

Original Research Article

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Process Standardization of Whey Protein Enriched Spiced Quarg Cheese

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken with the prime objective to know the organoleptic and physico-chemical qualities of WPC enriched spiced quarg cheese. WPC was added at 5, 10, 15 and 20 % of quarg. The products were evaluated for sensory attributes, physico-chemical qualities and afterward assessed for its storage stability. The maximum score for colour and appearance, body and texture, spreadability and overall acceptability was recorded for the product containing 10 % WPC, while the maximum flavour score was recorded to 5 % WPC. To know the combine and interaction effect of ginger and cumin on quarg cheese, ginger @ 3, 4 and 5% and cumin @ 1 and 2 % were added in WPC enriched quarg. The product was evaluated for sensory and physico-chemical qualities. The maximum score (score=8.03) for body and texture and spreadability (score=7.83) were recorded to the product containing 10 % WPC, 2 % ginger and 1 % cumin. The pH of quarg cheese was significantly ($p<0.05$) decreased with increasing level of ginger and cumin. The optimized spiced quarg cheese contained 11.87, 18.54, 4.47, 1.41 % fat, protein, lactose and ash respectively. The WPC enriched quarg cheese without addition of ginger and cumin was acceptable up to 15th days while samples added with ginger and cumin was acceptable up to 20th days at refrigerated storage condition.

Keywords

Quarg cheese, WPC,
Ginger, Cumin,
Storage study

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Introduction

All over the world people consume fermented foods not only for nutrition but also for its potential health benefits. Fermented milk contains all the milk components modified through the process of fermentation by lactic acid bacteria. The conversion of part of lactose to lactic acid during fermentation, destabilize the casein by lowering the pH and their by enhance the digestability (Prajapati *et al.*, 2017). The process of fermentation results in production of antibacterial effect such as organic acids, bacteriocins, hydrogen

peroxide, fatty acids etc, which are said to impart health benefits by dealing with the pathogens. Cheese is the generic name for group of fermented milk based food products, produced in a great range of flavour and forms throughout the world (Fox *et al.*, 1992). FAO records the cheese production in India at 1500 tones at against the global production of 7832 tones in 2016 (www.faostat.fao.org). Cheese is held in high esteem in the food system and in food chain owing to its excellent portability, long life and good nutritive value (Bhongale *et al.*, 2016). There are more than 2000 varieties of cheese, although many have little

difference. The most popular varieties of cheese are cheddar, mozzarella, feta, cottage and quarg cheese. Quarg is a natural, un-ripened, fresh cheese produced on a large scale in Germany and is very popular there. It is manufactured by acid coagulation of milk by proper bacterial cultures (e.g. *Streptococcus cremoris* and *Leuconostoc citrovorum*) with a small rennet addition for better separation of the protein coagulum from the whey and thus better yields. It is produced in a variety of fat contents, ranging from an essentially fat free type to a variant with as much as 40 % fat in the dry matter. Quarg generally used as spread and often used as an ingredient for sandwiches, salads, cheese cake. It has a typical slightly sweet flavour and taste which not generally accepted by the Indians. Indian likes slightly spicy, salty, sour and astringent flavor. In traditional quarg cheese making, casein forms the curd structure, while the whey protein is lost in the whey. It means quarg is lacking in whey protein and lactose. As utilization of whey protein is essential in human diet because it contains α lacto albumin, β lacto globulin, immunoglobulins and lactoferrin have exhibited a number of biological effects having various effects on the function of digestion and anti-carcinogenic activity. Whey protein contains about 35-75% protein (Menziez *et al.*, 1988) and has ability to displace eggs, milk protein and offer significant benefits in terms of microbiological quality, product safety and shelf life. The advantages of incorporating of WPC into cheese have increased the nutritional value, cheese yield and especially in the low fat cheese, sensory improvement, besides it puts whey to good use (Hinrichs, *et al.*, 2001).

