Chemical composition and sensory analysis of peanut pastes elaborated with high-oleic and regular peanuts from Argentina

By Cecilia G. Riveros, a M. G. Mestrallet, b V. Nepote b and N. R. Grosso a

a Química Biológica, Facultad de Ciencias Agropecuarias (UNC), IMBIV-CONICET, CC 509, 5000 Córdoba, Argentina
b ICTA, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales, IMBIV-CONICET, Córdoba, Argentina.

KEY-WORDS: Acceptability – High oleic – Peanut butter – Sensory.

1. INTRODUCTION

Peanut-containing foods have high consumer acceptance because of their unique roasted peanut flavor. Peanuts are continually applied for the preparation of new and improved food products (Woodroof, 1983). A large proportion of peanut production in the world is destined to domestic foods such as peanut butter, snack products, confections and roasting peanut products showing positive results in relation to consumer acceptance and sensory and chemical stability (Ahmed and Young, 1982; Mestrallet et al., 2004; Nepote et al., 2006a, b; Nepote et al., 2008). The rest of the peanut production is utilized as an edible oil source of high quality (Ahmed and Young, 1982).

Peanuts contain high percentages of oil (45-54%) and protein (25–31%) (Savage and Keenan, 1994; Grosso et al., 2002). The presence of these components is important in the end-products of the peanut industry because they became an important contribution to the human diet in many countries for their nutritional benefits to consumers. Due to their high oil content, peanuts are rich in energy but are susceptible to developing rancidity and off-flavors through lipid oxidation because of their composition rich in unsaturated fatty acid (approximately 80%), with 40-50% and 30-40% of the oil being oleic and linoleic acids, respectively (Frankel, 2005). Although linoleic acid
is an essential component for human nutrition, it is susceptible to lipid oxidation (Nawar, 1996). Researchers from USA have described peanut lines called high oleic peanuts with 80% oleic acid and 2–3% linoleic acid which had improved oil oxidative stability in the products elaborated with them (Mugendi et al., 1998; Pattee et al., 2002). High-oleic peanut products like roasted peanuts (Nepote et al., 2006a) and fried-salted peanuts (Nepote et al., 2006b) prepared with Argentinean cultivars showed longer stability during storage. However, the chemical and sensory properties of peanut pastes prepared with high oleic peanuts have not been studied in depth, especially those prepared with Argentinean peanut varieties.

Peanut butter is a dispersion of peanut oil in peanut solids released through the grinding of roasted mature, shelled and blanched peanuts. For a product to be labelled as peanut butter, it should contain 90% peanuts while the remaining 10% is comprised of sweeteners, seasonings, emulsifiers, and/or stabilizers (U.S. FDA, 2002). Peanut butter has extensive use as a spread for bread and crackers. It is used as an ingredient in sandwiches, cookies, confectioneries, in flavoring foods, wafers, patties, bars, and other snacks (Woodroof, 1983). Peanut paste, which is 100% ground peanuts, is used in a variety of industrial food recipes and is available from processors (American Peanut Council, 2008).

The objective of this work was to determine the chemical composition, sensory attributes and consumer acceptance of peanut pastes prepared with a high-oleic cultivar (Granoleico) in comparison with a regular cultivar (Tegua) of peanuts developed in Argentina.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Materials

Sound and mature seeds of blanched peanuts (Arachis hypogea L.) type Runner “Granoleico” and “Tegua”, size 40/50 kernels per oz (2007 crop) were provided by the company Lorenzati, Ruetsch & Cia from Ticino, Córdoba, Argentina.

2.2. Methods

Preparation of samples

For preparing “Granoleico” (GO-P) and “Tegua” (T-P) peanut pastes, blanched peanuts were roasted at 140 °C in an oven (Memert, model 600, Schwabach, Germany) for 30 min. Peanuts were heated to a medium roast measured as an average Hunter color Lightness (L) value of 50 ± 1.0 (Johnsen et al., 1988). Peanuts were ground using a colloid mill (COMIL Mod. AD 50 VR, Munro, Buenos Aires, Argentina). Upon completion of the formulation process, the cooled product was distributed into 350g plastic jars.

