Original Research Articles

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF A DIESEL ENGINE RUN ON BIODIESEL PRODUCED FROM COCONUT OIL AND ITS BLENDS

ABSTRACT

This paper presents the evaluation of performance parameters viz a viz Brake specific fuel consumptions(BSFC), brake powers and mechanical efficiencies of a diesel engine run on biodiesel, its blends and diesel. The results of the evaluation showed that all the parameters exhibit similar variations. Mechanical efficiencies of the diesel engine run on the blends of biodiesel with diesel containing 30%, 40% and 50% biodiesel denoted by B30, B40 and B50 respectively were found to be higher than when it was run on diesel and a blend of biodiesel with diesel containing 20% biodiesel denoted by B20. Mechanical efficiencies of the diesel engine run on the blend of biodiesel with diesel containing 10% biodiesel and solely biodiesel denoted by B10 and B100 respectively were found to be lesser than when it was run on diesel denoted by B0, with increase in brake powers. The mechanical efficiencies of the diesel engine run on B10,B30,B40 ,B50 and B100 were found to be lesser with increase in engine loads in comparison to when it was run on diesel. BSFC of the diesel engine that was run on biodiesel and its blend were found to be higher than when it was run on diesel. They increased with increase in percentage of biodiesel added to diesel as the engine load increases. However they were found to increase with increase in brake power in the following order B0,B10,B20, B30, B40, B50 and B100.

Keywords: Biodiesel, BSFC, diesel, diesel engine, engine load, mechanical efficiency.

1. INTRODUCTION

Diesel fuels have an essential function in the industrial economy of developing and developed countries(Awolu and Layokun,2013) and it is used in most types of transportation. Diesel engines are the power behind our machines- trucks, train, ships and submarine. They generate more power more efficiently when compared with petrol engines. Diesel engines are the most efficient prime movers, from the point of view of protecting global environment and concerns for long term energy security, it becomes necessary to develop alternative fuels with properties comparable to petroleum based fuels(Rao et al,2009). Beg et al(2010) opined that the source of crude oil in which diesel is a product, would be ruined in future as the demand of petroleum products is growing at faster rate day by day. In the quest for finding alternatives, biodiesel has gained a lot of attention. As it is known the use of biodiesel (B100), instead of diesel oil (B0), shows interesting environmental benefits, even though for economic reasons, today a complete replacement of fossil fuel is not possible(Friso,2014). Shetye(2013) stated that biodiesel is an alternate fuel that can be produced from renewable feedstock such as edible and non edible vegetable oils, wasted frying oils and animal fats. It is oxygenated sulphur free, non toxic biodegradable and renewable fuel. Savarirag et al(2013)a, stated that many technical papers revealed that the application of biodiesel in diesel engine is suitable for better performance, combustion and emission properties. A lot of work has been done partly or wholly on emissions and performance of diesel engine running on biodiesel from edible and non edible plants and its blends .This is in line with Teran and Yaman(2015) who opined that some notable researchers have produced biodiesel from different types of vegetable oils and animal fats. Remarkable sources of the aforementioned biodiesel which have been used to run diesel engine, whose emissions and performance parameters have been studied are fish oil(Savarirag et al,2013)b, sunflower and olive oil(Kalligerous et al, 2003), palm oil(Wirawan et al,2008), cotton seed oil(Nabi et al, 2009 and Gowthaman and Velmurugan,2012), castor oil(Islam et al, 2014), almond(Nadal and Khaled,2014),rapseed (Oberweis and Al-Shemmeri,2010), pongamia(Gopal and Karupparaj,2015), jathropha oil(Rao et al,2009), waste oil, rapeseed oil and corn oil(Tesfa et al,2014). Mahua oil(Lenin et al,2013 and Brahma and Babu,2013), ricebran(Umesh et al,2014, mustard oil(Sharma et al,2013) safflower oil and milk scum oil(Kotil et al, 2014). The results of their studies of the emission from biodiesel and its blends in comparison with diesel when they were used to run diesel engine revealed that emissions from biodiesel are lower than that from diesel, except NO_X and the emissions decrease with increase in the concentration of the blend of the biodiesel. The results of the performance evaluation varied from one researcher`s work to another because of different sources of biodiesel, performance parameters and the variation between them they individually considered. Biodiesel has been produced from coconut oil, characterized and the emissions were studied by Teran and Yaman(2015). Transesterification process with Sodium hydroxide(caustic soda) as catalyst was used to produce the biodiesel with a yield of 49.9%. Dias et al(2013) opined that biodiesel can be produced over calcium oxide catalyst from low value raw material without significant deterioration of the catalytic performance. However a higher yield would have been obtained if heterogeneous catalyst, calcium oxide was used, in line with the work of Puna et al, (2013) where biodiesel yields of 97-98% were obtained from soybean and rapeseed. The results of the emission test obtained from the biodiesel and its blend by Teran and Yaman(2015) revealed the potentials of being used to run diesel engine. So the aim of this research is to use the biodiesel, its blends, and diesel to run a diesel engine and evaluate its performance in terms of operational parameters.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The fuel materials used for this study include diesel fuel, biodiesel produced from coconut oil and characterised by Teran and Yaman(2015) and the blends of the biodiesel. The test rig shown in plate I was used for this study. It includes GD411 diesel Honda 9.0 an air cooled, 4-cycles, single cylinder and 9 horse power engine manufactured by Honda Motor Company, Japan,coupled to dynamometer, equipped with sensors, data acquisition and digital display systems.

