

and Lyke⁵ of 0.68×10^{-9} s), together with the predicted D , gives a $D\tau_0 = 2.3 \times 10^{-14}$ cm², which also is compatible with our value of $(D\tau_0)_{av} = 2.0 \times 10^{-14}$ cm².

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Reaction between NO_x and NH₃ on Iron Oxide-Titanium Oxide Catalyst

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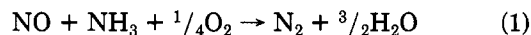
Hitachi Research Laboratory, Hitachi Ltd., Kuji-cho, Hitachi-shi, Ibaraki-ken, 319-12 Japan, and Kure Works, Babcock-Hitachi K.K., Takara-machi, Kure-shi, Hiroshima-ken, 737 Japan (Received: October 14, 1980; In Final Form: August 24, 1981)

The reduction of NO_x (NO₂ alone or mixture of NO and NO₂) with NH₃ on iron oxide-titanium oxide catalyst was studied using a flow reactor. The reaction between NO₂ and NH₃ proceeds at 3:4 mole ratio in the presence or absence of oxygen. When the reaction gas mixtures contain equal amounts of NO and NO₂, the reaction consuming equimolar NO and NO₂ proceeds preferentially at a NH₃/NO_x ratio of unity. The rate of the reaction is faster than either the NO-NH₃ or NO₂-NH₃ reaction. The overall reactions between NO_x (NO₂, NO + NO₂) and NH₃ are given as $6\text{NO}_2 + 8\text{NH}_3 \rightarrow 7\text{N}_2 + 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{NO} + \text{NO}_2 + 2\text{NH}_3 \rightarrow 2\text{N}_2 + 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Reaction mechanisms are proposed to explain the experimental results.

Introduction

It is of practical importance to remove nitrogen oxides (NO_x = NO + NO₂) in a flue gas from the view point of air pollution control. It has been known that NO_x are selectively reduced by ammonia in the presence of large excess of oxygen.¹ The selective catalytic reduction of NO_x by NH₃ has been commercially used in recent years. A catalyst used in a commercial plant must possess high activity and selectivity, since the volume of flue gas to be treated is extraordinarily large. In addition, the catalyst must be resistant to the SO_x poisoning, since sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and sulfur trioxide (SO₃) are usually contained in a fossil fuel fired combustion flue gas. A series of catalysts consisting mainly of titania have been developed as commercial catalysts because they show a high activity, selectivity, and resistance to the SO_x poisoning over a wide range of temperatures, 200–450 °C.^{2,3} Mechanisms of the NO-NH₃ reaction have been proposed for various catalysts, such as precious metals,^{4,5} metal oxides,^{6–10} and zeolites.^{11–14}

In a previous paper¹⁵ we have shown that the reaction ratio of NO with NH₃ is unity on iron oxide-titanium oxide catalyst and the reaction is completely inhibited by the absence of oxygen. Based on the experimental results, a reaction mechanism is proposed, the overall reaction given by eq 1.



Previous investigations of the NO_x-NH₃ reaction have dealt almost exclusively with the NO-NH₃ system. Little attention has been paid to the NO₂-NH₃ reaction and the NO-NO₂-NH₃ reaction. However, the reactions can be applied to the treatment of a flue gas from a nitric acid plant and pickling process. The reactions are of considerable interest and importance for a collective understanding of the reaction between NO_x and NH₃.

The purpose of the present investigation is to clarify the reaction between NO_x (NO + NO₂) and NH₃ on iron oxide-titanium oxide catalyst.

Experimental Section

Catalyst. The iron oxide-titanium oxide catalyst which consisted of Fe and Ti at a 1:9 atomic ratio was prepared from iron(II) sulfate and metatitanic acid as described in the previous paper.¹⁵

Reaction. The reaction of NO_x with NH₃ was carried out in a conventional flow type apparatus. The apparatus and procedure were essentially the same as described earlier, special care being taken for a gas mixture containing NO₂.

