Jaboticaba yoghurts enriched with whey protein or albumin: evaluation of phenolic content and color*

Iogurtes de jabuticaba adicionados de proteína do soro do leite ou albumina: avaliação do conteúdo fenólico e cor

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Abstract

In the present study, nonfat yoghurt made with whey protein isolate (WPI) or pasteurized egg white powder (albumin) was added with syrup containing jaboticaba pulp and lyophilized jaboticaba peel flour and six experimental groups were made: control yoghurt (CY); WPI yoghurt (WY); albumin yoghurt (AY), syrup yoghurt and WPI (WSY); syrup and albumin yoghurt (ASY) and syrup yoghurt (SY). This study aimed to verify the influence of the addition of fruit syrup on the phenolics compounds and on the instrumental color parameters of yoghurts made with proteins on the 1st and 28th day of storage. There was a significant decrease in total phenolics content in yoghurt containing WPI and syrup (from 1408.14mg GAE.L⁻¹ to 686.73mg GAE.L⁻¹), as well as total anthocyanin content. However, yoghurt containing syrup and albumin showed an increase in total flavonoid content on day 28 of storage (from 28.30mg QE.100g⁻¹ to 38.29mg QE.100g⁻¹). Regarding color, there was an increase in L* and b* values in yoghurt containing syrup and WPI and in yoghurt containing syrup and albumin. For a* values, a decrease was observed at the end of the storage period in samples containing protein (WPI or albumin) and syrup. The data showed that the addition of jaboticaba syrup to yoghurts containing different proteins provided different phenolics compounds contents at the end of the storage period, and different color parameters to the final product.

Keywords: native fruit, fermented milk, polyphenols, proteins.

Resumo

No presente estudo, iogurtes desnatados feitos com proteína isolada do soro do leite (PIS) ou albumina isolada da clara do ovo pasteurizadas em pó (albumina) foram adicionados de xarope contendo a polpa da jabuticaba e a farinha liofilizada da casca da jabuticaba, obtendo-se seis grupos experimentais: iogurte controle (CY); iogurte PIS (WY); iogurte albumina (AY); iogurte xarope e PIS (WSY); iogurte xarope e albumina (ASY) e iogurte xarope com albumina (SY). Neste estudo objetivou-se verificar a influência da adição do xarope da fruta nos compostos fenólicos e nos parâmetros instrumentais de cor dos iogurtes elaborados com proteínas no 1º e 28º dia de armazenamento. Houve uma diminuição significativa no teor de fenólicos totais no iogurte contendo PIS e xarope (de 1408.14mg GAE.L⁻¹ para 686.73mg GAE.L⁻¹), bem como no teor de antocianinas (de 158.45mg cyanidin-3-glucoside.L⁻¹ para 56.45mg cyanidin-3-glucoside.L⁻¹). No entanto, os iogurtes contendo xarope e albumina apresentaram um aumento no teor de flavonóides totais no 28º dia de armazenamento (de 28.30mg QE.100g⁻¹ para 38.29mg QE.100g⁻¹). Em relação a cor houve um aumento dos valores de L* e no valor de b* no iogurte contendo xarope e PIS e no iogurte contendo xarope e albumina. Já para os valores de a* foi observado uma diminuição ao final do período de armazenamento nas amostras contendo proteína (PIS ou albumina) e xarope. Os dados demonstraram que a adição do xarope de jabuticaba a iogurtes contendo diferentes proteínas proporcionaram diferentes conteúdos de compostos fenólicos ao final do período de estocagem, e diferentes parâmetros de cor ao produto final.

Palavras-chave: fruta nativa, leites fermentados, polifenóis, proteínas.

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**Introduction**

Yoghurt is one of the most popular fermented dairy products worldwide and fruits addition can improve nutritional quality such as fibers and natural antioxidants (Scibisz et al., 2019).

