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Studies on augmentation of shelf-life of meat using spices at refrigeration temperature

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Abstract

The present study was conducted to evaluate antimicrobial effect of garlic, cinnamon, clove and nitrite in complex food system like mince chicken stored at refrigeration temperature. It was an attempt to replace nitrite with spices in minced chicken. Antimicrobial studies (*Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Clostridium perfringens*) were carried out on 1, 4, 7 and 10th day of storage. Garlic paste (3 per cent), Cinnamon powder (2 per cent w/w) and Clove powder (0.2 per cent w/w) were significantly effective ($p \leq 0.05$) against *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* but slightly lower effect against *Clostridium perfringens*. Antimicrobial activity of clove powder was higher against *S. aureus*, *E. coli* and *C. perfringens* count as compare to control. Clove powder could be used as nitrite replacer however not effective as nitrite.

Keywords: Mince chicken, natural preservatives, nitrite, *Clostridium perfringens*, *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*

1. Introduction

Meat is highly nutritious food for *Homo sapiens* since time immemorial. It provides high quality protein, important minerals, vitamins et cetera. It is nutrient compact food. In India, poultry industry has made impressive progress during the last three decades evolving from backyard venture to a full-fledged commercial agro industrial business. Hence, there is a great concern for the quality and safety of processed poultry foods being offered. Today's consumers demand foods with high nutritional value that are free from chemical preservatives and are microbiologically safe (Kumar *et al.*, 2021; Goswami *et al.*, 2020) [13, 7]. The activity of nitrite is in broad spectrum so it is not possible aid and so combinations of antimicrobials are used (Sofos, 2008) [21]. There has been a constant search for alternative and efficient compounds for meat preservation, aiming at partial or total replacement of nitrite in cured meat and meat products. Microbial control in foods can be assured by suppressing one or more factors essential for microbial survival (Horace, 1982) [10] and here many spices offer a promising alternative for ensuring food safety. Small concentrations of nitrite are sufficient to cause a broad spectrum inhibition of *Clostridium Botulinum*.

Spices and herbs have been used for thousands of centuries by many nations to enhance the flavour and aroma of foods and has documented in the late 19th century and they are having antimicrobial properties. Spices like Garlic (*Allium sativum*) is a broad spectrum and called as dietary antibiotic and also having flavour enhancer properties in meat product, along with medicinal attributes. These include antibacterial, antiviral, antifungal and antiprotozoal activities (Ankari and Mirelman, 1999) [3]. Cloves (*Syzygium aromaticum*) are dried bud of this tree, which contain 14% - 21% essential oil and main active ingredient of clove is eugenol, which have potent antimicrobial activity and keeps the food fresh. As reported in literature the combination of both clove and its extract doubled the shelf life of minced chicken meat (Yadav and Singh 2004) [19]. Clove extract is also inhibit the growth of *Salmonella typhimurium* (Singh *et al.*, 2004) [19]. Cinnamon (*Cinnamomum zylancium*) one of the most common spices and food flavoring additives since ancient times (Wijesekera *et al.*, 1997) [23], shows that cinnamon has potent antiemetic, anti-diarrheal, anti-flatulent and stimulant activities. (Hossein *et al.*, 2013) [11]. Recent, scientific reports showed that cinnamon has potent neuroprotective, hepatoprotective, cardioprotective and gastroprotective effects due to its potent antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties (Khasnavis *et al.*, 2012; Alqasoumi *et al.*, 2011) [12, 1]. Apart from this it has antimicrobial properties for both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria.

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Microbiologist have been testing effectiveness of cinnamon and other spices in eliminating most virulent bacteria causes of food poisoning *Escherichia coli* O157. In nutshell it can be said that spices like garlic, clove and cinnamon has the ability to stop bacterial growth. Therefore, on the basis of this postulation, a study was undertaken.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Material Procurement

Fresh broiler chicken meat required for the experiments was procured from the meat shop located at Palanpur, Gujarat, India. Cinnamon, Clove and Garlic was procured from local market. Nitrite used in the study was of analytical grade and purchased from S.D fines chem. Ltd, Mumbai. Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE-0.0035mm) was procured from market and sterilized by exposing to U.V light for 30 minutes before use. *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli* cultured was procured from department of Veterinary Public Health and Epidemiology of College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar while *Clostridium perfringens* (MTCC 450) procured from Microbial Type Culture Collection center, Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh, India.

2.2 Preparation of Stock Inoculum

The standard cultures of *Clostridium perfringens* (MTCC 450); *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* were revived under the aseptic conditions as per the instructions.

2.3 Preparation of Meat Mince

The boneless chicken meat was wash thoroughly. All the food contact surfaces of meat mincer (made up of stainless steel contact parts) were sanitized before mincing. The Deboned meat was cut into small cubes and minced in Stadler meat grinder using 8 mm plates.

