EFFECT OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF COAGULATING AGENT ON PHYSICO-CHEMICAL AND ORGANOLEPTIC PROPERTIES OF NON DAIRY RASGULLA (CHEESE BALL)

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ABSTRACT

Non-dairy rasgulla NDR (cheese ball) were manufactured from soybean milk using different types of coagulants such as citric acid, lactic acid, tartaric acid and calcium lactate (2% each). Dairy rasgulla procured from local market was used as control (DR). This study investigated the effects of these coagulants on the physico-chemical, color, in vitro multienzyme protein digestibility and the sensory properties of DR and NDRs. Citric acid coagulated NDR (CNDR) recorded high fat value (4.95±0.18; p<0.01) among all the NDRs. Protein value of DR (8.24±0.05; p<0.01) was higher than lactic acid coagulated rasgulla (LNDR) (7.89±0.22; p<0.01), but was lower than the values obtained for other three types of NDRs. The moisture content of LNDR (51.20±0.56; p<0.01) was significantly higher than that of other NDRs. Among NDRs, the LNDR recorded highest carbohydrate content (34.37±0.49; p<0.01). The energy value of LNDR (208.55±6.88; p<0.01) was significantly lower than that of all other NDRs. Penetration values of all the five types of rasgulla sample were gradually decreased during the storage period. A similar trend of L* values (lightness) was observed in case of CNDR and DR. The mean scores of DR and NDRs for color, aroma, texture and overall acceptability were gradually decreased during storage. It was observed that CNDR, tartaric acid coagulated rasgulla (TNDR) and calcium lactate coagulated rasgulla (CLNDR) had higher overall acceptability than DR. LNDR, CNDR and CLNDR had lower protein digestibility values than DR. On the basis of analysis of different physicochemical and sensory parameters, tartaric acid proved to be optimum in the preparation of NDR.

Keywords: Rasgulla, Soy milk, Channa, Penetration, Digestibility

INTRODUCTION

Rasgulla, the sweet syrupy cheese ball is one of the most popular and charming sweets of India (Bandyopadhyay et al., 2008). Rasgulla is made from heat and acid coagulant milk protein mass traditionally known as chhana which is kneaded into small balls that are boiled into 40-60% sugar syrup. Rasgulla is generally made from cow milk (Rao et al., 1989) and very few reports are there regarding the manufacture of rasgulla from buffalo milk (Kanwal et al., 1980). This dairy product is easily digested and has high food value due to its fairly high protein content, calcium, phosphorus, vitamin A and D content (Tarafder et al., 2002). Rasgulla are extensively consumed due to its good nutritional and health benefit to human (Chavan et al., 2011; Sahu and Das, 2009). Production of non-dairy food products from non-conventional edible seed flour such as soybean has emerged as popular alternative to traditional dairy products due to ongoing trends of vegetarianism, milk cholesterol, saturated milk fat and lactose intolerance. Soybean which is the most widely grown and utilized legumes in the world has good amino acid profile, contain higher levels of essential fatty acids, soluble fiber, vitamins, minerals, phytochemicals which include isoflavones, phytic acid and saponins which have strong antioxidant properties and have capability of lowering the cholesterol level (Barrett, 2006). Soy based food products have attained significant consideration for their potential role in improving health hazards such as risk factors for coronary heart disease. Soy foods such as soymilk, tofu, natto, miso, tempeh,textured vegetable protein like soy burgers, soy nuts and whole soybeans may offer various health benefits (Jooyandeh, 2011; Sengupta et al., 2016). As a suitable alternative for probiotic dairy products, soy beverages and yogurts are another food category for which the healthy bacteria has played an important role in preventing health related disease outcome. Traditional soy foods, both fermented and non-fermented products, are part of the daily diet in many areas of the world. Products such as soy sauce tofu, tempeh and others are richer in aglycone, and isoflavones than unfermented soy products and are becoming more popular in our country (Wang and Murphy, 1994). Because of this development, rasgulla from soy milk is very challenging and people have started to take an interest in soy product consumption.

Food value of rasgulla largely depends upon the quality of chhana. The type of coagulant used for coagulation of vegetable milk has prominent role in maintaining quality of chhana as it regulates the moisture content in chhana. Generally organic acids like citric, lactic acid, tartaric acid, calcium lactate, lemon juice and sour whey are used as coagulant. Effects of different coagulating agents in the production of dairy rasgulla (DR) have been reported (Son et al., 1980; Ahmed et al., 1981; Bandyopadhyay et al., 2005) but, there is no information regarding the effects of different coagulants in the preparation of chhana to manufacture rasgulla from soy milk.

