

Formulation and Characterization Aspects of Light Sour Cream

Hassan, M. N. A.¹; A. M. Mehriz¹; Aida. S. Salem² and Hoda. H. Abozied²

¹ Dairy Science Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University.

² Dairy Tech. Dept. Animal Production Research Institute, Agric. Research Center, Dokki, Giza, Egypt.



ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to develop light, rich protein, sour cream with a high nutritional value. From the organoleptic results of several preliminary experiments, it was possible to select four treatments: the first of which (T_1) is a fermented cream with 18 % fat that complies with the minimum fat content of fermented cream according to the Egyptian Standards specification and served as a control. The other three treatments are characterized with low fat content, and with increased protein content ($\sim 5\%$), the three treatments differed in its fat and stabilizers content as follows: Treatment 2 (T_2) cream with 9 % fat + 0.5% MG218 + 0.75% of formulated stabilizer emulsifier (FSE). Treatment 3 (T_3) cream with 9 % fat + 0.5% MG218 only. Treatment4 (T_4) cream with 5 % fat + 0.5% MG218 + 0.75% of FSE. The resultant sour creams from all treatments were stored at $6 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ for 15 days. During storage period, creams were analyzed for titratable acidity, pH value, rheologically for viscosity and syneresis, microbiologically for Total bacteria, coliform and moulds & yeasts counts. Sour creams were also organoleptically assessed. The obtained results indicated that titratable acidity increased during storage in all treatments. Coliform bacteria were found in a few numbers, which were within the permissible range by the Egyptian Standards specification and were disappeared during storage. Moulds & yeasts were detected in all samples at the end of the storage period. Viscosity of samples were higher in T_2 , T_3 and T_4 compared with T_1 . Syneresis in experimental sour creams were arranged in the following descending order $T_1 > T_3 > T_4 >$ while T_2 revealed no syneresis. Organoleptically, sour creams acceptability were arranged in the following descending order $T_2 > T_3 > T_1 > T_4$. From the foregoing results, it could be concluded that Light sour creams with high nutritional and organoleptic properties manufactured from 9% fat and 5% protein with added stabilizers (T_2 & T_3) are applicable and highly recommended.

Keywords: sour cream, light, stabilizer, emulsifier, protein concentrate, syneresis, viscosity.

INTRODUCTION

Consumers more and more believe that foods contribute directly to their health. Today foods are not intended to only satisfy hunger and to provide necessary nutrients for humans, but also to prevent nutrition-related diseases. In this regard, functional foods play an outstanding role.

One of the important categories of Functional food of low fat dairy products is of importance in order to combat obesity and is useful for the individuals suffering from heart disease and hypertension. High fat intake is associated with an increased risk for the previously mentioned disorders (AHA, 1996).

Sour cream has a delicate sour taste with a pleasant, buttery-taste, and characterized by limited shelf-life. It is made from souring pasteurized cream with lactic acid-bacteria (Meunier-Goddik, 2004, USDA-AMS, 2005, and Tamime, 2006). Full fat sour cream contains 18% fat, reduced fat sour cream has a minimum of 25% fat, light or lite sour cream has a minimum of 50% fat reduction and Low-fat sour cream contains 6% or less total fat (USDA-AMS, 2005 and Stevens, 1996). Milk proteins and non dairy stabilizers were used to improve the texture and to overcome the problem of whey syneresis of the sour cream (Hunt and Maynes, 1997 and Costello, 2009). Fat content plays an important role in the flavor of the sour cream (Cadwallo and Singh, 2009; Jervis *et al.*, 2014).

Concerning the cream types produced in Egypt, in 2014 a new Egyptian Standards (ES: 780/1/2014) was appeared under the title "Cream and prepared creams", it included four main types of cream namely

1- Liquid cream, 2- Reconstituted cream, 3- Imitated cream and 4- Prepared cream. This later type include the following six cream brands

a- Packed liquid cream, b- Cream ready to be whipped, c- Packed cream under pressure, d- Whipped cream, e- Ripened or cultured cream, f- Acidified cream.