Spices are used in comparatively small quantities to improve the palatability of the food products. Ginger and cumin are most common spices traditionally used in Indian culinary dishes particularly spread; due to the

pungent taste and interesting aroma of ginger and flavoring properties of cumin. Considering the nutritional importance of WPC and use of ginger and cumin in traditional dishes or spread, quarg cheese has been prepared by incorporating them.

Materials and Methods

Materials

Fresh buffalo milk was procured from Dairy Farm, Agriculture College, Kolhapur and standardized to 4.5 % fat while, LF-40 starter culture was procured from National centre of dairy culture, NDRI, Karnal (India) and rennet enzyme make CHR HANSEN Ltd. Mumbai was utilized. To improve the whey protein content in quarg cheese, whey protein concentrate i.e. 70 (WPC) was procured from Modern dairy, Karnal having 4.2% moisture, 67 % whey protein, 16% lactose and 6.5% minerals. Whereas, for improvement in the flavour of experimental cheese rhizome ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) of Mahim variety, cumin (*Cuminum cyminum*) and common iodized salt were procured from Kolhapur market. Before use the light outer skin of ginger was scrapped off using a blunt knife and cut into tiny pieces and finally made ginger paste, while cumin was crushed into fine powder and sieved through 20 mesh.

Methodology

Protocol for quarg cheese making

Buffalo milk standardized to 4.5 % fat and 9% SNF was heated at 85°C for 5 min in a SS cheese vat (size 25×16×16 cm) and cooled to 28 ±1°C, inoculated with 1 % LF-40 starter culture and placed for a period to lower down the pH to 6.3. Renneting was done (rennet @ 0.5 g/100 liter of milk). Thereafter the vat content was left undisturbed for curd setting in incubator at 31°C, which took around 14-16

hrs. The coagulum was then cut using 1/3 inch cheese knives and it was again left undisturbed for about 5 min and then coagulum was allowed for cooking. The temperature of the coagulum was slowly and gradually increased to 60-65°C. At last cooked curd was cooled to room temperature and hanged in muslin cloth for 4-6 hrs for de-wheyng. Thereafter WPC, ginger, cumin and salt were added in curd at desired level and blending of total mass was carried out in a planetary mixer (SPAR make, Taiwan). The quarg is then filled in sterilized glass container and stored at 6±1°C.

Optimization of spiced quarg cheese:

To improve the whey protein content in quarg cheese, WPC-70 was added @5, 10, 15 and 20 % in it whereas, the ginger paste was added @ 3, 4 and 5 % and cumin powder was added @ 1 and 2 % of quarg. The best levels of WPC and combine effect of ginger paste and cumin powder were optimized on the basis of sensory evaluation.

Storage study of developed Quarg cheese:

The best optimized level of WPC, ginger and cumin obtained in experimentation were used for further storage stability studies of quarg cheese and compared with WPC added quarg cheese without addition of ginger and cumin. The quarg cheese samples were packed in sterilized glass container of 100 g capacity and stored at 6±1°C for storage studies. The samples were evaluated after 5 days interval for changes in sensory attributes, chemical properties and microbial load. The treatment details were as follows.

CS- WPC enriched quarg cheese without ginger and cumin

GS- WPC enriched quarg cheese with ginger and cumin

Analytical Methods

Sensory analysis

The product for sensory characteristics viz. colour and appearance, body and texture, spreadability, flavor and overall acceptability was evaluated by semi trained panel of judges from the staff of the Institute by using 9 points hedonic scale as per Amerine *et al.*, (2013). The spreadability was asses by the panelist using a piece of bread slice to spread the product.

Proximate analysis

The proximate estimation for moisture, ssprotein, fat, lactose, ash, total solids was done as per A.O.A.C (1999).

Microbiological analysis

The standard plate count, yeast and mould count and coliform count were enumerated as per procedure described in A.O.A.C (1999) using standard media of Hi-Media make.

Statistical Analysis

After collection of the research data, it was tabulated and statistically analyzed in respect of completely randomized design (CRD) and Factorial Randomized Block Design (FRBD) with equal replications (Snedecor *et al.*, 1994).