When a test gas contained NO₂, both an inlet tubing (after mixing with NH₃) and an outlet tubing (before removing NH₃) were kept above 200 °C to minimize the N₂

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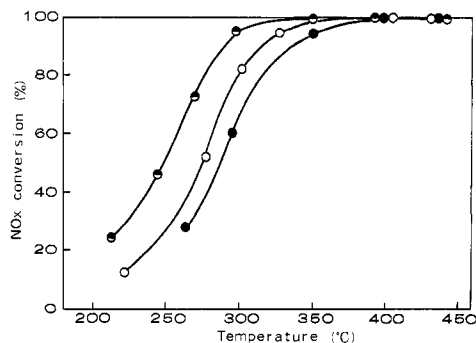


Figure 1. Catalytic activity of iron oxide-titanium oxide catalyst on NO_x - NH_3 reaction. Gas composition: (O) 200 ppm NO, 240 ppm NH_3 ; (●) 200 ppm NO_2 , 320 ppm NH_3 ; (⊙) 100 ppm NO, 100 ppm NO_2 , 240 ppm NH_3 , and 3% O_2 , 10% H_2O , the remainder N_2 . Space velocity: $60\,000\text{ h}^{-1}$.

formation by homogeneous reaction. It is known¹⁶ that NO_2 reacts homogeneously with NH_3 forming N_2 and NH_4NO_3 in the range of 150 to 200 °C. The test gas was passed through concentrated H_3PO_4 solution to remove NH_3 and H_2O prior to the NO_x analysis. Then the gas was led to a chemiluminescence analyzer to measure the concentration of NO and NO_2 . The analyzer (Horiba Ltd., Model MEXA-C1) works on the basis of the chemiluminescence between NO and O_3 . When a test gas contained NO_2 , it was passed through the NO_2 converter, which was attached to the analyzer, where NO_2 was decomposed to NO. The formation of N_2O was measured by gas chromatography using Porapak Q as a column packing after condensation of N_2O in a liquid N_2 trap at -195 °C. For the measurement of the concentration of NH_3 , the gas mixture was passed through 0.5 wt % boric acid solution. The concentration of NH_3 in the solution was determined by the Nessler method.

The NO_x conversion is calculated on the basis of the concentration of NO_x ($\text{NO} + \text{NO}_2$) and defined as follows.

$$\text{NO}_x \text{ conversion} = \left(1 - \frac{\text{outlet (NO} + \text{NO}_2\text{)}}{\text{inlet (NO} + \text{NO}_2\text{)}} \right) \times 100 (\%)$$

N_2O was not counted in the calculation of NO_x conversion, since the formation of N_2O was very small in all experiments.

Results and Discussion

Catalytic Activity on NO_x - NH_3 Reaction. Catalytic activity of the iron oxide-titanium oxide catalyst on the NO_x - NH_3 reaction was first examined. In Figure 1 the NO_x conversion vs. temperature for gas mixtures containing various NO_x compositions, i.e., NO alone, equimolar mixture of NO and NO_2 , and NO_2 alone. It is seen that the catalyst possesses high activity and selectivity over a temperature range of 300–440 °C, considering a high space velocity ($60\,000\text{ h}^{-1}$) and low NH_3/NO_x mole ratios (1.2 or 1.6) employed in the present experiment. The rate of NO_x reduction is found to be depend on the inlet compositions of NO_x . The reaction rate decreases in the order of $\text{NO}-\text{NO}_2-\text{NH}_3 > \text{NO}-\text{NH}_3 > \text{NO}_2-\text{NH}_3$.

Reaction Ratio of NO_2 with NH_3 . To clarify the overall reaction equation of NO_2 with NH_3 , it is of importance to determine the reaction ratio of NO_2 with NH_3 . Therefore the NO_x conversion as a function of the NH_3/NO_2 ratio was studied under a variety of conditions. Gas mixtures containing 300 ppm NO_2 , 0–515 ppm NH_3 , 3% O_2 , and the

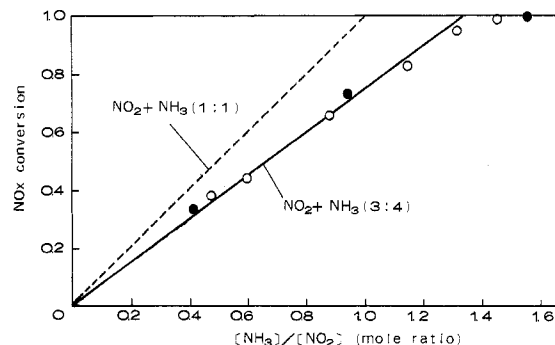


Figure 2. NO_x conversion as a function of $(\text{NH}_3)/(\text{NO}_2)$ ratio. Effect of temperature. Reaction temperature: (O) 350 °C; (●) 400 °C. Gas composition: 300 ppm NO_2 , 0–515 ppm NH_3 , 3% O_2 , the remainder N_2 . Space velocity: $30\,000\text{ h}^{-1}$.

