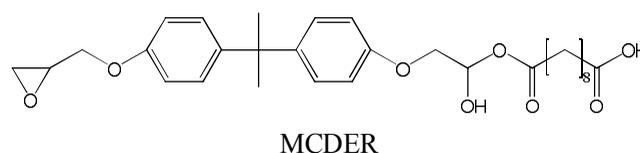
The polymer based products are very important in present-day life [1, 2]. Therefore the production of composites which are characterized by special operational properties is one of the most important tasks of polymer chemistry [3, 4]. Nowadays epoxy resins (ER) are the mostly used components to produce composites [5, 6]. The reason is their advantages over other polymers such as easiness during products formation and good operational characteristics of the final products [6]. For many years the researches regarding the creation of ER based oligomers with various functional groups [7-12] have been conducted at Lviv Polytechnic National University (Ukraine).

The synthesized oligomers allow to significantly improve the operational properties of the products based on them but increase the price of the final products. To decrease the price, it is possible to introduce fillers into

the epoxy-oligomeric mixtures [13]. Moreover, the filler may also improve the operational properties of the final products [5, 6]. Among all known mineral fillers CaCO₃ is most often used [14-18].

The possibility of using oligomers with different functional groups, as well as CaCO₃ to obtain products based on Epidian-5 has been described in [16, 19]. Monoperoxy derivative [16] and monomethacrylic derivative [19] of Epidian-6 were used as oligomers. Monoperoxy derivative of Epidian-6 contains free epoxy and peroxy groups and monomethacrylic derivative of Epidian-6 contains free epoxy group and methacrylic fragment. The presence of the mentioned oligomers in the mixtures based on Epidian-5 industrial resin and TGM-3 oligoesteracrylate provides a chemical interaction between the mixture components and thus leads to the improvement of the operational properties of the final products.

The aim of this work was to study epoxy-oligomeric mixtures which are filled with CaCO₃ and contain monocarboxylic derivative of Epidian-6. MCDER contains free epoxy and carboxy groups. Its formula is given below:



2. Experimental

2.1. Materials

The materials used for the experiments were: Epidian-5 and Epidian-6 epoxy resins (Sarzyna-Ciech, Poland) with a molecular weight (M_n) of 390 and 340 g/mol, respectively, and epoxy groups content (e.n.) of 20.0 and 24 %, respectively. Sebacic acid (SA, Aldrich) was used as received without additional purification. TGM-3 oligoesteracrylate (Ukraine) is an esterification product of methacrylic acid and triethylene glycol with M_n 286 g/mol. Polyethylene polyamine (PEPA, Ukraine) is

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the curing agent and was used as received without additional purification. Benzyltriethylammonium chloride (BTEAC, Aldrich) was used as a catalyst for the reaction of Epidian-6 and SA. Calcium carbonate (CaCO_3 , Sigma Aldrich) is a white odorless powder or colorless crystals.

2.2. Methods of Analysis

Molecular weight was determined by a cryoscopy [20] using dioxane as a solvent.

The content of epoxy or carboxy groups (%) was determined according to the procedure described in [21].

The concentration of carboxy groups ($[C_{carb.gr.}]$, mol/l) was calculated according to Eq. (1):

$$[C_{carb.gr.}] = \frac{V_w \cdot N \cdot K}{V_s} \quad (1)$$

where V_w is an amount of KOH solution spent for the titration of the acid groups containing in the sample, ml; V_s is a sample volume, ml, $V_s = 0.5$ ml; N is the KOH solution normality, $N = 0.1$; K is a correction factor for 0.1N KOH.

IR spectroscopic investigations were conducted using a Specord-80 within a range of $4000\text{--}400\text{ cm}^{-1}$. The samples were prepared as the films formed from the oligomer solution in chloroform or dioxane and applied on a KBr plate; the films thickness was 0.03 mm.

IR spectroscopic investigations of epoxy-oligomeric mixtures during cross-linking were conducted using a spectrophotometer Thermal Electron Corporation-Nicolet 8700 with Specac Golden Gate adapter and diamond ATR crystal. The samples were prepared as the films applied on a KBr plate. The film was pressed by another plate using a mechanical device. The plates were placed in a desiccator at room temperature for 24 h. The spectra were recorded at 423 K every 30 min.

^1H and ^{13}C NMR investigations were carried out at 400 and 100 Hz, respectively, in deuteriochloroform at room temperature, using a spectrometer Bruker Advance II 400 (Poland).

Thermographic investigations were carried out using Thermogravimetric Analyzer TGA-7 in the atmosphere of nitrogen or air with O_2 content of 8 %. The samples were heated to $973\text{--}1173\text{ K}$, the heating rate was 223 K/min, for some samples – 263 K/min. The heating time was 30–45 min.

2.3. The Reaction of Epidian-6 and SA

The reaction was studied in a three-necked reactor equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, and backflow condenser. Epidian-6 and SA dissolved in isopropanol were loaded into the reactor. The mixture was heated, stirred and BTEAC was added. The reaction was controlled by the change in carboxy groups concentration (Eq. (1)).

