

综合评述

## 甘油的化学转化研究概况

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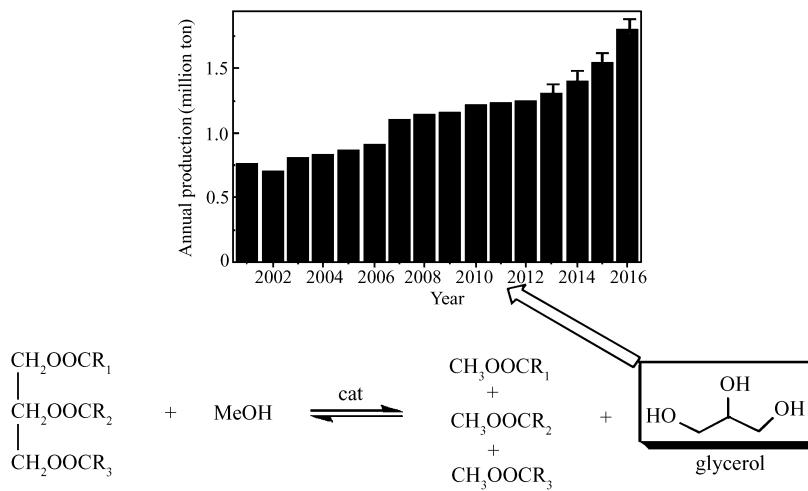
**摘要** 随着全球生物柴油产量的迅速增加,如何利用生物柴油副产的大量甘油已成为一个重要的研究课题。生物源甘油是一个多功能的绿色“平台分子”,通过对其还原、氧化、重整(分解)、脱水、醚化及与其它试剂的反应可生成许多以石化为原料的产品。本文概述了近年来由甘油转化为各种化工产品的研究进展。

**关键词** 生物源甘油,催化化学转化,化学应用,石化原料替代品

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以可再生资源代替石化原料生产各类化工产品是可持续发展的化工生产路线之一。由生物油脂生产的生物柴油(脂肪酸甲酯)是一种可再生能源<sup>[1]</sup>,因此世界各国均在大力发展生物柴油。生物柴油是通过酯交换法生产的,每生产1吨生物柴油,就副产100 kg甘油。随着生物柴油产量的不断增加,产生的甘油将严重过剩。预计到2015年甘油的年产量将达到1540万吨,预期2016年生物柴油副产的甘油将为1800万吨,此后将以每年42%的速度增长<sup>[2-3]</sup>(Scheme 1,带“T”标示为预测值)。



Scheme 1 Growth trend of glycerol as a byproduct from bio-oils transesterification

食品、饮料、医药、树脂和烟草等使用甘油的传统市场需求已基本饱和。因此,如何有效利用大量过剩的廉价甘油已成为迫切需要解决的问题。目前,生物源甘油的化学转化应用已成为研究的热点,其中尤以甘油的催化化学转化代替石油原料生产不同化工产品的研究已取得不少成果。与以石化为原料的工艺相比,某些甘油化学转化的工业应用成本和技术已具备一定优势。本文将对以甘油为原料生产加工各种化工产品的研究予以总结评述。

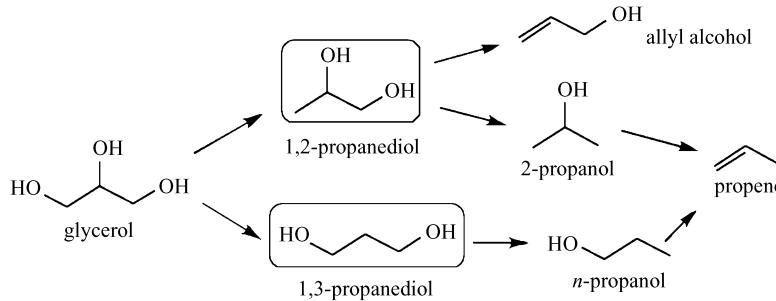
甘油是分子含14个共价键的1,2,3-三羟基丙醇,可通过不同的断键方式生成不同的有机产物<sup>[4-5]</sup>,