Plate I Test Rig .

The specifications of the engine in the test rig are shown in Table1.

Table 1. Engine specifications

Parameters	Specifications
Engine model	**GD411**
Engine type	**Air cooled, 4 stroke, direct injection diesel engine.**
Number of cylinders	**1**
Bore(mm)x Stroke(mm)	**82x78**
Displacement(cm^3)	**411**
Compression ratio	**18.2:1**
Maximum power output	**9HP(6.6Kw) at 3600rpm**
Fuel Tank capacity	**4.6 l**
Engine dimensions	**440mmx405mmx490mm**

2.1 Experimental procedure

Blends of biodiesel and diesel fuel were produced in the ratio of 10:90, 20:80, 30:70, 40:60 and 50:50 by volume, denoted by B10, B20, B30, B40 and B50 respectively.

The engine was made to run for 30 minutes in line with the work of Savariraj et al (2013)b with 100% diesel fuel denoted by B0 as base fuel or reference fuel at constant speed of 1000rpm which was measured by digital Tachometer. The engine load was applied by employing dynamometer that was coupled to it. The fuel consumption rate was measured using a glass burette and stopwatch. After completing the experiment with 100% diesel, the engine was allowed to run with 100% biodiesel denoted by B100 and biodiesel blends, that is B10, B20, B30, B40, B50 respectively. Each test was repeated five times and the arithmetic mean of the readings or observations was used for calculation and analysis. The performance parameters determined, include engine load, brake specific fuel consumption (BSFC), brake power and mechanical efficiency.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the determined performance parameters of the diesel engine run on coconut oil biodiesel, its blends and diesel as they vary with one another, are shown in this section.

The variation of mechanical efficiency with brake power is shown in figure 1.