The results obtained were used to plot the dependencies and to calculate the effective rate constants. The interpretation of the results in the $\lg K_{ef}\text{--}1/T$ coordinates permits to calculate the activation energy of the reaction.

2.4. MCDER Synthesis

MCDER was synthesized in a three-necked reactor equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, backflow condenser and drop funnel. 90 g of Epidian-6, 300 ml of toluene and 17.1 g of BTEAC dissolved in 20 ml of water were loaded into the reactor. The mixture was heated to 343 K under stirring and 51.0 g of SA dissolved in 300 ml of isopropyl alcohol were added dropwise for 2.5 h. The mixture was stirred additionally for 1 h and cooled to room temperature. After adding 100 ml of benzene it was placed in a separation funnel. The catalyst was washed out by water and the organic layer was vacuumized at 323 K till the constant weight. The resulting oligomer yield was 88.5 g (94 %), M_n 550 g/mol, content of carboxy groups 8 %, and content of epoxy groups 7.8 %. MCDER is a light-yellow viscous substance dissolved in isopropyl alcohol, dioxane, acetone and other organic solvents.

2.5. Preparation of Unfilled Epoxy-Oligomeric Mixtures

Epoxy-oligomeric films were prepared by applying the mixture over glass standard plates. The mixture was prepared by mixing Epidian-5, MCDER, TGM-3 and PEPA. The cross-linking was carried out stepwise: first at room temperature for 24 h, then at 383 or 403 or 423 K for 15, 30, 45, 60 or 75 min.

2.6. Preparation of Filled Epoxy Oligomeric Mixtures

Epidian-5, TGM-3, MCDER and CaCO_3 were mixed till the homogeneous mixture was obtained. Then it was vacuumized to eliminate air bubbles. After PEPA addition the mixture was again mixed and vacuumized.

To determine the film hardness and gel-fraction content the samples were applied over the standard glass plates. To determine physico-mechanical properties the samples were poured into special moulds in the form of shovels and bars [16]. The shovels and bars were formed at room temperature for 10 days.

2.7. Investigation Methods

The films hardness, gel-fraction content, physico-mechanical properties and SEM analysis of the filled mixtures were determined according to the procedure described in [16].

3. Results and Discussion

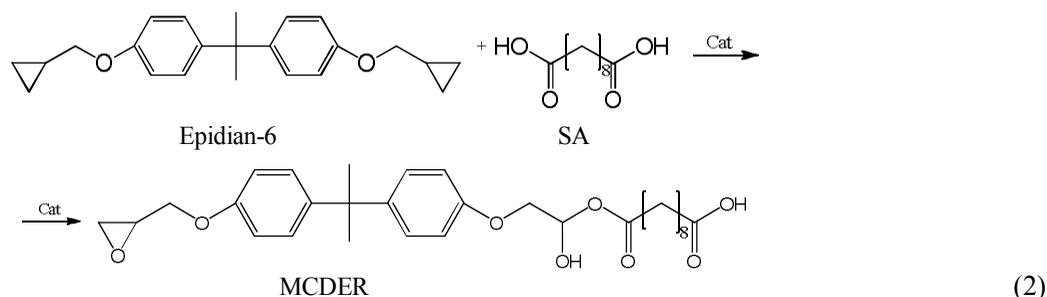
3.1. MCDER Obtaining, Characteristics and Properties

3.1.1. MCDER obtaining

The synthesis of oligomers with free epoxy and carboxy groups in their structure is of great interest from

the standpoint of practical application. It means that it would be possible to extend the compatibility of these compounds with other polymeric materials, as well as to improve the properties of the products on their basis. Bashta *et al.* [10] described the oligomeric product obtained on the basis of dianic epoxy resin Epidian-6 and adipic acid.

We propose to synthesize oligomer on the basis of Epidian-6 and sebacic acid according to Eq. (2):



Sebacic acid has a longer aliphatic chain compared with adipic acid and this fact would influence the resulting product properties. Benzyltriethylammonium chloride (BTEAC) is a catalyst. The mixture of toluene and isopropyl alcohol is a solvent.

The effect of temperature on the reaction proceeding is depicted in Fig. 1. The effective rate constants of the reaction (see Eq. (2)) are represented in Table 1. Interpretation of the results in the Arrhenius coordinates allows to calculate the activation energy of the reaction (Fig. 2) which was found to be 39.0 ± 1.0 kJ/mol.