The objective of this study was to prepare soy based rasgulla coagulated with different coagulating agents. Effects of different coagulants on the physicochemical, sensory and general acceptability of non-dairy rasgulla (NDR) were studied and compared with those of dairy rasgulla.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Chemicals and reagents

Soybean seeds were purchased from the local market (New Alipore Market, Kolkata West Bengal, India). Polyethylene cups and aluminum foil were procured from the local market. Citric acid, lactic acid, tartaric acid and calcium lactate were obtained from MERCK (Emerck India Ltd., Mumbai, India). All other chemicals were of analytical grade. Dairy rasgulla was brought from sweet shop (Hindusthan sweets, Newalipore, Kolkata, W.B., India). Double refined cane sugar and rose water were obtained from local shop of New Alipore, Kolkata.
Preparation of soy milk

The preparation of soy milk from whole soy seeds was described by adopting the procedure of Sengupta et al., (2013).

Preparation of coagulant solution

Citric, lactic acid, tartaric acid and calcium lactate were used as coagulant and each of them (2%) was dissolved in distilled water separately to prepare coagulant solution (Aneja et al., 2002).

Preparation of Chhana and Rasgulla (Cheese ball) from soy milk

Chhana and rasgulla were prepared from soy milk using the method suggested by Aneja et al., (2002) but with a slight modification. Schematic diagram for the preparation of chhana and rasgulla was given in Fig 1.

In vitro multienzyme protein digestibility of DR and NDRs

The in vitro protein digestibility of DR and NDRs was carried out using the method of Hsu et al., (1977). A suspension of the rasgulla from each coagulant was prepared by dissolving 1.75 gm in 50 ml distilled water. The pH of the suspension was adjusted to 8.0 with 0.1 M NaOH, while stirring in a water bath at 37°C. A multienzyme solution consisting of 1.6 mg mL−1 trypsin, 3.1mg mL−1 chymotrypsin and 1.3 mg mL−1 peptidase was kept in an ice bath and adjusted to pH 8 with 0.1 M HCl. 0.05 mL of the multienzyme solution was added to each rasgulla sample suspension and was constantly stirred at 37°C. The pH of the suspension was recorded 15 min after the addition of the multienzyme solution and the in vitro digestibility was calculated using the regression equation of Hsu et al., (1977).

\[ Y=210.46-18.10X \]  

Where, Y= in vitro digestibility (%) and X= pH of the sample suspension after 15 min digestion with the multienzyme solution.

Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis of data collected from different parameters was performed by using analysis of variance (ANOVA) and the means were compared across groups by Tukey test. All analyses were carried out in triplicates with the OriginPro 8 and the significant differences were determined at p ≤ 0.05.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Proximate composition of DR and NDRs on 9 day at 4°C in a refrigerator

Table 1 represented the proximate composition of DR and NDRs and it was found that there were significant differences in the proximate composition of NDRs (p<0.05) in comparison with DR. CNDR recorded high fat value (7.86±0.29; p<0.05) followed by LNDR (4.95±0.18; p<0.05) and TNDR (4.23±0.16; p<0.05) and CLNDR (3.56±0.15; p<0.01). Control DR had higher fat value (7.86±0.29; p<0.05) than those of all the NDRs. These values of fat were higher than the values (1–2%) of the NDRs. These values of fat are higher than the values (1–2%) of the NDRs. Aneja et al., (2002) also reported lesser fat content in non-dairy rasgulla which was due to lesser fat content in non-dairy chhana.

TNDR recorded high value of protein (16.28±0.38; p<0.01) followed by CLNDR (15.24±0.36; p<0.05), CNDR (13.67±0.32; p<0.05) and LNDR (7.89±0.22; p<0.01). Protein value of DR (8.24±0.05; p<0.01) was higher than LNDR (7.89±0.22; p<0.01), but was lower than the values obtained for other three types of NDRs. The moisture content of LNDR (51.20±0.56; p<0.01) was significantly higher than that of other NDRs. The variation in the moisture content of NDR prepared with different coagulants showed that there were significant differences in the p<0.05 (Konica Minolta CR 10) which gave the Hunter parameter (L’, a’, b’) and also c and h values directly (Morales and Boeckel, 1999). Rasgulla samples were homogenized in a homogenizer and 5g of homogenized samples were placed in Petridishes with a cover. Colour was measured within 5 min of the sample preparation. L’ indicated lightness which describes the light reflecting or transmitting capacity of an object. Colour analysis was also performed by determination of a (− green to + red component), b’ (−blue to yellow), c’ (chroma) and h’ (hueangle) values in triplicates.

