Effect of Enrichment of Bovine Milk with Whey Proteins on Biofunctional and Rheological Properties of Low Fat Yoghurttype Products

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ABSTRACT

In this study, the effect of supplementation of low fat bovine milk with whey protein concentrates (WPC) or whey protein hydrolysates (WPH) on the biofunctional and rheological properties of the produced yoghurt was assessed. Six different set type yoghurt products containing 1.6% fat were manufactured and enriched with: a) 1.5% bovine WPC (80% protein), marked as WPC_A yoghurt, b) 1% WPC (80% protein) of ovine/caprine origin, marked as WPC_B yoghurt, c) 2% commercial mixture of milk proteins, i.e. milk protein concentrate/ caseinates /WPC (82% total protein content), marked as MPM yoghurt, d) 0.25% WPC_B hydrolysed with trypsin, marked as WPH_A yoghurt, e) 0.5% commercial WPH, marked as WPH_B1yoghurt, f) 0.25% commercial WPH, marked as WPH B2 yoghurt. Control yoghurt was manufactured without addition of protein. Results showed that the protein fortification level affected positively the protein, total solids as well as calcium and phosphorous contents of all yoghurt types. The lowest pH values were observed in the case of WPH_B2 yoghurt, while the highest in the case of MPM yoghurt throughout the storage i.e. 21 days. The characteristic microorganisms were in total more than 108cfu/g. Yoghurts fortified with WPH showed higher ACE-inhibitory activity (determined by the HPLC method) than those enriched with WPC. Also, it is noteworthy that WPH_A yoghurt showed significantly (P<0.05) higher ACE-inhibitory activity (72%) than control yoghurt or yoghurts made with the other WPH. On the other hand, WPH_A yoghurt showed the lowest hardness and adhesiveness, whereas MPM yoghurt showed the highest. The type of added whey protein did not affect cohesiveness. Water holding capacity was higher in yoghurts enriched with WPC and MPM than in the yoghurts enriched with WPH. All yoghurts presented antioxidant activity such as DPPH radical scavenging activity (45-58%). The WPC_A yoghurt, MPM yoghurt, WPH_A yoghurt and control yoghurt presented high Fe2+ chelating activity (>70%), but WPH_A yoghurt presented the highest Fe2+ chelating activity (>95%) throughout storage. In conclusion, fortification of yoghurt milk with WPH increased the biofunctionality of the product, but the use of WPH of ovine/caprine origin increased it significantly.

Keywords: Yoghurt, Whey Protein Concentrate, Whey Protein Hydrolysate, Textural properties, ACE-I inhibitory activity, Antioxidant Properties.

INTRODUCTION

Fermented milk products are value added food products in terms of nutritional and biofunctional properties. Their nutrition function concerns improvement of protein digestibility, alleviation of

lactose intolerance and enhancement of mineral absorption. The biofunctional effects include control of intestinal health, lowering serum cholesterol, antihypertensive effects, anticancer effects and effect on immunological function^{1,2}.

In yoghurt production it is a common practice to fortify the milk with extra milk proteins for improving the textural properties particularly in the case of set type and low fat products. The added milk proteins are usually in the form of skimmed milk powder (SMP), whey protein concentrates (WPC), whey protein hydrolysates (WPH), whey protein isolates (WPI) or sodium-calcium caseinates (SCC) 3,4,5. Moreover, it has been showed that except texture improvement, addition of SCC, WPC or SMP at specific ratios may increase the nutritional value of this product ^{6,7}. Generally, the most commonly used milk proteins powders are of bovine origin. To our knowledge, WPH of ovine or/and caprine origin are not available in the market and may have not been used in yoghurt production. The objective of this study was to evaluate the textural and some biofunctional properties of set type yoghurt made from low fat bovine milk supplemented with different products of whey proteins powders including WPC and WPH of ovine/caprine origin.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Pasteurized and homogenized bovine milk (1.5% fat, 3.3% protein) was used and 6 set type yoghurt products were manufactured using different whey protein powders at various ratios as showed in Table 1. The control yoghurt was not fortified. Protein content of the whey powders ranged from 80 to 86%. WPC WHEY PRO 80 was provided by Hellenic Protein S.A. The commercial blend of MPC/CN/WPC as well as the hydrolyzed WPI (OPTIPEP 90 SN) was provided by Alinda S.A. The Hydrolyzed WHEY PRO 80 with trypsin was an experimental preparation⁸. Milk formulations were homogenized

with the aid of Ultra Turrax® and then they remained at 4°C for 24h. Next day, they were heated at 95°C for 2 min, cooled at 42°C and inoculated with Greek traditional yoghurt at a ratio 1.5%. The inoculated milks were then poured into 100g sterilized plastic containers and incubated at 42°C until a pH 4.7 was reached. After fermentation, all yoghurts were stored at 4°C for 21 days and were analyzed for their physicochemical, textural and biofunctional properties. Three replicated experimental trials were carried out. Unless otherwise stated, all analyses were performed in duplicate.