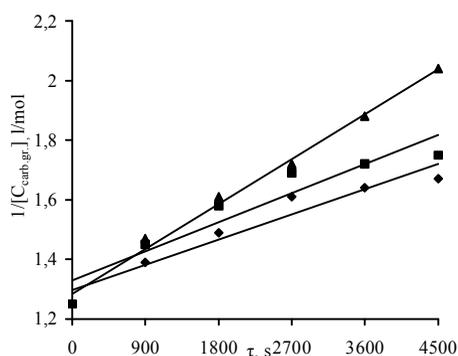


Fig. 1. Kinetic anamorphoses for the reaction of Epidian-6 and SA at different temperatures (K): 333 (1), 343 (2) and 353 (3). BTEAC amount is 30 mol % per 1 g-eq. of SA carboxy group. SA content is 1 mole per 1 g-eq. of Epidian-6 epoxy group

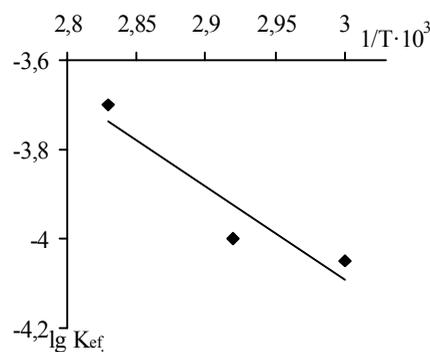


Fig. 2. Dependence of $\lg K_{ef}$ on $1/T$ for the reaction of Epidian-6 and SA in the presence of BTEAC = 30 mol % per 1 g-eq. of SA carboxy group. SA content = 1 mole per 1 g-eq. of Epidian-6 epoxy group

Table 1

Effective reaction rates of Epidian-6 and SA reaction

Temperature, K	$K_{ef} \cdot 10^4$, l/mol·s	Correlation coefficient R^2
333	1.17 ± 0.13	0.9342
343	1.56 ± 0.13	0.8977
353	1.74 ± 0.13	0.9918

Note: BTEAC amount is 30 mol % per 1 g-eq. of SA carboxy group

3.1.2. IR spectroscopic investigations

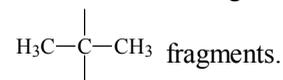
To confirm the MCDER structure we recorded the IR-spectrum (Fig. 3). The interpretation of the spectrum is given in Table 2. The data for Epidian-6 are given for the comparison.

One can see that MCDER contains epoxy groups, the same as Epidian-6. The absorption bands at 912 cm^{-1} and fragments of benzene rings at 1608 and 1512 cm^{-1} confirm this fact. However, unlike Epidian-6, the MCDER molecule contains absorption bands at 1258 , 1045 and 1730 cm^{-1} indicating the presence of sebacic acid in its structure. The appearance of the absorption band at 3457 cm^{-1} indicates the bonding of SA molecule to Epidian-6 due to the opening of the epoxy ring (see Eq. (2)).

3.1.3. ^1H NMR spectroscopic investigations

These investigations were carried out to confirm the MCDER structure. The spectrum of the initial Epidian-6 was recorded for the comparison. The interpretation of the spectra is given in Table 3.

The epoxy groups in MCDER are confirmed by the proton signals at 2.71 – 3.32 ppm. The hydroxy groups which are absent in the initial Epidian-6, are confirmed by the signal at 4.00 ppm. Both Epidian-6 and MCDER contain benzene fragments, $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{CHO}-$ and



3.1.4. ^{13}C NMR spectroscopic investigations

The hydroxy groups in the structure of the synthesized MCDER (*cf.* initial Epidian-6) were determined by ^1H NMR spectroscopy. This fact confirms the bonding of SA molecules to Epidian-6 due to the opening of the epoxy ring according to Eq. (2). ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy was used to confirm the presence of SA fragments in the MCDER structure. The initial Epidian-6 was studied for the comparison. The obtained results are given in Table 4.

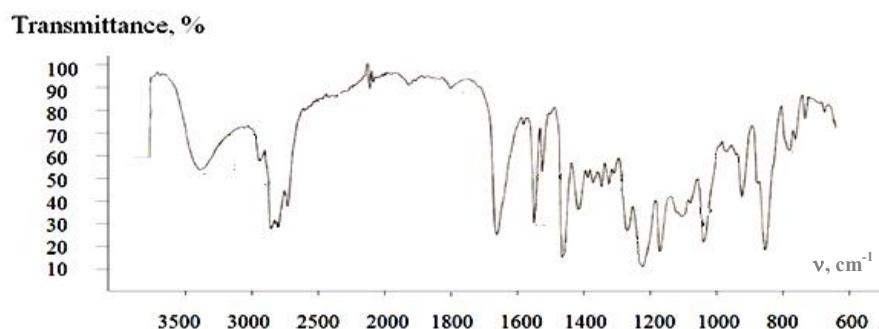


Fig. 3. IR spectrum of MCDER

Table 2

IR spectroscopic characteristics of oligomers

Oligomer	IR absorption bands, cm^{-1}					
	$-\text{OH}$					
	ν_{OH}	ν_{sym}	$\nu_{(\text{C}-\text{O})\text{as}}$	$\nu_{(\text{C}=\text{O})\text{sym}}$	$\nu_{\text{C}=\text{O}}$	$\nu_{\text{C}_6\text{H}_6}$
Epidian-6	–	912	–	–	–	1605, 1513
MCDER	3457	912	1258	1045	1730	1608, 1512

Table 3

^1H NMR spectroscopic characteristics of oligomers

Oligomer	Chemical shift, ppm						
			$\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{X}_2$	$-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$	$\text{H}_3\text{C}-\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{O}}{\text{C}}}-\text{CH}_3$	OH	$-\text{CH}_2-$
							
