

Original Research Article

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Suitability of Saccharine for Preparation of Low Calorie Karadkheer

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ABSTRACT

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Low calorie *karadkheer* was prepared by replacing 15%, 30%, 45% and 60% sugar with saccharine and stored at 10 °C. *Karadkheer* prepared with replacement of sugar up to 30% with saccharine was best accepted during storage which, possessed the same desirable sweetness and sensory attributes even after three days of storage. Storage studies revealed that saccharine sweetened *karadkheer* resembled the control *karadkheer* in retaining the sensory profile, but showed rise in acidity and microbial load. HPLC analysis of saccharine sweetened low calorie *karadkheer* samples showed no degradation of saccharine during entire period of storage.

Introduction

A variety of traditional dairy products are manufactured in India, most of which are region specific. Presently around 150 types of milk based sweet meats are available in the country. Traditional milk sweets are value added products and have great mass demand. About half of India's milk production is utilized in the preparation of different traditional dairy products. One such traditional cereal based popular dessert is *kheer*. *Karadkheer* a value added version of *kheer*, is a rural indigenous milk product prepared in Maharashtra state of India. It is

prepared from milk, safflower milk prepared out of safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius L.*) extract, sugar and basmati rice. *Karadkheer* is a highly nutritious and health promoting product. Safflower extract used is a rich source of polyunsaturated fatty acids. It has higher content of linoleic acid and slightly lower content of linolenic acid. The potential therapeutic properties of *karadkheer* are; it is anticarcinogenic, antiatheroscleratic, growth promoting and lean body mass enhancing (Sarode, 2004). However, presence of high sugar in the product keeps away diabetic and health conscious people from consuming the product.

Over last decade, demand for health foods in India has been fuelled by the increasing incidence of lifestyle-related diseases. In India, 13% females and 9% male are overweight (IIPS, 2007) and 62.4 million people lives with diabetes (Shetty, 2012). In India 65.1 million people of 20 to 79 year age group having diabetes in 2013 and it is projected to 109 million in year 2035 (International Diabetes Federation, 2014). Saccharine is the oldest sugar substitute and most widely used artificial sweetener in the world. It is 300 times sweeter than the sucrose. Inclusion of saccharine instead of sugar in food is believed to assist consumer in weight reduction, management of blood glucose in diabetes and pre-diabetic condition, reduction of dental caries, etc. The Government of India has permitted the use of saccharine in traditional dairy products. According to a Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2011(FSSR, 2011), the use of artificial sweeteners has been allowed in food items as per the limits prescribed and under proper label declarations.

The degradation products of saccharine have been reported to be carcinogenic. Since the application of saccharine in indigenous dairy products is new, qualitative as well as quantitative information on sweetener's degradation in dairy system is required. Therefore, the present study has been undertaken to identify the most appropriate inclusion rate for saccharine to prepare an organoleptically acceptable *karadkheer* and to investigate the stability of saccharine in the product during storage.

Materials and Methods

Sweetener and its standard degradation products

Saccharine (Molychem, Thane, India) and its degradation product standard 2-sulfobenzoic

acid (Sigma-Aldrich, Lovfs, MO, USA) were procured.

Chemicals and Media

Sulfuric acid, Iso-amyl alcohol, potassium sulphate, copper sulphate, sodium hydroxide, boric acid, hydrochloric acid, phenolphthalein indicator, standard buffer tablet of pH 4 and pH 7, Plate count agar, Potato dextrose agar (AR Grade, Himedia laboratories, Mumbai), sodium chloride, ethyl alcohol, diethyl ether, petroleum ether, zinc sulphate, potassium ferrocyanide, dipotassium hydrogen phosphate, potassium dihydrogen phosphate.

AR Grade, Molychem, Mumbai), acetonitrile, methanol, water (HPLC Grade, Molychem, Mumbai) Filter papers: Whatman No.42 (1.5 μ m. Carrez solution No.1, 3.6 g of potassium ferrocyanide dissolved in 100 ml HPLC grade water. Carrez solution No. 2, 7.2 g of zinc sulphate dissolved in 100 ml HPLC grade water. Mobile phase: 0.02 M phosphate buffer pH (5.0): acetonitrile (97:03).

Standard solution of saccharine and degradation product

Ten mg of sweetener and its degradation products were dissolved separately in 10 ml of mobile phase to get stock standard solutions, with a concentration of 1 mg/ml.

One hundred μ l of stock standard solution were pipetted into separate 10 ml volumetric flasks and volume was made up to mark with mobile phase to get standard solution of concentration 10 ng/ μ l. (also 100 μ l from each stock standard solution (1 mg/ml) of saccharine and its degradation product, 2-sulfobenzoic acid were pipetted into 10 ml volumetric flasks and volume was made up to the mark with mobile phase to get mixture of each component as in the mixed solution of concentration of 10 ng/ μ l).

Equipments

Kelplus digestion and distillation assembly for protein estimation was supplied by Pelican Instruments, Chennai; Millipore type membrane filter (Z-37) by ASGI, India; High speed cooling centrifuge C-24 BL REMI by Remielectrotechnik Ltd., Mumbai and HPLC system by Dionex (UHPLC 3000 system, UV detector).

Preparation of *Karadkheer*

Fresh, white colour safflower seeds and high quality basmati rice were procured from local market. Low calorie *karadkheer* sweetened with saccharine was prepared using the method described by Sarode (2004), with slight modification. The preparation of *kheer* was carried out in two different phases. In the initial phase, the safflower milk was prepared from safflower seeds extract by method of Maske (1997) (Figure 1) and in later phase the *kheer* was prepared by blending the safflower milk with milk in 40:60 ratio (Figure 2). A control sample of *karadkheer* was also prepared using sugar and milk ('Rajhans' homogenized toned milk) procured from the local market and following the same method.