近几年由于甘油化学转化用高效催化剂的成功开发,使得甘油选择性转化获得了可喜的进展。根据甘油转化过程中是否有其它底物参与,甘油的化学转化可分为 2 条路线:单纯以甘油为底物经氢解还原、氧化、脱水、高温分解等过程生产丙二醇(1,2-丙二醇,1,3-丙二醇)、羟基丙酮、二羟丙酮、丙烯醛、丙烯醇、烯烃和氢气合成气等产品;由甘油和其它底物通过化学转化生成初级化工环氧氯丙烷和羧酸酯及与烯烃或醇醚生成醚类等高级产品。

## 1 单纯以甘油的化学转化反应

### 1.1 甘油的还原

甘油经氢化还原可生成丙二醇(1,2-丙二醇和1,3-丙二醇)、丙醇(正丙醇和异丙醇)和丙烷等产品(Scheme 2)。



Scheme 2 Possible pathways of glycerol transformation to deoxidized products by hydrogenolysis

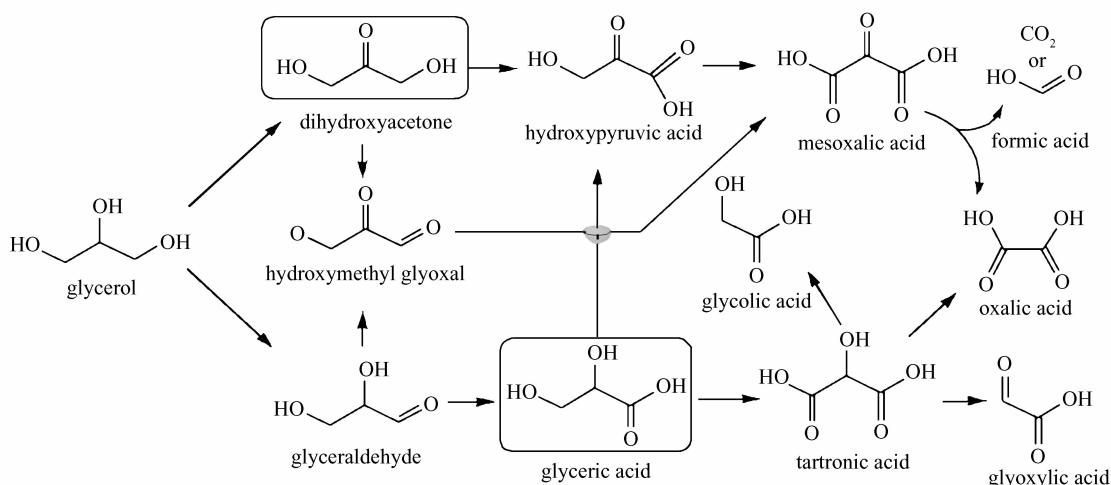
其中以由甘油生产丙二醇(1,2-丙二醇和1,3-丙二醇)的绿色工艺最受重视。早在上世纪 80 年代,Celanese 公司就报道了以铑催化剂由甘油的均相催化氢解生产丙二醇的工艺,产品中 1,3-丙二醇收率可达 21%,1,2-丙二醇的收率为 23.2%。研究表明,产品的选择性和产率取决于催化剂和反应条件<sup>[6-7]</sup>。目前,以 Cu、Ru 等元素的单一或复合金属为催化剂,选择性甘油氢解制 1,2-丙二醇成为主要研究方向<sup>[8]</sup>。为提高催化剂的活性和稳定性,可通过引入分散助剂或改进催化剂制备和催化反应工艺<sup>[9-16]</sup>,或通过研究动力学过程以强化提高催化氢解过程<sup>[17-18]</sup>。最近,Vosiliadou 等<sup>[19]</sup>报道了在经 900 ℃ 处理的 SBA-15 载体上负载单质铜制备出的 18% Cu/SBA-15 催化剂具有较好的催化稳定性,对 1,2-丙二醇的催化选择性可达 95.6%。关于甘油氢解过程中的氢源,除可用氢气外还可通过原位产生氢的方法<sup>[20]</sup>。由甘油催化氢化制备 1,3-丙二醇,除了酶催化剂外,以 Pt 为代表的多相催化剂对甘油催化还原表现出了较好的选择性<sup>[21]</sup>,Dam 等<sup>[22]</sup>报道了 Pt/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>催化甘油氢解可获得 49% 的转化率和对 1,3-丙醇 28% 的选择性。刘龙杰等<sup>[23]</sup>用介孔 WO<sub>3</sub>担载 Pt 催化剂催化甘油氢解获得生成 1,3-丙二醇 39.2% 的选择性。Zhu 等<sup>[24]</sup>用碱金属 Li 修饰的 Pt-H<sub>4</sub>SiW<sub>12</sub>O<sub>40</sub>/ZrO<sub>2</sub>作为甘油氢解催化剂,在 180 ℃、5.0 MPa 氢气压力和 0.09 h<sup>-1</sup> WHSV 的反应条件下获得了 43.5% 的甘油转化率和对 1,3-丙二醇 53.6% 的选择性。另外,Ir-Re 双金属的催化体系也是甘油氢解制 1,3-丙二醇选择性催化剂<sup>[25]</sup>。由甘油生成 1,3-丙二醇实际是通过多步反应实现的<sup>[26]</sup>。生成的丙二醇还可进一步转化为其它重要精细化工产品,如对其氧化可生成丙酸等。