Epidian-6	2.72	3.34	6.80–7.15	3.90–4.00	1.62	–	1.15
MCDER	2.71	3.32	6.80–7.10	3.80–4.32	1.62	4.00	1.19

¹³C NMR spectroscopic characteristics of oligomers

Oligomer	Chemical shift, ppm					
			$\begin{matrix} -\text{CH}_2\text{O}- \\ >\text{CHO}- \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} \text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_3 \\ \\ \text{CH}_3-\text{C}- \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} >\text{C}-\text{O}- \\ >\text{C}-\text{O}- \end{matrix}$	$-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-$
Epidian-6	50	114, 128	69	31	76–78	–
MCDER	47	114, 128	66–69	24, 25	76–78	25

In the synthesized MCDER we observed the signals at 25 ppm corresponding to the aliphatic fragments $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-$. Such fragments are absent in the initial Epidian-6 indicating that SA fragments were introduced into the MCDER structure.

3.1.5. Thermal stability of MCDER

To estimate the possibility of MCDER usage in various polymer compositions we studied its thermal stability. The results are represented in Fig. 4 and Table 5.

One can see that the synthesized MCDER has a sufficient thermal stability. The destruction is observed at 473 K (Fig. 4). The sharp mass loss occurs in the region of 663–773 K and achieves 78 % at 773 K (Table 5). The decrease in mass by 88 % takes place at 946 K. Thus, MCDER is thermostable to the temperature of 623 K and may be used in those mixtures which have high thermal stability.

3.2. Cross-linking of Unfilled Epoxy-Oligomeric Mixtures

MCDER with free epoxy and carboxy groups in its structure may be used as an active additive to polymeric mixtures based on the industrial epoxy resins. For such mixtures, the oligoesteracrylate TGM-3 is used as a plas-

tificizer. It is known [22] that TGM-3 does not react with the mixture components and does not participate in the cross-linking. The products based on the mentioned polymeric mixtures have short service life because of deterioration in the operational performance.

The cross-linking properties of MCDER were studied according to the procedure described in subsection 2.5. Epidian-5 was used as an initial epoxy resin, TGM-3 – as a plasticizer and polyethylene polyamine (PEPA) – as a hardener.

The composition of epoxy-oligomeric mixtures based on Epidian-5 and MCDER is represented in Table 6. The mixture without MCDER (mixture IV) and the mixture without TGM-3 (mixture V) were studied for the comparison. The cross-linking was carried out according to the procedure described in subsection 2.5 and the results obtained are represented in Table 7.

So, the gel-fraction content and films hardness depend on the mixture composition, cross-linking temperature and time. The increase in MCDER amount from 9 to 36 mass parts decreases the gel-fraction content and hardness at room temperature. It means that under such conditions the cross-linking occurs in the presence of Epidian-5 only, due to the interaction of its epoxy groups and PEPA. MCDER with one epoxy group is only grafted to the matrix based on Epidian-5. TGM-3 molecules do not participate in the process.

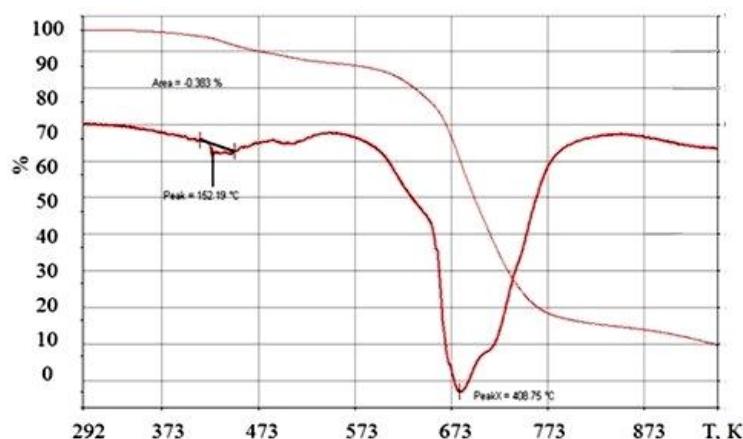


Fig. 4. Derivatographic curves for MCDER

Table 5

Thermal stability of MCDER			
Temperature at which mass loss is observed, K/mass loss, %			
First stage of mass loss		Second stage of mass loss	
beginning	end	beginning	end
433	773/78	773	946/88

Table 6

The composition of epoxy-oligomeric mixtures

Component	Components content, mass parts				
	I	II	III	IV	V
Epidian-5	82	73	55	91	60
MCDER	9	18	36	–	40
TGM-3	9	9	9	9	–
PEPA	13	9	9	14	9

Note: PEPA amount was calculated per amount of epoxy groups in Epidian-5 and MCDER based on the ratio 14 mass parts of PEPA per 20 g of epoxy groups

Table 7

Dependence of gel-fraction content and polymer film hardness on cross-linking temperature and time