Sour cream lies under e or f cream without any specifications. Accordingly, there is no standard specification for low fat sour cream. As mentioned above low fat dairy products are very important from the nutritional and healthy point of view for the consumer. Therefore, this study was designed to investigate the possibility of producing acceptable nutritionally and healthy light sour cream by using milk fat with combination of some emulsifier and stabilizers and protein concentrate and suggest it as a new type of cream for Egyptian Standard association.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Fresh buffalo's skim milk and fresh cream were obtained from Dairy Technology Unit, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University. Low heat skim milk powder (36% protein) and milk protein concentrate (70% protein) imported from Sweden were purchased from the Consumer Association of Food Stuffs, Feisal St., Giza, Egypt. Laboratory formulated stabilizer/emulsifier, (FSE) was prepared by mixing food grade gelatin, guar gum, mono & di glycerides and starch which were used to prepare mixed stabilizer/emulsifier (formalized stabilizer/emulsifier, FSE) were purchased from El Gomhoria Company, Cairo, Egypt. Stabilizer\Emulsifier (MG218) consists of gelatin, carrageenan, CMC and sodium mono glyceride was obtained from the General Scientific Association Co., El Obour city, first industrial region, Cairo, Egypt. Freeze dried sour cream culture (FD-DVS) CH-11 was obtained from Chr. Hansen's Lab., Copenhagen Denmark. Agri-mark Whey protein concentrate (WPC 80) was obtained from U.S Dairy Export Council, while simplese-100 (Cpke Ico, Eu) and sodium citrate powder were obtained from Dairy Science Dept. Cairo University.

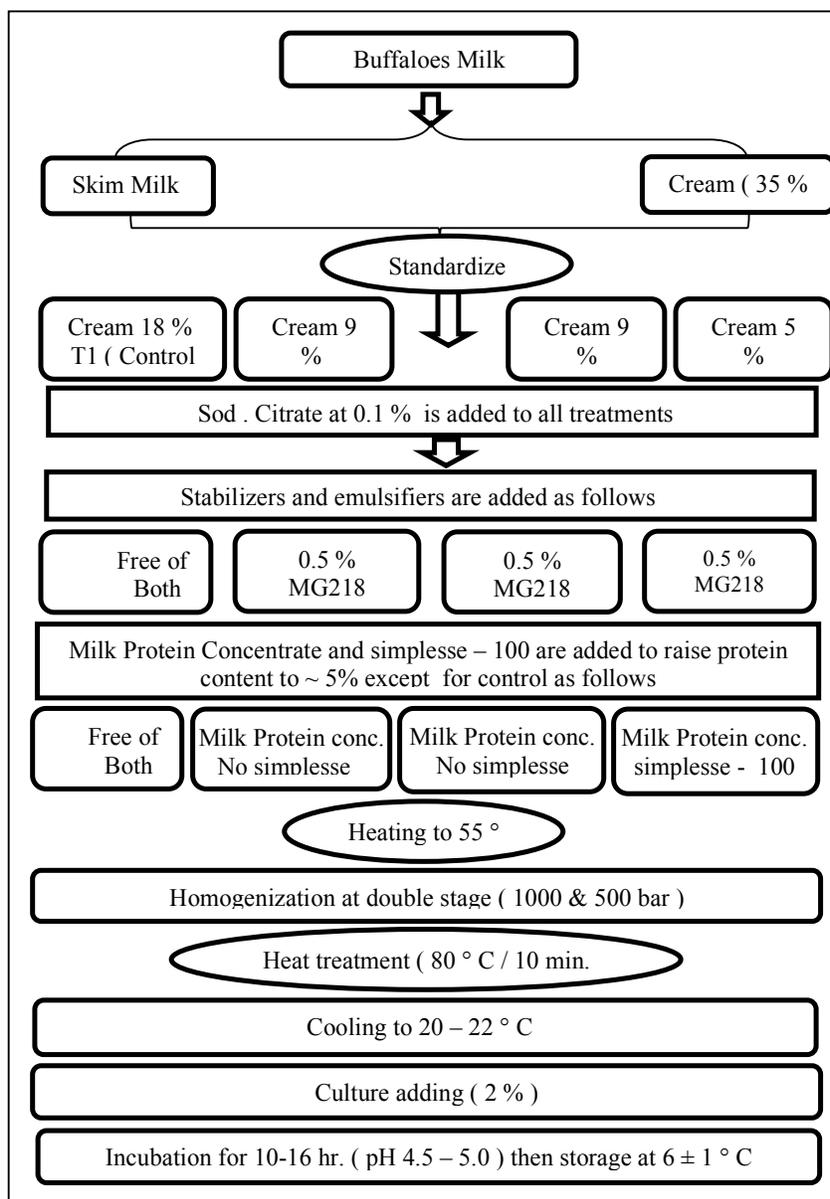


Fig. 1 flow diagram for sour , light and low fat sour cream preparation

Titrate acidity (TA), total solids (TS) and fat content in cream were determined according to A.O.A.C. (2002). pH value was measured using a laboratory pH meter (Type, WTW, Inolab 720, Germany).