Results and Discussion

Effect of WPC on sensory attributes of quarg cheese

The perusal of data from table 1 showed that the score for colour and appearance of quarg cheese were significantly ($p<0.05$) lowest at the highest concentration of WPC. The score for first four treatments were at par with each other. It was observed that with increase in

WPC in quarg, the score was improved with 10 % addition of WPC. The highest score (7.5 ± 0.08) was obtained by quarg wherein WPC was added @ 10 %. For this treatment judges made the comments that the product had shining and slight creamy colour with uniform appearance. The lowest score of W_4 was associated with the comments of pronounced greenish colour as well as dry appearance of the product may be due to inbuilt colour of WPC, which was exhibited at higher level. Increase in dryness of khoa with increased level of WPC was also reported by Sudhir (2002). The present finding was also agreed with the finding of Dewani and Jayaprakasha (2002) for studies on pedha. It was observed that the score for body and texture was increased from the level of W_0 to W_2 .

However, the increase in score was at par with each other (W_0 , W_1 and W_3). The quarg prepared by addition of WPC at 10 % possessed soft body and recorded highest score for body and texture (score 7.43 ± 0.15) followed quarg prepared by addition of WPC at 5 % (score = 7.10). The product with 15 and 20 % of WPC did not liked by the judges, as these products possessed comparatively compact and too firm body and highly porous or coarse texture. Thapa and Guptha, (1996) and Jayaprakasha, (2000) revealed the same result, with increase in level of WPC, decrease the moisture and gave a higher firmness to the product. Contradictory findings were reported by Paul *et al.*, (2004) in biscuits enriched prepared with WPC wherein they observed with increase in WPC in biscuit there was decrease in the firmness and consistency and an increase in the cohesiveness of dough.

It was clearly illustrate from the table 1 that the spreadability score was in between “like slightly” to “like moderately” for the treatments W_0 , W_3 and W_4 . The lowest score was for W_4 might be because of water holding capacity of WPC which resulted in too firm

body and resist to spread the quarg. It is worthy to mention that at lowest level of WPC the product was too soft and had weak body may be because of less TS of the product and thus resulted in decrease in spreadability score. At increasing the level of WPC the graininess is observed in the product which resist to spread the product, the present finding are supported by the Sudhir (2002) report. The quarg prepared by addition of WPC at 5 and 10 % was recorded statistically merely equal score for flavour i.e. clean and mildly acidic with slightly cooked. The sample without having WPC recorded significantly low flavour score than sample treated as W_1 because of having pronounced sour flavour of the product. Whereas, at increased level of WPC the flavour scores were decreased might be because of having heat induced and lipid-protein compounds and bland flavours of WPC.

Further, Thapa and Gupta (1996) also reported that higher levels of WPC addition imparted milder flavour to the processed cheese foods. This finding also supported by Pinto *et al.*, (2007). Quarg prepared by addition of 10 % WPC scored significantly highest (score 7.60) for overall acceptability. It was also observed that at higher proportion of WPC (15 and 20 %) significantly ($p < 0.05$) decreased in overall acceptability score for quarg.

The present finding are in accordance with the study of Beena *et al.*, (2012) who reported that mean overall acceptability scores of more than 7.5 for biscuit sample containing 10 % WPC indicated the commercial scope for manufacturing good quality biscuit. David (2015) also successfully utilized WPC in the development of dietetic Kulfi which had a wider scope in the market as per health and nutritional quality is concerned. From the above results the 10 % level of WPC in quarg cheese was optimized and continued in further study.

Effect of WPC on physico-chemical properties of quarg cheese

The maximum fat content (13.00%) (Table 2) was recorded for quarg cheese prepared without addition of WPC (W_0). As the WPC level increased, the fat content were significantly ($p < 0.05$) decreased. Raju (2004) also reported that with the incorporation of WPC in the biscuits resulted in decrease in fat content. The highest protein content was recorded in quarg cheese prepared without addition of WPC. It was found that as the WPC level increased the protein content were significantly ($p < 0.05$) increased. The present finding was confirmed with the report of Pinto *et al.*, (2007) where they revealed that increase in WPC level also increased in protein content in cheese spread. The protein in the present investigation was much higher than the quarg prepared by (Yadav, 2015). Further, as the WPC level increased, ash and lactose content, were increased significantly ($p < 0.05$). The maximum ash and lactose content were recorded in the quarg cheese prepared by addition of 20 % of WPC. The total solid content of quarg cheese was ranged from 26.82 % (W_0) to 43.97 % (W_4). As the WPC level increased the total solid was also increased significantly ($p < 0.05$). Quarg cheese blended with 20 % was recorded the highest titrable acidity in product.