Temperature, K	Mixture number according to Table 6	Index	Index value for cross-linking time, min					
			24 h, normal conditions	15	30	45	60	75
383	I	<i>G</i>	81.3	86.2	88.7	89.1	89.4	90.1
		<i>H</i>	0.54	0.73	0.81	0.83	0.85	0.85
	II	<i>G</i>	77.6	80.1	82.2	83.5	85.2	86.2
		<i>H</i>	0.43	0.64	0.70	0.77	0.80	0.83
	III	<i>G</i>	44.5	51.3	76.3	78.9	80.4	82.4
		<i>H</i>	0.17	0.22	0.64	0.74	0.77	0.88
403	I	<i>G</i>	81.3	89.1	88.8	89.2	90.0	90.4
		<i>H</i>	0.54	0.81	0.82	0.87	0.89	0.91
	II	<i>G</i>	77.6	82.0	83.9	84.8	86.0	87.6
		<i>H</i>	0.43	0.76	0.89	0.92	0.94	0.95
	III	<i>G</i>	44.5	53.4	77.2	84.9	86.9	86.9
		<i>H</i>	0.17	0.29	0.75	0.94	0.97	0.98
423	I	<i>G</i>	81.3	89.8	91.0	91.5	91.7	92.3
		<i>H</i>	0.54	0.87	0.88	0.93	0.95	0.95
	II	<i>G</i>	77.6	83.7	84.1	85.2	85.7	88.1
		<i>H</i>	0.43	0.90	0.91	0.93	0.94	0.95
	III	<i>G</i>	44.5	82.9	90.8	93.0	93.9	94.0
		<i>H</i>	0.17	0.93	0.96	0.98	0.98	0.98
	IV	<i>G</i>	72.6	79.2	86.5	87.6	92.2	92.2
		<i>H</i>	0.27	0.70	0.82	0.87	0.87	0.88
	V	<i>G</i>	80.5	91.4	92.6	92.9	93.9	94.0
		<i>H</i>	0.44	0.81	0.83	0.87	0.88	0.91

Notes: *G* is a gel-fraction content, %; *H* is a hardness determined by M-3 device, rel. units

The mixture heating to 383, 403 or 423 K increases both values of G and H (Table 7). The reason is the additional formation of cross-linked structures due to the reactions of Epidian-5 and MCDER epoxy groups and secondary amino groups of PEPA.

The cross-linking time also influences the gel-fraction content and hardness. The increase in time increases both values. It means that during cross-linking other reactions occur apart from the reactions of epoxy groups and secondary amino groups. Other reactions include oligomerization of TGM-3 molecules and reaction of MCDER carboxy group with hydroxy groups of Epidian-5, as well as with hydroxy groups which are formed due to the reaction of Epidian-5 epoxy groups and PEPA at room temperature.

The possibility of the reaction between epoxy and carboxy groups was described by Ellis [6]. Moreover, the higher the temperature, the higher the reaction rate. The results obtained here confirm this fact (Table 7).

The higher the MCDER content (mixture III, Table 6) and the higher the temperature (423 K), the more cross-linked products are formed due to the reaction of MCDER carboxy groups with hydroxy groups, and three-dimensional oligomerization of TGM-3 as well. At room temperature the mixture III (MCDER content is 36 mass parts) forms a film with 44.5 % of cross-linked products and hardness of 0.17 rel.units. The heating of this mixture to 433 K for 30 min increases the gel-fraction content to 90.8 % and hardness to 0.96 rel.units (Table 7).

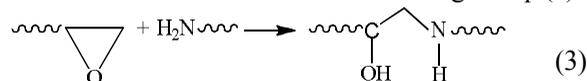
The results obtained for mixture IV (without MCDER) confirm the proceeding of the reaction of epoxy groups with secondary amino groups, as well as a three-dimensional oligomerization of TGM-3 at heating. The results for mixture V (without TGM-3) confirm the

possibility of the reaction proceeding with the participation of MCDER carboxy groups.

3.2.1. IR spectroscopic investigations

To determine the chemistry of the cross-linking process in the presence of MCDER we carried out IR investigations for mixture III (Table 6). The structural changes were controlled by absorption bands at 918 cm^{-1} (typical of stretching vibrations of epoxy ring), at 3440 cm^{-1} (hydroxy group), 1717 cm^{-1} (carbonyl group in acids) and at 1731 cm^{-1} (carbonyl group in esters). It was found that spectra recorded after cross-linking at room temperature for 24 h differ from those recorded after heating to 423 K for 30, 60 and 90 min (Fig. 5).