甘油的还原过程常伴随其脱水过程,生成丙烯醇,它可视为甘油脱水还原的产物。Konoka 等<sup>[27]</sup>用 K/ZrO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-FeO<sub>x</sub>催化氢解甘油反应生产丙烯醇的产率可达 25%。王奂祎等<sup>[28]</sup>用 MoO<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>催化甘油氢解反应,生产丙烯醇的甘油转化率可达 92.1%,丙烯醇的选择性达 34.8%。甘油的氢解产物之一丙醇经脱水又可生成丙烯<sup>[29]</sup>,但该过程的催化修饰和工艺还有待深入研究。

### 1.2 甘油的氧化转化

甘油的氧化剂或 O<sub>2</sub> 气氧化过程比较复杂,常伴有分子中 C—C 键断裂过程。根据氧化条件的不同,既可生成二羟基丙酮也可生成甘油醛或甘油酸等产物(Scheme 3)。

甘油分子中 2 个伯碳羟基氧化可生成甘油醛,甘油醛可进一步氧化为甘油酸、羟基丙二酸或丙酮二



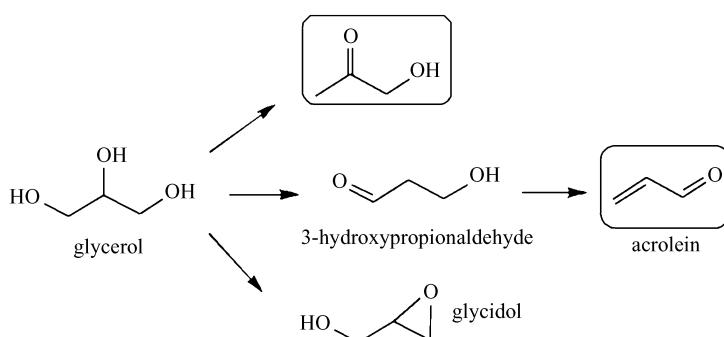
Scheme 3 Possible pathways of glycerol oxidation to different oxidized products

