

Review

Current Research and Development Status of Corrosion Behavior of Automotive Materials in Biofuels

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Abstract: The world's need for energy is increasing with the passage of time and the substantial energy demand of the world is met by fossil fuels. Biodiesel has been considered as a replacement for fossil fuels in automotive engines. Biodiesels are advantageous because they provide energy security, they are nontoxic, renewable, economical, and biodegradable and clean sources of energy. However, there are certain disadvantages of biodiesels, including their corrosive, hygroscopic and oxidative natures. This paper provides a review of automotive materials when coming into contact with biodiesel blended fuel in terms of corrosion. Biodiesels have generally been proved to be corrosive, therefore it is important to understand the limits and extents of corrosion on different materials. Methods generally used to find and calculate corrosion have also been discussed in this paper. The reasons for the occurrence of corrosion and the subsequent problems because of corrosion have been presented. Biodiesel production can be carried out by different feedstocks and the studies which have been carried out on these biodiesels have been reviewed in this paper. A certain number of compounds form on the surface of materials because of corrosion and the mechanism behind the formation of these compounds along with the characterization techniques generally used is reviewed.

Keywords: corrosion; biodiesel; automotive materials; green fuels; corrosion test methods

1. Introduction

In biodiesel, the term "bio" implies that it is renewable as compared with petroleum fuels, and "diesel" represents that it has the potential to be used in diesel cycle motors [1]. Biodiesel is composed of unsaturated and saturated ester components, because of which it is considered to be less stable [2] and sensitive to light [3], temperature and metal ions. It can be obtained from animal fat, used cooking oil and vegetable oil with the help of methanol and ethanol [4]. The common sources of biofuels are animal fats and vegetables [5]. The common feedstock used for biodiesel production includes palm oil [6], sunflower oil [7], rapeseed oil [8], canola oil [9], soybean oil [10] and corn oil [11]. Another source of biodiesel production is waste chicken fat oil [12]. A transesterification process is applied to vegetable oils to produce biodiesel [13]. Some of the properties of both diesel and biodiesel are similar; however, they differ from each other because of chemical variations. Petroleum diesel has hundreds of compounds [14] that boil at different temperatures, while on the other hand biodiesel has only a few compounds, some of which are esters of long chain

alkyls. Biodiesel has wastes that have resulted from the transesterification reactions of methanol, mono- and diglycerides, triglyceride intermediates and fatty acid derivatives other than the main constituents [15].

The world's need for energy is increasing over time because of increasing population and technological development [16]. Fossil fuels are meeting the substantial energy demand of the world, but are expensive [17]. The large production of fossil fuels is leading towards their depletion, which is why the world is going to suffer a huge energy crisis [18]. The extensive use of fossil fuels is leading to global warming and if not controlled, it can raise the temperature of the earth [19]. In addition to this, petroleum products obtained from fossil fuels are polluting the environment [20]. Thus, there is a need for an alternate source of energy. The importance of biodiesel has increased because of its ability to be used as an alternative fuel [21]. Moreover, biofuels are attractive because of their advantages such as being renewable [22], biodegradable [23], economical [24] and nontoxic [25]. Biodiesel can provide energy security to the world whilst having independence from fossil fuels [26], it can reduce emissions and it is a clean source of energy [27], it can be used directly or as a blend in diesel engines [28], it has a higher cetane number [29] and flash point [30] and additionally it showed improved combustion [31] and lubricity [32]. There are certain disadvantages associated with biodiesel as well. Such as its corrosive nature [33], it is more hygroscopic [34] and provides a slightly lower engine performance [35]. Furthermore, the fuel consumption of the engine increases when biodiesel is used [36], and the wear rate of parts in biodiesel is slightly increased [37]. Biodiesel is less volatile [38] and has poor properties in low temperatures [39].

Biofuel usage in the transport sector has been started as a replacement for gasoline [40]. Biodiesel is gaining importance because of its property of direct usage in engines or as a blending component in engines. Different countries of the world have started using it as a blend with petroleum diesel [41]. Research has shown that 30% of ethanol with biodiesel can give effective results when added to diesel fuel. Additionally, it was recommended that 10% ethanol and 20% biodiesel can give better engine performance and the fewest emissions [42].

The biofuels which have been used in engines include palm oil [43], soybean oil [44], rapeseed oil [45], sunflower oil [46], olive oil [47], castor oil [48], jatropha curcas oil [49], pongamia pinnata oil [50], linseed oil [51] and milkweed seed oil [52], etc. Different parts of the engine are made from different materials. Some of the most common parts of the engines include exhaust system, piston assembly, fuel pump, fuel filter, fuel feed-up, fuel tank and fuel injection cylinder; the most common materials which are used in the manufacture of these parts include steel, aluminum, copper, plastic, rubber and ceramic fiber [53]. Engine parts including piston rings, pistons, bearings, filters, fuel injector, fuel liners, gaskets and fuel pump come in contact with the fuel [54]. Among these parts, copper-based alloys become most affected by the fuel [55]. The use of biofuels has some favorable effects on the material of the engine [56]. Biofuels have better lubricity at room temperature and by increasing the concentration of biofuel, deformation of worn surface decreases [37].

In addition to the introduction and pros and cons of biodiesel, this review has described the corrosion studies carried out on biodiesels obtained from feedstocks of different origins on engine materials. Furthermore, methods used to assess corrosion have been discussed in this paper. Other than that, the reasons and problems of corrosion are elaborated in this paper. Additionally, the characterization techniques along with the findings in corrosion studies and the mechanisms of products obtained after the corrosion on the materials have been discussed in this paper.

2. Methods to Find Corrosion

There are two methods that have been adopted by researchers to find the corrosion of materials in contact with biodiesel.

2.1. Immersion Test Method

The process used is according to the ASTM G1 standard and it starts with the cutting of materials and inserting a hole in the desired dimensions. This hole is used to hang the material in the fuel. The materials are then ground and polished with the help of silicon carbide papers of different grades [57]. The samples are then washed with deionized water, dried and then dipped in acetone to degrease them [58]. The samples of each material are weighed initially on a digital balance with accuracy up to four decimal places. The samples are then immersed in the fuels for the specified duration, as shown in Figure 1. After removal, the materials are again washed and degreased by using acetone and then weighed again [41]. The difference in the weight of initial and final samples is further used in the calculation of the Corrosion Rate (CR) of materials according to the following formula [59].

$$CR = (8.76 \times 10^4 \times W) / (D \times A \times T) \text{ mm/year} \quad (1)$$

where:

W = weight loss (g);

D = density (g/cm^3);

A = cross sectional area (cm^2);

T = time (hours).

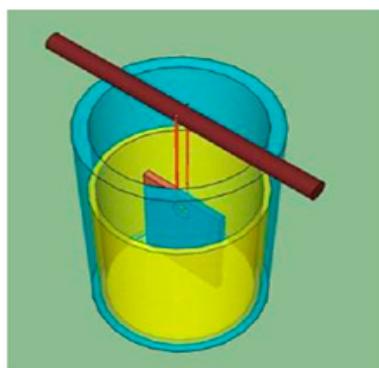


Figure 1. Schematic diagram for immersion test [1].

2.2. Electro-Chemical Method

This method uses the process of reduction and oxidation reactions. When corrosion occurs, the metal oxidizes and is gained or reduced in the solution. As this reaction involves the flow of electrons and current, it can be measured and calculated electronically [60].

The immersion test method is used generally by most researchers and the reason behind using this method is the efficiency of results [61], as the results obtained by this method use the actual scenario of contact between the biodiesel and the materials. Additionally, this testing is conducted for longer durations while the electrochemical method is carried out for only a few hours. Therefore, a longer duration allows the materials to settle properly in the fuel and results obtained by this method show linear relations. Additionally, this method helps in identifying products of corrosion obtained after the testing by using some characterization techniques. Moreover, the color of fuel and samples change in this method which helps in identifying the compositional changes of the fuel because of the corrosion. Hence, this method is preferred.

3. Reasons and Problems of Corrosion of Materials in Biodiesel

Biodiesel is believed to be corrosive and the reason behind this is its degradation, which is caused by the oxidation reactions taking place because of the absorption of moisture. The corrosiveness of biodiesel becomes more intense if it contains free fatty acids and free water. Likewise, the corrosiveness of biofuels can be increased by auto-oxidation [55]. The feedstock with which biodiesel is synthesized affects the corrosion of

metals and this is because of the variation in the chemical composition of the biodiesel obtained from different feedstocks [62]. The rate of corrosion is promoted because the water condenses on the surface of materials [63].

The problem with biodiesel is its degradation when it is exposed to moisture and it oxidizes [64]. Metal oxides form because of biodiesel oxidation [1]. As the corrosiveness of biodiesel is higher, its wear rate becomes higher [55]. When the composition of the fuel changes or when an alternative fuel is used in engines, there comes the issues of material degradation and compatibility of the material with the fuel [42]. Biodiesel usage in the automotive sector is not particularly due to their corrosiveness and degradation properties [41]. Because of the absorption of moisture by the fuel or oxidation, the corrosion damage to the fuel system parts becomes more accelerated. Corrosion and wear of engine parts are increased by the oxidative behavior of the biodiesel [63].

4. Corrosiveness of Biodiesels Obtained from Different Feedstock

Different biodiesels have been used by different researchers for the corrosion rate calculation. The details of those studies are given below.

4.1. Corrosion Studies on Palm Oil-Based Biodiesels

Various researchers conducted studies to find the corrosion rate of automotive materials by using palm oil biodiesel. In their study, Thangavelu et al. investigated the corrosion of copper in Biodiesel-Diesel-Ethanol (BDE) fuel at Room Temperature (RT) and 50 °C by immersion tests. These tests were performed for 408 h. The blends used were 45% biodiesel, 35% diesel and 20% bioethanol (B45D35E20). After 408 h, at room temperature the corrosion rate was 0.277 mpy and at 50 °C it was 0.327 mpy. Pitting on the copper plate was more frequent at High Temperature (HT) than at RT. Additionally, Total Acid Number (TAN) values of the biodiesel were found to be increased at HT as compared to at RT [65]. Other researchers, Haseeb et al., conducted a similar study by using different blends of biodiesel for copper and leaded bronze by using the immersion test at room temperature for 2640 h. The blends which were used were B0, B50 and B100. The immersion tests were performed at 60 °C for 840 h for blends B0, B100 and B100 (oxidized). The corrosion rates of leaded bronze and copper in B100 were 0.018 and 0.042 mpy, respectively, at room temperature, while at 60 °C, the CRs of bronze and copper for B100 were 0.023 and 0.053 mpy, respectively. The corrosion rate for copper was higher than that of leaded bronze [55]. The following graphs in Figure 2 show the CR of copper and leaded bronze at RT and 60 °C.

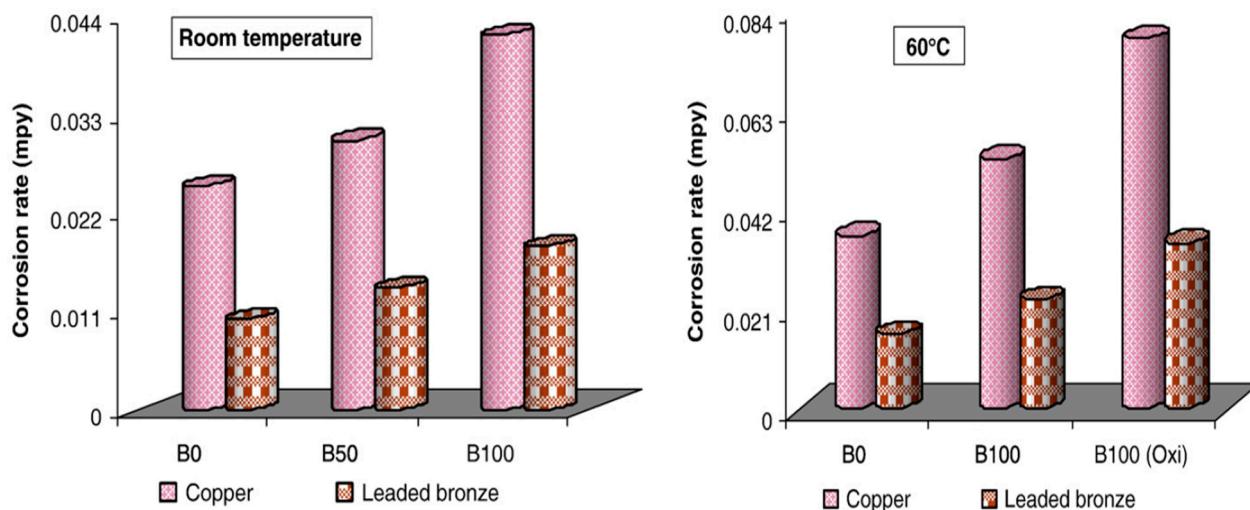


Figure 2. Corrosion Rates (CRs) of leaded bronze and copper at Room Temperature (RT) and 60 °C [55].

Another study was conducted by researchers for corrosion properties of Copper (Cu), Brass (BS), Aluminum (Al) and Cast Iron (CI) when exposed to palm biodiesel and diesel. The tests performed were of immersion type for B0 and B100 blends. These tests were performed for 2880 h at room temperature. The CRs of Cu, BS, Al and CI were 0.38278, 0.209898, 0.173055 and 0.112232 mpy, respectively. The TAN value of as-received biodiesel was 0.35 mg KOH/g. At the end of test, the TAN values of biodiesel increased to 2.57, 2.29, 1.68 and 1.69 mg KOH/g in the case of Cu, BS, Al and CI, respectively [64].

The same researcher performed another study on similar materials; however, this time it was not carried out at room temperature. This experiment was conducted at 80 °C and the duration was reduced this time to 1200 h. It was observed that the TAN number of the fuel was increased and it was higher than the limit according to ASTM D6751. It was observed that Cu and Al were more corrosive in biodiesel. At 1200 h and 80 °C, the corrosion rates for stainless steel (SS), Al and Cu in Palm biodiesel were 0.015, 0.202 and 0.586 mpy, respectively [33]. Figure 3 shows the corrosion rates of all materials.

