Hydrotalcite-like materials containing manganese - a short review

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Abstract

Numerous hydrotalcite-like or their derivatives have been reported as catalysts for a wide variety of chemical processes including selective reduction of nitrogen oxides with ammonia (SCR, DeNOx) or NOx storage/reduction process, selective ammonia oxidation to nitrogen and water vapour (SCO), N_2O decomposition (De N_2O) and total oxidation for volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Among them manganese-containing hydrotalcite-like materials and their derivatives seems to possess high activity. This paper gives an overview of Mn-containing catalysts, including the catalyst development and their possible applications. The use of mixed metal oxides obtained from synthetic hydrotalcite-like materials mainly in the role of catalysts for the total VOCs decomposition has been reviewed. Achieved results clearly show that tested materials are candidates for potential application in real catalytic processes.

1. Hydrotalcite-like materials

Layered double hydroxides called also hydrotalcite-like compounds (HTs), are a group of naturally occurring anionic clays [1, 2]. The structure of these materials can be visualized by starting from a brucite network, (Mg(OH)₂) [3]. In particular, the structure of HTs is created by replacing a fraction of M2+ in the brucite lattice by M3+, conferring a positive layer charge. This charge is electrically balanced by the incorporation of anions and water molecules into the interlayer region. Naturally occurring hydrotalcite, Mg₆Al₂(OH)₁₆CO₃·4H₂O, has been taken as a reference name for many other isomorphous materials such as pyroaurite Mg₆Fe₂(OH)₁₆CO₃·4,5H₂O, stichtite Mg₆Cr₂(OH)₁₆CO₃·4H₂O). Synthetic hydrotalcite-like materials, presented in Fig. 1., are described with the universal formula: $[M^{II}_{-x}M^{III}_{x}(OH)_{2}]A^{n-}_{x/n} \cdot zH_{2}O$, where M^{II} is a divalent cation (e.g. Mg²⁺, Ni²⁺, Zn²⁺ etc.), M^{III} is a trivalent cation (e.g. Al³⁺, Fe³⁺, Cr³⁺ etc.), An- can be organic or inorganic anion (e.g. CO_3^{2-} , $Cr_2O_7^{2-}$, $Mo_7O_{24}^{6-}$ etc.) [4, 5], x can generally have values between 0.2 < x < 0.4 and z is normally 4-5. The stabilization of a broad spectrum of MII and MIII cations in different atomic compositions with varying interlayer anions in the hydrotalcite-like network allows the tailoring of desired properties in these materials [3]. A great number of hydrotalcitelike compounds with wide range of M^{II}-M^{III} or M^I-M^{III} cation pairs and different anions in the interlayer space and their physicochemical properties has been reported [1]. Direct synthesis of hydrotalcite-like materials can be conducted by various methods including coprecipitation, urea hydrolysis method, ion exchange hydrothermal method as well as less popular methods [1, 6].

Thermal decomposition of hydrotalcite-like materials at adequate temperatures, results in homogenously dispersed mixed oxides of metals, exhibiting high surface area ($>200 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$) and good thermal stability that is usually required for heterogeneous catalysts [7, 8].

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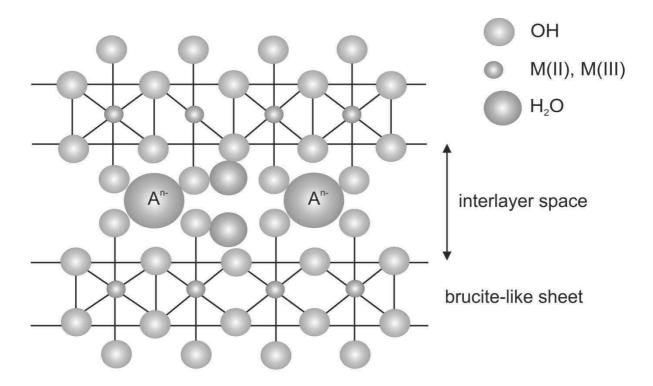


Fig. 1. Schematic representation of hydrotalcite-like materials [3].