A native purple berry from Brazil, Jaboticaba (Myrciaria jaboticaba - Vell) Berg - Jaboticaba Sabará), is rich in phenolic compounds including jactoxicabin, flavonoids, anthocyanins, tannins, and others, mostly found in peel (Romão et al., 2019). The incorporation of ingredients with high antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities, as dried jaboticaba peel, can increase nutritional value and functional properties in food (Di Maio et al., 2019).

Considering functional properties, whey protein and its bioactive compounds are other ingredients that can improve the quality of the food, especially dairy products. When this byproduct is added to yoghurt increases protein concentration contributing with nutritional quality and desirable technological e sensory properties (Delikanil and Ozcan, 2016).

Another important protein source widely used by food industries because its versatility and technological proprieties are egg white (Singh et al., 2019). Furthermore, egg white is rich in functional peptides and when associated with a healthy diet contributes to the prevention and treatment of some diseases (Chen Chi et al., 2012).

Certain proteins are known to interact with the amount of phenolic compounds (Ulrih, 2015). In addition, there are no studies with dairy products using jaboticaba flour peel as an ingredient and albumin.

For that reason, the present study is an original work and aimed to evaluate the effect of the addition of lyophilized jaboticaba peel flour and jaboticaba pulp (syrup) on phenolic content and instrumental color parameters of nonfat yoghurt made with whey protein isolate (WPI) or pasteurized egg white powder albumin (albumin) stored at 4 ± 1 °C for 28 days.

**Materials and methods**

**Chemicals**


**Plant material**

Fruits (Myrciaria jaboticaba (Vell.) Berg) (Jaboticaba Sabará) were collected in Farm and Winery Jaboticabal (Hidrolândia, Goiás, Brazil). They were selected, washed in tap water, sanitized with sodium hypochlorite solution 100 μL.L⁻¹ for 15 minutes. Pulp, peel, and seeds were separated using an electronic device (DHM-2, Macanuda®). After, the jaboticaba peel and jaboticaba pulp were separately frozen in a conventional freezer for 24 hours (-18°C) and transported to the Fruit and Vegetables Processing Laboratory of the Faculty of Food Engineering of Goiás Federal University. Then, the jaboticaba peel was freeze-dried in a freeze-drier (Terroni® LS 3000) for about 48h. After freeze-drying, the samples were ground to obtain freeze-dried powder (Inada et al., 2015). In total, approximately 1 kg of jaboticaba pulp and 500g of lyophilized jaboticaba peel flour were used in the experiment.

**Ingredients**

To perform treatments, it was used white cane sugar (União®), UHT skimmed milk (Molico®), albumin isolated pasteurized egg white powder (NaturOvos®), whey protein isolate – WPI (Isofort®). Ingredients were purchased from a local supermarket at Niterói, RJ, Brazil. Starter cultures of Streptococcus thermophilus and Lactobacillus bulgaricus subsp. delbrueckii (Yo-Flex®, Chr Hansen, Valinhos, SP, Brazil) were used.

**Syrup and yoghurt preparation**

For the syrup formulations, jaboticaba pulp (20%), freeze-dried jaboticaba peel flour (2%) and sugar (5%) were mixed and pasteurized at 60°C for 3 min. The syrups to be added to the control yoghurt (CY) and syrup yoghurt (SY) were added 1% water in its formulation.

Yoghurts were produced using UHT skimmed milk and freeze-dried starter cultures (2% w/v) corresponding approximately to 7 logₐ CFU g⁻¹ of a mixed culture of Streptococcus thermophilus and Lactobacillus bulgaricus subsp. delbrueckii. After that, yoghurts were incubated at 43°C for 4 hours until pH 4.6 and then cooled overnight at 3-5°C (Costa et al., 2017).

