

OXENATION OF RARE AND MEDIUM ROASTED NORMAL AND DFD BEEF

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ABSTRACT

Colour of rare (T<sub>i</sub>= 50°C) and medium (T<sub>i</sub>= 65°C) roasted m. longissimus dorsi (LD) of normal and DFD quality of young bulls after aging (10 days at 2°C) was investigated with instrumental (Minolta CR 200-b chromometer, FOP apparatus) and sensory analysis, before and after oxygenation (at -5°C, 30'). The depth and area of oxygenated layer and pH of meat were also measured.

After oxygenation b-value of rare and medium roasted normal and DFD meat always increases (p≤0,001). More-over a-value for colour of rare roasted normal and DFD samples increases (p≤0,01). Only rare-roasted normal shows optimal oxygenated bright red colour.

Depth and area of oxygenated layer in roasted DFD meat are brighter than in roasted normal meat (differences are nonsignificant). FOP-values at roasted DFD meat are significantly (p≤0,001) lower than at normal meat. This results for DFD samples are probably consequence of the relation T<sub>i</sub>/pH (50°C/6,6), which inhibits myoglobin denaturation.

INTRODUCTION

Oxygenation (oxygenation) is the development of a bright red colour when meat is exposed to air, due to the oxygenation of myoglobin to form oxymyoglobin as the predominant surface pigment (Egbert and Cornforth, 1986). Dark cutting beef is characterized by a high postmortem pH and the fact that it will not bloom when exposed to air. The high pH of dark cutting beef is only indirectly related to colour. The dark colour is more directly related to high mitochondrial respiration, which keeps oxymyoglobin concentration low and Lawrie (1983) concluded that increased oxygen consumption of dark cutting meat could increase the concentration of oxygenated myoglobin, thus resulting in dark colour. Egbert and Cornforth (1986) found that dark cutting muscle will turn red if mitochondrial respiration is inhibited, allowing myoglobin at muscle surfaces to remain oxygenated.

After heating of the myoglobin, oxymyoglobin and metmyoglobin pigments in normal (pH 5,3 - 5,7) fresh meat produced globin ferrihemochrome, the grey pigment of cooked meat (Fox, 1966). Red to pink colour in cooked meat has been attributed to several factors. Although the cause of this problem has not been determined, a few possibilities exist: (1) the myoglobin has been converted to a pink hemochrome during cooking, (2) the myoglobin has not been completely denatured (Trout, 1989), (3) nitric oxide (Braut, 1984), stress (Babji et al., 1982) and the formation of a reduced nicotin amide-denatured globin hemochrome during cooking (Cornforth et al., 1986). Red to pink colour in fresh cooked meat may also be due to incomplete denaturation of myoglobin during cooking. It depends on the degree of doneness. The lack of brown colour was most visible in meat with the highest concentration of myoglobin (Mendenhall, 1989). A study showed that, even when cooked to the same internal temperature high-pH beef (pH>6,0) was redder than low-pH-muscle (pH 5,5) and appeared undercooked (Schmidt and Trout, 1984). The explanation suggested for this behavior was that high pH reduced the amount of myoglobin denatured at a given temperature. Only this could fully explain the nature of the problem.

The objective of this study was to treat dark cutting and normal beef with heat to the different degrees of doneness and chilling of slices of roasted-beef at low temperature (-5 to -10°C), in an attempt to inhibit and reduce mitochondrial respiration and thereby obtain bloom in roasted beef.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Beef LD were obtained 24 - 48 h postmortem from commercially slaughtered market animals. Eight samples (from 7 thoracic to 1 lumbal vertebrae) were taken from two groups with normal and DFD quality for pH measurement to ensure that the pH of each muscle was normal (< 5,9) or higher (>6,2).

Samples were vacuum packaged and stored (aged) in a refrigerator. After ageing (10 days at 2°C) LD were cut into two pieces; cranial pieces were cooked (roasted) to an internal temperature of +50°C (rare roasted) and caudal pieces to +65°C (medium roasted). Internal temperature of samples was monitored using thermometer placed in the geometric center of samples. Prepared samples were cooled in a refrigerator at 0 - 2°C for 3 days until analysed.

The colour of rare and medium roasted LD of normal and DFD quality of young bulls was investigated by instrumental and sensory methods, before and after oxygenation (2 cm slices were taken from each groups in a freezer at -5 to -10°C for 30 minutes). The depth and area of oxygenated layer and pH were also measured. Colour was instrumentally analysed by Minolta CR 200 B chromometer and FOP apparatus. Minolta reading included measurement L- (lightness), a- (redness) and b- (yellowness) values. The translucence was measured by FOP apparatus.