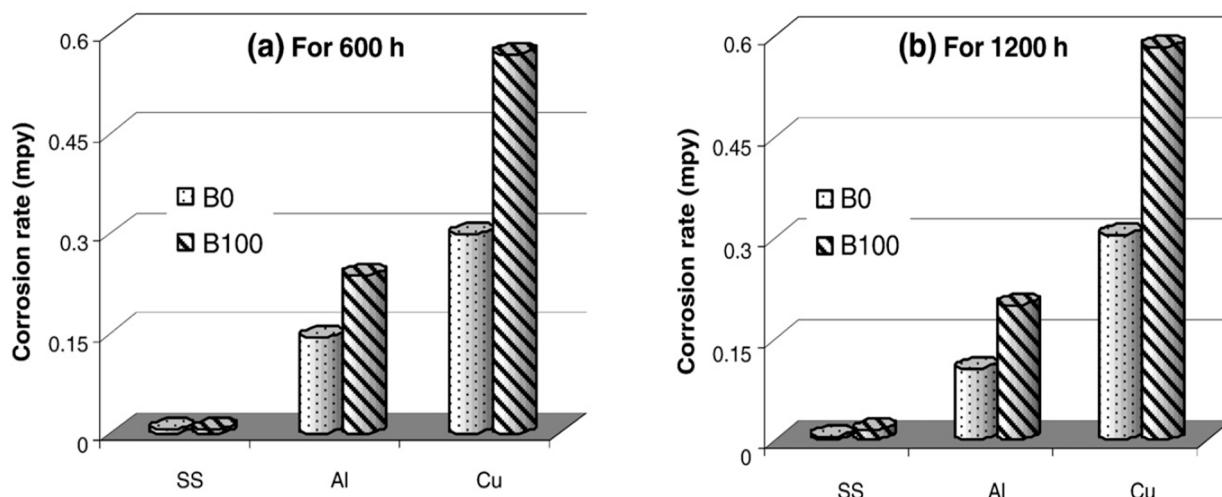


Figure 3. Corrosion rates of stainless steel (SS), aluminum (Al) and copper (Cu) [33].

From the above studies, it was observed that Cu showed higher corrosion rates followed by BS, Al and CI. SS showed a minimum corrosion rate in palm biodiesel. Moreover, when temperature and duration of immersion were increased the corrosion rate was increased and the values for corrosion rate can be seen in Table 1 as well.

Some studies were made by researchers to assess the corrosion behavior on carbon steels. Thangavelu et al. studied corrosion behavior of BDE blends B0 and B20D70E10 with carbon steel by immersion tests. The tests were performed at RT and 60 °C for 400 and 800 h. CR of B20D70E10 at RT and at 60 °C was more than the rate of B0 blend under the same conditions. At RT, it was 0.1817 mpy and at 60 °C, it was 0.2612 mpy for B20D70E10 and for B0 these values were 0.0523 mpy and 0.115 mpy. It was noticed that the TAN in B20D70E10 was exceeded by the limit. Initially it was 0.25 mg KOH/g for as-received biodiesel and after immersion it was increased to 1.15 mg KOH/g at room temperature and 1.59 mg KOH/g at 60 °C [42]. The surface morphology of carbon steel is shown in Figure 4.

Table 1. Summary of corrosion studies using palm oil-based biodiesel.

Sr. No.	Test Type	Material	Biofuel Blends	Temperature	Time	Characterization	TAN (mg KOH/g)	Corrosion Rate
1.	Immersion Test	Pure Copper	45% biodiesel, 35% diesel and 20% bioethanol (B45D35E20)	Room temperature 50 °C	408 h	OM, FTIR	Increased at high temperature	0.277 mpy [65] 0.327 mpy
2.	Immersion Test	Copper, Leaded Bronze	B0, B50, B100	Room temperature	2640 h	TAN analyzer, FTIR, MOA	-	0.018 mpy (Bronze) and 0.042 mpy (Copper) [55]
			B0, B100, B100(oxidized)	60 °C	840 h		-	0.023 mpy (Bronze) and 0.053 mpy (Copper)
3.	Immersion Test	Copper, Brass, Aluminum, Cast Iron	B0, B100	Room temperature	2880 h	SEM/EDS, XRD	0.35 (as-received), 2.57 (Copper), 2.29 (Brass), 1.68 (Aluminum), 1.69 (Cast Iron)	0.38278 mpy (Copper), 0.209898 mpy (Brass), 0.173055 mpy (Aluminum) and 0.112232 mpy (Cast Iron) [64]
4.	Immersion Test	Copper, Stainless Steel, Aluminum	B0, B100	80 °C	1200 h	OM, SEM, EDS	Increased to limit according to ASTM D6751	0.015 mpy (Stainless Steel), 0.202 mpy (Aluminum) and 0.586 mpy (Copper) [33]
5.	Immersion Test	Carbon Steel	B0, B20D70E10	Room temperature 60 °C	800 h 400 h	OM, FTIR	0.25 (as-received) 1.15 (Room temperature) 1.59 (60 °C)	0.1817 mpy (B20D70E10) and 0.0523 (B0) [42] 0.2612 mpy (B20D70E10) and 0.115 mpy (B0)
6.	Immersion Test	Carbon Steel ASTM 1045	-	27 °C, 50 °C, 80 °C	30, 60, 120 days	SEM/EDS, XRD, FTIR	Increased with the increase in temperature and time	With the rise in temperature and exposure time the CRs of Mild Steel increased in both fuels [66]

Table 1. *Cont.*

Sr. No.	Test Type	Material	Biofuel Blends	Temperature	Time	Characterization	TAN (mg KOH/g)	Corrosion Rate
7.	Immersion Test	Mild Steel	B0, B50, B100	Room temperature, 50 °C, 80 °C	1200 h	OM, SEM, EDS, XRD	Increased to limit according to ASTM D6751	At RT, the CR of MS in biodiesel and diesel was 0.052 mpy and 0.046 mpy, respectively. While at 80 °C the CR was 0.059 mpy and 0.05 mpy, respectively [67]
8.	Immersion Test	Aluminum, Magnesium	B100	Room temperature	720 h 1440 h	SEM/EDS, XRD, FTIR	0.27 (as-received) 0.92 (Aluminum) 0.87 (Magnesium)	0.1230 mpy (Aluminum) and 3.0910 mpy (Magnesium) [68] 0.0527 mpy (Aluminum) and 2.6563 mpy (Magnesium)
9.	Immersion Test	Copper, Mild Steel	-	Room temperature	60 days	SEM/EDS, AFM	-	CR of Copper was decreased effectively by using Benzotriazole than that of Mild Steel. In the presence of Adenine, the CR of Copper decreased from 0.7495 to 0.2512 mg/cm ² [69]

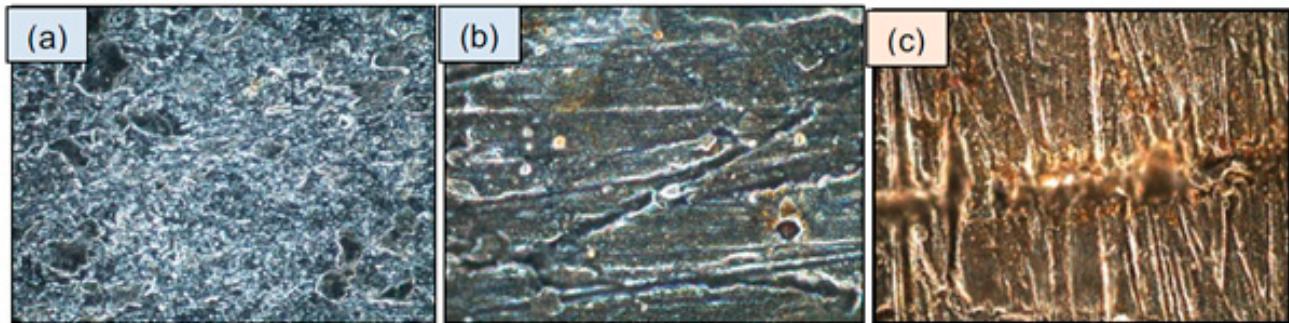


Figure 4. Surface morphology (a) B0 at RT; (b) B20D70E10 at RT; (c) B20D70E10 at 60 °C [42].

Another study was conducted by Jin et al. on ASTM 1045 MS for investigation of its corrosion behavior when immersed in palm biodiesel at 27, 50 and 80 °C for 30, 60 and 120 days, and these results were then compared with the commercial diesel. With the rise in temperature and exposure time the CRs of MS increased in both fuels. It was observed that corrosion rates obtained with commercial diesel were lower than those of palm biodiesel. The TAN values of biodiesel and diesel increase with the increase in exposure time and temperature [66].

B0, B50 and B100 blends of MS were again investigated for corrosion behavior by Fazal et al. at room temperature, 50 and 80 °C by static immersion tests for 1200 h. It was found that petroleum diesel is less corrosive than the biodiesel. At RT, CRs of MS in biodiesel and diesel were 0.052 and 0.046 mpy, respectively. At 80 °C, the corrosion rates were 0.059 and 0.05 mpy, respectively. The water content was increased by increasing immersion temperature. Additionally, it was observed that the TAN of fuel was increased and it was higher than the limit according to ASTM D6751 [67].

Studies on carbon steels showed that CR increases by increasing the concentration of biodiesel in diesel for carbon steel and mild carbon steel. With the increase in temperature, the CR had increased for all carbon steels presented above. Additionally, it was noticed that the duration of immersion had affected CR and it was increased with the increase in duration. Petroleum diesel was found to be the least corrosive. TAN values of the biodiesel increased. The values of CR can be seen in Table 1. It concludes that the values of CR are directly proportional to the duration of immersion, temperature and blend percentage.

Another work conducted by Chew et al. assessed the corrosion behavior of aluminum and Magnesium (Mg) for 720 and 1440 h by immersion test. The corrosion rates of Al were 0.1230 and 0.0527 mpy at 720 and 1440 h, respectively. Similarly, Mg showed rates of 3.0910 and 2.6563 mpy at 720 and 1440 h, respectively. Mg exhibits higher corrosion rates as compared to Al was due to the higher reactivity of magnesium. It was noted that Mg was less noble as compared to Mg in galvanic series. The corrosion rates of both materials decreased with the increase in duration, as shown in Table 1. The TAN values of both materials after exposure to biodiesel enhanced from 0.27 mg KOH/g of as-received biodiesel to 0.87 and 0.92 mg KOH/g of biodiesel in which Mg and Al were immersed, respectively [68]. Figure 5 shows the corrosion rates of both materials.

Summaries of these studies are shown in Table 1 below.

4.2. Corrosion Studies on Jatropha Oil-Based Biodiesels

There are a few studies on Jatropha oil-based biodiesels to assess corrosion rates of automotive materials. A study was completed by Dharma et al. where he used 50% jatropha curcas and 50% ceiba pentandra (J50C50) biodiesels to assess corrosion behavior of MS by static immersion tests at room temperature for 400 and 800 h for blends B0, B10, B20, B30, B40 and B50. The corrosion rates at all mixtures were higher at all blends at 400 h and these were 0.0018, 0.0011, 0.0198, 0.0199, 0.0222 and 0.0289 mm/year for B0, B10, B20,

B30, B40 and B50, respectively, as shown below in Table 2. The corrosion rate for B50 was 15 times higher than that of diesel fuel. It can be noticed that the weight loss is not linear with immersion time and it tends to slow down as the duration increases. Therefore, it can be noticed that for B20, B30 and B50, corrosion rates decreased at 800 h and were 0.01176, 0.01546 and 0.02524 mm/year, respectively, as shown in Table 2. The acid value of the fuel was higher, although it was still in range as compared to ASTM D 6751 standards [41].

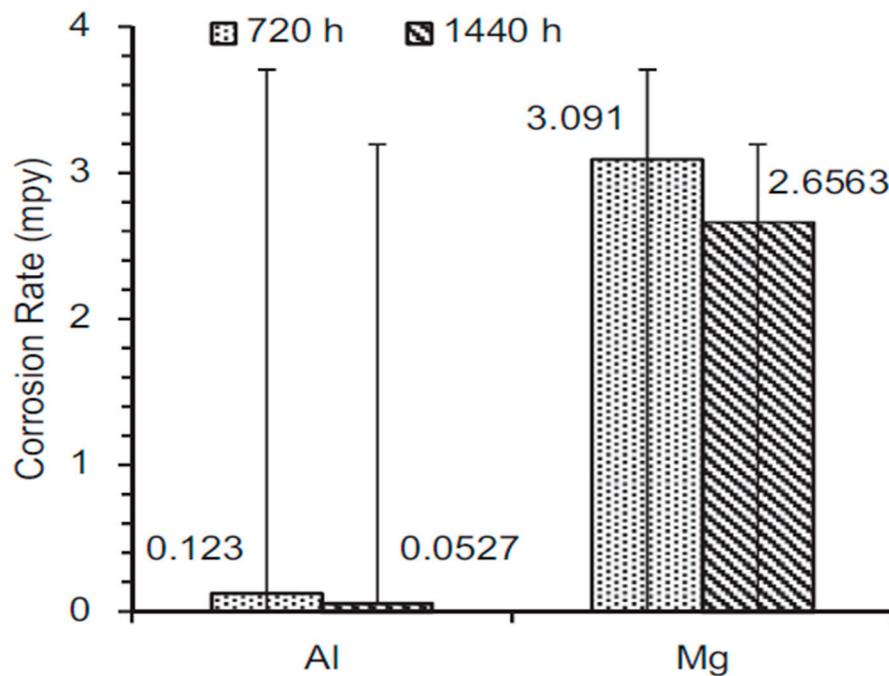


Figure 5. Corrosion rates of magnesium and aluminum at 720 and 1440 h [68].