Compositional analyses

Yoghurt protein content, fat content and total solids were determined on Foodscan (Foss Electric, Denmark) instrument. For ash content determination, 10 g of yoghurt sample were placed in a silica crucible, heated in an oven by increasing the temperature by 50°C/h up to 550°C and maintained at 550°C for 6 h9. Lactose content was estimated using the equation: %Total solids=%Protein content + %Fat content + %Ash content + %Lactose content. pH was determined using a pH meter (Orion Star 3) and the titratable acidity, expressed as Dornic degrees (°D), was determined by titration of 10g yoghurt sample with N/9 NaOH using a 1% phenolphthalein solution as indicator.

Determination of the inorganic fraction Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium and Potassium in the ash fraction was carried out by means of the atomic absorption spectrometric (AAS) method⁹ using a Shimadzu AA-6800 Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer equipped with the autosampler Shimadzu ASC-6100 and the software WizAArd v.

Yoghurt	Type of added whey protein	Protein content (g/100 g powder)	Ratio of addition (% w/w)
WPC_A	Bovine WPC 80 standard	80	1.5
WPC_B	ovine/caprine WHEY PRO 80	80	1
MPM	Bovine commercial blend (MPC/CN/WPC)	82	2
WPH_A	Hydrolyzed WHEY PRO 80 with trypsin	80	0.25
WPH_B1	Hydrolyzed WPI	86	0.5
WPH_B2	Hydrolyzed WPI	86	0.25
CONTROL	-	-	-

Table 1: Whey powder products used in the produced yoghurts

2.30. Phosphorous content was also determined in the ash fraction of yoghurts using molecular absorption spectrometry¹⁰.

The characteristic microorganisms of yoghurt as well as yeasts and moulds were enumerated using the colony count technique and specific growth conditions^{11,12}.

Textural properties

Hardness, adhesiveness and cohesiveness were measured on a Shimadzu Testing Instrument, model AGS-500 NG (Shimadzu Corporation, Kyoto, Japan) equipped with a 5 kg load cell and a plunger with a diameter of 25mm. The speed of the plunger was 120 mm.min⁻¹, in a downward direction, and yoghurt sample temperature was 10°C¹³.

The water holding capacity (WHC) was measured by a centrifugal method as follows: A sample of 20g of yoghurt was centrifuged at 5000 g for 10 min at 20°C and then the whey expelled (w) was removed and weighed. The WHC (g/100g) was calculated as: WHC (%) =100(20-w)/20.

Antioxidant properties

The DPPH* radical scavenging activity of yoghurt samples was determined using the spectrophotometric method with some modifications. One hundred μ I of yoghurt sample or methanol (as control) or Trolox solution 0.25 mg/mI of a 4:1 methanol-water mixture (as a reference antioxidant) were mixed with 720 μ I of methanol and 80 μ I of 1 mM DPPH* solution in methanol. Blank tests for all samples, control and Trolox took place at the same

time by replacing DPPH*solution with pure methanol. All mixtures were stirred thoroughly, incubated in dark and at room temperature for 30 min, centrifuged at 10000 rpm for 5 min and the supernatant was filtered with 0.45 µm syringe filter (PVDF, Whatman). Two hundreds and fifty µl of filtered extracts were pipetted at 96-well microplates and after 10 min absorbance was measured at 517 µm using a spectrometer ELISA (TECAN Sunrise). Scavenging activity was estimated using the equation: SCA% =100*[(A517_{CONTROL}-A517_{SAMPLE})/ A517_{CONTROL}]. All determinations were carried out in triplicate.