The intensive absorption band at 918 cm^{-1} corresponding to the stretching vibrations of epoxy ring in Epidian-5 and MCDER is observed for the initial mixture III. After keeping the mixture at room temperature for 24 h the band intensity is decreased but it does not disappear. It means that epoxy groups of Epidian-5 and MCDER react with PEPA molecules according to Eq. (3):



The intensity of the absorption band at 3440 cm^{-1} corresponding to the stretching vibrations of hydroxy group increases after keeping the mixture at room temperature for 24 h. Further heating to 423 K leads to the complete depletion of epoxy groups (Fig. 5, curves 3-5). We observe the decrease in the intensity of absorption band at 3440 cm^{-1} indicating that at the temperature of 423 K the hydroxy groups react according to Eq. (4):

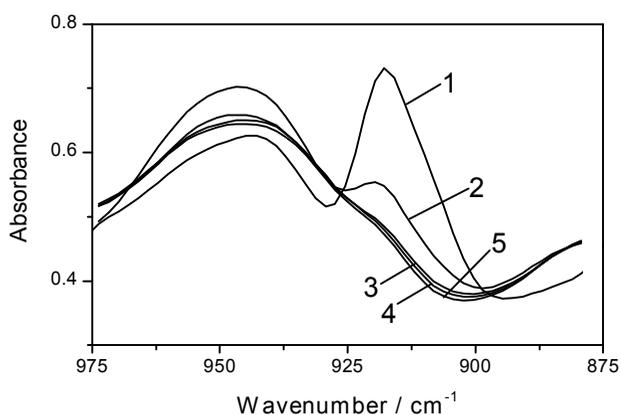
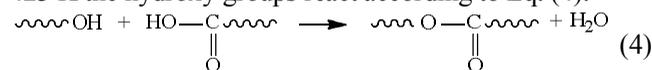


Fig. 5. Intensity of absorption band at 918 cm^{-1} after mixture preparation (1), after keeping at room temperature for 24 h (2), after heating at 423 K for 30 min (3), 60 min (4) and 90 min (5)

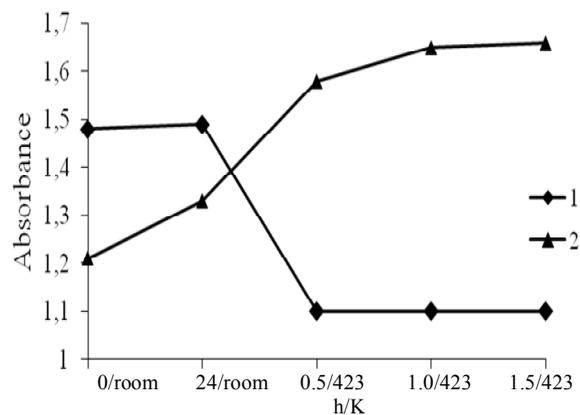


Fig. 6. Changes in the intensity of absorption bands at 1717 cm^{-1} typical of carbonyl group in acids (1) and at 1731 cm^{-1} typical of carbonyl group in esters (2) during cross-linking

This leads to additional cross-linking of the mixture components due to the reaction of MCDER carboxy groups and hydroxy groups of the cross-linked structure formed according to Eq. (2). The increase in gel-fraction content (Eq. (4)) is confirmed by the results from Table 7. The proceeding of the reaction according to Eq. (4) is also confirmed by IR-spectroscopy (Fig. 6). The results represented in Fig. 6 show that at cross-linking of the mixture at room temperature the intensity of the band at 1717 cm^{-1} , typical of carbonyl group in acids (*curve 1*), is not changed. This indicates that the reaction according to Eq. (3) does not proceed. The heating to 423 K for 30–90 min results in the sharp decrease of the intensity. On the contrary, the intensity of absorption band at 1731 cm^{-1} (*curve 2*) increases at cross-linking of the mixture at room temperature and when heating, confirming in such a way the partial polymerization of TGM-3 molecules in both cases.

Thus, the IR-spectroscopic investigations confirm the participation of MCDER molecules in the formation of cross-linked structures based on epoxy-oligomeric mixtures.

3.3. Cross-linking of Filled Epoxy-Oligomeric Mixtures

As it was mentioned above, already at room temperature the synthesized MCDER participates in the formation of films based on epoxy-oligomeric mixtures (Table 7). On the other hand, to reduce the cost of such products and to improve their operational characteristics it was necessary to study the mixtures with a filler. Earlier we have shown [16, 19] that CaCO_3 may be successfully used. So, here we investigated the epoxy-oligomeric mixtures filled with CaCO_3 (Table 8). The obtained values of gel-fraction content and hardness are represented in Table 9.

If we compare mixtures without CaCO_3 (mixtures **1** and **2**, Table 8), we see that the introduction of 10 mass parts of MCDER (mixture **2**) does not affect gel-fraction content and hardness. The introduction of 10 mass parts of CaCO_3 (mixture **3**) increases both values. Further increase in the amount of CaCO_3 to 30 mass parts (mixture **4**) and 60 mass parts (mixture **5**) decreases the film hardness and actually does not change the high content of gel-fraction.