The apparent viscosity of sour and light sour cream was determined using a Brookfield viscometer LTV (Brookfield Engineering Laboratories, MA, and USA) with spindle RV5 at 20 rpm and the reading on the viscometer was taken after 3 min for each sample. Sample temperature was maintained at 4°C and viscosity value was expressed in centipoises (cP). Susceptibility of sour and light sour cream to syneresis was determined by using the method described by Cooper and Watts (1981). The amount of liquid collected (ml) in a 2 hr. period was reported as syneresis according to the method of Adapa and Schmidt (1998).

Sensory properties for the traditional and light sour cream were assessed by panelists from the Staff members of Dairy Science Departments of Faculty of Agriculture,

Cairo University and Dairy Tech. Dept. Animal Production Research Institute according to the method described by Costello (2009). Scores for flavor (50 points), body & texture (30points) and for appearance & color (20points) were applied according to the score card recommended by John *et al.*, (1964).

Coliform, Total bacterial count and moulds & Yeasts counts were determined according to A.P.H.A (1992).

Statistical analysis was carried by using randomized complete block design with two factor was used for analysis of all data with three replications for each parameter. The treatment means were compared by least significant difference (L.S.D.) test as given by Snedecor and Cochran (1976) by using Assistant program.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To produce low calorie (light) sour cream with the absence of any standard specifications, it was necessary to

examine different fat levels ranging from 5% to 10% , while maintaining the minimum total solid as in the traditional sour cream containing 18% fat (~ 24% TS). Therefore, it was thought worth- while to prepare light sour cream with high protein content to ensure nutritional and healthy product to the consumer. Therefore, fresh skim milk, and protein concentrate were used in addition to the cream to reach the required total solid. From several preliminary experiments, four different creams variants were examined which differed in its fat content namely 5, 7, 9 and 10% and two different stabilizers mixture were tried Mixture1 (MG218, which consists of gelatin, carragenan, carboxy methyl cellulose (CMC) and Sodium mono glyceride) and Mixture 2 (FSE) which consists of starch, gelatin, guar gum and mono & di glycerides. These two types of stabilizer mixes were tested in different levels to choose the most suitable one. Depending on the panelist's assessment and after four trails starch was excluded from the second stabilizer due to the high thickening appeared in the cream. The best chosen percentages from the two stabilizers were 0.5 % and 1.25 % from MG218 and FSE, respectively.

In another series of experiments a mixture of both stabilizers was tried with the different fat percentages and it was concluded that a mixture of both stabilizers at a ratio of 0.5 % and 0.75% from MG218 and FSE respectively could be used. Also no differences were noticed between 5 and 7 % fat cream and also between 9 and 10 % fat cream. Therefore it was decided to continue the experiment with 5 and 9 % fat cream in this work to produce light sour cream and choose the best one to be recommended.

Data presented in Table (1) summarize the average chemical composition of traditional sour cream, and the other two light and low fat sour cream treatments. From these data, it was easy to observe that the traditional sour cream was characterized by its high total solid value 26.2% due to its high fat content, in comparison with other treatments which characterized by its fat reduction by 50% in T2 and T3 and by 72.2 % in T4. It was also clear from the same Table that, although there was high fat reduction in cream treatments, the total solids in these treatments (T2 and T3) were not very low due to fortification with protein concentrate, stabilizers and sodium citrate. Treatment 4 was the only one to be low in its total solids due to the high reduction in its fat content.

