

Original Research Article

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Development and Standardization of Ripe Pumpkin Based Squash and its Stability during Storage

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was carried out in the Department of Food Science and Technology, Dr Y S Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan (HP). Squash was prepared using different proportion of pumpkin pulp (25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 per cent) and total soluble solids (40, 45 and 47°Brix) to finalise the base recipe. The squash was liked by the panellists but the feedback of judges revealed that the flavour of the product is required to be improved. Keeping in view the remarks of panellists, the squash was prepared by blending the pumpkin pulp with different proportion of guava pulp. Among different recipes tried for development and standardization of pumpkin-guava squash, recipe PG₂ (30 % pumpkin pulp+10 % guava pulp) was selected for further studies on the basis of sensory evaluation in which acidity was maintained with three different acidic medium. Among, different squash prepared with three different acidic medium, the maximum ascorbic acid was noticed in treatment T2 (58.07 mg/100 g) while the beta carotene was maximum in T1 and T2 (0.51 mg/100 g). It was noticed that with the increase in storage period there was changes in chemical and organoleptic properties of prepared squash. The properties such as TSS, total sugars and reducing sugars increased however, titrable acidity, ascorbic acid and beta carotene decreased. At the end of six month of storage, it was observed that the mean maximum value of ascorbic acid decreased from 51.59 to 45.79 mg/100 g while the beta carotene decreased from 0.51 to 0.22 mg/100 g. Similarly, there were changes in the organoleptic properties of pumpkin guava based squash after six month of storage, but all of them were above the acceptable limit. The overall acceptability scores decreased from 8.13 to 6.68. Hence, it can be said that pumpkin along with guava can be effectively utilized for the development of squash which can be a good source of ascorbic acid.

Keywords

Ripe pumpkin,
Guava, Squash,
β-carotene,
Ascorbic acid and
overall
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Introduction

Pumpkin which is commonly known as 'kashiphal' or 'lal kaddhu' belongs to the family Cucurbitaceae and the genus *Cucurbita*. It is an annual or perennial, climbing or trailing herb indigenous to arid and temperate regions (Kulkarni and Joshi, 2013). It is a vegetable coming from tropical

and subtropical zones such as Mexico and South America with high consumption in the local market (Bisognin, 2002). The name pumpkin originated from a Greek word *Pepon* which means large melon. Pumpkin is composed of *Cucurbita mos chata*, *Cucurbita pepo*, *Cucurbita maxima*, *Cucurbita mixta*,

Cucurbita facifola and *Telfairia occidental* (Caili *et al.*, 2006). *Cucurbita moschata* is grown in almost all the regions of India while *C. maximum* are mostly grown in the hills and subtropical regions. The fruits of pumpkin are variable in size, shape (round or oval) and colour (Pandey *et al.*, 2003). Pumpkin is rich source of biologically active compounds and is recommended for diseases such as arthrosclerosis and helps to reduce the cholesterol in people suffering from diabetes (Danilchenko *et al.*, 2000). Pumpkin has vast scope of diversification for its application in commercial production of value added products such as jam, jelly, marmalades, puree, sauces, chutney, pickle, cookies, weaning mix (Dhiman *et al.*, 2009), *Instant halwa mix* (Dhiman *et al.*, 2017), pies and beverages.

A beverage is an important culinary preparation and is a drink specifically prepared for human consumption and contributes greatly to quench the thirst. The beverages are marketed under a variety of names such as fruit drink, breakfast drink. Ready-to-serve (RTS), nectar, squash, spices squash *etc.* (Kumar *et al.*, 2013). A fruit squash consist of juice containing moderate quantity of fruit pulp to which cane sugar is added for sweetening. Minimum percentage of fruit juice content and TSS in the final product (w/w) shall not be less than 25 per cent and 40°B, respectively. The increasing popularity of beverages in the country due to its health and nutritional benefits apart from providing pleasant taste and flavour has increased the consumption of beverage from 30 to 80 per cent in last three years.

India with its varied agro climate base is uniquely placed for growing a large number of horticulture crops for possible value addition as beverages. Today market is flooded with a large variety of beverages yet the researches and food processers are

looking for new raw material of high nutritional value to be used for the production of beverages. A substantial amount of research work both at national as well as international level is going on in studying and developing a variety of beverages from fruits and vegetables which are locally available in abundance and which perish in large quantities due to lack of appropriate convert options and/or techniques. Therefore, there is an opportune moment to promote the use of pumpkin in development of beverages which shall go a long way in not only meeting the nutritional requirements of the population but will have positive impact on the national economy and substantial rural development.