Combine effect of ginger and cumin on sensory attributes of quarg cheese

Based on the preliminary trial the quantity of ginger and cumin to be optimized was finalized. Accordingly ginger was added @ 3 (G_1), 4 (G_2) and 5 (G_3) % whereas, cumin was added @ 1 (C_1) and 2 (C_2) % of quarg cheese containing 10 % WPC. The maximum score (8.03) for colour and appearance was recorded to the product containing 4 % ginger and 1 per cent cumin (Table 3). Hailu *et al.*, (2014) also reported the similar finding in cheese made by

adding ginger crude extract which had lower score for colour than that made by using Camel Chymosin (CC). Maximum body and texture score (7.62) was recorded in the product containing 3 % ginger and 1 % cumin.

The overall mean of body and texture score was 7.09. It was also observed that with increasing level of ginger and cumin score was significantly decreasing for body and texture score. This might be because of ginger become fibrous and cumin was in coarse form. Raising the level of ginger juice to 5 per cent caused decreased in score of body and texture of Ice cream in comparison to control sample (Agrawal, *et al.*, 2015).

The optimum spreadability score (7.83) were found in the quarg cheese prepared by the addition of ginger and cumin at 3 and 1 % respectively. The maximum flavour score (7.82) was recorded in the G_2C_1 product. The addition of ginger had significant effect on overall acceptability score of quarg cheese. The maximum score was recorded for the product contained 4 % ginger and % cumin.

Combine effect of ginger and cumin on physico-chemical properties of quarg cheese

The maximum fat content (11.83 %) was recorded for quarg cheese prepared by addition of 5 % ginger and 2 % cumin while, the highest protein content was recorded in quarg cheese prepared by addition of 4 % ginger and 2 % cumin (Table 4). It was found that as the cumin level increased the protein content were significantly ($p < 0.05$) increased. The maximum lactose content was found in the quarg containing 3 % ginger and 1 % cumin. As the ginger and cumin level increased ash content was also increased significantly ($p < 0.05$). whereas, the combine effect of ginger and cumin on ash were non-significant.

Table.1 Effect of WPC on sensory attributes (score)* of quarg cheese

| WPC level | Sensory attributes | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Colour and appearance | Body and texture | Spreadability | Flavour | Overall Acceptability |
| 0 % (W ₀) | 7.29 ^b ±0.25 | 7.02 ^c ±0.10 | 7.00 ^c ±0.11 | 7.08 ^b ±0.05 | 7.09 ^{bc} ±0.11 |
| 5 % (W ₁) | 7.42 ^b ±0.05 | 7.10 ^c ±0.11 | 7.14 ^c ±0.13 | 7.58 ^c ±0.06 | 7.27 ^c ±0.07 |
| 10 % (W ₂) | 7.50 ^b ±0.08 | 7.43 ^c ±0.15 | 7.90 ^d ±0.10 | 7.40 ^c ±0.13 | 7.60 ^d ±0.07 |
| 15 % (W ₃) | 7.18 ^b ±0.21 | 6.52 ^b ±0.13 | 6.58 ^b ±0.18 | 7.11 ^b ±0.12 | 6.85 ^b ±0.05 |
| 20 % (W ₄) | 6.84 ^a ±0.09 | 5.99 ^a ±0.24 | 6.22 ^a ±0.28 | 6.53 ^a ±0.15 | 6.40 ^a ±0.12 |
| SEm | 0.12 | 0.17 | 0.10 | 0.13 | 0.11 |
| CD(P<0.05) | 0.36 | 0.50 | 0.29 | 0.38 | 0.32 |

* mean ± SE of five replications within column followed by same letter are non-significantly different at p< 0.05.