2. Manganese-based hydrotalcite-like materials and their derivatives

Manganese is an interesting component of mixed oxide based catalysts for oxidation (e.g. oxidation of CO, methanol, ethylene, ammonia) and combustion reactions due to its ability to attain variable oxidation states (+2, +3, +4, and +7) [9]. Among them especial interesting properties of Mn²⁺, such as its d⁵ paramagnetic structure, and its potential use in oxidation catalysts [10], natural minerals or synthetic hydrotalcite-like materials and their derivatives containing Mn²⁺ cations considered in recent years more attention.

Charmarite, $Mn_4^{2+}Al_2$ (OH)₁₂(CO₃) · $3H_2O$, described by Chao and Gault [11], is Mn_2^{2+} containing layered double hydroxide occurring in nature. The first positive synthesis of a $Mn_2^{2+}-Al_3^{3+}$ hydrotalcite-like materials, obtained by coprecipitation at constant pH, was reported by Malherbe et al. [10]. Mn_1 (Mn_1 = 2.0:1.0) hydrotalcite-like compounds was prepared by coprecipitation method at constant pH=7.0 using $MgCl_2$ and $AlCl_3$ solutions. The synthesis was performed in inert gas atmosphere and the precipitate was further washed with deoxygenated water. The manganese oxidation state in the material was +2.0 as it was proven by the results of comparative X-ray absorption near edge structure (XANES).

Hydrotalcite Mn-Al (Mn/Al = 2.0:1.0) materials containing various interlayer anions, such as Cl⁻, CO₃²⁻, NO₃⁻, SO₄²⁻ or dicarboxylic acids (DCA), were prepared the coprecipitation method by Aisawa et al. [12] to study their thermal decomposition. The synthesis was maintained under nitrogen. In the case of using CO_3^{2-} or SO_4^{2-} , the solid products besides hydrotalcite-like structure included rhodochrosite (MnCO₃) or shigaite (Al₄Mn₇(SO₄)₂(OH)₂₂·8H₂O) as by-products. Only materials containing Cl⁻ or

 NO_3 , as interlayer anions, allowed the formation of structure of pure hydrotalcite-like materials. The rise of oxidation state of Mn ion (max. +2.2), determined by a redox titration with oxalic acid and KMnO₄, was observed at room temperature and it was suggested that a part of Mn²⁺ ions in the basal layer was oxidized by air during drying of the sample. Partial oxidation of Mn²⁺ to Mn³⁺, evidenced by UV-vis-DRS, was also noted during the precipitation at constant pH of Mg-Mn-Al layered double hydroxides (Mg/Mn/Al = 3.0:0.0:1.0 - 0.0:3.0:1.0) [9].

Mainly the presence of Mn^{3+} was reported in the structure of hydrotalcite-like compounds [13-15]. Dunn et al. [13] described naturally occurring Mg-Mn layered double hydroxide - desautelsite, $Mg_6Mn_2^{3+}(CO_3)(OH)_{16} \cdot 4H_2O$, which is a trivalent manganese analog of pyroaurite. The first attempt towards the synthesis of Mg-Mn hydrotalcite-like materials was carried out by Hansen and Taylor [14]. Mg-Mn (Mg/Mn = 1.0:1.0-1.0:8.0) layered double hydroxides were prepared by air oxidation of MnCO₃ suspensed in $Mg(NO_3)_2$ solution at constant pH=9.0 and also by coprecipitation method using $Mg(NO_3)_2$ or $MgCl_2$ solution under strongly alkaline conditions. The average oxidation state of Mn (+3.0) in the synthetic desautelsite was determined by iodometry using the method proposed by Murray et al. [16]. The presence of the equal amounts of Mn^{2+} and Mn^{4+} in the material was not dismissed.

Fernandez et al. [17] studied thermal stability of Mg-Mn (Mg/Mn = 3.0:1.0) hydrotalcite-like materials prepared by the coprecipitation method using a mixture of Mg(NO₃)₂ and MnCl₂. According to the temperature programmed reduction analysis (H₂-TPR), the main part (84%) of Mn²⁺ was oxidized to Mn³⁺ during the synthesis.

