

## EFFECT OF $K_2SO_4$ TO THE PORE PROPERTIES OF PRODUCTS IN THE SYNTHESIS OF MESOPOROUS SILICATES MCM-41

### *PENGARUH $K_2SO_4$ TERHADAP KARAKTERISTIK PORI PRODUK DALAM SINTESIS SILIKAT MESOPORI MCM-41*

Suyanta, Narsito, Endang Tri Wahyuni, Triyono, and Sutarno

Chemistry Department Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences Gadjah Mada University,  
Sekip Utara Kotak Pos 21 Bls Yogyakarta Indonesia 55281  
e-mail:suyantakimiaugm@yahoo.co.id

#### ABSTRACT

Researchs about the effects of  $K_2SO_4$  to the pore properties of the products in the synthesis of mesoporous silicates MCM-41 has been done. MCM-41 was synthesized by hydrothermal treatment of the mixture containing : 9.31 of sodium silicate solution, 8.67 g of cetyltrimetylammoniumbromide (CTMAB) and 29 g of distilled water (molar ratio of 8  $Na_2SiO_3$  : CTMAB : NaOH :  $400H_2O$ ). The hydrothermal treatment was carried out at 100 °C in a teflon-lined stainless steel autoclave heated in the oven for 36 h. The solid phase was filtered, washed with distilled water, and dried in the oven at 100 °C for 2 h. The surfactant CTMAB was removed by calcinations at 550 °C for 10 h with heating rate of 2 °C/min. The as-synthesized MCM-41 was characterized by using FTIR spectroscopy and X-ray diffraction, while calcined-MCM-41 was characterized by using FTIR spectroscopy, X-ray diffraction; and  $N_2$  physisorption methods. The same procedure was carried out, with the addition of 17.4 g of  $K_2SO_4$  and 21.6 ml of distilled water to obtain the molar composition of the gel of:  $8Na_2SiO_3$  : CTMAB : NaOH:  $400H_2O$  : 2  $K_2SO_4$ . The results showed that the addition of  $K_2SO_4$  increased the crystallinity. MCM-41 prepared with  $K_2SO_4$  has a higher specific surface area of  $972.812\text{ m}^2\text{ g}^{-1}$  compared to the MCM-41 prepared without  $K_2SO_4$  (i.e.,  $946.607\text{ m}^2\text{ g}^{-1}$ ), higher mean pore diameter of 3.714 nm compared to the MCM-41 prepared without  $K_2SO_4$  (i.e. 3.357 nm), and thicker pore walls of 0.830 nm compared to the MCM-41 prepared without  $K_2SO_4$  (i.e. 1.176 nm).

Key words : MCM-41,  $K_2SO_4$ , pore properties

#### ABSTRAK

Telah dilakukan penelitian pengaruh penambahan  $K_2SO_4$  terhadap karakteristik pori produk dalam sintesis silikat mesopori MCM-41. Sintesis MCM-41 dilakukan dengan perlakuan hidrotermal atas campuran yang mengandung 9,31 g larutan natrium silikat, 8,67 g CTMAB dan 29 g akuades (komposisi molar  $8Na_2SiO_3$  : CTMAB : NaOH :  $400H_2O$ ). Perlakuan hidrotermal dilakukan dengan menempatkan sampel dalam *autoclave* kemudian dipanaskan dalam oven pada suhu 100 °C selama 36 jam. Sampel didinginkan di udara terbuka, kemudian fasa padat disaring, dicuci dengan akuades, dan dikeringkan dalam oven pada suhu 100 °C selama 2 jam. Penghilangan surfaktan dilakukan dengan kalsinasi pada temperatur 550 °C selama 10 jam dengan laju pemanasan 2 °C /menit. Sampel

sebelum kalsinasi dikarakterisasi dengan metode XRD dan FTIR, sedang sampel setelah kalsinasi dikarakterisasi dengan metode XRD, FTIR dan fisisorpsi N<sub>2</sub>. Prosedur serupa dilakukan kembali dengan menambahkan 17,4 g dan 21,6 ml akuades untuk memperoleh komposisi molar 8Na<sub>2</sub>SiO<sub>3</sub> : CTMAB : NaOH : 400H<sub>2</sub>O : 2K<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa MCM-41 yang disintesis dengan penambahan K<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> memiliki kristalinitas yang lebih tinggi. Luas permukaannya 972,812 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>, lebih besar dibanding dengan yang disintesis tanpa K<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> ( 946,607 m<sup>2</sup>g<sup>-1</sup>) ; diameter pori reratanya 3,714 nm, lebih besar dibanding dengan yang disintesis tanpa K<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (3,357 nm); sedang dinding porinya 0,830 nm, lebih tipis dibanding yang disintesis tanpa K<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (1,176 nm).

