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Microbiological and physicochemical characterization of surimi obtained from waste of piramutaba fillet

Caracterização físico-química e microbiológica de surimi obtido de resíduos da filetagem de piramutaba

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Abstract

The aim of this work was to perform the microbiological and physicochemical characterization of surimi made from waste of piramutaba filleting. The results of physicochemical characterization of the waste and surimi were: moisture (76.37 and 79.11%), total lipids (5.35 and 0.74%), proteins (14.92 and 10.79%), ash (3.03 and 2.35%), pH (6.9 and 7.4), caloric value (109.15 and 77.86 kcal.g⁻¹), and water activity (both 0.98), respectively. The results of the levels of total volatile bases were 7.29 mgN/100⁻¹ g (waste) and 7.01% carbohydrate (surimi). The values of total lipids and proteins were reduced during the preparation of surimi, probably due to successive washes during the processing. Waste and surimi were examined microbiologically and are in compliance with required parameters. The results show a loss of red (a* parameter) and yellow (b* parameter) color. On the other hand, the L* parameter (lightness) increased after the processing of surimi. It can be concluded that piramutaba waste can be used for surimi preparation and as a source of nutrients for human consumption, providing an alternative use of these wastes avoiding their disposal polluting the environment.

Keywords: surimi; wastes; microbiological quality; physicochemical characterization.

Resumo

O objetivo deste trabalho foi realizar a caracterização físico-química e microbiológica do surimi obtido de resíduos da filetagem de piramutaba. Os resultados da caracterização físico-química dos resíduos e surimi foram: umidade (76,37 e 79,11%), lipídios totais (5,35 e 0,74%), proteínas (14,92 e 10,79%), cinzas (3,03 e 2,35%), pH (6,9 e 7,4), valor calórico (109,15 e 77,86 kcal.g⁻¹) e atividade de água (ambos 0,98), respectivamente. Os resultados dos valores de bases voláteis totais foi de 7,29 mgN/100⁻¹ g (resíduos) e carboidratos de 7,01% (surimi). Os valores de lipídios totais e proteínas foram reduzidos durante o preparo do surimi, provavelmente, devido a sucessivas lavagens durante o processamento. Os resíduos e o surimi foram analisados microbiologicamente estando em conformidade com os parâmetros exigidos. Os resultados mostraram que houve uma perda da cor vermelha (parâmetro a*) e amarela (parâmetro b*). Por outro lado, o parâmetro L* (luminosidade) aumentou após o processamento do surimi. Conclui-se que os resíduos de piramutaba podem ser empregados como matéria-prima de qualidade na elaboração de surimi e como fonte de nutrientes para a alimentação humana, constituindo-se também como uma alternativa para destino dos resíduos, antes lançados no ambiente.

Palavras-chave: surimi; resíduos; qualidade microbiológica; caracterização físico-química.

1 Introduction

One of the most significant groups of ichthyofauna in the Amazonian biodiversity is the large migratory catfish belonging to the family Pimelodidae and some have high commercial value, for example golden piraiba, jaú, surubim caparari, and piramutaba.

Piramutaba (*Brachyplatystoma vaillantii*) belonging to the siluriformes order, is one of the species caught in the Amazon estuary and is very important for regional, national, and international economy. Over 30,000 t of this species are sold annually in the Amazon (BRASIL, 2005). According to Pinheiro and Frédou (2004), among the fishes landed in the

state of Pará, from the estuary, piramutaba is the main target of industrial fisheries.

According to Feltes et al. (2010), the industrial fish processing operations generate a significant amount of wastes, which are rich in proteins and long-chain fatty acids, among which the unsaturated omega-3 fatty acids are prominent. Fish wastes can be used as a substrate for the production of texturized proteins, protein concentrate, mechanically deboned meat, surimi, restructured products, or oil used for human feeding even. On the other hand, according to Godoy et al. (2010), technological alternatives with aggregate value that

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allow the of the fish waste management can generate jobs, promote sustainable development, and contribute to the fight against hunger.