The method required sugar @ 9 % of safflower milk and milk blend. *Karadkheer* prepared by using sugar @ 9 % was considered as control and on the basis of sugar equivalence sugar was replaced at different levels with equivalent sweetness level of saccharine. Treatment and levels were as follows;

T₁= 85 % sugar + saccharine equivalent to 15% sugar.

T₂= 70 % sugar + saccharine equivalent to 30% sugar.

T₃= 55 % sugar + saccharine equivalent to 45% sugar.

T₄= 40 % sugar + saccharine equivalent to 60% sugar.

Saccharine was added at the end stage when *karadkheer* was cooled at room temperature. The product was homogenously mixed to ensure uniform distribution of sweetener in the product.

Sample preparation and HPLC analysis

Sample preparation procedure used for isolation (Figure 3) of sweetener from *karadkheer* was based on method of BSEN: 12856 (1999). Weights of saccharine sweetened samples for different treatments taken for sample preparation are given in Table 1. Calculated sample of low calorie *karadkheer* was taken in 100 ml beaker and added with 50 ml of HPLC grade water. Solution was transferred to a 100 ml volumetric flask. Six ml of Carrez solution No. 1 was added and mixed followed by addition of 6 ml of Carrez solution No. 2 to the solution.

The solution was shaken vigorously and allowed to stand at room temperature for 10 min. After dilution upto the mark with mobile phase, filtration was carried out using a Whatman No. 1 filter paper through sintered funnel. Filtrate was centrifuged to clear supernatant and was used for HPLC analysis during storage. HPLC analysis of reference standards of saccharine, its degradation product and sample isolates from *karadkheer* were performed under standardized conditions. Reverse phase HPLC analysis were performed over C₁₈ column at UV detector wavelength 200 nm. Mobile phase was used at a flow rate of 1 ml/min with run time of 30 min.

Chemical composition of *karadkheer*

Saccharine sweetened *karadkheer* and control sample composition was analyzed for moisture and fat (IS: SP Part XI, 1981), total protein, ash and pH (AOAC, 1990).

Storage and analysis of *karadkheer*

Control and artificially sweetened samples of *karadkheer* were packed in polypropylene cups and stored at refrigerated temperature (10 °C). The samples were analyzed from first to third day of storage for titratable acidity, pH, Standard Plate Count and Yeast and Mold Count using standard method (IS: SP Part XI, 1981). Incubation of the plates was carried out at 37 °C for 48 hrs and 30 °C for 3-5 days respectively.

Sensory evaluation

The samples of *karadkheer* were evaluated for the sweetness, colour and appearance, body & texture and overall acceptability by a panel of 5 judges from the faculty of College of Dairy Technology, Warud (Pusad) using 9-point hedonic scale score card (Amerine *et al.*, 1965).

Statistical analysis

In all experiments, one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with a subsequent least significant difference (LSD) test was applied for multiple sample comparison. This was done to test for any significant differences ($P < 0.05$) in the mean values of all the treatments as described by Snedecor and Cochran (1989). Data from three replications of each experiment were analyzed for statistical analysis.

Results and Discussion

Selection of method for production of low calorie *karadkheer*

Two different methods suggested for the preparation of *karadkheer* by Narwade (1997) and Sarode (2004) were compared on sensory ground (Table 2) to select the method for preparation of low calorie carrot *karadkheer*.

Sensory evaluation revealed that *karadkheer* prepared by the method of Sarode (2004) was superior to the method of Narwade (1997) against all sensory attributes. Concentration of safflower milk greatly influences the acceptability of the product due to its flavor, color, body and texture. Proper cooking of rice in milk improved the taste and texture whereas, milk solid gave desired richness and flavor to the product. Replacement of the sugar with artificial sweetener is possible in method described by Sarode (2004) which facilitates addition of sweetener at the end stage of heating treatment to prevent possible heat damage to the artificial sweetener. Hence, the method by Sarode (2004) was selected for the preparation of *karadkheer*.

Effect of saccharine on chemical composition of *karadkheer*

Replacement of 15%, 30%, 45% and 60% of the total sugar in *karadkheer* with equivalent quantity of saccharine resulted into non significant difference ($P < 0.05$) in fat, protein, ash and pH with respect to control (Table 3). However, samples sweetened with saccharine noticed slight increase in moisture content with increase in saccharine replacement of sugar in respect to control. The results for compositional parameters of saccharine sweetened *karadkheer* were in accordance with results reported by Sarode (2004) for *karadkheer*, De *et al.*, (1976) for *kheer* prepared without safflower extract and Mathur *et al.*, (1985) for *kheer* prepared with 10% basmati rice and 15% sugar.

Storage related changes in saccharine sweetened *karadkheer*

Sensory profile

Sensory analysis (Table 4) revealed that T₂ was best accepted among all the treatments studied during storage. The sweetness scores

of all the treatments and control were constant during storage. The score of T₂ was superior to remaining treatments as well as control. T₃ and T₄ treatments scored very less as the product was not accepted by judges. The reduction in score was mainly due to development of bitter taste with increase in concentration of saccharine. Vairagade *et al.*, (2016) reported the similar results in case of carrot *halwa* sweetened with saccharine. The colour scores of all the treatments were reduced during storage and as storage period increased the score reduced significantly. Among all the samples T₄ sample had slightly more off-white color and hence was less accepted and got lower score. The appearance score of all the treatments including control were non-significant up to the second day of storage however, significant difference was observed at third day of storage. Control and T₂ samples were acceptable up to the third day of storage, but there was significant reduction in score than fresh sample. The body and texture score of control was highest and at par with T₁ and T₂ samples. Samples T₃ and T₄ were significantly lower (P< 0.05) from control, T₁ and T₂. As artificial sweetener had insufficient water binding capacity, it might

