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Aminogénesis y estrategias de control en productos cárnicos fermentados de elaboración artesanal

Mariluz Latorre Moratalla

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FACULTAD DE FARMÀCIA

DEPARTAMENTO DE NUTRICIÓN Y BROMATOLOGÍA

**AMINOGÉNESIS Y ESTRATEGIAS DE CONTROL EN
PRODUCTOS CÁRNICOS FERMENTADOS DE
ELABORACIÓN ARTESANAL**

MARILUZ LATORRE MORATALLA

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FACULTAD DE FARMÀCIA
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**AMINOGÉNESIS Y ESTRATEGIAS DE CONTROL EN
PRODUCTOS CÁRNICOS FERMENTADOS DE ELABORACIÓN
ARTESANAL**

*Memoria presentada por Mariluz Latorre Moratalla para optar al título de
doctor por la Universidad de Barcelona*

Dirección:

Dra. M. Carmen Vidal Carou

Dra. Sara Bover i Cid

Doctoranda:

Mariluz Latorre Moratalla

MARILUZ LATORRE MORATALLA, 2010

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INTRODUCCIÓN

Introducción

Las aminas biógenas son unos microcomponentes de los alimentos para las que no se ha demostrado ningún efecto favorable sobre los productos alimenticios. Además de indicar una pérdida de la calidad higiénica del producto, se asocian a posibles riesgos en consumidores sensibles. En consecuencia, muchos productores de alimentos se enfrentan al reto de producir alimentos con un bajo contenido de aminas, optimizando la calidad del producto final y minimizando los riesgos para la salud.

El enfoque multidisciplinario que combina la química, la microbiología y los aspectos tecnológicos de la acumulación de las aminas biógenas en los alimentos ha sido la piedra angular de la investigación en este campo. Este enfoque ha proporcionado respuestas fiables sobre el origen y el significado de las aminas, y ha permitido el desarrollo de algunas medidas tecnológicas orientadas a reducir su aparición. Actualmente, en el caso concreto de los embutidos cárnicos fermentados, es posible elaborar productos con cantidades muy bajas de aminas biógenas, sobre todo aquellos procedentes de una elaboración industrializada, en los que se aplica un control exhaustivo de las prácticas higiénicas y se usan cultivos iniciadores debidamente seleccionados que permiten de una forma efectiva evitar la formación de estos compuestos.

La elaboración artesanal de los productos cárnicos fermentados tiene lugar normalmente mediante una fermentación espontánea, es decir, por una selección natural de microorganismos fermentativos, que son los responsables de los cambios bioquímicos y físicos que confieren las particularidades organolépticas típicas de este tipo de productos, tan apreciadas por parte del consumidor. Por tanto, el uso de cultivos iniciadores comerciales no es recomendable en este tipo de productos de elaboración artesanal. Además, debido a las dificultades técnico-higiénicas que pueden

tener las pequeñas empresas o plantas elaboradoras, la elaboración de los productos artesanales podría tener, *a priori*, un mayor riesgo de contaminación microbiana potencialmente aminogénica.

El presente trabajo de tesis se enmarca dentro del proyecto europeo TRADISAUSAGE (QLK1-CT-2002-02240 - “Assessment and Improvement of Safety of Traditional Dry Sausages from Producers to Consumers”) que pretendió evaluar la seguridad y la calidad higiénica de los embutidos de elaboración artesanal, desde el productor hasta el consumidor, con el fin de proponer medidas de mejora, preservando al mismo tiempo la calidad sensorial de este tipo de productos. En el proyecto participaron 10 grupos de investigación pertenecientes a cinco estados miembros de la Comunidad Europea del área mediterránea (Francia, Grecia, Italia, Portugal y España) junto con un estado centro europeo (Eslovaquia).

Además de los trabajos concretos previstos por el proyecto TRADISAUSAGE (Capítulos 6, 7 y 9), se llevaron a cabo otros estudios paralelos, que permitieron completar y estudiar más específicamente algunos objetivos específicos de la tesis, para lo que se diseñaron experimentos específicos realizados a nivel de planta piloto y de laboratorio (Capítulos 8 y 9).

REVISIÓN BIBLIOGRÁFICA

1

PRODUCTOS CÁRNICOS CRUDOS-CURADOS FERMENTADOS

La obtención de productos cárnicos fermentados constituyó uno de los primeros hitos en la conservación de los alimentos junto con la salazón, la desecación y el ahumado. El origen del proceso fermentativo data aproximadamente del año 1500 a. C. y posiblemente fue de manera casual, al comprobar que la carne picada con sal y especias y embutida en tripas no se deterioraba (Hugas, 1994). Se estima que los primeros embutidos se elaboraron en el área del Mediterráneo ya que el clima (temperatura y humedad) era favorable para el proceso de fermentación y maduración-secado (Lücke, 1994), por lo que es probable que las actuales denominaciones de salchichas o salchichones provengan etimológicamente de la “salsicia” o “farta salsicia”, un embutido crudo y salado de la época de los romanos (Hugas, 1994).

Actualmente, Europa sigue siendo el mayor productor y consumidor de este tipo de embutidos (Talon y col., 2004), aunque esta producción se ha extendido a más países como Estados Unidos, Argentina y Australia (Demeyer y col., 2004). Existe una amplia variedad de productos cárnicos fermentados en el mercado europeo que responden a diversas materias primas, formulaciones y procesos de fabricación utilizados. A partir de la segunda mitad del siglo XX se empezaron a utilizar los cultivos iniciadores para controlar y estandarizar la fabricación de embutidos a nivel industrial, pero aun hoy en día, existen abundantes embutidos fermentados de elaboración artesanal, conocidos y muy apreciados a nivel local o regional.

1.1 Elaboración de productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados

Los productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados pueden definirse como productos cárnicos constituidos por una mezcla de carne (normalmente cerdo), grasa en proporción variable, sal, azúcar, nitratos y/o nitritos y, dependiendo del lugar de producción, diferentes tipos de condimentos (vino, ajo, pimentón, etc.) que, debidamente embutidos en tripas naturales o artificiales, se someten a un proceso de fermentación/maduración y, eventualmente, ahumado. En estas etapas del proceso se establecen las modificaciones físico-químicas y bioquímicas que conferirán al producto las características organolépticas propias, además de aumentar su estabilidad.

La fermentación tiene lugar durante un periodo aproximado de 24 a 72 horas a temperaturas que pueden oscilar entre los 15 y los 26 °C, según el tipo de producto y fabricante, y con una humedad relativa superior al 90 %. Transcurrido este periodo, la temperatura y la humedad relativa descienden progresivamente favoreciendo el proceso de desecación, de duración mucho más variable dependiendo del tipo de producto. En algunos casos, estas dos etapas se realizan a temperatura y humedad constante.

La microbiota típica de los embutidos fermentados está constituida preferentemente por bacterias del ácido láctico y cocos Gram-positivos catalasa positivos (CGC+). Esta microbiota es, en general, capaz de generar por sí sola una correcta fermentación, pues la adición de sal (con la consecuente disminución de la a_w) y azúcares (como sustrato energético) favorecen selectivamente su desarrollo. En el ámbito de la elaboración industrial de embutidos fermentados es habitual el uso de cultivos iniciadores, que proporcionan a la masa cárnica inicial una elevada carga microbiana beneficiosa que fácilmente dominará sobre la microbiota endógena, permitiendo que la fermentación se lleve a cabo de una manera más controlada y así estandarizar la calidad del proceso, reduciendo el peligro de que se produzcan deficiencias de origen microbiano (Cocconcelli, 2007).

En la Figura 1.1 se muestran de manera esquemática los diferentes procesos de naturaleza fisicoquímica, bioquímica y microbiológica que ocurren durante la elaboración de los productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados y que provocan los cambios de composición, sabor, olor, color y textura característicos de este tipo de productos.

En los embutidos fermentados, las bacterias del ácido láctico, con recuentos finales de 10^7 - 10^9 ufc/g, convierten los azúcares en ácido láctico, de manera que se produce una disminución del pH. Esta acidificación favorece la selección de la propia microbiota fermentativa, inhibiendo a su vez el desarrollo de microorganismos causantes de alteraciones y de patógenos. La disminución del pH también produce la desnaturalización de las proteínas, permitiendo la coagulación proteica y, consecuentemente, la aparición de la cohesión y la textura características de estos productos. Por otro lado, la desnaturalización proteica provoca una pérdida de la capacidad de retención de agua por parte de las proteínas cárnicas, hecho que favorece el proceso de secado del producto sometido a maduración.

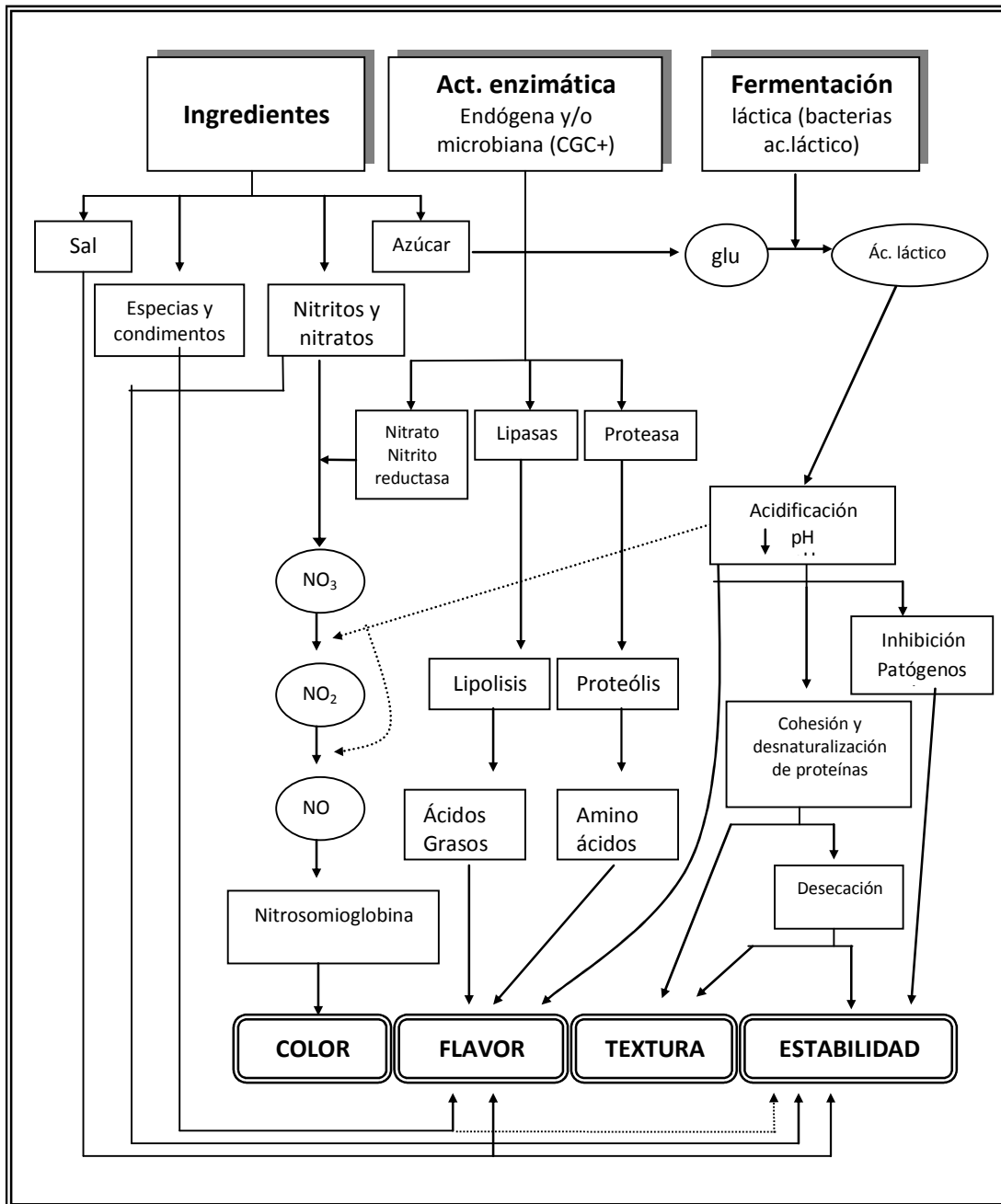


Figura 1.1. Esquema de los cambios físico-químicos, bioquímicos y microbiológicos que tienen lugar durante la fermentación y la maduración de embutidos fermentados (Modificado de Buckenhüskes, 1993).

La disminución de la actividad de agua, igual que la acidificación, también tiene un efecto conservador, ya que evita el desarrollo de microorganismos alterantes o indeseables (Ordóñez y col., 1990). Los niveles iniciales de bacterias alterantes, como pseudomonas y enterobacterias, son muy variables dependiendo del tipo de embutido y fundamentalmente de las materias primas empleadas.

Durante el proceso de maduración de los embutidos se desarrolla el color típico, principalmente por las reacciones que se producen entre el óxido nitroso (resultado de la adición de nitratos y nitritos) y la mioglobina (pigmento mayoritario de la carne) dando lugar a la nitrosomioglobina (Ordóñez y col., 1990; Honikel, 2007). Este proceso se ve favorecido por la actividad nitrato y nitrito reductasa de los CGC+ (estafilococos, micrococos y Kocuria), segundo grupo microbiano en importancia, después de las bacterias del ácido láctico. Este grupo microbiano alcanza niveles de 10^6 - 10^8 ufc/g (Lebert y col., 2007).

El *flavour* característico se desarrolla gracias a fenómenos de lipólisis y proteólisis, tanto por parte de enzimas endógenos propios de la carne como por enzimas de origen microbiano (Ordóñez y col., 1990)

La lipólisis que tiene lugar durante la maduración de los embutidos repercute en el desarrollo del aroma. Ciertas bacterias lácticas poseen lipasas y sobretodo estererasas que contribuyen a estos cambios bioquímicos, pero son otros microorganismos, especialmente mohos o levaduras, que pueden estar presentes a niveles del orden de 10^2 – 10^5 ufc/g (Lebert y col., 2007) y los enzimas endógenos, los responsables principalmente de la lipólisis. La carne tiene diversas lipasas y fosfolipasas que actúan sobre los triglicéridos y los fosfolípidos, respectivamente. Los ácidos grasos que genera esta lipólisis se oxidan generando compuestos volátiles o bien productos de oxidación secundaria que reaccionan con diferentes sustratos de

origen proteico formando compuestos de intenso aroma (Toldrà, 1998, Tjener y Stahnke, 2007).

La proteólisis es uno de los procesos importantes durante la maduración de los productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados. Inicialmente, la hidrólisis de proteínas se atribuiría principalmente a la actividad proteolítica de los microorganismos presentes en la masa cárnica embutida, sobre todo a la de las bacterias del ácido láctico y a la de los CGC+ (Dierick y col., 1974). Además de los enzimas de origen microbiano, también es importante la proteólisis que ejercen los enzimas endógenos, como las catepsinas. No hay un consenso entre cual de los dos tipos de proteólisis juega un papel principal en la maduración de estos productos (Toldrà, 2007). Como se puede ver en la Figura 1.2, en una primera fase las proteasas hidrolizan las proteínas musculares y los péptidos resultantes son degradados por peptidasas generando péptidos cada vez más pequeños. En los últimos estadios del proceso proteolítico, tanto bacteriano como endógeno, se obtienen aminoácidos libres que son utilizados por ciertos microorganismos como sustrato para diversas reacciones enzimáticas (Toldrá, 2001). Muchas de estas reacciones enzimáticas (desaminación, deshidrogenación, transaminación...) están relacionadas con el desarrollo de aromas y sabores característicos de estos productos. La descarboxilación de ciertos aminoácidos provoca la formación de aminas biógenas, compuestos objeto de estudio del presente trabajo.

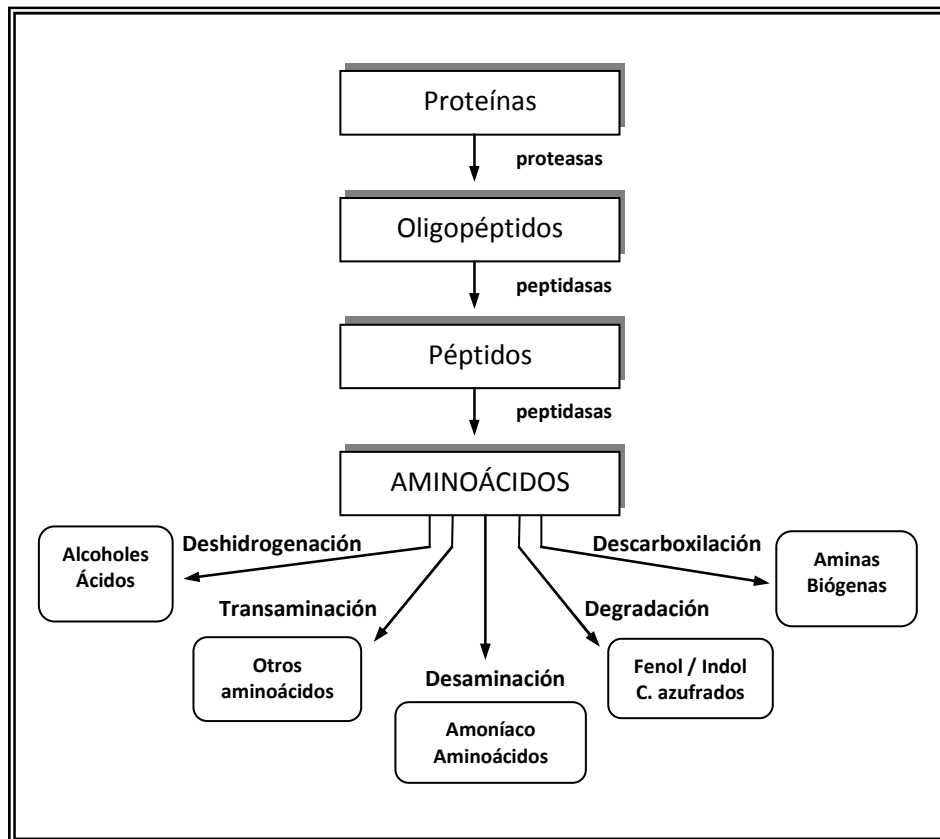


Figura 1.2. Esquema de las principales etapas de la proteólisis y de las rutas de transformación de los aminoácidos (Toldrà, 2003).

1.2 Productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados artesanales

En el sector alimentario, y especialmente en el sector cárnico, las crisis alimentarias (vascas locas, gripe aviar y porcina...) y los casos recurrentes de toxiinfecciones alimentarias, han reducido, al menos en parte, la confianza de los consumidores en los sistemas de producción industrial, revalorizándose cada vez más la producción artesanal.

La producción artesanal de los productos cárnicos fermentados en Europa se puede clasificar principalmente en dos tipos (Proyecto Tradisausage QLK1-CT-2002-02240):

- **Producción en la granja o elaboración ligada al sitio de producción**, en la que las materias primas proceden de los animales de la granja. La elaboración, por parte del propio granjero, tiene lugar en la propia granja o en una pequeña planta de elaboración. Este sistema de producción se encuentra muy desarrollado en Francia, Portugal, Eslovaquia, Bélgica, Gran Bretaña e Italia.
- **Producción en plantas de procesamiento local o elaboración ligada al sitio de venta**, en la que los charcuteros elaboran productos tradicionales a partir de materias primas procedentes de la granja y que después se venden en el mismo establecimiento. Esta producción es típica del sur de Francia, España y Alemania.

En la elaboración artesanal de los embutidos crudos-curados fermentados, al contrario de lo que sucede en la mayoría de los productos de origen industrial, la fermentación y la maduración o curado no siempre constituyen dos etapas separadas. En función de las condiciones climáticas locales, estas prácticas pueden ser muy diferentes en términos de temperatura, humedad relativa y duración (Lebert y col., 2007). Además, normalmente la fermentación tiene lugar gracias a la microbiota que se deriva de las materias primas o del ambiente de la planta elaboradora. Esta microbiota es conocida con el nombre de autóctona o "in-house-flora" (García-Varona y col., 2000). Las particularidades tecnológicas de la elaboración de estos productos, mediante fermentaciones poco intensas por parte de la microbiota autóctona, proporcionan embutidos poco acidificados con un pH comprendido entre 5,3 y 6,2 (Martín y col., 2003).

Las poblaciones microbianas de los embutidos fermentados artesanales muestran evoluciones similares a los considerados no artesanales. Así, las bacterias del ácido láctico también constituyen la microbiota principal, siendo las especies más comúnmente identificadas en estos productos *Lactobacillus sakei*, *L. curvatus* y *L. plantarum*. Sin embargo, a diferencia de lo que ocurre en los productos más industrializados elaborados con cultivos iniciadores, el crecimiento de las bacterias del ácido láctico es más lento o menos intenso, lo que explicaría la obtención de productos menos ácidos. Otra diferencia es que en los productos artesanales los niveles de CGC+ suelen ser más elevados que los normalmente encontrados en productos industriales. De esta forma la relación entre bacterias del ácido láctico y CGC+ está más igualada en los productos artesanales, hecho que está relacionado con unas connotaciones sensoriales más ricas y/o particulares (Aymerich y col., 2003; Martin y col., 2006). Las principales especies de CGC+, bacterias que contribuyen sobre todo a la formación del color y del sabor, son *Staphilococcus xylosus*, *S. saprophyticus* y *S. equorum* (Lebert y col., 2007, Garriga y Aymerich, 2007). Además, una parte considerable de la microbiota de los embutidos fermentados artesanalmente son los enterococos, principalmente *Enterococcus faecium*. Los enterococos son bacterias del ácido láctico que pueden alcanzar niveles de 10^6 ufc/g, ya que estos productos tienen un pH relativamente alto y proporcionan las condiciones ideales para su supervivencia y/o crecimiento (Hugas y col., 2003).

En la elaboración artesanal de productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados se llevan a cabo diversos procedimientos o estrategias para facilitar el desarrollo de los microorganismos fermentativos al iniciar el proceso de fermentación (sin adicionar cultivos iniciadores puros). Entre estas prácticas tradicionales destacan: (i) la maduración de las materias primas, que consiste en dejar reposar la masa cárnica a bajas temperaturas durante 24 horas aproximadamente antes de embutirla (Rovira y col., 1994), (ii) adicionar a la masa cárnica fresca parte de un producto de una partida anterior, técnica conocida como “back-sloping”, el cual presenta las características

organolépticas que deseamos transmitir a la nueva partida (Geisen y col., 1992) o (iii) emplear carnes presaladas o saladas, en las que se ha desarrollado un microbiota láctica homofermentativa (Rovira y col., 1994).

Las particularidades de la elaboración artesanal confieren a los embutidos múltiples matices organolépticos, muy apreciados por parte del consumidor, en contraposición a los cada vez más estandarizados productos de origen industrial.

Sin embargo, las normas de calidad e higiene definidas para las grades industrias de procesado no siempre son compatibles con las habitualmente pequeñas plantas de elaboración de embutidos artesanales, que necesitarían un tratamiento más individualizado. Es fundamental por lo tanto, proporcionar a los productores artesanales los medios para obtener productos seguros, asegurando también la supervivencia de las economías locales y sus efectos positivos sobre el empleo. Por este motivo parece de gran importancia el estudio de las comunidades microbianas naturales con interés tecnológico, a fin de obtener cultivos iniciadores específicos que sean capaces de producir embutidos de tipo artesanal con una óptima calidad higiénico-sanitaria (con mejores garantías que los procedimientos naturales) pero respetando las cualidades organolépticas y sensoriales de la región de origen. De esta manera, se superaría el inconveniente de la obtención de productos “globalizados” y/o estandarizados por el uso de cultivos iniciadores comerciales utilizados en la elaboración industrial de embutidos fermentados.

2

AMINAS BIÓGENAS EN PRODUCTOS CÁRNICOS CRUDOS-CURADOS FERMENTADOS

2.1. Clasificación y relevancia de las aminas biógenas

Las aminas biógenas, también conocidas como aminas biológicamente activas, son compuestos nitrogenados de bajo peso molecular de origen biológico, que se pueden encontrar en casi todos los tipos de alimentos en un intervalo amplio de concentraciones. Estos compuestos se clasifican en tres grupos según su origen y estructura química: aminas biógenas aromáticas, aminas biógenas alifáticas y poliaminas naturales (Figura 2.1). Las aminas biógenas se producen principalmente por la descarboxilación de los aminoácidos precursores por parte de enzimas específicos de origen microbiano. En este grupo se incluyen las aminas biógenas aromáticas (tiramina, feniletilamina, histamina y triptamina) y las aminas biógenas alifáticas (putrescina, cadaverina y agmatina). Las poliaminas naturales, espermidina y espermina, no están asociadas con la actividad microbiana y su biosíntesis intracelular en la mayoría de los seres vivos sigue procesos distintos a la descarboxilación de aminoácidos. Niveles bajos de putrescina pueden considerarse también de origen natural o fisiológico, como precursora de la poliamina espermidina (Bardócz 1995; Izquierdo-Pulido y col. 1999). A pesar de que en este trabajo de tesis se han determinado las poliaminas presentes en los productos cárnicos fermentados, estas aminas han recibido menos atención que el resto de aminas de origen microbiano debido a que su presencia no tiene implicaciones toxicológicas ni higiénico-tecnológicas.

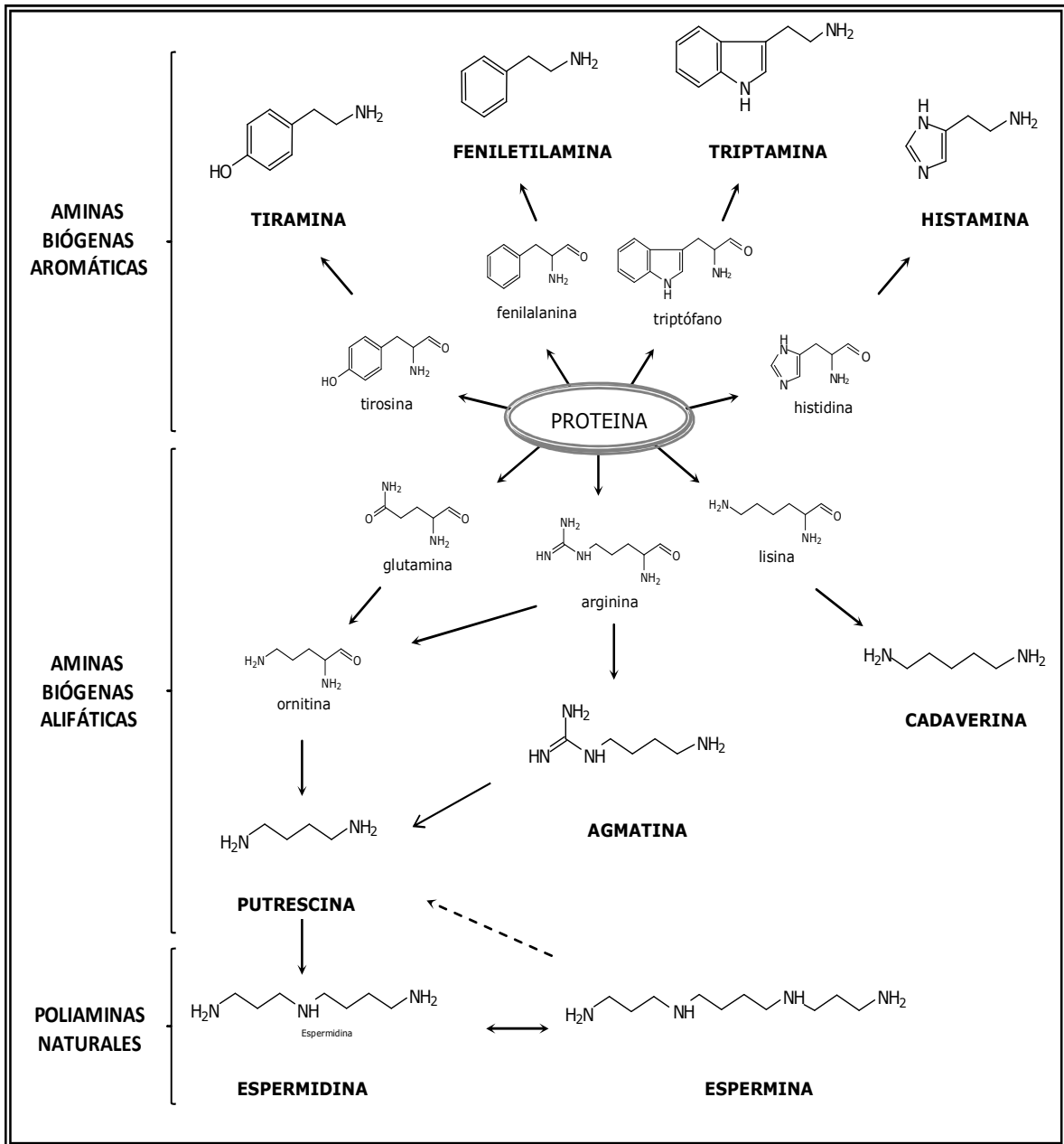


Figura 2.1. Estructuras químicas y vías de formación de las aminas biológicamente activas.