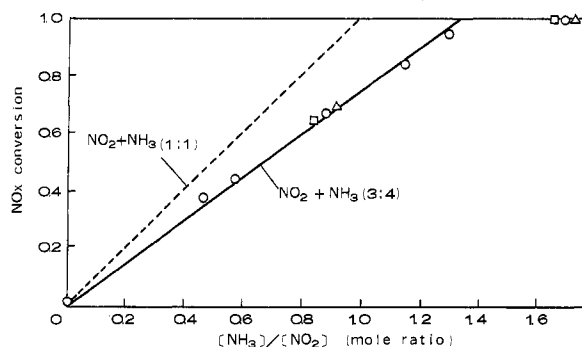


Figure 3. NO_x conversion as a function of $(\text{NH}_3)/(\text{NO}_2)$ ratio. Effect of O_2 concentration. Reaction temperature: 350 °C. Gas composition: 300 ppm NO_2 , 0–515 ppm NH_3 , (Δ) 0% O_2 ; (O) 3% O_2 ; (□) 10% O_2 , the remainder N_2 . Space velocity: $30\,000\text{ h}^{-1}$.

remainder N_2 were used in the experiments. The gas was passed through the catalyst bed at a space velocity of $30\,000\text{ h}^{-1}$ (NTP). Under these conditions the reaction proceeds completely in such a way that either of the two reactants, NO_2 or NH_3 , is consumed entirely. Figure 2 shows the NO_x conversion as a function of the NH_3/NO_2 ratio at 350 and 400 °C. It is clearly seen that the NO_2 conversion is $3/4$ of the NH_3/NO_2 ratio at 350 and 400 °C. Ammonia was not observed in the gas mixture leaving the catalyst bed at the NH_3/NO_2 ratio less than $4/3$. The formation of small amounts of N_2O , 5–10 ppm, was observed in the experiments. The N_2O formation did not substantially affect the reaction ratio of NO_2 with NH_3 , because the amount was so small compared with that of the reacted NO_2 .

The formation of NO was observed in the experiments. In the exit gas approximately 10% of the total NO_x was found to be present as NO at the inlet NH_3/NO_2 ratio 0.46. As the NH_3/NO_2 ratio was increased, the formation of NO was decreased. As is seen in Figure 2, the reaction of NO_2 with NH_3 proceeds at a 3:4 mole ratio. It seemed that the deviation from the 3:4 mole ratio caused by the formation of NO and N_2O was very small.

An effect of O_2 on the NO_2 - NH_3 reaction was studied using a test gas containing 300 ppm NO_2 , 0–515 ppm NH_3 and 0, 3, or 10% O_2 , the result being shown in Figure 3.

It was found that the NO_x conversion was not affected by the absence of O_2 . The NO_x conversion was $3/4$ of the NH_3/NO_2 ratio over an O_2 concentration up to 10%. It is clearly seen that the reaction of NO_2 with NH_3 proceeds at 3 to 4 mole ratio in the presence or absence of oxygen. It was also observed the NO_x conversion in the NO_2 - NH_3 reaction remained constant for more than 10 h in the presence or absence of O_2 over the NH_3/NO_2 region of the

TABLE I: Results in the Reaction of NO-NO₂-NH₃

expt no.	temp, °C	inlet gas, ppm			NH ₃ / NO _x	outlet gas, ppm		NO _x conv, %
		NO	NO ₂	NH ₃		NO	NO ₂	
A-1	359	453	150	600	0.995	1	1	99.7
A-2	359	453	150	509	0.84	87	3	85.1
A-3	359	453	150	250	0.41	320	25	42.8
B-1	345	300	300	0	0.0	292	300	1.4
B-2	345	300	300	116	0.193	235	237	21.4
B-3	345	300	300	260	0.434	172	170	43.0
B-4	348	300	300	329	0.549	137	136	54.5
B-5	348	300	300	448	0.737	82	66	75.3
B-6	348	300	300	560	0.90	28	23	91.5
C-1	355	151	459	0	0.00	147	456	1.1
C-2	355	151	459	125	0.209	90	390	21.3
C-3	355	151	459	217	0.356	48	335	37.2
C-4	355	151	459	305	0.501	12	289	50.7
C-5	355	151	446	357	0.598	5	246	58.0
C-6	355	151	446	437	0.731	1	180	69.7
C-7	355	151	446	525	0.879	1	117	80.2
C-8	355	151	446	634	1.06	<1	32	94.5
C-9	355	151	446	700	1.17	<1	4	99.2