Materials and Methods

The present investigations were conducted in the Department of Food Science and Technology, Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan (HP) during the year 2013-2015. Raw material such as pumpkin, lime and hill lemon used for conducting the study were procured from *Subzi Mandi*/local market of Solan. Sugar was brought from local vendor of Nauni, while the chemical used in the study was purchased from International Scientific and Surgicals, Solan (HP).

Preparation of ripe pumpkin pulp

Ripe pumpkins were thoroughly washed and cut into halves. After removing the seeds and fluffy portion (fibrous strains/brains), pumpkins were cut into slices. The slices were peeled, washed and further cut into small pieces. The pumpkin pieces were pressure cooked with 10 per cent water for 5 min. The whole mass was then converted in to pulp by grinding in mixer cum grinder (Model MX-1155) and was strained to remove any of the fibre present in the pulp.

Development and standardization of recipe for preparation of pumpkin squash

FSSAI specifications were followed for preparation of squash from ripe pumpkin pulp. Different combinations of pumpkin pulp (%) and TSS (°B) were used to prepare squash (Table 1). The concentration of acid (as citric acid) was kept constant (1.2 %) in all the combinations. Potassium metabisulphite (KMS) @ 350 ppm was mixed properly at the end of product preparation. The squash was filled in previously sterilized glass bottles leaving adequate head space (1.2 cm) and sealed. Pumpkin squash of different combinations after dilution (1:3) was subjected to sensory evaluation by a panel of ten judges. The combination which received the highest overall acceptability score was selected as base recipe for further studies.

As per the feedback from panellists regarding improvement in flavour of squash, the pumpkin pulp was blended with guava pulp. The fruits were washed, cut into small pieces. Fruit pieces were mixed with equal amount of water (1:1) followed by pressure cooking for 15 minutes. The whole mass was converted in to pulp by grinding in a mixer cum grinder. The obtained pulp was strained through strainer to get fine pulp. The pulp was then used to prepare pumpkin squash blended with guava pulp.

Three different lots of squash were prepared by using the recipe which received the maximum sensory scores by the panellists. The acidity of squash was adjusted by using different acidic medium *viz.* citric acid, lime juice and hill lemon juice and was referred as T₁, T₂ and T₃, respectively (Table 3).

Method of analysis

Total soluble solids was measured by using ERMA company made hand refractometer at ambient temperature whereas, the acidity was

determined by titrating known quantity of sample against 0.1 N sodium hydroxide solution using phenolphthalein as an indicator and expressed in per cent anhydrous citric acid (AOAC, 2012). The reducing and total sugars were analysed by using Fehling's solution A and B and methylene blue as an indicator (AOA, 2012). Vitamin C content was estimated by preparing sample in 3 per cent metaphosphoric acid solution and titrating against 2, 6 dichlorophenol indophenols dye solution till the appearance of light pink colour (Ranganna, 2009). The β -carotene was estimated as per the procedures outlined by Ranganna (2009). A panel of 10 semi trained judges evaluated RTS for its colour, body, taste, aroma and overall acceptability on 9-point Hedonic scale. The data for quantitative analysis of various physic-chemical attributes were analysed by Completely Randomized Design (CRD) while the data on sensory evaluation were analysed by Randomized block design (RBD).

Results and Discussion

Standardization of recipe for preparation of pumpkin squash

The recipes of different treatments were subjected to sensory evaluation and the results (Figure 1) indicated that treatment S₉ (40 % pulp and 45 °B TSS) was awarded the highest scores for all the sensory characteristics. Therefore, this treatment was selected for further studies. Though the squash was liked by the panellists but the feedback of judges revealed that the flavour of the product is required to be improved. Keeping in view the remarks of panellists, the squash was prepared by blending the pumpkin pulp with different proportions of guava pulp which has a strong flavour and the different combinations of pumpkin-guava squash were subjected to sensory evaluation by a panel of ten judges. The data (Figure 2) showed that significantly higher score for colour (8.30), body (8.07),

taste (7.27), aroma (8.23) and overall acceptability (8.33) was awarded to PG₂ (30 % pumpkin pulp+10 % guava pulp). However, the scores for various sensory attributes were well above the acceptable limits of all the recipes but the recipe PG₂ which got the highest overall acceptability score was selected for further studies. The selected recipe was taken as base for preparation of pumpkin-guava squash by maintaining the acidity with three different acidic medium *i.e.* citric acid, lime and hill lemon juice and referred, respectively as T₁, T₂ and T₃.