Los alimentos también se han clasificado según su susceptibilidad de contener más o menos aminas biógenas. El origen, la naturaleza y la significación de los contenidos de aminas detectados en alimentos, vienen determinados en gran parte por el tipo de

matriz de las materias primas y por los diferentes tipos de procesado a los que se los somete (Mariné-Font y col., 1995). Así, podemos clasificar los alimentos como:

- **Alimentos con aminos biógenos preformados.** Además de las poliaminas fisiológicas, espermina y espermidina, pueden encontrarse cantidades normalmente bajas de otras aminos biógenos, tanto aromáticas como alifáticas, aunque no son atribuibles a una actividad microbiana. En este grupo se incluyen alimentos que incorporan vísceras o sangre (morcilla, *foie gras*, etc), así como algunos productos vegetales como el plátano, piña, aguacate, tomate o espinacas.
- **Alimentos perecederos que presentan una elevada susceptibilidad a una rápida descomposición o alteración microbiana.** La carne, el pescado y los productos derivados no fermentados (frescos o en conserva) que se hayan podido almacenar y/o manipular en condiciones poco apropiadas podrían presentar contenidos de aminos biógenos elevados debido a la acción aminoácido-descarboxilasa de microorganismos contaminantes relacionados con el deterioro.
- **Alimentos fermentados y/o madurados por parte de ciertos microorganismos.** Las aminos biógenos se podrían formar, en parte o totalmente, como consecuencia de una actividad microbiana necesaria para la propia elaboración del producto. No obstante, se ha de considerar la posibilidad de que estos productos sufran también algún tipo de contaminación durante su elaboración (especialmente de las materias primas) que provoque una formación de aminos biógenos en cantidades superiores a las que se podrían considerar normales (si el proceso se hubiese llevado a cabo en condiciones óptimas desde el punto de vista higiénico). Ejemplos de este tipo de alimentos son los productos crudos-curados fermentados (embutidos),

bebidas alcohólicas (cervezas vinos, sidra...) y productos lácteos fermentados (quesos).

El origen del estudio de las aminas biógenas se remonta a mediados del siglo XIX. En 1846 Liebig describe por primera vez la presencia de una amina en un alimento a la que llamó precisamente amina del queso o tiramina, (TYROS significa “queso” en griego). Sin embargo hasta 1919 no aparecen los primeros estudios de Koessler y Hanke sobre producción de aminas (histamina) por microorganismos intestinales (*Bacillus coli*, más tarde *Escherichia coli*). Es ya desde este momento que se reconoce que las aminas biógenas son metabolitos de origen microbiano resultantes de la descarboxilación de aminoácidos precursores. Es también en esta época que se evidencia que los enzimas responsables de esta reacción son más o menos específicos del sustrato y que no siempre están presentes en todos los microorganismos. Tanto es así, que en los años 50 se describió la capacidad de formar ciertas aminas biógenas como uno de los criterios taxonómicos a tener en cuenta para la identificación de enterobacterias. Aunque los estudios microbiológicos no cesaron, no fue hasta la década de los 50, que aparecieron los primeros trabajos en los que se tratan las aminas biógenas como componentes de los alimentos, como por ejemplo, Tarantola (1954) que describe la presencia de histamina en vino. A partir de los años 60, precisamente en relación con los alimentos, resurgió el interés del estudio de las aminas biógenas a raíz de las crisis hipertensivas graves (algunas mortales) causadas por la interacción entre alimentos ricos en aminas (concretamente tiramina en queso) y los medicamentos inhibidores de la enzima mono-aminoxidasa (IMAOs), que inhiben los enzimas responsables de la destoxificación de las aminas en el organismo (Blackwell, 1963). Desde entonces, las aminas biógenas se han considerado unos microcomponentes de los alimentos indeseables, por su potencial efecto negativo sobre la salud del consumidor y, por lo tanto, se han enmarcado en el ámbito de la seguridad alimentaria (Shalaby, 1990; Mariné-Font y col., 1995).

Por otra parte, las aminos biógenas son también relevantes desde los puntos de vista higiénico y tecnológico (Brink y col. 1990; Mariné-Font y col. 1995; Izquierdo-Pulido y col. 1999). Varias aminos biógenas (principalmente las diaminas, putrescina y cadaverina, y la histamina) pueden formarse como consecuencia de la actividad de ciertas bacterias contaminantes (enterobacterias y pseudomonas), por lo que estos compuestos pueden ser útiles como indicadores químicos de unas condiciones higiénicas defectuosas de las materias primas y/o de los procesos de elaboración. También como metabolitos microbianos, algunas aminos biógenas (principalmente tiramina), se han relacionado con la fermentación de la leche y la carne, por lo que en algunas ocasiones se ha considerado que la aparición de tiramina es inherente al proceso de fabricación de los productos cárnicos fermentados. Sin embargo, se ha demostrado que los alimentos fermentados pueden mostrar también contenidos bajos de esta amina en particular, y de otras aminos biógenas en general. Por lo tanto, es importante determinar los niveles de aminos biógenas (como la suma de aminos o de una en particular), que podrían considerarse como normales y/o inevitables, y, por tanto, establecer un valor umbral que pueda indicar unas prácticas higiénicas inadecuadas.

Por su parte, las poliaminas, espermidina y espermina, están involucradas en el metabolismo, el crecimiento y la diferenciación celular. Además, estudios recientes han sugerido que las poliaminas también puede proteger contra el estrés oxidativo, con un efecto similar al de otros compuestos de los alimentos con reconocida actividad antioxidante (Farriol y col., 2003; Das y Misra, 2004; Kalák, 2009)

2.2. Riesgos toxicológicos de las aminos

El análisis del riesgo es hoy en día una de las metodologías fundamentales en las que se basa el desarrollo de las normas de seguridad alimentaria. Consta de tres

elementos distintos: la evaluación del riesgo, la gestión del riesgo y la comunicación del riesgo. En particular, la evaluación del riesgo a través de la identificación del peligro, caracterización del peligro, evaluación de la exposición y caracterización del riesgo, ofrece un marco adecuado para estudiar los riesgos en seguridad alimentaria.

A pesar de que los problemas de salud asociados al consumo de aminas biógenas están bien documentados, la información relativa a los mecanismos, las dosis tóxicas y los factores individuales que regulan la gravedad de las reacciones es inconsistente. Por el momento, no es posible realizar una evaluación de riesgo precisa y completa, sobre todo porque no hay suficientes datos disponibles para estimar razonablemente el nivel de la enfermedad causada por la exposición a las aminas biógenas procedentes de la dieta. Sin embargo, en este apartado se ha intentado tratar la información disponible en relación a las aminas biógenas con una aproximación basada en el procedimiento de la evaluación del riesgo.

2.2.1 Identificación del peligro

De todas las aminas biógenas, la tiramina, la histamina y, en menor medida, la feniletilamina, son las principales aminas implicadas en la aparición de efectos adversos en la salud (Tabla 2.1). La ingesta de aminas biógenas puede ocasionar trastornos, como intoxicaciones, o intolerancias histamínicas, crisis hipertensivas y casos de migrañas inducidas por alimentos (Taylor, 1986; Bardócz, 1995; Mariné-Font y col., 1995; Shalaby 1996; Amon y col., 1999). Los mecanismos de acción de las aminas biógenas implican reacciones vasoactivas y psicoactivas. Las propiedades vasoconstrictoras de la tiramina y la feniletilamina parecen ser responsables del aumento de la presión arterial si éstas alcanzan una concentración sanguínea mayor que la considerada fisiológicamente normal. Además de la hipertensión, la tiramina también puede provocar dolor de cabeza, sudoración, vómitos y dilatación de la

pupila, entre otros. La histamina produce vasodilatación y una subsecuente hipotensión, así como otros síntomas cutáneos (enrojecimiento y picor), gastrointestinales (diarrea, cólicos, vómitos) o neurológicos (dolor de cabeza, mareos), efectos todos ellos, mediados por los receptores de histamina específicos de las membranas celulares (Stratton y col., 1991; Mariné-Font y col., 1995; Shalaby, 1996). Los síntomas suelen aparecer a partir de los 30 minutos de la ingesta y suelen desaparecer dentro de las 24 horas siguientes, aunque también se han descrito reacciones retardadas que tienen lugar después de las 24 horas de la exposición (Wöhrl y col., 2004). La gravedad del trastorno es variable, pero puede considerarse leve, ya que sólo a veces requieren atención médica (FAO, 2004).

Precisamente, el carácter leve de los síntomas junto con, en muchas ocasiones, un diagnóstico equivocado (en el caso de la histamina puede confundirse con una alergia alimentaria) y la falta de un sistema obligatorio de registro de datos sobre enfermedades causadas por los alimentos, son los principales motivos de la falta de estadísticas sobre la incidencia de intoxicación por consumo de alimentos ricos en aminas biógenas. Este vacío de información es aún mayor en relación con los embutidos fermentados, muy probablemente debido a que la toxicidad de la tiramina ha sido en gran medida relacionada con el consumo de queso (reacción del queso), mientras que la intoxicación por histamina se ha asociado a los productos pesqueros (intoxicación histamínica o escombroides).

Las diaminas, putrescina y cadaverina, y las poliaminas, espermina y espermidina, no son tóxicas en sí mismas, pero pueden favorecer la absorción de las aminas vasoactivas ya que contribuyen a saturar las barreras intestinales. El efecto potenciador de estas diaminas se explicaría por la competencia por los sitios de fijación en la mucina así como por los enzimas detoxificadores (Chu y Bjeldanes, 1981, Hui y Taylor, 1985; Taylor, 1986).

Un riesgo toxicológico adicional, tanto de las aminas biógenas como de las poliaminas, especialmente de las que son aminas secundarias, es la formación de nitrosaminas, compuestos nitrogenados con una actividad potencialmente carcinogénica (Ochiai y col., 1984; Shalaby, 1996). Las nitrosaminas son el resultado de la interacción de los nitritos y las aminas secundarias. El curado, la cocción o el ahumado de productos cárnicos se han descrito como procesos que favorecen la formación de nitrosaminas. El proceso de elaboración de productos cárnicos fermentados implica agentes nitrosantes (como los nitritos y nitratos), un leve pH ácido y temperaturas más o menos elevadas, condiciones todas ellas que favorecen la formación de nitrosaminas. Así, en embutidos fermentados se han descrito pequeñas cantidades de nitrosaminas (Eerola y col., 1998). Sin embargo, según varias evaluaciones del riesgo (Gangolli y col., 1994; Fernlöf y Darnerud, 1996), las fuentes dietéticas (incluidos los embutidos fermentados) de nitritos y otros compuestos N-nitroso constituyen una pequeña contribución al global de compuestos nitrogenados del organismo, ya que la principal fuente de estos compuestos se atribuiría al metabolismo bacteriano intestinal de los nitratos ingeridos.

2.2.2 Caracterización del peligro

En individuos sanos no medicados, las barreras enzimáticas a nivel intestinal y hepático son eficientes para metabolizar las aminas exógenas, y, además, en circunstancias normales la presencia de estos compuestos en la dieta es baja o moderada, por lo que las aminas biógenas no constituyen un riesgo para la salud de la mayoría de los consumidores. Sin embargo, algunos factores genéticos pueden ser responsables de la sensibilidad crónica que sufren ciertas personas. Por otro lado, una susceptibilidad aguda o temporal a estos componentes de los alimentos puede ser debida a algunas enfermedades intestinales o a varios fármacos que inhiben los enzimas responsables del metabolismo de las aminas: monoamino-oxidasa (MAO),

diamino-oxidasa (DAO) y hidroximetiltransferasa (HMT). La influencia de la medicación podría ser en estos casos crítica, ya que no sólo los conocidos fármacos IMAO (antidepresivos y antiparkinsonianos) aumentan la susceptibilidad, sino también un número considerable de medicamentos bastante comunes, como acetilcisteína, metoclopramida, verapamilo, isoniazida, cefalosporinas, etc, muestran capacidad para inhibir la DAO (Vecina-Nogués y Vidal-Carou, 2008). Sattler y col. (1988) estiman que aproximadamente el 20% de la población europea podrían consumir alguno de estos fármacos inhibidores de la DAO. Además otros componentes de los alimentos, como otras aminas biógenas o el alcohol y su metabolito, el acetaldehído, podrían aumentar o potenciar la susceptibilidad a las aminas y, en consecuencia, el riesgo de sufrir reacciones adversas puede ser importante (Maintz y Novak, 2007).

La Tabla 2.2 recoge algunos de los trabajos que describen las dosis necesarias de aminas para desencadenar crisis hipertensivas, migrañas o intoxicaciones histamínicas. La toxicidad derivada del efecto vasoconstrictor de la tiramina está documentada sobre todo en estudios clínicos sobre la interacción entre la tiramina procedente de la dieta y los medicamentos IMAO. Estos estudios demuestran que las barreras intestinales para la tiramina en voluntarios sanos no medicados (grupo placebo) son bastante eficaces, ya que son necesarios entre 200 mg y 2000 mg de tiramina para provocar una mínima respuesta en la presión arterial.

Tabla 2.1. Identificación del peligro

| | HISTAMINA | TIRAMINA (β -FENILETILAMINA) | PUTRESCINA CADAVERINA |
|--|--|---|---|
| Mecanismo de toxicidad (agudo)* | Vasodilatación y psicoactivos | Vasoconstricción (liberación de adrenalina) | Saturación de las barreras intestinales (si la proporción es 5:1) |
| Síntomas clínicos | Cardiovasculares (enrojecimiento, urticaria, hipotensión, edema, dolor de cabeza) Neurológicos (dolor, picor). 1min-3h "incubación" 3h -6h de duración (<12h) | Aumento de la presión arterial, fiebre, sudoración y vómitos. Dilatación de la pupila, lagrimeo, etc. Dolor de cabeza y migraña. Algunos minutos de "incubación" 10 min a 6h de duración | Potenciación de los efectos de otras aminas |
| Duración | | | -- |
| Gravedad | Baja a moderada | Baja a moderada (grave con ciertos tratamientos farmacológicos) | -- |
| Brotos | Tasa media anual (casos/año/millón de personas) de intoxicaciones histamínicas por consumo de pescado: 31 en Hawái, USA; 4,9 en Dinamarca; 3.1 en Nueva Zelanda; 2.5 en Francia; 2.1 en Finlandia; 1.5 en Taiwán; 1.1 en Japón; <1 en Reino Unido, Noruega, Suiza, Sudáfrica, Australia, USA, Suecia, Canadá, Holanda, Filipinas (Dalgaard et al., 2008) | La información disponible es limitada debido a la falta de datos epidemiológicos | -- |

La situación es diferente en los individuos tratados con fármacos IMAO. La alteración de la función del enzima MAO no permite la correcta metabolización de la tiramina, lo que conduce a niveles elevados de tiramina en plasma después de la ingestión de alimentos ricos en esta amina. En estos casos, cantidades menores de tiramina pueden dar lugar a efectos significativos. No todos los fármacos IMAO tienen el mismo efecto potenciador. Los fármacos IMAO clásicos de primera generación (irreversibles y no selectivos, como tranilcipromina) ejercen una elevada potenciación, de manera que la sensibilidad a la tiramina se incrementa entre 20 y 56 veces. Sin embargo, actualmente se prescriben fármacos de nueva generación, más seguros ya que su acción es reversible y/o selectiva para el isoenzima MAO-A o MAO-B. En estos casos, se ha descrito que la sensibilidad a la tiramina puede ser de 2 a 13 veces mayor.

La tiramina, junto con la feniletilamina, también ha sido señalada como agente causal de determinadas migrañas. Sin embargo, la migraña es un problema multifactorial, en el que no sólo intervienen componentes de la dieta, sino también otros factores ambientales, fisiológicos y psicológicos. Se ha descrito que el 18-21% de los ataques de migraña pueden ser inducidos por el consumo de productos cárnicos, incluidos los embutidos fermentados (Palermo-Becares, 1986). Sin embargo, la escasa investigación llevada a cabo sobre las dosis umbral de aminas biógenas necesaria para desencadenar la migraña no se puede considerar concluyente, debido a un posible planteamiento incorrecto en el diseño de los estudios.

Respecto a la dosis de histamina que podrían provocar reacciones tóxicas tampoco existe consenso. De los estudios epidemiológicos se concluye que la mayoría de los casos tienen lugar tras el consumo de pescado con altos contenidos de histamina (desde 600 hasta 3000 mg/kg), aunque también se han dado casos donde los contenidos eran más bajos. Debido a esta elevada variabilidad, se hace muy difícil hacer una caracterización del riesgo a partir de los datos epidemiológicos disponibles. Aunque algunos trabajos han sugerido niveles de referencia para definir la toxicidad

oral de la histamina (Tabla 2.2), en general reflejan "la opinión de expertos", ya que los estudios clínicos en los que se sustentan no son del todo adecuados (Raucher y Gabering, 2009), ya que no es fácil reproducir la intoxicación histamínica en estudios clínicos. Los resultados de los pocos estudios toxicológicos existentes, generalmente realizados con un número reducido de personas, se encuentran también resumidos en la Tabla 2.2.

2.2.3 Evaluación de la exposición

Para realizar la evaluación de la exposición del riesgo se requiere del conocimiento de la distribución de los contenidos de aminas biógenas en productos cárnicos fermentados, así como de los niveles de consumo de este tipo de productos.

Es difícil encontrar datos individualizados referentes a la distribución de los contenidos de aminas biógenas en productos cárnicos fermentados, necesarios para la realización de la evaluación del riesgo. Los embutidos fermentados, junto con los quesos, son alimentos que pueden presentar elevados contenidos de aminas biógenas. La Tabla 2.3 recoge los contenidos de aminas biógenas publicados en algunos de los trabajos sobre la presencia de estos compuestos en productos cárnicos fermentados de diferente origen. Según la literatura, los niveles de aminas biógenas en embutidos fermentados muestran una gran variabilidad, tanto entre diferentes tipos de productos y/o fabricantes, así como también entre muestras de diferentes lotes elaborados por un mismo productor.

Tabla2.2. Caracterización del riesgo.

| | Relación dosis- respuesta (límite tóxico) | Población afectada | Referencias |
|---|--|--|---|
| HISTAMINA | | | |
| Intoxicación histamínica (histaminosis enteral) | 5 - 6 mg umbral tóxico 8 - 40 mg intoxicación leve 70 - 1000 mg intoxicación moderada 1500 - 4000 mg intoxicación severa 8 - 40 mg intoxicación leve > 40 mg intoxicación moderada > 100 mg intoxicación severa 8-40 mg intoxicación leve 70-1000 mg intoxicación moderada 1500-4000 mg intoxicación severa 100-180 mg en una comida | Población en general; Individuos sensibles-deficientes en DAO (Sattler et al.,1988) | Raucher y Gaberning 2009 citado en Henry (1960) y Peeters (1963) Shalaby (1996), citado en el libro de Askar y Treptow (1986) Ienistea (1973), citado en Henry (1960) y Peeters (1963) Motil y Scrimshaw (1979) Wohrl y col., (2004) Van Gelderen y col., (1992) |
| | 75 mg histamina pura (en té de menta) | 50% de los voluntarios estudiados (mujeres sanas sin historial de intolerancias alimentarias) | |
| | 90 mg en una comida | 25% de los voluntarios estudiados | |
| | 120 mg (administración intraduodenal) | 70% de lo pacientes con urticaria (voluntarios susceptibles) | Kanny y col., (1996) |
| TIRAMINA (β-FENILETILAMINA) | | | |
| Crisis hipertensivas | 200 mg - 2000 mg TI (ED ₅₀ ≈ 1400 mg) | Población sana (100%) (50%) | Korn y col., (1988); Berlin y col., (1989); Patat (1995); Dingemans y col., (1998) |
| PD30 ^a | 6 mg síntomas leves 10-25 mg síntomas severos | IMAO ^c clásicos | McCabe (1986); |
| dosis de TI causante de un incremento de 30 mmHg en la PS | 50 - 100 mg tolerados | RIMA (pacientes bajo tratamiento con 3 rd generación de IMAO: reversible / selectivo) | Korn y col., (1988); Bieck y Antonin (1988, 89); Patat y col., (1995); Van der Berg (2003) |
| Migraña^b | 100 mg TI 3 mg FE 5 mg FE | 80% migrañosos (0-15% no -migrañosos) 50% migrañosos Síntomas de intoxicación | Hanington (1967-1980) Sandler y col., (1974) Lüthy y Schlatter (1983) |

^a Incremento de la presión sanguínea sistólica de 30 mmHg por una dosis de tiramina dada. Sólo se han considerado estudios clínicos realizados con voluntarios sanos en los que la tiramina se administró oralmente mediante una comida. ^b La literatura científica (des de 1967-2001) apenas es capaz de demostrar la relación entre tiramina y migraña (Jansen et al. 2003). ^c medicamentos IMAO: Tranylcypromina 20-56; Clorgylina10; Brofaromina 10; Phenelzina 13; Moclobemida 5-7; Befloxtatona 5-8; Selegilina 2-5.

De entre las diferentes aminas biógenas encontradas en embutidos fermentados, la tiramina es normalmente la más frecuente y abundante. La presencia de las diaminas, putrescina y cadaverina, es también bastante común, aunque en cantidades más variables que las de tiramina. Así, la mayoría de los productos presentan cantidades relativamente bajas de diaminas, y sólo en ocasiones, sus contenidos superan a los de tiramina. Por el contrario, la presencia de histamina en embutidos fermentados no suele ser frecuente, aunque, en algunos casos, se pueden alcanzar niveles bastante elevados, generalmente acompañados de grandes cantidades de otras aminas biógenas. Del mismo modo, los contenidos de feniletilamina y triptamina son relativamente bajos. Estas dos aminas podrían ser consideradas de menor importancia en embutidos fermentados y su acumulación parece estar estrechamente relacionada con la presencia de contenidos elevados de tiramina.

Los embutidos fermentados son importantes fuentes de poliaminas fisiológicas (Kalač y col., 2005). El origen natural de las poliaminas en la carne cruda implica que sus niveles son menos variables que las aminas derivadas del metabolismo microbiano. En los embutidos cárnicos, como en los alimentos de origen animal, los niveles de espermina son superiores a los de espermidina (Kalač, 2005).

De los estudios sobre aminas biógenas en embutidos fermentados, pocos se han centrado específicamente en los de elaboración artesanal (Montel y col., 1999; Parente y col., 2001). En este tipo de embutidos fermentados los contenidos de aminas biógenas pueden ser considerables y en algunos casos superiores a los habitualmente encontrados en los productos elaborados de una forma más industrializada. Las posibles razones se exponen en el apartado 1.2.

Tabla 2.3. Datos publicados en relación a los contenidos de aminas biógenas (mg/kg peso fresco) en embutidos fermentados del mercado de diferentes países.

| Pais de origen | Referencia | Producto | n | TIRAMINA | HISTAMINA | FENILETILAMINA | TRIPTAMINA | CADAVERINA | PUTRESCINA | ESPERMIDINA | ESPERMINA | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| ESPAÑA | Vidal-Carou y col. (1990) | Chorizo | 11 | 176 ± 149 ^a (2 - 509) ^b | 76 ± 80 (2 - 249) | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | | | 19 | 133 ± 62 (35 - 270) | 18 ± 27 (1 - 103) | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | | Salami | 5 | 6 ± 3 (3 - 12) | 66 ± 39 (2 - 102) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | | | 3 | 8 ± 6 (3 - 14) | 55 ± 36 (14 - 78) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | | Hernandez-Jover y col. (1997a) | Chorizo | 20 | 282 ± 129 (30 - 627) | 18 ± 27 (0 - 314) | 1 ± 3 (0 - 52) | 16 ± 20 (0 - 88) | 20 ± 16 (0 - 658) | 60 ± 141 (3 - 416) | 4 ± 3 (2 - 10) | 26 ± 8 (14 - 44) |
| 22 | 281 ± 109 (53 - 513) | | | 7 ± 14 (0 - 151) | 7 ± 6 (0 - 35) | 9 ± 11 (0 - 65) | 12 ± 23 (0 - 342) | 103 ± 76 (6 - 400) | 5 ± 3 (1 - 14) | 15 ± 8 (7 - 43) | | |
| 11 | 191 ± 73 (32 - 743) | | | 2 ± 40 (0 - 358) | 2 ± 4 (0 - 34) | 9 ± 8 (0 - 68) | 19 ± 18 (5 - 51) | 72 ± 41 (2 - 222) | 5 ± 3 (1 - 11) | 17 ± 7 (9 - 30) | | |
| 7 | 332 ± 131 (58 - 501) | | | 9 ± 17 (3 - 143) | 2 ± 6 (0 - 39) | 12 ± 23 (0 - 65) | 13 ± 14 (3 - 42) | 65 ± 50 (2 - 501) | 3 ± 2 (2 - 7) | 14 ± 7 (10 - 18) | | |
| 15 | 92 ± 72 (1 - 218) | | | 1 ± 2 (0 - 5) | 4 ± 8 (0 - 29) | 5 ± 11 (0 - 39) | 43 ± 48 (1 - 115) | 80 ± 152 (1 - 513) | 7 ± 5 (1 - 21) | 25 ± 14 (2 - 44) | | |
| Bover-Cid y col. (1999) | Fuet delgado | 23 | 119 ± 64 (22 - 272) | 12 ± 34 (0 - 158) | 8 ± 13 (0 - 47) | 8 ± 11 (0 - 36) | 28 ± 42 (2 - 156) | 49 ± 43 (1 - 169) | 8 ± 9 (2 - 45) | 24 ± 16 (2 - 84) | | |
| | | 19 | 141 ± 124 (3 - 490) | 14 ± 20 (0 - 59) | 12 ± 28 (0 - 126) | 15 ± 33 (0 - 142) | 18 ± 30 (0 - 127) | 99 ± 96 (0 - 325) | 4 ± 3 (1 - 13) | 25 ± 13 (7 - 52) | | |
| | | 3 | 129 ± 100 (19 - 214) | 6 ± 9 (1 - 16) | nd | nd | 103 ± 113 (9 - 229) | 92 ± 92 (0.8 - 185) | 8 ± 1 (7 - 8) | 46 ± 11 (39 - 59) | | |
| Ruiz-Capillas y col. (2004) | Chorizo | 3 | 129 ± 100 (19 - 214) | 6 ± 9 (1 - 16) | nd | nd | 103 ± 113 (9 - 229) | 92 ± 92 (0.8 - 185) | 8 ± 1 (7 - 8) | 46 ± 11 (39 - 59) | | |

^a:: media ± desviación estándar (si está disponible); ^b: rango (mínimo - máximo); ^c: -, no publicado