Sensory evaluation of DR and NDRs

Freshly prepared DR and NDRs were kept at 37°C for 24 h for sensory evaluation. 20 members were chosen from School of Community Science and Technology, IEST, Shilpur, Howrah, West Bengal. They developed a consensus evaluation for flavor attributes for DR and NDRs and the evaluation was carried out at Nine Point Hedonic Scale. The quality properties that were evaluated were color, taste, flavor and overall acceptability. The quality information contained on the sensory performance was indicated as 9=like extremely, 8=like very much, 7=like moderately, 6=like slightly, 5= neither like or dislike, 4=dislike slightly, 3= dislike, 2=dislike very much, 1=dislike extremely (Sengupta et al., 2013).

The quality properties that were determined by a Penetrometer (Stanhope-Seta Surrey, England) using the cone-form penetration body with an apical angle of 45° and a weight of 72.5 g (Sanil et al., 2013). The depth of penetration was measured at 5 s at a product temperature of 25°C. Colour property of DR and NDRs

Color intensities in DR and NDRs were measured by use of the colorimeter (Konica Minolta CR 10) which gave the Hunter parameter (L’, a’, b’) and also c and h values directly (Morales and Boeckel, 1999). Rasgulla samples were homogenized in a homogenizer and 5g of homogenized samples were placed in Petridishes with a cover. The color was measured within 5 min of the sample preparation. L’ indicated lightness which describes the light reflecting or transmitting capacity of an object. Colour analysis was also performed by determination of a (−green to + red component), b’ (−blue to yellow), c’ (chroma) and h’ (hueangle) values in triplicates.

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also be due to the unique coagulating properties of different coagulating agents (Yakubu, et al., 2013). Carbohydrate content of DR (36.57±0.51; p<0.01) was highest among all the five types of rasgulla samples. Among NDRs, the LNDR recorded highest carbohydrate content (34.37±0.49; p<0.01) followed by CLNDR (32.77±0.43; p<0.01), CNDR (30.72±0.45; p<0.05) and TNDR (29.65±0.43; p<0.05). Table 1 also showed the result of energy content of NDRs prepared using different coagulants. The energy value of LNDR (208.55±6.88; p<0.01) was significantly lower than that of CNDR (222.11±9.00; p<0.05), TNDR (221.79±7.50; p<0.05) and CLNDR (222.08±7.40; p<0.05). The energy value of DR was relatively higher than all NDRs. It was reported that rasgulla containing low-fat and high protein was helpful in lowering body weight (Kolankowsi, 1977). Dairy rasgulla when stored at refrigerated condition had a shelf life of more than 40 days and not more than 6 days at room temperature.

**Table 1** Proximate composition of DR and NDRs using different coagulating agents on 0 day at 4 °C in a refrigerator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>DR</th>
<th>NDRs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moisture</td>
<td>26.49±0.55</td>
<td>50.74±0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total solids</td>
<td>53.71±0.60</td>
<td>52.76±0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein</td>
<td>8.24±0.05</td>
<td>13.67±0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat</td>
<td>7.86±0.29</td>
<td>4.95±0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbohydrate</td>
<td>36.57±0.51</td>
<td>30.72±0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash</td>
<td>1.04±0.03</td>
<td>3.42±0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy (Kcal g⁻¹)</td>
<td>249.98±7.72</td>
<td>221.11±9.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results are expressed as mean ±SD (n=3) and significantly different at *p<0.05, *p<0.01 and **p<0.001 vs DR (control). DR: Dairy rasgulla; NDRs: non-dairy rasgullas; CNDR: citric acid coagulated non-dairy rasgulla; LNDR: lactic acid coagulated non-dairy rasgulla; TNDR: tartaric acid coagulated non-dairy rasgulla; CLNDR: calcium lactate coagulated non-dairy rasgulla.