Table 1. Chemical composition of different blends for sour light and low fat sour cream treatments

Treatments	TS%	Protein%	Lactose%	Fat%	MSNF%
T ₁ control	26.2	3.31	4.18	18	8.2
T ₂	20.5	5.5	4.0	9.0	11.5
T ₃	20.1	5.5	4.0	9.0	11.1
T ₄	16.1	5.5	4.0	5.0	11.1

T₁ 18% fat (control)
 T₂ 9% fat, 0.5% MG218, 0.75% FSE
 T₃ 9% fat, 0.5% MG218 only.
 T₄ 5% fat, 0.5% MG218, 0.75% FSE

Data in Table (2) show the changes in titratable acidity (T.A) and pH values of sour cream, light and low fat sour cream treatments during storage at refrigeration temperature for 15 days. One of the most important parameter to determine the quality and shelf life of dairy products is the acidity and pH value. It could be observed from the presented data that the T.A of fresh creams ranged

from 0.54 to 0.64, then increased gradually to reach 0.88 % in control cream, and to reach 1.14, 1.12 and 1.1 % in T₂, T₃ and T₄, respectively. It was very important to control the incubation temperature (22-24 °C) and to control the incubation period to get a fresh cream with T.A. in the range of 0.5 to 0.65 % as a fresh cream with high T.A. more than 0.65% was not acceptable by the panelists due to its high sour taste. The obtained T.A. in fresh sour creams are in agreement with the recommended value for fresh sour cream as reported by the U.S code of federal regulations (Costello *et al.*, 2009). Concerning the pH values of the four treatments, the same Table reveals that the pH value of the fresh creams ranged from 5.1 to 5.2 for all treatments then as storage progressed the pH values decreased gradually to reach values of 4.82 to 4.49 by the end of storage period.

Table 2. Titratable acidity and pH value of sour cream, light and low fat sour cream as affected by fat, protein and stabilizer percentages during cold storage (6±1 °c)

Storage period (days)	Treatments			
	T ₁ Control	T ₂	T ₃	T ₄
	T.A. %			
Fresh	0.54	0.60	0.64	0.52
5	0.74	0.79	0.76	0.78
10	0.80	0.89	1.03	0.90
15	0.88	1.14	1.12	1.10
	pH values			
Fresh	5.19	5.12	5.08	5.1
5	5.00	4.88	4.53	4.82
10	4.80	4.86	4.5	4.68
15	4.82	4.6	4.49	4.59

Data in Table (3) and illustrated in Fig.(2) summarize the changes occurred in the syneresis (ml) in low fat sour creams, as compared with traditional sour cream. It is obvious from the presented data that the control sour cream had a high value of expelled whey either when fresh or during cold storage as it recorded 2.6 ml when fresh and 2.3, 2.8 and 3 ml after 5,10 and 15 days of cold storage.

When these values in control treatment were compared with the other treatments, it could be noticed that T₂ revealed no syneresis either when fresh or during storage, while T₃ recorded higher syneresis than that recorded in T₄. Statistically, there were significant differences between control treatment and each of T₃ and T₄, while there were no significant differences between T₃ and T₄ . These variations in the ability of sour cream to expel whey might be due to the variation in solids not fat content, and also to the presence or absence of stabilizers which differ in its quantity and variety. It is well known that the manufacturer of the cream can effectively bind water and inhibit to some extent whey expulsion (syneresis) in the container by increasing the milk solids not fat fraction (Caudle *et al.*, 2005).

It is clear from these data that the increment of protein content in the three treatments to more than 5% played an important role in decreasing the extent of syneresis in T₃ and T₄, comparing with T₁. Also the presence of the stabilizer either MG218 in T₃, which consists of gelatin, carboxy methyl cellulose (CMC), K.carragenan and sodium mono glyceride or FSE which consists of gelatin, guar gum and mono & di glycerides +

MG218 in T2 and T4 surely affected the level of syneresis because all of these component, had the capability to form a viscous solution and form gel and has its effect in binding water and as a thickening agents. Also, K. carragenan has been widely used in dairy product to prevent whey separation on account of its interaction with casein micelles. Addition of these stabilizers in the mix state as in T2 or in T4 explains the reason of no syneresis in T2 and the low syneresis in T4. These results are in agreement with what was previously reported by Lzydorczk, *et al.*, (2005).