Tabla 2.3 (CONTINUACIÓN)

| Pais de origen | Referencia | Producto | n | TIRAMINA | HISTAMINA | FENILETILAMINA | TRIPTAMINA | CADAVERINA | PUTRESCINA | ESPERMIDINA | ESPERMINA |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| FRANCIA | Montel y col. (1999) | Saucisson (Industrial) | 5 | 220 (172 - 268) | 71 (16 - 151) | 4 (0 - 8) | 4 (0 - 9) | 103 (31 - 192) | 279 (195 - 410) | 5 (4 - 6) | 91 (59 - 119) |
| | | Saucisson (traditional) | 3 | 164 (84 - 217) | 15 (15 - 16) | 1 (0 - 4) | nd | 71 (39 - 110) | 223 (61 - 317) | 4 (2 - 6) | 84 (82 - 86) |
| ITALIA | Parente y col., (2001) | Soppressata | 9 | 178 (0 - 557) | 22 (0 - 101) | 3 (0 - 20) | - | 61 (0 - 271) | 99 (0 - 416) | 40 (0 - 91) | 36 (0 - 98) |
| | | Saliccia | 10 | 77 (0 - 339) | nd | nd | - | 7 (0 - 39) | 20 (0 - 78) | 19 (0 - 57) | 3 (0 - 28) |
| | Coisson y col. (2004) | Salamini Italiani | 10 | 205 ± 105 (60 - 372) | 46 ± 54 (8 - 165) | 14 ± 20 (nd - 53) | 20 ± 25 (nd - 69) | - | - | - | - |
| FINLANDIA | Eerola y col. (1998) | Finnish sausage | 11 | 88 (4 - 200) | 54 (0 - 180) | 13 (2 - 248) | 14 (0 - 43) | 50 (0 - 270) | 79 (0 - 230) | 4 (2 - 7) | 31 (19 - 46) |
| | | Russian sausage | 4 | 110 (6 - 240) | 89 (0 - 200) | 11 (1 - 33) | 22 (0 - 43) | 10 (3 - 18) | 93 (3 - 310) | 5 (2 - 8) | 33 (23 - 40) |
| | | Danish sausage | 8 | 54 (5 - 110) | 9 (1 - 56) | 2 (0 - 4) | 27 (0 - 91) | 180 (0 - 790) | 130 (0 - 450) | 7 (3 - 9) | 37 (23 - 47) |
| | | Meatwurst | 12 | 72 (5 - 320) | 21 (0 - 170) | 3 (0 - 5) | 18 (0 - 54) | 6 (0 - 16) | 77 (2 - 580) | 6 (3 - 11) | 29 (22 - 38) |
| | | Lubeck | 9 | 73 (9 - 150) | 6 (0 - 40) | 4 (0 - 7) | 10 (0 - 20) | 3 (0 - 8) | 49 (0 - 220) | 5 (3 - 7) | 33 (20 - 40) |
| | | Salami | 13 | 93 (3 - 200) | 3 (0 - 9) | 5 (0 - 8) | 20 (0 - 51) | 14 (0 - 71) | 54 (0 - 210) | 5 (1 - 8) | 30 (19 - 45) |
| | | Pepperoni | 11 | 94 (5 - 190) | 21 (0 - 200) | 6 (0 - 48) | 18 (0 - 42) | 82 (0 - 390) | 61 (0 - 230) | 6 (3 - 11) | 33 (21 - 48) |

Tabla 2.3. (CONTINUACIÓN)

| Pais de origen | Referencia | Producto | n | TIRAMINA | HISTAMINA | FENILETILAMINA | TRIPTAMINA | CADAVERINA | PUTRESCINA | ESPERMIDINA | ESPERMIDINA |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| ALEMANIA | Brink y col. (1990) | | 14 | 110 (40 - 310) | 11 (1 - 63) | 14 (5 - 45) | - | 63 (1 - 150) | 52 (1 - 190) | - | - |
| EGIPTO | Shalaby (1993) | Egyptian sausages | 50 | 14 (10 - 53) | 5 (7 - 41) | 10 (2 - 81) | 13 (3 - 34) | 19 (6 - 39) | 39 (12 - 100) | 2 (5 - 12) | 2 (2 - 5) |
| TAILANDIA | Riebroy y col. (2004) | Som-fug | 7 | 87 ± 72 (19 - 228) | 120 ± 82 (55 - 291) | - | 49 ± 25 (19 - 86) | 161 ± 111 (20 - 328) | 127 ± 90 (17 - 275) | - | - |
| TURQUIA | Ekici y col. (2004) | Turkish dry sausage | 46 | - | 32 ± 17 (20 - 87) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Erkmen y col. (2004) | Sucuk - factory | 19 | 62 ± 69 (1 - 189) | 69 ± 83 (4 - 255) | 9 ± 20 (0 - 87) | 11 ± 14 (0 - 47) | - | 75 ± 123 (0 - 383) | - | 13 ± 14 (0 - 50) |
| | | Sucuk - butcher | 31 | 77 ± 92 (2 - 316) | 94 ± 151 (2 - 478) | 6 ± 9 (0 - 32) | 25 ± 31 (0 - 7) | 1 ± 2 (0 - 7) | 121 ± 239 (0 - 919) | - | 9 ± 9 (0 - 42) |

La otra cuestión fundamental en la evaluación de la exposición al riesgo es el conocimiento del consumo real de alimentos por la población, para finalmente poder evaluar la probable ingesta del peligro, en este caso, las aminas biógenas procedentes de embutidos fermentados. En el marco del proyecto Europeo Tradisausage (QLK1-CT-2002-02240), una encuesta entre los consumidores, con un total de 963 cuestionarios sobre hábitos de consumo, reveló una gran variabilidad en cuanto a la cantidad consumida de embutidos, estimando un intervalo de entre 3,5 g/día hasta más de 100 g/día en algunos pocos casos, con un valor medio de consumo de embutido de 23 g/día.

La Tabla 2.4 resume los resultados obtenidos en la evaluación de la exposición diaria al consumo de aminas biógenas procedentes de embutidos fermentados realizada por Bover-Cid y col., (2006). En este estudio se consideraron los contenidos de aminas biógenas de un total de 378 muestras de productos cárnicos fermentados y una cantidad estimada de ingesta de embutido de 23 g/día (Tradisausage, QLK1-CT-2002-02240).

Tabla 2.4. Estimación probabilística de la exposición diaria al consumo de tiramina (Bover y col., 2006), feniletilamina e histamina (datos no publicados y presentados en el Reunión final del Proyecto Tradisausage, Paris, 2004).

| Aminas Biógenas | Distribución de contenidos Media (DSR) | Exposición diaria (IC90%) con ingesta estimada de 23 g/día de embutido |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Tiramina | 140 mg/kg (89%) | 3.11 mg/día (0.1 – 11 mg/día) |
| Histamina | 4 mg/kg (222%) | 0.37 mg/día (<0.01 – 1.63 mg/día) |
| Feniletilamina | 2 mg/kg (206%) | 0.18 mg/día (<0.01 – 0.63 mg/día) |

2.2.4. Caracterización del riesgo

La realización de una adecuada caracterización cuantitativa del riesgo es prácticamente imposible debido a la falta de datos fiables sobre la relación dosis-respuesta. Además, la elevada variabilidad de la respuesta humana al efecto tóxico de las aminas procedentes de la dieta, así como las sinergias entre ellas y con otros componentes de los alimentos, dificultan aun más dicha caracterización.

A la vista de los datos de la exposición al riesgo del estudio realizado por Bover-Cid y col., (2006), la probabilidad de sufrir trastornos de salud debida a las aminas y potencialmente asociados al consumo de productos cárnicos fermentados, se detallan a continuación:

Crisis hipertensivas. Un aumento significativo de la presión arterial en personas sanas (por encima de 200 mg en el peor de los casos) es prácticamente imposible ya que la máxima exposición con embutidos fermentados se estima en 70 mg/día, valor muy inferior al umbral mínimo descrito. Sin embargo, personas sensibles debido a un tratamiento con medicamentos IMAO, especialmente aquellos no selectivos ni reversibles (IMAO clásicos) podrían estar bajo un cierto riesgo. Así, la probabilidad de superar la dosis máxima recomendada (5-6 mg de tiramina) por el consumo de embutidos sería de un 17%. El riesgo es mucho menor, en torno al 0,01%, para los pacientes bajo tratamiento con fármacos IMAO de nueva generación (selectivos y reversibles), ya que la cantidad máxima recomendada de exposición es de 50 mg de tiramina.

Migrañas: La probabilidad de llegar a la ingesta de 3 mg de feniletilamina, descrita como capaz de producir síntomas en algunas personas sensibles, es del 0.1%. La exposición a la tiramina es mucho menor que la dosis de 100 mg capaces de desencadenar ataques de migraña.

Intoxicación histamínica: La probabilidad de alcanzar dosis de histamina asociada a intoxicaciones o intolerancia es extremadamente baja. Sólo en muy raras ocasiones la exposición de histamina superaría las dosis descritas como seguras resumidas en la Tabla 2.2.

En vista de todos estos datos y desde el punto de vista de las aminas biógenas, los productos cárnicos fermentados podrían ser considerados, por lo general, como productos seguros para las personas sanas. Sin embargo, hay que tener en cuenta que otras potenciales fuentes de aminas biógenas en alimentos están bastante extendidas en la dieta diaria. Además de los embutidos fermentados, muchos otros productos alimenticios (como el queso, pescado o sus derivados, las bebidas fermentadas y algunos vegetales) puede contener cantidades significativas de varias aminas biógenas (Stratton y col., 1991; Mariné-Font y col., 1995; Shalaby, 1996). En consecuencia, la exposición real al conjunto de aminas biógenas de una comida o el consumo diario de alimentos sería mucho mayor que la contribución particular estimada para embutidos fermentados. En este sentido, se encontraría justificada la recomendación médica para los pacientes bajo tratamiento con fármacos IMAO, de reducir o incluso evitar el consumo de embutidos fermentados y otros posibles productos ricos en aminas. Para el caso particular de los medicamentos de nueva generación IMAO, la restricción dietética puede ser menos estricta, pero también sería deseable evitar la ingesta de tiramina (Prasad y col., 1988; Korn y col., 1996).

2.3 Aminogénesis en productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados y medidas para su control

Los alimentos fermentados en general, y los embutidos en particular, ofrecen condiciones óptimas para la acumulación de aminas biógenas: el crecimiento de microorganismos (algunos con reconocida capacidad aminogénica) y los fenómenos

proteolíticos (que aumentan la disponibilidad de aminoácidos precursores). Además, la producción de ácidos orgánicos débiles y la consecuente disminución del pH es un factor adicional que favorece la actividad aminogénica de los microorganismos formadores de aminas, como un mecanismo de defensa contra un ambiente ácido que les es desfavorable. Aunque un gran número de bacterias poseen potencial aminogénico, la actividad aminoácido-descarboxilasa no se distribuye homogéneamente en todos los microorganismos de una misma familia o género, sino que es una característica cepa dependiente (Bover-Cid y Holzapfel, 1999). Además, embutidos con perfiles microbianos comparables pueden tener contenidos de aminas biógenas diferentes, lo que indica que la acumulación de estos compuestos está condicionada por una compleja interacción entre microorganismos, propiedades físico-químicas y factores tecnológicos (Suzzi y Gardini, 2003).

2.3.1 Formación de aminas biógenas por microorganismos presentes en embutidos fermentados

La producción de aminas biógenas en la carne y durante la fermentación y maduración de los embutidos fermentados se relaciona con una gran variedad de microorganismos: enterobacterias, pseudomonas, lactobacilos, enterococos, carnobacterias y estafilococos (Tabla 2.5). De hecho, gran parte de las enterobacterias y pseudomonas aisladas de la carne son capaces de producir putrescina y cadaverina. Otras cepas, especialmente de enterobacterias, también se han descrito como productoras de histamina, aunque con menos frecuencia y en menor medida que las cepas aisladas de productos pesqueros (Bover-Holzapfel, 1999). Las condiciones de fermentación de los embutidos (ej. pH, microbiota competitiva, etc.) no son favorables para el crecimiento o el desarrollo de este tipo de microorganismos Gram-negativos contaminantes. En consecuencia, las bacterias consideradas como contaminantes contribuirían a la acumulación de aminas biógenas, principalmente durante las

primeras etapas de la elaboración de embutidos, sobre todo cuando no se siguen unas correctas prácticas higiénicas o si las materia primas cárnicas se someten a largos periodos de almacenamiento y/o temperaturas abusivas (Paulsen y Bauer, 1997; Bover-Cid y col., 2000a; Bover-Cid y col. 2003). También se ha sugerido que una parte considerable de la acumulación de aminas biógenas podría derivar de la actividad de las células viables pero que no se encuentran en fase de crecimiento, o incluso, de los enzimas descarboxilasa liberados al inicio de la fermentación por este tipo de microbiota contaminante (Halász y col., 1994; Suzzi y Gardini, 2003). Sin embargo, no existen estudios concretos que confirmen esta hipótesis. En cualquier caso, la presencia de niveles excesivos de aminas biógenas, especialmente histamina, putrescina y cadaverina, podrían ser indicativos de una contaminación de las materias primas o de una falta de higiene durante el proceso de elaboración, independientemente de que no haya presencia de microorganismos aminogénicos en el producto final.

De entre las bacterias Gram-positivas, ciertas especies de lactobacilos, *L. curvatus*, *L. brevis* y *L. buchneri*, se han descrito como grandes productoras de tiramina. Algunas cepas de estas especies bacterianas también son capaces de producir otras aminas aromáticas (feniletilamina y/o triptamina) simultáneamente a la tiramina, o incluso diaminas (putrescina y/o cadaverina) (Straub y col., 1995; Bover-Cid y col., 2001a; Aymerich y col., 2006). La capacidad histidina-descarboxilasa parece estar delimitada a un número reducido de especies (por ejemplo, *L. hilgardii*), que provienen de contaminaciones esporádicas y no se encuentran comúnmente en los productos cárnicos (Maijala y Eerola, 1993; Paulsen y Bauer, 1997). Por el contrario, especies como *L. sakei* y *L. plantarum* muestran una menor proporción de cepas aminogénicas (Bover-Cid y col., 2001a; Aymerich y col., 2006).

Tabla 2.5. Microorganismos, con una reconocida capacidad para producir una o más aminos biógenas, asociados con la carne o los productos cárnicos.

| <i>Especies</i> | TI | FE | TR | HI | PU | CA | Referencias |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------------------|
| <i>Carnobacterium divergens</i> | + | + | | | | | 9,13 |
| <i>Carnobacterium piscicola</i> | + | + | | | | | 9,13 |
| <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> | + | + | | | | | 3, 11 |
| <i>Enterococcus faecium</i> | + | + | | | | | 11 |
| <i>Lactobacillus bavaricus</i> | + | | | + | + | | 3,13 |
| <i>Lactobacillus brevis</i> | + | | + | + | + | + | 3,13,14 |
| <i>Lactobacillus buchneri</i> | + | | | + | + | | 13,14 |
| <i>Lactobacillus curvatus</i> | + | + | + | + | + | + | 2,3,9,10,11,13,14 |
| <i>Lactobacillus hilgardii</i> | | | | + | | | 6,14 |
| <i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i> | + | + | | | | | 9,11 |
| <i>Pediococcus pentosaceus</i> | + | | | | | | 9 |
| <i>Staphylococcus carnosus</i> | + | + | | | | | 1,5,7 |
| <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> | | + | | | + | + | 7 |
| <i>Staphylococcus xylosus</i> | + | | | | | | 8 |
| <i>Staphylococcus warneri</i> | + | | | | | | 7 |
| <i>Kocuria varians</i> | + | + | | | + | | 1,9 |
| <i>Citrobacter freundii</i> | | | | | + | + | 4 |
| <i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i> | | | | + | + | + | 4,10 |
| <i>Enterobacter cloacae</i> | | | | + | + | + | 3,10,12 |
| <i>Escherichia coli</i> | | | | + | | | 14 |
| <i>Hafnia alvei</i> | | | | + | + | + | 12 |
| <i>Klebsiella oxytoca</i> | | | | + | | + | 3,6,10,14 |
| <i>Morganella morganii</i> | | | | + | | | 6,14 |
| <i>Serratia liquefaciens</i> | | | | + | + | + | 3,4, 11,12,14 |
| <i>Pseudomonas sp.</i> | | | | | + | | 12 |

Referencias: (1) Ansorena y col. (2002); (2) Aymerich y col. (2006); (3) Bover-Cid y col. (2001a); (4) Durlu-Ózkaya y col. (2001); (5) Hammes y col. (1995); (6) Kranner y col. (1991); (7) Martín y col. (2006); (8) Marstuscelli y col. (2000); (9) Masson y col. (1996); (10) Roig-Saués y col. (1996); (11) Roig-Sagués y col. (1997); (12) Slerm (1981); (13) Straub y col. (1995); (14) Tscgabrun y col. (1990).

Por otro lado, muchas cepas de enterococos son capaces de producir cantidades considerables de tiramina. Las cepas de este género, con una fuerte capacidad tirosina-descarboxilasa, poseen también, en la mayoría de los casos, la capacidad de descarboxilar la feniletilamina (Bover-Cid y col., 2001a; Gardini y col., 2001).

Se dispone de menos información sobre la capacidad de producir aminas biógenas por parte de los GCC+, es decir, estafilococos, micrococos y kocuria. Aunque en muchas ocasiones se describen como microorganismos sin capacidad, o muy débil, para descarboxilar aminoácidos (Masson y col., 1996; Martuscelli y col., 2000; Bover-Cid y col., 2001a; Martín y col., 2005), se han encontrado cepas que producen putrescina, tiramina, histamina y feniletilamina (Straub y col., 1994; Montel y col., 1999; Martín y col., 2005).

Es importante destacar que la actividad aminogénica de las bacterias determinada en un medio de laboratorio no tiene por qué implicar el mismo comportamiento en procesos de fermentación real, ya que las condiciones ambientales y las interacciones microbianas no son reproducibles. Por ejemplo, se ha descrito que la producción de putrescina por enterobacterias en la carne está condicionada a una anterior desaminación de la arginina por bacterias del ácido láctico, que producen su precursor ornitina, un aminoácido que no está presente de forma natural en las proteínas de los alimentos (Dainty y col., 1986; Brink y col., 1990).

2.3.2 Factores que influyen en la acumulación de aminas biógenas en productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados

Entre las variables que afectan la aminogénesis en embutidos fermentados, son de crucial importancia aquellas relacionadas con la contaminación microbiana de las materias primas, así como las condiciones que rigen la selección de las comunidades

microbianas y la actividad aminoácido descarboxilasa de las bacterias. Por lo que se refiere a la contaminación de la materia prima cárnica, elevadas cantidades de cadaverina, putrescina y histamina, se han relacionado con la mala calidad higiénica de las mismas. En particular, se ha demostrado que las enterobacterias contribuyen significativamente a la acumulación de cadaverina durante la elaboración de embutidos fermentados elaborados a partir de carne almacenada durante un cierto tiempo (Paulsen y Bauer, 1997; Bover-Cid y col., 2000a), así como de carne cruda contaminada intencionadamente (Bover-Cid y col., 2003).

Además, factores tecnológicos como los ingredientes (azúcares, agentes de curado, especias, etc), el diámetro del embutido y la temperatura y la humedad utilizadas durante la elaboración también afectan a la acumulación de aminas biógenas (Maijala y col., 1995b; Bover-Cid y col., 1999a; Parente y col., 2001; Bover-Cid y col., 2001b; González-Fernández y col., 2003; Suzzi y Gardini, 2003; Bozkurt y Erkmen, 2004; Komprda y col., 2004; Garriga y col., 2005).

Estas variables ejercen influencias sobre uno o más fenómenos asociados con el proceso de aminogénesis, incluyendo el crecimiento y la interacción entre las comunidades microbianas, la acidificación, la proteólisis y la producción y actividad de la enzima descarboxilasa, por lo que los efectos particulares son difíciles de concretar. En algunas ocasiones incluso se pueden dar efectos aparentemente paradójicos. Este sería el caso, por ejemplo, del pH, que se ha descrito como un factor regulador de la aminogénesis ya que la actividad aminoácido descarboxilasa funciona como un sistema fisiológico de las bacterias para intentar neutralizar un ambiente ácido desfavorable. De hecho, la máxima acumulación de tiramina durante la fermentación de los embutidos suele producirse cuando el pH alcanza los valores más bajos (Santos-Buelga y col., 1986; Bunic y col., 1993; Bover-Cid y col., 2001).

Por tanto, los factores tecnológicos que favorecen la acidificación de los embutidos fermentados serían, a priori, factores favorecedores de la acumulación de aminas biógenas. Aunque la relación entre la acidificación y el contenido de aminas biógenas ha sido ampliamente descrita (Santos-Buelga y col., 1986; Buncic y col., 1993; Teodorovic y Buncic, 1999; Bover-Cid y col., 1999b), existe controversia sobre el efecto del pH en la aminogénesis en embutidos fermentados, ya que también se acepta que una rápida y fuerte acidificación permite inhibir las bacterias contaminantes y la consiguiente formación de aminas biógenas (Maijala y col., 1993; Maijala y col., 1995a; Bover-Cid y col., 2000b; Bover-Cid y col., 2001c; González-Fernández y col., 2003).

En resumen, el tipo y la cantidad de aminas biógenas en un producto depende de múltiples y complejas variables, interaccionando entre ellas, dificultando la caracterización del efecto de cada uno de los factores tecnológicos sobre la aminogénesis durante la fermentación y maduración de los embutidos. Por lo tanto, es importante estudiar cada caso en particular con el fin de conocer cuando y por qué se produce la aminogénesis y así poder aplicar en cada caso las medidas de control más adecuadas.

2.3.3 Medidas de control para reducir la acumulación de aminas biógenas en embutidos fermentados

Aunque la presencia de aminas biógenas en embutidos fermentados es bastante frecuente, en la literatura encontramos referencias sobre productos con cantidades muy pequeñas e incluso con niveles de aminas biógenas no detectables. Estas observaciones indican que es posible elaborar productos cárnicos fermentados libres o casi libres de aminas biógenas. Con este objetivo, se han estudiado varias alternativas.

- **La eliminación de las aminas después de su formación.** Algunos microorganismos presentes en los embutidos, tales como cepas específicas de estafilococos y micrococos, son capaces de metabolizar la tiramina y/o la histamina por medio de enzimas amino-oxidasa, lo que se ha planteado como una posible vía o herramienta para la eliminación de aminas en los productos fermentados (Leuschner y Hammes, 1998; Martuscelli y col. 2000). Sin embargo, en condiciones reales de fermentación de los embutidos, los microorganismos con actividad amino-oxidasa muestran un efecto limitado sobre los niveles de histamina y tiramina (Leuschner y Hammes, 1998; Gardini y col., 2002). Esta falta de eficacia se explicaría por la baja disponibilidad de oxígeno en el interior del embutido y por qué las bacterias con actividad amino-oxidasa se encuentran por debajo de los mínimos necesarios (10^7 ufc/g) para la degradación de las aminas (Leuschner y Hammes, 1998). Las radiaciones gamma también han sido utilizadas para la degradación de aminas biógenas. Dosis de 2,5 kGy a 25 kGy pueden destruir entre el 5% y el 100% de las aminas biógenas disueltas en agua destilada (Kim y col., 2004). En salchichas *Pepperoni* lonchadas, tratamientos de radiólisis provocaron una reducción significativa de putrescina, tiramina, espermidina y espermina, pero no se observó ningún efecto sobre los contenidos de feniletilamina y de cadaverina (Kim y col., 2005). Sin embargo, dado que las aminas biógenas podrían indicar una mala calidad higiénica o procesado defectuoso, su eliminación *a posteriori* puede ser considerada inapropiada o no ética, ya que podría enmascarar una mala práctica de fabricación o higiene.
- **Medidas centradas en la optimización de la higiene de materias primas y condiciones de procesado.** Para reducir o evitar la acumulación de aminas biógenas en embutidos fermentados es "mejor prevenir que curar". Dada la importancia de la calidad higiénica de la carne cruda, la selección de las

materias primas, el control del tiempo y temperatura de almacenamiento, el proceso de congelación-descongelación, etc, son cruciales para prevenir una excesiva acumulación de aminas biógenas durante la fabricación de embutidos (Maijala y col., 1995a; Bover-Cid y col., 2000a; Bover-Cid y col., 2001d). En contraste con otros productos fermentados, como el queso, las materias primas de los embutidos fermentados no pueden ser pasteurizadas ni esterilizadas, ya que estos tratamientos conducen a cambios físico-químicos perjudiciales desde el punto de vista sensorial y tecnológico. Sin embargo, procesos que se llevan a cabo habitualmente durante la elaboración de los embutidos, como la congelación de las materias primas cárnicas previa a su utilización, pueden ayudar a la reducción de la acumulación de aminas biógenas, gracias a la inhibición del desarrollo de las enterobacterias (Bover-Cid y col., 2006).

- **El uso de cultivos iniciadores aminoácido-descarboxilasa negativos debidamente seleccionados.** Además de la microbiota contaminante aminogénica, los microorganismos responsables de la fermentación, tales como las bacterias del ácido láctico y los CGC+, también pueden producir aminas biógenas. Por lo tanto, para controlar este tipo de microorganismos aminogénicos es necesario aplicar medidas tecnológicas específicas. En este contexto, y especialmente a nivel industrial, el uso de cultivos iniciadores aminoácido-descarboxilasa negativos debidamente seleccionados se recomienda como una de las herramientas más fiables para controlar la fermentación y, a su vez, la acumulación de aminas biógenas. Varios trabajos han estudiado la utilidad de los cultivos iniciadores, simples y mixtos incluyendo cepas comerciales o experimentales, a fin de reducir la aminogénesis durante la fermentación de los embutidos (Tabla 2.6).

Algunos estudios no pudieron demostrar un efecto beneficioso en relación a la reducción de la aminogénesis por parte de cultivos compuestos por *L. plantarum*, *Pediococcus acidilaticus*, *P. pentosaceus* o *Staphylococcus carnosus* (Buncic y col., 1993; Paulsen y Bauer, 1997; Bozkurt y Erkemn, 2002). Cultivos iniciadores compuestos por *L. pentosus*, *S. carnosus*, *S. xylosus* o *Kocuria varians* fueron capaces de reducir la acumulación de algunas aminos mientras que de otras no (Maijala y col., 1995a; Hernández-Jover y col., 1997b; Bover-Cid y col., 1999b; Ayhan y col., 1999). Las especies *L. sakei* y *L. curvatus* son cepas bien adaptadas al ambiente fermentativo de los embutidos, lo que las hacen buenas candidatas para ser cultivos iniciadores, ya que son altamente competitivas para superar la microbiota espontánea fermentativa y poder así inhibir la microbiota contaminante Gram-negativa (Hugas y Monfort, 1997). En efecto, la literatura confirma que los cultivos iniciadores que incluyen cepas descarboxilasa negativas de *L. sakei* son los más protectores, ya que reducen la acumulación de aminos hasta un 95% en comparación con otras especies de cultivos iniciadores comerciales, tales como *L. plantarum*, *Pediococcus ssp.* y *S. carnosus* (González-Fernández y col., 2003; Bover-Cid y col., 2000b; Bover-Cid y col., 2000c).

La eficacia del cultivo iniciador está muy condicionada por las condiciones higiénicas de las materias primas (Maijala y col., 1995a; Eerola y col., 1996; Paulsen y Bauer, 1997; Bover-Cid y col., 2001d). Además, la optimización de ciertas condiciones tecnológicas puede favorecer la implantación y el correcto desarrollo del cultivo iniciador. Por lo tanto, la reducción de la aminogénesis también depende de la formulación del embutido, del tipo y la cantidad de azúcar añadido (González-Fernández y col., 2003), de la adición de aditivos (Bozkurt y Erkemn, 2002), así como de la temperatura y la humedad relativa de la maduración (Maijala y col., 1995b; Bover-Cid y col., 2001e).

A nivel de elaboración artesanal de los productos cárnicos fermentados la cuestión es un poco más delicada, ya que normalmente los embutidos se producen en pequeñas empresas o plantas de elaboración sin la inoculación de cultivos iniciadores (Montel y col., 1999; Aymerich y col., 2003). Por lo tanto, el riesgo de formación de aminas biógenas en los productos artesanales podría ser alto debido a la no utilización de cultivos iniciadores que controlen el proceso de fermentación. En el caso de proponer el uso de cultivos iniciadores para la elaboración de este tipo de productos artesanales, estos deberían de ser mucho más específicos, debidamente aislados y seleccionados del propio producto para su mejor adaptación y, sobre todo, para que los productos no pierdan su autenticidad ni los matices sensoriales tan apreciados.