**Penetration property of DR and NDRs during storage at 4 °C in a refrigerator**

Table 2 revealed the results of the penetration property of DR and NDRs during 30 days of storage at 4°C. In case of CNDR, penetration value was increased from 0 day of storage (255.98±12.48; p<0.05) to 10 days of storage (675.96±24.96; p<0.05). Penetration values then gradually decreased up to 20th (525.59±20.39; p<0.05) and 30th day of storage (316.18±12.48; p<0.05). Thus, CNDR can be consumed up to 10 days of storage. In case of LNDR, the penetration value was gradually decreased from 0 day of storage (487.49±20.59; p<0.01) and then decreased at 30th day of storage (389.85±14.89; p<0.01). Thus, LNDR can be consumed up to 20 days of storage. For TNDR, penetration values were gradually decreased from 0 day of storage (73.89±0.03; p<0.01) up to 10 days (67.52±0.09; p>0.05) of storage. Then, it was gradually decreased from 10 day (64.12±0.02; p<0.05) up to 30 days of storage (48.79±20.59; p<0.05) of storage. In case of CLNDR, penetration values remained constant up to 20th day of storage and then decreased up to 30th day of storage. Therefore, penetration of all the five types of rasgulla sample were gradually decreased during the storage period and thus the quality of NDRs made by different coagulants was gradually decreased during storage period. The penetration values of different NDRs were higher than that of control. It can be concluded that penetration properties of NDRs were significantly affected by types of coagulants. The penetration properties of NDR varied significantly with the level of fat and moisture content as well as difference in coagulants. From the present study it can be concluded that among four types of coagulants used for the preparation of NDR from soy milk, tartaric acid is the best coagulant for providing best penetration properties. Nande et al., (2008) showed that texture wise NDRs were rated better than that of DR however, differences were not significant. Fat played a dramatic role in the rheological factors of rasgulla. On the other hand Haque et al., (2003) observed that the chhana produced from cow milk had a soft body and smooth texture, more suitable for rasgulla preparation than soy milk chhana, which had coarse and granular body. Our studies overcome the problem of making NDRs in respect of textural characteristics and tartaric acid coagulant nondairy rasgulla (TNDRs) was most promising among other NDRs in this context.

**Table 2** Penetration properties of DR and NDRs using different coagulating agents during storage at 4 °C in a refrigerator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>DR</th>
<th>NDRs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Penetration at 25 °C (1/10th mm)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>230.29±12.01</td>
<td>255.98±12.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>232.15±26.58</td>
<td>675.96±24.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>236.48±35.41</td>
<td>525.59±20.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>251.26±39.64</td>
<td>316.18±12.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results are expressed as mean ±SD (n=3) and significantly different at *p<0.05, *p<0.01 and **p<0.001 vs DR (control). DR: Dairy rasgulla; NDRs: non-dairy rasgullas; CNDR: citric acid coagulated non-dairy rasgulla; LNDR: lactic acid coagulated non-dairy rasgulla; TNDR: tartaric acid coagulated non-dairy rasgulla; CLNDR: calcium lactate coagulated non-dairy rasgulla.

**Colour properties of DR and NDRs using different coagulating agents during storage at 4 °C in a refrigerator**

Change in color in rasgulla samples was an important parameter in assessing the quality of this sweet product. The change of color for all the rasgulla samples was measured over the total storage period from 0 days up to 30 days and was compared. The results were presented in the Table 3. A similar trend of L* values was observed in case of CNDR and DR. L* values of CNDR and DR were increased from 0 day (70.50±0.60; p<0.01 for DR and 73.60±0.21; p<0.05 for CNDR respectively) to 20 days (72.60±0.22; p<0.01 for DR and 77.25±0.22; p<0.01 for CNDR respectively) and then decreased at 30th day (71.59±0.85; p<0.01 for DR and 72.55±0.21; p<0.01 for CNDR respectively). Decrease in L* values indicated lowering of lightness of rasgulla samples. For LNDR, L* value initially decreased from 0 day (73.89±0.05; p<0.05) up to 10 days (67.52±0.09; p<0.05) of storage. Then, it was increased up to 30 days of storage (70.60±0.60; p<0.001). For TNDR, L* value gradually decreased from 0 day (73.89±0.05; p<0.05) up to 30 days (64.12±0.02; p<0.001) of storage. For CLNDR, L* value initially decreased and then remained constant for 20 (69.53±0.01; p<0.01) and 30 days of storage (69.52±0.60; p<0.01). Hue-angle values fluctuated in a narrow range of 80-110 during storage. However, chroma had higher values after 20 days of storage and then it decreased after 20 days.