**Kata kunci : MCM-41, K<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, karakteristik pori**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 1992, a novel family of ordered silicate mesoporous molecular sieves, designated as M41S was discovered by researchers at Mobil R & D Corporation (Kresge *et al.*, 1992 ; Beck and Vartuli, 1996). Since then, numerous studies on their synthesis, characterization and application have been reported (Zhao *et al.*, 1996 ; Selvam *et al.*, 2001). The most important member among these materials is MCM-41 which possesses an ordered structure with uniform mesopores arranged into a hexagonal, honeycomb-like lattice (Kresge *et al.*, 1992). The synthesis starts with the formation of organic micellar species in an aqueous solution, followed by the polycondensation of an inorganic matrix, and ends with the removal of the organic template (Zhao *et al.*, 2002). Interaction between the organic surfactant and the inorganic matrix is dictated by the synthesis reagents and the preparation conditions is a controlling factor in influencing the physical and chemical properties of the synthesized mesoporous materials (Biz *et al.*, 1998 ; Kimura, 2005).

The uniqueness of MCM-41 mesoporous materials are the pore size uniform and tunable in the range between 1.6-10 nm. This innovative discovery has greatly expanded the area of microporous molecular sieves (zeolites) into the mesopore range and has created new opportunities beyond catalysis (Schüth, 2001). Also, the ordered mesoporous materials have been found as promising materials in optics and electronics, as nano size template, and as adsorbents for heavy metals (Schüth, 2001), adsorbents for gases and liquid (Ho *et al.*, 1993), biomolecular immobilization (Diaz and Balkus, 1996) and separation (Grun, 1996).

Addition of electrolytes in the synthesis of mesoporous silicate can improve the properties of the materials, especially the stability of the

materials by developing the interface properties (Leontidis, 2002). Stucky and Dougall (1990) reported that in the synthesis of mesoporous silicates SBA-15, the addition of inorganic highly charged salts such as K<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, can increase the interaction of silicate species with hydrophilic head groups of nonionic block copolymers. This strong interaction of head groups with the silicate species results in long-range ordered domain of silica-surfactant mesostructures, finally the long-range order favors the formation of mesoporous single crystals. Briefly, it was found that in the synthesis of SBA-15 used a non ionic triblock copolymer as a surfactant in acidic media, addition of K<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> stimulates the formation of single crystal materials instead of amorphous materials.

In this paper we report the effect of K<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> to the pore properties of products in the synthesis of mesoporous silicates MCM-41 synthesized using cetyltrimethylammonium cation as a surfactant in alkaline condition. The results showed that the addition of K<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> increased the crystallinity, specific surface area and mean pore diameter, but decreased the pore wall thickness.

## 2. EXPERIMENTAL

### Starting Materials

The materials used for the preparation of the mesoporous MCM-41 silicates are: cetyltrimethylammoniumbromide (CTMAB, E. Merck), sulfuric acid (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, E. Merck), sodium silicate solution (27 wt % SiO<sub>2</sub>, 8 % wt Na<sub>2</sub>O, 65 % H<sub>2</sub>O, E. Merck), sodium hydroxide (NaOH; E. Merck), K<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (E. Merck), and distilled water produced by Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry Gadjah Mada University Yogyakarta Indonesia.