have resulted in slightly low score for the samples having more amount of artificial sweetener in the sample. The T₂ sample was best accepted and at par with control for body and texture scores during storage. The flavour scores of sample T₃ and T₄ were significantly different (P<0.05) from control, T₁ and T₂. Control and T₂ samples were acceptable up to the third day of storage, but there was significant reduction in score than fresh sample. The overall acceptability score of the T₂ was highest among all the treatments and resembled control upto the end of storage. The T₁ sample also showed the acceptable score up to third day but scored lower than control and T₂. While the scores for the T₃ and T₄ sample were significantly lower from initial day up to the last day of storage. It is evident that the sensory scores of T₂ for all sensory attributes were at par with control and more than control in some cases, which indicates its acceptability on the sensory ground. It was also observed that the rate of decline in the sensory scores of T₂ was more than that of control during the storage. Similar results were observed with saccharine sweetened *burfi* and *kalakand* (Kumar, 2006) and carrot *halwa* (Vairagade *et al.*, 2016) during storage.

Table.1 Weight of saccharine sweetened karadkheer for HPLC analysis

| Treatment | Saccharine sweetened samples (g) |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| T ₁ | 43.06 |
| T ₂ | 21.26 |
| T ₃ | 13.99 |
| T ₄ | 10.36 |

Table.2 Sensory scores of karadkheer prepared by different methods

| Parameters | Methods for selection of Recipe | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| | Narwade (1997) | Sarode (2004) |
| Appearance and colour | 7.13 ± 0.52 | 7.47 ± 0.52 |
| Flavour | 6.60 ± 0.06 | 6.6 ± 0.28 |
| Body and texture | 6.87 ± 0.83 | 7.13 ± 0.83 |
| Overall acceptability | 6.60 ± 0.83 | 7.60 ± 0.74 |

All scores are average of three replications. Data are presented as Means ± S.D

Table.3 Chemical composition of saccharine sweetened karadkheer

| Parameters | Moisture (%) | Fat (%) | Protein (%) | Ash (%) | pH |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Control | 59.86 ± 3.50 ^c | 7.75 ± 0.21 ^a | 5.53 ± 0.10 ^b | 0.78 ± 0.01 ^a | 5.35 ± 0.06^a |
| T₁ | 62.38 ± 3.65 ^{bc} | 7.85 ± 0.13 ^a | 5.54 ± 0.08 ^b | 0.83 ± 0.08 ^a | 5.29 ± 0.03^a |
| T₂ | 64.84 ± 1.94 ^{ab} | 7.86 ± 0.21 ^a | 5.57 ± 0.02 ^b | 0.85 ± 0.03 ^a | 5.28 ± 0.05^a |
| T₃ | 66.71 ± 1.25 ^{ab} | 7.93 ± 0.21 ^a | 5.63 ± 0.02 ^b | 0.83 ± 0.08 ^a | 5.30 ± 0.08^a |
| T₄ | 68.85 ± 2.16^a | 7.83 ± 0.18^a | 5.77 ± 0.02^a | 0.88 ± 0.04^a | 5.23 ± 0.12^a |

All scores are average of three replications. The superscripts a, b, c and d in each column indicate significantly different means at P < 0.05. Data are presented as Means ± S.D

Table.4 Changes in quality of saccharine sweetened karadkheer during storage at 10 °C