Tabla 2.6. Estudios sobre el efecto de diferentes tipos de cultivos iniciadores en la formación de aminas biógenas durante la elaboración industrial de productos cárnicos fermentados.

| Referencia | Producto | Cultivo | Conclusiones más significativas |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|
| Majjala y col., 1995 | Salchicha cruda curada | (1) <i>L. pentosus</i> + <i>S. carnosus</i> ^a (2) <i>S. carnosus</i> (3) <i>P. pentosaceus</i> + <i>S. carnosus</i> ^a | Reducción e la formación de TI, HI y CA. Eficacia distinta según la temperatura del procesado y el ligar de fabricación. |
| Hernández-Jover y col., 1996 | Fuet | (1) <i>M. carnosus</i> + <i>L. Plantarum</i> (2) <i>M. carnosus</i> + <i>P. pentosaceus</i> | (1) Reducción del 25% de TI, 61% de CA y 25% de PU. (2) Reducción del 34% de TI, 50% de CA y 56% de PU. |
| Rice y Koehler, 1976 | Salchicha cruda curada | (1) <i>L. Plantarum</i> + <i>P. Cerevisiae</i> (2) <i>E. Faecium</i> (TI) ^b | (1) No se da una menor producción de TI que el proceso espontáneo. (2) Incrementa la producción de TI respecto a (1) y al proceso espontáneo |
| Ayhan y col., 1999 | Turkish Soudjoucks | Biobak-K, Wüberg, Germany (<i>L. sakei</i> , <i>P. pentosaceus</i> , <i>S. carnosus</i> , <i>S. xylosum</i>) | Reducción del 100% de PU, mientras que no tiene ningún efecto reductor sobre los contenidos de TI, todo lo contrario, aumentan ligeramente respecto al control |
| González-Fernandez y col., 1999 | Chorizo | (1) <i>Lactobacillus. sakei</i> K29 (2) <i>Pediococcus sp.</i> P22 (3) <i>Pediococcus sp.</i> P208 | (1) Reduce drásticamente la formación de aminas (si hay 0,5-1% de azúcar) La eficacia de (2) y (3) depende de la concentración y tipo de azúcares |
| Bover-Cid y col., 1999 | Fuet | (1) <i>S. carnosus</i> LTH 2102 (2) <i>S.xylosum</i> CTC 3037 (3) <i>S.xylosum</i> CTC3050 | (1) Reducción del 25% de TI, 23% de CA y 17% de PU (2) Reducción del 69% de TI, 66% de CA y sin efecto sobre la PU (3) Reducción del 69% de TI, 17% de CA y 28% de PU |
| Bover-Cid y col., 2000 | Fuet | (1) <i>L. sakei</i> CTC494 + <i>S. carnosus</i> LTH2102 (2) <i>L. sakei</i> CTC494+ <i>S.xylosum</i> CTC3037 (3) <i>L. sakei</i> CTC494+ <i>S.xylosum</i> CTC3050 | (1) Reducción del 90% de TI, 87% de la CA y el 37% de PU. (2) Reducción del 87% de TI, 87% de la CA y el 37% de PU. (3) Reducción del 90% de TI, 87% de la CA y el 37% de PU. |
| Bover-Cid y col., 2001 | Fuet | (1) <i>L. curvatus</i> CTC371 + <i>S.xylosum</i> CTC3011 (2) <i>L. curvatus</i> CTC371 + <i>S.xylosum</i> CTC3037 | Reducción del 100% de CA y PU tanto en (1) como en (2). (1) reducción del 65% de TI y (2) del 16% de TI. |
| Buncic y col, 1993 | Salchicha cruda curada | <i>L. plantarum</i> ^a | No tiene un efecto positivo significativo, los niveles de TI e HI son ligeramente superiores al proceso espontáneo |

2.4 Metodologías analíticas para la determinación de aminas biógenas y poliaminas.

2.4.1 Aminas biógenas y poliaminas en alimentos

Desde una perspectiva analítica, la determinación de aminas biógenas y poliaminas en alimentos no es una cuestión sencilla, debido principalmente a las diferentes estructuras químicas, la amplia gama de concentraciones a las que están presentes y la complejidad de la mayoría de las matrices alimentarias. La determinación de aminas biógenas y poliaminas en los alimentos, por lo general, implica dos fases bien diferenciadas: su extracción de la matriz alimenticia y su determinación analítica.

El objetivo de la extracción es separar las aminas de otros compuestos potencialmente interferentes, paso importante para la obtención de resultados precisos. Los disolventes de extracción más utilizados incluyen soluciones ácidas, como el ácido clorhídrico, el ácido tricloroacético y el ácido perclórico, así como también, disolventes orgánicos como metanol o acetona, y mezclas tipo acetonitrilo-ácido perclórico o diclorometano-ácido perclórico (Moret y Conte, 1996).

La determinación de aminas biógenas y poliaminas se puede realizar a partir de diferentes procedimientos, incluyendo los biológicos, los enzimáticos, los espectrofluorimétricos y los cromatográficos. Estos últimos son los más utilizados debido a que permiten la determinación de varias aminas de forma simultánea y con una alta resolución, sensibilidad y versatilidad, además de requerir un tratamiento simple de la muestra. Existen diferentes métodos de cromatografía en capa fina (Shalaby, 1999; Lapa-Guimaraes y col., 2004), de cromatografía de gases (Slemr y Beyermann, 1984) y de cromatografía líquida micelar (Paleologos y Kontominas, 2004) para el análisis de aminas biógenas. Sin embargo, la cromatografía líquida de alta eficacia (HPLC), tanto con columnas de fase reversa o columnas de intercambio iónico, son unos de los

procedimientos más utilizados para este fin (Straub y col., 1993; Hernández-Jover y col., 1996; Draisci y col., 1998; Sacanni, 2005; Favaro y col., 2007). La detección de estos compuestos suele ser mediante técnicas de fluorimetría (Straub y col., 1993; Hernández-Jover y col., 1996; Taminm y col., 2002), absorción ultravioleta (Eerola y col., 1993; Smela y col., 2004) o espectrometría de masas (Sacanni y col., 2005).

La detección de aminas biógenas y poliaminas requiere, por lo general, de un proceso previo de derivatización, ya que la mayoría tienen un bajo coeficiente de absorción. Los reactivos de derivatización más utilizados son el cloruro de 5-dimetilamino-1-naphtalenesulfonyl (cloruro de dansilo), el *o*-phthaldialdehydo (OPA) y la N-acetilcisteina (Onal, 2007). Dependiendo del reactivo utilizado, el procedimiento de derivatización puede ser pre-, post- o on- columna. El método de referencia en UE para la determinación de histamina en pescado consiste en una cromatografía por HPLC después de la extracción de las aminas con ácido perclórico y derivatización con cloruro de dansilo (EU, 2005).

En la actualidad, además de los mencionados procedimientos instrumentales, están disponibles otros procedimientos analíticos, más económicos y sencillos, especialmente adecuados para los controles de rutina, como por ejemplo métodos enzimáticos (Lerke y col., 1983; Ben-Gigirey y col., 1998), inmunológicos (Aygün y col., 1999; Rogers y Staruszkiewicz, 2000; Leszczynska y col., 2004; Marcobal y col., 2005) o biológicos (Male y col., 1996). El método oficial de los EE.UU. para el análisis de histamina, procedimiento descrito por la AOAC, se basa en la extracción en metanol de la amina, la purificación a través de una columna de intercambio iónico y la medición por fluorescencia tras una derivatización con OPA.

2.4.2 Determinación de la actividad aminoácido descarboxilasa de microorganismos

Se han descrito varios métodos para estudiar la actividad aminoácido-descarboxilasa. Que un microorganismo posea o no esta actividad enzimática depende de su capacidad genética. Mediante el procedimiento conocido como reacción en cadena de la polimerasa (PCR), se puede detectar de manera rápida y sensible las bacterias aminogénicas (Landete y col., 2007). Este sistema de detección por PCR se basa en el uso de cebadores o secuencias de ADN similares a la de los genes específicos de los enzimas descarboxilasa (por ejemplo, histidina, tirosina, ornitina y lisina descarboxilasa). Sin embargo, esta prueba molecular simplemente determina la presencia del gen y no demuestra que dicha enzima sea funcional.

Como alternativa a los métodos moleculares, se realizan ensayos microbiológicos en medios de cultivo. La composición del medio utilizado es de gran importancia puesto que la expresión y actividad de las enzimas descarboxilasa dependen fundamentalmente de factores ambientales. Un procedimiento de detección ampliamente utilizado implica el uso de un medio diferencial que contiene un indicador de pH (púrpura de bromocresol), y la adición de los aminoácidos precursores (Nieven y col., 1981; Joosten y Northold, 1989; Choudhury y col., 1990; Maijala, 1993). Si el resultado es positivo, el medio se vuelve de un color púrpura en respuesta a un cambio de pH causado por la producción de las aminas biógenas con un pH más alcalino que el de los aminoácidos precursores. Sin embargo es frecuente la aparición de falsos positivos debido a la formación de otros compuestos alcalinos, y falsos negativos como consecuencia de la producción de ácido de la actividad fermentativa. Por lo tanto, una alternativa más específica y sensible, sería hacer un análisis cuantitativo de las aminas biógenas potencialmente formadas en el medio de cultivo, utilizando uno de los procedimientos químicos, inmunológicos o

instrumentales descritos anteriormente (por ejemplo, HPLC o CCF) como el método descrito por Bover-Cid y Holzaphel, 1999.

OBJETIVOS

3

PLANTEAMIENTO Y OBJETIVOS DEL ESTUDIO

3.1 Planteamiento y Objetivos

En el presente trabajo de tesis se enmarca dentro del proyecto europeo TRADISAUSAGE (QLK1-CT-2002-02240 - “Assessment and Improvement of Safety of Traditional Dry Sausages from Producers to Consumers”), que pretendió evaluar la seguridad y la calidad higiénica de los embutidos de elaboración artesanal desde el productor hasta el consumidor, con el fin de proponer medidas de mejora, preservando al mismo tiempo la calidad sensorial de este tipo de productos. En el proyecto participaron 10 grupos de investigación pertenecientes a cinco estados miembros de la Comunidad Europea del área mediterránea (Francia, Grecia, Italia, Portugal y España) junto con un estado centro europeo (Eslovaquia).

Además de los trabajos concretos previstos en el proyecto TRADISAUSAGE (Capítulos 6, 7 y 9), se llevaron a cabo otros estudios para los que se diseñaron experimentos específicos realizados a nivel de planta piloto y de laboratorio (Capítulos 8 y 9). Estos experimentos permitieron complementar y estudiar más específicamente algunos de los objetivos de la tesis doctoral que se presenta.

El proyecto de tesis centra su **objetivo principal** en aportar información sobre los contenidos de aminas biógenas y las posibles estrategias para su control en los productos cárnicos fermentados de elaboración artesanal.

Para alcanzar el objetivo general propuesto, se consideró necesario desarrollar una serie de etapas u objetivos parciales que se enumeran a continuación:

1. Estudiar la aminogénesis a lo largo del proceso de elaboración y almacenamiento de los embutidos fermentados de elaboración artesanal de diferentes países Europeos.
2. Evaluar la actividad aminoácido descarboxilasa de los microorganismos aislados de los productos cárnicos fermentados de elaboración artesanal.
3. Estudiar la influencia de diferentes factores tecnológicos sobre la acumulación de aminas biógenas, y parámetros relacionados, durante la elaboración de productos cárnicos fermentados de elaboración artesanal.
4. Evaluar la efectividad de diferentes estrategias, desde el punto de vista de la higiene y de la tecnología de elaboración, para reducirla acumulación de aminas biógenas en productos cárnicos fermentados de elaboración artesanal.

El periodo de realización de la tesis coincidió con el auge de la cromatografía líquida rápida de alta resolución (UHPLC), y surgió la oportunidad de desarrollar y validar un método que permitiera un análisis más rápido y preciso de las aminas biógenas presentes en alimentos. Además, y a partir de la participación en el proyecto europeo, se consideró la posibilidad de desarrollar un método nuevo para la determinación de la capacidad aminoácido descarboxilasa de una manera simple, rápida, económica y especialmente al alcance de muchos laboratorios de análisis que no poseen técnicas de instrumentación complejas, como el HPLC. Por ello, se incluyeron en el proyecto de tesis dos objetivos adicionales:

5. Desarrollar y validar un método por UHPLC para el análisis de aminas biógenas y poliaminas en productos cárnicos fermentados y otros alimentos.

6. Desarrollar y validar un método por cromatografía de capa fina (CCF) para la determinación semi-cuantitativa de la actividad aminoácido-descarboxilasa *in vitro* de diferentes cepas bacterianas.

El planteamiento específico de los experimentos asociados a estos objetivos se describe de forma detallada en cada uno de los capítulos correspondientes.

MATERIAL Y MÉTODOS

4

MUESTRAS

4.1 Muestras y muestreo

Los productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados objeto de estudio se incluyen dentro del grupo de productos cárnicos fermentados que se definen como productos elaborados mediante selección, troceado y picado de carnes y grasas, con o sin despojos, que llevan incorporados condimentos, especias y aditivos autorizados, sometidos a maduración y desecación (curado) y opcionalmente ahumado (Real Decreto 397/1984). Además, todas las muestras estudiadas fueron fundamentalmente productos de elaboración artesanal o tradicional, aunque con diferencias en las formulaciones y las condiciones de elaboración.

La Figura 4.1 esquematiza de forma general el proceso de fabricación de este tipo de embutidos. La masa cárnica picada, los ingredientes, aditivos y, si procede, el cultivo iniciador se mezclan durante unos minutos en una amasadora, eventualmente conectada al vacío. En el presente estudio, todas las materias primas cárnicas fueron de origen porcino, oscilando entre un 50 % y un 80 % de porción magra y de entre un 50 % y un 20 % de panceta o grasa. Los ingredientes y aditivos básicos como cloruro sódico, glucosa, ascorbato sódico, nitrato potásico y nitrito sódico fueron empleados en todos los embutidos, y los condimentos más habituales fueron la pimienta negra y el vino. En algunas elaboraciones también se añadió lactosa, pirofosfato sódico, leche en polvo, caseinato sódico, colorante (rojo cochinilla) y/o sulfito sódico, o se omitió la glucosa. Después del amasado, se procede al embutido de la masa en tripas naturales o artificiales de diferentes diámetros dependiendo del tipo de embutido elaborado.

Opcionalmente, según el tipo de embutido se puede añadir también moho, normalmente de la especie *Penicillium nalgiovense*) sobre la superficie de la tripa del embutido. Las temperaturas, humedades relativas y tiempo aplicados en las etapas de fermentación y maduración fueron diferentes según el producto cárnico elaborado. Además, dependiendo del origen del embutido, algunas de las muestras se sometieron a un proceso de ahumado previo a la fermentación.

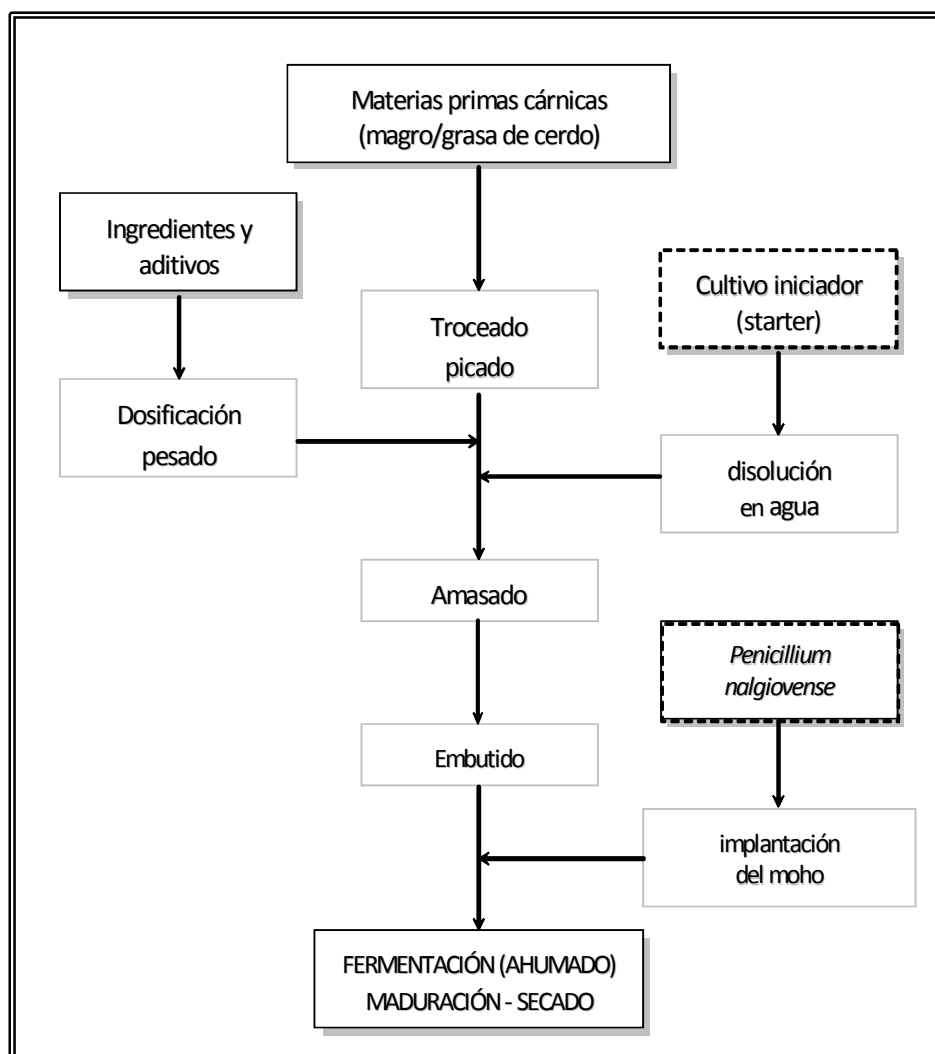


Figura.4.1. Diagrama de flujo del proceso de elaboración de los embutidos fermentados.

Con la excepción del estudio de muestras de mercado (Capítulo 8), los productos estudiados en el presente trabajo se han elaborado específicamente para cada uno de los estudios. La Tabla 4.1 recoge el tipo de materia prima, la formulación, el cultivo iniciador artesanal (si existe), así como las condiciones de elaboración aplicadas para la elaboración de los productos cárnicos fermentados de los diferentes estudios que conforman este trabajo.

En todos los experimentos se elaboraron de forma paralela un número determinado de lotes a partir de una misma materia prima, formulación y condiciones de maduración, en los que sólo se modificó la variable o factor objeto de estudio.

El diseño experimental particular de cada estudio concreto será debidamente detallado dentro del apartado de Diseño Experimental en cada uno de los capítulos de la sección Resultados y Discusión.

| Capítulo / Artículo | Producto | Formulación | | | | | Condiciones de Elaboración | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | Tipo carne magro/grasa | NaCl (g/kg) | Nitrito/ Nitrito (g/kg) | Azúcar (g/kg) | Otros | Cultivo iniciador | Presurización | Ahumado | Fermentación |
| 6 / 1 | <i>Saucisson</i> (Francia) | Cerdo 80 / 20 | 14-30 | 0-0,08/ 0-0,30 | 0-8 | Pimienta, vino y ajo | no | no | 10-22 °C 76-99 % HR 2-8 días | 8-14 °C 70-90 %HR 31-82 días |
| 6 / 1 | <i>Fuet</i> (España) | Cerdo 75-90 /25-10 | 13-23 | 0-0,5 | 0-33 | Pimienta y vino | no | no | 2-24 °C 49-94 % HR <1-5 días | 10-18 °C 58-85 %HR 15-60 días |
| 6 / 1 | <i>Salame abruzzese</i> (Italia) | Cerdo 50-90 /50-10 | empírico | empírico | empírico | Pimienta, vino y ajo | no | no | 4-26 °C 70-84 % HR 1-10 días | 6-22 °C 58-83 %HR 15-90 días |
| 6 / 1 | <i>Chouriço</i> (Portugal) | Cerdo 60-90/40-10 | empírico | 0,6 | no | Pimentón, vino y ajo | no | 2-21 °C 50-90%HR 5-45 días | 2-21 °C 50-90 % HR 5-45 días | 2-21 °C 50-90 %HR 5-45 días |
| 6 / 1 | <i>Aeros thasou</i> (Grecia) | Cerdo 50-90/50-10 | 20-30 | 0,15/0,2 | 0-3 | Pimienta, pimentón dulce y picante | no | 18-20 °C 85-89%HR 2 días | 12-24 °C 93-80 % HR 1-7 días | 12-17 °C 76-78 %HR 14-60 días |
| 6 / 1 | Embutido Eslovaquia | Cerdo 40-70/60-30 | empírico | - | 0-6 | Pimentón picante y ajo | no | >26 °C 30-95%HR empírico | 15-16 °C 80 % HR 5-12 días | 15-25 °C 82-90 %HR 12-21 días |

Tabla 4.1. Características de los productos cárnicos fermentados utilizados en los diferentes estudios realizados en trabajo de tesis.

Tabla 4.1. (CONTINUACIÓN)

| Capítulo / Artículo | Producto | Formulación | | | | Condiciones de Elaboración | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------|---|---|
| | | Tipo carne magro/grasa | NaCl (g/kg) | Nitrato Nitrito (g/kg) | Azúcar (g/kg) | Otros | Cultivo iniciador | Presurización | Ahumado | Fermentación | Curado |
| 8 / V, VI | <i>Fuet</i> | Cerdo 80/20 | 28 | 0,15 | 30 | Pimienta | <i>L. curvatus</i> CTC273 | no | no | (a) 20-23 °C 90-95 % HR 3 días (b) 12-13 °C 70-90 % HR 23 días | (a) 12-14 °C 70 %HR 20 días (b) 12-13 °C 70-90 %HR 23 días |
| 8 / V, VI | <i>Salchichón</i> | Cerdo 80/20 | 28 | 0,15 | 30 | Pimienta | <i>L. curvatus</i> CTC273 | no | no | (a) 20-23 °C 90-95 %HR 3 días (b) 12-13 °C 70-90 %HR 23 días | (a) 12-14 °C 70 %HR 20 días (b) 12-13 °C 70-90 %HR 23 días |
| 9/ VII | <i>Fuet</i> | Cerdo 50/50 | 20 | 0,2 | 1 | Pimienta | <i>L. sakei</i> CTC6469 + CTC6626 <i>S. xyloso</i> CTC6013 + CTC6169 | 200 MPa durante 10 min a 17 °C | no | 12 °C >95 %HR 10 días | 12 °C 80 %HR 21 días |
| 9/ VII | <i>Chorizo</i> | Cerdo 50/50 | 20 | 0,2 | 1 | Pimentón picante y dulce y ajo | <i>L. sakei</i> CTC6469 Y CTC6626 + <i>S. xyloso</i> CTC6013 Y CTC6169 | 200 MPa durante 10 min a 17 °C | no | 12 °C >95 %HR 10 días | 12 °C 80 %HR 21 días |
| 9 / VIII | <i>Salame abruzzese</i> (Italia) | Cerdo 50-90/50-10 | empírico | empírico | 3,8-5 | Pimienta, vino y ajo | no | no | no | 18 °C 80 %HR 30 horas | 14 °C 70 %HR 21 días |

TABLA 4.1. (CONTINUACIÓN)

| Capítulo / Artículo | Producto | Formulación | | | | | Condiciones de Elaboración | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------|--|---|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | Tipo carne magro/grasa | NaCl (g/kg) | Nitrito/Nitrato (g/kg) | Azúcar (g/kg) | Otros | Cultivo iniciador | Presurización | Ahumado | Fermentación | Curado |
| 9/VIII, IX | Saucisson (Francia) | Cerdo 80 / 20 | 14-30 | 0-0,08/ 0-0,30 | 5 | Pimienta, vino y ajo | <i>L. sakei</i> F08F202+ <i>S. equorum</i> F08bF15 + <i>S. succinus</i> F08bF19 | no | no | 20 °C 90 %HR 2 días | 12 °C 80 %HR 52 días |
| 9/VII | Fuet (España) | Cerdo 75-90 /25-10 | 13-23 | 0-0,5 | 0-33 | Pimienta y vino | <i>L. sakei</i> CTC6626 + <i>S. xyloso</i> CTC6013 <i>L. sakei</i> CTC494 + <i>S. xyloso</i> CTC6013 | no | no | 2-24 °C 49-94 %HR <1-5 días | 10-18 °C 58-85 %HR 15-60 días |
| 9/VII | Chouriço (Portugal) | Cerdo 60-90/40-10 | empírico | 0,6 | no | Pimentón, vino y ajo | <i>L. sakei</i> <i>S. equorum</i> | no | 1.5 °C 80%HR 2 días | 20 °C 70 %HR 8 días | 20 °C 70 %HR 8 días |
| 9/VII | Aeros thasou (Grecia) | Cerdo 50-90/50-10 | 20-30 | 0,15/0,2 | 0-3 | Pimienta, Pimentón y <i>Satureja thymbra</i> | <i>L. sakei</i> | no | 18-20 °C 85-89 %HR 2 días | 12-24 °C 93-80 %HR 1-7 días | 12-17 °C 76-78 %HR 14-60 días |

5

METODOLOGÍA ANALÍTICA

5.1 Acondicionamiento de las muestras

Antes de proceder a la determinación del contenido de aminas biógenas y demás parámetros químicos y fisico-químicos, son necesarias ciertas operaciones de acondicionamiento de la muestra con el fin de conseguir que ésta sea lo más homogénea y representativa posible.

En primer lugar se elimina la tripa a una muestra representativa del embutido a analizar (aproximadamente 100–200 g), se trocea (1 cm² aproximadamente) y se tritura con una picadora doméstica (Moulinex®) hasta conseguir una masa homogénea.

A partir de la muestra acondicionada se procedió a la extracción de las aminas biógenas, y fracciones nitrogenadas, así como a la determinación directa del contenido acuoso, pH, a_w , y nitrógeno total. Todas las determinaciones analíticas se realizaron por duplicado o triplicado.

La realización de los recuentos microbianos se realizó a partir de otra porción del mismo embutido.

5.2. Preparación del extracto perclórico

Para la extracción se utilizó una solución de ácido perclórico (Panreac®) 0,6M, que en contacto con la muestra de carne triturada, provoca la precipitación de las proteínas y péptidos de alto peso molecular, dejando en solución las aminos biógenas, los aminoácidos y otros compuestos nitrogenados de bajo peso molecular.

Según el contenido de aminos biógenas esperado se pesó entre 5 y 10 g (precisión 0,001g) de la muestra triturada, directamente en un tubo de centrifuga. Se añadieron 9,0 mL de la solución de ácido perclórico 0,6M y se incorporó un núcleo magnético. Se mezcló todo con una varilla de vidrio. Se dejó en agitación un mínimo de 20 minutos comprobando que el ácido perclórico estuviese en contacto con toda la masa cárnica por igual. A continuación se centrifugó durante 20 minutos a 10.000 rpm a 4 °C. El sobrenadante se filtró y se recogió en un matraz de 25,0 mL. El residuo sólido se extrajo dos veces más siguiendo el mismo procedimiento con 8,0 mL y 6,0 mL respectivamente de ácido perclórico 0,6 M. Se reunieron los extractos perclóricos obtenidos y se ajustó el volumen final a 25,0 mL. Las tres extracciones sucesivas aseguraron la extracción cuantitativa de todas las aminos (Hernández-Jover y col., 1996).

5.3 Determinación de aminos biógenas

A partir del extracto perclórico de la muestra se procedió a la determinación del contenido de aminos biógenas mediante cromatografía líquida de alta eficacia (HPLC) según el método descrito por Hernández-Jover y col. (1996), que permite la determinación cromatográfica de 12 aminos simultáneamente en un tiempo inferior a 60 minutos. En la Figura 5.1 se muestran los cromatogramas correspondientes a un patrón de todas las aminos biógenas y otro correspondiente a una muestra de embutido fermentado.