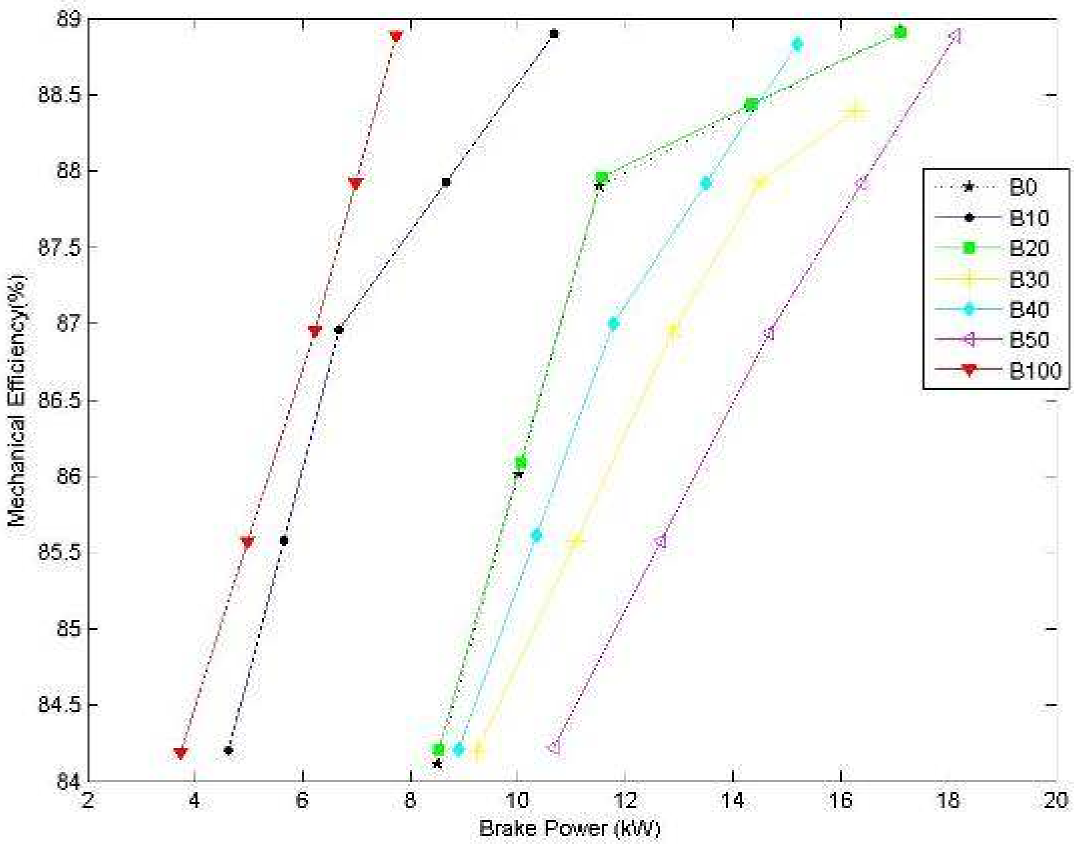

Figure.1 Variation of mechanical efficiency with brake power

It can be seen from figure 1 that mechanical efficiency increased with increase in brake power. The mechanical efficiency of the diesel engine when it was run on the blends B50 is higher than when the diesel engine was run on diesel(B0) and the same when the diesel engine was run on B20. It is evident in figure 1, that the mechanical efficiency of diesel engine when it is run on diesel is higher than when it is run on other blends and this is in line with the findings of Srithar et al,(2014) in their work.

The variation of brake specific fuel consumption with brake power is shown in figure 2

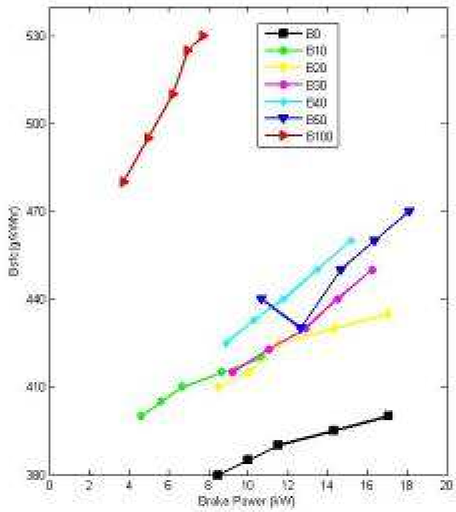

Figure. 2 Variation of brake specific fuel consumption with brake power

It can be seen from figure 2, that the diesel engine has higher BSFC when it was run on B100 or on others and has the least BSFC when it was run on B0. However BSFC increased with increase in brake power except when the diesel engine was run on B50 where the BSFC initially decreased from 441g/kWhr at 10kW brake power to 422g/kWhr at 13kW brake power and finally increased with increase in brake power. The reason for initial decrease in BSFC could be that percentage increase in fuel to run the engine was less than the percentage increase in brake power output(Savariraj et al, 2013)b. As BSFC increases, smokiness lowers down to 50%(Friso, 2014) The fuel flow problems such as higher density and higher viscosity of biodiesel and decreasing combustion efficiency have certain effect, such as reduction in brake power (Utlu and Knocak,2008) cited by Shirneshan et al, (2014)

The variation of brake specific fuel consumption with engine load is depicted in figure 3