Changes in chemical characteristics of pumpkin-guava squash during storage

Total soluble solids (TSS)

The data pertaining to the effect of different treatments on TSS of pumpkin-guava squash during storage is given in Table 4. It is clear from the data that among different treatments mean maximum (45.45⁰B) value was recorded in T₁ (pumpkin-guava pulp + citric acid) and mean minimum (45.25⁰B) in T₃ (pumpkin-guava pulp+hill lemon juice). During storage of six months, the mean value was observed to increase from 45.00 to 45.58⁰B. Increase in TSS might be due to the hydrolysis of polysaccharides like pectin, starch *etc.* into simple sugars. The results are in conformity with the findings of Palinswamy *et al.*, (1984) in mango squash, Kannan and Tirumanan (2002) in jamun squash, Ali *et al.*, (2011) in seabuckthorn squash, Diwedi and Pathak (2012) in mulberry squash, Kayshar *et al.*, (2014) in mixed fruit squash and Shahid *et al.*, (2015) in mango-mandarin squash.

Titration acidity

Changes in titration acidity of pumpkin-guava squash during storage revealed a significant decreasing trend (Table 4). The mean

maximum value of 1.14 per cent was recorded in T₁ (pumpkin-guava pulp + citric acid) while mean minimum of 1.02 per cent in T₃ (pumpkin-guava pulp + hill lemon juice). During storage, titration acidity of pumpkin-guava squash was found to decrease from 1.20 to 0.98 per cent. The decrease in titration acidity during storage might be due to co-polymerization of organic acids with sugars and amino acids or due to the chemical interaction between the organic constituents affected by the temperature and action of enzymes (Malav *et al.*, 2014). Similar trend has also been reported by Kannan and Thirumran (2004) in jamun squash, Hussain *et al.*, (2005) in mango squash, Reddy and Chikkasubbanna (2008) in lime blended amla squash and Syed *et al.*, (2012) in sweet orange squash.

Total sugars

There was a significant increase in total sugars of pumpkin-guava squash during six months of storage period under ambient condition (Table 5). The highest mean value (41.47 %) for total sugars was recorded in T₁ (pumpkin-guava pulp + citric acid) and the lowest (39.37 %) in T₃ (pumpkin-guava pulp + hill lemon juice). During storage of six months, the mean value for total sugars was found to increase significantly from 39.05 to 42.17 per cent. The increase in total sugars might be due to hydrolysis of starch into sugars as well as conversion of complex polysaccharides into simple sugars. Similar increase in sugars during storage has been reported by Prasad and Mali (2000) in pomegranate squash, Ali *et al.*, (2011) in seabuckthorn squash, Relekar *et al.*, (2013) in sapota squash and Sharma *et al.*, (2009) in guava-jamun squash.

Reducing sugars

The data collected on the effect of different treatments and storage intervals on reducing

sugars of pumpkin-guava squash are appended in Table 5. The mean maximum (22.48 %) and mean minimum (17.84 %) reducing sugars were recorded, respectively in T₁ (pumpkin-guava pulp+citric acid) and T₃

(pumpkin-guava pulp+hill lemon juice). The reducing sugars of pumpkin-guava squash increased from 17.52 to 21.97 per cent during the entire storage period of six months.

Table.1 Treatment detail of pumpkin squash

Treatment (S)	Pumpkin pulp (%)	TSS (°B)
S ₁	25	40
S ₂	30	40
S ₃	35	40
S ₄	40	40
S ₅	45	40
S ₆	25	45
S ₇	30	45
S ₈	35	45
S ₉	40	45
S ₁₀	45	45
S ₁₁	25	47
S ₁₂	30	47
S ₁₃	35	47
S ₁₄	40	47
S ₁₅	45	47

Table.2 Optimization of pumpkin and guava pulp ratio for preparation of squash

Treatment (PG)	Pumpkin pulp (%)	Guava pulp (%)
PG ₁	25	15
PG ₂	30	10
PG ₃	35	5
PG ₄	40	0

Table.3 Treatment detail of pumpkin-guava squash

Treatment (T)	Ingredients	Acidic medium
T ₁	Pulp (pumpkin+guava) + sugar syrup	Citric acid
T ₂	Pulp (pumpkin+guava) + sugar syrup	Lime juice
T ₃	Pulp (pumpkin+guava) + sugar syrup	Hill lemon juice