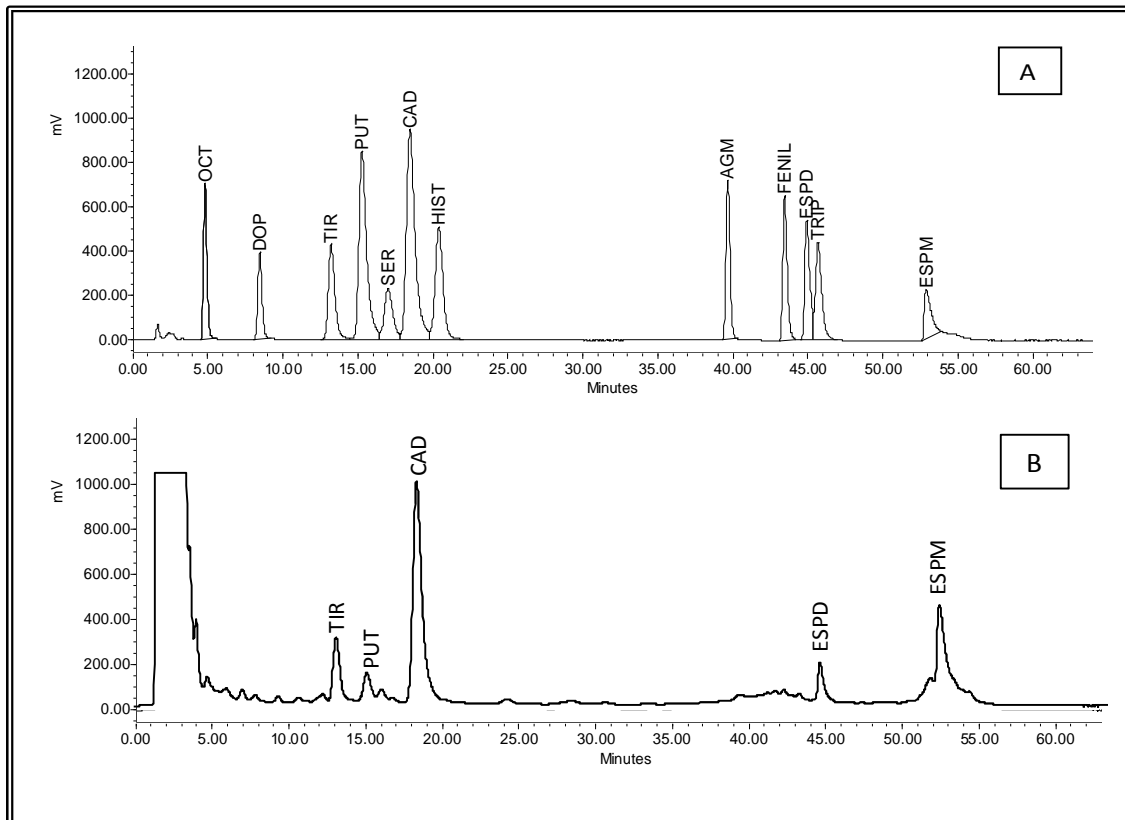


Figura 5.1. Cromatogramas obtenidos tras la inyección de un patrón de 5 mg/L de cada una de las 12 aminas biógenas (A) y de un extracto de embutido fermentado (B).
 OCT: octopamina; DOP: dopamina; TIR: tiramina; PUT: putrescina; SER: serotonina;
 CAD: cadaverina; HIS: histamina; AGM: agmatina; FENIL: feniletilamina; ESPD:
 espermidina; TRIP: Triptamina; ESPM; espermina.

5.3.1 Fundamento del método

Se trata de un procedimiento cromatográfico basado en la formación de pares iónicos entre las aminas biógenas y un reactivo de carácter ácido adicionado en la fase móvil, el octanosulfonato sódico. Dado que en los pares iónicos las cargas eléctricas quedan neutralizadas, las aminas biógenas pueden separarse como compuestos neutros, en función de su polaridad, en una columna de fase reversa, mediante la aplicación de un gradiente de elución cromatográfico.

El gradiente de disolventes permite, por un lado, que muchos compuestos que podrían interferir (como por ejemplo algunos aminoácidos o péptidos polares) eluyan en los primeros minutos del cromatograma y, por otro, acortar el tiempo de análisis forzando la elución de los analitos más apolares. A continuación, tiene lugar la derivatización post-columna con *orto*-oftalaldehído (OPA) que hace que las aminas se conviertan en compuestos altamente fluorescentes. Las aminas separadas y derivatizadas se detectan y después se cuantifican por el método de patrón externo, mediante la lectura de la intensidad de fluorescencia de los derivados amino-OPA formados.

Esta técnica combina la especificidad y la sensibilidad de la determinación fluorimétrica con la buena reproducibilidad de la utilización de sistemas de derivatización post-columna, que permiten evitar problemas asociados a la inestabilidad de los complejos amino-OPA.

5.3.2. Procedimiento y condiciones cromatográficas

Las condiciones cromatográficas utilizadas permiten la separación simultánea de 12 aminas biógenas (por orden de elución: octopamina, dopamina, tiramina, putrescina, serotonina, cadaverina, histamina, agmatina, β -feniletilamina, espermidina, triptamina y espermina) en un tiempo inferior a 60 min.

La fase móvil se compone de dos eluyentes de distinta polaridad. El eluyente A es una solución reguladora de pH de acetato sódico (Panreac®) 0,1 M y octanosulfonato sódico (Romil®) 10 mM, ajustada a pH 5,23 con ácido acético glacial (Panreac®). El eluyente B consta de una solución reguladora de pH de acetato sódico 0,1 M y octanosulfonato sódico 10 mM, ajustada a pH 4,50 y mezclada a una proporción de 6,6:3,4 con acetonitrilo gradoHPLC (Panreac®). Antes de su utilización

los eluyentes deben filtrarse a través de un filtro de tamaño de poro de 0,45 μm (Millipore®) y desgasificarse con ultrasonidos. En la tabla 5.1 se muestra el gradiente de elución programado a un flujo constante de 1 mL/min.

Tabla 5.1 Programa de elución cromatográfica para la determinación simultánea de 12 aminas biógenas en un tiempo inferior a 60 min.

| Periodo | Tiempo (min) | Eluyente A (%) | Eluyente B (%) | Curva ^a |
|------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| elución | 0,0 | 80 | 20 | - |
| | 33,0 | 50 | 50 | 10 |
| | 44,0 | 40 | 60 | 9 |
| | 48,0 | 20 | 80 | 4 |
| Retorno y | 50,0 | 80 | 20 | 6 |
| equilibrio | 53,0 | 80 | 20 | 11 |

^a: curvas que describen el perfil de la modificación de la composición de la fase móvil en el intervalo de tiempo especificado. De 1 a 5 son curvas logarítmicas, la 6 es una recta de pendiente 1, mientras que de la 7 a la 11 son curvas exponenciales cada vez más pronunciadas.

La fase estacionaria, es una columna de fase reversa Nova-Pack C18 de $3,9 \times 15$ cm y diámetro de partícula 4 μm (Waters® Cromatografía), se mantiene dentro de un sistema de control de temperatura (horno Waters® Cromatografía) a 37 °C a lo largo de todo el análisis.

El reactivo de derivatización post-columna se preparó a partir de una solución reguladora de pH constituida por 31,0 g/L de ácido bórico (Panreac®) y 26,2 g/L de hidróxido sódico (Panreac®) a la que se adicionan 0,2 g/L de orto-ftalaldehído (ICN-Hubber®) previamente disuelto en 5,0 mL de metanol (grado HPLC, Panreac®), 3,0

ml/L de 2-mercaptoetanol (Merck®) y 3,0 ml/L de una solución de éter de polioxietilenlaurílico (Brij 35®, Merck®) al 30%. Antes de su utilización, el reactivo se filtra a través de un filtro de 0,45 µm (Millipore®) y se desgasifica con ultrasonidos.

La reacción de derivatización post-columna requiere un sistema de bombeo adicional que impulse el reactivo a un flujo constante de 0,4 mL/min y libre de pulsaciones hacia un sistema conector (volumen muerto) en forma de T. Allí, el reactivo de derivatización se encuentra con los analitos separados salientes de la columna y a lo largo del trayecto entre esta conexión y el detector se produce la reacción (Figura 5.2). La derivatización post-columna permite una elevada sensibilidad, ya que el tiempo transcurrido entre la formación de los derivados inestables y su paso por el detector es muy corto.

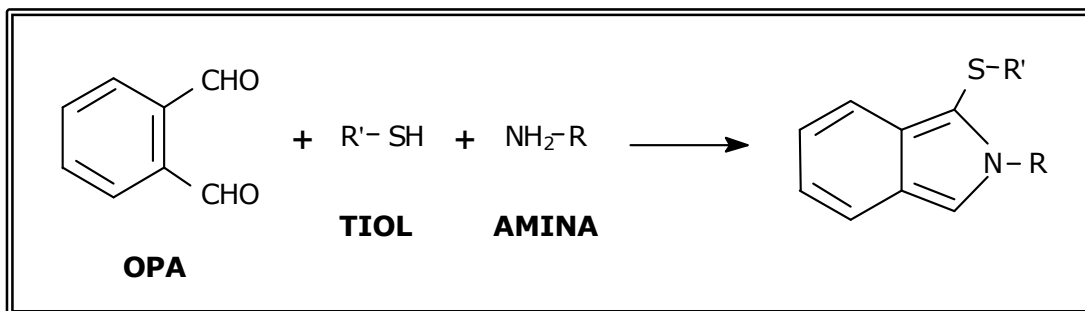


Figura 5.2. Reacción de derivatización de las aminas con el orto-ftalaldehído (OPA) en presencia de un grupo tiol (2-mercaptoetanol). Los productos resultantes son altamente fluorescentes (Smith, 1993).

5.3.3 Cuantificación

El cálculo del contenido de aminas biógenas de la muestra se realizó mediante la cuantificación por patrón externo a partir de una recta de calibrado, preparada con una serie de soluciones patrón de concentraciones entre 0,1 mg/L y 25 mg/L de cada una de las aminas biógenas. En el caso de que un extracto presentara niveles elevados

de alguna amina, por encima de la concentración más alta utilizada para calcular la recta, se procedió a una nueva extracción partiendo de menor cantidad de muestra o utilizando volúmenes de ácido perclórico superiores para que la concentración final quedara dentro del intervalo de la recta de trabajo.

5.4 Determinaciones físico-químicas y químicas

5.4.1 Valores de pH

El pH se determinó mediante la lectura directa del potencial eléctrico creado en la membrana de un electrodo de vidrio especialmente diseñado para la medida de los valores de pH de muestras de alimento sólidas (Crison[®], modelo Xerolyt).

En algunos casos, especialmente en los productos acabados, la consistencia de la muestra es excesivamente dura y para evitar que el electrodo se dañe, es recomendable preparar una masa homogénea con la carne triturada y agua bidestilada a partes iguales, tal como se recomienda en Madrid-Vicente (1994).

5.4.2 Contenido acuoso

El contenido acuoso de las muestras se determinó según el método oficial de la AOAC (nº 950.46). El procedimiento se basa en la desecación de una alícuota (aproximadamente 8 g) de la muestra triturada y homogeneizada (apartado 5.1) a 102 ± 2 °C.

El contenido acuoso se determinó para poder expresar los resultados de los contenidos de aminas biógenas y parámetros de proteólisis en peso seco. Así, los datos

de las muestras analizadas a lo largo de un proceso de elaboración estaban libres del efecto de concentración que se produce por la desecación de los productos cárnicos.

Para el cálculo del contenido acuoso se aplicó la fórmula:

$$\text{Agua (\%)} = \frac{P_i - P_f}{P_i - T} \times 100$$

donde T : peso (g) del pesafiltro seco (tara); P_i : Peso (g) del pesafiltro con la muestra fresca (peso inicial); P_f : peso (g) del pesafiltro con la muestra desecada (peso final).

5.4.3 Nitrógeno total

La determinación del contenido en nitrógeno total se realizó mediante el método Kjeldahl (Madrid-Vicente,1994) y descrito en los métodos de la AOAC, (928.08). El método consta de tres etapas:

Una mineralización o digestión de una alícuota (1,5 – 2 g) de muestra homogénea (véase apartado 5.1) con 25,0 mL de ácido sulfúrico concentrado (Panreac®), selenio y sulfato de cobre (Merk®), a 400 °C. Durante esta etapa el nitrógeno orgánico se transforma en iones amonio.

La destilación del amoníaco, después de alcalinizar la solución con hidróxido sódico (Panreac®) al 40 %, se efectúa por corriente de vapor de agua en el sistema destilador Kjeltex® (Foss Tecator®). El destilado se recoge en una solución de ácido bórico (Panreac®) al 4 %.

La valoración volumétrica ácido-base del nitrógeno destilado se llevó a cabo con una solución normalizada de ácido clorhídrico (Panreac®) 0,5 N con un indicador mixto o Tashiro (Panreac®) compuesto por rojo de metilo y azul de metileno (66:44,

v:v). El volumen de ácido clorhídrico empleado en la valoración es equivalente al nitrógeno presente en la muestra digerida. Así, para la obtención de la concentración de nitrógeno en la muestra (a) o en el extracto seco de la misma (b) se aplicaron las fórmulas:

$$(a) N_t (\%) = \frac{V \times N \times 1,4}{P}$$

$$(b) N_t (\% \text{ peso seco}) = \frac{V \times N \times 140}{P \times (100 - A)}$$

donde V:volumen (mL) de ácido clorhídrico gastado;N: normalidad exacta de la solución de ácido clorhídrico valorada;P: peso (g) de la muestra digerida;A: contenido acuoso (%) de la muestra.

5.4.4. Nitrógeno no proteico

La determinación del nitrógeno no proteico (NNP) se realizó para evaluar el grado de proteolisis de los productos cárnicos fermentados de los distintos estudios. Esta fracción nitrogenada contiene aminoácidos, péptidos y otros compuestos orgánicos de bajo peso molecular solubles en ácido.

Para la determinación del NNP se siguió la metodología descrita por Dierick y col., (1974). A partir de una alícuota de 10 mL de extracto perclórico de la muestra (véase apartado 5.2), se procede a la determinación de su contenido en nitrógeno mediante el método Kjeldahl (apartado 5.4.3). En este caso, para la digestión del extracto son suficientes 15,0 mL de ácido sulfúrico concentrado. La valoración del nitrógeno destilado se realiza con una solución de ácido clorhídrico 0,1 N exactamente normalizada.

Las fórmulas que permiten calcular el contenido de NNP en la muestra fueron:

$$(a) \quad NNP \text{ (mg/g)} = \frac{V_a \times N \times 14}{V_d} \times \frac{V_e}{P}$$

$$(b) \quad NNP \text{ (mg/g peso seco)} = \frac{V_a \times N \times 14}{V_d} \times \frac{V_e}{P} \times \frac{100}{100 - A}$$

donde V_a : volumen (mL) de ácido clorhídrico gastado; N : normalidad exacta de la solución de ácido clorhídrico valorada; V_d : volumen (mL) de extracto digerido; V_e : volumen (mL) final total del extracto perclórico de la muestra; P : peso (g) de la muestra extraída; A : contenido acuoso (%) de la muestra.

Cálculo del índice de proteólisis: A partir de los valores de NNP y de nitrógeno total (N_t), ambos expresados en las mismas unidades, de cada una de las muestras se calculó el índice de proteólisis (IP) según la fórmula propuesta por Astiasarán y col., (1990):

$$IP \text{ (\%)} = \frac{NNP}{N_t} \times 100$$

5.4.5 Nitrógeno alfa-amino libre

Este parámetro es indicador de la cantidad de aminoácidos libres, y por tanto permite evaluar los fenómenos proteolíticos que se dan durante la fermentación y maduración de los productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados.

Los aminoácidos libres se extraen mediante precipitación de las proteínas de la masa cárnica con ácido perclórico 0,6 M (apartado 5.2) y se determinan los grupos amino libres con el método Sørensen o número de formol descrito en los métodos de la AOAC, (920.154).

A una alícuota de 5,0 ml del extracto perclórico de la muestra se añadieron unas gotas de fenolftaleína y se procedió a la neutralización con unas gotas de hidróxido potásico (Panreac®) 10 N hasta que se produjo un cambio de color a rosa

fucsia (aproximadamente a pH 8). Se dejó en reposo durante 20 min en refrigeración (4 °C) para facilitar la precipitación del perclorato potásico. Transcurrido este tiempo, se filtró el extracto neutralizado y se añadieron 25,0 mL de agua destilada para aumentar el volumen y facilitar la posterior valoración. A continuación se ajustó el pH de las soluciones, lo más exactamente posible, con hidróxido potásico 0,1 N, hasta que una gota hace virar la solución de color rosa a transparente incoloro. De esta manera, se evitó la presencia de iones hidrógeno que podrían interferir en la valoración. Finalmente, se añadieron 25,0 mL de formaldehído (Panreac®) al 35 – 40 % y se valoró con una solución normalizada de hidróxido sódico 0,1 N. Paralelamente, se realizó el mismo procedimiento con un blanco (5,0 mL de agua destilada), con el que se valoraron los iones hidrógeno presentes en los reactivos utilizados (principalmente el formaldehído).

A partir del volumen de hidróxido sódico gastado para valorar el extracto, corregido por el volumen necesario para valorar el blanco, se calculó la concentración de nitrógeno alfa-amino libre (NAA) con las siguientes fórmulas:

$$(a) \quad NAA \text{ (mg/g)} = \frac{(V - V_{bl}) \times N \times 14}{V_d} \times \frac{V_e}{P}$$

$$(b) \quad NAA \text{ (mg/g peso seco)} = \frac{(V - V_{bl}) \times N \times 14}{V_d} \times \frac{V_e}{P} \times \frac{100}{100 - A}$$

Donde V : volumen (mL) de hidróxido sódico gastado para valorar el extracto; V_{bl} : volumen (mL) de hidróxido sódico gastado para valorar el blanco; N : normalidad exacta de la solución de hidróxido sódico valorada; V_d : volumen (mL) de extracto utilizado; V_e : volumen (mL) final del extracto perclórico de la muestra; P : peso (g) de la muestra extraída; A : contenido acuoso (%) de la muestra.

5.5 Determinaciones microbiológicas

El periodo de tiempo transcurrido entre la toma de muestras y el comienzo del análisis microbiológico debe ser lo más corto posible, para que los resultados reflejen, con la mayor fidelidad posible, la microbiota que cualitativa y cuantitativamente estaba presente en el momento del muestreo. Con este fin, el análisis microbiológico¹ se realizó de forma inmediata y la porción de muestra restante se congeló (-20 °C) para, posteriormente, proceder al análisis del contenido de aminas biógenas, de los parámetros físico-químicos y de las fracciones nitrogenadas descritas en los anteriores apartados.

Una vez retirados los extremos y la tripa de los productos, se extrajo asépticamente una porción representativa (10 - 25 g) de la muestra, y se introdujo en una bolsa estéril donde se añadió el volumen de agua de peptona necesario para diluir 1/10 la muestra pesada. La homogeneización se realizó en un triturador de paletas (Stomacher 400, Laboratory Blender®) durante 2 min. A partir de esta suspensión (dilución 1/10), se preparó una batería de diluciones decimales seriadas en tubos con 9,0 ml del mismo diluyente adicionando 1,0 mL de la dilución inmediatamente superior. Los tubos de la serie se mantuvieron en refrigeración hasta su utilización para la siembra.

¹El análisis microbiológico de los capítulos 6 y 9 lo llevaron a cabo los diferentes grupos de investigación participantes en el proyecto europeo.

Para la determinación del número de microorganismos o unidades formadoras de colonias (ufc) por gramo de muestra se utilizaron métodos de recuento en placa: en masa o en superficie según el tipo de microorganismo.

Se realizó la siembra de más de una dilución decimal, de tal forma que al menos una proporcionase entre 30 y 300 colonias, a partir de la cual se llevó a cabo el recuento. En el caso de las placas sembradas en espiral, el recuento se realizó automáticamente con el sistema contador de colonias Protos (AES-Laboratoire®). Los resultados se expresaron en \log_{10} (ufc/g), y para su cálculo, a partir del número de colonias, se tuvieron en cuenta la dilución y la cantidad de inóculo sembrado en cada caso.

Los métodos utilizados para la determinación de la presencia y recuento de bacterias del ácido láctico, CGC+(*Staphylococcus* y *Kocuria*), *Enterobacteriaceae*, *Enterococcus*, *Pseudomonas*, levaduras y mohos se encuentran resumidos en la Tabla 5.2.

5.6 Determinación de la capacidad aminoácido-descarboxilasa

La evaluación de la actividad aminoácido-descarboxilasa de los microorganismos se llevó a cabo mediante el estudio de la formación de aminas biógenas, a partir de los correspondientes aminoácidos, en un medio de laboratorio (*in vitro*). La metodología seguida fue la descrita por Bover-Cid y Holzaphel, (1999). Esta técnica incluye la activación de los cultivos, el crecimiento en el medio descarboxilasa y la confirmación de la capacidad productora de aminas biógenas por los microorganismos.

5.6.1. Activación de los cultivos

Para la activación de los cultivos, las cepas aisladas fueron subcultivadas repetidamente (entre 4 y 5 pases) en medios de cultivo nutritivos adecuados. Dichos medios consistían en MRS (Oxoid®) para las bacterias lácticas y TSB (Oxoid®) para las demás, que fueron enriquecidos con los aminoácidos precursores de las aminas al 0,1% (sustrato para la reacción) y piridoxal 5'-fosfato (Sigma) al 0,005%, que actúa como cofactor enzimático en la reacción de descarboxilación.

5.6.2. Detección de la capacidad productora de aminas biógenas

Los cultivos microbianos previamente activados fueron inoculados (0,1 %) en el medio descarboxilasa e incubados durante 4 días a 30 °C en condiciones de aerobiosis en un medio descarboxilasa descrito en Bover-Cid y Holzapfel (1999). La comprobación de la capacidad de cada cultivo microbiano para producir una o más aminas biógenas se realizó mediante el análisis cualitativo y cuantitativo de las aminas presentes en el medio descarboxilasa. Para ello, una alícuota de 2,0 mL de medio de cultivo homogeneizado se centrifugó (10000 rpm / 5 min) y 1,0 mL del sobrenadante se mezcló con 1,0 mL de ácido perclórico 0,6 M. Después de centrifugar nuevamente y filtrar el sobrenadante a través de un filtro de 0,45 µm de diámetro, se determinó el contenido de aminas biógenas empleando el método cromatográfico propuesto por Hernández-Jover y col., (1997), descrito en el apartado 5.3 de esta memoria.

Tabla 5.2 Métodos utilizados para la determinación de la presencia y recuento de BAL Staphylococcus y Kocuria, Enterobacteriaceae, Enterococcus, Pseudomonas y levaduras y mohos.

| Familia microbiana | Medio de Cultivo | Condiciones (Temperatura/Tiempo/ Oxígeno) |
|--|---|--|
| Bacterias del ácido láctico | Man-Rogosa-Sharpe (MRS) | 30°C / 48-72 h/ aeróbico |
| Cocos Gram positivos catalasa positivos (CGC+) | Manitol Salt Agar (MSA) | 30°C / 48 h/ aeróbico |
| Enterococos | M-enterococcus (ME) | 37°C / 48 h/ aeróbico |
| | Kanamicina Esculina Azida (KAA) | 37°C / 24 h/ aeróbico |
| Enterobacterias | Agar Bilis Rojo Violeta con glucosa (VRBG) | 37°C / 24 h/ aeróbico |
| Pseudomonas | Cetrimide-Fucidin-Cephaloridine Agar suplementado con SR 103E | 25°C / 48 h/ aeróbico |
| Levaduras y mohos | Extracto de levadura, Glucosa, Cloramfenicol (YGC) | 25°C / 48 h/ aeróbico |

5.7 Tratamiento estadístico

El análisis estadístico de los datos se realizó con el software SPSS versión 11.0 (SPSS Inc). En primer lugar, se examinó la distribución de los valores de cada una de las variables para cada grupo (o lote) a comparar. Previa comprobación de la normalidad (prueba Shapiro-Wilks), la asimetría y la homogeneidad de las variancias (prueba de Levene), se aplicaron los diferentes métodos de análisis estadístico (prueba *t* de Student, análisis de la variancia, ANOVA, correlación de Pearson, análisis de componentes principales (ACP) y análisis de conglomerados) que se detallan en cada una de las publicaciones presentadas en este trabajo de tesis.

RESULTADOS Y DISCUSIÓN

6

AMINOGÉNESIS EN PRODUCTOS CÁRNICOS CRUDOS-CURADOS FERMENTADOS EUROPEOS DE ELABORACIÓN ARTESANAL

Este capítulo recoge dos trabajos que pretenden caracterizar, desde el punto de vista de los contenidos en aminos biógenos, los embutidos crudos-curados fermentados elaborados artesanalmente, originarios de diferentes regiones o países europeos del área mediterránea y Eslovaquia. El primer trabajo estudia la evolución de la acumulación de aminos durante el proceso de elaboración, es decir desde las materias primas hasta el producto acabado. El segundo estudio se centra en la evolución de estos compuestos durante el periodo de almacenamiento de dichos productos.

6.1 Estudio de la acumulación y los contenidos de aminas biógenas en productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados de origen artesanal procedentes de diferentes países europeos

Artículo I

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla, T. Veciana-Nogués, S. Bover-Cid, M. Garriga, T. Aymerich, E. Zanardi, A. Ianieri, M.J. Fraqueza, L. Patarata, E.H. Drosinos, R. Talon, M.C. Vidal-Carou (2008). Biogenic amines in traditional fermented sausages produced in selected European countries. *Food Chemistry*, 107: 912-921.

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6.1.1 Planteamiento y objetivo del estudio

Entre los estudios sobre la presencia de aminas biógenas en embutidos fermentados, pocos se han centrado específicamente en los de elaboración artesanal, aunque existen referencias en productos franceses (Montel y col., 1999) e italianos (Parente y col., 2001). Según estos escasos estudios, en general los contenidos de aminas pueden ser superiores en los artesanales, aunque no hay grandes diferencias en comparación con los industriales. En este trabajo se pretende profundizar en el conocimiento de la aminogénesis en procesos de elaboración artesanal en diferentes países europeos.

Los objetivos concretos de este estudio fueron:

- estudiar la evolución de los contenidos de aminas biógenas durante la elaboración de embutidos crudos-curados fermentados originarios de diferentes regiones o países del área mediterránea y de Eslovaquia elaborados según prácticas artesanales

- estudiar posibles relaciones entre la formación de aminas y la procedencia geográfica, factores tecnológicos como las condiciones de elaboración, parámetros físico-químicos y proteolíticos y los recuentos microbianos
- estudiar la significación higiénico-sanitaria de los contenidos finales de ciertas aminas biógenas presentes en los productos.

6.1.2 Diseño experimental

Los diferentes productos cárnicos fermentados estudiados procedían de un total de 54 plantas de elaboración artesanal (10 de Francia, 10 de España, 10 de Italia, 11 de Portugal, 10 de Grecia y 3 de Eslovaquia). Las empresas elaboradoras fueron seleccionadas por ser representativas e incluir las diferentes tipologías de acuerdo con las directrices del proyecto europeo Tradisausage. Las características de cada uno de los productos cárnicos fermentados estudiados se encuentran resumidas en la Tabla 4.1 de la sección Material y Métodos. Las muestras se tomaron por triplicado en tres puntos diferentes del proceso de elaboración: Inicio (Z), materia primas justo antes de ser embutidas; punto medio (M), una vez finalizado el proceso de fermentación (final de la fase exponencial del crecimiento bacteriano); punto final (F) una vez finalizado el proceso de curado, referido al producto listo para ser consumido.

6.1.3 Resultados

Aminogénesis durante el proceso de elaboración de embutidos artesanales

En la mayoría de las materias primas utilizadas para la elaboración de los embutidos fermentados no se detectaron aminas biógenas o bien, estaban presentes a niveles bajos, lo que significa una adecuada calidad higiénica de las mismas. Sólo 5

muestras, de un total de 54 analizadas, mostraron niveles significativos (más de 30 mg/kg) de aminas, especialmente tiramina y cadaverina. En estas muestras los recuentos de enterobacterias y enterococos fueron también relativamente elevados (>4 log ufc/g). Estos microorganismos están relacionados con la producción de cadaverina y tiramina, respectivamente.