All treated samples were submitted to sensory analyses. The surface colour of the slices (2 cm) was determined using a 4 member trained sensory panel. Panel members were instructed to rate each sample on a scale of 1 to 7 (1=yellowbrown 4=bloom, brightred 7=purple).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After exposing the surface slices of rare roasted as also medium roasted beef the surface becomes larger or minor extent and the depth bright red. This is the consequence of the influence of oxygen on myoglobin where bright red oxymyoglobin is formed. Oxygenation respectl. blooming of slices is reflected by the increase of two values measured by the Minolta chromometer. Average a-values which define the red colour are significantly increased ( $p \leq 0,05$  at normal respectl.  $p \leq 0,001$  at DFD quality) only at rare roasted slices (table 1). The highest increase ( $p \leq 0,001$ ) can be identified at b-value which defines the yellow colour of all slices of rare and medium roasted degree of doneness and both qualities. The results of this investigation correspond to the statements of Frohlich (1990) who affirms that after oxygenation of raw beef the a-values increase up to 100%.

Interesting is the fact that only slices of rare roasted beef after oxygenation show sensory evaluation of optimal bright red colour (3,91 scores) which is not a consequence of only the oxygenation but also of the degree of roasting and a high pH of muscular tissue.

There are no significant differences in the sensory colour of the slices's surface between raw and medium roasted samples of normal and DFD quality (table 2). Even more, from the small difference in the evaluation of colour of rare and medium roasted slices of normal quality it can be resumed that the colour of these samples is quite similar. Significant is the difference in the colour of raw and medium roasted beef slices of DFD quality. By instrumental measurement a similar statement was achieved: differences between normal and DFD quality of roasted beef are well evident ( $p \leq 0,01$ ) only after oxygenation.

After roasting and oxygenation of slices of roasted beef a fallenbehind red colour in a different extent is obvious which extra accelerates coolness. The conclusion from this is that the roasted DFD beef is oxygenated. On slices of roasted DFD beef the measured depth and extent of oxygenation are not significant (tables 3 and 4). On raw roasted beef of normal quality less red colour was measured as on DFD beef. Myoglobin denaturates only during a longer period of heating at  $60^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The combination  $T_i/\text{pH}$  at normal beef is 50/5,8, at DFD beef 50/6,6. This relation affects the myoglobin in such a way that during heat treatment it denaturates normal beef in a higher extent as at DFD beef.

At medium roasted samples the depth oxygenation and area of the red colour are smaller as at rare roasted while the quality of muscular tissue had no influence on the depth of oxygenation and extent of red colour.

Other data from instrumental measurements are also similar and are the consequence of smaller and smaller differences in the microstructure of medium roasted normal and DFD beef.

The absolute depth of the oxygenated layer and the area of red colour depend also on other factors which were not investigated in our research, i.e. activities of respiratory enzymes, quantities of non-denaturated myoglobin, height of pH and maturity of the muscles, time and temperature of exposure of slices to the effects of oxygen (conditions at oxygenation of slices).

Heat denaturation and coagulation cause on muscle proteins such changes that the microstructure becomes much more open as are the semi-open and closed microstructure of rare normal and DFD beef meat. If we compare close to the activities different kinds of acidity of the meat during the heat treatment it can be affirmed that after heating to the same degree of doneness the microstructure of DFD beef remains more open than the microstructure of normal beef as at roasted meat of normal quality the microstructure after heating is more closed because of larger denaturation. High pH at roasted DFD beef partly inhibits denaturation of proteins respectl. myoglobin at the same temperature. Smaller mass loss during roasting of DFD beef and measurements of FOP values (tables 5 and 6) prove that the process of denaturation at the same internal temperature is more extensive at normal muscular tissue as at DFD.

Statistically FOP values are significantly lower at raw roasted DFD as at normal beef. Differences in FOP values were measured in the center and on the edges of raw roasted beef. Lower FOP values are in the center as there the denaturation is smaller than at the edges.

## CONCLUSIONS

This is the demonstration that roasted beef will bloom under appropriate conditions. Mitochondrial inhibition by heating at first and latter by chilling increased the redness of roasted dark cutting beef. Heating would inhibit mitochondrial respiration and allow non-denaturate myoglobin to remain oxygenated.

The combination  $T_i/\text{pH}$  at normal beef is 50/5,8, at DFD beef 50/6,6. This interaction affects the myoglobin in such a way that it is denaturated at normal beef in a larger extent than at DFD beef. As myoglobin denaturates only during longer heating at  $60^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Turnerman, 1974) almost identical results of measurements are achieved in spite of a different relation  $T_i/\text{pH}$  at medium roasted beef which is the consequence of smaller and smaller differences in the microstructure after heating of normal and DFD beef.