Table.4 Effect of different treatments and storage on total soluble solids (°B) and titrable acidity (%) of pumpkin-guava squash

Treatment (T)	Total soluble solids (°B)				Titrable acidity (%)			
	Storage interval (S) (months)				Storage interval (S) (months)			
	0	3	6	Mean	0	3	6	Mean
T₁	45.00	45.62	45.73	45.45	1.20	1.14	1.07	1.14
T₂	45.00	45.37	45.48	45.29	1.20	1.08	1.03	1.10
T₃	45.00	45.22	45.51	45.25	1.20	1.01	0.85	1.02
Mean	45.00	45.40	45.58		1.20	1.08	0.98	
CD _{0.05}	T (Treatments) = 0.04 S (Storage interval) = 0.04 TxS = 0.06				T (Treatments) = 0.05 S (Storage interval) = 0.05 TxS = 0.08			

Table.5 Effect of different treatments and storage on total and reducing sugars (%) of pumpkin-guava squash

Treatment (T)	Total sugars (%)				Reducing sugars (%)			
	Storage interval (S) (months)				Storage interval (S) (months)			
	0	3	6	Mean	0	3	6	Mean
T₁	40.99	41.62	41.80	41.47	20.03	22.65	24.76	22.48
T₂	38.50	39.68	42.04	40.08	16.66	18.89	21.13	18.90
T₃	37.67	39.99	40.45	39.37	15.88	17.62	20.03	17.84
Mean	39.05	41.10	42.17		17.52	19.72	21.97	
CD _{0.05}	T (Treatments) = 0.05 S (Storage interval) = 0.05 TxS = 0.08				CD _{0.05}	T (Treatments) = 0.03 S (Storage interval) = 0.03 TxS = 0.06		

Table.6 Effect of different treatments and storage on ascorbic acid (mg/100 g) and β- carotene (mg/100 g) of pumpkin-guava squash

Treatment (T)	Ascorbic acid (mg/100 g)				β- carotene (mg/100 g)			
	Storage interval (S) (months)				Storage interval (S) (months)			
	0	3	6	Mean	0	3	6	Mean
T₁	43.02	37.82	35.75	38.86	0.51	0.46	0.32	0.43
T₂	58.07	56.29	53.38	55.91	0.51	0.42	0.23	0.38
T₃	53.67	50.07	48.25	50.66	0.50	0.38	0.12	0.33
Mean	51.59	48.06	45.79		0.51	0.42	0.22	
CD _{0.05}	T (Treatments) = 0.04 S (Storage interval) = 0.04 TxS = 0.07				CD _{0.05}	T (Treatments) = 0.05 S (Storage interval) = 0.05 TxS = 0.08		

Table.7 Effect of different treatments and storage on colour and body scores of pumpkin-guava squash (on 9 point hedonic scale)

Treatment (T)	Colour				Mean	Body			
	Storage interval (S) (months)			Mean		Storage interval (S) (months)			Mean
	0	3	6			0	3	6	
T₁	8.30	8.07	7.40	7.92	8.07	7.80	7.40	7.76	
T₂	8.20	7.50	7.10	7.60	8.00	7.33	7.20	7.51	
T₃	8.07	7.40	7.02	7.49	8.07	7.40	7.02	7.49	
Mean	8.19	7.66	7.17		8.05	7.51	7.21		
CD _{0.05}	T (Treatments) = 0.28 S (Storage interval) = 0.28 TxS = NS				CD _{0.05}	T (Treatments) = 0.14 S (Storage interval) = 0.14 TxS = 24			

Table.8 Effect of different treatments and storage on taste and aroma scores of pumpkin-guava squash (on 9 point hedonic scale)

Treatment (T)	Taste				Mean	Aroma			
	Storage interval (S) (months)			Mean		Storage interval (S) (months)			Mean
	0	3	6			0	3	6	
T₁	8.40	7.73	7.23	7.79	8.23	7.81	7.40	7.81	
T₂	8.00	7.56	7.23	7.60	8.00	7.40	6.80	7.40	
T₃	8.07	7.44	7.02	7.51	8.07	7.35	7.02	7.48	
Mean	8.16	7.58	7.16		8.10	7.52	7.07		
CD _{0.05}	T (Treatments)= 0.08 S (Storage interval)= 0.08 TxS = 0.15				CD _{0.05}	T (Treatments)= 0.10 S (Storage interval)= 0.10 TxS = 0.17			

Table.9 Effect of different treatments and storage on overall acceptability scores of pumpkin-guava squash (on 9 point hedonic scale)