Another study was conducted by Akhabue et al. on Al and MCS in Jatropha oil-based biodiesel by static immersion tests for blends B0, B50 and B100 at RT for 18 weeks (3 weeks interval). It was observed that in the case of MCS, there was an increase in CR up to the 12th week. The CR of B50 remained same between the 12th and 15th weeks. However, it was reduced for B0 and B100 after the 12th week. At the end of the experiment, the CRs of MCS in B0, B50 and B100 were 0.0011, 0.0022 and 0.0026 mpy, respectively, as shown in Table 2. In the case of Al, CRs were found to be increased up until the 12th week. The maximum corrosion rates for B50 and B100 were obtained in the 15th week, reaching 0.0099 and 0.016 mpy, respectively, while for B0 the maximum value was obtained in the 12th week. However, there was a decreased CR for B0 in the 15th week. B50 showed a decrease in rate between the 9th and 12th weeks. The same CRs were found to be increased from the 12th week in B50 and B100. If compared, the corrosion rates of Al were lower than those of MCS under the same conditions as shown in Table 2. The TAN values of as-received biodiesel were 0.41 and 0.52 mg KOH/g for B100 and B50, respectively, while after immersion these values were 3.53 and 1.54 mg KOH/g for B100 and B50, respectively, in the case of MCS, and 2.81 and 1.51 mg KOH/g for B100 and B50, respectively, in the case of Al [62].

Table 2. Summary of corrosion studies using jatropha oil-based biodiesel.

Sr. No.	Test Type	Material	Biofuel Blends	Temperature	Time	Characterization	TAN (mg KOH/g)	Corrosion Rate
1.	Immersion Test	Piston metal, Piston liner	B100	Room temperature	300 days	-	0.38 (as-received), 19.54 (piston liner), 14.48 (piston metal)	Salvadora is the most corrosive biodiesel followed by jatropha curcas, mahua and karanja [70]
2.	Immersion Test	Mild Steel	B0, B10, B20, B30, B40, B50	Room temperature	400 h, 800 h	SEM	Higher however in range as compared to ASTM D 6751 standards	CRs were higher at 400 h and were 0.0018 (B0), 0.0011 (B10), 0.0198 (B20), 0.0199 (B30), 0.0222 (B40) and 0.0289 (B50) mm/year. For B20, B30 and B50, CRs decreased to 0.01176, 0.01546 and 0.02524 mm/year at 800 h [41]
3.	Immersion Test	Aluminum, Mild Carbon Steel	B0, B50, B100	Room temperature	18 weeks (3 weeks interval)	-	0.41 and 0.52 (as-received B100 and B50), 3.53 and 1.54 (MCS B100 and B50), 2.81 and 1.51 (Al B100 and B50)	The CRs of Aluminum were lower than those of MCS. The CRs of MCS in B0, B50 and B100 were 0.0011, 0.0022 and 0.0026 mpy, respectively. The CRs of Al in B50 and B100 were 0.0099 and 0.016 mpy in the 15th week [62]

In another study, researchers used biodiesels of Indian origin (*salvadora oleoides*, *madhuca indica*, *pongamia glabra* and *jatropha curcas*) for the corrosion behavior of materials by static immersion method for 300 days at room temperature on piston metal and piston liner parts. In the case of piston liner, there were clear weight losses observed in all samples of biodiesel. Weight loss was slightly higher in the case of *jatropha curcas* biodiesel. In the case of piston metal, the corrosion in *mahua* and *karanja* oil was comparable to that of corrosion in petro diesel, while in that of *jatropha curcas* was slightly higher. The weight loss in *salvadora* was 10 times higher than that obtained in *jatropha curcas* oil as shown in Table 2. The TAN values for *salvadora oleoides*, *madhuca indica*, *pongamia glabra* and *jatropha curcas* were 0.45, 0.32, 0.42 and 0.38 mg KOH/g, respectively, before immersion, while after immersion these values were 2.51, 19.72, 17.52 and 19.54 mg KOH/g, respectively, for piston liner and 2.38, 11.3, 14.39 and 14.48 mg KOH/g, respectively, for piston metal [70].

Hence, it was clear from the above studies that *jatropha* biodiesel is also corrosive for automotive materials and the corrosiveness increases by increasing the concentration of biodiesel. However, it did not show any particular trend with the duration of immersion and in some cases the CR was decreased by increasing the duration. Furthermore, it was noticed that Al did not show any significant corrosion in this biodiesel and CR of MCS was higher as compared to Al as shown in Table 2. However, *Jatropha* biodiesel showed the same trends with the TAN values and these were increased by the use of biodiesel.

Summaries of these studies have been shown in Table 2 below.

4.3. Corrosion Studies on Rapeseed Oil-Based Biodiesel

Various researchers conducted studies to find the corrosion rate of automotive materials by using rapeseed oil-based biodiesel. A study was carried out by Sterpu et al. in which he investigated corrosion of Carbon Steel (CS) in corn, rapeseed and sunflower biodiesels by immersion tests at RT for 1176 h. The CRs of CS in corn, rapeseed and sunflower biodiesel were 0.001164, 0.000760 and 0.000855 mm/year, respectively, as shown in a graph in Figure 6. Likewise, the TAN of biodiesel was increased [63].

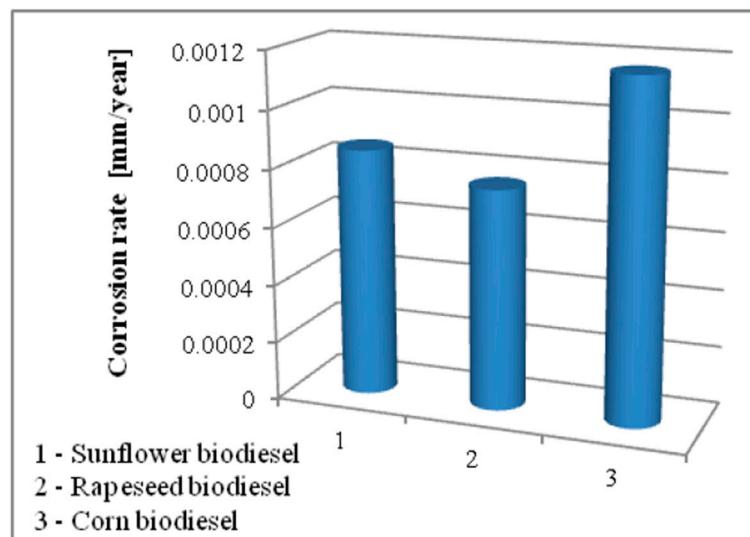


Figure 6. CRs of carbon steel in three different biodiesels [63].

In another work, Hu et al. used the B20 blend of rapeseed biodiesel to study the corrosion behaviors of SS, Al, MCS and Cu by immersion tests at 43 °C for 2 months. The corrosion of Al and SS was much lower than the corrosion of MCS and Cu in biodiesel. The corrosion rates of Cu and MCS were 0.02334 and 0.01819 mm/year in biodiesel while 0.0037 and 0.0015 mm/year for diesel, respectively, as shown in Figure 7 [71].

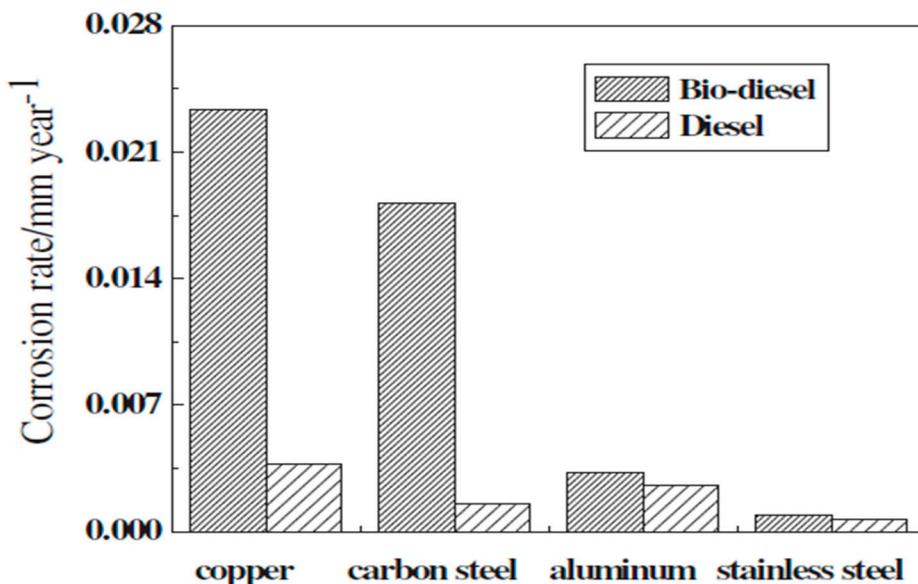


Figure 7. CRs of metals in diesel and biodiesel [71].

Additionally, B0, B50, B75 and B100 blends of rapeseed methyl ester with ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel were used by Norouzi et al. to study the corrosion of AW 6060 aluminum alloy and E-Cu57 copper by immersion tests 600 h at 80 °C. They observed that the increase in biodiesel concentration enhanced the corrosion of the biodiesel, as shown in Figure 8. Additionally, the increased temperature increased the corrosiveness of biodiesel. The TAN of biodiesel was initially 0.315 mg KOH/g and after immersion, it was more than the limit according to ASTM D6751, which is 0.8 mg KOH/g for biodiesel. The color of the biodiesel changed in both materials due to the change in the composition of the biodiesel [72].

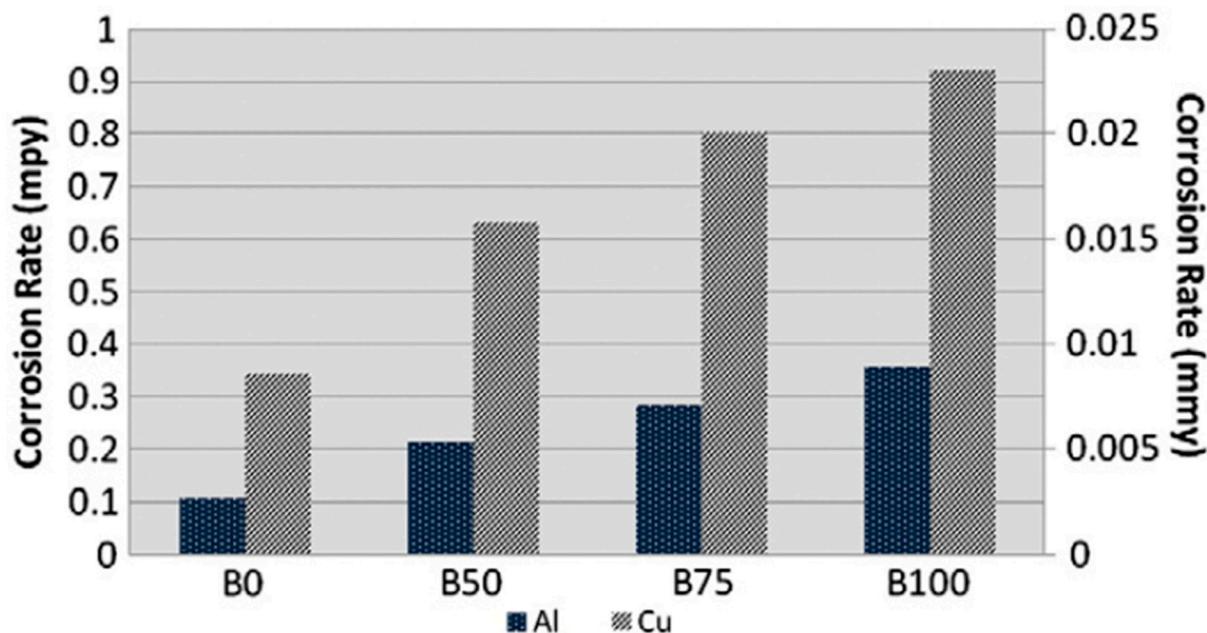


Figure 8. CRs of Cu and Al in fuel blends [72].

In the case of rapeseed biodiesel, it can be concluded that this biodiesel showed similar trends as compared to other biodiesels. The increased concentration of biodiesel

and increased temperature increased the corrosion rates of metals, as shown in Table 3. Furthermore, TAN values of the biodiesel were found to be increased.

Summaries of these studies have been shown in Table 3 below.

4.4. Corrosion Studies on Sunflower Oil-Based Biodiesel

Some of the studies were conducted to find the corrosion rates of automotive materials by using sunflower oil-based biodiesels. In their study, Samuel et al. investigated corrosion properties of brass in B10, B20 and B40 blends of waste sunflower oil biodiesel (WSOB) by immersion tests at room temperature for 240, 480, 720 and 960 h. By increasing duration and the biodiesel fraction, the corrosion of the BS increased. The TAN of the as-received fuel was 0.297 mg KOH/g, which increased to 0.35, 0.4, 0.47, 0.73 and 1.95 mg KOH/g for B0, B10, B20, B40 and B100 blends, respectively. This was because of the acid component variation [73]. A similar study on B0, B20 and B100 was performed by Cursaru et al. to assess corrosion rates of ferrous alloy, Cu and Al using the static immersion test at RT and 60 °C for 3000 h. The corrosion rate of each metal increased by increasing the fraction of biodiesel in the blend. At room temperature, the corrosion rates of Cu, Al and MCS were 0.323615, 0.162201 and 0.170124 mpy, respectively, as shown in Table 4 [74]. Similarly, at 60 °C, these results were 0.640758, 0.316292 and 0.336845 mpy, respectively.

Another study was presented by Cursaru et al. and this time he used the electrochemical method for corrosion rate calculation and the materials used were changed to monel steel, stainless steel and mild steel. The biodiesel used in this study was in percentages of 1, 5 and 10 for 3 h at 50 °C. The TAN of as-received fuel was 0.12 mg KOH/g which was increased to 0.18, 0.2, 0.21 and 0.3 mg KOH/g for B1, B5, B10 and B100 blends, respectively. The monel steel was the least corroded as compared to stainless steel and mild steel. The corrosion rate of monel steel was 0.000045 mm/year, stainless steel was 0.000421 mm/year and mild carbon steel was 0.000514 mm/year, as shown in Table 4 [75].

