

PREPARATION OF READY-TO-SERVE BEVERAGE FROM TROPICAL ALMOND (*TERMINALIA CATTAPPA*) FRUIT PULP

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ABSTRACT

Tropical Almond (Kottamba) is a locally available underutilized fruits which is rich in vitamins, pigments and antioxidants. In this research, ready to serve drink (RTS) was produced using ripened Tropical Almond fruits. P^H, titrable acidity and Brix value of the ripen Tropical Almond fruits were determined using standard methods. Four RTS samples were prepared according to SLS standards with different Brix value as 6^o, 9^o, 12^o and 15^o. Sensory evaluation, microbial analysis, P^H and titrable acidity measurements were done for fresh products as well as for products stored at ambient temperature for six months. Sensory evaluation was conducted by trained sensory panel subjectively using 7 point hedonic scale. Results were analyzed according to Friedman test at 95% level of significant. Proximate analysis was carried out for the best sample which was identified by the above tests. The selected best sample (Brix valve 12^o) gave acceptable results according to SLS standers in all tests performed. In the proximate analysis, protein content and fiber content, for the best product, were found to be 0.043% and 0.82% respectively. There was no microbial colony formation observe even after six month of storage. Considering the results it was concluded that Tropical Almond fruit pulp can be used to produce RTS with acceptable qualities according to the SLS standards.

Key words: Tropical Almond, Physico-chemical analysis, Ready to serve beverage, Sensory evaluation.

INTRODUCTION

Tropical Almond (*Terminaliya catappa*: Combretaceae) is primarily a costal tree. In Sri Lanka it is grown in the lowland areas in various parts of the island up to an elevation of about 300m as a beatification and fruit plant (Gunasena et al. 2007). Tropical Almond fruit is known to contain antioxidant, anticancer and anti-diabetic compounds and hence it is an important medicinal plant (Lall and Singh 1999 Nagappa et al. 2003). However, most; of the Tropical almond fruits are wasted during the fruiting season as they have not been utilized to produce processed products. Production of Ready to Serve (RTS) beverages from fruit pulps of some underutilized fruit plants has helped to reduce these fruits being wasted during the fruiting season (Nilugin et al. 2010, Abeywickrama et al. 2010, Priyanthi et al. 2008, Arachchi et al. 2003). Therefore, an effort was made to develop RTS health drink with

acceptable quality parameters from Tropical Almond.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ripen fruits with pink to purple colour were harvested from well grown tree at Alawwa. Fruits were transported to the laboratory using plastic crates for preparation of RTS. Four different RTS samples were prepared by the following procedure. Fruit flesh (150g) was blended well and pulp was separated using a sieve. Then 1000ml of water was added into pulp and mixed well. While mixture was heated, 6g of citric acid and different amounts of sugar were added to obtain different Brix values (120g, 160g, 220g, and 360g to obtain 6^o, 9^o, 12^o and 15^o Brix solutions respectively) and mixed well. Then the mixture was kept for 20min at 80°C, 0.3g of Sodium-metabisulphite was added and mixed well. Then, prepared RTS drinks were filled into bottles and sealed. P^H of the prepared RTS was recorded using a

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P^H meter. Brix value of RTS was recorded using a refractometer. Ten milliliter of RTS was titrated against 0.1ml of NaOH to determine the titrable acidity of the product.

Microbial analysis was done by Total plate count method. Each prepared drink was used to prepare dilutions of 10⁰, 10⁻¹ and 10⁻² and microbial counts were taken in three replicates. Microbial counts were taken 6 month after storage at ambient temperature.

Sensory evaluation was conducted for the Colour, Odour, Appearance, Flavor, Sweetness, Bitterness and Overall acceptability, by 15 trained panelists subjectively using 7 point hedonic scale. Four samples were coded giving three-digit number for each sample. Coded samples, ballot papers, pens and water were given for each panelists and suitable environment was provided for them for their evaluation. Results of the sensory evaluation were analyzed using computer aided MINITAB 14 statistical analysis package according to Friedman test at 95% significant level. Sensory evaluation was also conducted just after preparation and after six month storage at ambient temperature.