Control yoghurt (72%) sample (CY) and five treatments were performed as follows: yoghurt (72%) with WPI (1%) (WY); yoghurt (72%) added of albumin (1%) (AY); yoghurt (72%) with syrup (SY); yoghurt (72%) with WPI (1%) and syrup (WSY); and yoghurt (72%) added of albumin (1%) and syrup (ASY). For yoghurts containing protein sources (WPI or albumin), those ingredients were added before the freeze-dried culture inoculation. The syrup was added after yoghurt preparation. All experimental groups were stored at 4±1°C for 28 days.

**Determination of total phenolics flavonoids and total anthocyanins content**

The total phenolics content (TPC) was determined at day 1 and day 28 of storage (4±1°C) using Folin-Ciocalteu’s reagent according to Ainsworth and Gillespie (2007). For that, 0.02 mL of each sample and 2 mL methanol 95% (v/v) were placed in test tubes. Tubes were vortexed and incubated at room temperature (25°C±2°C) for 48 hours in a dark place. After, samples were centrifuged (13.000 g for 5 min at room temperature) and a 100μL supernatant aliquot was placed in a 2 mL microtube. Then, 200μL of 10% (v/v) Folin-Ciocâlteu’s reagent was added and vortexed followed by the addition of 800μL sodium carbonate 700mM (Na2CO3). Microtubes were incubated in a dark place at room temperature (25±2°C) for 2 hours.

For absorbance readings, it was used a spectrophotometer UV-1800 (Shimadzu® Corporation, Kyoto, Japan) at 765 nm. The gallic acid calibration curve was performed to determine TPC. Results were expressed as milligram gallic acid equivalents (GAE).100g⁻¹ sample.
Determination of total flavonoids content (TFC) at day 1 and day 28 of storage (4±1°C) was according to Lin and Tang (2007). For that, 0.1 g of sample was dissolved in 1 mL deionized water. Then, 0.5 mL was mixed with 1.5 mL of 95% alcohol, 0.1 mL of 10% aluminum chloride hexahydrate (AlCl₃·6H₂O), 0.1 mL of 1M potassium acetate (CH₃COOK) and 2.8 mL of deionized water. The samples were incubated at room temperature (25±2°C) in a dark room for 40 minutes.

The absorbance was measured at 415 nm in a Spectrophotometer UV-1800 (Shimadzu®, Corporation, Kyoto, Japan) using deionized water as a blank and quercetin were chosen as a standard. Data were expressed as milligram quercetin equivalents (QE).100g⁻¹.

Total anthocyanins content (TAC) was determined at day 1 and day 28 of storage (4±1°C) as described by Lee et al. (2005).

Table 1: Total Phenolics Content (TPC; mg GAE.L⁻¹) (Mean±SD) of syrup, control sample and five treatments on the 1st and 28th days of refrigerated (4±1°C) storage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Syrup</th>
<th>CY</th>
<th>SY</th>
<th>WY</th>
<th>WSY</th>
<th>ASY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3934.70±1.10</td>
<td>338.30±0.73</td>
<td>1130.68±1.68</td>
<td>316.95±0.99</td>
<td>1408.14±1.60</td>
<td>388.99±0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>3168.30±1.00</td>
<td>268.93±0.48</td>
<td>672.32±1.27</td>
<td>260.93±0.42</td>
<td>686.73±1.82</td>
<td>262.53±0.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 was estimated using a commercially available statistical package (XLSTAT version 2015.6 for Windows, Addinsoft, Long Island City, NY, USA). The number of replicates was 6 and the statistical analysis was performed comparing 1st and 28th day with different superscript letters are different (P<0.05). SD = standard deviation. Determination in three batches (genuine replicates). (CY) control yoghurt, (SY) yoghurt with syrup, (WY) yoghurt with WPI, (WSY) yoghurt with WPI and syrup, (AY) yoghurt with albumin, (ASY) yoghurt with albumin and syrup.

that, 10 mg sample was mixed with 40 mL of 0.025 M potassium chloride buffer (pH 1.0); and another 10 mg sample was added of 40 mL of 0.4 M sodium acetate buffer (pH 4.5). The pH values for buffer solutions were measured using a pHmeter (Hanna Instruments®) calibrated at pH 4.01 and 6.86, adjusted with 1N HCl. Each solution was incubated in a dark room at 25±2°C for 20-50 minutes. The absorbance reading was at 520 nm and 700 nm, respectively, using a Spectrophotometer UV-1800 (Shimadzu® Corporation, Kyoto, Japan). The final volume over the original sample volume (dilution factor) was determined the dilution factor. The anthocyanin content was calculated as cyanidin-3-glycoside, and the results were expressed as cyanidin-3-glucoside equivalents in mg.L⁻¹.