Table.2 Effect of WPC on Physico-chemical properties of quarg cheese

| WPC level | Physico-chemical properties | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Fat (%) | Protein (%) | Lactose (%) | Ash (%) | TS (%) | Acidity (% LA) |
| 0 % (W ₀) | 13.00 ^c ±0.32 | 12.22 ^a ±0.34 | 2.10 ^a ±0.17 | 1.06 ^a ±0.04 | 26.82 ^a ±0.83 | 1.20 ^a ±0.11 |
| 5 % (W ₁) | 12.32 ^b ±0.40 | 15.51 ^b ±0.12 | 3.39 ^b ±0.09 | 1.37 ^b ±0.11 | 32.59 ^b ±0.42 | 1.51 ^b ±0.04 |
| 10 % (W ₂) | 11.91 ^b ±0.35 | 18.44 ^c ±0.14 | 4.45 ^c ±0.09 | 1.41 ^b ±0.05 | 36.54 ^c ±0.42 | 1.62 ^b ±0.04 |
| 15 % (W ₃) | 11.47 ^a ±0.28 | 21.37 ^d ±0.16 | 5.50 ^d ±0.09 | 1.64 ^c ±0.04 | 40.29 ^d ±0.35 | 1.73 ^c ±0.04 |
| 20 % (W ₄) | 10.59 ^a ±0.44 | 24.08 ^c ±0.19 | 6.57 ^c ±0.10 | 1.84 ^d ±0.04 | 43.97 ^c ±0.33 | 1.84 ^c ±0.04 |
| SEm | 0.31 | 0.18 | 0.10 | 0.06 | 0.45 | 0.06 |
| CD(P<0.05) | 0.94 | 0.53 | 0.29 | 0.17 | 1.34 | 0.17 |

* mean ± SE of five replications within column followed by same letter are non-significantly different at p< 0.05.

Table.3 Combine effect of ginger, cumin and their interaction on sensory attributes (score)* of quarg cheese

| Treatments | Colour and appearance | Body and texture | Spreadability | Flavor | Acceptability |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| C ₁ G ₁ | 7.25 | 7.62 | 7.83 | 7.62 | 7.78 |
| C ₁ G ₂ | 8.03 | 7.42 | 7.58 | 7.82 | 7.95 |
| C ₁ G ₃ | 7.22 | 6.48 | 6.95 | 7.30 | 7.57 |
| C ₂ G ₁ | 7.08 | 7.33 | 7.42 | 7.70 | 7.88 |
| C ₂ G ₂ | 6.75 | 7.05 | 7.22 | 7.50 | 7.90 |
| C ₂ G ₃ | 6.70 | 6.33 | 6.67 | 7.18 | 7.17 |
| Mean | 7.17 | 7.09 | 7.28 | 7.52 | 7.71 |
| CD (P<0.05) G | 0.26 | 0.22 | 0.17 | 0.10 | 0.34 |
| CD (P<0.05) C | 0.31 | 0.26 | 0.21 | NS | NS |
| CD (P<0.05) G x C | 0.44 | NS | NS | 0.17 | NS |

NS: Non significant

Table.4 Combine effect of ginger and cumin on physico-chemical properties of quarg cheese

| Treatments | Fat (%) | Protein (%) | Lactose (%) | Ash (%) | TS (%) | Titrable acidity (% LA) |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|---------|--------|-------------------------|
| C ₁ G ₁ | 11.70 | 18.17 | 4.59 | 1.41 | 35.86 | 1.61 |
| C ₁ G ₂ | 11.66 | 18.14 | 4.57 | 1.50 | 35.86 | 1.63 |
| C ₁ G ₃ | 11.62 | 18.06 | 4.54 | 1.61 | 35.82 | 1.73 |
| C ₂ G ₁ | 11.76 | 18.40 | 4.57 | 1.47 | 36.19 | 1.61 |
| C ₂ G ₂ | 11.76 | 18.44 | 4.55 | 1.53 | 36.28 | 1.65 |
| C ₂ G ₃ | 11.83 | 18.43 | 4.53 | 1.66 | 36.45 | 1.74 |
| CD (P<0.05) G | NS | NS | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.06 | 0.02 |
| CD (P<0.05) C | 0.03 | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.07 | NS |
| CD (P<0.05) G x C | 0.03 | NS | NS | NS | 0.09 | NS |