### Synthesis of MCM-41

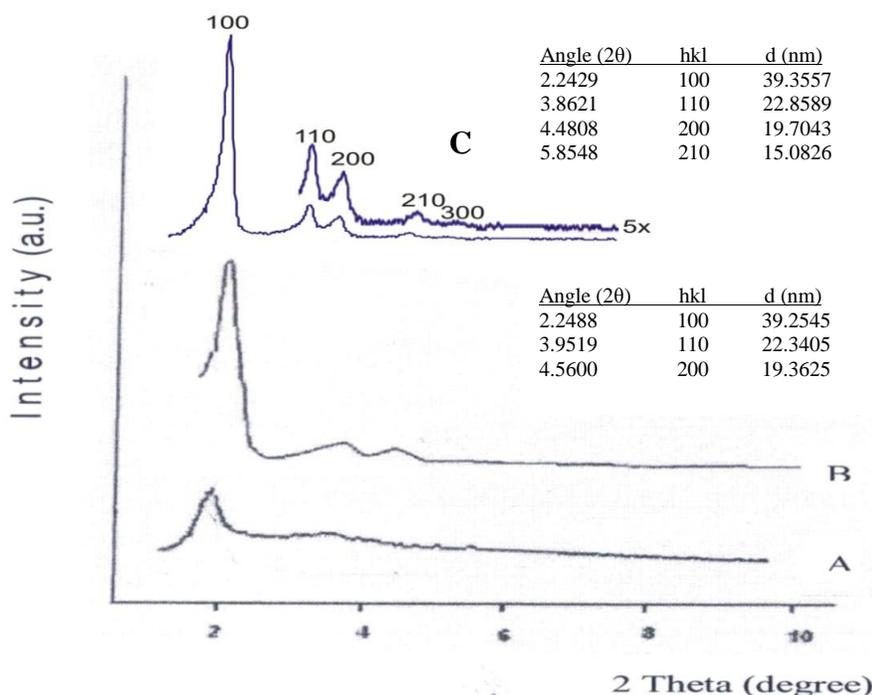
The MCM-41 was synthesised by hydrothermal method as follows. CTMAB (8.67 g) and 29 g of distilled water were mixed and stirred for 30 min. There after 9.31 g of sodium silicate solution was added dropped wise to the surfactant solution under vigorous stirring. After stirring for 30 min. a small amount of 1 M  $H_2SO_4$  was added to the above mixture to reduce the pH to 10.2 and stirred for 1 h. The mol composition of the resulting gel was  $8Na_2SiO_3$  : CTMAB : NaOH:  $400H_2O$ . The gel was then transferred into  $150\text{ cm}^3$  teflon-lined stainless steel autoclave and heated at 383 K for 36 h. After cooling at the room temperature, the resulting solid product was recovered by filtration on a Buchner funnel, washed with distilled water, and dried in the air at 363 K. Surfactant was removed by calcining the as-synthesized product at 823 K for 10 h with heating rate of  $2^\circ/\text{min}$ . The products were characterized by various techniques including XRD, FTIR, and  $N_2$  physisorption. In order to investigate the effects of  $K_2SO_4$ , the same procedure was carried out, with the addition of 17.4 g of  $K_2SO_4$  to obtain the mol composition of the gel  $8Na_2SiO_3$  : CTMAB : NaOH:  $400H_2O$  :  $2K_2SO_4$ . The addition of  $K_2SO_4$  into the gel was

### Characterization

Characterization of the crystalline phases and determination of the phase purities in the as-synthesized and calcined MCM-41 samples were carried out by XRD (Shimadzu XD-3H) using nickel-filtered  $Cu\ K_\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda=1.5406\text{ \AA}$ ). The samples were scanned from  $1$  to  $10^\circ$  ( $2\theta$ ), where  $\theta$  is the angle of incidence of the X-ray beam to the plane. The lattice parameters ( $a_0$ ) was calculated by formula :  $a_0 = 2d_{100}/\sqrt{3}$ , where  $d_{100}$  is the interplanar spacing corresponding to the (100) Bragg reflection. Infra-red spectra were recorded with a Shimadzu-8201 PC FTIR Spectrometer from KBr Pellets (0.005 g sample with 0.1 g KBr). The specific surface area and pore diameter of calcined-MCM-41 were analyzed using a NOVA Ver. 2.2 sorptiometer, by apply the conventional Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) and Barrett-Joyner-Halenda (BJH) equations. The pore wall thickness was calculated by subtracting the pore diameter from the lattice parameter ( $a_0$ ).

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### X-ray Diffractogram



**Fig. 1** XRD powder patterns of : (A) as-synthesized MCM-41 prepared without  $K_2SO_4$  (B) calcined-MCM-41 prepared without  $K_2SO_4$  and (C) calcined-MCM-41 prepared with  $K_2SO_4$

done before hydrothermal treatment.