酸等。甘油仲碳上羟基氧化则可得到二羟基丙酮,它是一种防晒化妆品成分。二羟基丙酮可进一步氧化成羟基丙酮酸等。甘油的化学氧化起源于甘油的生物酶选择催化氧化生成甘油醛。近年来甘油的催化氧化和电催化氧化转化反应已受到重视<sup>[30-31]</sup>。目前遇到的困难是甘油氧化的选择性不高,由Pt、Pd和Au等金属组成的甘油催化氧化体系产物的转化率和选择性随反应条件而改变,但生成二羟基丙酮的甘油催化选择性氧化已取得较好的结果<sup>[32]</sup>。Hirasawa等<sup>[33]</sup>用Pd-Ag合金为催化剂催化O<sub>2</sub>气氧化甘油,二羟基丙酮的选择性达82.2%,但转化率仅为20%。Zhang等<sup>[34]</sup>用苯甲醛保护甘油的伯碳羟基,以TEMPO和NaClO为氧化剂对其进行甘油氧化转化,再经氢解,二羟基丙酮的产率可达99.4%。周洁等<sup>[35]</sup>用等体积浸渍法制备了负载型杂多酸H<sub>3</sub>PW<sub>12</sub>O<sub>40</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>催化剂,催化甘油氧化生成二羟基丙酮的收率可达39.1%。Nunes等<sup>[36]</sup>用H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>处理过的活性碳负载纳米金催化甘油氧化,在室温下甘油转化率为66.1%,甘油酸的选择性为63.6%。Tongsakul等<sup>[37]</sup>以人工水滑石负载的纳米Pt为催化剂用O<sub>2</sub>气氧化甘油,甘油的转化率可达63%、甘油酸的选择性为68%,将甘油氧化与氢解还原反应过程结合还可获得包括乳酸在内的甘油衍生物。Roy等<sup>[38]</sup>用铜基催化剂、氢氧化钠为促进剂催化氧化甘油的转化率为95.1%,乳酸的选择性为80.3%。可见,甘油的氧化产物是进一步转化为系列其它产物的平台分子。

### 1.3 甘油的脱水转化

甘油分子中3个羟基可根据反应条件的不同经多种方式脱水而生成烯烃或羰基化合物,或二者同时生成,产物的选择性也与产物的热力学稳定性有关<sup>[39]</sup>。甘油脱水可分为分子内脱水和分子间脱水。

**1.3.1 分子内脱水反应** 甘油经分子内脱水可生成羟基丙酮(经烯醇互变异构)、丙烯醛和环氧丙醇等产品(Scheme 4)。脱水过程常在酸碱催化剂上完成。

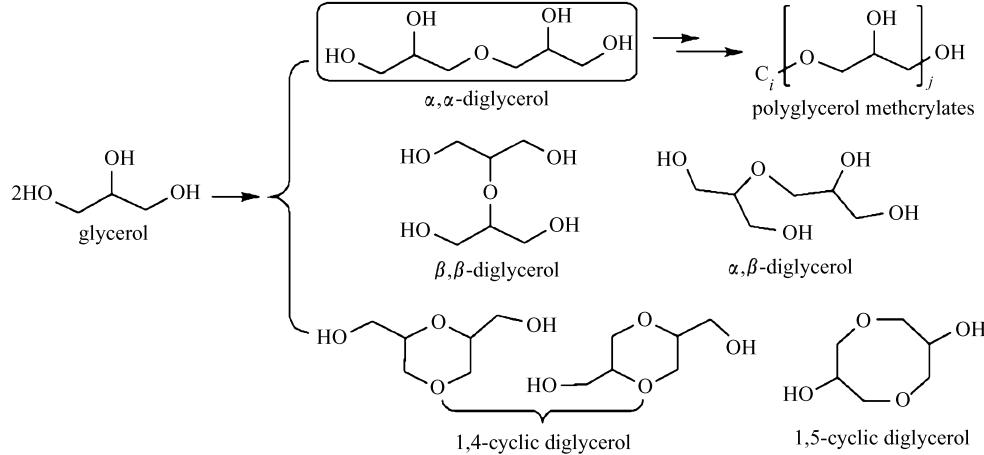


Scheme 4 Possible pathways of interglycerol dehydration to different products

Groll等于1936年用液体硫酸催化甘油脱水获得了49%的丙烯醛。由于丙烯醛是一种非常重要的精细化工中间体。因此,甘油催化脱水制备丙烯醛的转化过程获得了深入的研究。开发的催化剂有分