Additionally, the trends of sunflower biodiesel were similar in terms of corrosion rate to other biodiesels as the CRs of materials in it were increased by the increase in the concentration of biodiesel and duration. The corrosion rate of diesel was lower as compared to biodiesel. Furthermore, an increased temperature increased the corrosion, as shown below in Table 4. TAN of the biodiesel was increased as well.

Summaries of these studies have been shown in Table 4 below.

4.5. Corrosion Studies on Biodiesel Obtained from Different Feedstocks

Many other studies to assess the corrosion rates of materials were presented by several researchers by using biodiesel obtained from the different feedstocks. Diaz-Ballote et al. used canola biodiesel to assess the corrosion rate of Al by an electrochemical technique. It was observed that the corrosion of Al can be used as an indicator to assess the purity of the biodiesel as Al shows corrosiveness in biodiesel [76]. Another work by Ononiwo et al. investigated MS for corrosion by immersion tests using ghee butter-based biodiesel at room temperature and different temperatures. The weight losses in mineral diesel and biodiesel samples were quite close. MS showed a similar response in all the media studied. Mineral diesel showed lower weight loss than samples 1 and 2, as shown in Table 5 [4]. The corrosion rate was increased by the increase in the temperature.

Table 3. Summary of corrosion studies using rapeseed biodiesel.

Sr. No.	Test Type	Material	Biofuel Blends	Temperature	Time	Characterization	TAN (mg KOH/g)	Corrosion Rate
1.	Immersion Test	Carbon Steel	-	Room temperature	1176 h	-	Increased	Corrosion rates in corn, rapeseed and sunflower biodiesels were 0.001164, 0.000760 and 0.000855 mm/year, respectively [63]
2.	Immersion Test	Copper, Aluminum, Stainless Steel, Mild Carbon Steel	B20	43 °C	2 months	SEM/EDS, XPS, AAS	-	The corrosion rates of copper and mild carbon steel were 0.02334 and 0.01819 mm/year in biodiesel while 0.0037 and 0.0015 mm/year for diesel, respectively [71]
3.	Immersion Test	AW 6060 Aluminum alloy, E-Cu57 Copper	B0, B50, B75, B100	80 °C	600 h	SEM/EDS	More than the ASTM D6751 limit of 0.8	The increase in biodiesel concentration and the temperature increased the corrosion rate of the biodiesel [72]

Table 4. Summary of corrosion studies using sunflower biodiesel.

Sr. No.	Test Type	Material	Biofuel Blends	Temperature	Time	Characterization	TAN (mg KOH/g)	Corrosion Rate
1.	Immersion Test	Brass	B0, B10, B20, B40	Room temperature	240, 480, 720, 960 h	JCM 100 mini SEM	0.297 (as-received), 0.35 (B0), 0.4 (B10), 0.47 (B20), 0.73 (B40), 1.95 (B100)	Increased duration and biodiesel fraction increased the corrosion rate [73]
2.	Immersion Test	Aluminum, Copper, Mild Carbon Steel	B0, B20, B100	Room temperature, 60 °C	3000 h	SEM/EDS, XRD	-	At RT, the CRs of copper, aluminum and mild carbon steel were 0.323615, 0.162201 and 0.170124 mpy, respectively, and at 60 °C, these results were 0.640758, 0.316292 and 0.336845 mpy, respectively [74]
3.	Electrochemical Method	Monel Steel, Stainless Steel, Mild Steel	1, 5 and 10 percent	50 °C	3 h	-	0.12 (as-received), 0.18 (B1), 0.2 (B5), 0.21 (B10), 0.3 (B100)	The CR of monel steel was 0.000045 mm/year, stainless steel was 0.000421 mm/year and mild carbon steel was 0.000514 mm/year. Corrosion of these materials was lowest in pure diesel than in biodiesel. [75]

Table 5. Summary of corrosion studies on biodiesel of different feedstock.

Sr. No.	Test Type	Biodiesel	Material	Biofuel Blends	Temperature	Time	Characterization	Corrosion Rate/Findings
1.	Electrochemical	Canola	Aluminum	-	-	-	-	The corrosion of Aluminum can be used as an indicator to assess the purity of the biodiesel [76]
2.	Immersion Test	Ghee Butter	Mild Steel	-	Room temperature, Different temperatures	-	-	Biodiesel samples were more corrosive than mineral diesel samples. The CR was increased with the increase in the temperature [4]
3.	Immersion Test	Rice Husk	Austenite Stainless Steel, Brass, Mild Steel, Aluminum	B10, B30	Room temperature, 50 °C, 70 °C	6, 12, 24, 48, 72, 120 h	XPS	Brass exhibited very slight weight loss, Aluminum exhibited little more than Brass and Mild Steel exhibited more weight loss than both Aluminum and Brass. At elevated temperatures, the weight loss was enhanced for the above-mentioned materials. Stainless Steel did not show any weight loss at any conditions [77]

Table 5. *Cont.*

Sr. No.	Test Type	Biodiesel	Material	Biofuel Blends	Temperature	Time	Characterization	Corrosion Rate/Findings
4.	Electrochemical	Soybean	Duplex 2205, Sea Curve, AISI 304l	-	Room temperature	20 h	-	The best resistance towards corrosion was shown by Duplex 2205 while Sea Curve steel showed the least corrosion resistance [78]
5.	Immersion Test	Commercial	Copper, Brass	-	55 °C	5 days	Raman Vibrational Spectroscopy	The rate of corrosion was slightly higher in the case of incidence light. At higher temperature, corrosion rates have decreased. The CRs for Brass are always more than those of Copper [1]
6.	Immersion Test	Poultry Fat	316 Stainless Steel, Grey Cast Iron, Copper, Admiralty Brass, Carbon Steel	B20, B80	38 °C	10 months	Digital Photography, photo Microscopy	316 Stainless Steel and Carbon Steel had no visible corrosion. Copper showed huge corrosiveness in biodiesel. B20 had a slightly lower corrosion rate than that of B80. In the case of Brass, similar trends to that of Copper were observed however these were to a lesser extent [79]

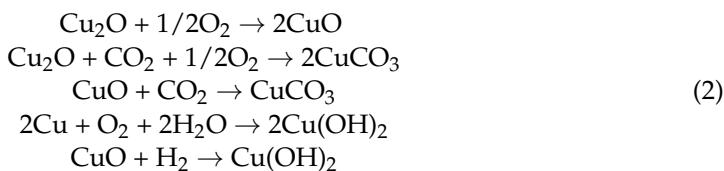
B10 and B30 blends of rice husk bio-oil were used by Lu et al. to assess the corrosion properties of four materials—SS, MS, BS and Al—by immersion tests at RT, 50 and 70 °C for 6, 12, 24, 48, 72 and 120 h. BS exhibited very slight weight loss, Al exhibited little more than BS and MS exhibited more weight loss than both Al and BS. SS did not show any weight loss at any conditions [77]. The corrosion resistance of Duplex 2205, Sea Curve and AISI 304L stainless steel were additionally studied by Roman et al. in soybean biodiesel by an electrochemical technique at room temperature for 20 h. It was observed that all the steels showed good performances towards the corrosion resistance. The most resistive towards corrosion was Duplex 2205, while Sea Curve steel showed the least corrosion resistance, as shown in Table 5. Therefore, it was concluded that all these steels can be used in applications that need to be in contact with soybean oil-based biodiesel [78].

A study was conducted by Aquino et al. to investigate CRs of Cu and BS when immersed in commercial biodiesel in the presence of natural light and temperature for 5 days at 55 °C. The rate of corrosion was slightly higher in the case of incidence light. The corrosion rates for BS were always higher than those of Cu. It was found that the corrosion rates decreased at high temperatures, as shown in Table 5, which is contradictory to expected results because normally increases in temperature increase corrosion rates because of the increase in the reaction rate. The reason behind this result could be the elimination of the absorbed oxygen at high temperatures in the biodiesel [1]. Another study was performed by Geller et al. to investigate corrosion behaviors of B20 and B80 blends of poultry fat biodiesel on stainless steel 316, grey cast iron, copper, admiralty brass and carbon steel. Static immersion tests were performed for 10 months at 38 °C. Stainless steel 316 and carbon steel showed no weight loss or visible corrosion. Copper showed huge corrosiveness in biodiesel. B20 had slightly lower weight loss 0.71% than that of B80 0.74% [79].

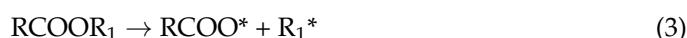
As shown in Table 5, it is clear that all biodiesels showed increased corrosion rates for all materials by the increase in the concentration of biodiesel. There were few deviations shown by different biodiesels concerning duration and temperature; however, in most cases, the corrosion rate was increased by increasing the duration and temperature of immersion. Therefore, it is concluded that the CR of materials in biodiesel increases by increasing concentration, duration and temperature. Summaries of these studies have been shown in Table 5.

5. Corrosion Mechanism of Metals in Biodiesel

The X-ray Diffraction (XRD) results of Cu showed the formation of different compounds such as Cu₂O, CuO [80], CuCO₃ [81] and Cu(OH)₂ [82] on the surface of the base metal. The mechanism or reactions which took place during this process are stated below [83].

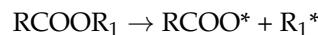
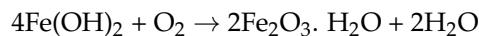
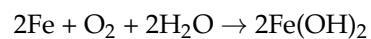
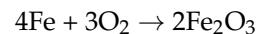


RCOO• radical [84] generation was thought to be the main cause of copper carbonate formation [85] through the decomposition of esters [86].



As iron is the main component of steel, when exposed to biodiesel, it is more prone to corrosion. Therefore, XRD results showed the formation of some iron products such as

Fe_2O_3 [71], $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$ [87] and FeCO_3 [88]. The mechanism or reactions which took place during that process are stated below [89].



6. Characterization Techniques Used

Characterization techniques that have been used by researchers for corrosion testing include Scanning Electron Microscope/Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy (SEM/EDS), X-ray diffraction (XRD), Optical Microscopy (OM), X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS), Atomic Absorption Spectrometry (AAS) and Raman vibrational spectroscopy. SEM/EDS and XRD used by researchers concerning the biodiesel are stated below.

6.1. Characterization and Products of Corrosion Obtained by Palm Biodiesel

When palm biodiesel was used to find CRs of copper and leaded bronze, the oxide layer obtained at RT was copper carbonate (CuCO_3) and at 60 °C was of cupric oxide (CuO) [55].

When palm biodiesel was used to find the CR of CS ASTM 1045 at 27, 50 and 80 °C for 30, 60 and 120 days, SEM results showed that the effects of corrosion become severe as the exposure time and temperature were increased, as shown in the Figures 9 and 10. The attacked zones were not continuous and were scattered over the whole surface.

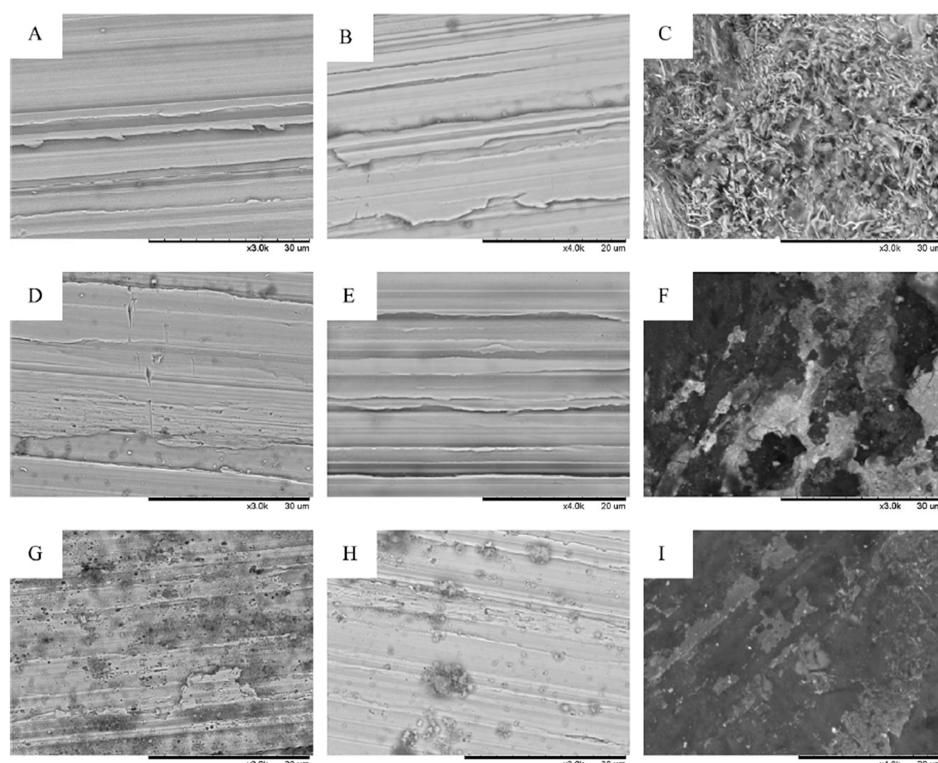


Figure 9. Surface morphology of ASTM 1045 MS in 0# diesel at different temperatures 27, 50 and 80 °C for different exposure periods: (A) 27 °C—30 d; (B) 50 °C—30 d; (C) 80 °C—30 d; (D) 27 °C—60 d; (E) 50 °C—60 d; (F) 80 °C—60 d; (G) 27 °C—120 d; (H) 50 °C—120 d; (I) 80 °C—120 d [66].

