Effect of Edible Coating Containing Pomegranate Peel Extract on Quality and Shelf Life of Silver Carp (Hypophthalmichthys molitrix) Fillet during Refrigerated Storage

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Introduction

It is well known that many undesirable changes such as microbial spoilage and lipid oxidation can be occurred during refrigerated storage of meat. Minimizing contamination and retarding or inhibiting the growth of spoilage is very important for improving fresh meat shelf life and quality [1]. Fish contain high protein sources, hydrosoluble and liposoluble vitamins, minerals, polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) and relatively large quantities of free amino acids. Unsaturated fatty acids are highly susceptible to oxidation, resulting in off-flavors and structural changes which are unappealing to consumers [2,3]. Some complex process such as chemical, microbiological and physical changes have occurred during storage of fish. These reactions are usually responsible for the initial loss of freshness, obvious spoilage and thereby degrade product shelf life and quality of fish [4,5]. Nevertheless, toxicological effects [6] together with consumer preference for natural products have resulted an increased interest in the search and utilize for natural antioxidants in fruits and vegetables that maybe help attenuate oxidative processes [7]. Plants contain high antioxidant capacity and some phytochemicals such as polyphenols, mainly phenolic acids and flavonoids that exhibited antioxidant activity [8].

The deleterious effect of lipid oxidation on food is retarded with the application of antioxidant agents and natural preservation. Furthermore, lipid oxidation can be effectively reduced by choosing films and coatings of limited oxygen permeability [9]. Recently, natural antioxidants and preservation have become very popular for food application and are preferred by consumers than synthesized antioxidants. Among these, pomegranate fruit and its derivative products have been shown to be effective in retarding the process of lipid oxidation in both in vitro and in vivo assays [10-12]. It is reported that pomegranate peel is rich source of tannins and other phenolic and flavonoids compounds which have remarkable antimicrobial and antioxidant activity [13-16]. The antioxidant activity exhibited by phenolic compounds has been reported in fresh as well as in processed meat in terms of reduced lipid oxidation [17-20]. The antimicrobial activity of pomegranate fruits and its peel extract have been demonstrated for several pathogens such as Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus aureus, including several methicillin resistant strains, Vibrio cholerae and Bacillus subtilis [21-30].

Abstract

Effects of edible coating containing pomegranate peel extract (PPE) on the quality and shelf life of silver carp fillet during refrigerated storage were investigated. Freshly fish fillet were assigned to three treatments: control (fillet treated with edible coating and no antioxidants); fillet treated with edible coating and 5% PPE (T1) and fillet treated with edible coating and 10% PPE (T2). Chemical (pH, peroxide value and thiobarbituric acid) and microbiological (total viable count and psychrotrophic count) analysis were used to evaluated the effect of this treatments during refrigerated storage. The results show that addition of PPE considerably delayed lipid oxidation in silver carp fish fillet in T1 and T2 compared control samples. According to microbiological assay, T1 and T2 samples at days 12 reached to maximum acceptability limit while it was happened in day 9 for control samples. There were significant differences (P<0.05) between treated and control samples at all the days during the refrigerated storage.

Keywords: Pomegranate peel extract; Edible coating; Shelf life; Silver carp

Material and Methods

Preparation of samples

Preparation of treatments: Fresh silver carp (Hypophthalmichthys molitrix) were purchased from a local market in Zabol, Iran and transported to fishery lab during 30 min in ice. Samples were washed, cleaned, gutted and the filleted into needed slices (100 g/average weight/fillet) by hand. Then the mixture of edible coating was prepared (60% cool water + 30% wheat flour + 10% corn flour). First thin layer of edible coating mixture spread on fillets by hand and then the concentrations of 5% and 10% of PPE spray on fillets by syringe. Three treatments were prepared: control (fillet treated with edible coating and no antioxidants); fillet treated with edible coating and 5% PPE (T1) and fillet treated with edible coating and 10% PPE (T2). 21 fillets from each sample were prepared, and then all of samples were packed and placed in the refrigerator. For each treatment three replicates were considered.

Preparation of pomegranate peel powder: Mature pomegranate fruit, variety “shishe kap”, having no visible external cuts or spoilage was purchased from the central fruit market ( Mashhad, Iran). To obtain the pomegranate peel, the pomegranate fruits were peeled manually and dried in air for 48 h. Dried pieces were powdered in heavy duty kitchen grinder and stored in freezer (-18°C).