Color measurements

Color measurements were performed at day 1 and day 28 of storage (4±1°C) using a portable colorimeter (CR-410, Konica Minolta Sensing®, Inc., Tokyo, Japan). The coordinates L*a*, b* were determined using the CIE scale, where L* is a measure of lightness, a* varies from green (-) to red (+) and b* varies from blue (-) to yellow (+) using D65 illuminant in a 10° observer angle.

Statistical analysis

Three batches (genuine replicates) of yoghurts processing were performed for each treatment group. Mean values and standard deviations (SD) were reported for chemical and colorimetric analysis and the comparison between means was performed using a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukey’s test (P < 0.05). Data of phenolic contents (TPC, TFC, and TAC) and color parameters were analyzed using a commercially available statistical package (XLSTAT version 2015.6 for Windows, Addinsoft, Long Island City, NY, USA). The number of samples was 12 and the statistical analysis was performed comparing 1st and 28th day with different superscript letters are different (P<0.05). SD = standard deviation. Determination in three batches (genuine replicates). (CY) control yoghurt, (SY) yoghurt with syrup, (WY) yoghurt with WPI, (WSY) yoghurt with WPI and syrup, (AY) yoghurt with albumin, (ASY) yoghurt with albumin and syrup.

This result is probably due to the formation of protein-polyphenol complexes, leading to phenolics compounds reduction. The complexion depends on several factors such as the type of protein, polyphenols structure, the system temperature and the presence of components like sugar or polysaccharides (Demirkol and Tarakci, 2018). However, proline residues are important to promote an open protein structure which allows a greater binding to phenolic content (Yildirim-Elikoglu and Erdem, 2017).

As expected, when comparing experimental groups on the same day, TPC values were higher on formulations with added fruit syrup, than levels observed on treatments without jamboca syrup. Some authors found significantly higher total phenolics in yoghurts supplemented with grape seed or callus extracts (Chouchouli et al., 2013; Mercan et al., 2017; De Souza de Azevedo et al., 2018; Demirkol and Tarakci, 2018). Researchers observed polyphenols content and antioxidant activity in milk and dairy products (Lee et al., 2017; Lanni et al., 2019). The same was observed in this research once TPC values were found in yoghurts without fruit syrup (CY, WY, and AY). The content of total phenolics compounds present in yoghurts containing proteins (WPI or albumin) but not added to fruit syrup did not differ statistically on the first storage day and the same was observed on the 28th day. Although no significative difference (P>0.05) was observed, the reduced TPC on WY samples could be due to a high affinity of some polyphenols for whey proteins, leading to complexation of molecules (De Souza de Azevedo et al., 2018).

The TPC value observed on syrup was 3934.70 mg GAE.L⁻¹, lower than those concentrations reported by Abe et al. (2011) in jamboca fruit (7.4±0.32 g GAE.L⁻¹). This could be probably due to the heating process during syrup preparation, once polyphenols compounds are highly sensitive to external factors like temperature and pressure.
The temperature may affect the biological activity and cause structure modifications on TPC (M’hiri et al., 2015). To corroborate, Reis et al. (2013) reported that Cumari Peppers dried at high temperatures showed a significant decrease in phenolics content. However, the formed complexes of protein and polyphenol do not necessarily reduce the bioavailability of such polyphenols (Demirkol and Tarakci, 2018).