Further studies were focused mainly on the investigation of the effect of transition metal (e.g. Cu, Co) introduction to the Mn-Al hydrotalcite-like structure. For example, Velu et al. [18] studied the physicochemical properties of Cu-Mn-Al (Cu/Mn/Al = 0.9:2.1:1.1, 1.6:1.5:1.0, 1.9:1.2:1.0) hydrotalcite-like samples. The obtained results revealed the formation of the crystalline and pure hydrotalcite phase. A systematic loss in crystallinity upon an increase in Cu content and the appearance of the other phases, such as malachite (Cu(OH)₂CuCO₃), manganite (Mn(OH)₄/MnO(OH)₂) and rhodochrosite (MnCO₃) were reported. On the contrary, Kovanda et al. [7] found that synthesis of Co-Mn-Al (Co/Mn/Al = 4.0:2.0:0.0 - 4.0:0.0:2.0) hydrotalcite-like compounds without the formation of MnCO₃ phase was possible by using different M²⁺(Co²⁺ and/or Mn²⁺)/Al³⁺ ratios, e.g. the ratio of 2 instead of 3. These findings were confirmed by Lamonier et al. [19], who reported that instead of Mn-Al hydrotalcite-type solid (Mn/Al = 6.0:2.0) the formation of charmarite-2H (Mg₄Al₂(OH)₁₂·3H₂O) phase was also observed. Subsequently, Mn²⁺ species were available for the reaction with carbonates to produce MnCO₃.

Replacement of Al by Ni cations in the Mn-Al hydrotalcite-like structure has been studied widely. Barriga et al. [15] and Kovanda et al. [20] described the preparation of Ni-Mn hydrotalcite-like materials with the Ni/Mn ratios close to 2.0:1.0 and 3.0:1.0. Thermal behavior of Ni-Mg-Mn layered double hydroxides with the molar ratio of 1.0:1.0:1.0 was studied by Kovanda et al. [21]. It was reported that Mn²⁺ was oxidized to Mn³⁺ under alkaline conditions during the synthesis of hydrotalcite-like materials, what was confirmed by carbon analysis or temperature programmed reduction [15].

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Further modification of the Ni-Mn catalytic system was based on the introduction of Co cations into the hydrotalcite-like structure [22-24]. Kosova et al. [24] studied the mixed Ni-Mn-Co hydroxide-like compounds synthesized by co-precipitation method under different conditions and with a variable Ni-Mn-Co ratio (Ni/Mn/Co = 0.8/0.1/0.1, 0.6/0.2/0.2, 0.33/0.33/0.33). It was shown by XPS that Mn cations were present in +3.0/+4.0 state.

Apart from the M^{2+}/M^{3+} molar ratio, the other key factors of the preparation procedure of Mn-containing hydrotalcite-like materials, including precipitate ageing time, pH and temperature of precipitation were rarely discussed. Some attempts were made by Zimowska et al. [25], who studied the effect of pH 6.0-9.0 on the synthesis of Cu-Mn precursor (Cu/Mn = 2.0:1.0). The impact of Zn and/or Al additives into the Cu-Mn structure on its catalytic activity in the process of toluene combustion was also investigated. The obtained results revealed that the addition of Al into the structure (Cu/Mn/Al = 6.0:2.0:1.0) was beneficial for its catalytic performance. The optimum pH was established to be 7.0.