The utilization of fish waste in food industries and tanneries is recent in the country, and it has been an alternative solution to industrialization waste disposal minimizing the impact on the environment. The main waste from piramutaba filleting consists of the head, scales, skin, viscera, and carcass represents more than 60% of its production and can be used in the manufacture of various food products, among them surimi. The use of edible wastes from traditional operations of piramutaba filleting is of great importance for the industry since their wastes, when used for human consumption, not only provide extra income, but also minimize environmental pollution problems (INSTITUTO..., 1999).

According to Kuhn et al. (2008), surimi is a product obtained from the fish muscle, and it consists of soluble proteins in salt solutions, especially myofibrillar proteins, which can be extracted from mechanically separated fish meat in the early stage of the process, forming a concentrate with high nutritional quality and excellent functional properties. This protein concentrate has been used for centuries in Japan to produce kamaboko products, which are thermostable gels formed during the heating of surimi, which had been previously treated with salt to solubilize its protein

According to Peixoto, Sousa and Mota (2002), the production of surimi has been contributing to a better utilization of available fishery resources, including the accompanying fauna, consisting in the transformation of a protein source of high biological value, which normally would be destined for animal feed in the fishmeal form, in products of high nutritional value and technological quality suitable for human consumption. According to Martín-Sánchez et al. (2009), the processing of surimi is an effective way to take advantage of under-used species of fish by making a more sustainable and profitable use of resources.

The aim of this study was to perform the microbiological and physicochemical characterization of the surimi made from waste of piramutaba filleting.

2 Material and methods

2.1 Wastes

Wastes from Piramutaba (*Brachyplatystoma vaillantii*) industrial filleting were obtained in the fishery industry Campasa S.A and Pesqueira Maguary, located in the cities of Curuçá and Belém, Pará state. The wastes were collected immediately after removal from the fish at the fillet processing, washed with chlorinated water (5 ppm), packed in plastic bags, frozen at -18°C , and transported to the Federal University of Pará in Styrofoam boxes with ice, where they were stored in a freezer at -21°C .

2.2 Processing of piramutaba surimi

Preparation of surimi was carried out according to methodology described by Gonçalves, Nogueira and Lourenço (2009), with some modifications (Figure 1).

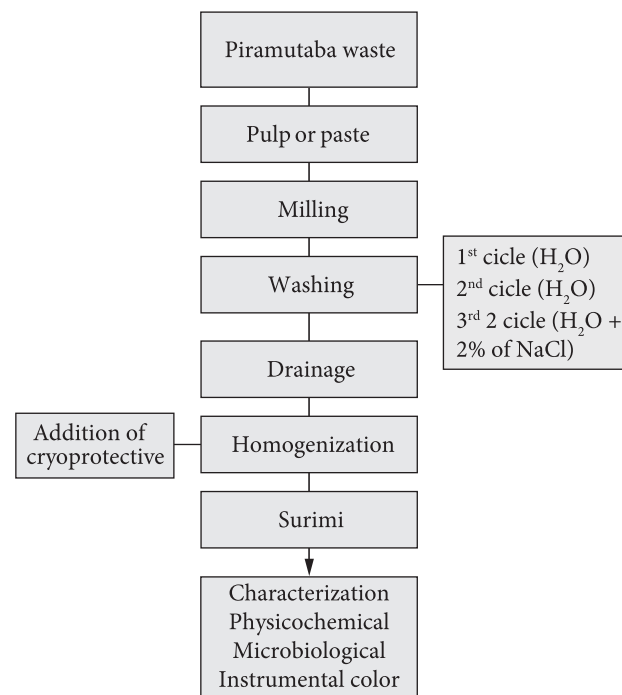


Figure 1. Flowchart of the surimi processing steps.

Piramutaba wastes (frozen) were crushed using a WALITTA Master R17633 food processor. The mass obtained was washed (three cycles) with potable water at a 10 minutes interval with slow manual shaking followed by 5 minutes for decanting. In the washing step, the first two washes were carried out with water only, and the third was carried out by adding 2% NaCl in relation to the amount of pulp to help the extraction of water-soluble proteins. The water:pulp ratio was 5:1, and part of the water was used as ice to keep the temperature between 4 and 5 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. Drainage was done using a centrifuge to remove the excess of water. Subsequently, cryoprotectives, sodium tripolyphosphate (0.2%), and sorbitol (4%) were added to the mass and mixed in a cutter homogenizer for 5 minutes.