present experiment. It has been reported by us and others that oxygen is involved in the NO-NH₃ reaction. Therefore, the NO₂-NH₃ reaction differs greatly from the NO-NH₃ reaction concerning the involvement of O₂.

Reaction Ratio of NO_x (NO + NO₂) with NH₃. In the NO and NO₂ coexisting system, the reactions are found to be rather complicated. Three gas mixtures containing different NO/NO₂ ratio were used: (1) NO (450 ppm) and NO₂ (150 ppm) (NO > NO₂); (2) NO (300 ppm) and NO₂ (300 ppm) (NO = NO₂); (3) NO (150 ppm) and NO₂ (450 ppm) (NO₂ > NO).

In Figure 4, the NO_x conversion as a function of the NH₃/NO_x ratio is shown. In the NO and NO₂ coexisting system, the reaction ratio of NH₃ to NO_x changes according to the NO/NO₂ ratio in the gas mixture. In case that the concentration of NO was equal to or larger than that of NO₂, the NO_x conversion was equal to the NH₃/NO_x ratio. In Table I, the compositions of the inlet NO_x and the outlet NO_x are summarized. From the analysis of the composition of the outlet NO_x, it was found that the reaction consuming equal amounts of NO and NO₂ proceeds preferentially (A1-A3, B1-B6).

In the gas mixture containing 450 ppm NO and 150 ppm NO₂, a decrease of the NO_x conversion was observed in experiments A-1 and A-2 when O₂ supply was stopped. On the other hand, the reaction proceeded normally for several hours with or without O₂ addition in experiment A-3.

In case that the concentration of NO₂ was larger than that of NO, total NO_x (NO + NO₂) reacted with NH₃ at 1 to 1 mole ratio until NO was consumed entirely (see Figure 4). Then the remaining NO₂ reacted with NH₃ at 3:4 mole ratio. Therefore, the line which shows the relation between the NO_x conversion and the NH₃/NO_x ratio bends at halfway as illustrated in Figure 4 (broken line).

In Table II the reaction ratio of NO_x with NH₃, the effect of O₂ on the reaction, and the ratio of reacted NO/NO₂ are summarized. In the NO system (case 1), the reaction

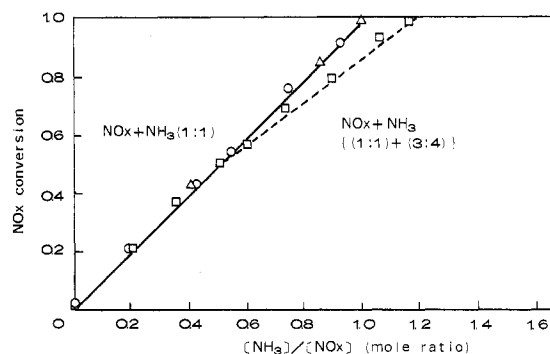
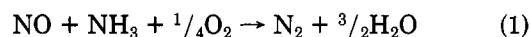


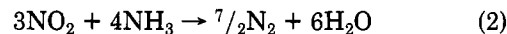
Figure 4. NO_x conversion as a function of (NH₃)/(NO_x) ratio. Effect of (NO)/(NO₂) ratio in NO-NO₂-NH₃ reaction. Reaction temperature: 350 °C. Gas composition: (Δ) 450 ppm NO, 150 ppm NO₂; (○) 300 ppm NO, 300 ppm NO₂; (□) 150 ppm NO, 450 ppm NO₂, 3% O₂, the remainder N₂. Space velocity: 30 000 h⁻¹.