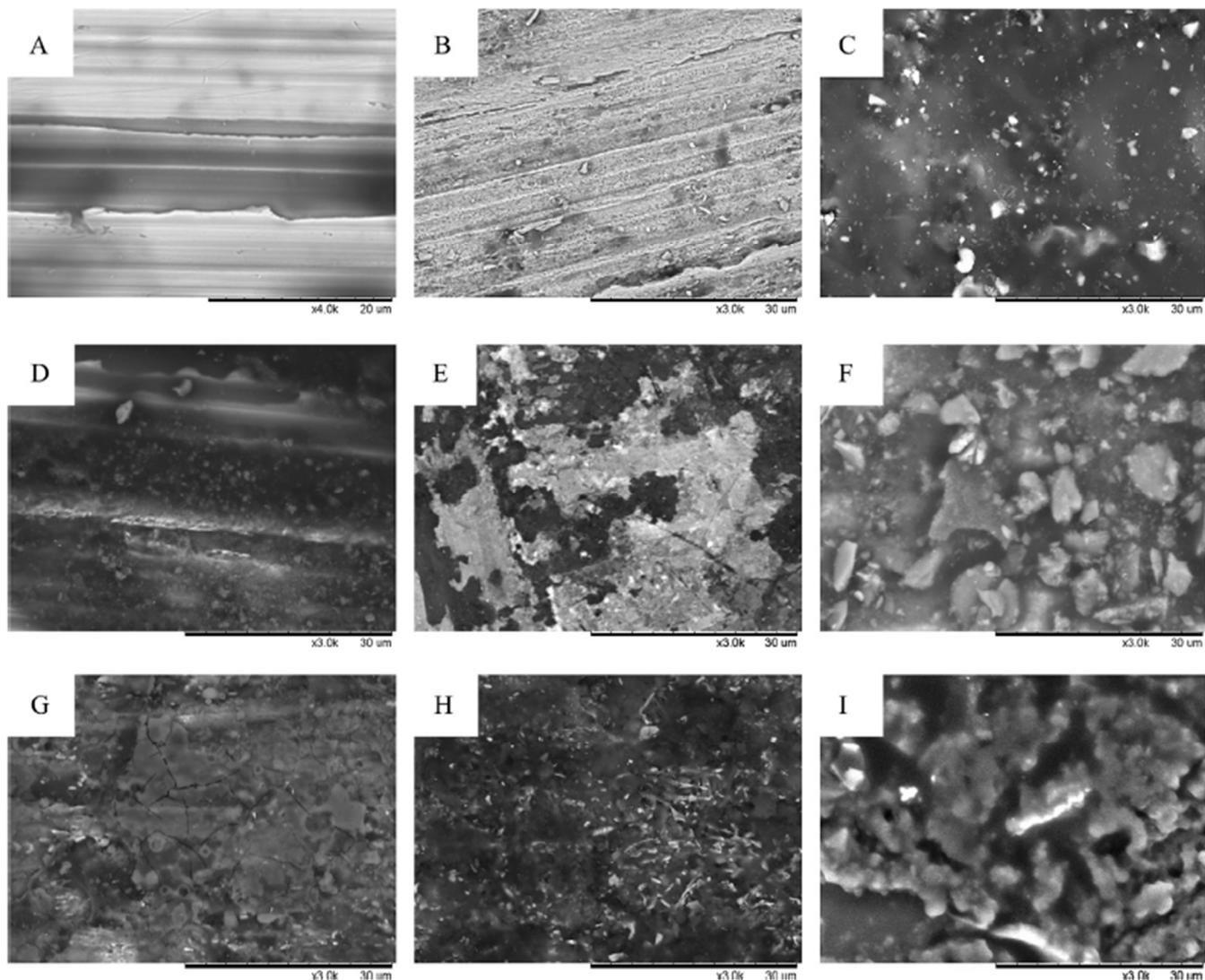


Figure 10. Surface morphology of ASTM 1045 MS in palm biodiesel at different temperatures 27, 50 and 80 °C for different exposure periods: (A) 27 °C—30 d; (B) 50 °C—30 d; (C) 80 °C—30 d; (D) 27 °C—60 d; (E) 50 °C—60 d; (F) 80 °C—60 d; (G) 27 °C—120 d; (H) 50 °C—120 d; (I) 80 °C—120 d [66].

XRD showed that the compounds formed on the surface of MS in biodiesel were Fe_2O_3 , $\text{FeO}(\text{OH})$, $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_2\text{CO}_3$, FeO and FeCO_3 . The products formed on the commercial diesel surface were FeO , $\text{FeO}(\text{OH})$ and Fe_2O_3 , as shown in Figure 11 [66].

When palm biodiesel was used to find CR of Al and Mg at RT for 720 and 1440 h, on the SEM image at 1000X magnification of the as-received materials, only grinding lines were visible. At 1440 h, again grinding lines were visible on the material surface of Al, therefore it did not achieve any significant change. However, the surface of Mg showed significant change and its surface was degraded because of the corrosion attack, as shown in Figure 12. XRD analysis did not show the formation of any compound on the surface of both materials [68].

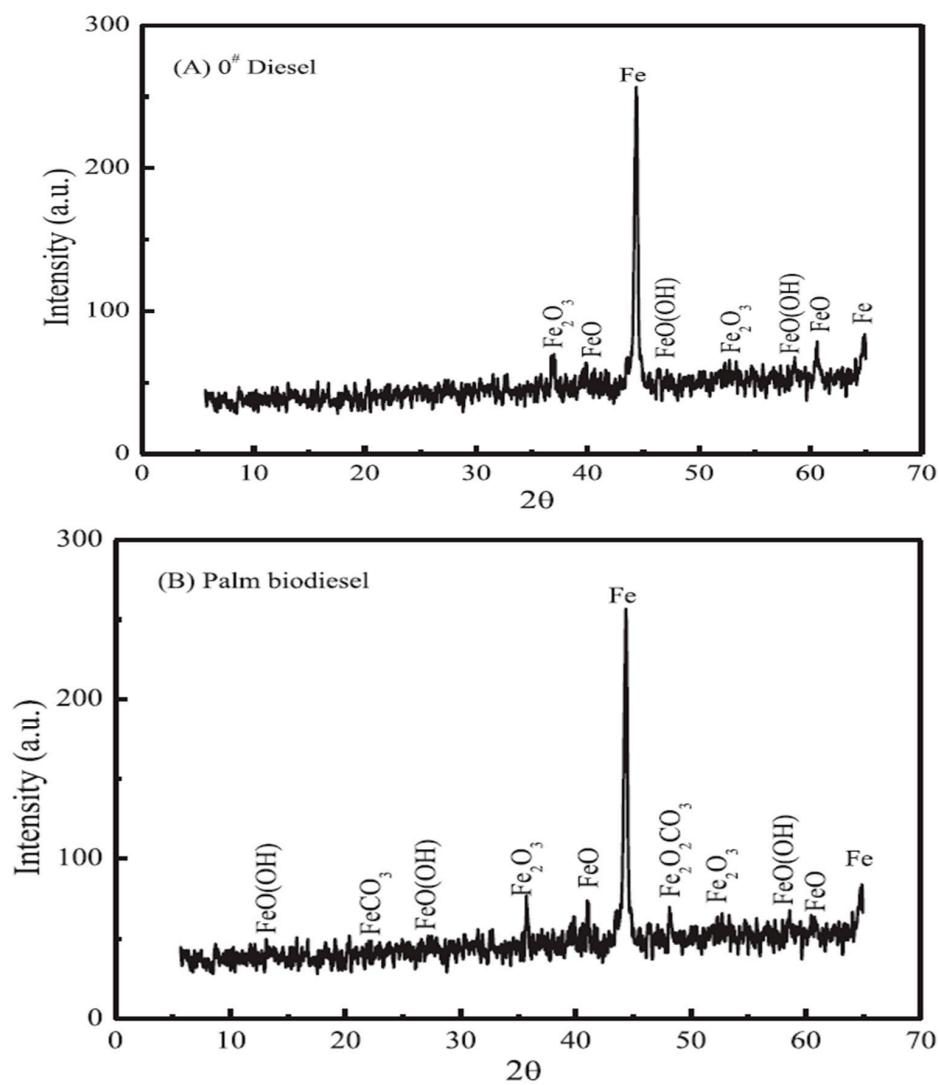


Figure 11. Corrosion products formed on MS at #0 diesel and biodiesel [66].

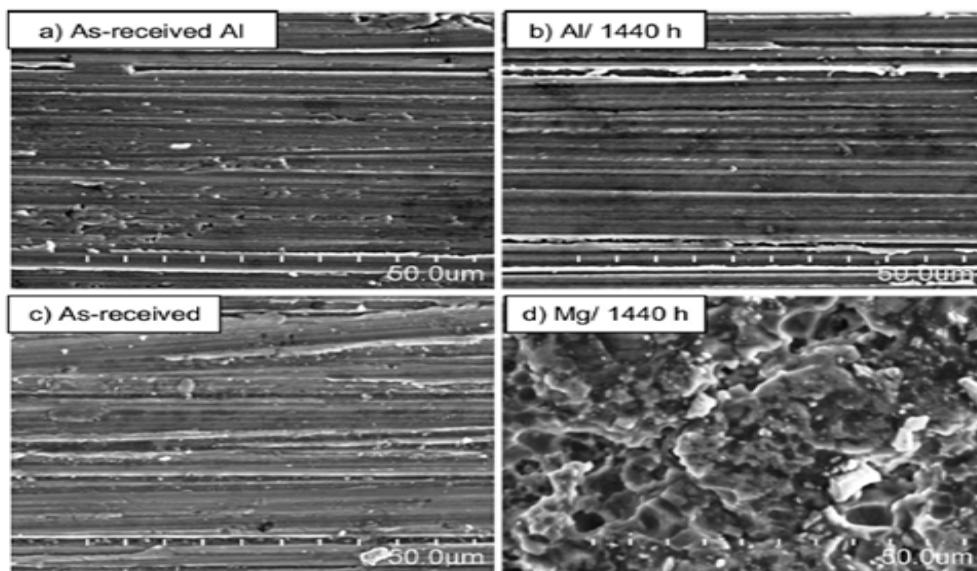


Figure 12. Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) image of Mg and Al before and after immersion [68].

When palm biodiesel was used to find corrosion rates of MS at RT, 50 and 80 °C for 1200 h, the XRD results showed the presence of certain compounds on the surface. Biodiesel had Fe_2O_3 , $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_2\text{CO}_3$ and Fe(OH)_3 while diesel showed only Fe_2O_3 and Fe(OH)_3 , as shown in Figure 13 [67]. Figure 14 shows the SEM images of samples before and after the immersion. It can be clearly seen that materials exhibit corrosion after the immersion. The zones where corrosion attacked are discontinued and scattered over the surface.

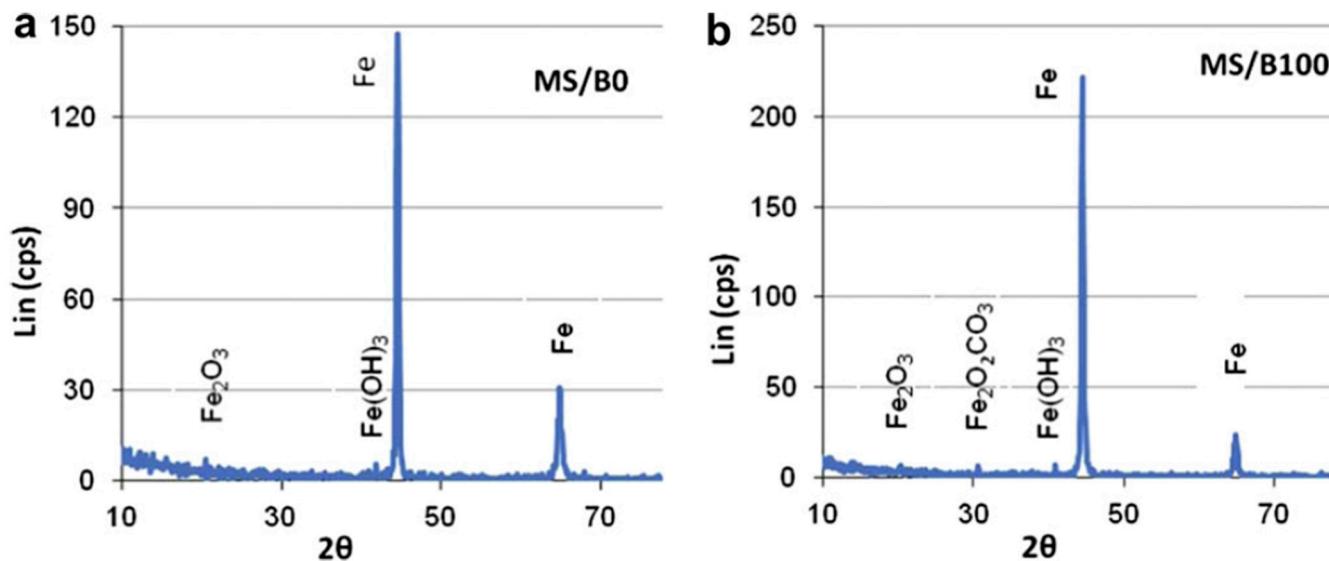


Figure 13. Corrosion products formed on MS upon exposure to diesel and biodiesel [67].