The company Duas Rodas Industrial Ltda provided the cryoprotectives additives used in the surimi preparation: sodium tripolyphosphate and sorbitol.

2.3 Physicochemical characterization

Carried out in triplicate, the physicochemical characterization of the raw material and surimi included: moisture, total lipids (Soxhlet method), protein (Kjeldahl method), ash (oven at 550°C - QUIMIS model Q318 M 24), pH, water activity (Aqualab Series 3TE of Decagon) carbohydrates (only in surimi), and caloric value in accordance with the analytical standards of the AOAC (ASSOCIATION..., 1997). Equations 1 and 2, respectively, determined the carbohydrate and caloric value.

$$E = 100 - (A + B + C + D) \quad (1)$$

$$Cv = (P \times 4) + (C \times 4) + (L \times 9) \quad (2)$$

where: A - total protein (%), B - lipids (%), C - moisture (%), D - ash (%), Cv - caloric value (kcal), P - protein (%), C - carbohydrates (%), and L - lipids (%).

To determine the fish freshness, an analysis of total volatile bases (TVB) in the fish waste was carried out (BRASIL, 1952).

2.4 Microbiological analysis

Microbiological determinations were carried out in the waste and surimi, according to the standards required by national legislation (BRASIL, 2001) for coliforms at 45 °C, coagulase-positive *staphylococci*, and *Salmonella* spp. In addition, *Clostridium* sulfite reducer count was made only for surimi. All analysis followed the methodology described by Vanderzant and Splittstoesser (1992).

2.5 Instrumental measures of color

To verify the instrumental color of piramutaba waste and surimi, the readings were carried out in triplicate using a portable colorimeter MINOLTA CR 310 obtaining the L* (lightness), a* (red intensity) and b* (yellow intensity) parameters.

The colorimeter emits a light beam which passes through the sample and comprises three distinct color coordinates, L*, a* and b*, and each one is directed to a photosensor coupled to a specific optical filter. The representation of L*, a* and b* corresponds to human vision, perception, and interpretation of color differences. In this representation, L* indicates the brightness factor and a* and b* are chromaticity coordinates used in mathematical expressions. The result expresses the variation of color (ΔE) given by Equation 3.

$$^{\circ}\Delta E^* = [(\Delta L^*)^2 + (\Delta a^*)^2 + (\Delta b^*)^2]^{1/2} \quad (3)$$

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Physicochemical characterization

The results of the physicochemical characterization of piramutaba wastes and surimi (in wet basis) are presented in Table 1.

Values of moisture, fat, protein, and ashes of piramutaba waste shown in Table 1 are different from the data of Gonçalves, Nogueira and Lourenço (2009) and Bentes et al. (2009), who found the moisture content of 78.63 and 80.30%, proteins 16.12 and 18.47%, lipids 1.05 and 0.43% and ashes 0.64 and 1.01%, respectively. However, both studies were conducted with piramutaba muscle, while the present analysis was carried out with the filleting waste. Gonçalves, Nogueira and Lourenço (2009) found the caloric value of 87.17 kcal piramutaba for waste, which is much smaller value than that found in this study. The chemical composition of fish can vary with the tissues, organs, sex, age, season, and gonadal development.

The average pH value of wastes was equal to that found by Peixoto, Sousa and Mota (2002) for *Macrodon ancylodon*, and it is within the limits considered acceptable for fresh fish. The

Regulation of Industrial and Sanitary Inspection of Animal Products - RIISPOA (BRASIL, 2001) establishes as a maximum pH of 6.5 for the fresh fish muscle; however it is known that the pH increase in muscle may be related to autolysis and subsequent bacterial contamination.

The average value of water activity of piramutaba waste was 0.98 at temperature of 25 °C, a result considered suitable to pathogenic bacteria development, which occurs in an optimum range between 0.995 and 0.980 (CARRASCOSA; CORNEJO, 1989). Simões et al. (2007) found water activity of 0.983 for the Nile tilapia and high moisture content.

