

ABSTRACT

Influence of the pig blood plasma acidification to pH=6.3 by 10% solutions of: lactic, propionic, acetic, formic and hydrochloric acids on the curing efficiency of hemoglobine content in it was evaluated. It was found that plasma acidification resulted in approx. 20% increase of haeme pigment conversion to nitrosopigment in comparison to control sample and that when the cured plasma was used for the livex processing the colour of the obtained plasma gel was fairly stable and sensorically typical and characteristic of cured, cooked processed meat products.

INTRODUCTION

Investigations on the hemoglobin curing and use of the resulting nitroso form for processed meat products for curing purposes were carried out by several authors. /MÖHLER and BAUMAN,1971, PALMIN at al 1973, SHAHIDI at al 1975, SHAHIDI and PEEG, 1988/.

The authors' experience indicates that substantial increase of the hemoglobin reactivity with the nitrate i.e. the pigment conversion to the nitrosopigments is possible since the changes in globin conformation resulted from thermal denaturation, treatment by acids and/or enzymes. /JARMOLUK at al,1991/.

MATERIALS and METHODS

The studies were performed on three separate batches of commercially manufactured pig blood plasma stabilized with sodium citrate, frozen and defrosted at 4-6°C for 24 h, before further use. Thawed blood plasma was acidified to pH=6.3 by 10% solutions of: lactic /A/, propionic /B/, acetic /C/, formic /D/ and hydrochloric /E/ acids. Acidified blood plasma was cured at 4-6°C for 1 hour using nitrite and sodium ascorbate in the molar ratio of sodium ascorbate: NaNO₂ and hemine as 9:3:1. Samples of cured blood plasma were then destabilized according to patented procedure /PATENT/ and using pig brain tissue homogenate as an enzymic activator /stimulator/ for plasma pre-gelation. /DUDA at al,1989/. The resulted gels of plasma i.e. the raw livex formed was then pasteurized in a water bath at 80°C until 80°C was reached in the core of the sample. /DUDA and JARMOLUK,1985/. In each of the repetitions of the study the following 7 variants of livex experimental batches were processed:

- LK₁ - not acidified and not cured plasma
- LK₂ - not acidified, cured plasma
- LA - lactic acid acidified plasma, cured
- LB - propionic acid acidified plasma, cured
- LC - acetic acid acidified plasma, cured
- LD - formic acid acidified plasma, cured
- LE - hydrochloric acid acidified plasma, cured

In the obtained thermally denaturated plasma gel /livex/ the degree of haeme pigment conversion to the nitrosopigment /by HORNSEY,1957/ and the physical parameters of the colour using reflectance colorimeter "Minolta" Model 200b were determined. The colorimeter was calibrated using producers white standard with the following coefficients: $y = 87.8$; $x = 0.309$ and $y = 0.315$. The livex colour physical parameters was expressed in the system of a^* and b^* and additionally by calculating the hue parameter according to equation: $tg^{-1} b^*/a^*$ and the chroma C^* the colour defined /calculated/ as $\sqrt{a^{*2} + b^{*2}}$. /HUNTER and HAROLD,1987/. The physical parameters of the experimental material colour were determined upon completion of the livex processing and the colour stability was determined after 1,3,5 and 7 hours of continuous illumination of samples by fluorescent white light with an intensity of 1000 Lux. The data obtained in the study were analysed statistically, using programme - "Statgraphics 2.1" and IBM PC computer.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

An average value of defrosted plasma pH was 8.1 and was by approx. 0.5 pH units higher than the initial value. The pH of the control livex samples /LK₁ and LK₂/ i.e. processed from not acidified plasma, after thermal treatment, decreased to the level of pH=7.71, while processed from acidified plasma increased from the initial approx. 0.1 pH unit. Tab.1.

Table 1. Influence of pig blood plasma acidification to pH=6.3 on gelation time of raw livexes, their pH after thermal treatment and on the degree of haeme pigment conversion to nitrosopigments /n=3/.

Parameters	Variant of livexes							LSD
	LK ₁	LK ₂	LA	LB	LC	LD	LE	
pH	7.71 ^b	7.71 ^b	6.40 ^a	6.42 ^a	6.39 ^a	6.40 ^a	6.41 ^a	0.06
Gelation time /s/	78.0 ^a	82.0 ^a	247.0 ^c	251.0 ^c	224.0 ^b	264.0 ^d	314.0 ^e	6.30
Degree of haeme pigment conversion /%/	-	12.2 ^a	14.4 ^c	13.9 ^b	15.1 ^d	15.2 ^d	14.9 ^d	0.37

Means with different superscripts are significantly different at $p \leq 0.05$

The acidification of the plasma used for the experimental livex manufacturing, irrespectively of the acid used and in spite of using the enzymic activator of plasma gelling, caused about a triple delay in the dynamic of fibrin net forming after plasma destabilization. Tab.1.