Table 3. Syneresis values of sour cream, light and low fat sour creams during storage at refrigerated temperature (6 ±1°C)

Treatments	Syneresis (ml)				
	Storage period (days)				
	Fresh	5	10	15	Average*
T ₁ control	2.6	2.3	2.8	3	2.68 ^A
T ₂	0	0	0	0	0 ^C
T ₃	1	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.58 ^B
T ₄	0.5	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.12 ^B

* different super script (A, B, C) at the same column are significantly different.

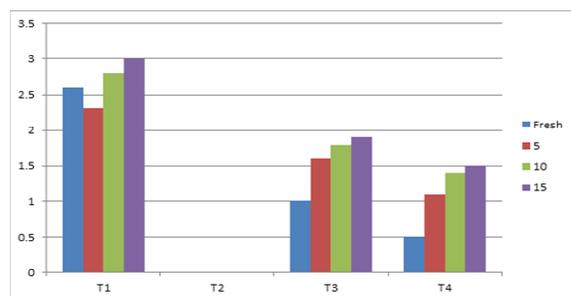


Fig. 2. Syneresis values of sour cream and light sour cream during Storage at refrigerated temperature (6 ±1°C)

Viscosity as a rheological property of sour cream is influenced by the fermentation temperature and the rate of acid production. Therefore it was recommended that the fermentation temperature should be between 20 and 30 °C not more than 30 and not less than 20 (Hunt and Maynes., 1997). Also a weak body or low viscosity can result from low fat content, low milk solids not fat and incubation at too low temperature. Data presented in Table (4) show that T₁ cream (control) recorded the lowest values of viscosity either when fresh or during storage until the end of storage period as it recorded 5000 cP when fresh and increased to reach 7112 cP after 15 days, while the other treatments recorded higher values in descending order as follows T₂ > T₄ > T₃. The low viscosity value in T₁ is due mainly to the lower protein content and to the absence of stabilizer. These results are in line with that obtained by Salem *et al* (1998) and Salem (2001), while the highest viscosity value in T₂ is due to the higher content of protein (Lee and lucey, 2010) and to the higher amount of stabilizer added (Harris., 1990), (0.5% MG218 + 0.75% of FSE) and the various types of colloidal materials in these stabilizers. Although that of T₄ contained the same stabilizer either in types or quantity as in T₂, it recorded a lower viscosity value when compared with T₂. This is mainly due to the lower fat content as the fat % in this treatment is equal to 5% which

is 44.4 % lower than in T₂. The viscosity value in T₃ is lower than that in T₂ although it contained the same fat and protein content, this lower viscosity value is mainly due to the lower content of stabilizer as it contained only 0.5%. It is worthy to mention here that although there was a clear variations in cream viscosity values which was clearly approved by the statistical analysis they were all acceptable from all panellists and no one comment on these variations, in other words, these variations in viscosity were not sensible for most panelists.

Table 4. Apparent viscosity (cP) of sour cream, light and low fat sour creams during storage at refrigerated temperature (6 ±1°C)

Treatment	Viscosity (cP)				
	Storage period (days)				
	Fresh	5	10	15	Average*
T ₁ control	5000	6050	6290	7112	6113 ^D
T ₂	12022	15940	15990	16417	15092 ^A
T ₃	8805	9906	10498	11284	10123 ^C
T ₄	11989	12076	12196	12248	12127 ^B

* different super script (A, B, C, D) at the same column are significantly different.

In Egypt there is no standard specifications for the microbiological properties of low fat sour cream due to the absence of a standards specification for sour cream itself. In fact there is only one standard specification for cream and prepared creams ES: 780-1/ 2014. This standard include 6 types of cream one of them is the fermented cream 2 / 4 / 5 which was defined as the dairy product obtained by fermentation of liquid cream, reconstituted or imitated cream by the action of suitable cultures. This standard specifications recorded general microbiological properties for all types of cream as follow: 1- free of pathogenic bacteria and its toxins. 2- Coliform bacteria must not exceed 10 cfu/g for pasteurized cream only. 3- Free of E.coli 4- Moulds and Yeasts spores must not exceed 20 cfu/g for pasteurized cream only.

