

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to special acknowledge to my thesis advisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Paisan Kongkachuichay for his advice, knowledge and encouragement. I am grateful to my committees, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thumrongrut Mungcharoen and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Metta Chareonpanich for their suggestions and valuable time to fulfill my research.

I am greatly indebted to Prof. Dr. Pratim Biswas who is my thesis co-advisor and give me a warm welcome at Department Energy, Environmental and Chemical Engineering, Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL), USA. His suggestions, valuable knowledge and use of AAQRL facilities are sincerely acknowledged.

I gratefully acknowledge the financial support from the Thailand Research Fund (TRF) under the Royal Golden Jubilee Ph.D. Program (Grant No.PHD/0073/2004) accompanied with the Project of Doctoral Cooperation from Commission on Higher Education. Partial supports from the National Center of Excellence for Petroleum, Petrochemicals, and Advanced Materials, Kasetsart University (KU), Rockwood Pigments, the MO DNR through grant W-0001-06 and DOD MURI project at WUSTL are gratefully acknowledged. I would like to thank Dr. Daniel E. Giammar and James D. Noel from ACL, WUSTL, for sequential extraction part. I also thank staffs at Department of Chemical Engineering at KU, Department of Material Engineering at KU, Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research, Saint Louis University, Center of Materials Innovation at WUSTL, University of Missouri in St. Louis for their facilities. I also thank to members of AAQRL, Dr. Paisan's research group for their discussions and Mr. Sira Charernsom for designed autoclave reactor drawing and his encouragement.

Finally, my appreciation devotes to my parents who always give me heartfelt supports.

Patcharin Worathanakul

December 2007