| Particulars of Karadkheer | Storage Days | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Sensory Attributes | | | |
| Sweetness | | | |
| Control | 7.47 ± 0.74 ^a | 7.20 ± 0.86 ^a | 7.40 ± 0.74 ^a |
| T₁ | 7.53 ± 0.74 ^a | 7.53 ± 0.99 ^a | 7.47 ± 0.83 ^a |
| T₂ | 7.60 ± 0.63 ^a | 7.47 ± 0.99 ^a | 7.50 ± 0.61 ^a |
| T₃ | 6.73 ± 0.88 ^b | 6.47 ± 0.99 ^b | 6.73 ± 0.80 ^b |
| T₄ | 6.27 ± 0.70 ^b | 6.27 ± 1.03 ^b | 6.33 ± 0.72 ^b |
| Color | | | |
| Control | 7.40 ± 0.63 ^a | 7.33 ± 0.49 ^a | 7.47 ± 0.64 ^a |
| T₁ | 7.20 ± 0.56 ^a | 7.20 ± 0.56 ^a | 7.33 ± 0.49 ^a |
| T₂ | 7.40 ± 0.74 ^a | 7.53 ± 0.64 ^a | 7.53 ± 0.64 ^a |
| T₃ | 7.20 ± 0.68 ^a | 7.13 ± 0.64 ^a | 7.33 ± 0.62 ^a |
| T₄ | 7.00 ± 0.65 ^a | 7.13 ± 0.64 ^a | 7.07 ± 0.59 ^a |
| Appearance | | | |
| Control | 7.53 ± 0.74 ^a | 7.33 ± 0.90 ^a | 7.60 ± 0.63 ^a |
| T₁ | 7.13 ± 0.74 ^a | 7.20 ± 0.77 ^a | 7.20 ± 0.68 ^{ab} |
| T₂ | 7.47 ± 0.74 ^a | 7.27 ± 0.80 ^a | 7.53 ± 0.64 ^a |
| T₃ | 7.20 ± 0.77 ^a | 6.87 ± 0.74 ^a | 7.27 ± 0.70 ^{ab} |
| T₄ | 6.87 ± 0.83 ^a | 6.80 ± 0.94 ^a | 6.80 ± 0.77 ^b |
| Body and texture | | | |
| Control | 7.27 ± 0.70 ^a | 7.53 ± 0.64 ^a | 7.47 ± 0.64 ^a |
| T₁ | 7.20 ± 0.77 ^a | 7.33 ± 0.72 ^{ab} | 7.33 ± 0.72 ^a |
| T₂ | 7.33 ± 0.82 ^a | 7.33 ± 0.72 ^{ab} | 7.47 ± 0.74 ^a |
| T₃ | 6.87 ± 0.99 ^a | 6.80 ± 0.94 ^{bc} | 6.93 ± 1.03 ^{ab} |
| T₄ | 6.73 ± 0.96 ^a | 6.67 ± 1.05 ^c | 6.67 ± 1.05 ^b |
| Flavor | | | |
| Control | 7.47 ± 0.64 ^a | 7.40 ± 0.76 ^a | 7.34 ± 0.64 ^a |
| T₁ | 7.33 ± 0.62 ^a | 7.33 ± 0.76 ^{ab} | 7.29 ± 0.72 ^a |
| T₂ | 7.47 ± 0.52 ^a | 7.33 ± 0.83 ^{ab} | 7.27 ± 0.52 ^a |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| T₃ | 7.07 ± 0.70 ^{ab} | 6.80 ± 0.89 ^{bc} | 6.75 ± 0.70 ^{ab} |
| T₄ | 6.73 ± 0.80 ^b | 6.47 ± 0.92 ^c | 6.60 ± 0.74 ^b |
| Overall Acceptability | | | |
| Control | 7.47 ± 0.52 ^{ab} | 7.33 ± 0.72 ^a | 7.40 ± 0.51 ^{ab} |
| T₁ | 7.07 ± 0.80 ^{bc} | 7.47 ± 0.83 ^a | 7.20 ± 0.77 ^b |
| T₂ | 7.67 ± 0.82 ^a | 7.67 ± 0.82 ^a | 7.87 ± 0.64 ^a |
| T₃ | 6.73 ± 0.94 ^c | 6.47 ± 0.90 ^b | 6.67 ± 0.88 ^c |
| T₄ | 6.60 ± 0.63 ^c | 6.40 ± 0.83 ^b | 6.53 ± 0.64 ^c |
| Physicochemical Attributes | | | |
| pH | | | |
| Control | 5.35 ± 0.06 ^a | 5.33 ± 0.06 ^a | 5.31 ± 0.07 ^a |
| T₁ | 5.29 ± 0.03 ^a | 5.28 ± 0.02 ^a | 5.26 ± 0.03 ^a |
| T₂ | 5.27 ± 0.05 ^a | 5.26 ± 0.05 ^a | 5.23 ± 0.07 ^a |
| T₃ | 5.30 ± 0.08 ^a | 5.38 ± 0.14 ^a | 5.33 ± 0.14 ^a |
| T₄ | 5.23 ± 0.12 ^a | 5.19 ± 0.17 ^a | 5.14 ± 0.17 ^a |
| Acidity (% LA) | | | |
| Control | 0.066 ± 0.002 ^a | 0.073 ± 0.003 ^a | 0.085 ± 0.002 ^a |
| T₁ | 0.067 ± 0.002 ^a | 0.074 ± 0.001 ^a | 0.081 ± 0.001 ^a |
| T₂ | 0.065 ± 0.002 ^a | 0.079 ± 0.002 ^a | 0.086 ± 0.001 ^a |
| T₃ | 0.065 ± 0.004 ^a | 0.071 ± 0.002 ^a | 0.085 ± 0.003 ^a |
| T₄ | 0.068 ± 0.006 ^a | 0.076 ± 0.003 ^a | 0.091 ± 0.008 ^a |
| Microbiological Quality | | | |
| SPC (log cfu/g) | | | |
| Control | 1.97 X 10 ⁴ ± 0.76 ^b | 2.51 X 10 ⁴ ± 0.14 ^d | 2.55 X 10 ⁴ ± 0.65 ^c |
| T₁ | 2.84 X 10 ⁴ ± 0.80 ^{ab} | 3.24 X 10 ⁴ ± 0.09 ^c | 3.29 X 10 ⁴ ± 0.23 ^b |
| T₂ | 2.98 X 10 ⁴ ± 0.31 ^{ab} | 3.71 X 10 ⁴ ± 0.30 ^{bc} | 3.73 X 10 ⁴ ± 0.24 ^{ab} |
| T₃ | 3.63 X 10 ⁴ ± 0.25 ^a | 4.22 X 10 ⁴ ± 0.29 ^{ab} | 3.87 X 10 ⁴ ± 0.17 ^{ab} |
| T₄ | 3.70 X 10 ⁴ ± 0.52 ^a | 4.56 X 10 ⁴ ± 0.43 ^a | 4.05 X 10 ⁴ ± 0.29 ^a |
| Yeast & Mold Count (log cfu/g) | | | |
| Control | 0.30 x 10 ⁴ ± 0.18 ^a | 0.20 x 10 ⁴ ± 0.05 ^a | 0.62 x 10 ⁴ ± 0.35 ^a |
| T₁ | 0.12 x 10 ⁴ ± 0.02 ^b | 0.16 x 10 ⁴ ± 0.02 ^b | 0.28 x 10 ⁴ ± 0.12 ^b |
| T₂ | 0.10 x 10 ⁴ ± 0.01 ^c | 0.16 x 10 ⁴ ± 0.04 ^b | 0.21 x 10 ⁴ ± 0.05 ^c |
| T₃ | 0.08 x 10 ⁴ ± 0.05 ^d | 0.15 x 10 ⁴ ± 0.04 ^c | 0.20 x 10 ⁴ ± 0.09 ^d |
| T₄ | 0.06 x 10 ⁴ ± 0.04 ^e | 0.13 x 10 ⁴ ± 0.02 ^d | 0.15 x 10 ⁴ ± 0.04 ^e |

All scores are average of three replications. The superscripts a, b, c and d in each column of each attribute indicate significantly different means at P < 0.05. Data are presented as Means ± S.D

