

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2007 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

S1620

Project Title

The Effect of Combining Organic Compounds with Differing Numbers of Hydroxyl Groups on Each Mixture's Viscosity

viantivas/Capla

Objectives/Goals

The purpose of the experiment was to discover the relationship between the viscosity of a pure substance and the viscosity of a mixture containing that substance.

Abstract

Methods/Materials

- 1)Ball-drop apparatus constructed
- 2)Sphere massed
- 3)Radius of sphere measured
- 4)Apparatus tube filled with 250 mL glycerin
- 5)Sphere was dropped to fall through glycerin, a distance of 50 cm
- 6)Time taken for ball to drop recorded
- 7)Liquid emptied from tube into bowl
- 8)Tube refilled and process repeated until 10 values were recorded
- 9)Instruments cleaned thoroughly
- 10)Process repeated for ethylene glycol and propanol
- 11)125 mL Glycerin was mixed with 125 mL ethylene glycol
- 12) Mixture was poured into the apparatus
- 13)Same test conducted to obtain 10 values for mixture viscosity
- 14)Process repeated for ethylene glycol/propanol mixture and propanol/glycerin mixture (all mixtures were 125 mL: 125 mL)
- 15)All instruments cleaned and dried
- 16)Calculations conducted to determine viscosity values

Results

It was determined that the mean value for viscosity of propanol was 4.51 P. The calculations for ethylene glycol showed a mean of 8.065 P. For glycerin, the calculated viscosity had a mean of 253.7 P. The ethylene glycol-glycerin mixture had viscosity of 21.67 P, while glycerin-propanol mixture#s viscosity values was calculated to be 15.31 P. Finally, the mean viscosity of the propanol-ethylene glycol mixture was 6.111 P, ranging from 5.530 P to 6.530 P.

Conclusions/Discussion

It was found that the propanol was the least viscous liquid followed fairly closely by ethylene glycol and with glycerin being the most viscous by far. Viscosities of the mixtures of the liquids, contrary to the hypothesis, were found not to be equal to the weighted average of the viscosities of the two liquids

Summary Statement

This project investigated the relationship between the viscosity of a pure substance and the viscosity of a mixture of multiple similar substances containing the original substance.

Help Received

Mentored by science teacher