Fig. 1 shows the XRD patterns of as-synthesized MCM-41 prepared without  $K_2SO_4$ ,

calcined-MCM-41 prepared without  $K_2SO_4$ , and calcined-MCM-41 prepared with  $K_2SO_4$ . The calcined-MCM-41 prepared without  $K_2SO_4$  (Fig.1B) exhibits a strong (100) reflection which correspond to Bragg spacings of 39.2545, and two weak (110 and 200) reflections which correspond to Bragg spacings of 22.3405 and 19.3625 nm respectively. The presence of those peaks indicates that the material possess a long range order in hexagonal symmetry. Upon calcination in the air at 823 K for 10 h with heating rate  $2^\circ/\text{min}$ , the intensity of the XRD peaks increased by about 2.7 times compared to the as-synthesized MCM-41 (Fig. 1A). These results reflect that the degree of ordering was dramatically improved by surfactant removal. In addition, after calcination  $2\theta$  of the peak shifts to a higher value, indicating contraction of the lattice. Contraction of the lattice is caused by the removal of template and subsequent condensation of silanol (Si-OH) groups.

The calcined-MCM-41 prepared with  $K_2SO_4$  (Fig.1C) exhibits a sharp and strong (100) reflection which correspond to Bragg spacings of 39.3557, and four weak (110, 200, 220 and 300) reflections which correspond to Bragg spacings of 22.8589, 19.7043, 15.0826 and 13.3643 nm respectively. These are the indicative of well-defined on crystallinity (structure orderliness) of the material. This results agree with the experiment carried out by Stucky and Dougall (1990) who found that addition of  $K_2SO_4$  in the case of SBA-15 synthesis stimulates the

formation of single crystal materials instead of amorphous materials. This congruity indicated that addition of  $K_2SO_4$  increased crystallinity in the synthesis of both MCM-41 and SBA-15 even used different surfactant type and media condition. In the case of SBA-15, Stucky and Dougall (1990) used non ionic triblock copolymer surfactants in acidic media, while in the case of MCM-41 the authors used cetyltrimethylammonium ion as surfactant in alkaline condition ( $\text{pH}=10.2$ ). Stucky and Dougall (1990) stated that the addition of  $K_2SO_4$  increased the interaction of silicate species with hydrophilic head groups of surfactants and the strong interaction of head groups with the silicate species resulting long-range ordered domain of silica-surfactant mesostructures. Finally, the long-range order favors the formation of mesoporous single crystals.

It also should be noted that the peaks pattern of MCM-41 prepared with  $K_2SO_4$  ( $2\theta = 2.2429, 3.8621$  and  $4.4808$ ) shift to the lower angle compared to MCM-41 prepared without  $K_2SO_4$  ( $2\theta = 2.2488, 3.9519$ , and  $4.5600$ ), indicated that addition of  $K_2SO_4$  in the synthesis of MCM-41 increased the pore size of product. This phenomenon can be explained by using the effects of anion on the solubility of surfactant. The effects of anion on the solubility of surfactant are separated into two categories known as the Hofmeister effect. The anions can be divided into two categories according to their effects on the solubility of both proteins and surfactants

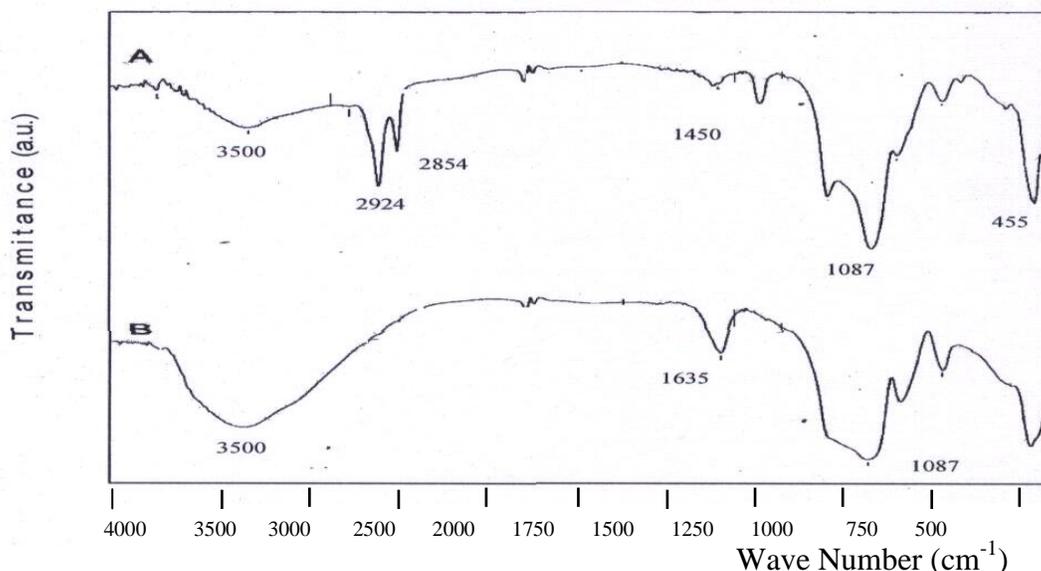


Fig. 2 FTIR spectra of MCM-41 prepared without  $K_2SO_4$  :as-synthesized (A) and calcined (B)