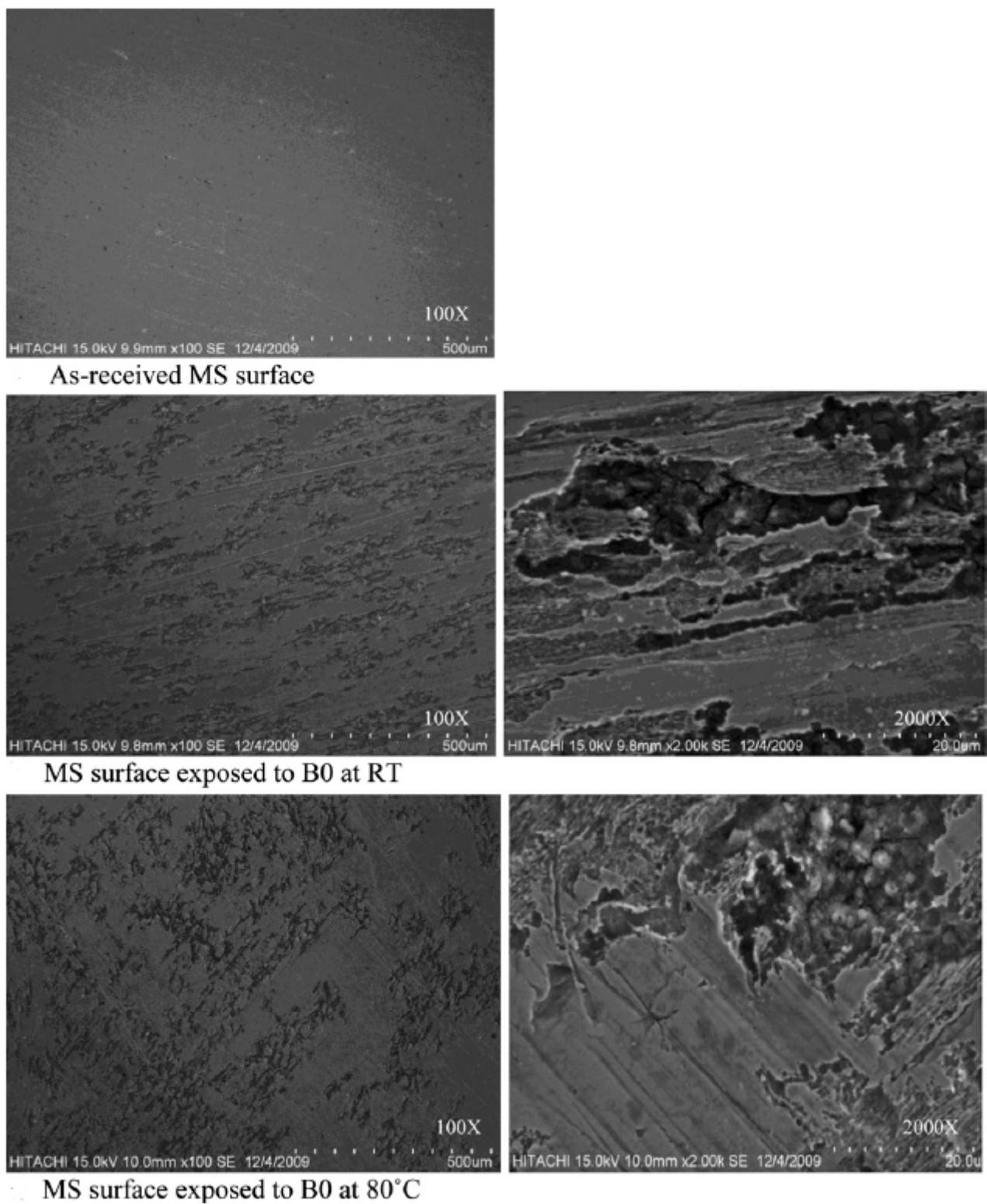


Figure 14. Cont.

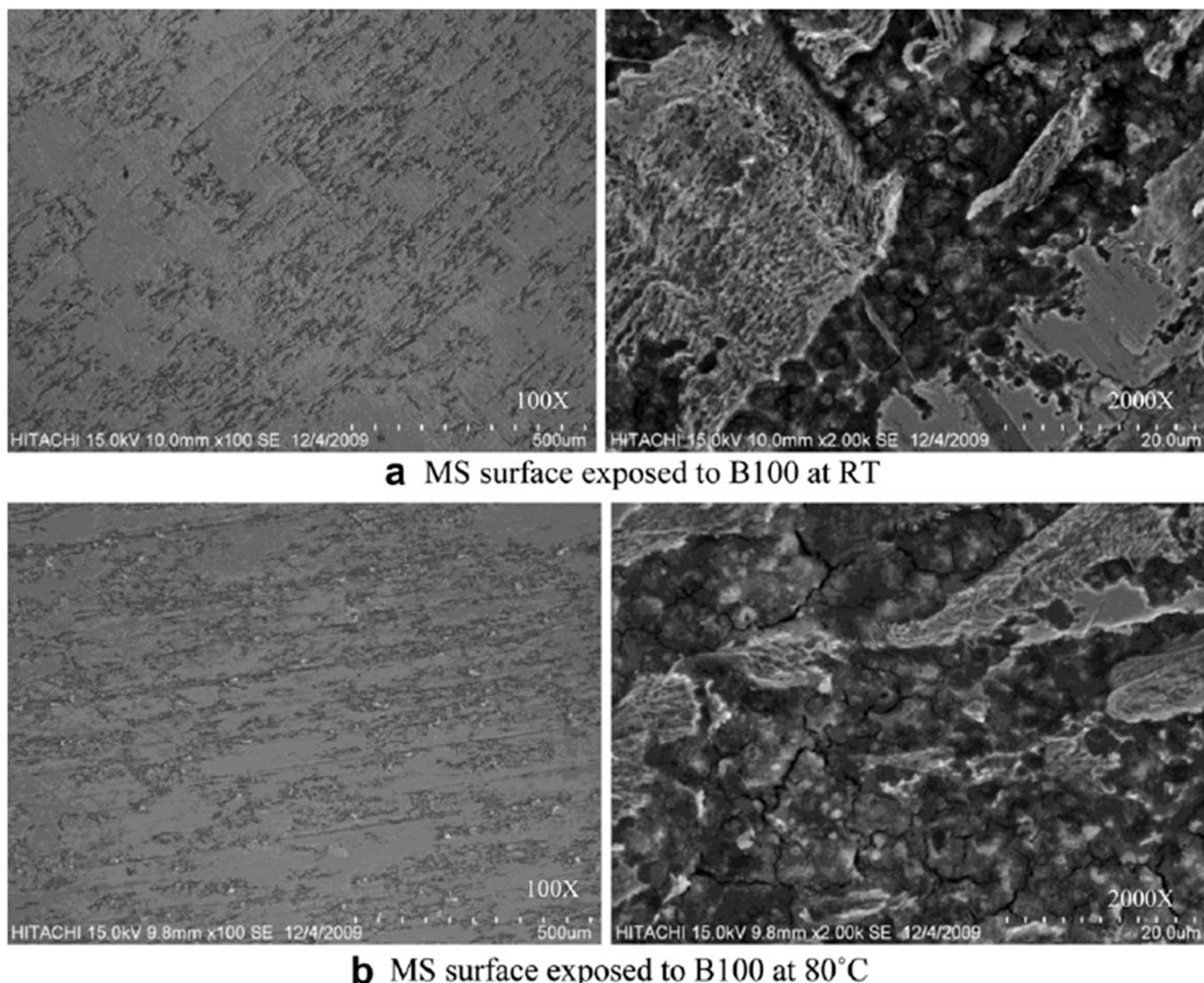
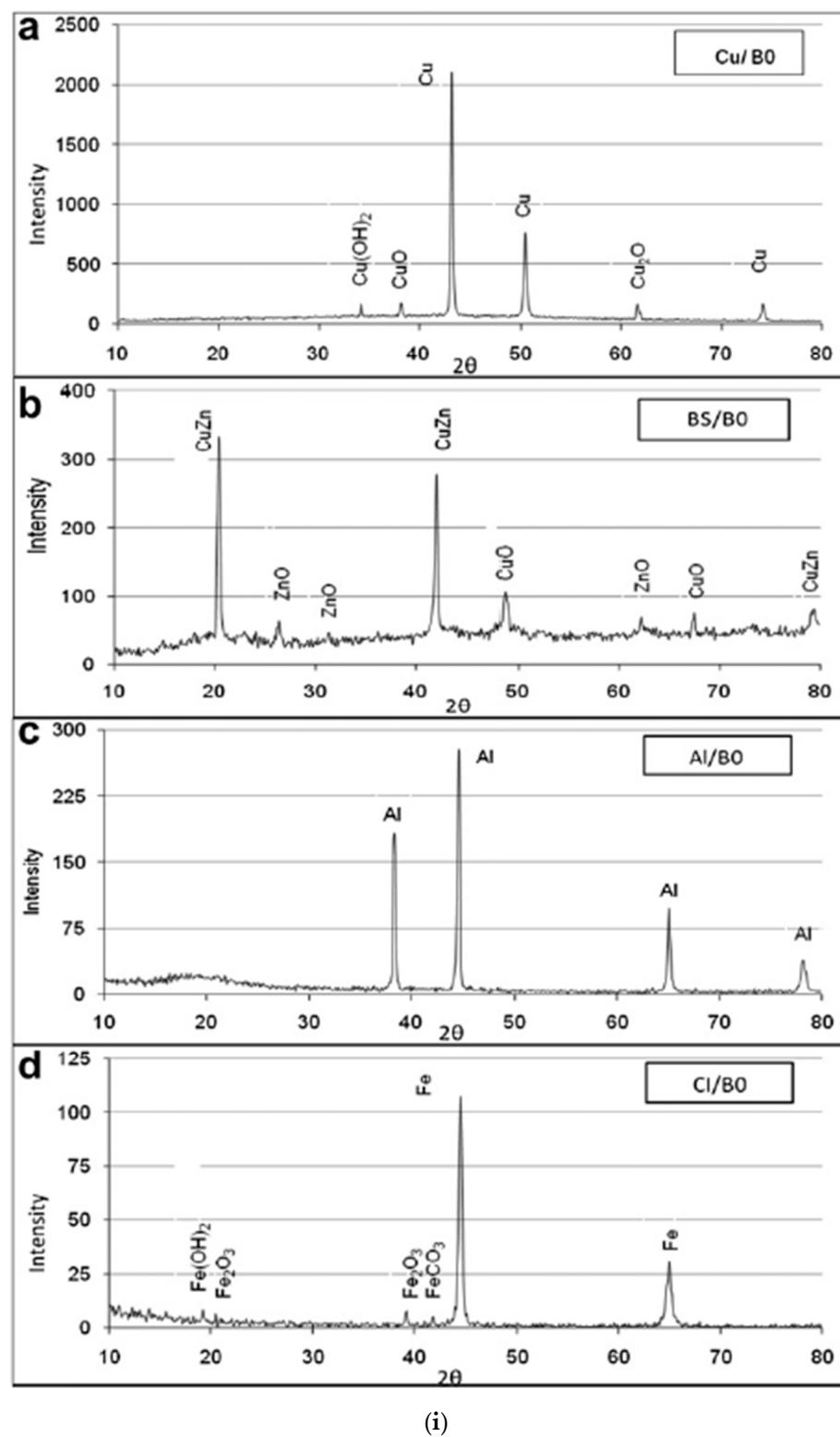


Figure 14. SEM images of as-received MS and on exposure to B0 (up) and B100 (down) at room temperature and 80 °C [67].

When palm biodiesel was used for Cu, BS, Al and CI at RT for 2880 h, the XRD results in Figure 15i,ii showed the formation of CuCO_3 in higher concentration along with CuO , $\text{CuCO}_3\cdot\text{Cu}(\text{OH})_2$, $\text{Cu}(\text{OH})_2$ and Cu_2O . Moreover, in brass, small amounts of CuCO_3 seemed to form. In the case of aluminum, no compound was formed on its surface in biodiesel or diesel. SEM images in Figure 16 showed that the corrosion attack in biodiesel is more than that of diesel. Aluminum showed the lowest corrosion attack as compared to other materials [64].



(i)

Figure 15. Cont.

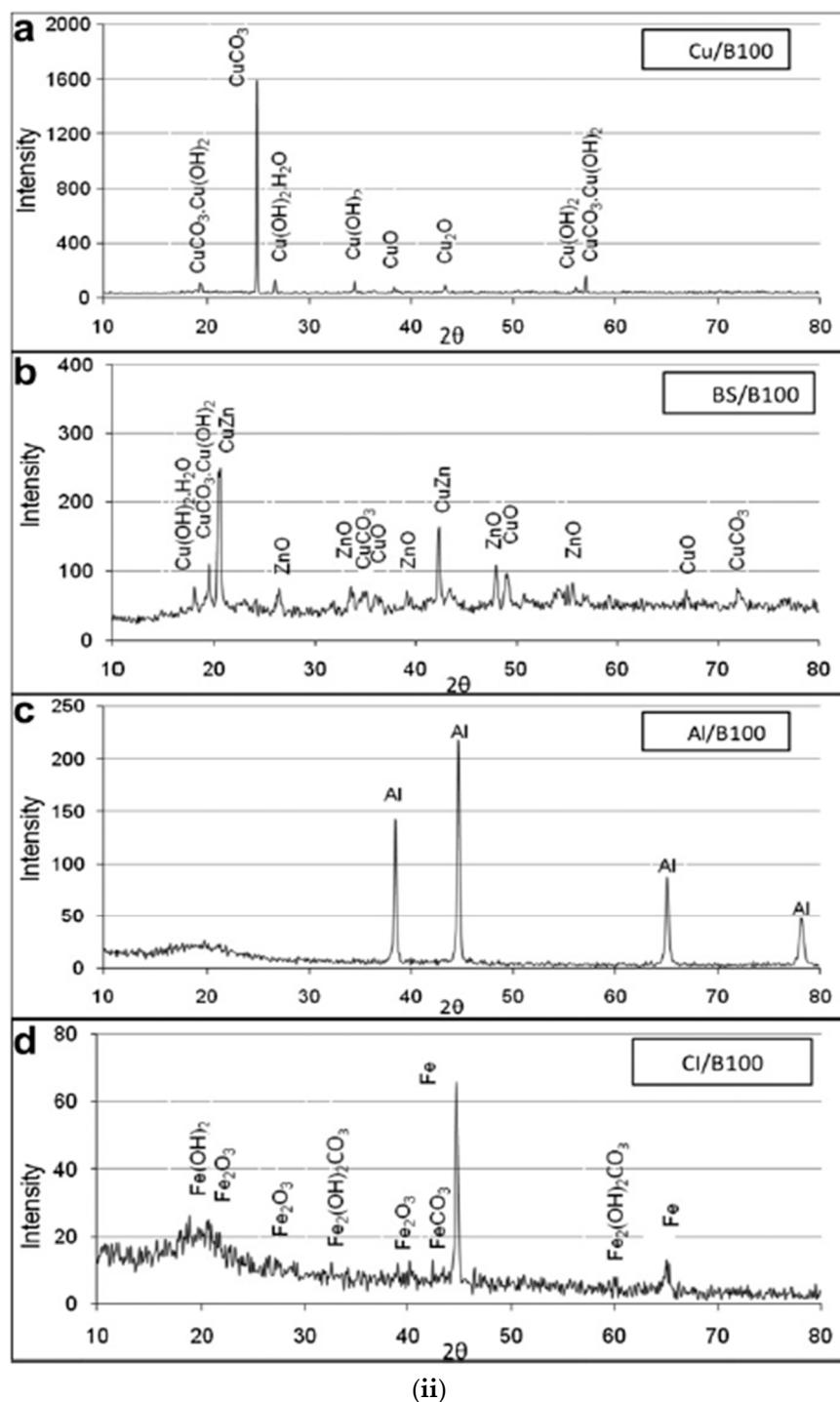


Figure 15. (i) Products of corrosion formed on as-received materials and B0 and B100 blends [64]. (ii) Products of corrosion formed on as-received materials and B0 and B100 blends [64].