**Table 3** Colour properties of DR and NDRs using different coagulating agents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Color properties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DR</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>70.50±0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>71.25±0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>72.36±0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>71.59±0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDRs</td>
<td>CNDR</td>
<td>73.60±0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LNDR</td>
<td>73.89±0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sensory evaluation of DR and NDRs during storage at 4 °C in a refrigerator

The sensory evaluation of DR and NDRs produced using various coagulants and stored at 4°C for 30 days was shown in Table 4. The results revealed that general acceptability of DR and NDRs was gradually decreased during storage as exemplified by color, aroma and texture of rasgulla samples.

The mean scores of DR and NDRs for color gradually decreased on storage. LNDR showed a significantly lower score (69.53±0.01; p<0.01) than that of control DR. LNDR had the lowest (69.53±0.01) value.

The mean scores of DR and NDRs for aroma gradually decreased on storage. Results showed that this decrease was more significant in case of DR (69.53±0.01; p<0.01). LNDR (69.53±0.01; p<0.01) and CNDR (69.53±0.01; p<0.01) at 30th day of storage.

A decreasing trend of mean texture score was observed for all the types of NDRs including DR during the storage period. A significant lower texture score was observed for LNDR at 30th day of storage (69.53±0.01).

In general over all acceptability for NDR and DR were gradually decreased from 0 day of storage and it was lowest for 30 days of storage. Over all acceptability scores of NDR prepared from LNDR was lower (69.53±0.01) value than that of other NDRs and DR for the storage period. Relatively lower overall acceptability scores for LNDR were due to lower scores for other sensory attributes. Overall acceptability scores for TNDR (70.60±0.19; p<0.05) and CLNDR (67.55±0.18; p<0.001) on 30th day of storage.

Differences in the digestibility of rasgulla may be due to interaction of Tannin, trypsin and chymotrypsin inhibitors with the protein.

In vitro multienzyme protein digestibility of DR and NDRs on 0 day at 4 °C in a refrigerator

Fig 2 showed the result of in vitro multienzyme protein digestibility of DR and NDRs produced using various coagulants. The result revealed that there was significant difference in the digestibility of TNDR (121.77±1.55; p<0.01) when compared to CNDR (88.12±1.05; p<0.05), LNDR (83.76±1.06; p<0.05) and CLNDR (87.38±1.04; p<0.05). In vitro multienzyme protein digestibility of TNDR (121.77±1.55; p<0.01) was significantly higher than that of DR (100.25±2.54). LNDR, CNDR and CLNDR had lower protein digestibility values than control DR. LNDR had the lowest (83.76±1.06; p<0.05) value. The differences in the in vitro protein digestibility of NDRs may be due to differences in the coagulating ability of each of the coagulant with regard to the different type of proteins in the presence of the various protease inhibitors (Hwang et al., 1978).
**Fig 2 In Vitro Multi-enzyme Protein Digestibility (IMPD) of DR and NDRs using different coagulating agents**

DR: dairy rasgulla, NDR: non-dairy rasgulla; DR: dairy rasgulla; CNDR: citric acid coagulated non-dairy rasgulla; LNDR: lactic acid coagulated non-dairy rasgulla; TNDR: tartaric acid coagulated non-dairy rasgulla; CLNDR: calcium lactate coagulated non-dairy rasgulla

**CONCLUSION**

Suitability of different coagulants (citric acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid and calcium lactate) for the manufacture of rasgulla was evaluated on the basis of proximate composition, hardness, color values and sensorial attributes and were compared with the respective values of most preferred of dairy rasgulla procured from market. Rasgulla manufactured using lactic acid, lack sensorial attributes, hardness and color values and accordingly was found unsuitable for better quality product. Tartaric acid coagulated NDR had significantly higher protein, ash, total solids, energy content and protein digestibility content, as well as the best sensorial quality evaluated. Thus tartaric acid gave higher overall acceptability of rasgulla and was found the most suitable coagulant for manufacturing non-dairy rasgulla.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The authors are unanimous in publishing this paper. There is also no body to contradict this manuscript.

**REFERENCES**