The Fe²⁺ chelating activity of yoghurts was also determined by the spectrophotometric method⁶ with some modifications. Two ml of yoghurt sample solution (1g/ml in ultra-pure water) was diluted with 5.6 ml of ultra-pure water and centrifuged (9500 rpm x 10min) and the supernatant was filtered with Whatman No 1. After, 190 µl of the filtrate or ultrapure water (as control) or EDTA solution of 0.1 mg/ ml (as a reference antioxidant) were mixed with 20 μl of 0.5 mM FeSO, solution at 96-well microplates, stirred thoroughly and incubated in the dark and at room temperature for 30 and 60 min. Then, 40 µl of Ferrozine 1.25 mM solution were added, the microplates were stirred thoroughly and after 10 min absorbance was measured at 562 nm using a spectrometer ELISA (TECAN Sunrise). Blank tests for all samples, control and EDTA took place at the same time by replacing Ferrozine solution with filtered ultra-pure water. Chelating activity was estimated using the equation:

SCA% =
$$100*[(A562_{CONTROL} - A562_{SAMPLE})/A562_{CONTROL}].$$

Table 2: Chemical composition (g/100g) of low-fat bovine set-type yoghurts made with milk enriched with different whey protein powders (mean \pm std)

Yoghurt	Fat	Protein	Lactose	Ash	Total Solids
WPC_A	1.62 ±0.06 ^{a,b}	4.46 ± 0.15 ^{d*}	4.55 ±0.38	0.82 ± 0.02 ^b	11.45 ± 0.16°
WPC_B	1.62 ±0.05 ^{a,b}	$4.06 \pm 0.20^{\circ}$	4.52 ±0.45	0.81 ± 0.02^{b}	11.02 ± 0.20^{b}
MPM	1.60 ± 0.06^{a}	4.87 ± 0.11^{e}	4.71 ±0.41	$0.87 \pm 0.02^{\circ}$	12.05 ± 0.34^{d}
WPH_A	1.58 ± 0.02^a	3.58 ± 0.09 a,b	4.86 ±0.14	0.78 ± 0.02^{a}	10.80 ±0.19 ^{a,b}
WPH_B1	1.61 ±0.03 ^{a,b}	3.71 ± 0.10^{b}	4.59 ±0.09	$0.79 \pm 0.02^{a,b}$	10.70 ±0.11 ^{a,b}
WPH_B2	1.64 ±0.04 ^{a,b}	3.61 ± 0.12 a,b	4.71 ±0.14	$0.79 \pm 0.03^{a,b}$	10.74 ±0.29 ^{a,b}
CONTROL	1.69 ± 0.06^{b}	3.43 ± 0.08^{a}	4.68 ±0.14	0.78 ± 0.01^{a}	10.58 ± 0.28^a

^{*} Means in the same column differ each other significantly (*P*<0.05)

Anti-hypertensive properties

The angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE-I) inhibitory activity of the yoghurt samples was determined by the RH-HPLC method14 with some modifications. In 200 ml of yoghurt water soluble nitrogen fraction (diluted with ultra pure water at a ratio 1:2) or in 200 of ultra pure water (for control) 300 µl of Hippuryl-L-histidyl-L-leucine (HHL) 5 mM in borate buffer 8.3 was added and remained at 37°C for 5 min. Then, 25 µl of ACE 0.1 U/ml was added and left at 37°C for 60 min. After, 225 µl HCl 1N was added and filtered through syringe filter 0.45 µm. RH-HPLC analysis was performed onto a column Nucleosil 300 C18 4.6mm using the solvents 0.1% triphthoro acetic acid (TFA) in ultra pure water and 0.1% TFA in 80% acetonitrile. Sample injection volume was 100 µl and a gradient elution was applied at a flow rate 0.8 ml/min.

Statistical analysis

The software Statgraphics Centurion XVI (Manugistics, Inc., Rockville, MA 20852, USA) was used for the assessment of the results. Oneway analysis of variance (ANOVA) was applied to data and the differences between averages were assessed with the LSD method at a level of significance 95%.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Physicochemical and microbial composition

Fortification of yoghurt milk with exogenous protein increases the protein content of the produced yoghurt^{3,4,5}. Consequently, MPM yoghurt had significantly (*P*<0.05) the highest protein and total solids contents due to the highest ratio of addition, whereas control yoghurt had the lowest

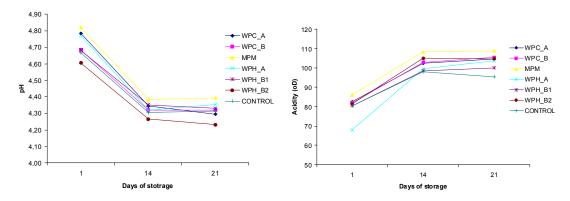


Fig.1: pH and acidity of low-fat bovine set-type yoghurts made with milk enriched with different whey protein powders

Table 3: Mineral content (mg/100g) of low-fat bovine set-type yoghurts made with milk enriched with different whey protein powders (mean \pm std)