En la mayoría de los productos cárnicos fermentados estudiados la formación de aminas biógenas tuvo lugar durante las etapas de fermentación y/o maduración. Desde el punto de vista cuantitativo, los contenidos de aminas biógenas de los diferentes tipos de embutidos fermentados artesanales europeos analizados fueron similares a los descritos previamente en otros embutidos fermentados, tanto de origen industrial como artesanal (Montel y col., 1999; Parente y col., 2001; Suzzi y Gardini, 2003; Ruiz-Capillas y Jiménez-Colmenero, 2004). La amina mayoritaria fue la tiramina, representando entre el 25y el 50 % del contenido total de aminas. La putrescina fue la segunda amina, seguida de la cadaverina, siendo sus contenidos mucho más variables que los de tiramina. La histamina se encontró en menor frecuencia y en concentraciones mucho más bajas que las de las aminas mencionadas anteriormente.

A partir del incremento de los contenidos de aminas biógenas durante las etapas de fermentación y maduración se realizaron una serie de análisis de componentes principales (ACP) con el fin de relacionar la aminogénesis en cada una de las etapas del proceso de elaboración y diversos factores como el país de procedencia, los parámetros físico-químicos (pH, a_w) y proteolíticos (NAA y IP), las condiciones tecnológicas de elaboración (tiempo, temperatura y humedad relativa) y los recuentos microbianos (bacterias del ácido láctico, estafilococos, enterococos, enterobacterias, pseudomonas, levaduras y mohos). Los resultados obtenidos demostraron una relación positiva entre el incremento de las aminas y el de los aminoácidos libres (lo que está de acuerdo con el papel de los aminoácidos como precursores de las aminas). Sin embargo, no se encontró una relación estadística entre la acumulación de aminas y

el resto de los factores físico-químicos, tecnológicos o microbiológicos considerados. Además, tampoco se pudo demostrar una relación entre la aminogénesis y el lugar de procedencia de los embutidos. La variabilidad en los contenidos de aminos y la diversidad de los productos, podrían explicar, en parte, esta falta de relación estadística entre la aminogénesis y los factores microbiológicos, tecnológicos y físico-químicos.

Aminas biógenas en el producto acabado: interés higiénico

La presencia de aminos biógenos en el producto acabado, como resultado de una actividad microbiana, se puede considerar indicador de la calidad higiénica del embutido. Así, los productos cárnicos fermentados artesanales estudiados se clasificaron mediante un análisis de conglomerados o clúster según su significación higiénica y tecnológica, basándose en el perfil cuantitativo y cualitativo de las aminos de origen microbiano (tiramina, feniletilamina, triptamina, histamina, cadaverina y putrescina) presentes en el producto final. Se obtuvieron un total de 5 grupos (A-E), con las siguientes características:

Grupo A (n=21) incluye los productos de muy bajo y bajo contenido total de aminos (desde no detectadas hasta 150 mg/kg).

Grupo B (n= 19) incluye los productos con niveles moderados de aminos(des de 150 a 350 mg/kg), siendo la tiramina la amina principal.

Grupo C (n=12), incluye los productos con niveles moderados de aminos (des de 150 a 350 mg/kg) siendo la cadaverina la amina cuantitativamente más importante.

Grupo D (n=8) incluye los productos con contenidos altos de aminos totales (desde 350 a 550 mg/kg)

Grupo E (n=6) incluye los productos con contenidos de aminos totales muy altos (superiores a 550 mg/kg).

Así pues, des del punto de vista higiénico-tecnológico, más de la mitad de los productos (61 %), incluidos en los grupos A y B, se clasificaron como satisfactorios y aceptables, respectivamente. Sin embargo, un 39% de ellos se incluyeron en los grupos C (debido a la relación de la cadaverina con la microbiota alterante), D y E (por sus altos contenidos totales) y se consideraron de peor calidad higiénica que el resto.

6.1.4. Aportaciones más relevantes

- Esta parte del trabajo amplía la información científica disponible sobre la acumulación de aminos biógenas en productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados artesanales procedentes de diferentes países europeos.
- Se proponen límites para la clasificación higiénico-sanitaria de los embutidos fermentados en base al perfil cuantitativo y cualitativo de las aminos biógenas en el producto final.

Artículo I

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Analytical Methods

Biogenic amines in traditional fermented sausages produced in selected European countries

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla^a, T. Veciana-Nogués^a, S. Bover-Cid^{a,b}, M. Garriga^b,
T. Aymerich^b, E. Zanardi^c, A. Ianieri^d, M.J. Fraqueza^e, L. Patarata^f,
E.H. Drosinos^g, A. Lauková^h, R. Talonⁱ, M.C. Vidal-Carou^{a,*}

^a *Departament de Nutrició i Bromatologia, Facultat de Farmàcia, Universitat de Barcelona, Avinguda Joan XXIII s/n, E-08028 Barcelona, Spain*

^b *Institute for Food and Agricultural Research and Technology (IRTA), Finca Camps i Armet, E-17121 Monells, Spain*

^c *Dipartimento di Produzioni Animali, Biotechnologie Veterinarie, Qualità e Sicurezza degli Alimenti, Università degli Studi di Parma, Via del Taglio, 8, 43100 Parma, Italy*

^d *Dipartimento di Scienze degli Alimenti, Università degli Studi di Teramo, Piazza Aldo Moro, 45, 64100 Teramo, Italy*

^e *Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária, CIISA, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Av. da Universidade Técnica, Polo Universitário, Alto da Ajuda 1300-477 Lisboa, Portugal*

^f *Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, CECAV, 5000-911 Vila Real, Portugal*

^g *Department of Food Science and Technology, Agricultural University of Athens, 75 Iera Odos, Str., Votanikos, GR-118 55, Greece*

^h *Institute of Animal Physiology Slovak Academy of Science, Šoltésovej 4-6, 04001 Košice, Slovakia*

ⁱ *Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Centre de Recherches de Clermont-Ferrand-Theix, Microbiology Unit, 63 122 Saint-Genès Champanelle, France*

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Abstract

Aminogenesis in traditional fermented sausages produced in Europe was studied during manufacturing process taking into account technological, physico-chemical and microbial factors. Tyramine was the major amine, followed by putrescine and cadaverine, although the occurrence of di-amines was much more variable. By principal component analysis, relationships between aminogenesis and the country of origin, physico-chemical parameters, processing conditions and microbial counts, were not found, probably due to the high dispersion observed in those variables. Therefore, biogenic amines occurred irrespectively of physico-chemical changes and technological conditions applied for sausage manufacture. By cluster analysis, five groups of fermented sausages were identified on the basis of their quantitative and qualitative profile of total biogenic amine content. Group A included products from very low to low total amine content (from not detected to 150 mg/kg); group B, products with moderate levels (from 150 to 350 mg/kg) tyramine being the major amine; group C, also with moderate amine contents but cadaverine being the major amine; and groups D and E, comprising products with high (from 350 to 550 mg/kg) and very high (higher than 550 mg/kg) amine content, respectively. Samples with moderate, high or very high levels of biogenic amines could be considered as products of less quality, and their consumption could be unhealthy for sensitive individuals or for those under classical monoamine oxidase inhibitor drug therapy.

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Keywords: Traditional fermented sausage; Biogenic amines; Tyramine; Histamine; Cadaverine; Hygienic quality

1. Introduction

Fermentation is a traditional preservation technique, which provides relatively stable meat products with typical sensorial characteristics. This is the case of a certain type of

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: mcvidal@ub.edu (M.C. Vidal-Carou).

sausage, for which minced meat, together with several ingredients, such as salt, sugar, spices and curing agents, is fermented and stuffed into a casing. Although the type and manufacture of fermented sausages differ depending on the region, industrial manufacturing processes tend to standardize procedures. Artisanal sausages are increasingly appreciated by consumers because of their sensory properties and their authenticity. Traditional products are usually manufactured in small-scale plants following spontaneous fermentation. Given the size of these operations, traditional producers may encounter difficulties (technical and financial) to comply with food safety standards established for industrial processes, such as for example, the introduction of the hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) plan.

The European project “Tradisausage” (QLK1 CT-2002-02240) aimed to evaluate and eventually improve the safety of fermented sausages produced via traditional methods in Europe while preserving their authenticity. In the frame of this project, biogenic amines (tyramine, putrescine, cadaverine, histamine, β -phenylethylamine, tryptamine), microbial metabolites resulting from the decarboxylation of precursor amino acids (tyrosine, ornithine, lysine, histidine, phenylalanine, tryptophan) (Brink, Damink, Joosten, & Huis in't Veld, 1990), have been evaluated. Polyamines, spermidine and spermine, are considered natural amines, since they are not related to inducible microbial decarboxylase activity.

Interest in biogenic amine content of food, in particular fermented sausages, lies in safety and quality issues. From a toxicological point of view, the vasoactive and psychoactive effects, of mainly tyramine and histamine, are related to the occurrence of histaminic intoxication, food-induced migraines and hypertensive crises in sensitive individuals. The risk of health implications may be increased when the efficiency of enzymatic systems is blocked by monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOI drugs), gastrointestinal diseases, genetic deficiencies, or potentiating factors such as alcohol or other biogenic amines (Brink et al., 1990; Mariné-Font, Vidal-Carou, Izquierdo-Pulido, Veciana-Nogués, & Hernández-Jover, 1995). Furthermore, some biogenic amines (mainly cadaverine and histamine) have been proposed as chemical indicators of the hygienic conditions of raw material and/or manufacturing practices since their accumulation is associated with the activity of contaminant bacteria (Bover-Cid, Hernández-Jover, Miguélez-Arrizado, & Vidal-Carou, 2003; Halász, Baráth, Simon-Sarkadi, & Holzapfel, 1994; Hernández-Jover, Izquierdo-Pulido, Veciana-Nogués, Marine-Font, & Vidal-Carou, 1997).

Among the numerous studies on biogenic amines in fermented sausages, few have focused specifically on traditional manufacture (Miguélez-Arrizado, Bover-Cid, Latorre-Moratalla, & Vidal-Carou, 2006; Montel, Masson, & Talon, 1999; Parente et al., 2001). In this kind of sausage, the occurrence of biogenic amines could be considerable and higher than industrial ones. Amine content and

profiles may vary depending on several extrinsic and intrinsic factors during the manufacturing process, such as the ripening conditions, formulation, physico-chemical and proteolytic parameters, as well as microflora development and its decarboxylase activity.

In the frame of Tradisausage project, biogenic amine accumulation in sausages from several regions throughout the Mediterranean area and Slovakia was studied. In particular, the objective of the present work was to study the aminogenesis during the manufacturing of traditional fermented sausages taking into account several factors such as origin, technological conditions, physico-chemical parameters and microbial counts. Moreover, biogenic amine contents in the final product were assessed to determine their hygienic implications as well as their potential risk for health.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Samples and sampling

The different types of European fermented sausages examined in this study were manufactured by a total of 54 traditional processing units (PUs), which were selected by each country participating in the project to include different typologies according to the guidelines of the European Project Tradisausage: France (10 PUs), Spain (10), Italy (10), Portugal (11), Greece (10) and Slovakia (3).

Table 1 shows the range of length, temperature and relative humidity, both in fermentation and ripening steps used for the sample elaboration following the traditional customs of each country. All types of sausages were manufactured with pork (without beef); however, distinct types and/or amounts of ingredients, spices and additives were included. Fermentation was mediated by spontaneous flora, except in 5 PUs (1 in France, 2 in Spain, 1 in Greece and 1 in Slovakia), which used a starter culture. Products were smoked in Portugal, Greece and Slovakia.

For each PUs ($n = 54$), sausages were sampled at three points during the manufacturing process, point zero (Z): meat batter just before stuffing, mid point (M): after fermentation (at the end of microbial exponential growth), and final point (F): product after ripening when the product was ready for consumption. Moreover, to study the effect of batch, 13 additional batches from some selected PUs were studied. Three sausages at each sampling point were sampled. Samples were wrapped in aluminium foil, packed under vacuum, frozen at $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and sent in dry ice to our laboratory. There the samples were stored at $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ until analysis. A total of 201 samples were examined for biogenic amine contents, nitrogen fractions (total nitrogen, α -amino nitrogen and non-protein nitrogen), and physico-chemical parameters (pH, water activity and moisture). Analyzes were performed in triplicate.

Table 1
Composition and technological conditions of fermented sausages from several countries (minimum and maximum of 10 processing units/country)

| | France | Spain | Italy | Portugal | Greece | Slovakia |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Formulation</i> | | | | | | |
| Meat species | Pork | Pork | Pork | Pork | Pork | Pork |
| Meat/fat ratio (%) | 80/20 | 75–90/25–10 | 50–90/50–10 | 60–90/40–10 | 50–90/50–10 | 40–70/60–30 |
| Salt (NaCl) (g/kg) | 14–30 | 13–23 | Unknown | Empirically | 20–30 | Empirically |
| Nitrates/Nitrites (g/kg) | 0–0.08/ 0–0.3 | 0–0.5 | Unknown | 0.6 | 0.15/0.2 | Unknown |
| Glucides (g/kg) | 0–8 | 0–33 | Unknown | None | 0–3 | 0–6 |
| Other | Pepper, wine, garlic | Pepper, wine | Pepper, wine, garlic | Red pepper, wine, garlic | Black and red pepper, paprika | Chilly pepper, garlic |
| <i>Process conditions</i> | | | | | | |
| Temp (°C)/HR (%) smoking | None | None | None | 2–21/50–90 ^a | 18–20/85–89 | >26/30–95 |
| Time (days) smoking | None | None | None | 5–45 ^a | 2 | Empirically |
| Temp (°C)/HR (%) fermentation | 10–22/76–99 | 2–24/49–94 | 4–26/70–84 | 2–12 | 12–24/93–80 | 15–16/80 |
| Time (days) fermentation | 2–8 | <1–5 | 1–10 | 1–3 | 1–7 | 5–12 |
| Temp (°C)/HR (%) maturation | 8–14/70–90 | 10–18/58–85 | 6–22/58–83 | 2–21/50–90 ^a | 12–17/76–78 | 15–25/82–90 |
| Time (days) maturation | 31–82 | 15–60 | 15–90 | 5–45 ^a | 14–60 | 12–21 |

^a In nine out of ten PUs the smoking and maturation are not independent phases; it occurs simultaneously.

2.2. Analytical determinations

Biogenic amines were detected and quantified by ion-pair reverse-phase high performance liquid chromatography, as described in Hernández-Jover, Izquierdo-Pulido, Veciana-Nogués, and Vidal-Carou (1996). This method is based on the formation of ion-pairs between biogenic amine, previously extracted with 0.6 N perchloric acid from 5 to 10 g of sample without casings, and octanesulphonic acid present in the mobile phase. Amine separation is performed through a C18 reverse phase column, followed by a post-column derivatization with *o*-phthalaldehyde (OPA) with spectrofluorimetric detection (λ ex: 340 nm and λ em: 445 nm).

Total nitrogen (TN) and non-protein nitrogen (NPN) contents were determined by the Kjeldahl method (AOAC, 1995). The NPN fraction was previously extracted from 5 to 10 g of sample with 0.6 N perchloric acid (Dierick, Vandekerckhove, & Demeyer, 1974). The proteolysis index (PI) was calculated through the quotient between NPN and TN multiplied by 100. The Sørensen method, by titration with formaldehyde (AOAC, 1995), was used to determine the free amino acid fraction as α -amino nitrogen (AAN). The pH was measured using a microcomputerized pH meter Crison 2001 (Crison Barcelona, Spain). The electrode was inserted in a mixture of 5 g of homogenised sample and 5 ml of distilled water. Water activity values were obtained at 25 °C by means of Aqualab[®] equipment (Decagon Devices Inc. Pullman, Washington). Moisture was determined by drying the sample at 100–105 °C until constant weight (AOAC, 1995).

2.3. Microbial enumeration

Twenty five g of product were aseptically transferred to 225 ml of sterile buffered peptone water solution (BPW,

AES Laboratory) and homogenised with a stomacher. Serial dilutions in BPW were performed before plating as described in Talon et al. (2007).

Occurrence or enumeration of the following bacteria – yeasts and moulds, lactic acid bacteria (LAB), *Staphylococcus* and *Kocuria*, *Enterococcus*, *Enterobacteriaceae* and *Pseudomonas* were performed according to the methods presented by Talon et al. (2007) and according to ISOs.

2.4. Statistical analysis

ANOVA, Principal Component and Cluster Analysis were performed using the software package SPSS v.11.0 for Windows (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Aminogenesis during manufacturing process

Biogenic amine contents during sausage manufacture at the three sampling points studied (Z, just stuffed, M, after fermentation and F, final product after ripening) are referred to dry matter (dm) to make up for the concentration effect of the drying process. Thus, products with distinct moisture content can be compared.

Physiological polyamines, spermidine and spermine, were the only biogenic amines always present, remaining constant throughout the manufacturing process, with an average value of approximately 4 mg/kg dm for spermidine and 49 mg/kg dm for spermine.

Just before stuffing (Z), with the exception of the physiological natural polyamines, most sausage samples did not show biogenic amines or these were detected only at very low levels (Fig. 1). Only nine samples showed total biogenic amine contents higher than 30 mg/kg, specially tyramine and cadaverine. Most of these samples showed

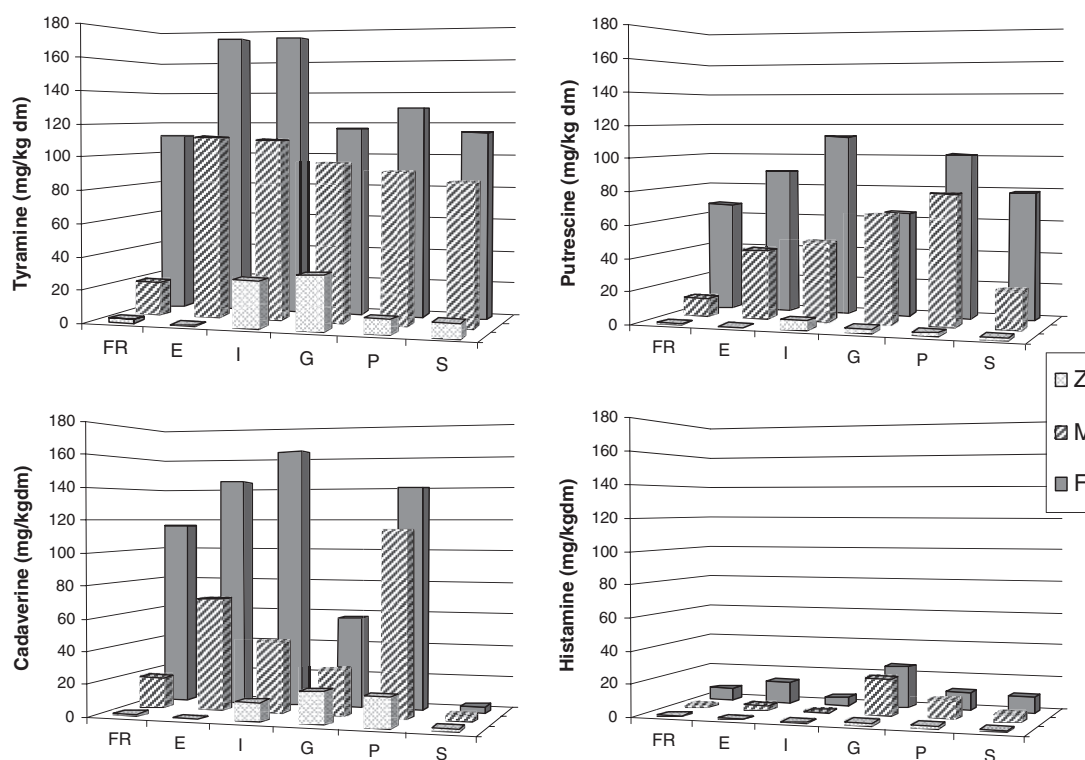


Fig. 1. Average contents (mg/kg dry matter) of biogenic amine contents in samples of just before stuffed products (Z), intermediate product after fermentation (M) and final product after ripening (F) for each country (FR: France; E: Spain; I: Italy; P: Portugal; G: Greece; S: Slovakia).

high counts of enterococci (higher than four log cfu/g in average) and/or enterobacteria (higher than four log cfu/g in average). These microbial groups are frequently reported to be strong producers of tyramine and cadaverine, respectively (Suzzi & Gardini, 2003).

Regarding aminogenesis throughout manufacturing (Fig. 1), biogenic amines were detected during fermentation (the increase between Z and M samples) as well as during ripening (the increase between M and F samples). However the intensity of amine formation in these two steps differed depending on the country. Thus, in most of the French products, aminogenesis occurred during ripening. In contrast, the greatest biogenic amine accumulation in Greek products was registered during fermentation.

In the final products (Table 2), tyramine was the dominant amine, accounting for one third to one half of the total amine content. Tyramine content followed a normal distribution and the mean value was 145 mg/kg dm. Putrescine was the second amine followed by cadaverine. These di-amines showed higher variability, with a non normal distribution. Most of the samples showed relatively low di-amine contents (median values of 51 mg/kg dm for putrescine and 41 mg/kg dm for cadaverine). Occasionally di-amine, especially cadaverine, surpassed the levels of tyramine. The occurrence of histamine was less frequent (31 out of 54 final products) and at much lower concentrations (median of 0.66 mg/kg dm) than those of the amines mentioned above. Histamine was always associated with the presence of di-amines, especially cadaverine, which is

consistent with the fact that these two amines are produced mainly by enterobacteria (Bover-Cid, Izquierdo-Pulido, & Vidal-Carou, 2000; Roig-Sagués, Hernández-Herrero, López-Sabater, Rodríguez Jerez, & Mora-Ventura, 1996). The aromatic amine phenylethylamine was found in few samples and always when high contents of tyramine were present. This observation could be attributed to the fact that microorganisms with strong tyrosine-decarboxylase activity also have moderate capacity for decarboxylate phenylalanine (Bover-Cid, Hugas, Izquierdo-Pulido, & Vidal-Carou, 2001; Joosten, 1987). However, high cadaverine or tyramine content does not necessarily imply histamine and phenylethylamine accumulation respectively. In general, biogenic amine contents of the sausages did not differ clearly from those usually reported for fermented sausages, whether industrial or traditional (Hernández-Jover et al., 1997; Montel et al., 1999).

To evaluate the effect of manufacturing customs of the country of origin on the biogenic amine content a principal component analysis (PCA) was performed. The 67% of the total variance was explained by the three principal components. The first component explain the 38% of the total variance and was referred to biogenic amines of microbial origin corresponded to tyramine (correlation coefficient = 0.87), putrescine (0.85), cadaverine (0.55), histamine (0.61), phenylethylamine (0.73) and tryptamine (0.80). Second and the third principal component were influenced by the physiological polyamines, spermidine (0.78) and spermine (0.76), together with agmatine (0.66)

Table 2
Biogenic amine content (mg/kg dry matter) in the ripened fermented sausages for all processing units (PUs) evaluated

| Country | PUs | TY ^a | PU ^a | CA ^a | HI ^a | PHE ^a | TRP ^a | Cluster group ^b |
|----------|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| France | 1 | 186.91 | 107.27 | 107.43 | 0.38 | 7.07 | 2.99 | B |
| | 2 | 5.25 | 0.43 | 0.55 | 0.39 | 0.01 | 0.01 | A |
| | 3 | 173.68 | 124.20 | 85.16 | 1.40 | 3.64 | 18.34 | B |
| | 4 | 113.32 | 121.75 | 16.20 | 7.33 | 0.01 | 0.01 | B |
| | 5 | 226.62 | 362.06 | 389.82 | 41.71 | 53.98 | 18.87 | E |
| | 6 | 130.05 | 15.49 | 115.47 | 5.46 | 1.41 | 10.22 | C |
| | 7 | 147.98 | 10.05 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 1.86 | 0.01 | A |
| | 8 | 133.21 | 42.20 | 259.79 | 10.47 | 4.30 | 19.13 | D |
| | 9 | 104.60 | 8.91 | 315.54 | 0.01 | 0.16 | 4.55 | D |
| | 10 | 7.08 | 0.22 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | A |
| Spain | 1 | 204.40 | 252.51 | 4.38 | 0.01 | 17.82 | 44.94 | B |
| | 2 | 86.82 | 43.94 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | A |
| | 3 | 174.72 | 17.56 | 610.96 | 0.01 | 3.69 | 0.01 | D |
| | 4 | 86.88 | 5.82 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | A |
| | 5 | 190.53 | 98.42 | 79.75 | 1.93 | 11.39 | 25.78 | B |
| | 6 | 215.95 | 45.81 | 17.51 | 0.01 | 25.66 | 37.55 | B |
| | 7 | 473.47 | 448.85 | 302.63 | 133.39 | 30.76 | 78.51 | E |
| | 8 | 38.38 | 1.28 | 1.04 | 0.58 | 0.01 | 3.02 | A |
| | 9 | 49.93 | 5.49 | 0.40 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | A |
| | 10 | 272.20 | 95.58 | 257.74 | 26.06 | 5.77 | 4.93 | D |
| Italy | 1 | 276.93 | 324.20 | 205.66 | 0.01 | 43.41 | 2.34 | E |
| | 2 | 229.19 | 209.87 | 29.28 | 4.88 | 10.21 | 9.56 | B |
| | 3 | 129.80 | 3.65 | 0.36 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | A |
| | 4 | 214.40 | 46.77 | 352.32 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | D |
| | 5 | 231.53 | 322.14 | 449.44 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 6.28 | E |
| | 6 | 168.87 | 139.04 | 20.23 | 8.84 | 0.01 | 12.50 | B |
| | 7 | 70.30 | 15.39 | 195.47 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 3.76 | C |
| | 8 | 117.86 | 104.58 | 40.45 | 0.74 | 4.36 | 0.01 | B |
| | 9 | 302.97 | 72.72 | 71.46 | 0.01 | 4.84 | 17.18 | B |
| | 10 | 60.24 | 10.34 | 139.58 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | C |
| Greece | 1 | 14.29 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | A |
| | 2 | 11.84 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | A |
| | 3 | 157.67 | 95.90 | 0.01 | 15.54 | 3.63 | 0.50 | B |
| | 4 | 271.69 | 126.37 | 242.58 | 0.01 | 3.73 | 26.31 | C |
| | 5 | 86.37 | 65.32 | 20.32 | 6.86 | 0.01 | 2.62 | A |
| | 6 | 210.53 | 25.86 | 88.90 | 47.92 | 20.65 | 48.24 | C |
| | 7 | 119.01 | 122.48 | 7.30 | 41.79 | 2.15 | 0.01 | B |
| | 8 | 135.70 | 96.60 | 199.68 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 10.51 | C |
| | 9 | 85.60 | 2.02 | 106.80 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | C |
| | 10 | 142.35 | 113.73 | 19.41 | 105.81 | 0.01 | 0.01 | B |
| Portugal | 1 | 12.95 | 4.26 | 2.74 | 3.11 | 0.01 | 0.01 | A |
| | 2 | 9.71 | 7.28 | 4.91 | 6.22 | 0.01 | 0.01 | A |
| | 3 | 259.04 | 257.40 | 484.65 | 0.01 | 45.47 | 33.74 | E |
| | 4 | 8.60 | 10.26 | 10.76 | 3.60 | 0.01 | 0.01 | A |
| | 5 | 104.83 | 117.09 | 262.46 | 14.34 | 2.18 | 6.38 | D |
| | 6 | 266.83 | 53.51 | 41.41 | 3.42 | 5.58 | 2.26 | B |
| | 7 | 154.76 | 20.19 | 198.41 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 6.91 | C |
| | 8 | 138.65 | 36.35 | 244.76 | 6.54 | 0.01 | 0.01 | C |
| | 9 | 208.64 | 180.42 | 25.43 | 2.19 | 0.01 | 0.01 | B |
| | 10 | 268.61 | 352.18 | 342.67 | 94.66 | 20.01 | 36.10 | E |
| | 11 | 82.03 | 83.69 | 121.35 | 4.13 | 0.01 | 0.68 | C |
| Slovakia | 1 | 117.94 | 49.29 | 2.51 | 2.19 | 4.52 | 1.89 | A |
| | 2 | 110.98 | 61.71 | 1.40 | 15.29 | 1.05 | 0.90 | A |
| | 3 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | A |

TY: tyramine, PU: putrescine, CA: cadaverine, HI: histamine, PHE: phenylethylamine, TRP: tryptamine. Cluster group: (A) very low and low total contents; (B) moderate total contents, tyramine as the major amine; (C) moderate total contents, cadaverine as the major amine; (D) high total contents; (E) very high total contents.