Determination of oil, ash, protein, and carbohydrate contents of the peanut products

Peanut pastes were examined for moisture, lipid, protein, ash and carbohydrate contents. The moisture content was determined by the method 27.005 (AOAC, 1980). Oil was extracted for 16 hours with petroleum ether (boiling range 30-60 °C) in a Soxhlet apparatus. Lipid percentage was determined by weight difference. Ash and nitrogen contents were determined according to the AOAC methods 27.009 and 27.007, respectively (AOAC, 1980). Ash was performed by incineration in a muffle furnace at 525 °C. The nitrogen content was estimated according to the Kjeldahl method and converted to protein percentage by using the conversion factor 5.46 (method 27.007, AOAC, 1980). Carbohydrate content was estimated by the difference of the other components using the following formula (Mestrallet et al., 2004): carbohydrate content = 100% – (% protein + % oil + % ash).

Fatty acid composition of peanut paste

Fatty acid methyl esters were prepared from peanut paste oils (GO-P and T-P) by transmethylation with a solution of 3% (w/v) sulphuric acid in methanol as previously described (Grosso et al., 2000). The fatty acid methyl esters of total lipids were analyzed on a Perkin Elmer Clarus 500 gas-liquid chromatograph (Waltham, Massachusetts, USA) equipped with a flame ionization detector (FID). A Varian CP-Wax 52 CB capillary column (30m, 0.25mm, 0.25um # CP8713) (Lake Forest, CA, USA) was used. Column temperature was programmed from 180 °C (held for 1 min) to 230 °C (20 °C/min rate). The carrier (nitrogen) had a flow rate of 3.8 mL/min. The separated fatty acid methyl esters were identified by comparing their retention times with those of authentic samples which were purchased from Sigma Chemical Co (St Louis, MO, USA). Quantitative fatty acids analysis was performed using heptadecanoic acid methyl ester (Sigma Chemical Co.) as internal standard.

Sensory Methods

a) Consumer Analysis. The panelists (n = 94) were from Córdoba (Argentina) and were recruited according to the following criteria: a) ages between 18 and 65, b) non-smokers, c) people without food allergies and d) people who consumed roasted peanuts and/or peanut products at least twice a week. For sample evaluation, 10g of the peanut paste samples were placed into plastic cups with lids coded with 3 digit random numbers. Samples consisting of GO-P and T-P were served to every panellist (Resurreccion, 1998). Samples were presented to panelists in random order during the test day. Samples were served with water and
paper ballots on a plastic tray. Panellists were instructed to consume the whole sample (a teaspoon of peanut paste) and rinse their mouths with water between samples to minimize any residual effect (Grosso and Resurreccion, 2002). A 9-point hedonic scale ranging from 1 = dislike extremely to 9 = like extremely was used to evaluate acceptances from the GO-P and T-P samples for the attributes of color, flavor and texture (Peryam and Pilgrim, 1957).

b) Descriptive Analysis. A total of 10 trained panellists (6 female and 4 male) participated in the descriptive analysis of peanut products (GO-P and T-P). All panellists were selected according to the following criteria: a) people with natural dentition, b) people without food allergies, c) non-smokers, d) people between the ages of 18-64, e) people who consumed roasted peanuts and/or peanut products at least once a month, f) people available for all sessions, g) people interested in participating, and h) people able to verbally communicate their observations regarding the product (Plemmons and Resurreccion, 1998). Before being qualified, all panellists showed a perfect score in a taste sensitivity test and the ability to identify 5 of 7 commonly found food flavors.