ratio of NO with NH₃ is unity. The effect of O₂ is present, the reaction being completely inhibited by the absence of O₂.^{2,15} In the NO₂ system (case 5), the reaction of NO₂ with NH₃ proceed at 3 to 4 mole ratio in the presence or absence of O₂. In the equimolal NO-NO₂ system (case 3), the overall reaction ratio NH₃/NO_x is unity, and the ratio of reacted NO/NO₂ is unity in the presence or absence of O₂. The rate of the reaction is faster than either NO-NH₃ or NO₂-NH₃ reaction. In the NO > NO₂ system (case 2), the reaction consuming equal amounts of NO and NO₂ proceeds preferentially and the remainder NO reacts with NH₃ as in case 1. The effect of O₂ is, therefore, present at the high NH₃/NO_x ratio. In the NO₂ > NO system (case 4), the reaction consuming equal amounts of NO and NO₂ proceeds preferentially and the remainder NO₂ reacts with NH₃ as in case 5. The effect of O₂ is not present and the overall NH₃/NO_x ratio changes at the high NH₃/NO_x ratio.

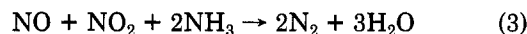
Overall Reaction Equation. In the previous paper, we reported the reaction equation of NO with NH₃ in the presence of oxygen on iron oxide-titanium oxide catalyst. It has been shown that NO reacts with NH₃ at a 1:1 mole ratio over a wide range of temperature and O₂ concentration and the reaction is completely retarded by the absence of O₂. The overall reaction equation is shown by reaction 1.



In the NO₂ system, the reaction between NO₂ and NH₃ proceeds at 3:4 mole ratio and oxygen is not involved in the reaction. The reaction proceeds normally in the presence or absence of O₂. Therefore, overall reaction is given by eq 2.



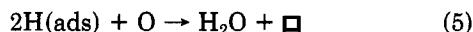
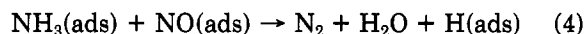
In the equimolal NO and NO₂ coexisting system, the reaction consuming an equal amount of NO and NO₂ proceeds in the presence or absence of O₂, and the reaction ratio of NH₃/NO_x is unity. Therefore, overall reaction is given by

TABLE II: Reaction Ratio of NO_x with NH₃

case	gas composition		effect of O ₂	NO:NO ₂ (reacted)	NO _x :NH ₃ (reacted)
	NO, ppm	NO ₂ , ppm			
1	300		present		1:1
2	450	150	[NH ₃] ≤ 2[NO ₂]:none [NH ₃] > 2[NO ₂]:present	[NH ₃] ≤ 2[NO ₂]:1:1	1:1
3	300	300	none	1:1	1:1
4	150	450	none	[NH ₃] ≤ 2[NO]:1:1	[NH ₃] ≤ 2[NO]:1:1
5		300	none		3:4

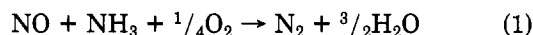
Kasaoka et al.¹⁷ have studied the reaction between NO, NO₂, and equimolar mixtures of NO and NO₂ with NH₃ on V₂O₅-TiO₂, V₂O₅-Al₂O₃, Fe₂(SO₄)₃-TiO₂, Fe₂(SO₄)₃-Fe₂O₃, CuSO₄-TiO₂ and Cu(II) ion-exchanged Y-type zeolite catalysts. The overall equations obtained here are in good agreement with those reported by Kasaoka.

Reaction Mechanism. NO-NH₃-O₂ System. It has been reported in our previous papers that NO reacts with NH₃ at a 1:1 mole ratio in the presence of O₂ and the reaction is completely inhibited by the absence of O₂ on iron oxide-titanium oxide catalyst. The following reaction mechanism for NO with NH₃ in the presence of excess O₂ has been presented.



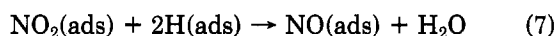
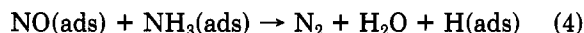
O = adsorbed oxygen or lattice oxygen; \blacksquare = oxygen adsorption site or lattice site; (ads) = adsorbed state.

The reaction (4) + $\frac{1}{2}$ (5) + $\frac{1}{4}$ (6) gives reaction 1.



NO-NO₂ Equimolar System. It is important to take into consideration the following experimental observation. (1) The reaction consuming equal amounts of NO and NO₂ proceeds preferentially. (2) The reaction ratio of NO_x with NH₃ is unity. (3) Oxygen is not involved in the reaction.