3. Catalytic application of manganese-based hydrotalcite-like materials and their derivatives

Manganese-containing oxides derived from hydrotalcite-like compounds, among other, were tested as catalysts for total VOCs oxidation [26]. The successful use of Mg-Mn-(Al) mixed metal oxides obtained from hydrotalcite-like materials in catalytic methane or toluene combustion was reported by Jirátová et al. [27] and Velu et al. [9]. Otherwise, the Co-Mn-Al hydrotalcite derived catalysts were reported to be active in oxidation of toluene [19] and ethanol [7]. Lamonier et al. [19] found that the Mn-rich samples, especially Co-Mn-Al oxide systems (Co/Mn/Al = 2.0:4.0:2.0), exhibited higher activity in the oxidation of toluene. Moreover, various promoters, such as Pd, Pt, Ce, La, K or Li, deposited on the Co-Mn-Al mixed oxide catalysts, were found to considerably improve the properties of this catalysts [28]. Other modifications of the Co-based catalysts were connected with the introduction of different metals (e.g. Cu, Mg) to Mn-Al oxide system [26, 29]. The Cu-Co-Mn-Al oxide catalysts (Cu/Co/Mn/Al = 1.0:2.0:0.2:0.8) presented better activity than the Cu-Co/X-Al (X = Fe, La, Ce) catalysts in the process of methane oxidation [29]. In a series of the Mg-containing catalysts, the optimum catalytic performance in the process of the total VOCs oxidation was found for Co-Mn-Mg-Al mixed oxide (Co/Mn/Mg/Al = 1.0:2.0:8.33:3.77). The presence of the mixed phases containing both Mn and Co was suggested to be responsible for the formation of the structural defects, thus leading to the improvement of the oxygen mobility.

Other Co-containing mixed oxides obtained from the hydrotalcite-like samples (Co-Mn, Ni-Mn, Ni-Co-Mn, Ni-Cu-Mn, Co-Cu-Mn, Ni-Cu-Al, Co-Cu-Al, Co-Ni-Al), deposited on Al₂O₃/Al support (anodized aluminum foil) or grained alumina, were studied in total oxidation of ethanol by Kovanda and Jirátová [30-32].

Apart from the VOCs decomposition, Co-Mn, Co-Mn-Al or Co-Mg-Mn-Al hydrotalcite-derived mixed oxides were also found to be promising catalysts for N₂O decomposition [7, 33, 34]. The catalytic decomposition of N₂O over calcined Co-Mg-

Mn-Al hydrotalcite compounds was reported to increase after the incorporation of Al^{3+} cations into the Co-Mn oxide catalyst. The most active Co-Mn-Al (Co/Mn/Al = 4.0:1.0:1.0) catalyst exhibited both the optimum Mn/Al molar ratio and the optimum amount of components reducible in the temperature region of the catalytic process ($350-450^{\circ}$ C). It was suggested that the most active state of manganese was +3.0.

Only few reports were related to the applications of copper-based hydrotalcite-like derivatives. The catalytic behavior of the Cu-Mn-Al (Cu/Mn/Al = 3.0:3.0:1.0) mixed metal oxides for total oxidation of toluene was evaluated by Palacio et al. [35]. The comparison of the total oxidation of toluene reaction performed over calcined Cu-Mn-Al oxide system [25, 35], showed that the catalysts with the lower molar ratio of metals was much more active than the other ones [35]. The temperature needed for 50% conversion of toluene to CO_2 was among the lowest reported in literature describing the application of hydrotalcite derivatives for the catalytic toluene combustion [19, 25, 36, 37].

Only few papers reported other applications of Mn-containing hydrotalcites and their derivatives. For example, Mn-Al, Mn-Fe, Mn-Cr layered double hydroxides were applied as catalysts for solvent-free oxidation of benzyl alcohol to benzaldehyde [38]. Activity studies were also carried out for Mn-Mg-Al hydrotalcite-like materials in the catalytic isomerization of estragole to anethole [39]. On the other hand, layered double hydroxides containing Ni and Mn were widely studied as cathode materials [40-42]. Additionally, electrochemical behavior of Mn-Al and Zn-Mn-Al hydrotalcite-like materials was studied by Sampieri et al. [43].

4. Conclusion and outlook

In this short report, an overview on the Mn-based hydrotalcite-like materials and their derivatives were addressed, mainly concerning the improvements toward catalysts composition and their activation in catalytic processes . It was shown that Mn-containing hydrotalcite-like materials, are considered as one of the most promising catalysts for total oxidation of VOC.

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