Concerning the TFC (Table 2), there was a decrease in the experimental groups CY, SY, WY and WSY at the end of the storage period but it was not significant. In contrast, there was a significant difference (P<0.05) in yoghurts containing albumin, which increased 60.03% (AY) and 35.31% (ASY), possibly due to flavonoids glycosylation (Xiao et al., 2011).

Studies have shown flavonoids compounds in jaboticaba fruit (Myrciaria cauliflora) and sugar content may be associated with most of these compounds (Kim et al., 2015). Flavonoids with monoglycosides on its structure have stronger binding affinities with milk proteins than those polyglycosidic structures (Xiao et al., 2011). On flavonoids glycosylation, a hydroxyl group is replaced by a modified structure of glycoside, decreasing binding affinities for whey proteins (Xiao et al., 2009).

Anthocyanins content has been described in the fruit and peel, specially cyanidin and delphinidin 3-glucosides, which presents antioxidant, antiproliferative and antimutagenic activities (Leite-Legatti et al., 2012). In this study, the TAC level (Table 3) of syrup was 1000.02 mg cyanidin-3-glucoside.L⁻¹ in the first day of storage. A similar result was observed by Leite-Legatti et al. (2012) on freeze-dried jaboticaba peel (1514.82 mg.100g⁻¹ of cyanidin-3-O-glucoside). It is worth to notice that added syrup treatments (SY, WSY, ASY) showed increased concentration comparing to yoghurts without syrup. Once more, these results support the important content of anthocyanin on jaboticaba peels, since the anthocyanin content in the pulp is not significant.

No significant differences were observed for the content of total anthocyanins of the yoghurts containing syrup at the first day of storage, which was also observed for the yoghurts without the addition of fruit syrup, which remained constant up to the 28th day. However, after 28 days of storage, there was a significant decrease (P< 0.05) of total anthocyanins content on yoghurts produced with fruit syrup (SY, WSY, ASY). According to Silva et al. (2017), anthocyanins stability may be affected by several factors such as enzyme influences, light influence, temperature, and the chemical reactions lead to either the consumption or the destabilization of anthocyanins during storage.

### Color measurements

The color measurements obtained from yoghurt samples are displayed in tables 4, 5 and 6.

| Table 2: Total Flavonoids Content (TFC; mg QE.100g⁻¹) (Mean±SD) of the treatments and syrup on the 1st and 28th days of refrigerated (4±1°C) storage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Day | Syrup | CY | SY | WY | WSY | AY | ASY |
| 1 | 65.93±0.28 | 24.15±0.46 | 30.93±0.88 | 27.15±0.46 | 43.13±0.83 | 15.82±0.80 | 28.30±0.70 |
| 28 | 30.74±0.44 | 21.78±0.96 | 5.64±0.04 | 21.52±0.59 | 39.59±0.59 | 25.32±0.60 | 38.29±0.44 |

a–c means in the same row (comparing treatments) exhibiting different superscript letters are different (P<0.05). A–D means in the same column (comparing 1st and 28th day) with different superscript letters are different (P<0.05). SD = standard deviation. Determination in three batches (genuine replicates). (CY) control yoghurt, (SY) yoghurt with syrup, (WY) yoghurt with WPI, (WSY) yoghurt with WPI and syrup, (AY) yoghurt with albumin, (ASY) yoghurt with albumin and syrup.