2.4 Preparation of clove, cinnamon powder and garlic paste

Clove powder and Cinnamon powder were obtained by grinding the good quality cloves and cinnamon in a grinder and sieved through a fine mesh. The fine powders were stored in a jar for subsequent use. Fresh garlic paste was prepared after washing, peeling and blending of garlic.

2.5 Portioning of meat mince and incorporation of Garlic, Cinnamon, Clove and Nitrite

Minced meat was divided into approximately five equal portions and assigned to following treatments: Control (C); Sodium Nitrite – 200ppm (N); Garlic paste – 3 per cent (T₁); Cinnamon powder – 2 per cent w/w (T₂); Clove powder – 0.2

per cent w/w (T₃) Each portion was weighed accurately and recorded. Then they were incorporated thoroughly by kneading or massaging for uniform distribution. Each of treatments C, N, T₁, T₂, and T₃ portions were further sub divided into two parts.

2.6 Incorporation of bacterial inoculums in the minced chicken

The broth containing known concentration of *Clostridium perfringens*, *Escherichia coli* and *S. aureus* stored in refrigerator were serially diluted separately with the normal saline solution to approximately 10⁷ bacterial colonies per ml. 1ml of each inoculum was added to 100g of the minced chicken (taken in sterilized LDPE bags) separately and then thoroughly mixed the kneading, so that final concentration of approximately 10⁵ cfu/g of the meat mince could be obtained. The concentrations of bacterial cultures were kept deliberately high to minimize the sampling error.

2.7 Packaging and Storage

The LDPE bags containing inoculated chicken mince were sealed with the help of a sealer (Sevana's India) and stored at refrigeration temperature (4±1°C) till further analysis. The antimicrobial (APHA, 1984) studies were carried out on 1, 4, 7 and 10th day of storage. A total of 6 replications were carried out with each analysis done in duplicate.

2.8 Statistical analysis

The data obtained were analyzed by using ANOVA technique by Snedecor and Snedecor and Cochran (1989) [20].

3. Result and Discussion

Effect of Garlic, Cinnamon, Clove and nitrite treated minced chicken on microbiological quality in table.

3.1 *Escherichia coli* count

The *Escherichia coli* count of control and treated samples increased over storage periods. Means of *Escherichia coli* count (log cfu/g) were significantly lower (p<0.01) for T₁, T₂, T₃, compared to control. The *Escherichia coli* count (log cfu/g) of C samples were 5.906±0.008, 6.806±0.01, 8.395±0.003 and 9.403±0.008 in 1, 4, 7 and 10th storage day respectively. Morita and Hiroshi (2004) [14] in their study explained that the antibacterial activity of NO (Nitric oxide) derived from sodium nitrite against *Escherichia coli* count 0157:H7 was due to generation of dinitrosyl Fe complex from the reaction of Fe-S –protein (enzymes) with NO (Nitric oxide). Enzymes related to respiratory chain were inactivated resulting in decreased ATP levels for cells. Similar results were reported by Neogi *et al.* (2007) [15]; Friedman *et al.* (2002) [5]; Seema *et al.* (2007) [17] and Gupta *et al.* (2008) [8].

Table 1: *Escherichia coli* count (log cfu/g) of Garlic, cinnamon, clove and nitrite treated minced chicken for different treatments and storage period

| Storage days | Control (C) | 3%Garlic paste (T ₁) | 2% w/w Cinnamon powder(T ₂) | 0.2% w/w Clove powder (T ₃) | 200ppm Nitrite (N) |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | 5.906±0.008 ^{ap} | 5.776±0.01 ^{bp} | 5.796±0.01 ^{cp} | 5.762±0.01 ^{dp} | 5.658±0.01 ^{ep} |
| 4 | 6.806±0.01 ^{aq} | 6.169±0.008 ^{bq} | 6.234±0.01 ^{cq} | 6.166±0.009 ^{dq} | 5.940±0.01 ^{eq} |
| 7 | 8.395±0.003 ^{ar} | 6.331±0.01 ^{br} | 6.371±0.01 ^{cr} | 6.359±0.006 ^{dr} | 6.273±0.01 ^{er} |
| 10 | 9.403±0.008 ^{as} | 8.234±0.01 ^{bs} | 8.202±0.007 ^{cs} | 8.196±0.007 ^{ds} | 8.095±0.01 ^{es} |

Mean ± S.E. with different superscripts between rows (p, q, r, s) and between columns (a, b, c, d) differ significantly (P < 0.05).

3.2 *Staphylococcus aureus* count

The Table. 2 shows that control samples showed mean count (log cfu/g) 6.275±0.005 on 10th days of storage. The

Staphylococcus aureus count (log cfu/g) for treated samples showed the similar trend. The *Staphylococcus aureus* count of control and treated samples increased over storage periods.