Table 1. Instrumental values (Minolta) and sensory colour evaluation of the surface of raw and medium roasted beef before and after oxygenation

| property       | normal          |                 | t-value  | DFD             |                 | t-value  |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
|                | FC<br>$\bar{x}$ | OC<br>$\bar{x}$ |          | FC<br>$\bar{x}$ | OC<br>$\bar{x}$ |          |
| value          | 51,39           | 50,74           | 0,26     | 52,09           | 51,21           | 0,35     |
| value          | 26,60           | 33,37           | -2,75*   | 22,59           | 30,29           | -4,34*** |
| value          | 9,69            | 17,28           | -5,22*** | 7,51            | 15,35           | -5,41*** |
| surface colour | 4,68            | 3,39            | 3,78**   | 4,59            | 3,91            | 1,60     |
| value          | 54,11           | 54,30           | -0,09    | 57,26           | 57,00           | 0,13     |
| value          | 24,42           | 24,64           | -0,13    | 21,31           | 23,82           | -1,48    |
| value          | 9,86            | 13,34           | -3,13**  | 8,98            | 13,12           | -4,44*** |
| surface colour | 3,67            | 2,92            | 1,57     | 3,53            | 3,27            | 0,78     |

\* p≤0,05  
\*\* p≤0,01  
\*\*\* p≤0,001

FC - fresh cut  
OC - oxygenated cut

Table 2. Instrumental values and sensory evaluation before and after oxygenation of beef of normal and DFD quality roasted up to two T<sub>i</sub>

| property       | before oxygenation   |                      | t-value | after oxygenation    |                      | t-value |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|
|                | T <sub>i</sub> =50°C | T <sub>i</sub> =65°C |         | T <sub>i</sub> =50°C | T <sub>i</sub> =65°C |         |
| value          | 51,39                | 54,11                | -1,17   | 50,74                | 54,30                | -1,57** |
| value          | 26,60                | 24,42                | 1,01    | 33,37                | 24,64                | 3,40**  |
| value          | 9,69                 | 9,86                 | -0,16   | 17,28                | 13,34                | 2,69**  |
| surface colour | 4,68                 | 3,67                 | 1,96    | 3,39                 | 2,95                 | 1,69    |
| value          | 50,09                | 57,26                | -2,07*  | 51,21                | 57,00                | -2,81** |
| value          | 22,59                | 21,31                | 0,78    | 30,29                | 23,82                | 3,48**  |
| value          | 7,51                 | 8,98                 | -1,16   | 15,35                | 13,12                | 1,92*   |
| surface colour | 4,59                 | 3,53                 | 2,36*   | 3,91                 | 3,27                 | 2,11*   |

\* p≤0,05  
\*\* p≤0,01

Table 3. Depth of the oxygenated layer on a beef slice of two qualities prepared to two T<sub>i</sub>.

| quality | treatment                         |                                   | t-value |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
|         | T <sub>i</sub> =50°C<br>$\bar{x}$ | T <sub>i</sub> =65°C<br>$\bar{x}$ |         |
| normal  | 1,44                              | 0,80                              | 2,22*   |
| DFD     | 1,56                              | 0,96                              | 3,10*   |
| t-value | -0,60                             | -0,58                             |         |

p≤0,05

Table 4. Area of oxygenated layer measured on beef slices of two qualities prepared to two T<sub>i</sub>.

| quality | treatment                         |                                   | t-value |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
|         | T <sub>i</sub> =50°C<br>$\bar{x}$ | T <sub>i</sub> =65°C<br>$\bar{x}$ |         |
| normal  | 67,00                             | 52,41                             | 1,38    |
| DFD     | 70,52                             | 52,82                             | 3,66**  |
| t-value | -0,41                             | -0,05                             |         |

\*\* p≤0,01

Table 5. FOP values measured in the center of a beef slice of two qualities prepared to two T<sub>i</sub>

| quality | treatment                         |                                   | t-value  |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
|         | T <sub>i</sub> =50°C<br>$\bar{x}$ | T <sub>i</sub> =65°C<br>$\bar{x}$ |          |
| normal  | 136,88                            | 145,50                            | -1,20    |
| DFD     | 121,69                            | 146,00                            | -4,34*** |
| t-value | 1,92                              | -0,11                             |          |

p≤0,001

Table 6. FOP values measured on the edges (2 cm left respectl. right from the center) of a beef slice of two qualities prepared to two T<sub>i</sub>

| quality | treatment                         |                                   | t-value |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
|         | T <sub>i</sub> =50°C<br>$\bar{x}$ | T <sub>i</sub> =65°C<br>$\bar{x}$ |         |
| normal  | 139,56                            | 152,56                            | -2,32   |
| DFD     | 130,43                            | 147,13                            | -2,27   |
| t-value | 1,26                              | 0,95                              |         |

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