We examined the oxidation of NO by O₂ in the temperature range of 300–450 °C on the iron oxide-titanium oxide catalyst. The reaction gas mixture containing 200 ppm NO and 3% O₂ was used in the experiment. It was found that the conversion of NO to NO₂ was less than 1%. Therefore it is unlikely that NO reacts with NH₃ after being oxidized to NO₂. The following reaction mechanism for NO-NO₂ equimolar system is proposed.



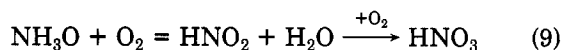
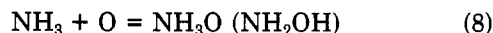
The reaction (4) × 2 + (7) gives reaction 3. NO₂(ads) reacts with H(ads) preferentially in the presence of oxygen. Reaction 7 must be much faster than reaction 5. The overall reaction 3 proceeds faster than reaction 1.

NO₂-NH₃ System. It is important to take into consideration the following experimental observation. (1) NO₂ reacts with NH₃ at 3:4 mole ratio. (2) The principal product containing nitrogen is N₂. (3) Oxygen is not involved in the reaction. (4) NH₃ reacts with NO₂ preferentially in the presence of oxygen. (5) NH₃ reacts with oxygen in the absence of NO₂.

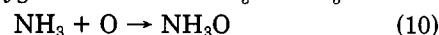
We examined the decomposition of NO₂ in the temperature range of 300–400 °C on the iron oxide-titanium oxide catalyst. The reaction gas mixture containing 200 ppm NO₂ and 3% O₂ was used in the experiment. It was found that the formation of NO was less than 0.5% of the inlet NO₂. Considering the above result, extraction of oxygen species from NO₂ should be brought by NH₃ at first. Kasaoka et al.^{17,18} have studied NO₂-NH₃ reaction

and NO-NO₂-NH₃ reaction on various metal oxide catalysts supported on TiO₂ and suggested that the reduction of NO₂ with NH₃ to NO was important at the beginning of the reduction. It seems that the NO₂-NH₃ reaction is a complex reaction proceeding by several routes. It is very useful to investigate the proposed reaction mechanisms of NH₃-O₂, since the NO₂-NH₃ reaction may be considered to be an oxidation of NH₃ with NO₂.

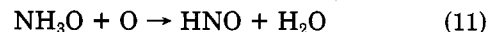
Bodenstein¹⁹ studied the oxidation of NH₃ on platinum wire. The NH₃ oxidation mechanism proposed by Bodenstein which appears to be most acceptable is as follows.²⁰



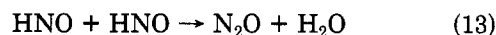
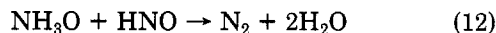
This mechanism is known as the hydroxylamine mechanism. Bodenstein observed the formation of NH₂OH and HNO₂ in the reaction. He concluded that hydroxylamine, NH₃O, is a primary product of the surface reaction. Krauss²¹ studied the oxidation of NH₃ on the oxides of Mn, Ni, Co, Cu, and Fe. He concluded that the adsorbed oxygen or lattice oxygen reacts with NH₃ or NH₃O



or



which in turn reacts as follows with HNO

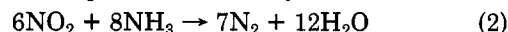


From the above information, it is most likely that NO₂ reacts with NH₃ forming NH₃O species as a first step of surface reaction in the NO₂-NH₃ reaction.



It is probable that NH₃O species react with NO₂ successively. We did not observe NH₃O species nor other intermediates. Therefore we cannot discuss the reaction mechanism in more detail at present.

The NO₂-NH₃ reaction must be a complex reaction proceeding by many elementary steps as the overall reaction 2 has a complex stoichiometry.



Considerable additional work is required before a detailed discussion on the NO₂-NH₃ reaction mechanism can be presented.

Conclusion

The reaction between NO₂ and NH₃ proceeds at 3:4 mole ratio in the presence or absence of oxygen on iron oxide-titanium oxide catalyst. When the reaction gas mixtures contain equal amounts of NO and NO₂, the reaction consuming equimolar NO and NO₂ proceeds preferentially at a NH₃/NO_x ratio of unity. The reaction rate of the reaction is faster than either the NO-NH₃ or NO₂-NH₃ reaction.

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