Highly Significant reduction ($P < 0.01$) in *Staphylococcus aureus* count was observed between T₁, T₂, T₃, N compared to control. Treated samples showed lower count compare to control but slightly higher than the nitrite it may be due the

most important active substance i.e. cinamaldehyde and eugenol. Similar results were given by Seema *et al.* (2007)^[17]; Sharma *et al.* (2012)^[18]; Gupta *et al.* (2008)^[8]; Pandey *et al.* (2014)^[16].

Table 2: *Staphylococcus aureus* count (log cfu/g) of garlic, cinnamon, clove and nitrite treated minced chicken for different treatments and storage period

| Storage days | Control (C) | 3%Garlic paste (T ₁) | 2% w/w Cinnamon powder(T ₂) | 0.2% w/w Clove powder (T ₃) | 200ppm Nitrite (N) |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | 5.884±0.01 ^{ap} | 5.686±0.01 ^{bp} | 5.712±0.02 ^{cp} | 5.682±0.02 ^{dp} | 5.532±0.02 ^{ep} |
| 4 | 5.910±0.006 ^{ap} | 5.893±0.01 ^{aq} | 5.834±0.01 ^{bq} | 5.852±0.009 ^{cq} | 5.759±0.02 ^{dq} |
| 7 | 6.179±0.008 ^{aq} | 5.982±0.01 ^{br} | 6.006±0.01 ^{cr} | 5.923±0.01 ^{dr} | 5.860±0.01 ^{er} |
| 10 | 6.275±0.005 ^{ar} | 6.049±0.01 ^{bs} | 6.184±0.008 ^{cs} | 6.023±0.02 ^{ds} | 5.985±0.01 ^{es} |

Mean ± S.E. with different superscripts between rows (p, q, r, s) and between columns (a, b, c, d) differ significantly ($P < 0.05$).

3.3 Clostridium perfringens count

The *Clostridium perfringens* count (table 3) of control and treated samples increased over storage periods. Treatments

mean of *Clostridium perfringens* count for T₁, T₂, T₃ and N were significantly lower ($p < 0.01$) as compared to control.

Table 3: *Clostridium perfringens* count (log cfu/g) of garlic, cinnamon, clove and nitrite treated minced chicken for different treatments and storage period

| Storage days | Control (C) | 3%Garlic paste (T ₁) | 2% w/w Cinnamon powder(T ₂) | 0.2% w/w Clove powder (T ₃) | 200ppm Nitrite (N) |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | 6.233±0.01 ^{ap} | 5.201±0.01 ^{bp} | 5.648±0.01 ^{cp} | 5.723±0.01 ^{dp} | 5.187±0.008 ^{ep} |
| 4 | 8.474±0.007 ^{aq} | 7.100±0.01 ^{bq} | 7.300±0.007 ^{cq} | 6.194±0.005 ^{dq} | 6.245±0.01 ^{eq} |
| 7 | 9.410±0.009 ^{ar} | 9.177±0.01 ^{br} | 9.297±0.005 ^{cr} | 9.119±0.007 ^{dr} | 7.365±0.005 ^{er} |
| 10 | 9.969±0.01 ^{as} | 9.361±0.003 ^{bs} | 9.349±0.003 ^{cs} | 9.330±0.005 ^{ds} | 8.200±0.01 ^{es} |

Mean ± S.E. with different superscripts between rows (p, q, r, s) and between columns (a, b, c, d) differ significantly ($P < 0.05$).

The *Clostridium perfringens* count of control and treated samples increased over storage periods. The mean *Clostridium perfringens* count (log CFU/g) were significantly lower ($p < 0.05$) for T₁ (3% garlic paste), T₂ (2% w/w cinnamon powder, T₃ (0.2% clove powder), and N (Nitrite) when it is compared to Control. Nitrite was found most effective among all treatments. The findings were in accordance with Amin and Oliveira (2006)^[22] in sausages; Taormina *et al.* (2003)^[22] in that processed meat products. Hernández-Ochoa *et al.* (2011)^[9] also examine minimum inhibitory concentration of essential oil of clove and cumin against *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Clostridium perfringens*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Toxoplasma Gondii*. Clove showed a reduction of 3.78 log CFU/g with application of 2,250µL oil; Goswami *et al.* (2014)^[6] also reported reduce *Clostridium perfringens* using spices at refrigeration; Sharma *et al.* (2012)^[18] in chicken mince using turmeric.

4. Conclusion

The present study was made as an attempt to compare the antimicrobial properties spices like Garlic, Cinnamon and Clove with nitrite. T₁ (3% garlic paste), T₂ (2% w/w cinnamon powder) and T₃ (0.2% w/w clove powder) were significantly effective ($p \leq 0.05$) against *Escherichia coli*. Clove, Cinnamon powder, Garlic paste having good antimicrobial activity than other spices against food pathogenic bacteria. Nitrite was most effective against all treated samples followed by T₃, T₁ and T₂ in chicken mince. These findings revealed that spices having noble antimicrobial activity which could be replaced for preservation of meat and meat products but further research work in this direction is required to confirm in-vivo and in-vitro in future.

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