(Hofmeister, 1888). Anions such as  $SO_4^{2-}$  and  $HPO_4^{2-}$  that decrease the solubility of the surfactants are known as “salting-out” and the others anions such as  $I^-$  and  $ClO_4^-$  that increase the solubility of the surfactants are known as “salting-in”. The salting out effect of the anions decreases as the following (Hofmeister, 1888) :  $SO_4^{2-} > HPO_4^{2-} > CrO_4^{2-} > CO_3^{2-} > Cl^- > Br^- > NO_3^- > I^- > ClO_4^- > SCN^-$ . The salting-out anions generally have high charge and low polarizability. In the solution, they bound their hydration water strongly and they do not interact with other ions directly but via the coordinated water molecules. The decrease of surfactant solubility in water caused the thinner wallpore and larger pore. In this case the salting-out anions may have alike function with organic molecules such as mesitylene (1,2,3 trimethyl benzene) that can be used to enlarge the pore size of mesoporous silicates MCM-41.

### FTIR Spectra

Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 shows the FTIR spectra of MCM-41 prepared without and with  $K_2SO_4$  respectively before and after calcination in the wavenumber region of 400-4000  $cm^{-1}$ . No significant difference was observed in the structure of MCM-41 prepared without and with addition of  $K_2SO_4$ .

The as-synthesized MCM-41 sample on both figures shows well defined bands at about 2924 and 2854  $cm^{-1}$  corresponding to *n*-C-H and *d*-C-H stretching vibration of

surfactant molecules (Flanigen *et al.*, 1971). The broad bands around 3500  $cm^{-1}$  attributed to the silanols at the surface and adsorbed water molecules, while deformational vibrations of adsorbed molecules cause the absorption bands at around 1635  $cm^{-1}$ . Based on the spectrum of calcined samples, there is an intense band at 1087  $cm^{-1}$  which is assigned to the asymmetric Si-O-Si stretching vibration. The band at around 964  $cm^{-1}$  is associated with symmetric Si-O-H stretching vibration and the band at around 455  $cm^{-1}$  is assigned to a  $SiO_4$  bending mode. For as-synthesized MCM-41 sample, a similar vibration band with low intensities are observed. The band at 717  $cm^{-1}$  is associated with vibrations by the organic template (Flanigen *et al.*, 1971). Those bands indicated that the Si-MCM-41 was successfully synthesized.

### Nitrogen fisorption.

Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms of MCM-41 prepared without and with  $K_2SO_4$  are presented in Fig. 4. According to IUPAC classification, the MCM-41 isotherms are classified as type IV, typically observed in mesoporous materials (Kresge *et al.*, 1992). Both isotherms exhibit three stages; the first stage was a linear part going through the origin, which was caused by monolayer adsorption of  $N_2$  on the walls of the mesopores ( $P/P_0 < 0.25$ ). The second stage was at higher pressures, which the adsorption in mesopores leads to multilayer