Preparation of extraction

About 10 g of dried rind powder was mixed with 100 ml of 50%...
methanol. 20 ml Diethyl plus acetic acid 1% was added to mixture to remove pigment and fat. Keep it on a magnetic stirrer overnight at room temperature. Centrifuge the contents at 3000 g for 10 min and collect the supernatant. Repeat extraction with the same solvent by stirring on a magnetic stirrer for overnight. After centrifugation the first supernatant was combined with the second one. Solvent was filtered by whatman filter paper, NO.4 when the floating particles were seen on the surface. Evaporated methanol from the solution under vacuum at approximately 42 ºC by using a rotary–evaporator (Makkar, 2000).

**Determination of total phenolic content**

200 mg of dried rind powder was mixed with 10 ml of 50% methanol. The solution was thoroughly shaken at room temperature for 24 h and centrifuged at 3000g for 20 min, and the supernatant was removed (Makkar, 2000). Total phenolic content in the pomegranate extracts were determined with Folin-Ciocalteu reagent by the of Singleton method [31] using tannic acid as a standard phenolic compound. Briefly, 1 ml of extract solution contains was mixed with 45 ml of distilled water. One milliliter of Folin-Ciocalteu reagent was added and the content of the flask mixed thoroughly. After 3 min 3 ml of Na₂CO₃ was added and then the mixture was allowed to stand for 2 h. The absorbance was measured at 760 nm using a UV spectrophotometer (PG Instruments Ltd T80+, UK). The concentration of total phenolic compounds in pomegranate peel extracts was determined as microgram of tannic acid equivalent by using an equation that was obtained from the standard tannic acid graph.

**Determination of DPPH radical scavenging activity**

The ability to scavenge 1, 1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical by PPE estimated by the method of [32]. 1 ml of extraction was mixed with 1 ml of DPPH (500µM) with vigorous shaking. The reaction mixture was stored in the dark at room temperature for 20 min and then absorbance was measured at 517 nm using a UV spectrophotometer (PG Instruments Ltd T80+, UK). The antioxidant activity was calculated by the following equation:

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\text{Antioxidant activity} = \left(1 - \frac{\text{Asample}(517\text{nm})}{\text{Acontrol}(517\text{nm})}\right) \times 100
\]

**Chemical analysis**

- **ph**: The pH of each treatment was determined by blending 5 g of sample with 45 ml distilled water for 30 s in a homogenizer (NO. NS-2600M, China). The pH values were measured using a standardized electrode attached to a digital pH meter (Multiline P4 Wtw, Germany) [33].

- **Thiobarbituric acid reactive substances**: The thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) value (mg malonaldehyde/kg) of the fish fillet was determined colorimetrically using the method described by Egan et al. (1997).

- **Peroxide value (PV)**: Peroxide value analysis of the each treatment (mili/eq/ O₂/kg fish fat) was determined using the method described by AOAC [34].

**Microbial analysis**

10 grams of fish fillet were aseptically homogenized for 1 min in 90 ml of sterilized 85% NaCl saline using a stomacher Lab Blender (Bosch, Germany). From this homogenate Serial decimal dilutions were made (10⁻², 10⁻³, 10⁻⁴, 10⁻⁵, 10⁻⁶) in 85% NaCl saline solution, and then used for microbiological analysis for fish samples at each of the appropriate time intervals during refrigerated storage.

Total viable counts (TVC) were determined in plate count agar by the spread plate method [35] by inoculating 0.1 ml of the sample homogenate, at selected dilutions, onto duplicate sterile plates of pre poured and dried Standard Method Agar (Nissui Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) using the surface spread technique, then the plates were incubated for 48 h at 35°C.

Psychrotrophic count (PTC) was determined in a similar method to that for TVC except that plates were incubated at 4°C for 10 days [36].

**Statistical analysis**

The obtained Data were analyzed by ANOVA one way test, using the SPSS software for windows (version 16.0). Tukey's multiple range tests for chemical and microbial quality were used. Three replications of the study were performed and measurements of all parameters. Mean values for various parameters were calculated and compared by analysis of variance using the SPSS. Statistical significance was identified at the 95% confidence level (P<0.05). The average values were reported along with standard deviation (±Standard Deviation).