Data in Table (5) represent the average cfu/g for Coliform, Moulds & Yeast and Total bacterial count of sour cream treatments during storage at refrigerated temperature for two weeks. It was clear from the presented data that coliform bacteria were found in all treatments when fresh within the limits allowed by the Egyptian standard except in T₁ which exceed this limit and recorded 15 cfu/g. During refrigerated storage coliform bacteria decreased and not detected in T₁, T₃ and T₄ after 5 days while in T₂ coliform bacteria revealed some fluctuations during storage. The decrease in coliform bacteria and its disappearance might be due to the high acidity of the cream developed during storage. Concerning Mould & Yeast, one can easily say that M&Y were not detected through the first 10 days, and it appeared by the end of the storage period in a very low count within the allowed limit according to the Egyptian standard ES 780/1/2014.

As for total bacterial count, it increased gradually all over the storage period. The highest values were recorded with T₁ and the lowest was recorded with T₂, while T₃ and T₄ recorded a total bacterial count between T₁ and T₂. From these data, one can say that sour cream or low fat sour creams microbiological properties were within the allowed microbiological properties recommended by the Egyptian standard ES 780 /2014 and were in limits

recommended by the EU council directive 92 /46 /EE, (1992) and the national dairy code/Canada, (2005). Regarding Moulds figures it were too much lower than the Albanian standard and the EU recommendation (Kallco and Ajce., 2014) which reported the limit of >1000 cfu/g in sour cream.

Table 5. Microbiological properties of sour cream , light and low fat sour creams during storage at (6±1°C) for two weeks .

Group of bacteria	Storage period (days)	Treatments			
		T ₁ control	T ₂	T ₃	T ₄
Total Count (10 ⁵ cfu/g)	Fresh	34.4	27.7	51.2	45.5
	5	52.9	47.3	73.6	58.7
	10	108.3	69.3	89.9	88
	15	171.6	101.4	130.2	117.2
Coliform (10 cfu/g)	Fresh	15.2	7.5	7.0	9.2
	5	2.0	11.0	2.0	N.D
	10	N.D	12	N.D	N.D
	15	N.D	15	N.D	N.D
Molds/Yeast (10 ¹ cfu/g)	Fresh	N.D	N.D	N.D	N.D
	5	N.D	N.D	N.D	N.D
	10	N.D	N.D	N.D	N.D
	15	20.0	15.0	13.0	5.0

N.D : not detected

Sensory assessment is one of the most important criteria on which the producer decides to continue or discontinue processing or suggest some modifications to improve or develop the product to increase its acceptability

for consumers. Assessment is carried out by some well-trained panelists to evaluate the product from the color, appearance, body & texture and flavor point of view. It should be noted that one of the most important questions directed to the panelists is to say their expectations for the fat content of the different creams under assessment.

Data in Table (6) summarize the panelists' observations and average of their evaluations and comments on the four cream treatments (T₁, T₂, T₃ and T₄).

It is worthy to mention here that most panelists expectation about the fat content were amazing as they reported fat% in T₂ and T₃ between 25-30% and for T₁ and T₄ ~ 20%. From the acceptability point of view , the four treatments could be arranged in a descending order as follow T₃> T₂> T₁> T₄. All treatments were free of whey separation, no grainy texture and no gassy appearance. T₂ and T₃ were characterized by glossy appearance with high viscosity and mild and pleasant acidic taste through the first 10 days of storage. At 15 days the acidic taste was acceptable in T₂ and clearly high sour taste in T₃ but the richness feeling made it acceptable.

T₁ at 15 days was characterized by sour and slightly yeasty flavor , while T₄ was characterized by high diacetyl taste (harsh flavor). Statistically, there were significant differences between flavor, body & texture, appearance and total scores of the four treatments as it was shown in Table (6).

Table 6. Organoleptic assessment of sour cream , light and low fat sour creams during storage at refrigerated temperature (6±1°C)