Treatment (T)	Storage interval (S) (months)			
	0	3	6	Mean
T₁	8.33	7.30	6.80	7.48
T₂	8.00	7.20	6.74	7.31
T₃	8.07	7.35	6.50	7.30
Mean	8.13	7.28	6.68	
CD _{0.05}	T (Treatments) = 0.09 S (Storage interval) = 0.09 TxS = 0.16			

Fig.1 Sensory evaluation (on 9 point hedonic scale) of pumpkin squash for Standardization of recipe

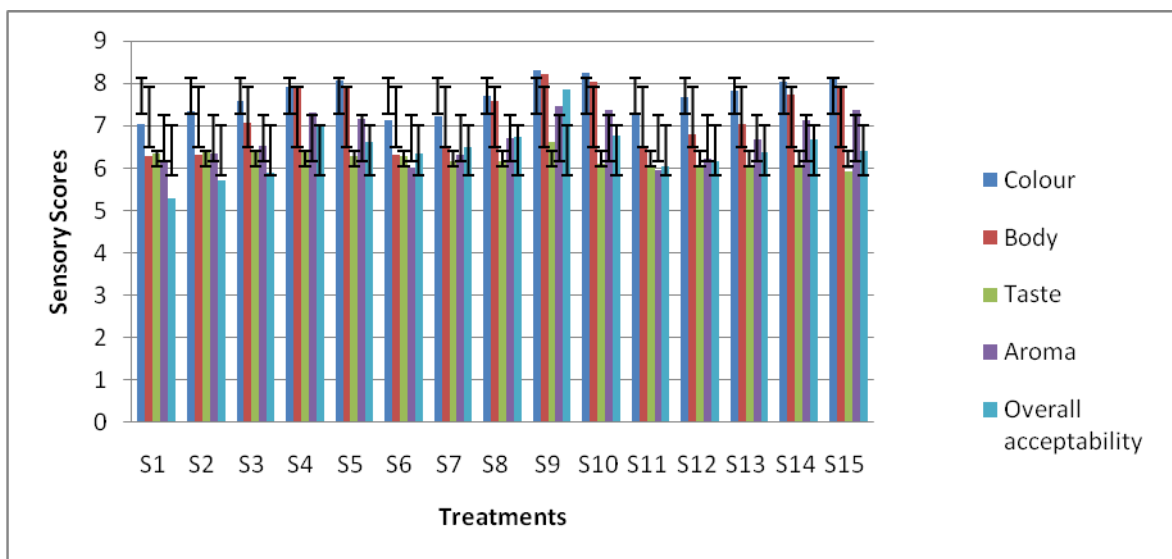
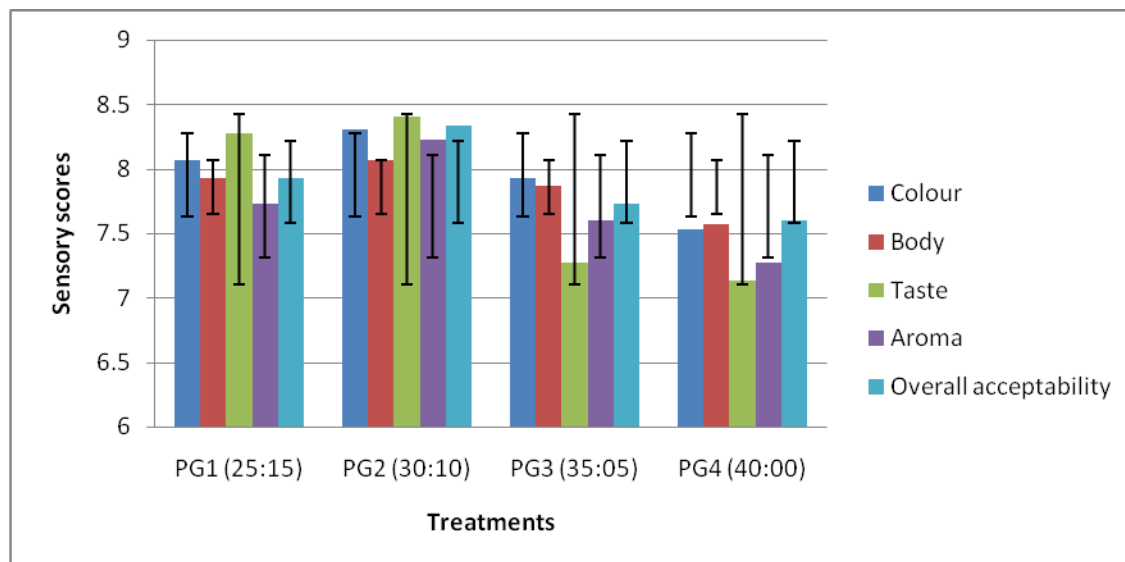