**Results and Discussion**

The total phenolic content and DPPH free radical scavenging activity of PPE

The total phenolic content and was 262.5 mg TAE/g sample, and The DPPH free radical scavenging activity (% scavenging activity) was 87% using methanol 50% as solvent. It is clearly obvious that the presence of the phenolic compounds in this extract is an important factor in creating the antioxidant activity of them. The phenolic and flavonoid contents can be used as an important indicators of antioxidant capacity which and be used as a preliminary screen for any product when intended as a natural source of antioxidants in functional foods. Kim et al. (2002) introduced the peel of pomegranate as a rich source of antioxidants and phenolic materials. Undoubtedly, the antioxidant capacity of pomegranate is related to the presence of phenolic materials, especially elagic acid and punicalagin [37]. Pomegranate peel, also, had been shown to be rich in polyphenols [38]. Singh et al. [39] extracted antioxidants from pomegranate peel and seed with the use of methanol, acetone or water and found that methanol gave maximum antioxidant yield. Tomas-Barberan et al. [40] reported that peel tissue usually contained larger amount of phenolics, anthocyanins and flavonols compound. A linear relationship between total phenolic content, antioxidant capacity and antibacterial activity against several microorganisms has been shown [29]. Antimicrobial activities of phenolic compounds may involve multiple modes of action. Phenolic compounds can denature enzymes [41], but they can also bind to substrates such as minerals, vitamins and carbohydrates making them unavailable for microorganisms [42,43]. Furthermore, phenols can be absorbed to the cell wall, resulting in a disruption of the membrane structure and function (Hugo and Bloomfield, 1971). [44,45] have reported that radical Scavenging activity of PPE approximately similar to these finding. Li et al. [46] have also reported that pomegranate peel extract has high potential antioxidant activity and reported that total phenolic content about 249.4 mg/g, that approximately similar to these finding.

**Chemical analysis**

- **ph**: Variations in values of pH during the refrigerated storage are depicted in Table 1. The initial pH of the fish sample were 6.65 in control sample and 6.61 and 6.50 in T1 and T2, respectively. No significant difference between was found treatment at day of zero.
Then the values of pH slightly decreased at day 3 and then increased gradually. pH increased slowly during the refrigerated storage. It was significantly different (p<0.05) between groups in all days of storage. Control sample at days of 15 was a highest value but value of pH in T1 and T2 were lower than of control treatment because of treated T1 and T2 with PPE and edible coating. Similar results for, the initial pH of the silver carp fillet have been reported by Fan et al. and Xu et al. [47,48].

The initial decrease of pH maybe attributed to the decomposition of glycogen in whole fish, but many researchers attributed it to the dissolution of CO2 in the fish sample for fish fillets [47,49]. while the increase of pH was postulated to be due to an increase in volatile bases products, e.g. ammonia and tri methyl amine, by either endogenous or microbial enzymes [50,51]. Similar observations were made by Alasalvar et al. and Manju, et al. [49,52].

**Thiobarbituric acid (TBA):** Changes in TBA value are shown in Table 2. In this study, the initial TBA value of the control, T1 and T2 sample was 0.089, 0.086 and 0.085 mg MDA/kg, respectively. This value increased to 0.91 (control), 0.72 (T1) and 0.64 (T2) mg MDA/kg after 15 days of the storage period. The results showed that control samples were significantly (p<0.05) higher than the value of the T1 and T2 sample during the refrigerated storage. The data revealed that the T1 and T2 sample, which contained edible coting and PPE, showed a preservation effect on fish flesh by inhibiting the oxidation of lipid. According to Connell [53], TBA values of 1–2 mg MDA/kg of fish flesh are usually regarded as the limit below which fish will normally develop an objectionable odor. In the present, research T1 and T2 sample didn't exceed the maximal permissible limit of 1–2 mg MDA/kg in the fish muscle, but control sample reached approximately to 1 mg MDA/kg at the end of storage period. Increase in TBA in all treatment during refrigerated storage may be attributed to the partial dehydration of fish in the fish sample. It was also reported that addition of PPE extract reduce oxidation in treated sample, and also reported that presence negative correlation between total phenolic and TBA values. They showed that TBA value increased gradually and total phenolic decreased with increase in storage period [11]. A significant relation between phenolic content and antioxidant effect of pomegranate peel extract has been reported [44]. Some reports show that edible film and coating have gas barrier properties and resistant to oxygen diffusion, thus may retarded lipid oxidation [54]

**Peroxide value (PV):** The initial PV (meq peroxide/kg fish sample) in the control sample was 1 (Table 3) and increased to 15.33 at the end of storage. No significantly difference (P>0.05) was observed throughout first days of the storage among the different sample. PV content significantly increased (P<0.05) in all treatments throughout the refrigerator storage, indicating that lipid deterioration continued under the storage temperature conditions. At the end of the storage time significant differences (P<0.05) were observed in the PV between the control (15.33) and each of T1 (14.23) and T2 (12.60) samples. PV of T1 sample was also significantly higher than of T2 samples. Storage time has a significant effect on the PV for each of control and treated samples (P<0.05). Nonetheless the PV in all samples was below the proposed acceptable level of 10–20 meq peroxide/kg fish fat [56]. The results also showed that the highest concentration of PPE (T2) was the most effective in slow down primary peroxidation, when compared with other groups (P<0.05). The peroxide value provides a measure of the degree of lipid oxidation and indicates the amount of oxidized substances. These are usually hydro peroxides, which produce iodine from potassium iodide under special conditions. Hydro peroxides are the primary products of autoxidation, which themselves are odorless. However, their decay leads to the formation of a wide range of carbonyl compounds, hydrocarbons, furans and other products that contribute to the rancid taste of decaying food [57,58]. It is assumed that PPE as natural antioxidant and so edible coating on fish surface may have been resistance to oxygen diffusion, thus may have retarded lipid oxidation.