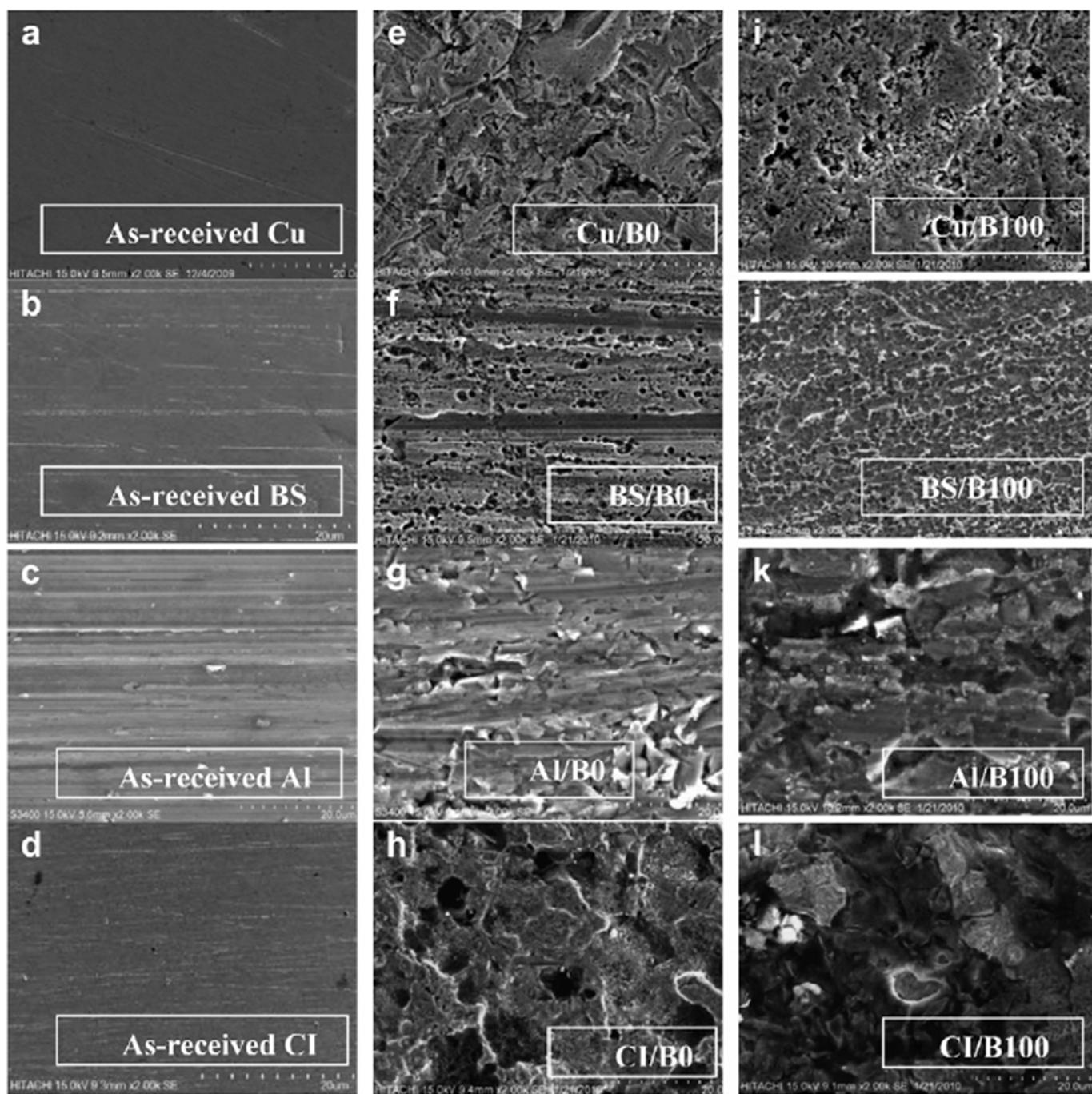


Figure 16. SEM images of as-received materials and when exposed to B0 and B100 blends [64].

6.2. Characterization and Products of Corrosion Obtained by Rapeseed Biodiesel

When the CRs of Cu, Al, SS and MCS were assessed by rapeseed biodiesel for two months at 43 °C, the SEM images of the materials showed that there were clear changes in the surface morphologies of all materials because of corrosion, except stainless steel, where only a small change was visible, as shown in Figure 17, which was because of the reaction with biodiesel. In the case of copper, a black layer covered its surface. The surface of aluminum was turned slightly dark. In the case of stainless steel, there were no changes on the surface. The XPS showed the formation of metal oxides including CuO, Cu₂O, Fe₂O₃ [71].

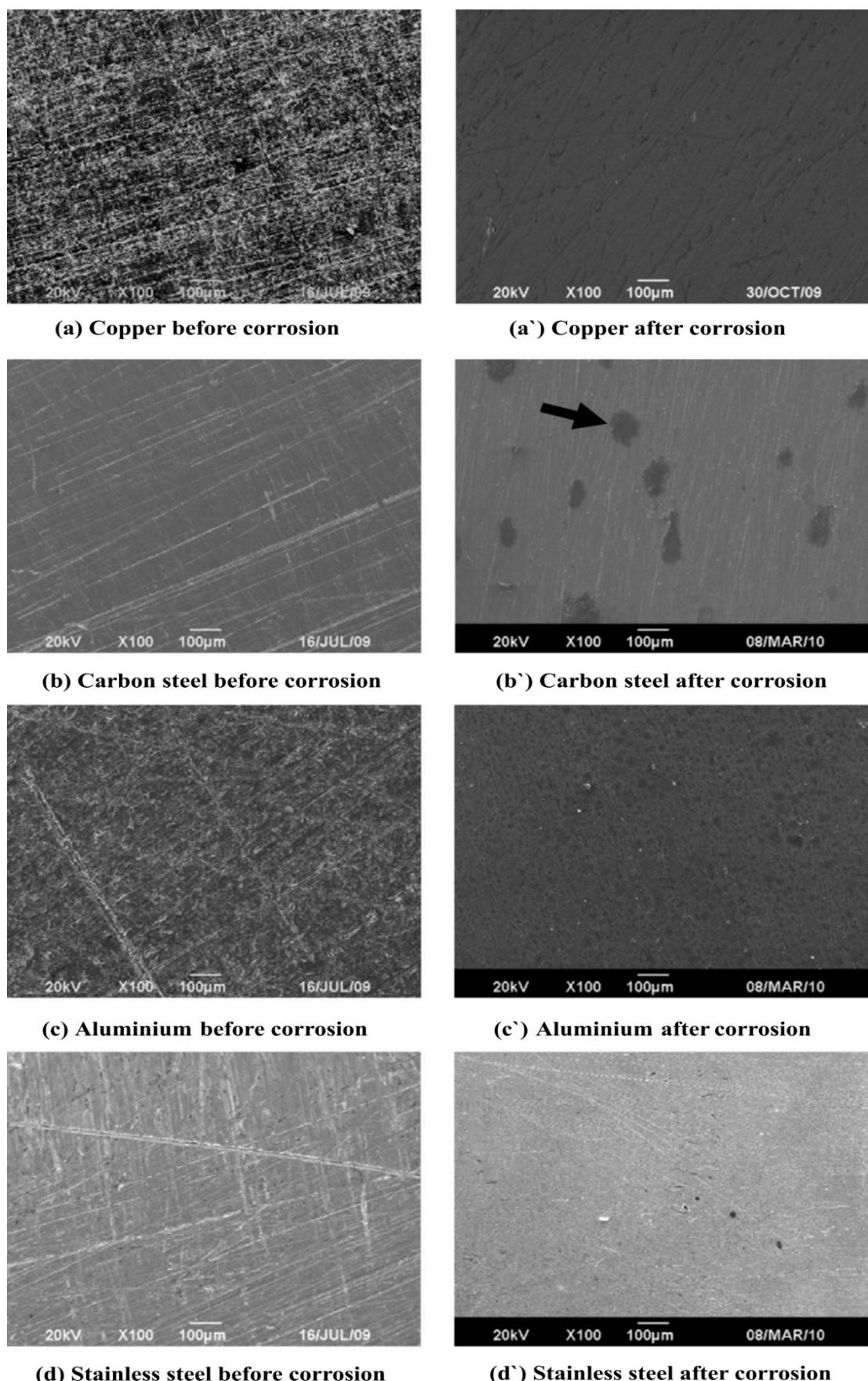


Figure 17. SEM image of the metal surface before and after immersion [71].

When the corrosion rates of AW 6060 aluminum alloy and E-Cu57 copper were assessed by ultralow sulfur diesel (ULSD) and rapeseed methyl ester (RME) for 600 h at 80 °C in the reaction of aluminum and biodiesel, Al(OH)_3 was found on the surface. Because of the presence of oxygen, another oxide layer Al_2O_3 was formed. In the case of copper, the compounds formed on the surface were CuO/CuCO_3 films followed by Cu_2O . The SEM images showed an increased concentration of biodiesel, which damaged the surface more and the pit generation can be seen to be increased, as in Figure 18 [72].

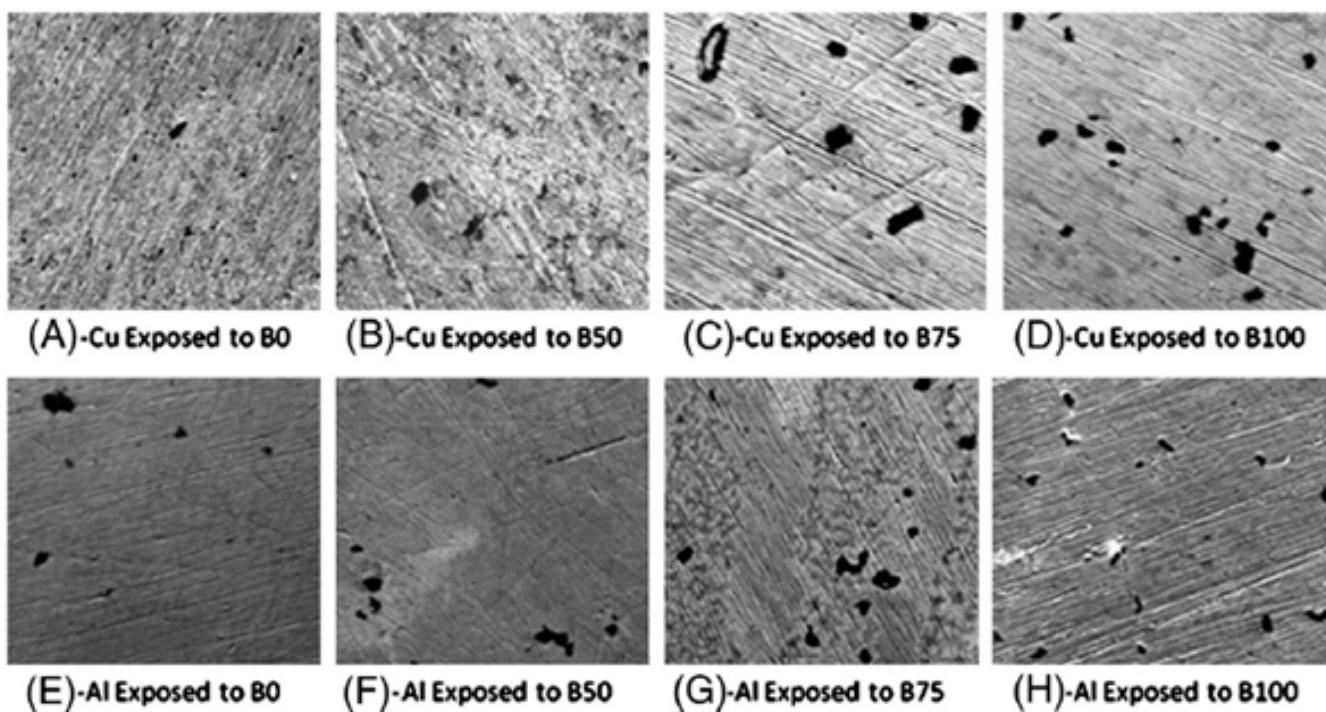
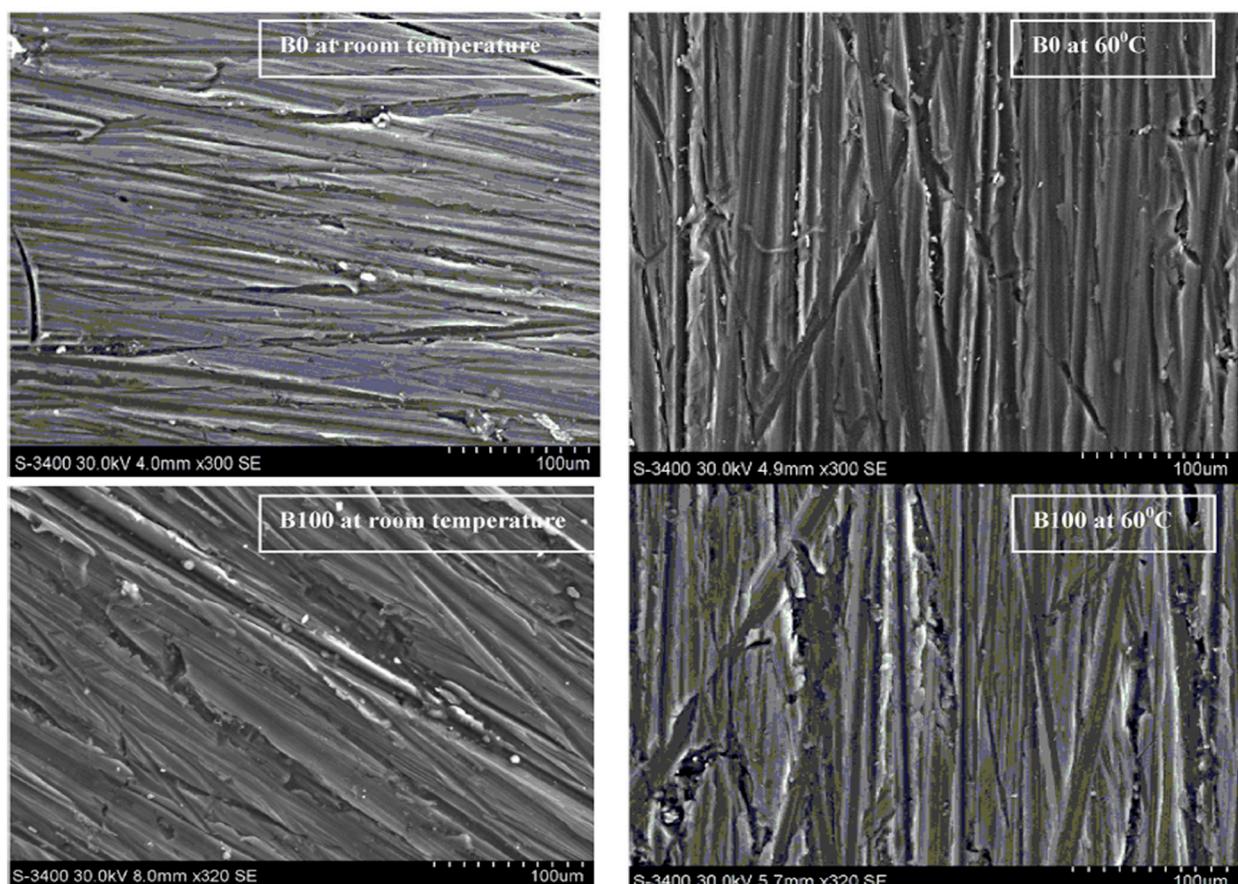