| Table 3: Total Anthocyanins Content (TCA; mg cyanidin-3-glucoside.L⁻¹) (Mean±SD) of syrup, control sample and five treatments on the 1st and 28th day of refrigerated (4±1°C) storage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Day | Syrup | CY | SY | WY | WSY | AY | ASY |
| 1 | 1000.02±0.41 | 2.27±0.37 | 156.67±0.83 | 2.27±0.57 | 515.4±1.60 | 0.40±0.12 | 163.03±1.21 |
| 28 | 764.25±0.81 | 3.61±0.37 | 49.62±0.83 | 6.98±0.57 | 56.45±1.60 | 2.40±0.12 | 58.60±1.24 |

a–b means in the same row (comparing treatments) exhibiting different superscript letters are different (P<0.05). A–D means in the same column (comparing 1st and 28th day) with different superscript letters are different (P<0.05). SD = standard deviation. Determination in three batches (genuine replicates). (CY) control yoghurt, (SY) yoghurt with syrup, (WY) yoghurt with WPI, (WSY) yoghurt with WPI and syrup, (AY) yoghurt with albumin, (ASY) yoghurt with albumin and syrup.

| Table 4: Color measurements L* (Mean±SD) of the yoghurts on the 1st and 28th day of refrigerated (4±1°C) storage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Day | CY | SY | WY | WSY | AY | ASY |
| 1st | 80.41±0.26 | 39.36±1.33 | 80.39±0.18 | 39.23±1.53 | 80.59±0.23 | 40.22±0.83 |
| 28th | 79.49±0.21 | 41.44±0.98 | 79.44±0.24 | 41.83±0.70 | 79.27±0.56 | 42.57±0.51 |

a–c means in the same row (comparing treatments) exhibiting different superscript letters are different (P<0.05). A–B means in the same column (comparing 1st and 28th day) with different superscript letters are different (P<0.05). SD = standard deviation. Determination in three batches (genuine replicates). (CY) control yoghurt, (SY) yoghurt with syrup, (WY) yoghurt with WPI, (WSY) yoghurt with WPI and syrup, (AY) yoghurt with albumin, (ASY) yoghurt with albumin and syrup.
Yoghurts made with syrup showed lower $L^*$ values (lightness) due to high total anthocyanin content on freeze-dried jaboticaba peel flour (Table 4), with significative difference ($P<0.05$) between yoghurts without syrup that presented higher $L^*$ value on days 1 and 28 of storage. According to Fang (2015) anthocyanins are found in many dark-colored fruits, especially in high concentrations in the skin and are responsible for promoting color in these fruits. These values increased significantly on 28th due to TAC decreasing value during the storage period.

Regarding the different treatments, it was verified that the value of $a^*$ (redness) (table 5) was high in the yoghurts added with syrup (SY, WSY, ASY), obtaining higher values on day 1 in the yoghurts containing protein, especially the yoghurt added with whey protein. However, after 28 days of storage, a significant diminish in $a^*$ values was observed in yoghurts added with protein, which was expected due to anthocyanins degradation during the storage period.

Regarding $b^*$ value (yellowness) (table 6) it is verified that there were significant differences ($P<0.05$) between the treatments with and without syrup addition on the 1st day, where more yellowish color was observed in the groups without syrup. Among the yoghurts added with syrup, a significant difference was observed in the yoghurt containing albumin (ASY), which was more yellowish. However, over the storage period, a significant increase in $b^*$ values ($P<0.05$) was observed in all treatments. Similar results were found by Sung et al. (2015) which have used freeze-dried mulberry rich in anthocyanins. This compound is becoming an alternative to replace artificial food colorant furthermore color is a very important sensory acceptability.

**Conclusions**

The addition of syrup containing jaboticaba pulp and lyophilized jaboticaba peel flour in nonfat yoghurt made with proteins (WPI or albumin) showed differences in phenolic content and instrumental color parameters on experimental groups during the storage period. The yoghurt containing WPI and jaboticaba syrup showed a significant reduction in total phenolics and total anthocyanins content. However, yoghurt made with albumin and added with fruit syrup showed an increase in the total flavonoids content, demonstrating that the amount of phenolics compounds present in yoghurt at the end of the storage period may be related to protein type and phenolic compound type involved in the interactions. The data obtained in the color parameters reflected the anthocyanins degradation during the storage period. Future studies should be directed to determine what kind of interaction may occur between different types of proteins and phenolic compounds and how the degradation of these compounds during dairy product storage may be diminished.

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