Yoghurt	Calcium	Magnesium	Potassium	Sodium	Phosphorus
WPC_A	105.09 ±2.74	11.01±0.26a*	138.44 ± 7.52 ^{a,b}	47.64± 2.54ª	96.04 ± 1.92 ^{a,b}
WPC_B	99.36 ± 7.98	10.72±0.44a,b	133.93 ± 4.05^a	45.65± 2.86a	94.23 ± 2.48 ^{b,c}
MPM	102.04 ±6.83	$9.98 \pm 0.20^{\circ}$	$138.22 \pm 9.96^{a,b}$	63.17± 5.43 ^b	98.85 ± 0.90^{a}
WPH_A	98.89 ± 3.28	11.07± 0.63ª	142.89 ± 2.64^{b}	48.44± 3.27 ^a	$94.75 \pm 2.07^{b,c}$
WPH_B1	96.87 ± 6.79	11.02± 0.33ª	132.21 ± 8.56^a	47.62 ± 3.61a	$92.58 \pm 0.73^{c,d}$
WPH_B2	99.50 ± 1.04	10.52 ± 0.22^{b}	132.62 ± 7.23^a	48.24 ± 3.74^{a}	93.65 ± 1.65 ^{b,c}
CONTROL	97.55 ± 2.10	10.51 ± 0.24 ^b	134.20 ± 4.40^{a}	46.05 ± 1.58 ^a	90.26 ± 0.99^{d}

^{*} Means in the same column differ each other significantly (P<0.05)

(Table 2). The lactose content, of which 60-70% is not fermented¹⁵, did not differ among the yoghurt products and was at expected amounts. The mineral content was also affected by the ratio of addition and thus the WPC_A and MPM yoghurts contained the highest amounts of calcium and phosphorous (Table 3). Generally, the fortified yoghurts tended to contain more calcium and consequently to have higher nutritional value than control yoghurt.

Microbial counts in all produced yoghurts were at typical numbers (data not shown). Cells of *St. thermophilus* and *L. bulgaricus* in yoghurt type products should be alive and at numbers between 1x10⁶ and 1x10⁸ cfu/g¹⁵. Thermophilic lactococci counts in the produced yoghurts were >1x10⁷ cfu/g up to 21 days. In contrast, counts of *L. bulgaricus* decreased from 1x10⁸ to 1x10⁵ cfu/g at 21 days. This was attributed to the existed lactobacillus strain in the yoghurt culture used. It has been reported that the growth of yoghurt microorganisms in milk enriched with WPH depends on the microorganism strain¹⁶. No yeasts and moulds were detected in all yoghurts throughout storage.

pH of all yoghurts decreased dramatically from the 1st to 14th day of storage and remained almost constant up to the 21st day (Fig. 1). MPM yoghurt presented the higher acidity throughout storage because of its higher protein content. The same yoghurt had also the highest pH value due to the buffering capacity of the kind of the added milk

protein. Caseins contribute 36% to milk buffering capacity whereas whey proteins contribute only 5.4%⁵.

Textural properties

Water holding capacity (WHC) of yoghurts fortified with whey protein concentrates or with the blend of milk proteins was significantly (*P*<0.05) higher than WHC of yoghurts fortified with whey protein hydrolysates or control yoghurt throughout storage (Fig. 2). Generally, as the protein content in the formulation increases a higher WHC is obtained^{4,5}.

Hardness, a critical characteristic of set type yoghurt, increased in all yoghurts throughout storage (Fig. 3). As hardness is mainly influenced by the protein and total solids content3, MPM yoghurt enriched with the protein blend as well as the WPC_A and WPC_B yoghurts presented significantly (P<0.05) higher hardness and adhesiveness than control or yoghurts fortified with WPH. The textural properties of yoghurts enriched with WPC depend mainly on the characteristics of the added powder³. In the case, however, of fortification with WPH, the use of the experimentally made WPH of ovine/caprine origin resulted in the WPH_A yoghurt with significantly (P<0.05) lower hardness and adhesiveness compared to control yoghurt. In general, yoghurt supplementation with either casein hydrolysates or whey protein hydrolysates at a ratio from 0.025 to 0.4% causes a more open and less

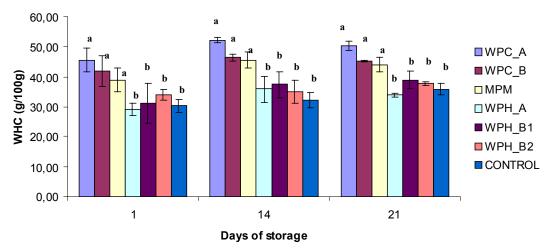


Fig.2: Water Holding Capacity (WHC) of low-fat bovine set-type yoghurts made with milk enriched with different whey protein powders

branched structure¹⁷. Regarding cohesiveness, it did not differ among the different yoghurts (data not shown).