All 10 panellists had 6 years of experience evaluating peanut products. The panellist were trained and calibrated in 4 training sessions for 4 days for evaluating peanut pastes. Each training session lasted 3 h. Descriptive analysis test procedures as described by Meilgaard et al. (1991), Grosso and Resurreccion (2002) and Nepote et al. (2006a) were used to train the panellists. A "hybrid" descriptive analysis method consisting of the Quantitative Descriptive Analysis (Tragon Corp., Redwood City, Calif., U.S.A.) and the Spectrum™ Analysis Methods (Sensory Spectrum, Inc., Chatham, N.J., U.S.A.) were used by the panellists for evaluating samples. A 150 mm unstructured line scale was used (Plemmons and Resurreccion, 1998). A list of definitions and a sheet with warm-up ratings and definitions (Table 1) were posted in the booths during the training sessions (Grosso and Resurreccion, 2002; Mestrallet et al., 2004). The attribute definitions were based on peanut lexicon (Johnsen et al., 1988).

All samples were evaluated in partitioned booths under fluorescent light at room temperature. Ten grams of product sample were placed in plastic cups with lids coded with 3 digit random numbers. The final lists of warm-up and reference intensity ratings and definitions (Table 1) were posted in the booths for all test sessions (Grosso and Resurreccion, 2002). The panellists were instructed to familiarize themselves with the reference standard intensities (Table 1) and then to evaluate the sensory attributes from the peanut paste samples. A complete randomized block design was used for testing samples. The data were registered on paper ballots.

2.3. Statistical Analysis
The data were analyzed using the InfoStat software, version 1.1 (Facultad de Ciencias Agropecuarias, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba). All analyses were performed in three repetitions. Each repetition corresponded to a different production lot provided by the peanut company, Lorenzli, Ruetsch & Cia (Ticino, Córdoba, Argentina). Means and standard deviations were calculated. Analysis of variance and Duncan test were used to detect significant differences ($\alpha = 0.05$) in consumer responses, sensory attribute ratings and chemical analysis measurements.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Oil, protein, ash, and carbohydrate contents in the peanut pastes
The oil, protein, ash and carbohydrate contents of the peanut pastes (GO-P and T-P) are presented in Figure 1. The product prepared with the high-oleic cultivar, Granoleico (GO-P) showed significant differences ($\alpha = 0.05$) in oil and protein contents with respect to those prepared with a regular cultivar, Tegua (T-P). GO-P had higher oil content (50.91%) than T-P (48.95%). GO-P and T-P did not show difference in ash and carbohydrate contents. T-P exhibited higher protein contents (27.49%) than GO-P (26.68%). Özcan and Seven (2003) reported different results in peanut butter prepared with ÇOM and NC-7 varieties of regular peanuts from Turkey. Protein, lipid and ash contents were 35.07%, 24.55% and 1.86%, respectively for ÇOM peanut butter; 32.93%, 18.67% and 2.04%, respectively for NC-7 peanut butter.

3.2. Fatty acid composition of peanut pastes
The fatty acid percentages of GO-P and T-P are shown in Table 2. The major components of both peanut pastes were oleic, linoleic, and palmitic acids. As it was expected in the fatty acid composition, GO-P had significantly higher oleic contents and lower linoleic contents (78.50% and 4.60%, respectively) than T-P (45.80% and 33.30%, respectively). Others authors reported similar results in the oleic and linoleic contents in regular (Özcan and Seven, 2003) and high-oleic peanut pastes (Isleib et al., 2006). Similar results in these fatty acid contents were also found in other peanut products like roasted peanuts (Nepote et al. 2006a) and fried-salted peanuts (Nepote et al., 2006b) elaborated with high-oleic and regular peanut lines from Argentina.

The differences in oleic and linoleic contents between GO-P and T-P translated into differences for oleic/linoleic ratio (O/L), iodine value and polyunsaturated/saturated ratio (PUFA/SFA). GO-P showed a significantly higher O/L ratio (17.06) and a lower polyunsaturated/saturated fatty acid ratio (0.32) than T-P (O/L = 1.38 and PUFA/SFA = 1.74). Iodine value was also lower in GO-P (77) than T-P.
In addition, GO-P exhibited higher percentage of eicosenoic acid (2.51%) but lower percentages of palmitic acid (5.77%) than T-P (1.72% and 9.93%, respectively). The other fatty acids did not differ significantly between GO-P and T-P.