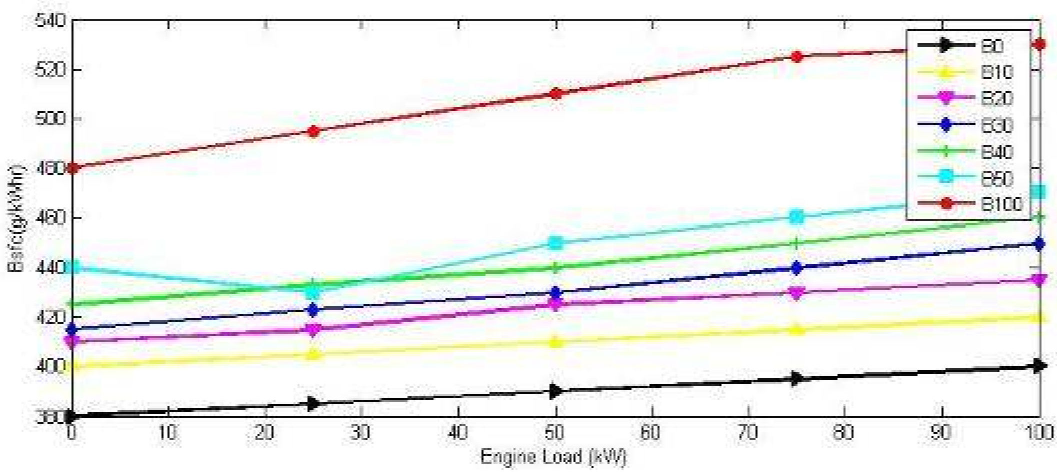

Figure 3 Variation of brake specific fuel consumption with engine load

It can be seen in figure 3, that BSFC of the diesel engine when run on B0, B10,B20, B30,B40 and B100 increased with increase in engine load, while when run on B50, decreased with increase in engine load to about 25Kw and increased with increase in engine load. The decrease in BSFC with increase in engine load as experienced by the diesel engine when it was run on B50, might be due to the fact that percentage increase in fuel required to operate the engine was less than the percentage increase in brake power as relatively less portion of the heat losses occurred at higher engine loads(**Raheman, et al**,2013). BSFC of the diesel engine run on the coconut oil biodiesel and its blends are higher than those of diesel engine run on diesel at all loads. This is as a result of lower calorific value [Singh and

Singla(2015) and Savariraj et al (2013)b] of coconut oil biodiesel and its blends compare to diesel. BSFC increases with biodiesel blend ratio (Prajapati et al, 2014) and this is evident in Figure 3

The variation of mechanical efficiency with engine load is shown in figure 4.

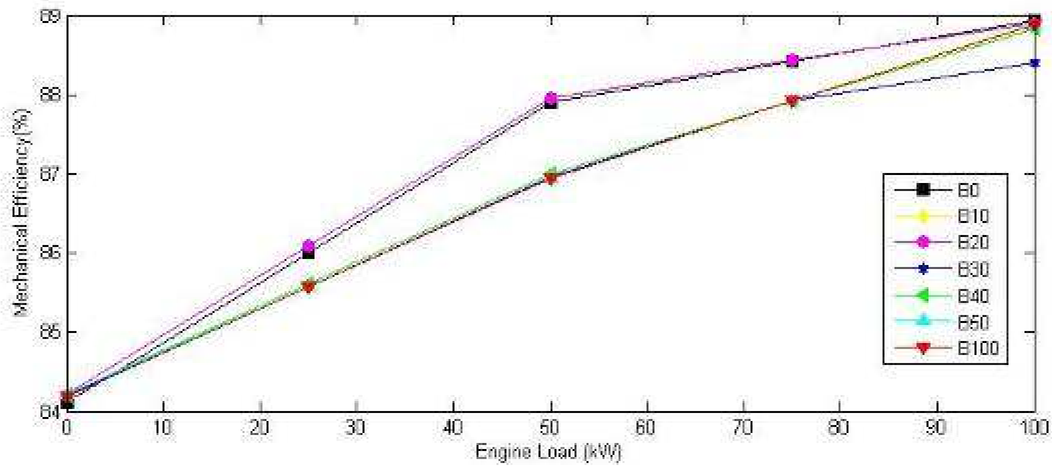

Figure 4 Variation of mechanical efficiency with engine load.

It can be seen from figure 4 that mechanical efficiency increased with increase in engine load for the diesel engine when it was run on diesel(B0), biodiesel(B100) and all the blends of the biodiesel. This could be attributed to minimal power that was lost as the load increased. It is evident in figure 4 that the desel engine has the highest mechanical efficiency when it was run on B20 compared to when it was run on diesel and others, although they are closed to each other. This is in line with the findings in Kolhe et al,(2014) work.

4. CONCLUSION

Performance analysis of a diesel engine run on coconut oil biodiesel, its blends and diesel has been carried out. From the results obtained, the following conclusions can be made. The mechanical efficiency of the diesel engine run on coconut oil biodiesel, its blends increased with increase in brakepower. The BSFC of the diesel run on B100 is higher than when it is run on diesel irrespective of the load. Mechanical efficiency increases with increase in engine load, regardless of the type of fuel it is run on. Biodiesel produced from coconut oil and its blend can be used in running diesel engine quite effectively. Engine parameters evaluated, are similar to those with diesel from fossil fuel, which makes biodiesel an alternative fuel to mitigate the present energy and environmental crises.

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