NS: Non significant

Table.5 Changes in sensory attributes (score)* of quarg cheese with (GS) and without (CS) addition of ginger and cumin during storage

| Sensory attributes | Days | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| | Treatment | 0 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 |
| Colour and appearance | CS | 8.02±0.07 | 7.72±0.02 | 7.04±0.09 | 4.5±0.08 | -- |
| | GS | 8.24±0.07 | 7.78±0.09 | 7.5±0.07 | 7.14±0.08 | 6.5±0.07 |
| | CD (P<0.05) | 0.19 | NS | 0.26 | 0.25 | |
| Body and texture | CS | 7.5±0.07 | 7.11±0.03 | 6.3±0.07 | 5.4±0.07 | -- |
| | GS | 7.47±0.05 | 7.3±0.05 | 7.1±0.04 | 6.1±0.04 | 5.9±0.04 |
| | CD (P<0.05) | NS | 0.13 | 0.19 | 0.19 | |
| Spreadability | CS | 7.9±0.06 | 7.3±0.09 | 6.5±0.07 | 6.1±0.03 | -- |
| | GS | 7.55±0.04 | 7.1±0.04 | 7.3±0.07 | 5.8±0.07 | 5.4±0.07 |
| | CD (P<0.05) | 0.17 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.17 | |
| Flavour | CS | 7.4±0.03 | 7.1±0.05 | 6.8±0.03 | 5.3±0.02 | -- |
| | GS | 7.9±0.04 | 7.5±0.04 | 7.3±0.06 | 7.2±0.05 | 5.9±0.06 |
| | CD (P<0.05) | 0.11 | 0.24 | 0.17 | 0.14 | |
| Overall acceptability | CS | 7.4±0.03 | 6.9±0.06 | 6.1±0.04 | 5.5±0.03 | -- |
| | GS | 7.9±0.03 | 7.2±0.05 | 6.5±0.04 | 6.2±0.02 | 5.9±0.06 |
| | CD (P<0.05) | 0.11 | 0.24 | 0.21 | 0.07 | |

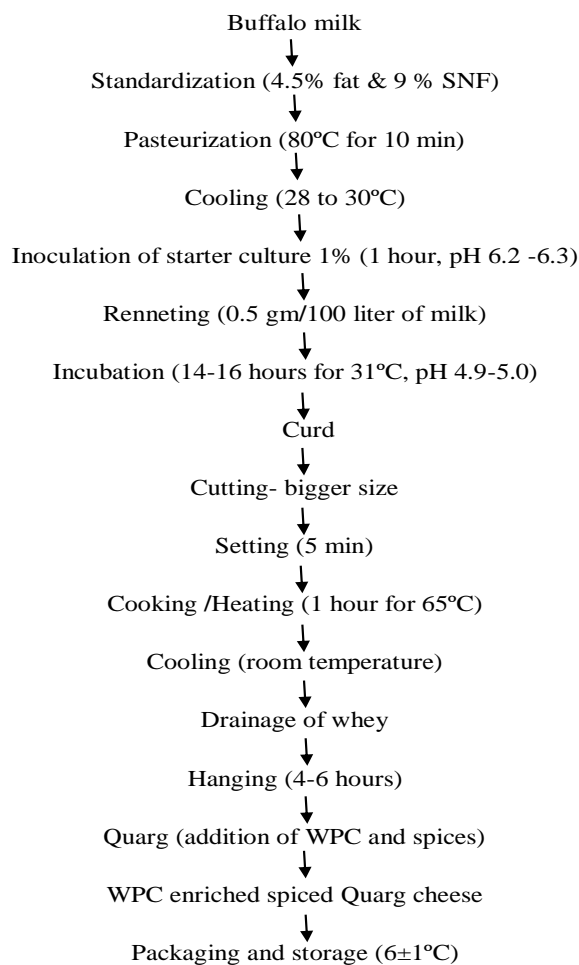
* Mean ±SE of five replication NS= Non-Significant (--) indicates that product was spoiled and no further analysis was carried out.