Storage period	Properties			Total score (100)	Comments
	Flavor (50)	Body/ texture (30)	Appearance/color (20)		
Fresh	47	26	16	89	T ₁ Creamy body not glossy like fatty taste, with acceptable sour taste High sour taste. Low creamy taste, with sour and slightly yeast flavor.
5	47	25	15	87	
10	45	24	15	84	
15	43	24	15	82	
Average	45.5 ^{B*}	24.75 ^B	15.25 ^B	85.5 ^B	
Fresh	48	28	18	94	T ₂ Glossy appearance with high richness, high viscosity, body & texture. With clear creamy and mouth feel sensation, delicate flavor. Pleasant, acceptable sour taste.
5	48	28	18	94	
10	48	28	18	94	
15	48	28	18	94	
Average	48 ^{A*}	28 ^A	18 ^A	94 ^A	
Fresh	48	29	18	95	T ₃ Glossy appearances, high viscosity, mild acidic flavor, with fatty sensation, clear richness. From day 10 clear high sour acceptable flavor.
5	48	29	18	95	
10	46	29	18	93	
15	46	29	18	93	
Average	47 ^{AB}	29 ^A	18 ^A	94 ^A	
Fresh	45	24	17	86	T ₄ Creamy body, lack in richness with acceptable flavor. From 10, 15 days, high sour flavor in cream was observed with high diacetyl flavor (harsh flavor)
5	43	24	15	82	
10	42	24	15	81	
15	42	23	15	80	
Average	43 ^{C*}	23.75 ^B	15.5 ^B	82.25 ^B	

* different super script (A, B, C) at the same column are significantly different

*All cream treatments were free of whey separation.

*No grainy texture was detected in all cream treatments.

*No gassy appearance was found due to CO₂ formation in all cream treatments.

*Fat % expectation by panelists were 25-30% fat for T₂ and T₃ and ~ 20% for T₁ and T₄.

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تكوين وتوصيف للقشدة المخمرة المنخفضة الدهن

محمد نجيب على حسن¹, ابو السمح محمد محرز¹, عايدة سليمان سالم² و هدى همام ابوزيد²
¹ قسم الالبان كلية الزراعة - جامعة القاهرة
² قسم بحوث تكنولوجيا الالبان - معهد بحوث الانتاج الحيواني- مركز البحوث الزراعية

تمت هذه الدراسة بغرض إنتاج قشدة مخمرة منخفضة الدهن ومرتفعة في محتواها من البروتين بحيث تكون قشدة صحية وذات قيمة غذائية عالية. ومن نتائج العديد من التجارب المبدئية أمكن التوصل إلى تحضير أربع معاملات على النحو التالي : معاملة 1 قشدة بنسبة دهن 18% مساوية للحد الأدنى للدهن في القشدة المخمرة طبقا للمواصفات القياسية المصرية . معاملة 2 قشدة 9 % دهن + 0.5 % مثبت MG218 + 0.75 % من مثبت FSE. معاملة 3 قشدة 9 % دهن + 0.5 % مثبت MG218، معاملة 4 قشدة 5% دهن+ 0.5 % مثبت MG218+ 0.75 % من مثبت FSE و المعاملات الثلاثة الأخيرة تم رفع نسبة البروتين فيها إلى حوالي 5 % باستخدام مركبات بروتين اللبن . وتم تخزين المعاملات الأربعة على درجة حرارة التلاجة 6 ± 1م° لمدة 15 يوم تم خلالها تحليل الحموضة وتقدير الـpH ، وريولوجيا للزوجة ، خاصية انفصال سائل (خاصية انفصال شرش) (Syneresis)، و ميكروبيولوجيا وحسبا. وقد أشارت النتائج المتحصل عليها إلى ارتفاع الحموضة وانخفاض الـ pH بالتدرج أثناء التخزين للمعاملات الأربع وإلى وجود بكتريا الكوليفورم في الحالة الطازجة وبأعداد قليلة تدخل ضمن الحدود المسموح بها طبقا للمواصفات القياسية المصرية واختفائها أثناء التخزين. وبعدم ظهور الخمائر والفطريات إلا في نهاية مدة التخزين. كما ارتفعت اللزوجة في المعاملات 2, 3, 4 بدرجة ملحوظة بالمقارنة بالمعاملة 1 (الكنترول). ومن حيث خاصية انفصال شرش كان ترتيب المعاملات تنازليا كالآتي : معاملة 1 < معاملة 3 < معاملة 2 < معاملة 4. وتوصى الدراسة بإمكانية إنتاج قشدة مخمرة منخفضة الدهن وذات قيمة غذائية عالية وذات خواص حسية مقبولة بدرجة عالية من قشدة 9 % دهن مع تعديل تركيبها برفع نسبة البروتين إلى 5 % وإدراجها ضمن المواصفات القياسية المصرية للقشدة .