子筛、杂多酸和各类金属氧化物等<sup>[40-42]</sup>，催化脱水反应可以在气相或液相下进行。Massa 等<sup>[43]</sup>用混合金属氧化物 0.25Nb-0.75W-O/ZrO<sub>2</sub>为催化剂，催化甘油脱水的转化率为 99.8% 和生成丙烯醛的选择性为 75.7%。Gu 等<sup>[44]</sup>用稳定性更高的 17NiSO<sub>4</sub>-350 为催化剂，催化甘油脱水的转化率为 90% 和丙烯醛选择性为 70%。羟基丙酮相对丙烯醛热力学上不够稳定，已报道的甘油脱水制备羟基丙酮的催化体系不多，仅铜基催化剂催化甘油脱水制备羟基丙酮的选择性有较好的结果<sup>[45-47]</sup>；含 Ce 的催化体系<sup>[48]</sup>对催化甘油选择性脱水生成羟基丙酮也显示出一定的潜力。因此，对甘油脱水机理、动力学及产品深加工尚需进一步研究，Akizuki 等<sup>[49]</sup>在超临界水中研究了 WO<sub>3</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub>催化的甘油脱水反应，结果表明催化速率依赖于催化剂的高表面积和强酸性。Liebig 等<sup>[50]</sup>借助 WO<sub>3</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub>催化剂催化甘油脱水获得了 93% 的转化率和 84% 的丙烯醛选择性，接着用 FeSbO<sub>4</sub>催化丙烯醛氨化转化率为 84% 和生成丙烯腈的选择性为 44%。

**1.3.2 分子间脱水反应** 甘油通过分子间脱水可形成多种形式的二聚甘油及其低聚物等(Scheme 5)。低聚物分为线形和非线形 2 种，性质各异，可用于化妆品、食品添加剂和润滑剂等领域，有些还具有液晶性质。因此，由甘油分子间脱水制备低聚甘油及其应用研究已受到广泛关注<sup>[51-52]</sup>。

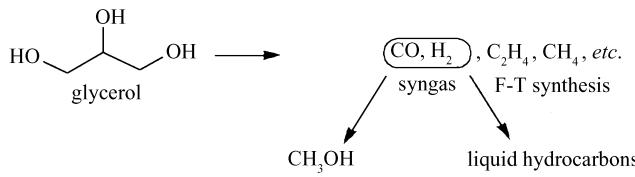


Scheme 5 Glycerol dehydration to different products of esters and polyglycerols

目前，通过甘油分子间脱水制备甘油低聚物的催化剂已从早期的碳酸钾等均相催化发展为易分离的多相催化，如离子交换树脂、分子筛和各类硅胶等沸石分子筛等具有较高的产物选择性的催化。Gholami 等<sup>[53]</sup>将 Ca<sub>1.59</sub>Al<sub>0.41</sub>La<sub>0.59</sub>O<sub>3</sub>催化剂用于甘油无溶剂条件下的催化脱水低聚，甘油的转化率可达 91%，二聚甘油的选择性为 53.2%。

#### 1.4 甘油的重整和氢气生产

甘油重整是在一定温度和压力及伴有催化剂作用下甘油分子中 C—C 键发生系列断裂反应的过程。生成产物包括合成气(CO 和 H<sub>2</sub>)、各类烷烃和烯烃(如乙烯、甲烷)以及部分中间产物(如甲醇、乙二醇和二氧化碳)等(Scheme 6)。甘油重整分为水蒸汽重整和催化部分氧化重整<sup>[54-55]</sup>2 种方式。



Scheme 6 Products derived from glycerol reforming and their transformation

Manara 等<sup>[56]</sup>研究了甘油在褐煤上的 850 °C 重整反应产物中 H<sub>2</sub> 的体积含量为 65.44%。由于催化重整可以降低反应温度，因此是甘油重整的发展方向。Liu 等<sup>[57]</sup>利用负载型 Pt/LaMnO<sub>3</sub> 催化剂于约 600 °C 对甘油进行协调催化重整，甘油的转化率可达 98%，合成气的收率为 93.9%，H<sub>2</sub>/CO 体积比为 2.1。其合成气可进一步通过加氢和 F-T 合成生成甲醇和液体碳氢化合物(汽柴油原料)。由于 CO 在反应体系中容易氧化，甘油重整催化剂性能评价是以 H<sub>2</sub> 气生成为指标的，Martínez 等<sup>[58]</sup>用萤石型