^a Biogenic amines expressed in dry matter to compensate differences attributed to different water content.

^b Cluster groups were obtained taking the biogenic amine contents referred to fresh weight to better reproduce the conditions of consumption.

explaining the 17% and 12% of the total variance, respectively. This PCA did not let a separation of the samples by countries which indicated that the overall amine content was irrespective of the country of origin. The only comparative study about biogenic amines in fermented sausages produced in several European countries (Ansorena et al., 2002) published to date reports quantitative and qualitative differences between those manufactured in Southern and the Northern Europe. Southern Belgium and Italy showed greater levels than Northern Belgium and Norway. These differences were attributed to distinct processing methods and microbial characteristics.

3.2. Relationships between biogenic amines and processing parameters

Table 3 shows the results of physico-chemical (pH, aw, moisture) and proteolysis-related parameters (AAN content and PI) during manufacturing. Sausages produced following traditional methods generally have final pH values that are higher than those produced industrially (Aymenrich, Martín, Garriga, & Hugas, 2003; Miguélez-Arrizado et al., 2006). The pH values of the final products were quite variable but two statistically different ($p < 0.005$) groups were distinguished: those with relatively high pH values, Italy (average pH of 6.07), Spain (5.98) and France (5.76); and those that were more acidic, corresponding to Slovakia (mean 5.23), Greece (5.37) and Portugal (5.46). In contrast, moisture and water activity parameters were not statistically different ($p > 0.05$) between samples from the countries studied. This observation can probably be explained by variable degrees of drying. Similarly, statistical differences were not found in the proteolysis parameters, ANN and proteolysis index, either between countries or between sampling points.

Biogenic amine accumulation is affected by a wide variety of factors, including technological and physico-chemical ones, which in turn, interact and change throughout the process, thereby influencing the growth and the activity of aminogenic microorganisms (Suzzi & Gardini, 2003). A PCA was performed to establish whether or not there was a relationship between technological and physico-chemical factors and biogenic amine accumulation during sausage manufacture. For this statistical treatment, the variables considered were the changes in biogenic amines, pH, water activity, AAN and PI during fermentation and ripening, and the technological conditions (time, temperature and relative humidity) applied in these two steps of the process. Changes during fermentation were defined as the difference between analytical data of the sampling points M and Z, whereas those during ripening were the difference between F and M. The factorial analysis extracted 3 principal components explaining 56% of the total variance. The first principal component (PC1) was described by the increase in biogenic amines and free amino acids (AAN), which is in agreement with the role of free amino acids as precursors of decarboxylation. The second principal component

(PC2) included the length of the process (time) and the changes of intrinsic factors: water activity, proteolysis index, and pH values. Finally, the third principal component (PC3) was described by the technological conditions: relative humidity and temperature. Thus, the accumulation of biogenic amines occurred irrespectively of physico-chemical changes (except for AAN) and the technological conditions applied for the sausage manufacture. In the bidimensional plot representation for the first two principal components (Fig. 2, Graph a), two steps of the manufacturing process, fermentation and ripening, were distinguished from PC2.

The relationship between the changes in microbial counts and the biogenic amine accumulation was also studied through a PCA (Fig. 2, Graph b). The factorial analysis extracted two principal components, which explained 60% of the total variance. The first principal component (PC1) included the changes in biogenic amines and in the opposite direction those of spoilage microorganisms (enterobacteria and pseudomonads). The second component (PC2), in contrast, included the technological flora (LAB and staphylococci), enterococci as well as yeasts and moulds. A relationship between technological flora and the increase in biogenic amines could not be demonstrated. The PC2, related mainly to technological flora, was less efficient in distinguishing the two parts of the manufacturing process than the PC2 related to physico-chemical parameters.

The lack of correlation between biogenic amine increase and both microbial change and temperature and relative humidity is consistent with the data from Parente et al. (2001). Processing conditions are technological factors that depend on the country as well as the PU. These factors determine the selection and competitiveness of microbial communities and modulate their metabolic activity (including decarboxylase) as well as the biochemical and physico-chemical changes that occur in the sausage during ripening. The occurrence of several possible interactions among all the factors involved in amine production could be a reason for the lack of any statistical relationship between most of the individual factors and aminogenesis. Therefore, no general rule can be concluded to describe aminogenesis during the manufacture of traditional fermented sausages depending on the country, nor among the PUs within the same country.

3.3. Biogenic amines in final products: hygienic and technological interest

Taking into account that biogenic amine contents in final products could be considered hygienic and technological quality indicators, a cluster analysis was carried out using the total content of biogenic amines of microbial origin (tyramine, phenylethylamine, tryptamine, histamine, putrescine and cadaverine). These results are referred to fresh matter (mg/kg) to better reflect the conditions of consumption.

Table 3
Physico-chemical parameters determined in sausages for all processing units (PUs): pH, water activity (aw) and water content

| Country | Step | pH | aw | Moisture (%) | AAN (mg/g) | IP (NNP/NT%) |
|---------------------------|------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| France (<i>n</i> = 10) | Z | 5.7 ± 0.2 ^a (5.4–6.0) ^b | 0.95 ± 0.35 (0.85–0.97) | 61.0 ± 4.6 (53.0–66.0) | 1.2 ± 0.3 (0.9–1.7) | 7.5 ± 3.1 (3.0–12.4) |
| | M | 5.5 ± 0.3 (5.1–6.0) | 0.95 ± 0.04 (0.82–0.97) | 58.0 ± 3.4 (53.7–61.6) | 1.6 ± 0.4 (1.1–2.2) | 9.6 ± 5.8 (0.8–18.5) |
| | F | 5.8 ± 0.4 (5.2–6.5) | 0.87 ± 0.02 (0.84–0.93) | 32.0 ± 4.4 (26.2–38.9) | 2.1 ± 0.5 (1.2–2.9) | 6.8 ± 3.4 (0.6–11.2) |
| Spain (<i>n</i> = 10) | Z | 6.1 ± 0.2 (5.86–6.43) | 0.97 ± 0.01 (0.96–0.98) | 62.1 ± 2.7 (56.9–65.9) | 1.5 ± 0.5 (1.0–2.2) | 6.6 ± 4.2 (2.4–14.8) |
| | M | 5.7 ± 0.5 (4.8–6.5) | 0.94 ± 0.02 (0.91–0.97) | 47.1 ± 6.1 (36.6–55.5) | 2.2 ± 0.7 (1.4–3.4) | 10.5 ± 6.2 (3.8–21.5) |
| | F | 6.0 ± 0.4 (5.5–6.5) | 0.88 ± 0.03 (0.83–0.92) | 32.9 ± 5.0 (26.2–40.6) | 2.3 ± 0.9 (1.3–4.4) | 8.8 ± 4.1 (1.9–16.4) |
| Italy (<i>n</i> = 10) | Z | 5.9 ± 0.2 (5.6–6.3) | 0.94 ± 0.06 (0.77–0.97) | 58.2 ± 5.7 (48.4–65.4) | 1.35 ± 0.38 (0.86–2.24) | 11.1 ± 5.9 (5.6–25.1) |
| | M | 5.7 ± 0.3 (5.3–6.1) | 0.96 ± 0.01 (0.95–0.97) | 55.0 ± 4.9 (48.3–62.2) | 2.0 ± 0.5 (1.6–3.2) | 13.6 ± 3.9 (8.8–20.8) |
| | F | 6.1 ± 0.5 (5.5–6.9) | 0.89 ± 0.05 (0.78–0.94) | 33.0 ± 4.7 (25.2–39.1) | 2.3 ± 0.5 (1.7–2.9) | 10.7 ± 3.2 (6.0–15.8) |
| Greece (<i>n</i> = 10) | Z | 5.8 ± 0.6 (4.3–6.4) | 0.96 ± 0.01 (0.95–0.97) | 55.4 ± 6.0 (48.5–66.7) | 1.3 ± 0.7 (0.6–2.9) | 9.4 ± 11.2 (0.5–39.8) |
| | M | 5.6 ± 0.6 (4.6–6.3) | 0.95 ± 0.02 (0.93–0.97) | 49.2 ± 10.3 (35.6–65.5) | 1.8 ± 0.6 (1.3–2.8) | 7.1 ± 5.9 (0.5–16.6) |
| | F | 5.4 ± 0.8 (4.4–6.6) | 0.91 ± 0.07 (0.77–0.97) | 41.8 ± 15.6 (19.1–65.6) | 1.8 ± 0.6 (1.2–2.9) | 11.9 ± 18.8 (1.1–63.3) |
| Portugal (<i>n</i> = 11) | Z | 5.9 ± 0.4 (5.4–6.6) | 0.98 ± 0.01 (0.97–0.98) | 59.5 ± 5.6 (48.9–66.4) | 0.9 ± 0.3 (0.4–1.6) | 8.3 ± 3.3 (3.8–12.5) |
| | M | 5.5 ± 0.4 (5.0–6.1) | 0.95 ± 0.02 (0.93–0.98) | 45.4 ± 9.0 (27.5–61.0) | 1.9 ± 1.0 (0.6–3.7) | 10.7 ± 3.4 (4.7–15.7) |
| | F | 5.5 ± 0.3 (5.0–6.1) | 0.90 ± 0.03 (0.85–0.93) | 30.5 ± 8.9 (17.7–48.3) | 2.0 ± 0.8 (0.9–3.7) | 10.4 ± 4.3 (3.9–18.6) |
| Slovakia (<i>n</i> = 3) | Z | 6.0 ± 0.1 (5.9–6.1) | 0.96 ± 0.00 (0.96–0.97) | 49.8 ± 3.3 (47.6–53.6) | 1.0 ± 0.1 (0.9–1.1) | 8.0 ± 0.4 (7.6–8.4) |
| | M | 5.4 ± 0.5 (5.0–6.0) | 0.96 ± 0.01 (0.95–0.97) | 47.9 ± 6.6 (43.3–55.5) | 1.8 ± 0.3 (1.5–2.2) | 10.9 ± 4.4 (6.9–15.5) |
| | F | 5.2 ± 0.56 (5.0–6.0) | 0.93 ± 0.03 (0.90–0.95) | 39.5 ± 8.6 (32.9–49.2) | 1.9 ± 0.4 (1.7–2.3) | 14.7 ± 10.2 (7.8–26.5) |

Proteolytic parameters: α -amino nitrogen (AAN) and Proteolytic index (PI). Z: products just before stuffing, M: products after fermentation, F: products after ripening (ready for consumption).

^a Mean ± standard deviation of all processing units (PUs) of each country.

^b Range (minimum–maximum) of all processing units (PUs) of each country.

Five groups, A–E, were distinguished (Table 2). Group A included sausages showing very low or low amine contents (from not detected to 150 mg/kg of total of biogenic amines) and accounted for one third of the sausages examined. In this group, tyramine was practically the only biogenic amine, except in few cases in which putrescine reached similar values to those of tyramine. Cadaverine, histamine and other minor amines were absent or the levels were extremely low. This group would be the most desirable option from the hygienic point of view. Up to 28% of the products were included in group B and presented moderate total biogenic amine content, with a range from 150 to 350 mg/kg, with tyramine as the major amine. Putrescine was the second amine, followed by cadaverine, whereas histamine was practically absent. It is well known that tyramine is the major amine in fermented meat prod-

ucts, and it is generally associated with the tyrosine-decarboxylase activity of some lactobacilli and other microbial populations that usually participate in the fermentation and ripening of sausages (i.e. some gram-positive catalase-positive cocci and most enterococci) (Suzzi & Gardini, 2003). Therefore, moderate levels of tyramine, as in the sausages of group B, would be acceptable. Nevertheless, since some samples of group A showed low or even extremely low levels of tyramine, it seems that it could be feasible to elaborate nearly tyramine-free and biogenic amine-free sausages. Group C included 18% of the products and these also showed moderate total biogenic amine content, but cadaverine was the main biogenic amine followed by tyramine, while putrescine content remained low. Group D included 11% of the products and was characterized by high total biogenic amine content (from 350 to 550 mg/

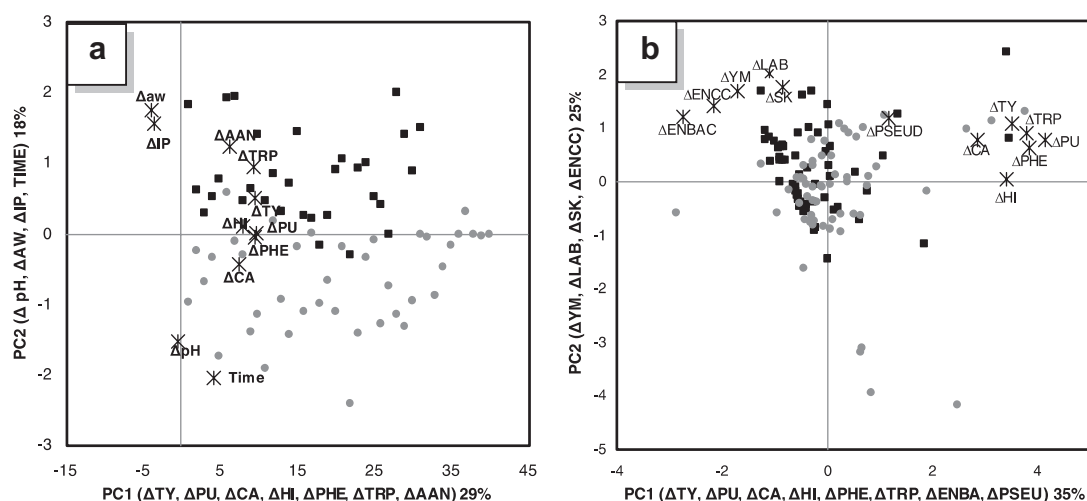


Fig. 2. Principal component analysis (PC1 and PC2) of the biogenic amine increase with technological conditions and physico-chemical changes (graph a), or with microbial changes (graph b) during the fermentation (■) and maturation (○) of European traditional fermented sausages. Asterisks (*) show the relative position of the variables. Δ : Change between two consecutive sampling points (M–Z, for fermentation and F–M for ripening). TY: tyramine, PU: putrescine, CA: cadaverine, HI: histamine, PHE: phenylethylamine, TRP: tryptamine, AAN: α -amino nitrogen, Aw: water activity, IP: proteolytic index, ENBA: enterobacteria, PSEU: pseudomonads, YM: yeast and moulds, LAB: lactic acid bacteria, SK: staphylococci, ENCC: enterococci.

kg). The qualitative amine profile of Group D was similar to that of Group C, cadaverine being the most abundant amine, followed by tyramine. Finally, the products clustered into group E showed very high levels of biogenic amines (total content higher than 550 mg/kg), especially cadaverine, putrescine, tyramine and histamine. This group contained also the 11% of the products examined. Cadaverine and also histamine are usually related to the activity of decarboxylase-positive contaminant microbiota, such as enterobacteria (Durlu-Özkaya, Ayhan, & Vural, 2001), which may not be totally inhibited during fermentation. On the basis of the amount and type of amines, sausages included in groups C, D and E could be considered less desirable than the others. Indeed, the fermented sausages in which biogenic amine accumulation was already detected in Z samples were included in one of these three groups. Therefore, a relationship between the hygienic quality of raw materials and the final contents of biogenic amines could be suspected. In order to evaluate the influence of hygienic conditions of raw materials on the accumulation of biogenic amines, additional batches from some selected PUs of each country were analyzed. In most of the additional batches the amine profiles differed to those found in the first manufacture, both from quantitative and qualitative points of view (Table 4). These results indicate that the batch, mainly because of differences in hygienic quality of raw materials, would be a critical factor in explaining the differences observed between batches from the same PU.

3.4. Biogenic amines in final products: toxicological interest

The other objective of this study was to assess whether the consumption of the traditional fermented

sausages could imply a health risk for their biogenic amine contents. Several genetic, pharmacological and dietary factors are responsible for the wide inter- and

Table 4

Biogenic amine content (mg/kg dry matter) of the fermented sausages (end-product) of two different batches (a and b) manufactured within the processing units (PUs) of each country

| Country | PUs | TY | PU | CA | HI | PHE | TRY |
|----------|-----|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| France | 2a | 5.25 | 0.43 | 0.55 | 0.39 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| | 2b | 8.68 | 6.87 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| | 8a | 133.21 | 42.20 | 259.79 | 10.47 | 4.30 | 19.13 |
| | 8b | 102.01 | 14.50 | 103.31 | 25.55 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Spain | 2a | 86.82 | 43.94 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| | 2b | 14.46 | 3.08 | 1.42 | 0.01 | 1.89 | 0.01 |
| | 3a | 174.72 | 17.56 | 610.96 | 0.01 | 3.69 | 0.01 |
| | 3b | 276.94 | 57.25 | 456.29 | 0.01 | 11.56 | 0.01 |
| Italy | 2a | 229.19 | 209.87 | 29.28 | 4.88 | 10.21 | 9.56 |
| | 2b | 188.96 | 95.08 | 318.75 | 23.20 | 2.61 | 5.41 |
| | 7a | 70.30 | 15.39 | 195.47 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 3.76 |
| | 7b | 99.01 | 4.43 | 143.93 | 19.74 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Greece | 1a | 14.29 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| | 1b | 148.26 | 126.39 | 1.18 | 91.64 | 6.02 | 0.01 |
| | 8a | 135.70 | 96.60 | 199.68 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 10.51 |
| | 8b | 14.96 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 1.74 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Portugal | 2a | 9.71 | 7.28 | 4.91 | 6.22 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| | 2b | 72.77 | 84.90 | 30.65 | 0.73 | 0.09 | 0.32 |
| | 11a | 82.03 | 83.69 | 121.35 | 4.13 | 0.01 | 0.68 |
| | 11b | 93.03 | 111.30 | 52.80 | 8.98 | 0.01 | 13.21 |
| Slovakia | 1a | 117.94 | 49.29 | 2.51 | 2.19 | 4.52 | 1.89 |
| | 1b | 106.87 | 238.11 | 15.87 | 0.72 | 0.01 | 8.04 |
| | 2a | 110.98 | 61.71 | 1.40 | 15.29 | 1.05 | 0.90 |
| | 2b | 242.87 | 109.51 | 1.74 | 41.41 | 77.55 | 2.38 |
| | 3a | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| | 3b | 109.37 | 11.26 | 2.11 | 0.21 | 0.01 | 0.01 |

TY: tyramine, PU: putrescine, CA: cadaverine, HI: histamine, PHE: phenylethylamine, TRP: tryptamine.

intra-individual variability of sensitivity to biogenic amines, which makes their toxic threshold difficult to establish (Mariné-Font et al., 1995). For the healthy population, intestinal and hepatic barriers (mainly mono- and di-amine oxidases) are highly effective, lowering the risk of health troubles. In susceptible individuals, some food migraines have been reported to be produced by the ingestion of 100 mg of tyramine (Hannington, 1980). Moreover, individuals receiving treatment with MAOI drugs are usually recommended to avoid food sources of tyramine and other biogenic amines. A dose of 6 mg of tyramine can cause hypertensive symptoms during classical MAOI treatments (McCabe, 1986), whereas up to 50–100 mg of tyramine can be tolerated by individuals treated with third generation MAOI drugs (Dingemans et al., 1998).

In the light of these data, the lowest hazardous dose of tyramine (i.e. the 6 mg in classical MAOI treatments) could be easily reached by consuming 80 g of some traditional fermented sausages included in Groups A and B. To reach the 50–100 mg of tyramine, it would be necessary to eat more than 700–1300 g of sausage, which far exceeds the approximately 50 g of a usual serving of sausage. In the worse case, for instance, taking into account the average tyramine content of sausages of Group E (196 mg/kg), a serving of 50 g would result in a consumption of 98 mg of tyramine, practically the limit dose for triggering migraine or causing interaction with third generation MAOI drugs.

Histamine is the only biogenic amine subjected to legal regulations in some fish species, with an upper limit of 100 mg/kg in Europe (EC, 2005). However, there is no regulation about limits of biogenic amines in fermented sausages. Some authors have suggested 100 mg/kg of histamine as a limit to establish potential risk for healthy individuals (Brink et al., 1990).

Di-amine oxidase (DAO) is the main histamine catabolising enzyme in the intestinal tract. The hypersensitivity to histamine, ingested with food, could appear when DAO is affected by genetic deficiencies or by the use of common drugs which are DAO inhibitors (DAOI), such as acetylcysteine, clavulanic acid, verapamil and metoclopramide. These drugs are taken by approximately a 20% of the population (Sattler, Hafner, Klotter, Lorenz, & Wagner, 1988). Although histamine in traditional fermented sausages was found in amounts below the proposed limit for healthy population, the consumption of these products could cause adverse effects in persons treated with DAOI.

Adverse effects of biogenic amines as a result of consumption of European traditional fermented sausages would be unlikely, except for individuals on classical MAOI and DAOI drugs. Therefore, sensitive individuals following a biogenic amine-restricted diet should be recommended to avoid dry fermented sausages, like other foods such as cheese, wine, fish products that are also potential sources of biogenic amines.

4. Conclusions

The findings of the present study indicate that biogenic amines in European traditional fermented sausages show variable levels of accumulation, tyramine being the main biogenic amine followed by putrescine and cadaverine.

On the basis of the quantitative and qualitative profile of biogenic amines in the final products, it was possible to distinguish five groups. Thus, very low amounts of biogenic amines or absence of these compounds could be regarded as a quality attribute while in contrast, the considerable occurrence of certain biogenic amines (especially cadaverine) could be considered indicators of poor hygienic quality. In this regard, more than a half of the products included in the groups classified as “undesirable” from a hygienic point of view (C, D and E), showed relatively high amounts (>30 mg/kg) of one or more biogenic amines in the raw materials. The hygienic quality of raw materials is a crucial factor that could affect the biogenic amine content of final products. High levels of biogenic amines in final products are usually related with the high occurrence of microflora possessing amino acid decarboxylase activity. However, not always raw meat of poor hygienic quality has high levels of biogenic amines.

The potential risk of harmful effects of biogenic amines stress the importance of ensuring proper hygienic practices during the manufacturing process to avoid the risks associated to these compounds.

Acknowledgement

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6.2 Estudio de la influencia de las condiciones de almacenamiento en los contenidos de aminas biógenas en los productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados de origen artesanal europeos

Comunicación escrita²:

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla, S. Bover-Cid, T. Veciana-Nogués, A. Mariné-Font, M.C. Vidal-Carou. Aminas biógenas en embutidos europeos de elaboración artesanal durante el almacenamiento. *II Reunión de la Sociedad Española de Seguridad Alimentaria (SESAL)*. Valencia, 29-30 de septiembre de 2005.

6.2.1 Planteamiento y objetivo del estudio

Los productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados se consideran *a priori*, productos estables, con largos periodos de conservación sin necesidad de refrigeración. Sin embargo, la carga microbiana potencialmente aminogénica que puede permanecer activa durante su almacenamiento, puede ser responsable de la formación o el incremento de los contenidos de aminas biógenas durante esta etapa.

Por tanto, dentro del marco del proyecto Tradisausage, el objetivo de este estudio fue determinar la formación de aminas biógenas en productos cárnicos fermentados artesanales europeos durante el almacenamiento, durante diferentes temperaturas de conservación (ambiental o refrigeración).

² Trabajo correspondiente a la tarea 2.5 del proyecto Europeo TRADISAUSAGE (QLK1 CT-2002-02240). Los resultados se encuentran publicados en el informe final del proyecto, disponible en la URL: <http://www1.clermont.inra.fr/tradisausage/>

6.2.2 Diseño experimental

Los productos cárnicos fermentados seleccionados para este estudio proceden de plantas elaboradoras de Francia (1), España (1), Italia (2), Portugal (4), Grecia (1) y Eslovaquia (1). Las muestras, obtenidas por triplicado, corresponden al producto recién acabado (tiempo 0) y al producto almacenado a diferentes temperaturas de conservación (temperatura ambiente a 20-25 °C y/o refrigeración a 4°C) durante periodos de tiempo que variaban de acuerdo con las costumbres declaradas por los consumidores de cada uno de los países (Tabla 6.1) según los resultados obtenidos del estudio sobre los hábitos de conservación y consumo realizado en el marco del proyecto europeo Tradisausage (<http://www1.clermont.inra.fr/tradisausage/>).

6.2.3. Resultados

Aminas biógenas en productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados artesanales durante el almacenamiento

En la tabla 6.1 se presentan los contenidos de aminas biógenas encontrados en cada una de las muestras analizadas antes y después del período de almacenamiento. En los productos franceses, españoles e italianos, con formulaciones y procesos de elaboración similares (productos no ahumados que contenían pimienta negra y con un tiempo de maduración de mínimo 3 semanas), la formación de aminas, no fue relevante, con la excepción del ligero aumento de los contenidos de histamina, putrescina y cadaverina en los productos italianos. Esto coincide con los recuentos más o menos estables de bacterias del ácido láctico (enterococos incluidos) y de los CGC+ y del esperado descenso de la microbiota contaminante (enterobacterias y pseudomonas) durante el almacenamiento de dichos productos según los datos reportados por cada uno de los equipos participantes en el proyecto (Informe final: <http://www1.clermont.inra.fr/tradisausage/>). En este grupo de productos no se

observaron diferencias significativas en los contenidos globales de aminas biógenas en función de la temperatura de conservación utilizada.

Tabla 6.1. Contenidos medios (desviación estándar) de aminas biógenas (mg/kg peso seco) en productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados de elaboración artesanal almacenados a diferentes temperaturas y periodos de tiempo, según los hábitos de conservación y consumo de los diferentes países de procedencia.

| País | Temperatura | Días | Tiramina | Histamina | Putrescina | Cadaverina |
|------------|----------------------------|------|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Francia | | 0 | 139,7 (14,6) | 43,5 (1,8) | 40,6 (2,9) | 236,3 (15,7) |
| | Refrigeración | 7 | 142,0 (11,7) | 27,0 (4,3) | 15,7 (3,6) | 175,3 (20,2) |
| | Tª ambiente | 7 | 144,3 (3,4) | 22,3 (0,9) | 11,3 (1,2) | 165,3 (4,1) |
| España | | 0 | 14,5 (1,3) | nd | 3,1 (0,1) | 1,4 (0,1) |
| | Refrigeración | 7 | 15,4 (1,8) | nd | 5,6 (0,4) | 1,6 (0,1) |
| | Tª ambiente | 7 | 14,3 (0,4) | nd | 3,5 (0,1) | 1,6 (0,3) |
| Italia | | 0 | 151,1 (6,9) | 7,2 (1,2) | 171,8 (3,4) | 5,4 (0,7) |
| | Refrigeración | 7 | 146,6 (5,1) | 7,6 (0,9) | 171,4 (1,3) | 6,1 (0,3) |
| | Tª ambiente | 7 | 165,8 (2,4) | 11,3 (0,9) | 197,4 (7,7) | 16,6 (0,4) |
| | | 0 | 127,9 (8,5) | 8,2 (0,4) | 2,6 (0,2) | 142,6 (10,6) |
| | Refrigeración | 10 | 112,0 (11,2) | 26,2 (3,0) | 10,5 (2,0) | 146,9 (20,0) |
| | Tª ambiente | 10 | 95,7 (8,6) | 20,0 (0,7) | 4,7 (1,4) | 131,8 (7,7) |
| Portugal | | 0 | 63,3 (6,1) | 1,2 (0,1) | 66,2 (3,4) | 105,3 (4,5) |
| | Refrigeración | 7 | 100,1 (7,6) | 18,7 (1,2) | 135,6 (8,2) | 97,3 (5,2) |
| | | 7 | 78,9 (7,2) | 15,4 (0,1) | 94,7 (2,7) | 45,4 (2,6) |
| | Tª ambiente | 15 | 141,7 (2,6) | 63,8 (0,8) | 240,6 (6,2) | 117,5 (2,5) |
| Grecia | | 0 | 78,3 (2,1) | 48,9 (1,9) | 64,5 (0,9) | 4,6 (0,4) |
| | Loncheado Refrigeración | 20 | 84,0 (6,0) | 57,6 (4,5) | 67,4 (1,7) | 5,3 (0,3) |
| Eslovaquia | | 0 | 122,9 (5,4) | nd | 31,8 (1,0) | 5,2 (0,3) |
| | Loncheado | 3 | 112,7 (3,9) | nd | 26,3 (2,5) | 4,8 (0,4) |
| | Refrigeración | 7 | 147,7(1,5) | nd | 44,7 (3,2) | 8,6 (0,2) |

nd: no detectado

El producto portugués (tipo chorizo ahumado, con pimentón y con un proceso de curado de sólo 1 semana), sufrió un claro incremento en los contenidos de aminas biógenas, especialmente a los 15 días de conservación a temperatura ambiente. Los niveles de aminas biógenas alcanzados a las dos semanas de almacenamiento fueron altos, aunque en este punto el producto se encontraba también sensorialmente

deteriorado (Informe final: <http://www1.clermont.inra.fr/tradisausage/>). Probablemente, la estabilidad de este producto estuvo más comprometida debido a la actividad de agua relativamente elevada ($\approx 0,94$) derivada del corto periodo de secado/curado.