Figure 18. SEM photographs of surfaces exposed to fuel blends [72].

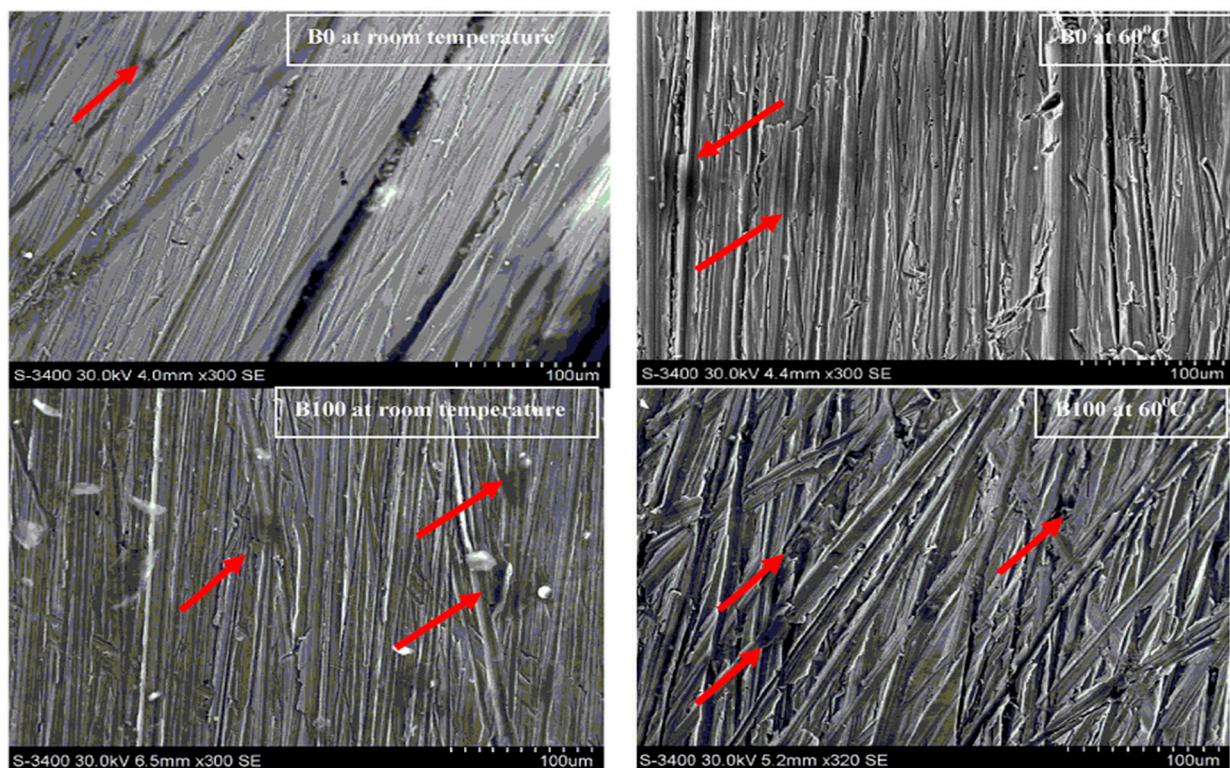
6.3. Characterization and Products of Corrosion Obtained by Sunflower Biodiesel

When CR of Al, Cu and MCS were assessed in sunflower biodiesel at RT and 60 °C for 3000 h, the XRD patterns of the materials confirmed the presence of base metal along with the little quantities of FeCO_3 , FeO(OH) , Fe_2O_3 , Cu(OH)_2 , CuO and AlO(OH) . SEM image of aluminum showed that at RT no corrosion attack was found; however, at 60 °C, a protective layer covering the surface of the Al protected the metal surface from corrosion.

The SEM image of Cu in Figure 19 showed that at RT there was the visibility of a few small pit formations which indicated the initiation of corrosion, while at 60 °C, the formed pits were of larger size, which confirmed that the Cu had been corroded [74].



(i)



(ii)

Figure 19. Cont.

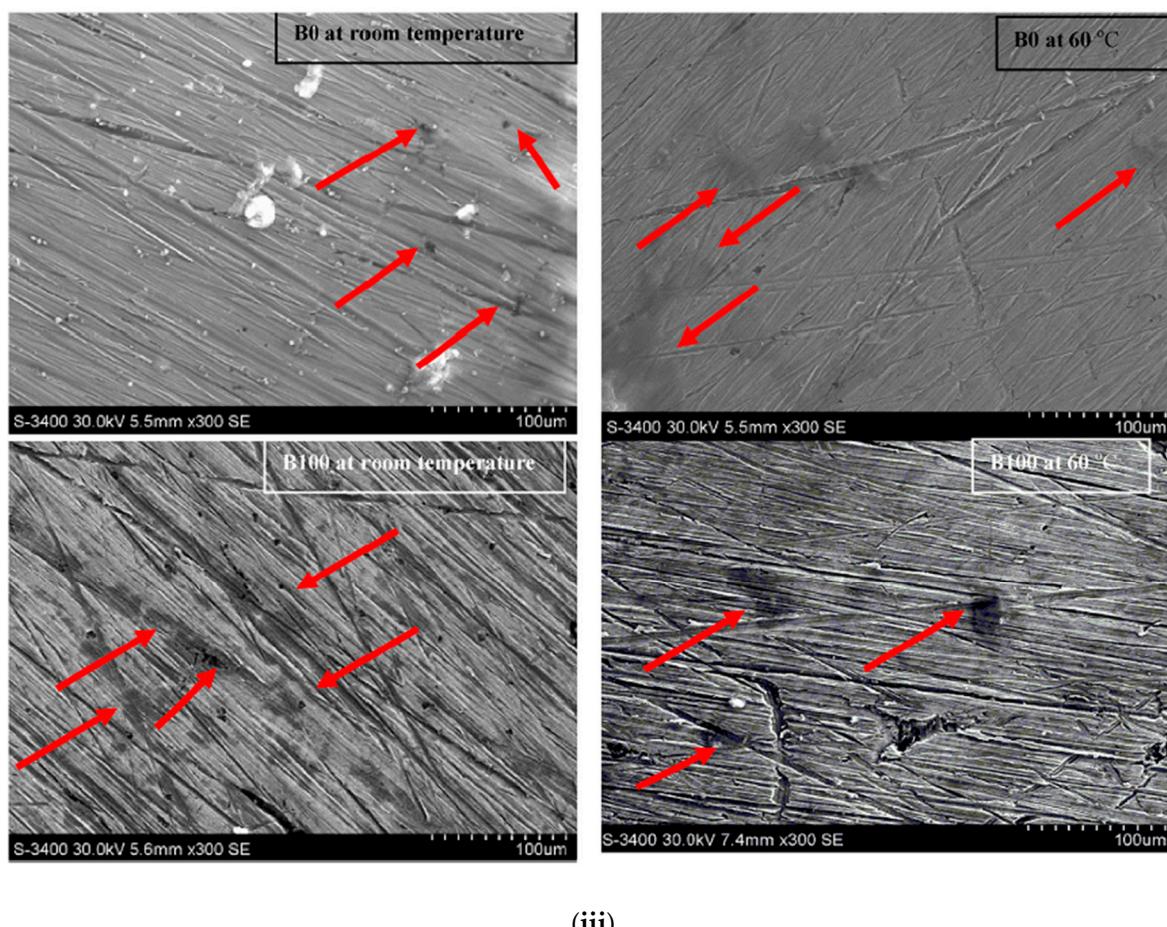


Figure 19. SEM images of Al (i), Cu (ii) and MCS (iii) after immersions in diesel and biodiesel for 3000 h [74].

7. Application of Corrosion Inhibitors to Protect Corrosion

Jakeria et al. [69] used two organic corrosion inhibitors to assess the corrosion behaviors of MS and Cu when exposed to palm biodiesel. The inhibitors which were used include adenine and benzotriazole. Static immersion tests were performed at RT for 60 days. The CR of Cu had been reduced effectively by using benzotriazole than that of MS after 60 days. The CR of Cu dropped from 0.7495 to 0.0229 mg/cm². In the presence of adenine, the CR of Cu reduced from 0.7495 to 0.2512 mg/cm². There was little effect of adenine found in the reduction in the CR of MS. Therefore, it was concluded that benzotriazole provides better corrosion resistance as compared to adenine.

8. Future Recommendations

The biodiesel obtained from different sources has proved to be corrosive among the engine parts. Most of the studies to assess the corrosion rate of materials when immersed in biodiesel have been performed at higher blends of biodiesel i.e., at B50 or more. However, the usage of biodiesel along with diesel is not increased beyond B5 in most countries, and the reason behind this is the corrosiveness of biodiesel. Therefore, to enhance the usage of biodiesel in engines, the blends with percentages 10, 15 or 20 should be examined so that these can be further studied and implemented to be used in diesel engines along with diesel. The higher blends always showed that the biodiesel is corrosive and hence cannot be used in diesel engines. Therefore, some systematic studies are the requirement to implement a more percentage of biodiesel in blend with diesel.

As the compatibility of biodiesel with engine parts is not good, its use in automotive engines is limited. The engine parts are made from many materials involving steel and

its alloys, aluminum, copper, brass and some other materials. Most of the studies have shown that copper and brass are the materials that have been most affected by biodiesel in terms of corrosion. Therefore, some alternate materials such as aluminum and stainless steel should be used to make parts that were previously made from copper, as stainless steel and aluminum have proved to be the least corrosive in biodiesels.

Additionally, to avoid corrosion, the materials can be coated with some useful coatings to prevent corrosion if it is necessary to use copper and brass parts of engines. These coatings will then reduce the intensity of corrosion of materials.

Corrosion inhibitors such as adenine and benzotriazole have shown good results in reducing the corrosion intensity of materials; however, these studies were performed for a limited period and hence they can be performed for longer durations and can be used in proper fractions to reduce the corrosion of materials in biodiesel.

9. Conclusions

Corrosion studies of materials, when coming in contact with biodiesel, are discussed in this study and it can be concluded that:

- Copper has is most affected materials in biodiesel in terms of corrosion followed by brass-, aluminum- and steel-based alloys, respectively. Additionally, the corrosion phenomena, surface morphology, mechanisms of corrosion and products of corrosion have been presented and it can be concluded that pitting is the most common type of corrosion that occurs from the use of biodiesel.
- Most of the materials produce their respective oxides in biodiesel and because of the presence of free oxygen.
- The immersion test method is a beneficial method for corrosion rate measurement.
- The main reasons of corrosion were the presence of unsaturated fatty acids, free water content, the biodiesel feedstock and condensation water on the surface of materials.
- With corrosion, the biodiesel degrades and hence results in an increased wear rate of the engine parts in contact with the biodiesel. Therefore, it is important to minimize corrosion affects produced by the use of biodiesel in engines.
- Most of the biodiesels have shown increased corrosion of materials when the concentration of biodiesel and duration of immersion or temperature was increased.

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Abbreviations

CR	Corrosion Rate	Spectroscopy	
SS	Stainless Steel	WSOB	Waste Sunflower Oil Biodiesel
Mg	Magnesium	FTIR	Fourier Transform Infrared
MS	Mild Steel	EDS	Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscope	RT	Room Temperature
XRD	X-Ray Diffraction	HT	High Temperature
TAN	Total Acid Number	Cu	Copper
OM	Optical Microscope	BS	Brass
XPS	X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy	Al	Aluminum
Spectroscopy		CI	Cast Iron
AAS	Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy	MCS	Mild Carbon Steel

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