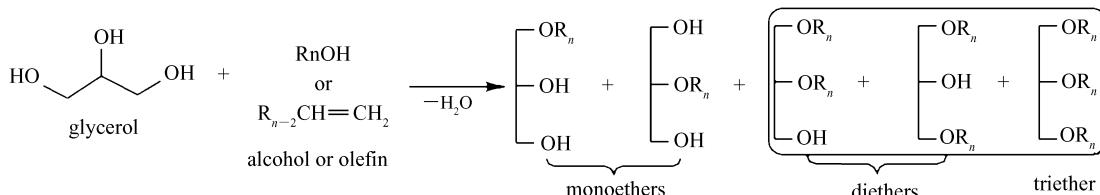
CeZr-CoRh混合氧化物为催化剂在500 °C以上对甘油蒸汽进行催化重整,甘油的转化率接近100%,H<sub>2</sub>的产率可达6 mol H<sub>2</sub>/mol 甘油。Pairojpiriyakul等<sup>[59]</sup>将Co负载到Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub>载体上,在500 °C、超临界水中催化重整甘油获得94%的转化率和3.72的H<sub>2</sub>气产率(产率用输出氢气摩尔流速和输进甘油的摩尔流速之比表示)。Wang等<sup>[60]</sup>用共沉淀法制备的29.2%Ni-31.1%Cu-39.7%Al催化剂在流动床中于650 °C催化重整甘油,甘油转化率为90.9%和H<sub>2</sub>选择性为92.9%。Tusa等<sup>[61]</sup>用类水滑石结构的Ni-Cu催化剂于270 °C对甘油进行催化重整,甘油转化率为60%的和H<sub>2</sub>气选择性为80%。Kamonsuangkaem等<sup>[62]</sup>以Ni/CeZrO<sub>2</sub>/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>为催化剂,催化甘油蒸汽进行氧化重整,H<sub>2</sub>的选择性为69%。

## 2 其它分子参与的甘油的化学转化

甘油可与其它分子反应生成一系列有用的化合物,其典型例子就是由甘油和HCl气制备环氧氯丙烷。由甘油制备环氧氯丙烷包括甘油的氢氯化反应和二氯丙醇的皂化等过程。年产10万吨甘油环氧氯丙烷的生产线已在Solvay公司建成投产。而该过程有可能用更加环境友好的催化氯代法取代<sup>[63]</sup>。

### 2.1 甘油与其它分子的醚化

甘油除了可进行分子内或分子间的羟基缩水醚化外,还可与其它醇或烯烃在催化剂作用下进行醚化,生成甘油烷基醚和甘油烯烃基醚,产物有单醚、二醚和三醚(Scheme 7)。