Fig.1 Flow chart for preparation of safflower milk

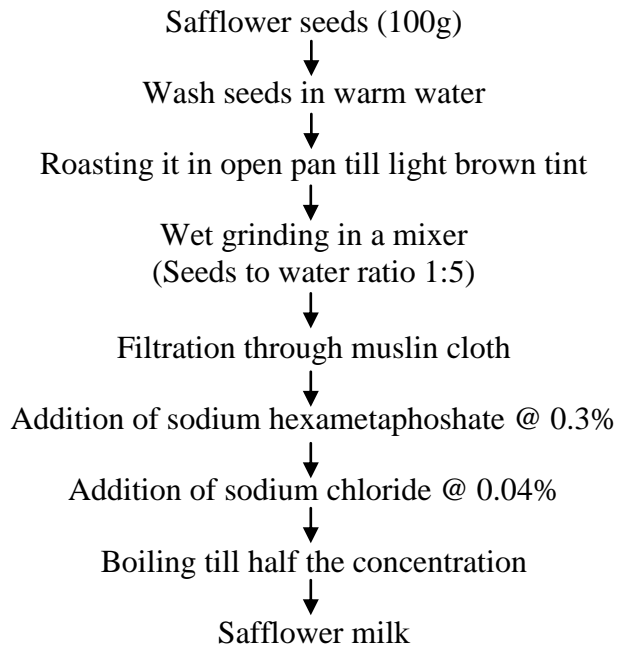


Fig.2 Flow diagram for preparation of low calorie Karadkheer

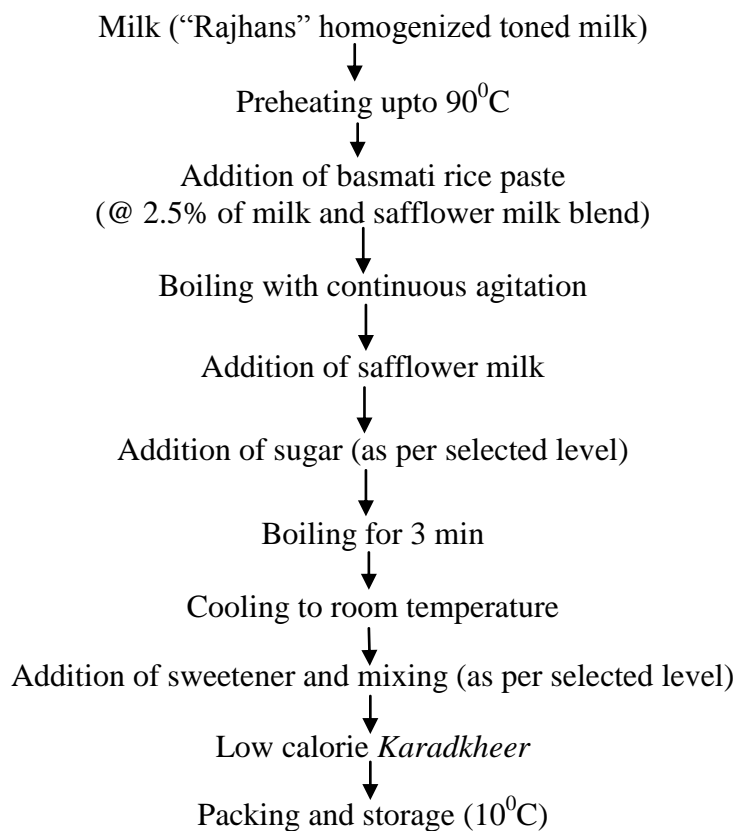


Fig.3 Flow chart for isolation of saccharine from Karadkheer

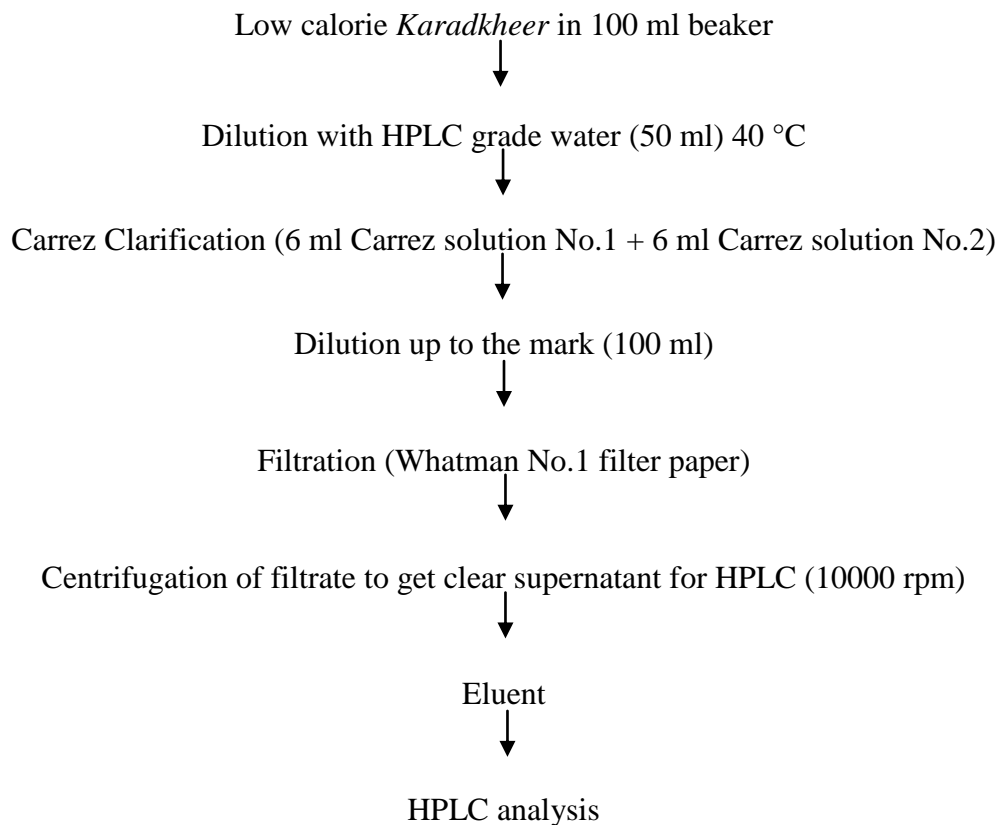


Fig.4 HPLC chromatogram of saccharine and its degradation product standards

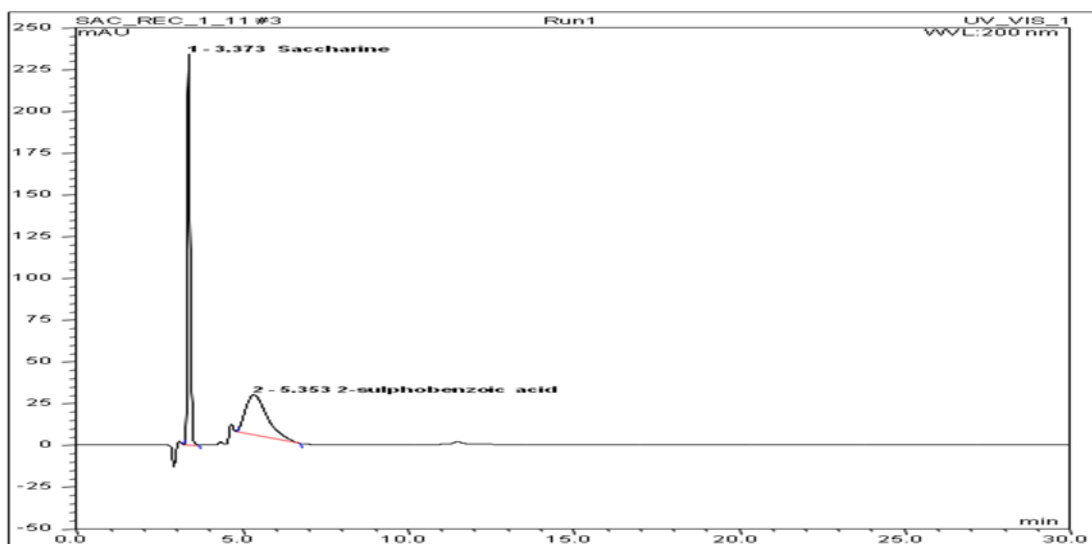


Fig.5 HPLC chromatograms of sample isolates of saccharine sweetened Karadkheer during 1st day of storage