The lowering of the plasma pH below 6.0 resulted in practically total inhibition of the processes responsible for the fibrinogen transformation into fibrin and therefore processing of the livex from plasma acidified below 6.0 pH was impossible, indicating the importance of pH for fibrinogen transformation into fibrin.

An average content of the hemoglobin in plasma, expressed as hematin, amounted to 145 ppm. It was observed that the degree of haeme pigment nitrosation to nitrosopigments was influenced by the acidification of plasma as well as was dependent on the acid used. In the control sample i.e. not acidified /LK₂/ the degree of haeme pigment conversion to nitrosopigments was on average 12.2% while in livex processed from acidified plasma ranged from 13.9% /LB/ to 15.2% /LD/. Tab.1.

In spite that the haeme pigment conversion was in acidified samples relatively small in comparison to the control sample, the observed colour of livexes processed from acidified plasma was noticeably better. The average determined values for L*, a* and b* livexes processed from acidified plasma i.e.: LA, LB, LC, LD and LE were: 68.5 ; 10.6 and 9.2 respectively and in comparison to the data determined for the control samples /LK₂/ the observed colour parameters increased by 1.2 ; 2.8 and 2.0 respectively. Tab.2.

An average value for the hue determined for livexes manufactured from the acidified plasma and expressed in measure of angle were 10° smaller in comparison to control sample LK₂. Over 2 fold increase of the colour chroma for livexes processed from acidified plasma, in comparison to control samples, was observed. Tab.2. Moreover, the colour of livexes processed from acidified plasma exhibited greater luminance and better chroma, when assessed visually and in comparison to the control sample.

The data obtained for physical parameters of colour for the illuminated samples i.e. for the colour stability are presented in Table 3. During sample illumination slight increase of colour luminance /L*/ was observed. Simultaneously, substantial decrease of the red fraction of colour was notified and increase of the yellow tint in colour tone of illuminated samples was observed. This was reflected in changes of the hue data from the level of about 38° for "0" time of illumination to approx. 53° after 7 h of the experimental material illumination. It was also determined that the illumination of livex samples substantially decreases its colour chroma.

DISCUSSIONS

acidification of the plasma used for livex manufacture before curing to pH=6.3 increase, although not fully satisfactorily, the degree of conversion of the haeme pigment content in it to the nitrosopigments i.e. by approx. 30% in comparison to the data determined for the control samples. This facilitates livex manufacturing with sensibly desired pinkish colour typical of cured processed meat products.

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Variations in physical colour parameters of experimental material /livex/ as influenced by acids used for plasma acidification /n = 3/.

Colour parameters	L*	a*	b*	hue	chroma
LK ₁	60.14 ^b	2.73 ^a	5.49 ^b	63.62 ^e	6.13 ^b
LK ₂	59.39 ^a	3.77 ^b	4.55 ^a	51.93 ^d	6.05 ^a
LA	68.97 ^e	10.25 ^c	8.94 ^c	41.56 ^b	13.67 ^c
LB	69.30 ^e	10.18 ^c	8.95 ^c	41.75 ^{bc}	13.63 ^c
LC	68.05 ^d	10.91 ^e	9.34 ^d	41.02 ^a	14.43 ^e
LD	68.37 ^d	10.58 ^d	9.39 ^{de}	42.02 ^c	14.20 ^d
LE	67.68 ^c	10.99 ^e	9.41 ^e	41.04 ^a	14.53 ^f
	0.50	0.10	0.05	0.49	0.10

Means with different superscripts are significantly different at p ≤ 0.05

Table 3.

Variations in physical colour parameters of illuminated experimental material-livex /n = 3/.

Colour parameters		L*	a*	b*	hue	chroma
Illumination time /h/	0	65.47 ^a	10.75 ^e	7.71 ^a	37.97 ^a	13.33 ^e
	1	65.77 ^{ab}	9.60 ^d	7.85 ^b	41.62 ^b	12.49 ^d
	3	66.04 ^{bc}	8.11 ^c	8.03 ^c	47.01 ^c	11.48 ^c
	5	66.24 ^{cd}	7.21 ^b	8.16 ^d	50.92 ^d	10.95 ^b
	7	66.41 ^d	6.77 ^a	8.29 ^e	53.13 ^e	10.76 ^a
LSD		0.30	0.90	0.05	0.37	0.74

Means with different superscripts are significantly different at $p \leq 0.05$