Ozcan and Seven (2003) showed 1.51 O/L ratio in the peanut butter elaborated with the regular cultivar NC-7 while ÇOM had 2.07 O/L ratio. Nepote et al. (2006a) showed a similar O/L ratio in roasted peanuts elaborated with peanuts from Tegua (1.4) and the Granoleico (17.2) cultivars. Other authors (Andersen et al., 1998; Isleib et al., 2006) found O/L ratios between 16 – 28 and 1 – 3 for high-oleic and normal peanut genotypes, respectively.

Little variation was observed in the fatty acid composition between GO-P and T-P which could...
probably be due to differences in climatic conditions, soil moisture and environment temperature during maturation of the peanut seeds (Norden et al., 1987; Casini et al., 2003). However, the genetic effect between these varieties was the main cause for the content differences in oleic and linoleic acids.

3.3. Consumer analysis

In this study, the consumer test was conducted for detecting differences between products. The answer percentages for each point in the hedonic scale of the color, flavor and texture acceptance and general means from consumer tests in GO-P and T-P are presented in Table 3. Significant differences (α = 0.05) in consumer acceptance among the products (GO-P and T-P) were not found. In general, the products had consumer acceptances closer to the point 7 “like moderately” for color and flavor attributes and the point 5 “neither like nor dislike” for texture attribute in a hedonic scale of nine points. The general acceptance means for the color attribute were 7.12 ± 0.52 and 6.91 ± 0.42 for GO-P and T-P, respectively. For the flavor attribute, the acceptance was 6.71 ± 0.25 and 6.51 ± 0.35 in GO-P and T-P, respectively.

Other studies of overall acceptance in other peanut products such as roasted peanuts (Nepote et al., 2006a) and fried-salted peanuts (Nepote et al., 2006b) prepared with a high-oleic and regular...
peanut cultivars did not report significant differences in consumer acceptance of peanut products. In general, these products had consumer acceptances close to the points 6 "like slightly" and 7 "like moderately", respectively, using a 9 point hedonic scale. In honey roasted peanuts prepared with normal Runner type peanuts from Argentina, these products had an overall acceptance close to 6 (like slightly) in a hedonic scale of 9 points (Mestrallet et al., 2004). In roasted peanuts coated with prickly pear pod and "algarrobo" syrups prepared with normal Runner type peanuts from Argentina, the results of the consumer test exhibited good acceptability for flavor, color and texture acceptance in these products showing values higher than the point 3 (neither like nor dislike) in a hedonic scale of 5 points (Nepote et al., 2008).

With respect to the answer percentage for each point of the hedonic scale during the consumer test, the highest percentages were observed in the points 7 (like moderately) and 8 (like very much) for color, 6 (like slightly) and 7 (like moderately) for flavor and 4 (dislike slightly) and 6 (like slightly) for texture attributes in both peanut pastes. There were no significant differences in these answer percentages between GO-P and T-P. Considering the answer percentage in each point of the hedonic scale and the means of acceptance scores, it was evident that the differences in the chemical composition of peanut pastes (GO and T) did not have an effect on consumer acceptability of this products.

3.4. Descriptive Analyses

Sixteen sensory attributes were described by the trained panellists during the descriptive analysis of peanut pastes. The attributes were the followings: brown color, uneven color, glossiness, roasted peanutty, oxidized, cardboard, burnt and raw/beany flavors, sweetness, salty, sourness, bitterness, astringent, oiliness, adhesiveness and graininess (Table 4). The mean values of the intensities of sensory attributes from the descriptive analysis in GO-P and T-P are presented in Table 1.