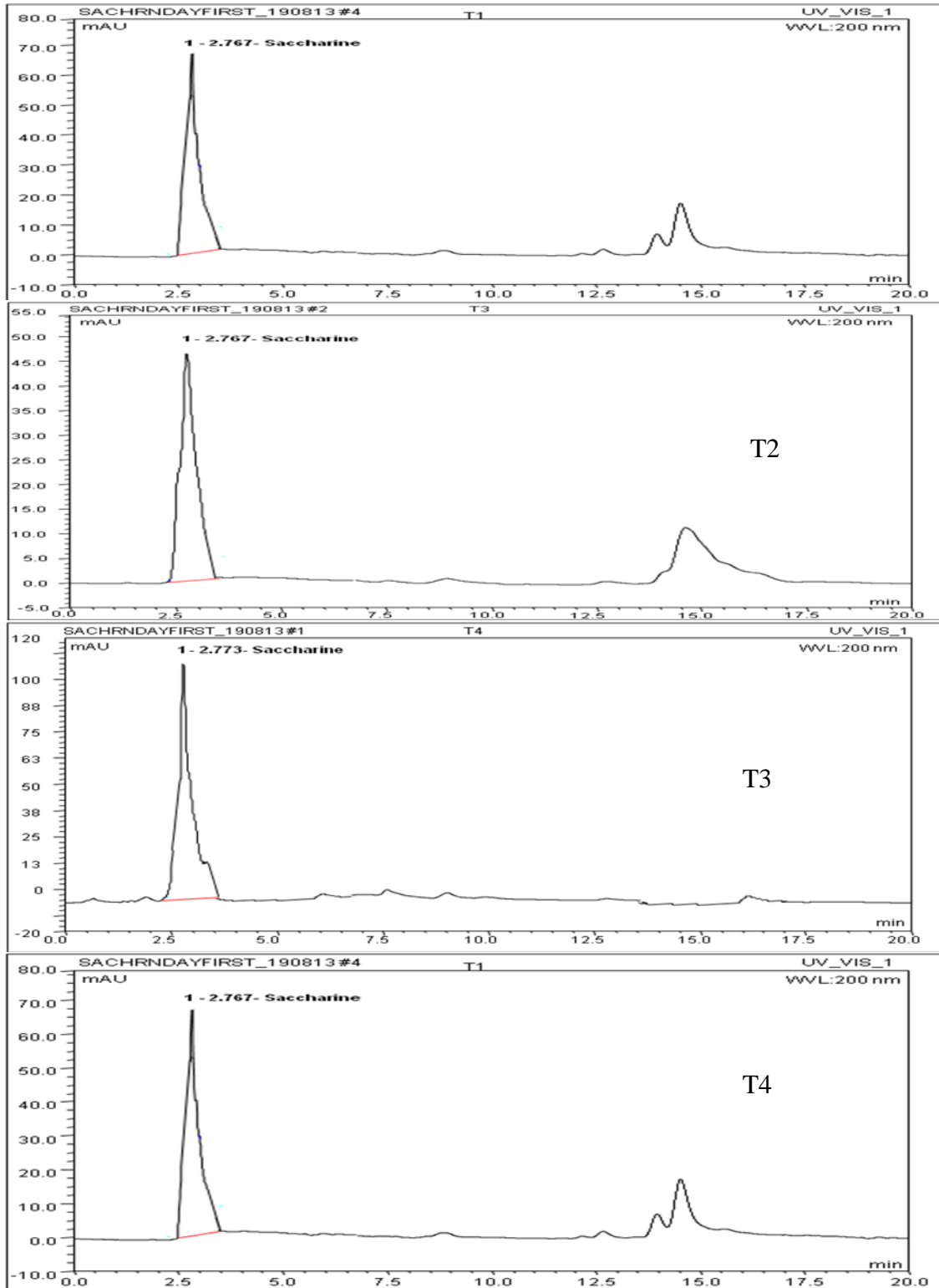


Fig.6 HPLC chromatograms of sample isolates of saccharine sweetened