Protein percentage of the selected best Tropical Almond RTS was estimated by kjeldhal method (Otles, 2005) in three replicates. Fiber content of the selected best product was determined according to the method of AOAC (1984) with three replicates.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to SLS standards P^H value should be lower than 4 in RTS drink which is suitable to overcome microbial growth. Average P^H value of Tropical almond fruit was 3.2 and hence there is a potential to produce RTS drink from this fruit. In normal conditions, Brix value of RTS is maintained 10 to 15. Average Brix value of raw tropical almond fruit was 7. Brix value can be increased by adding sugar to reach the required limit in RTS preparation. How-

ever, due to this low Brix value Tropical Almond is not suitable to produce other products such as jam, cordial etc. Titrable acidity of Tropical Almond raw fruits was 0.846 %. This high Titrable acidity is important to maintain natural flavor of the fruit as well as to control microbial growth.

Brix, pH and Acidity are three parameters extremely important as they decide the quality of RTS beverages (Patil et. al. 2009). As shown in the table 1, no significant changes in P^H value, Titrable acidity value and Brix^o were observed during the storage period of six month. These tested values were in the SLS recommended ranges for the RTS throughout the storage period. Hence, Tropical Almond can be used to prepare RTS in recommended standards.

Table 1: Mean values of P^H, Titrable acidity and Brix of prepared ready to serve drinks

Sample	Parameter	Prepared RTS with different Brix values			
		6° Brix	9° Brix	12° Brix	15° Brix
Initial	PH	3.8 ^a	3.7 ^a	3.8 ^a	3.8 ^a
	TA	0.58 ^a	0.59 ^a	0.57 ^a	0.59 ^a
	Brix ^o	6 ^a	9 ^b	12 ^c	15 ^d
6 Months	PH	3.7 ^a	3.7 ^a	3.7 ^a	3.7 ^a
	TA	0.61 ^a	0.62 ^a	0.61 ^a	0.61 ^a
	Brix ^o	6 ^a	8 ^b	11 ^c	15 ^d

Treatment means in a row having common letter(s) are not significantly different by DMRT 5%

No microbial growth observed throughout the storage period. Low microbial level of initial samples, weakening of bacterial growth by lower P^H due to added Citric acid, bacterial death due to high temperature used in processing, and effect of malic acid present in the fruit could be the reasons for this low growth of microorganisms in prepared RTS.

Sensory evaluations were performed at initial stage and six month after storage. Mean values of the obtained sensory data is shown in the table 2. Samples with 12° Brix and 15° Brix were identified as best for different attributes at sensory tests performed at different time intervals. However, 12° Brix sample was

identified as the best sample in most of those tests for most of the attributes and hence was selected to perform proximate analysis. According to the results of proximate analysis, protein content and fiber content of 12° Brix sample was 0.043% and 0.82% respectively. The fiber content of this product is higher than other RTS drinks available in the market and it would be an additional benefit of the product.

CONCLUSION

Ready to Serve (RTS) Tropical Almond beverage prepared with 12° Brix was detected to possess the best physicochemical, microbial and organoleptical properties. All tested parameters for the selected RTS product was in accordance with the commercial recommendation for the RTS beverages by the Sri Lanka Standard Institute. There was no microbial colony formation observed even after six months of storage and therefore it is safe for human consumption. The selected Tropical almond RTS could be stored at ambient temperature for a period of six months without any significant quality change. Hence, this formulation is considered as a best solution to overcome the wastage of fruits during the fruiting season.

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Table 2 : Mean values of data obtained from sensory tests

Testing time	Sample	Colour	Odor	Appearance	Flavor	Sweetness	Bitterness	overall acceptability
Initial	6	5.34	5.75	5.25	4.03	4.44	6.50	5.00
	9	5.71	5.75	5.50	4.90	4.56	5.00	4.75
	12	5.71	5.75	5.75	6.03	6.18	6.00	5.87
	15	6.59	5.75	6.50	6.10	6.06	6.00	6.37
Sig. level		NS	NS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
6 months	6	6.05	5.22	5.00	5.10	4.32	5.00	5.00
	9	5.73	5.30	5.00	5.00	5.25	5.00	5.02
	12	6.13	6.80	6.59	6.25	6.45	6.00	6.32
	15	6.17	6.35	6.48	6.10	6.25	6.00	6.26
Significance		NS	NS	0.05	0.05	0.05	NS	0.05