Table 8

Composition of the filled epoxy-oligomeric mixtures

Component	Components content, mass parts					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Epidian-5	100	90	90	90	90	100
MCDER	0	10	10	10	10	0
TGM-3	10	10	10	10	10	10
PEPA	14.0	13.3	13.3	13.3	13.3	14.0
CaCO_3	0	0	10	30	60	30

Note: PEPA amount was calculated per amount of epoxy groups in Epidian-5 and MCDER based on the ratio 14 mass parts of PEPA per 20 g of epoxy groups

Table 9

Dependence of gel-fraction content and film hardness on mixtures composition and cross-linking time

Mixture number according to Table 8	Index	Index value for cross-linking time, days					
		1	2	4	7	9	10
1	<i>G</i>	82.2	83.1	85.6	87.3	89.5	91.7
	<i>H</i>	0.40	0.44	0.62	0.73	0.77	0.84
2	<i>G</i>	81.0	82.4	84.9	86.2	86.7	90.6
	<i>H</i>	0.32	0.49	0.64	0.68	0.79	0.82
3	<i>G</i>	80.1	84.6	88.3	89.4	92.4	93.0
	<i>H</i>	0.41	0.51	0.62	0.69	0.83	0.90
4	<i>G</i>	80.7	85.6	86.3	87.2	89.5	91.5
	<i>H</i>	0.27	0.39	0.50	0.54	0.60	0.63
5	<i>G</i>	81.6	85.9	86.9	87.2	87.4	90.2
	<i>H</i>	0.23	0.37	0.43	0.50	0.55	0.58
6	<i>G</i>	80.8	84.9	85.0	85.2	86.7	88.1
	<i>H</i>	0.17	0.33	0.38	0.50	0.53	0.57

Notes: *G* is a gel-fraction content, %; *H* is a hardness determined by M-3 device, rel. units

If we compare mixtures with (mixture 4) and without (mixture 6) MCDER, we see the higher values of G and H for the mixture with MCDER. This confirms once again the participation of MCDER molecules in the formation of films based on epoxy-oligomeric mixtures. The best results were achieved for the mixture 3 (MCDER amount is 10 mass parts, CaCO_3 amount is 10 mass parts): $G = 93.0\%$; $H = 0.90$ rel.units.

3.3.1. Physico-mechanical properties

Physico-mechanical properties of the mixtures were studied according to the procedure described in subsection 2.7. The experimental results are given in Table 6.

The comparison of mixtures without CaCO_3 (mixtures 1 and 2, Table 8) shows that the introduction of

MCDER in the amount of 10 mass parts decreases the values of maximum tensile strength (TS_b), elongation at break (E_b), maximum flexural strength (F_{\max}) and Charpy impact strength but slightly increases Young's modulus (E_{Mod}) and the value of Shore D hardness. This indicates the effect of MCDER molecules on the physico-mechanical properties of the products. The introduction of CaCO_3 in the amount of 10 mass parts (mixture 3) compared with the mixture without the filler (mixture 2) increases the values of TS_b , E_b , F_{\max} and Shore D hardness but decreases E_{Mod} , impact strength and e-break. So, the introduction of CaCO_3 in the mixture increases the hardness but makes the product more brittle. The amount of CaCO_3 more than 10 mass parts provides the increase in hardness but slight decrease of elasticity.

Table 10

Physico-mechanical properties of the filled epoxy-oligomeric mixtures

Mixture number according to Table 8	Tensile tests			Charpy impact strength, kJ/m^2	Flexural properties		Shore D hardness
	TS_b , MPa	E_b , %	E_{Mod} , GPa		F_{\max} , MPa	e-break, %	
1	57.3	3.46	1.46	3.42	71.43	2.99	75.2
2	26.1	1.30	1.67	2.77	39.15	2.05	77.7
3	34.2	2.21	1.29	1.94	42.70	1.65	84.6
4	23.5	1.58	1.35	2.89	39.09	1.47	82.6
5	19.9	1.12	1.58	2.65	35.07	1.13	81.1
6	26.2	1.70	1.30	1.92	39.69	1.54	84.0