Song et al. [54] reported that edible coating containing different antioxidant retarded lipid oxidation. These results are in agreement [59-60], who found that the PV significantly increased in salmon fillet after 15 days of storage at 5°C.

**Microbial analysis**

Botta defines fish spoilage as a change in a fish or fish product that makes it unsafe, less acceptable, or unacceptable to the consumer for its original intended purpose. The rate of spoilage differs among fish species because of different defense mechanisms and physical barriers like mucus in place which contains lysozymes to fend off intruding foreign bodies [61].
Total viable count (TVC): Variations in value of TVC of different treatments during refrigerated storage are shown in Table 4.

The initial TVC (log10 CFU/g) in control, T1 and T2 sample was 3.93, 3.31 and 3.12, respectively (Table 4). After processing, a reduction in TVC content was observed in T1 and T2 groups. The results showed that microbiological growth was significantly (P<0.05) influenced by the addition of the PPE and edible coating. The fish muscle is sterile when caught, but is quickly contaminated by surface as well as intestinal bacteria, along with contamination from the aquatic environment, equipment, human handling and storage conditions. Because of these reasons, the TVC values of the three groups increased gradually at storage. The fish of the control group attained a TVC value of 8.47 log CFU/g and T1 and T2, 7.33 and 7.19, respectively after 15 days storage. Microbiological acceptability limit of 7 log CFU/g for raw fish [61], indicating a microbiological shelf life of about 9 days for the non-treated control samples in comparison with the shelf life of T1 and T2 was 12 days. The result showed that adding PPE and edible coating obviously delayed microbial growth and extended the shelf life of the fish. Neither treated group samples were not reached the microbiological acceptability limit during the 15 day storage and had significantly lower TVC values than the control group ((P<0.05). The antibacterial activity of pomegranate peels may be indicative of the presence of some metabolic toxins or broad-spectrum antibiotic compounds [16]. Shan et al. [29] have reported a correlation between total pholic and the antibacterial activity of various plant extracts, including pomegranate peels. The mechanism responsible for phenolic toxicity to microorganisms was related to reaction with sulfhydryl groups of proteins and unavailability of substrates to microorganism [15,61]. Compared with the control sample, PPE in treated samples decayed the growth of TVC during the storage period. There are similar reports about antimicrobial effect of natural antioxidant on quality and shelf life of fish fillet during refrigerated storage [20,47,54].

Psychrotrophic count (PTC): The initial PTC (log10 CFU/g) in control, T1 and T2 samples was 4.78, 4.75 and 3.93, respectively (Table 5). There was no significant difference (P>0.05) between control, T1 and T2 samples at the beginning of storage (day 0). Subsequently, the PTC of all treatment increased during refrigerated storage. Significantly differences were detected in PTC content between control, T1 and T2 samples during storage. After processing, a PTC reduction was observed in T1 and T2 groups in all treatments because of difference concentration between these treatments (T1.5% and T2:10%). Control samples attained a PTC value of 8.62 log CFU/g and T1 and T2, 7.28 and 7.04, respectively after 12 days storage. The result showed that adding of PPE and edible coating obviously delayed microbial growth and extended the shelf-life of the fish about 9 days for the control 12 days for T1 and T2 samples. Similarly, [11] reported that concentration of 5% and 10% PPE had significant reduction in bacterial counts as compared to control samples. [59] reported that PTC and TVC had same growth pattern, but relatively PTC had higher growth than the TVC, approximately similar to this finding. In this regard, [16] referred that about antibacterial activity of pomegranate peels and presence of some metabolic toxins or broad spectrum antibiotic compounds and polyphenols [44,47,61] reported that polyphenols played an important role in protein precipitation and enzyme inhibition of microorganisms.

Conclusion

This study demonstrated the antioxidant and antimicrobial effect of pomegranate peel extract on shelf life of silver carp fillet. The results of microbiological analyses (TVC, PTC) confirmed that pomegranate peel extract used in silver carp fillet leads to a reduction in microbial contamination during refrigerated storage, and chemical (pH, TBA, PV) analyses indicate that pomegranate peel extract had high antioxidant activity and retarded the lipid oxidation, probably due to the presence of high phenolic content. Furthermore, it is important to note that we can utilize the by-product of the natural antioxidant in processed food products. Of course, Additional researches will be required to determine the sufficient concentration of PPE that can be used as natural preservatives in meat processing.

References