Differences between GO-P and T-P for intensity ratings of the sensory attributes were not statistically detectable (α = 0.05) except for the oiliness attribute. The intensity of oxidized and cardboard flavors in GO-P and T-P did not show differences between GO-P and T-P because the analyzed products were fresh without storage. Pattee et al. (2002) reported differences in these attributes. Oxidized and cardboard flavors are sensory attributes associated with chemical changes occurring during lipid oxidation when the peanut product is stored for a long time (Frankel, 2005). Previous reports confirmed that the high-oleic trait is associated with less oxidative off-flavors (Mugendi et al., 1998; Pattee et al., 2002; Nepote et al., 2006b) during storage.

T-P showed lower intensity ratings than GO-P in oiliness texture (52.70 and 54.14, respectively). The differences found in oiliness texture between T-P and GO-P were probably due to the lower oil content T-P (48.95%) than in GO-P (50.91%). Lee and Resurreccion (2001) found swallow oiliness rates from 62.58 to 68.16 (scale of 0-150mm) in normal peanut butter. Oiliness after swallowing is crucial to the quality of peanut butter, as excessive oiliness is undesirable to the consumer. The oiliness intensity detected in this study was lower than Lee and Resurreccion (2001) reported for peanut butter prepared with American peanuts.

Roasted peanutty flavor is the attribute used to characterize the typical roasted peanut flavor in peanut products (Johnsen et al., 1988). This attribute did not show significant differences between GO-P (57.60) and T-P (57.00) samples. Similar results were reported by Isleib et al. (2006). Johnsen et al. (1988) developed a basic lexicon for
GO-P and T-P have a high difference in fatty acid composition due to the high concentration in oleic acid in GO-P. However, consumers could not find difference in the acceptance from peanut pastes prepared with peanuts from Granoleico and Tegua cultivars even in descriptive analysis, trained panellist could not detect significant difference in the intensity rating of the sensory attributes except for oiliness. In addition, peanut products derived from high-oleic cultivars have the advantage for possessing higher stability and preservation during storage.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This work was supported by CONICET and SECYT-UNC.

**REFERENCES**


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**Table 4**

Means of the sensory attribute intensity ratings from the descriptive analysis of Tegua and Granoleico peanut pastes (T-P and GO-P)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sensory Attributes</th>
<th>T-P</th>
<th>GO-P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appearance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Color</td>
<td>47.84 ± 1.36</td>
<td>48.46 ± 3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uneven Color</td>
<td>17.13 ± 3.20</td>
<td>17.34 ± 2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glossiness a, b</td>
<td>114.30 ± 4.17</td>
<td>115.28 ± 4.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aromatics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roasted Peanutty</td>
<td>57.06 ± 3.08</td>
<td>57.60 ± 3.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxidized</td>
<td>3.23 ± 2.11</td>
<td>2.78 ± 1.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardboard</td>
<td>4.84 ± 0.75</td>
<td>4.24 ± 1.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnt</td>
<td>25.10 ± 3.07</td>
<td>26.17 ± 2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raw/Beany</td>
<td>22.29 ± 6.00</td>
<td>23.50 ± 2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aromatics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweetness</td>
<td>24.38 ± 2.32</td>
<td>23.65 ± 2.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salty</td>
<td>10.21 ± 0.62</td>
<td>10.29 ± 1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soursness</td>
<td>6.48 ± 2.04</td>
<td>5.81 ± 3.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bitterness</td>
<td>15.87 ± 1.43</td>
<td>16.06 ± 2.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling factors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astringent</td>
<td>35.54 ± 3.44</td>
<td>36.53 ± 3.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oiliness</td>
<td>52.70 ± 3.48a</td>
<td>54.14 ± 1.95b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adhesiveness</td>
<td>83.54 ± 6.17</td>
<td>83.30 ± 8.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graininess</td>
<td>39.32 ± 2.45</td>
<td>40.55 ± 4.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Intensity ratings are based on 150 mm unstructured line scales.

b Means follow by different letters within each row are significantly different at α = 0.05.


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Recibido: 4/2/09
Aceptado: 9/3/09