Karadkheer during 2nd day of storage

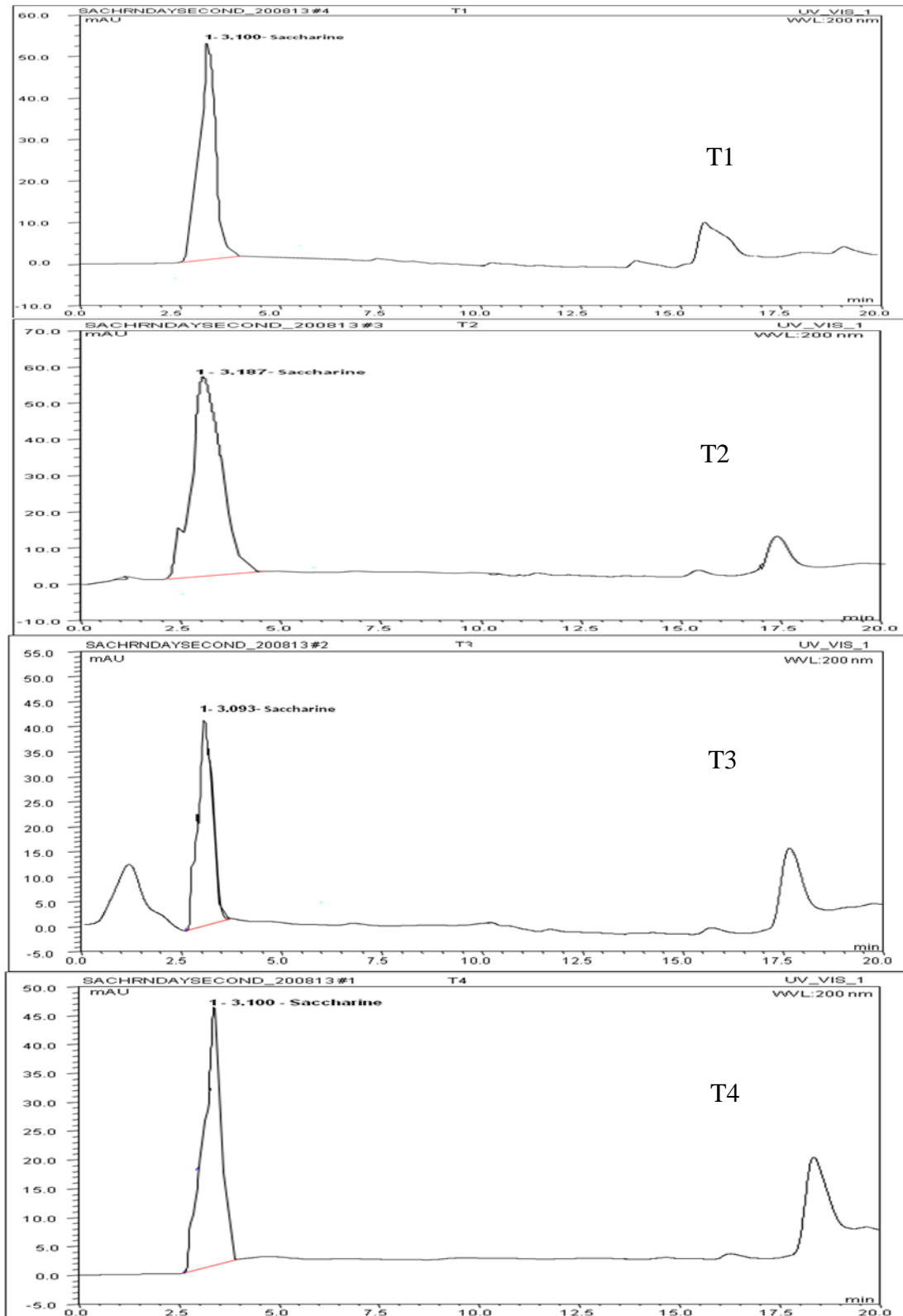
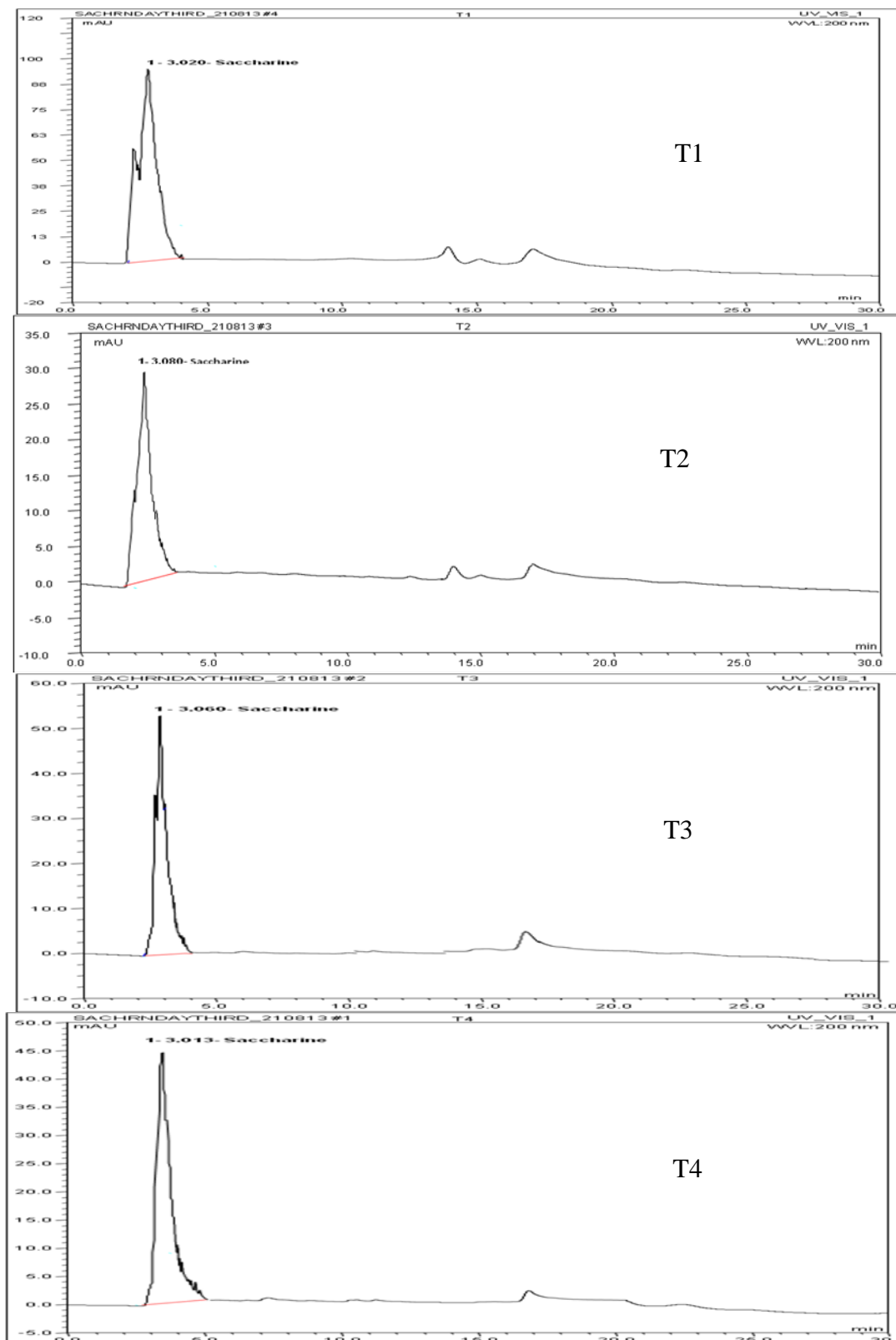