The average content of TVB-N (7.29 mgN/100⁻¹ g) found in piramutaba waste was below the established limit by Brazilian law, 30 mgN/100⁻¹ g (BRASIL, 1952). The TVB determination in fish, although is used in the evaluation of freshness, is a cause of controversy among researchers, especially regarding the limits of product acceptance. The value of 30 mgN/100⁻¹ g has proved compatible with other evaluation parameters thus leading some countries, including Brazil, to adopt this value as an upper limit for sale of fish (TEODORO; ANDRADE; MANO, 2007).

With regard to piramutaba surimi, it can be seen in Table 1 that there was an increase in moisture contents (79.11%) and a reduction in the total lipids levels (0.74%), protein (10.79%), and ash (2.35%), probably caused by successive washes during the processing. Mello et al. (2010) found similar values of moisture (80.82%), protein (14.6%), lipids (0.27%), and ash (0.98%) for tilapia surimi.

The protein content found in piramutaba surimi (10.78%) was also close to the levels found by Peixoto, Sousa and Mota (2002) for *Macrodon ancylodon* (11.63%) and Silva (2006), who analyzed mechanically separated meat of weakfish (13.78%) and rosy catfish (15.44%).

According to Peixoto, Sousa and Mota (2002), during the processing of surimi, part of the fat is extracted, and the myofibrillar proteins are concentrated resulting in a product with low fat and cholesterol content. Karthikeyan, Dileep and Shamasundar (2006) report that after the processing of surimi, normally, there is a decreased protein content and increased moisture content due to washing of fish flesh.

Table 1. Physicochemical characterization of wastes and piramutaba surimi.

Analyses	Wastes	Surimi
Moisture %	76.37 ± 0.88	79.11 ± 0.64*
Total lipids %	5.35 ± 0.19	0.74 ± 0.07*
Proteins %	14.92 ± 1.13	10.79 ± 0.28*
Ash %	3.03 ± 0.07	2.35 ± 0.36*
pH	6.9 ± 0.06	7.4 ± 0.02*
Carbohydrates (%)	-	7.01
Caloric value (kcal.g ⁻¹)	109.15 ± 0.16	77.86 ± 0.12
Total volatile bases (mgN/100 ⁻¹ g)	7.29 ± 0.06	-
A _w	0.98	0.98

*The results are averages of three determinations.

The piramutaba surimi showed an increase in pH value, reaching 7.4. According to Balange et al. (2009), during the washing step in the processing of surimi, acid compounds, especially lactic acid, can be leached out, which may have led to this increase in surimi's pH.

The fish has intrinsic conditions that favor microbial multiplication reducing the shelf-life of the product, which can be a concern to public health. The high water activity, the chemical composition, the content of unsaturated fats easily prone to oxidation, and the almost neutral pH of fish meat are decisive factors to stimulate the growth of microorganisms (OLIVEIRA et al., 2008).

3.2 Microbiological analysis

The microbiological analysis of piramutaba wastes and surimi samples are presented in Table 2.

The results of coliforms at 45 °C, *Salmonella*, and coagulase positive *Staphylococci* indicate that the samples of waste and piramutaba surimi were within the limits established by legislation (BRASIL, 2001).

The presence of coliforms in processed foods is considered a useful indication of post-sanitizing contamination evidencing poor hygiene and sanitation practices, which do not meet the required recommendations for food processing. (LIBRELATO; LOPES-SHIKIDA, 2005). According to Cunha Neto, Silva and Stamford (2002), the hygiene condition in which food is prepared is one of the factors responsible for the growth of microorganism.

The presence of *Salmonella* spp. in food indicates inadequacy of the product for consumption, and the bacteria of this genus are the main responsible for food-borne poisoning outbreaks (MAGNANI et al., 2000). Therefore, the samples analyzed in this study are suitable for consumption.

Mello et al. (2010) evaluated four batches (collected at two-month intervals) containing pulp and tilapia surimi. In the first batch of pulp and surimi, coagulase positive *Staphylococcus* were detected as well as *E. coli* in the pulp. In the second batch, although *E. coli* has not contaminated it, contamination by coagulase positive *Staphylococcus* persisted and was even verified the presence of *Salmonella* spp.. Samples of third and fourth batches met the standards established by Brazilian legislation for surimi and similar.