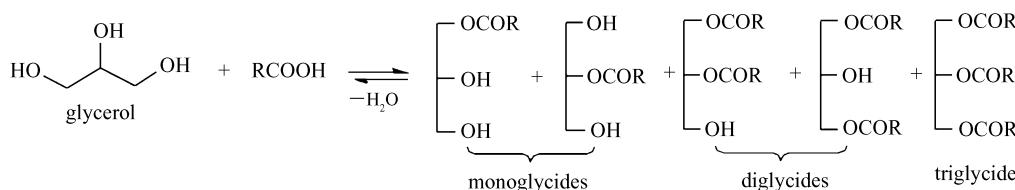


Scheme 7 Etherification of glycerol and other reagents

生成的双醚和三醚可替代甲基叔丁基醚作为燃油添加剂来提高汽油的辛烷值<sup>[64]</sup>。González等<sup>[65]</sup>用氟修饰的β分子筛于75 °C催化甘油和叔丁醇醚化,甘油的转化率为75%的和二醚与三醚的选择性为37%;作者用硫酸酸化的硅气凝胶催化甘油和异丙烯的醚化,也取得了75%以上的产率,该催化剂有较好的稳定性<sup>[66]</sup>。Zhao等<sup>[67]</sup>用稀土Nd修饰的Hβ分子筛催化甘油和异丙烯的醚化,在75 °C下反应2 h的转化率为92%和二醚与三醚的选择性为73%。Yuan等<sup>[68]</sup>用磷钨酸催化甘油和乙醇的醚化反应,在160 °C下反应20 h后获得97.1%的甘油转化率和对单醚、二醚与三醚的选择性质量比为61.9:28.1:10.0。Chang等<sup>[69]</sup>用碱处理的甘油和硫酸二甲酯在75 °C下反应24 h后,甘油的转化率为93.5%,甲基化的二醚与三醚产率为71.2%。甘油和叔丁醇或异丙烯的催化醚化动力学研究<sup>[70-71]</sup>对催化剂改进提供了有益指导。

### 2.2 甘油的酯化

甘油与羧酸(包括碳酸等无机酸)催化酯化可得羧(碳)酸的甘油脂,早年诺贝尔发明的炸药就是硝酸的甘油脂。根据参与反应羟基数目的不同,可生成单、双和三甘油酯(Scheme 8)。甘油与羧酸的酯化产品可用于化妆品、食品、医药和材料等领域。

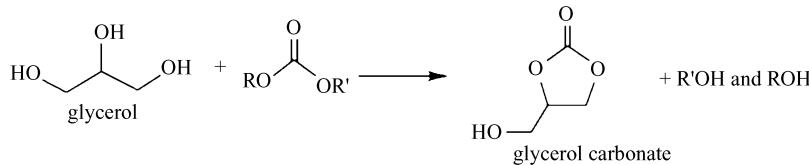


Scheme 8 Glycides from esterification of glycerol and carboxylic acid

目前,甘油脂化用催化剂多为酸碱多相催化剂,如介孔材料、分子筛、离子交换树脂和金属氧化物等。由于甘油乙酸酯可作为汽油添加剂,Zhou等<sup>[72]</sup>用固体酸Amberlyst-15催化甘油的乙酸酯化,于

110 ℃反应可获得 98.47% 的转化率和对单、双三甘乙酯的选择性质量比为 8.65:46.56:44.79。Testa 等<sup>[73]</sup>用硫酸酸化的微孔硅催化甘油与乙酸酯化,在 105 ℃下反应 1 h 后甘油完全转化为乙酸单、双与三甘酯三者质量比为 15:74:11。Zhu 等<sup>[74]</sup>用负载杂多酸 H<sub>4</sub>SiW<sub>12</sub>O<sub>40</sub>/ZrO<sub>2</sub>催化甘油与乙酸的酯化,在 120 ℃下反应 4 h 后,甘油转化率为 100% 和生成二酯的选择性为 93.6%。

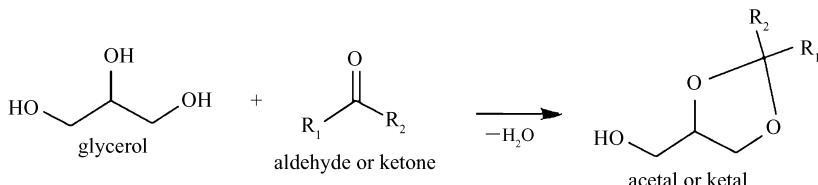
碳酸甘油酯可视为甘油的碳酸双酯(Scheme 9),可用于医药、化妆品、生物润滑剂和无毒非挥发性溶剂以及气体分离膜等领域,也是有机合成的多功能合成子。由它可制备聚碳酸酯和缩水甘油等。Simanjuntak 等<sup>[75]</sup>用高碱性的 Mg-La-O 催化甘油与碳酸二甲酯反应,在 85 ℃下反应 1 h 后,甘油的转化率为 85% 和生成碳酸甘油酯的选择性接近 100%。Álvarez 等<sup>[76]</sup>用碳纳米纤维负载的镁铝水滑石催化甘油和碳酸二乙酯反应,在 130 ℃下经 8 h 反应后甘油转化率为 99% 和碳酸甘油酯的选择性为 96%。Bai 等<sup>[77]</sup>用 NaOH/γ-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>催化甘油和碳酸二甲酯反应,在 78 ℃下经 1 h 反应后获得 97.9% 的转化率和 99.0% 的选择性。郭爽等<sup>[78]</sup>用硫酸锌催化甘油和尿素反应制备碳酸甘油酯,甘油的转化率 97.9% 和碳酸甘油酯的选择性超过 85%。