Table.6 Changes in microbial load*of Quarg cheese with (GS) or without (CS) addition of ginger and cumin

| Microbial parameter | Treatment | Days | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | 0 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 |
| SPC Log ₁₀ /gm | CS | 1.73±0.01 | 2.27±0.02 | 3.16±0.02 | 3.23±0.04 | -- |
| | GS | 1.64±0.02 | 2.12±0.05 | 2.94±0.02 | 3.10±0.06 | 3.19±0.08 |
| | CD | 0.05 | 0.11 | 0.7 | NS | |
| YMC Log ₁₀ /gm | CS | NIL | 0.21±0.04 | 0.43±0.03 | 1.23±0.02 | -- |
| | GS | NIL | 0.10±0.04 | 0.24±0.01 | 1.11±0.03 | 1.20±0.02 |
| | CD | NIL | NS | 0.07 | 0.12 | |
| CC cfu/g | CS | NIL | NIL | 0.47±0.03 | 0.59±0.01 | -- |
| | GS | NIL | NIL | 0.40±0.02 | 0.48±0.03 | 0.95±0.01 |
| | CD | NIL | NIL | NS | 0.07 | |

NS= Non-Significant *= means of ± SE of five replication (-- indicates that product was spoiled and no further analysis was carried out

Protocol for quarg cheese making



The highest total solid content was observed for quarg cheese prepared from 5 % ginger and 2 % cumin. As the ginger and cumin level increased, the total solids were also increased significantly ($p < 0.05$). Quarg cheese prepared with ginger at 5 % and cumin at 2 % was recorded the highest titrable acidity in quarg cheese.

Effect of storage on sensory attributes (score)* of quarg cheese

The data in table 5 indicated that the as storage period increased the score of colour and appearance was decreased in both the quarg cheese. However the rate of decline was higher in CS than GS. Controlled sample was best up to 15 days while ginger and cumin added sample had acceptable color up to 20 days after that the color become slightly brown may be due to yeast and mould. Body and texture scores remained less unchanged up to ten days of storage in CS and GS. Thereafter, the addition of ginger and cumin was found to improve the flavour scores of the fresh quarg cheese, but sensory evaluation revealed that with advancing storage period, a gradual deterioration in flavour score was observed; thereafter it followed a rapid decrease in flavour score towards the end of storage period. The data showed that storage up to 5 days, no pronounced variation was observed amongst the samples pertaining to flavour, while up to 10 days, the control sample achieved lowest flavour score as compared to quarg with ginger and cumin. The data indicated that the overall acceptability of control sample was significantly lowered than the sample added with ginger and cumin.

Changes in microbial quality

The SPC count of quarg cheese blended with ginger and cumin on 15th day was 3.10 \log_{10}/gm whereas quarg cheese prepared by without ginger and cumin was recorded

highest count on 20th days (3.23) (Table 6). Similarly in YMC, the minimum count was recorded in the ginger and cumin treated sample whereas maximum count was observed in control sample.

The maximum coliform count (0.59cfu/g) was recorded in control sample on 15th days, while the minimum (0.48 cfu/g) coliform count was recorded in ginger and cumin treated sample on 15th day (Oladipo *et al.*, 2013). Addition of WPC -70 at 10%, ginger at 4% and cumin at 1% was found to be best in quality of quarg cheese.

As the storage period was increased the color and appearance, body texture, flavor, spreadability and overall acceptability was decreased. The results of SPC were indicated that the rate of growth of microorganism in control sample was significantly ($P < 0.05$) faster than that of sample with ginger and cumin.

The results of YMC were showed that the average initial YMC in quarg cheese was nil in the entire sample.

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