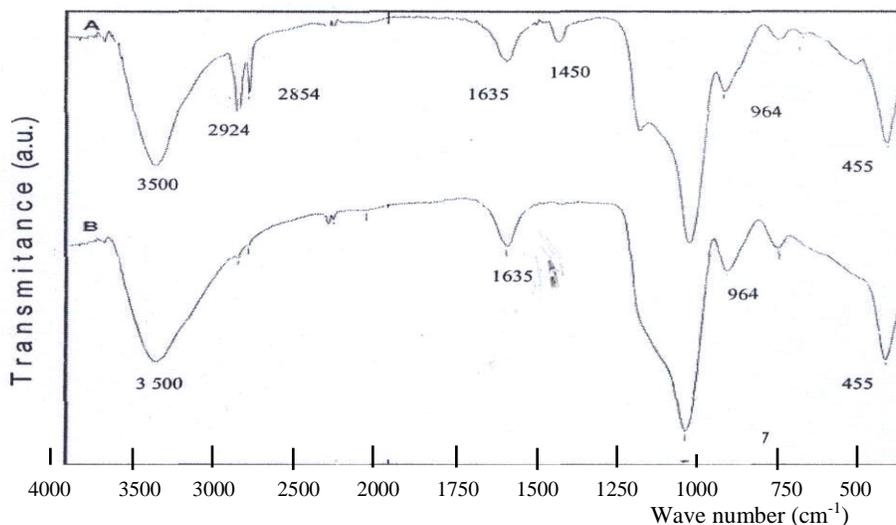


Fig. 3 FTIR spectra of MCM-41 prepared with  $K_2SO_4$  addition (A) as-synthesized and (B) calcined

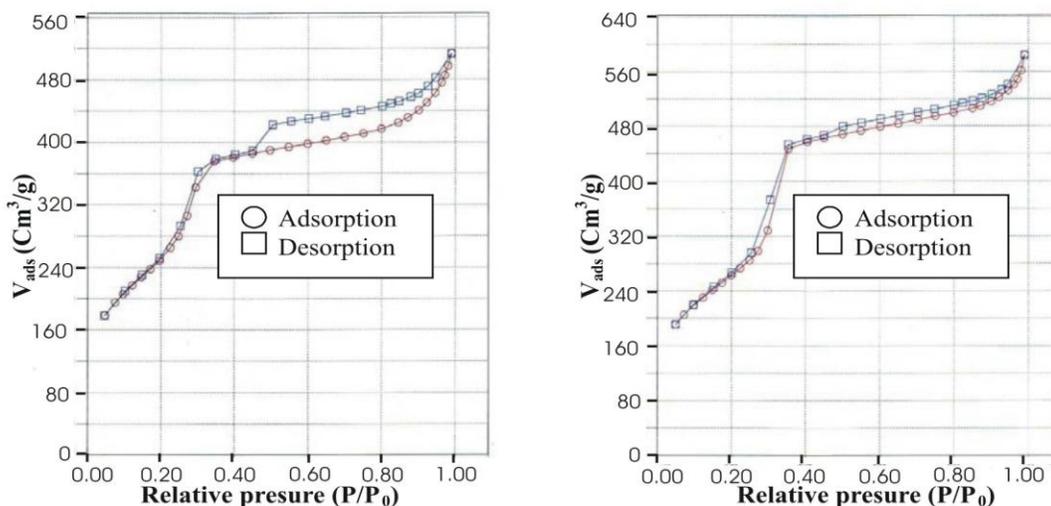
formation until condensation takes place, giving a sharp increase in adsorption volume. According to Zhao *et al.* (1996) and Selvam *et al.* (2001), the  $P/P_0$  value at which the inflection starts (at ca.  $P/P_0 = 0.25$ ) is attributed to the commencement of pore filling from which the pore diameter can be roughly estimated. The sharpness in this step indicates the uniformity of the pore size distribution. As the mesopores are filled, the adsorption continues on the external surface. The third stage in the adsorption isotherm was an almost horizontal part after the relative pressure  $P/P_0$  of  $\pm 0.38$ , due to multi layer adsorption on the outer surface of the particles (Zhao *et al.*, 1996 ; Selvam *et al.*, 2001). The total mesopore volume was calculated from the amount of vapour adsorbed at  $P/P_0 = 0.38$ ; assuming that MCM-41 were then filled with condensed liquid nitrogen in the normal liquid state.

In the case of MCM-41 synthesized without  $K_2SO_4$ , the hysteresis loop is observed at relative pressure  $P/P_0$  of  $> 0.42$ . It is consistent with type H3 hysteresis and is characteristic of capillary condensation between lamellar particles or in solids containing slit-shaped mesopores. According to Gusev *et al.*(1996) there are two possible explanations: condensation of the

nitrogen (a) in interparticle spaces and/or (b) in residual lamellar mesostructures which occur during the templating mechanism which forms the hexagonal structure. The absence of hysteresis loops in the capillary condensation range is an indication that the material possesses pores in a lower mesopore range (Mohammed, 2005).