Jesus, Edson Lessi and Tenuta-Filho (2001) studied chemical and microbiological stability of minced fish products of several species of Amazonian fish during 150 days of storage in a freezer

(-18 ± 1 °C and -36 ± 1 °C). During this experimental period, the samples remained good for consumption. According to Germano and Germano (2003), foods with high moisture content and a high percentage of protein, such as fish, are frequently involved in staphylococcal food poisoning outbreaks.

Fish is very prone to contamination and decomposition; therefore, during its preparation, adequate sanitation conditions are essential to ensure it is safe to consume, following microbiological standards set by the federal agencies to avoid risks to consumer health (VAZ, 2005).

3.3 Color analysis

The average values obtained in the color analysis by CIE L^* , a^* , and b^* system carried out in the samples of piramutaba waste and surimi are shown in Table 3.

It seems that there was a great variation in surimi color when evaluated according to the calculation of ΔE^* . In of a^* and b^* analysis, in which the color red and yellow are evaluated, respectively, the reduction in these values shows that there was a major loss of red and yellow color in the surimi, probably due to the high loss of blood pigments and carotenoids (responsible for the reddish color of the fish) removed during the wash steps of the waste. Vaz (2005) found higher values of a^* (0.29) and b^* (12.84) in tilapia surimi.

The values obtained for the L^* parameter was higher in the surimi, i.e., the product had a lighter color than that of the wastes. According to Sarmiento (2006), higher values of lightness (L^*) indicate a clear coloration of meat, which is usually desired by consumers since the browning of meat is usually associated with deterioration. Ribeiro (2007) found different values for color in mapará fillets, 69.82%, which presented lowest brightness,

According to Chawla, Venugopal and Nair (1996) and Vaz (2005), during the washing of fish muscle, the carotenoids, pigments in blood, and soluble nitrogen compounds are removed resulting in less intense color and remarkable odor

Table 3. Results of color analysis of piramutaba waste and surimi. Values are mean \pm standard deviation.

Parameters	Wastes	Surimi
Luminosity (L^*)	73.91 \pm 0.14	87.48 \pm 0.27
Intensity of red (a^*)	7.23 \pm 0.55	0.07 \pm 0.05
Intensity of yellow (b^*)	13.79 \pm 0.12	5.76 \pm 0.20
Change color (ΔE^*)	75.53 \pm 0.58	87.66 \pm 0.34

The results are averages of three determinations.

Table 2. Microbiological analysis of piramutaba wastes and surimi.

Analyses	Wastes	Surimi	Legislation
Coliforms at 45 °C (MPN.g ⁻¹) **	93	95	Max 10 ²
<i>Salmonella</i> (25g)	Absence	Absence	Absence
<i>Staphylococci</i> Coagulase + (UFC.g ⁻¹)***	<1 \times 10	<1.0 \times 10	Max 10 ³
<i>Clostridium</i> sulfite reducer	-	Negative	-

NNP: most probable number; *UFC: colony forming unit.

reduction in the minced meat. Moreover, the brighter the surimi, the faster it will be marketed. According to Ogawa and Maia (1999), myoglobin (Mb), together with small concentrations of hemoglobin (Hb), is the main pigment responsible for the brown-red coloration of fish meat.

According to Carvalho (2005), the process of washing is necessary in the manufacture of surimi due to the following reasons: it inhibits protein denaturation due to freezing because theoretically this mechanism of protein denaturation is caused by crioconcentration of salts in present the muscle; it eliminates the soluble proteins of the fish meat; it removes several components that may possibly lead to denaturation of proteins during freezing such as enzymes and volatile bases; it removes blood, muscular pigments, and meat lipids that darken the surimi.

4 Conclusions

The values of total lipids and proteins were reduced during the preparation of surimi, probably due to successive washes required in this process. Waste of piramutaba fillet and its surimi were examined microbiologically, and the results are in compliance with the required parameters. It was concluded that piramutaba waste can be used for surimi preparation and as a source of nutrients for human consumption, providing an alternative use of these wastes avoiding their disposal polluting the environment.

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