Fig.2 Sensory evaluation (on 9 point hedonic scale) of pumpkin-guava squash for Standardization of recipe



Increase in reducing sugars may be due to hydrolysis of non-reducing sugars like sucrose in to reducing sugars (glucose and fructose) during storage. Similar observations have been reported by Sethi (1992) for lime-ginger cocktail, Krishnaveni *et al.*, (2001) for jack fruit squashes and Bhatia and Chawla (2004) for apple beverage. Sood *et al.*, (2009)

also noticed an increase in reducing sugars of mango squash.

Ascorbic acid

A gradual decrease in ascorbic acid of pumpkin-guava squash was observed during entire storage period under ambient condition.

It can be clearly seen that among different treatments mean maximum value of 31.58 mg/100 g was recorded in T₂ (pumpkin-guava pulp+lime juice) and mean minimum of 22.19 mg/100 g in T₁ (pumpkin-guava pulp+citric acid). The ascorbic acid was found to decrease from 51.59 to 45.79 mg/100 g during the storage period of six months.

The decreasing trend in ascorbic acid during storage might be due to its breakdown in to dehydroascorbic acid or unstable nature of ascorbic acid by the action of heat, light and air or conversion to dehydroascorbic acid by its participation in browning (Sood *et al.*, 2009). Krishnaveni *et al.*, (2001) also revealed a decrease in ascorbic acid of jackfruit RTS beverage with the increase in storage intervals. The findings of the present studies are in agreement with the results reported by Jaiswal *et al.*, (2008) in aonla squash, Diwedi and Pathak (2012) in mulberry squash and Syed *et al.*, (2012) in sweet orange squash.

***β*- carotene**

An appraisal of data (Table 6) revealed that there was a decreasing trend in *β*-carotene content of pumpkin-guava squash during storage of six months. It was indicate that the mean value of *β*-carotene decreased from 0.51 to 0.22 mg/100 g during storage period of six months. A decrease in *β*- carotene might be due to the auto-oxidative degradation during processing and storage of food (Sharma *et al.*, 2009) or due to oxidative breakdown, isomerization or enzymatic destruction of the pigments. Srivastava (1998) and Deka *et al.*, (2005), respectively observed a slight decrease in total carotenoids of mango RTS and peach nectar during 6 months of storage.

A significant loss of *β*- carotene has been noticed by Tiwari (2000) in guava-papaya beverage, Krishnaveni *et al.*, (2001) in jack

fruit beverage and Kenghe and Zambare (2009) in bael squash during storage.

Changes in sensory characteristics of pumpkin-guava squash during storage

The data from Table 7 to 9 reflect the sensory evaluation scores for pumpkin-guava squash. The storage period as well as treatments had significantly affected the average scores for colour, body, taste, aroma and overall acceptability of pumpkin squash. The highest scores were awarded to treatment T₁ (pumpkin-guava pulp+citric acid) for colour (7.92), body (7.76), taste (7.79), aroma (7.81) and overall acceptability (7.48). However, the average scores showed a decreasing trend in recipes of all the treatments for different attributes during storage but were found to be well above the acceptable limits.

The mean scores were found to decrease from 8.19 to 7.17 for colour, 8.05 to 7.21 for body, 8.16 to 7.16 for taste, 8.10 to 7.07 for aroma and 8.13 to 6.88 for overall acceptability during six months of storage. This decrease in sensory scores might be attributed to chemical changes or certain enzymatic and non-enzymatic reactions. A significant decreasing trend in sensory attributes has also been observed by Prasad and Mali (2000) in ber squash, Nidhi *et al.*, (2008) in bael-guava beverage and Sood *et al.*, (2009) in mango squash and Thakur (2014) in box myrtle squash during storage.

Pumpkin guava squash was highly acceptable and rich in nutritional components such as ascorbic acid and *β*-carotene. Pumpkin guava pulp in a ratio of 30: 10 with 45° Brix TSS was highly acceptable by the panelist (Table 2). During the storage study, it was observed that there was slight deterioration in the chemical composition of the squash as well as in sensory parameters but they were all in the acceptable limit.

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