Fig.7 HPLC chromatograms of sample isolates of saccharine Karadkheer during 3rd day of storage



Titratable acidity and pH

Low calorie *karadkheer* sweetened with saccharine and control observed slight but statistically non significant ($P>0.05$) decrease in pH during storage (Table 4). Similar results were observed by Kumar (2006) and Vairagade *et al.*, (2016) for pH of saccharine sweetened *burfi* and carrot *halwa* respectively. Continuous increase in titratable acidity was noted in both control as well as saccharine sweetened *karadkheer* samples during the storage (Table 4). It was observed that samples containing more quantity of sweetener had more titratable acidity but this effect was not statistically significant.

Microbiological examination

Standard plate counts and Yeast and mold counts increased for saccharine sweetened products and control during storage. Standard plate counts were higher ($P<0.05$) in saccharine sweetened product than their corresponding control throughout the storage period (Table 4). The incorporation of saccharine reduces concentration of sugar, lowering the preservation effect of sugar, ultimately lead to higher microbial counts. The results observed are in accordance with standard plate count observed for saccharine sweetened flavoured milk (Arora *et al.*, 2008) and carrot *halwa* (Vairagade *et al.*, 2016). However, Yeast and mold counts of saccharine sweetened low calorie *karadkheer* samples were lower as compared to control samples (Table 3). Presence of higher sugar levels ultimately lead to significant linear rise ($P<0.05$) in Yeast and mold counts in control and all the treatments.

Stability of saccharine

Saccharine and 2-sulphobenzoic acid gave λ_{\max} at 200 nm. Figure 4 represents HPLC chromatogram of these two components at

200 nm under the standardized analytical conditions.

Stability of saccharine in *karadkheer* during storage

HPLC chromatograms obtained during first to third days of storage for saccharine sweetened *karadkheer* for all the treatments are represented in figure 5, 6 and 7 respectively. No peak other than saccharine can be seen in these chromatograms, establishing that saccharine was not degraded up to the third day of storage in all samples. This established that saccharine was stable in *karadkheer* during storage in all samples. Results observed were in accordance with saccharine sweetened *burfi* (Kumar, 2006), flavoured milk (Arora *et al.*, 2008) and carrot *halwa* (Vairagade *et al.*, 2016).

In conclusion, sensory profile during storage study at 10°C revealed that saccharine-sweetened *karadkheer* resembled the control *karadkheer* in retaining sweetness. Replacement of sugar level up to 30% was found optimum for the saccharine sweetened *karadkheer* on the basis of sensory evaluation. However, saccharine-sweetened *karadkheer* ranked lower than the control in sensory profile, acidity and microbial load. High-performance liquid chromatography analytical conditions were standardized for the separation of saccharine and its degradation product 2-sulphobenzoic acid over a C₁₈ column at UV 200 nm. HPLC analysis of saccharine sweetened *karadkheer* samples showed no degradation upto the third day of storage in all samples.

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