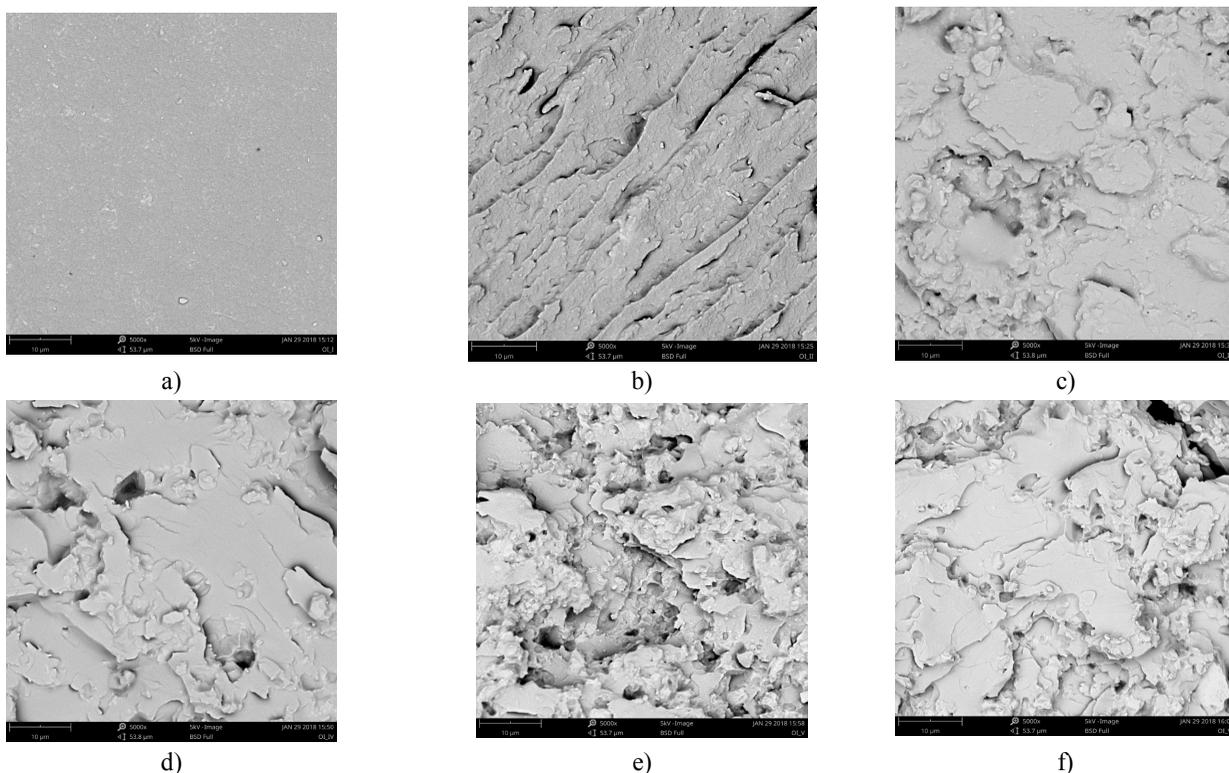


Fig. 7. SEM images of mixtures 1 (a), 2 (b), 3 (c), 4 (d), 5 (e) and 6 (f)

The comparison of the samples with equal amount of CaCO_3 (mixtures 4 and 6, Table 8) shows higher values of E_{Mod} and Charpy impact strength for the mixture 4 (mixture with 10 mass parts of MCDER). The values of F_{max} , e-break and Shore D hardness are almost the same for both mixtures. This confirms once more the role of MCDER molecules in the formation of product structure.

The morphology of the samples under study is demonstrated in Fig. 7. The introduction of MCDER into the mixture (*cf.* Figs. 7a and 7c) increases the product porosity resulting in the decrease of TS_b , E_b , and other characteristics (Table 10). At the same time the Shore D hardness is increased.

Simultaneous introduction of MCDER and CaCO_3 (Figs. 7c-7e) increases the porosity. Moreover, from the SEM images of mixtures 2, 4 and 6 (Figs. 7b, 7d and 7f), we can conclude that it is CaCO_3 which is mostly responsible for the formation of porous material.

4. Conclusions

Monocarboxylic derivative of epoxy resin (MCDER) has been synthesized *via* reaction of Epidian-6 epoxy resin and sebacic acid. The synthesized product contains free epoxy and carboxy groups. The structure of MCDER was confirmed by IR- and NMR-spectroscopy. Using derivatography it was found that MCDER is stable to 623 K. The cross-linking of mixtures composed of Epidian-5 industrial resin, TGM-3 oligoesteracrylate, MCDER and PEPA as a hardener was studied. The values of gel-fraction content and hardness were found to be dependent on the mixture composition and conditions of films formation. IR spectroscopy verified the participation of Epidian-5, MCDER, TGM-3 and PEPA in the cross-linking process. It was established that the gel-fraction content of 93.0 % and film hardness of 0.90 rel.units are achieved after introduction of the synthesized MCDER (10 mass parts) and CaCO_3 (10 mass parts) into the mixtures. The presence of both components affects the product morphology, increases its hardness and brittleness.

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ЕПОКСИДНІ КОМПОЗИТИ З НАТУРАЛЬНИМ НАПОВНЮВАЧЕМ КАРБОНАТОМ КАЛЬЦІУ. 3. ОДЕРЖАННЯ ЕПОКСИДНИХ КОМПОЗИТІВ У ПРИСУТНОСТІ МОНОКАРБОКСИЛЬНОЇ ПОХІДНОЇ ЕПОКСИДНОЇ СМОЛИ EPIDIAN-6

Анотація. З використанням епоксидної смоли Epidian-6 і себацінової кислоти розроблена методика та синтезована монокарбоксильна похідна Epidian-6 (МКПЕС), яка містить у своїй структурі кінцеві вільні епоксидну та карбоксильну групи. Структура МКПЕС підтверджена спектральними методами дослідження. Встановлена термічна стабільність МКПЕС та вивчено формування ненаповнених та наповнених CaCO_3 зшитих плівок на основі епокси-олігомерних сумішей, що складаються з епоксидної смоли Epidian-5, олігоестеракрилату ТГМ-3 і поліетиленполіаміну, в його присутності. З використанням ІЧ-спектроскопії встановлено хімізм процесу формування зшитих структур на основі епокси-олігомерних сумішей. Визначені фізико-механічні характеристики та морфологія наповнених CaCO_3 зразків на основі епокси-олігомерних сумішей.

Ключові слова: епоксидна смола, себацінова кислота, олігоестеракрилат, CaCO_3 , затвердник, ІЧ- та ЯМР-спектроскопія, структування, фізико-механічні властивості, СЕМ.