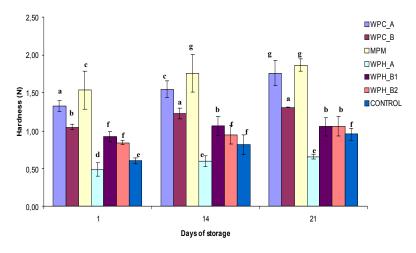
Antioxidant properties

The addition of whey protein did not increase the antioxidant activity of the produced yoghurts as far as the DPPH* radical scavenging activity concerns. The DPPH* activity ranged from 44% to 57% at 1st day and decreased to 36% -46% at 21 days of storage (Fig. 4). In contrast, the Fe²+ chelating activity of WPC_A yoghurt, MPM yoghurt and WPH_A yoghurt was 86%, 84% and 98% respectively at the 1st day, decreasing slightly at the 21 days. Similar Fe²+ chelating activity values

have been reported⁶ using higher ratio of added WPC. Yoghurt fortified with the experimental WPH of ovine/caprine origin presented significantly (*P*<0.05) higher Fe2⁺ chelating activity throughout storage. It has been showed that the whey protein fractions derived from hydrolysis of whey with trypsin exhibit increased Fe2⁺ chelating activity¹⁸. Generally, the antioxidant potential of yoghurt is mainly due to the amino acids and small bioactive peptides, which are released during fermentation.

ACE-inhibitory activity

All yoghurts fortified with WPH exhibited higher ACE-inhibitory activity than the control yoghurt and all other enriched yoghurts (Fig.



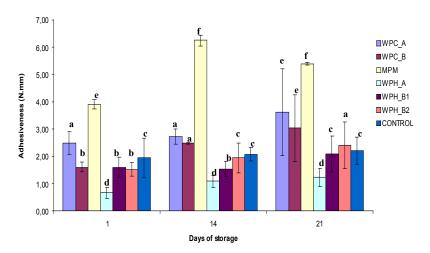
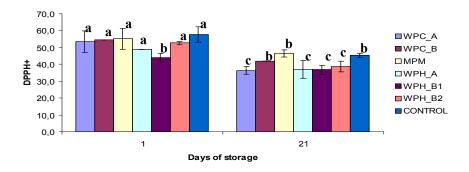


Fig.3: Textural properties of low-fat bovine set-type yoghurts made with milk enriched with different whey protein powders



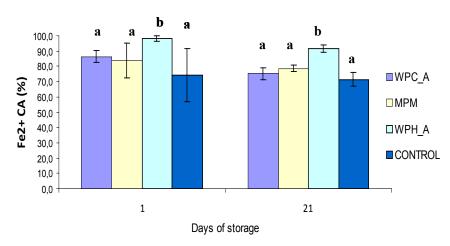


Fig.4: Antioxidant properties of low-fat bovine set-type yoghurts made with milk enriched with different whey protein powders

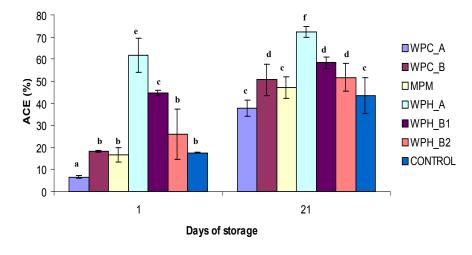


Fig.5: ACE-inhibitory activity of low-fat bovine set-type yoghurts made with milk enriched with different whey protein powders

5). However, WPH_A yoghurt fortified with the experimental hydrolysate of ovine/caprine origin presented > 62% activity, which was significantly (*P*<0.05) higher than the ACE-inhibitory activity of the other yoghurts up to 21 days. Bioactive peptides having ACE-inhibitory activity have been determined in experimental ovine yoghurts ^{19,20}, probiotic yoghurt ^{20,21}, as well as in Greek commercial yoghurts²².

In conclusion, the fortification of low-fat bovine milk with WPC of different origin and at various ratios affected positively the textural properties of the produced set type yoghurts, whereas the fortification with WPH increased the biofunctional properties by the means of antioxidant and anti-hypertensive activity.

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