According to Gregg and Sing (1984), nitrogen desorption on most adsorbents does not show capillary hysteresis at relative pressures below 0.41, which is believed to be determined by nitrogen's properties. In the case of MCM-41 synthesized with  $K_2SO_4$ , however, hysteresis in the region of 0.2-0.3  $P/P_0$  is detected. Gusev *et al.*(1996) stated that hysteresis in the region of 0.2-0.3  $P/P_0$  may be indicative of some change in size and/or shape of the pore structure. The hysteresis loop at lower pressure can be accounted for by a phase transformation within these pores. At pressures above 0.42 there is a second hysteresis loop for MCM-41 synthesized with  $K_2SO_4$ . A bidisperse adsorbent structure can be inferred from such an adsorption isotherm.

The pore properties of the sample prepared without and with the addition of  $K_2SO_4$  were presented in Table 1.

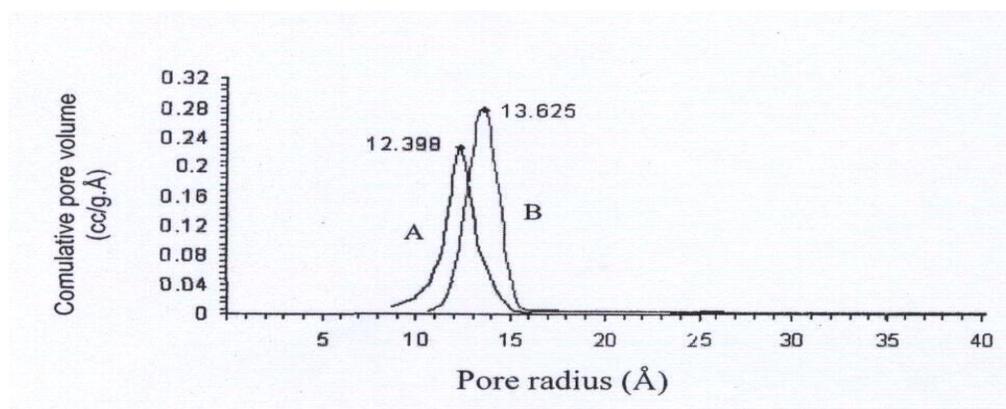


**Fig. 4** Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms of MCM-41: (A) prepared without  $K_2SO$  and (B) prepared with  $K_2SO_4$

**Table 1** The pore properties of the sample

Sample	Specific surface area, $S_{BET}$ , ( $m^2/g$ )	Mean pore diameter, $d_{mp}$ (nm)	Latice parameter, $a_o$ (nm)	Pore walls thickness, $W_t$ (nm)
MCM-41 prepared without $K_2SO_4$	946.607	3.357	4.533	1.176
MCM-41 prepared with $K_2SO_4$	972.812	3.714	4.544	0.830

model caused by the existence of large pore in the small quantity. This contributes to the increasing of average pore radius

**Fig. 5** Pore size distribution of MCM-41 prepared without  $K_2SO_4$  (A) and with  $K_2SO_4$  (B)

The specific surface area ( $S_{BET}$ ) was determined from the linear section of the BET plot. The mean pore diameter ( $d_{mp}$ ) was calculated from the  $N_2$  adsorption data, using the BJH (Barrett-Joyner-Halenda) method. The lattice parameters ( $a_0$ ) was calculated by formula :  $a_0 = 2d_{100}/\sqrt{3}$ , here  $d_{100}$  is the interplanar spacing corresponding to the (100) Bragg reflection. The wall thickness ( $W_t$ ) is calculated by subtracting the pore diameter from the lattice parameter ( $a_0$ ). According to Table 1, the addition of  $K_2SO_4$  in the synthesis of MCM-41 increased the specific surface area, mean pore diameter, and lattice parameter ; but decreased the wall thickness.

The pore homogeneity was investigated by calculation of pore distribution using BJH (Barrett-Joyner-Halenda) method, presented in the Fig. 5. It can be seen that both curves have a sharp peak. This indicated that both samples has a good homogeneity in pore size. The sample prepared without  $K_2SO_4$  has a maximum pore size about 1.2398 nm, while that of with  $K_2SO_4$  about 1.3625 nm. The difference between average pore radius and maximum of pore size by the BJH

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

Mesoporous silicate MCM-41 samples with ordered hexagonal structure have been prepared hydrothermally using CTMAB surfactant as the template with and without the addition of  $K_2SO_4$ . The addition of  $K_2SO_4$  increased the crystallinity. The MCM-41 prepared with  $K_2SO_4$  has a higher specific BET surface area of  $972.812 m^2 g^{-1}$  compared to the MCM-41 prepared without  $K_2SO_4$  (i.e.,  $946.607 m^2 g^{-1}$ ), higher mean pore diameter of 3.714 nm compared to the MCM-41 prepared without  $K_2SO_4$  (i.e., 3.357 nm), and thinner pore walls of 0.830 nm compared to the MCM-41 prepared without  $K_2SO_4$  (i.e. 1.176 nm).