Scheme 9 Glycerol carbonate by glycerol transesterification

### 2.3 甘油缩醛(酮)的合成

甘油与醛或酮通过缩合反应可以生成五元(1,2-羟基反应)或六元(1,3-羟基反应)环状缩醛或缩酮(Scheme 10)。生成的甘油缩醛(酮)可用作汽油添加剂,溶剂及有机合成中间体。Oprescu 等<sup>[79]</sup>用固体超强酸 SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>/SnO<sub>2</sub>为催化剂催化甘油与酮缩合反应,甘油缩酮的收率达 99% 以上。Wegenhart 等<sup>[80]</sup>在无溶剂下用 ZnCl<sub>2</sub>催化甘油和呋喃醛的缩合反应,经 100 ℃反应 2 h 后,甘油缩醛的产率高达 90%。



Scheme 10 Acetal and ketal from glycerol condensation

另外,甘油还可以合成哌嗪等杂环化合物<sup>[81-82]</sup>、生成硫酸甜菜碱类新型表面活性剂<sup>[83]</sup>及防紫外线产品 4-甲氧基肉桂酰基甘油<sup>[84]</sup>等;在 Pd 配合物催化剂作用下,甘油可分解制备甲酸<sup>[85]</sup>;可将其作为反应的氢供体<sup>[86]</sup>和绿色溶剂<sup>[87]</sup>等。

## 3 结论与展望

生物柴油副产的甘油作为可再生的化工原料,代替石化原料生产多种化工产品的研究已取得了不少进展。甘油催化还原制备丙二醇虽然业已工业化,但仍需使催化剂环境友好、催化效率及其稳定性提高。甘油的氧化转化研究发展迅速,产品丰富多样,开发高活性、高选择性的催化剂是今后努力的方向。某些甘油选择性催化脱水产品有望完全替代来自石化原料的该产品;甘油催化重整生产合成气或纯 H<sub>2</sub>气可部分替代由传统的化石资源生产的这些气体,在合成汽柴油方面具有潜在应用前景。甘油与二氧化碳直接反应生成具广泛用途的环保型无机酸甘油碳酸甘油酯将是一条理想的合成线路,如能开发出高活性催化剂将具有重大意义。甘油缩醛(酮)和醚类化合物作为燃料添加剂有潜在前景,而利用环境友好的多相催化剂选择性催化合成有广泛用途的甘油酯也是一个值得期待的研究方向。

因此,随着对甘油化学转化应用需求不断提高,对其催化剂的开发仍是今后研发的课题。可以预期,甘油的化学转化应用会随着催化技术的提高而不断扩大。

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## Survey of the Chemical Transformation Progress of Glycerol

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**Abstract** With the rapid increase in biodiesel production, the utilization of a large surplus glycerol as a byproduct from biodiesel manufacture has become an important topic. Glycerol is a green multifunctional “platform molecule”. Products from the chemical transformation of glycerol through hydrogenolysis (reduction), oxidation, reforming(pyrolysis), dehydration, etherification and some compounds by reacting it with other reagents can replace those based on the petrochemical raw materials. The latest transformation progress of glycerol into other chemical products was reviewed in this article.

**Keywords** biomass glycerol, catalytic chemical conversion, chemical application, substitute for petrochemical materials

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