**Acknowledgment.** Thank to Mr. Indra Affandi Hasibuan, an undergraduate student of the Chemistry Department, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences Gadjah Mada University Yogyakarta, for his valuable help in the experimental work.

## REFERENCES

- Beck, J.S., Vartuli, J.C., 1996, Recent advances in the synthesis, characterization and applications of mesoporous molecular sieves, *Curr. Opin. Solid State Mater. Sci.* 1, 76–87.
- Biz, S., Occelli, M.L., 1998, Synthesis and characterization of mesostructured materials, *Catal. Rev. Sci. Eng.* 40, 329–407.
- Diaz, J.F., Balkus, K.J., 1996, Enzyme immobilization in MCM-41 molecular sieve, *J. Mol. Catal. B Enz.* 2, 115–126.
- Flanigen, E.M., Khatami, H. and Szymanski, H.A., 1971, Infrared Structural Studies of Zeolite Frameworks. In Flanigen, E.M., and Sand, L.B., eds., *Molecular Sieve Zeolites.*, ACS Adv. Chem. Ser., 101, 290–227.
- Grun, M., Kurganov, A.A., Schacht, S., Schuth, F., Unger, K.K., 1996, Comparison of an ordered mesoporous aluminosilicate, silica, alumina, titania and zirconia in normal-phase high-performance liquid chromatography, *J. Chromatogr. A* 740, 1–9.
- Gusev, V. Y.; Feng, X.; Bu, Z.; Haller, G. L.; O'Brien, J.A., 1996, Mechanical Stability of Pure Silica Mesoporous MCM-41 by Nitrogen Adsorption and Small-Angle X-ray Diffraction Measurements. *J. Phys. Chem.*, 100, 1985.
- Ho, K.Y., McKay, G., Yeung, K.L., 2003, Selective adsorbents from ordered mesoporous silica, *Langmuir* 19, 3019–3024.
- Hofmeister, F., 1888, *Arch. Exp. Pathol. Pharmacol.*, 24, 247.
- Kimura, T., 2005, Surfactant-templated mesoporous aluminophosphate-based materials and the recent progress, *Micropor. Mesopor. Mater.* 77, 97–107.
- Kresge, C.T., Leonowicz, M.E., Roth, W.J., Vartuli, J.C., Beck, J.S., 1992, Ordered mesoporous molecular-sieves synthesized by a liquid-crystal template mechanism, *Nature* 359, 710–712.
- Leontidis, E., 2002, Hofmeister anion effects on surfactant self-assembly and the formation of mesoporous solids, *Curr. Opin. Solid State Mater. Sci.* 7, 81–91.
- Mohammed, A.B., 2005, *Synthesis, Characterization And Activity of Al-MCM-41 Catalyst for Hydroxyalkylation of Epoxides*, Thesis, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 52–53.
- Schüth, F., 2001, “Ordered Mesoporous Materials – State of the Art and Prospects.” 13th International Zeolite Conference. July 8–13, Montpellier, France: PL1
- Selvam, P., Bhatia, S.K., Sonwane, C.G., 2001, Recent advances in processing and characterization of periodic mesoporous MCM-41 silicate molecular sieves, *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* 40, 3237–3261.
- Stucky, G.D., Dougall, J.E.M., 1990, Quantum Confinement and Host-Guest Chemistry: Probing a New Dimension, *Science* 247, 669–680.
- Yao, N., Xiong, G.X., K. Yeung, L., Sheng, S.S., He, M.Y., Yang, W.S., Liu, X.M., Bao, X.H., 2002, Ultrasonic synthesis of silica-alumina nanomaterials with controlled mesopore distribution without using surfactants, *Langmuir* 18, 4111–4117.
- Zhao, X.S., Lu, G.Q.M., Millar, G.J., 1996, Advances in mesoporous molecular sieve MCM 41, *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* 35, 2075–2090.