Los productos griegos y eslovacos (productos ahumados, con pimentón y muy especiados) se conservaron de forma loncheada y únicamente en refrigeración. Durante los 20 días de almacenamiento del producto griego no se observó formación de aminas. Sin embargo, en los productos eslovacos, se apreciaron ligeros incrementos de tiramina, putrescina y cadaverina durante los 7 días que duró el almacenamiento. Un incremento en los recuentos microbianos (enterococos, enterobacterias y pseudomonas) de estos productos, debido quizá a una contaminación durante el proceso de loncheado, podría ser la causa que explicase el aumento de las aminas. Sin embargo, dado que no se estudió el producto sin loncheado, no se puede descartar que la acumulación de aminas biógenas se deba a la actividad aminogénica de la microbiota residual del producto elaborado.

La estabilidad de los productos portugueses se estudió con más detalle al ser los productos que presentaron una aminogénesis más importante durante el periodo de almacenamiento. El estudio se amplió a cuatro plantas elaboradoras diferentes (A-D) donde se determinaron los contenidos de aminas en productos conservados durante 30 días en refrigeración y durante 15 días a temperatura ambiente. Los resultados de la evolución de los contenidos de aminas de los cuatro productos estudiados se muestran en la Figura 6.1.

Los contenidos de aminas biógenas formados a lo largo del almacenamiento variaron entre productos procedentes de diferentes plantas elaboradoras y entre las diferentes temperaturas de conservación de un mismo producto. Los contenidos de aminas biógenas presentes en el producto acabado se vieron incrementados a lo largo

del almacenamiento, a excepción del caso de los productos de la planta B, donde prácticamente sólo se observó una ligera formación de putrescina.

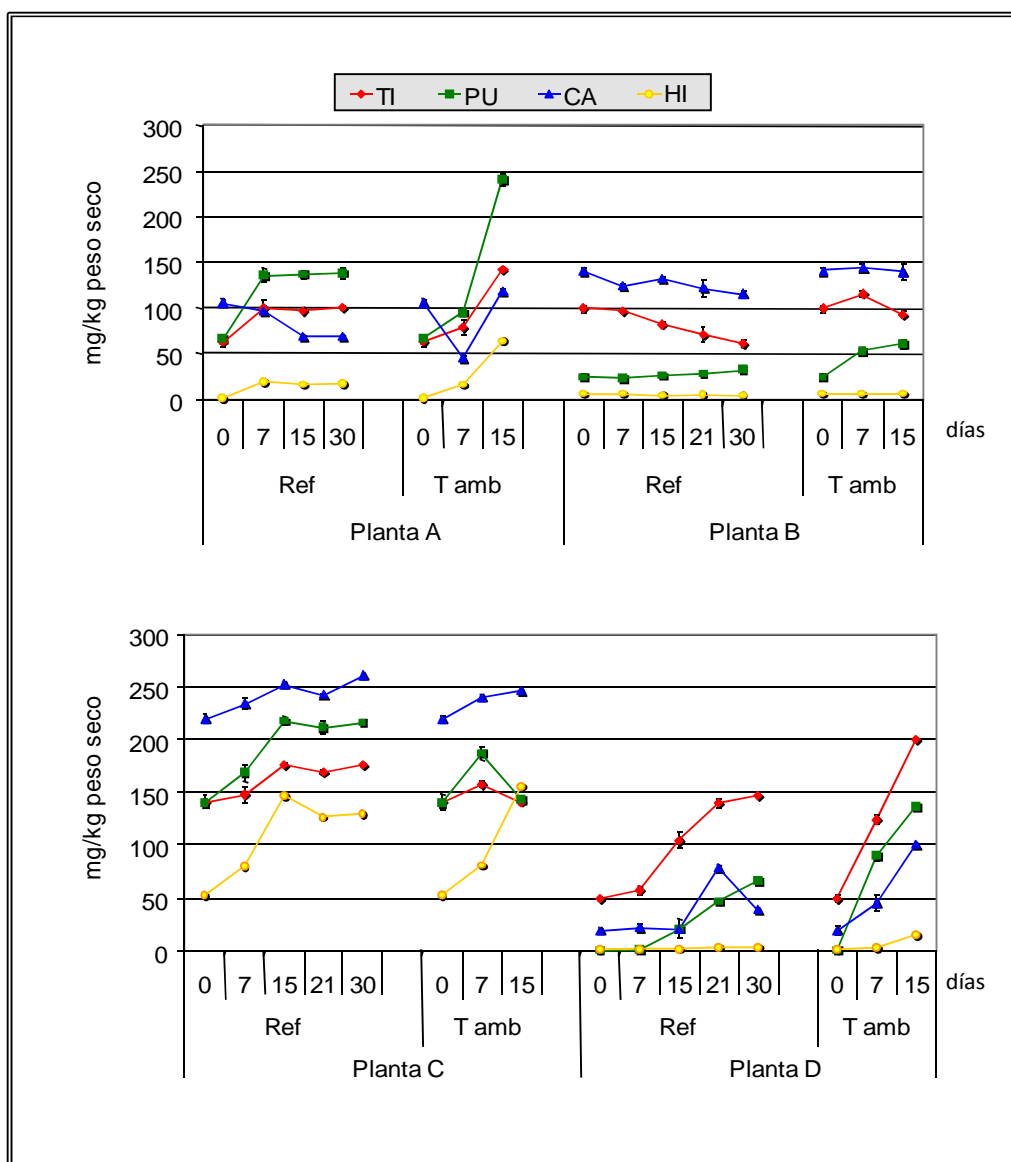


Figura 6.1. Evolución de los contenidos de las aminas biógenas (mg/kg peso seco) durante el almacenamiento de embutidos fermentados en plantas de elaboración artesanal procedentes de Portugal. Producto conservado en refrigeración (4°C). T amb: producto conservado a temperatura ambiente (20-25 °C) TI: tiramina, PU: putrescina, CA: cadaverina, HI: Histamina

Los contenidos de aminos fueron, a excepción de los productos de la planta elaboradora C, más elevados en los productos conservados a temperatura ambiente que en refrigeración. Posiblemente, la población microbiana potencialmente aminogénica todavía viable en estos productos, debido al corto período de curado, fue más activa a temperatura ambiente. Por lo tanto, las medidas que resulten adecuadas para controlar el crecimiento y actividad microbiana también lo serán para evitar la acumulación de cantidades importantes de aminos en este tipo de productos durante el almacenamiento.

6.2.4. Aportaciones más relevantes

- En general, en los productos cárnicos fermentados artesanales estudiados no existe prácticamente formación de aminos biógenos durante el almacenamiento y por tanto se pueden considerar productos estables durante este periodo, independientemente de la temperatura a la que se conservan.
- En los productos con una maduración breve, la etapa del almacenamiento constituye un punto crítico a valorar desde el punto de vista de la aminogénesis.

Comunicación escrita:

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla, S. Bover-Cid, T. Veciana-Nogués, A. Mariné-Font, M.C. Vidal-Carou. Aminas biógenas en embutidos europeos de elaboración artesanal durante el almacenamiento. *II Reunión de la Sociedad Española de Seguridad Alimentaria (SESAL)*. Valencia, 29-30 de septiembre de 2005.

7

ACTIVIDAD AMINOÁCIDO-DESCARBOXILASA DE MICROORGANISMOS AISLADOS DE PRODUCTOS CÁRNICOS CRUDOS-CURADOS FERMENTADOS DE ELABORACIÓN ARTESANAL

Un requisito imprescindible para la formación de aminas biógenas en los productos cárnicos fermentados es la presencia de microorganismos con actividad aminogénica. Así pues, este capítulo recoge un estudio sobre la actividad aminoácido descarboxilasa de microorganismos aislados de los productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados europeos. Los resultados obtenidos ayudaran a la selección de estrategias de control (Capítulo 9).

7.1 Actividad aminoácido descarboxilasa de los microorganismos autóctonos responsables de la fermentación de los productos cárnicos crudos-curados de elaboración artesanal

Artículo II.

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla, S. Bover-Cid, R. Talon, M. Garriga, T. Aymerich, E. Zanardi, A. Ianieri, M.J. Fraqueza, M. Elias, E.H. Drosinos, A. Lauková, M.C. Vidal-Carou. (2010). Distribution of aminogenic activity among potential autochthonous starter cultures. *Journal of Food protection*, 73 (3): 524-528.

Índice de impacto (JCR 2008): 1,763

Posición en el área "Food and Science Technology": 27/107

Artículo III.

M. Simonová, V. Strompfová, M. Marcinakova, A. Laukova, S. Vesterlund, **M.L. Latorre-Moratalla**, S. Bover-Cid, M.C. Vidal-Carou. (2006). Characterization of *Staphylococcus xylosus* and *Staphylococcus carnosus* isolated from Slovak meat products. *Meat Science* 73: 559-564.

Índice de impacto (JCR 2008): 2,183

Posición en el área "Food and Science Technology": 17/107

7.1.1 Planteamiento y objetivo del estudio

El conocimiento de la microbiota autóctona, o "in-house flora", presente en embutidos fermentados artesanales es de gran importancia para mejorar la calidad higiénica y la seguridad de estos productos. Así, ciertas cepas específicas, aisladas de los propios productos artesanales, y por tanto bien adaptadas a la ecología de la fermentación artesanal (como por ejemplo temperaturas relativamente bajas), podrían utilizarse como cultivos iniciadores autóctonos, lo que permitiría mantener las cualidades sensoriales típicas este tipo de embutidos. Los microorganismos seleccionados como cultivos iniciadores autóctonos deben carecer, entre otras características, de capacidad para formar aminas biógenas.

El objetivo concreto de esta parte del trabajo fue examinar la distribución de la capacidad aminoácido descarboxilasa de varias cepas de microorganismos (bacterias del ácido láctico y estafilococos) aislados de los productos cárnicos fermentados europeos. Esta información será útil posteriormente para identificar los mejores candidatos para su uso como cultivos iniciadores autóctonos y potencialmente capaces de minimizar el riesgo de acumular aminas biógenas en estos productos.

7.1.2 Diseño experimental

Se aislaron un total de 76 cepas, entre bacterias del ácido láctico (11 *Lactobacillus*, 8 *Enterococcus* y 3 *Leuconostoc*) y estafilococos, de productos cárnicos crudos-curados elaborados artesanalmente procedentes de los diferentes países participantes en el proyecto: Francia, España, Italia, Portugal, Grecia (artículo II) y Eslovaquia (artículo III). Las cepas fueron aisladas y debidamente identificadas por cada uno de los grupos participantes en el proyecto mediante métodos moleculares (Aymerich y col., 2003; Aymerich y col., 2006; Giammarinaro y col., 2005; Rossi y col., 2001; Woodford y col., 1997).

7.1.3 Resultados

Distribución de la actividad aminoácido-decarboxilasa

De todas las cepas de microorganismos estudiados, el 48% de las cepas de bacterias del ácido láctico y el 13% de estafilococos presentaron capacidad para descarboxilar uno o más aminoácidos. Aunque esta capacidad se mostró dependiente de la cepa, algunas especies tuvieron una mayor proporción de cepas aminogénicas que otras. Dentro del grupo de las bacterias del ácido láctico, el 100% de las cepas de

Lactobacillus curvatus y el 70% de *L. brevis* mostraron la capacidad de formar aminas. Del mismo modo, los géneros *Enterococcus* y *Leuconostoc* mostraron esta capacidad prácticamente en el total de las cepas estudiadas. Por otro lado, las cepas de *L. sakei*, *L. plantarum*, *L. fermentum* y *Weisella cibaria* fueron en todos los casos aminoácido descarboxilasa negativas. Por lo que se refiere a los estafilococos, las cepas positivas pertenecieron a las especies *S. carnosus*, *S. epidermidis*, *S. pasteurii* y *S. warneri*.

Acerca de las cepas que mostraron capacidad de producir aminas biógenas, también es interesante determinar el tipo de amina que produce cada bacteria y la intensidad con que la forma. Todas las cepas de bacterias del ácido láctico formaron tiramina y feniletilamina. Las especies *E. faecium*, *L. carnosum* y 2 cepas de *L. curvatus* destacaron por los elevados niveles de tiramina formados, en ocasiones superiores a los 2000 mg/L. Además, estos altos contenidos en tiramina fueron acompañados de concentraciones más o menos elevadas de otras aminas como feniletilamina (hasta 1000 mg/L) y triptamina (hasta 13 mg/L). De entre las cepas de estafilococos ensayadas, sólo una cepa de *S. carnosus*, aislada de un producto procedente de Eslovaquia (artículo III), mostró actividad tirosina-descarboxilasa. Además también formó contenidos moderados de feniletilamina y bajos de triptamina. La otra cepa de *S. carnosus* (artículo II) sólo fue capaz de formar triptamina y feniletilamina, sin formación de tiramina. La producción de putrescina y cadaverina fue mucho menos frecuente, ya que sólo dos cepas de *L. curvatus* y una de *S. pasteurii* y *S. warneri* mostraron la capacidad de producir estas aminas, especialmente putrescina.

7.1.4 Aportaciones más relevantes

- Los microorganismos responsables en gran medida de la fermentación espontánea de los embutidos artesanales europeos muestran una potencial contribución relevante en la formación de aminas biógenas, especialmente si se

tiene en cuenta que son grupos microbianos presentes en niveles elevados en este tipo de productos.

- Desde el punto de vista aminogénico, las cepas de las especies *L. plantarum*, *L. sakei* y *S. xylosus* serían las más adecuadas para ser utilizadas como componentes de cultivos iniciadores autóctonos.
- Las cepas de *L. curvatus* junto con las de enterococos fueron las que presentaron una actividad descarboxilasa más intensa, por lo que su uso en cultivos iniciadores artesanales no estaría aconsejado.

Artículo II.

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla, S. Bover-Cid, R. Talon, M. Garriga, T. Aymerich, E. Zanardi, A. Ianieri, M.J. Fraqueza, M. Elias, E.H. Drosinos, A. Lauková, M.C. Vidal-Carou. (2010). Distribution of aminogenic activity among potential autochthonous starter cultures. *Journal of Food protection*, 73 (3): 524-528.

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Distribution of Aminogenic Activity among Potential Autochthonous Starter Cultures for Dry Fermented Sausages

M. L. LATORRE-MORATALLA,¹ S. BOVER-CID,^{1†} R. TALON,² T. AYMERICH,³ M. GARRIGA,³ E. ZANARDI,⁴
 A. IANIERI,⁵ M. J. FRAQUEZA,⁶ M. ELIAS,⁶ E. H. DROSINOS,⁷ A. LAUKOVÁ,⁸ AND M. C. VIDAL-CAROU^{1*}

¹Departament de Nutrició i Bromatologia, Facultat de Farmàcia, Universitat de Barcelona, Avinguda Joan XXIII s/n, E-08028 Barcelona, Spain; ²Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Centre de Recherches de Clermont-Ferrand-Theix, Microbiology Unit, 63 122 Saint-Genès Champanelle, France; ³Institute for Food and Agricultural Research and Technology, Finca Camps i Armet, E-17121 Monells, Spain; ⁴Dipartimento di Produzioni Animali, Biotecnologie Veterinarie, Qualità e Sicurezza degli Alimenti, Università degli Studi di Parma, Via del Taglio 8, 43100 Parma, Italy; ⁵Dipartimento di Scienze degli Alimenti, Università degli Studi di Teramo, Piazza Aldo Moro 45, 64100 Teramo, Italy; ⁶Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária, Centro de Investigação Interdisciplinar em Sanidade Animal, Av. da Universidade Técnica, Polo Universitário, Alto da Ajuda, 1300-477 Lisboa, Portugal; ⁷Department of Food Science and Technology, Agricultural University of Athens, 75 Iera Odos, Str., Votanikos GR-118 55, Greece; and ⁸Institute of Animal Physiology, Slovak Academy of Science, Šoltésovej 4-6, 04001 Košice, Slovakia

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ABSTRACT

Any bacterial strain to be used as starter culture should have suitable characteristics, including a lack of amino acid decarboxylase activity. In this study, the decarboxylase activity of 76 bacterial strains, including lactic acid bacteria and gram-positive, catalase-positive cocci, was investigated. These strains were previously isolated from European traditional fermented sausages to develop autochthonous starter cultures. Of all the strains tested, 48% of the lactic acid bacteria strains and 13% of gram-positive, catalase-positive cocci decarboxylated one or more amino acids. Aminogenic potential was strain dependent, although some species had a higher proportion of aminogenic strains than did others. Thus, all *Lactobacillus curvatus* strains and 70% of *Lactobacillus brevis* strains had the capacity to produce tyramine and β -phenylethylamine. Some strains also produced other aromatic amines, such as tryptamine and the diamines putrescine and cadaverine. All the enterococcal strains tested were decarboxylase positive, producing high amounts of tyramine and considerable amounts of β -phenylethylamine. None of the staphylococcal strains had tyrosine-decarboxylase activity, but some produced other amines. From the aminogenic point of view, *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *Lactobacillus sakei*, and *Staphylococcus xylosus* strains would be the most suitable for use as autochthonous starter cultures for traditional fermented sausages.

Fermentation of traditional meat products usually relies on indigenous microflora and reflects the diversity of formulation and the manufacturing practices (39). Lactic acid bacteria (LAB) and gram-positive, catalase-positive cocci (GCC⁺) are the two bacterial groups that are used most often as fermentative microbiota in traditional sausages. LAB are usually the main fermenters (10⁷ to 10⁹ CFU/g) and are responsible for the typical acidification, with the consequent inhibition of spoilage and pathogenic bacteria (2, 39). The species most commonly identified in these fermented meat products are *Lactobacillus sakei*, *Lactobacillus curvatus*, and *Lactobacillus plantarum* (4, 32, 34). Enterococci, mainly *Enterococcus faecium*, also may constitute a large part of the microbiota of traditional fermented sausages, with levels close to 10⁶ CFU/g (2, 29, 39), because these meat products have a relatively high pH and provide ideal conditions for survival and growth of these organisms (18).

GCC⁺ are the second major bacterial group (10⁶ to 10⁸ CFU/g) in these sausages and contribute mainly to the color

and development of flavor. *Staphylococcus xylosus*, *Staphylococcus saprophyticus*, and *Staphylococcus equorum* are the most common GCC⁺ species identified (2, 36, 39). In some traditional fermented sausages, GCC⁺ levels, especially those of staphylococci, can be similar to or even greater than those of LAB. This feature differentiates these sausages from industrial products and may account for their appreciated sensory qualities (2). However, indigenous microbiota and traditional manufacturing techniques do not always ensure acceptable hygienic quality of fermented sausages.

Biogenic amines are formed by the decarboxylation of their precursor amino acids by certain bacteria, including enterobacteria and enterococci but also lactobacilli and GCC⁺ (38, 43). Large amounts of biogenic amines can accumulate in traditional fermented sausages (20). The occurrence of large amounts of these substances is of concern in terms of the hygienic quality and safety of these products (16, 38, 43). Therefore, control measures to minimize biogenic amine production are needed. Selected starter cultures have been used in experimental (pilot plant) and industrial production with variable success.

Knowledge of the indigenous microbiota usually present in traditional fermented sausages is essential for

* Author for correspondence. Tel: +34 93 402 45 08; Fax: +34 93 403 59 31; E-mail: mcvidal@ub.edu.

† Present address: Institute for Food and Agricultural Research and Technology, Finca Camps i Armet, E-17121 Monells, Spain.

TABLE 1. Occurrence of amino acid decarboxylase-positive strains among lactic acid bacteria and coagulase-negative staphylococci tested

| Species | No. of strains positive | No. of strains tested |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Lactobacillus brevis</i> | 7 | 10 |
| <i>L. curvatus</i> | 4 | 4 |
| <i>L. fermentum</i> | 0 | 1 |
| <i>L. plantarum</i> | 0 | 3 |
| <i>L. sakei</i> | 0 | 15 |
| <i>Leuconostoc carnosum</i> | 2 | 2 |
| <i>L. mesenteroides</i> | 1 | 2 |
| <i>Weissella cibaria</i> | 0 | 1 |
| <i>Enterococcus faecium</i> | 7 | 7 |
| <i>E. hirae</i> | 1 | 1 |
| <i>Staphylococcus carnosus</i> | 1 | 1 |
| <i>S. epidermidis</i> | 1 | 2 |
| <i>S. equorum</i> | 0 | 4 |
| <i>S. haemolyticus</i> | 0 | 1 |
| <i>S. pasteurii</i> | 1 | 1 |
| <i>S. saprophyticus</i> | 0 | 2 |
| <i>S. simulans</i> | 0 | 1 |
| <i>S. succinus</i> | 0 | 1 |
| <i>S. xylosus</i> | 0 | 15 |
| <i>S. warneri</i> | 1 | 2 |

improving the hygienic quality and safety of these products. Specific strains isolated from the traditional products and adapted to the ecology of traditional fermentation (i.e., low temperatures) could be used as autochthonous starter cultures, thereby maintaining the typical sensory qualities of these sausages (4, 40, 44). To reduce biogenic amine accumulation, the autochthonous starter culture must not be able to produce biogenic amines.

The main objective of the European project Tradisau-sage (42) was to improve the quality and safety of European traditional fermented sausages. In the frame of this project, the present study was conducted (i) to determine the amino acid decarboxylase activity of several strains of the dominant fermentative bacteria (LAB and GCC⁺) isolated from traditional dry fermented sausages and (ii) to identify the best candidates for possible further use as autochthonous starter cultures to minimize the risk of biogenic amine accumulation in this type of food product.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Bacterial strains. Decarboxylase activity was assessed for 76 strains of LAB (including lactobacilli, enterococci, *Leuconostoc*, and *Weissella*) and staphylococci, all isolated from several types of traditional fermented sausages. Table 1 summarizes the number of strains of each species studied. The strains examined were provided by the partners involved in the Tradisausage project (France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, and Slovakia) (42), who isolated and identified these strains by molecular methods (2, 3, 14, 33, 45).

Determination of biogenic amine-forming capacity. To promote enzyme induction before the decarboxylase test (5), strains were subcultured four times at 30°C for 24 h in de Man Rogosa Sharpe broth (Oxoid, Cambridge, England) for LAB and in

tryptic soy broth (Oxoid) for staphylococci. Both media contained 0.1% concentrations of the corresponding amino acid precursor (all from Merck, Darmstadt, Germany): L-tyrosine free base, L-histidine monochlorohydrate, L-ornithine monochlorohydrate, L-tryptophan, L-lysine monochlorohydrate, and L-phenylalanine. Broth cultures of all bacterial strains were then placed in a decarboxylase medium containing the precursor amino acids (0.5%), pyridoxal-5'-phosphate (Merck), and growing factors as previously described by Bover-Cid and Holzapfel (5) and incubated aerobically at 30°C for 4 days. The type and amount of biogenic amines produced were determined by high-performance liquid chromatography with postcolumn derivatization with *ortho*-phthalaldehyde and fluorimetric detection following the procedure described by Hernández-Jover et al. (17).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows the amino acid decarboxylase-positive strains for all the species tested. Of the LAB strains, 48% produced one or more biogenic amines (11 *Lactobacillus*, 8 *Enterococcus*, and 3 *Leuconostoc* strains). Among lactobacilli, 100% of the *L. curvatus* strains and 70% of the *L. brevis* strains were biogenic amine producers. In contrast, none of the *L. sakei*, *L. fermentum*, or *L. plantarum* strains had amino acid decarboxylase activity. All *Enterococcus* strains (seven *E. faecium* and one *E. hirae*) were amino acid decarboxylase positive, as were three of the *Leuconostoc* strains tested (two *L. carnosum* and one *L. mesenteroides*). Only 13% of the *Staphylococcus* strains tested were amino acid decarboxylase positive.

The amino acid decarboxylase activities of LAB isolated from traditional fermented sausages are consistent with the results reported for other LAB isolated from various types of sausages (3, 6, 12, 25, 26, 35, 37). Phenotypically, *L. brevis* and *L. curvatus* strains are usually associated with tyramine production in fermented meat products and in some cases with production of phenylethylamine, tryptamine, putrescine, and cadaverine (3, 5). In contrast, *L. plantarum* and *L. sakei* strains are more frequently reported as nonaminogenic (3, 6). Genes coding for tyrosine decarboxylase (*tdc* genes) have been identified in several strains of *L. brevis* (GenBank accession no. EF371897.1, EF371896.1, and AF446085.5) and *L. curvatus* (EF371895.1, AJ871286.1, AF354231.1, and AB086652.1). The partial sequence of *tdc* genes also has been described for an *L. plantarum* strain (EF178285.1). To our knowledge, the presence of *tdc* genes has not been described to date in any *L. sakei* strain. However, in *L. sakei* strain 23K, molecular techniques have confirmed the absence of the *tdc* gene in its genome (8).

Some studies have confirmed the ability of some *Leuconostoc* strains to form biogenic amines (9, 15, 27), while other *Leuconostoc* strains did not (3, 5). In contrast, enterococci are extensively reported to have aminogenic potential, mainly as tyramine and phenylethylamine producers (6, 25, 38). The *tdc* gene has been described in several strains of *Enterococcus faecalis* (AF371893, AE016830, and AF354231) (10), *E. hirae* (AY303667) (11), and *E. faecium* (EF371894 and AJ83966) (21). In contrast to the tyrosine specificity of *L. brevis* decarboxylase (28), enterococci are nonselective for tyrosine and can

TABLE 2. Quantification of biogenic amine production by decarboxylase-positive lactic acid bacteria and coagulase-negative staphylococci

| Genus | Species | Strain | Amine production (mg/liter) ^a | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--|---------|---------|-------|----------|-------|
| | | | TY | PHE | TRP | PU | CA | |
| <i>Lactobacillus</i> | <i>brevis</i> | LQC 0524 | 169.47 | 11.28 | | | | |
| | | LQC 0528 | 148.74 | 6.84 | | | | |
| | | LQC 0531 | 138.51 | 6.22 | | | | |
| | | LQC 0537 | 142.62 | 8.84 | | | | |
| | | LQC 0581 | 168.36 | 10.68 | | | | |
| | | LQC 0588 | 148.35 | 6.46 | | | | |
| | | LQC 0591 | 158.07 | 10.51 | | | | |
| | | <i>curvatus</i> | IS02/F25 | 106.07 | 38.1 | | | |
| | | | IS02/F26 | 76.55 | 15.06 | | | |
| | | | P05/4 | 2,198.8 | 154.11 | | 1,616.34 | 20.17 |
| P05/119 | 2,561.7 | | 175.51 | | 1,673.6 | 20.79 | | |
| <i>Leuconostoc</i> | <i>carosum</i> | S02/2M/1B | 2,137.04 | 470.1 | | | | |
| | | S02/F12 | 2,086.48 | 498.55 | | | | |
| <i>Enterococcus</i> | <i>mesenteroides</i> | LQC 0538 | 161.8 | 8.9 | | | | |
| | | <i>faecium</i> | S02F11 | 2,867.4 | 535.5 | 8.5 | | |
| | S02/211 | | 1,466.81 | 720.39 | 12.11 | | | |
| | S02/223 | | 1,006.47 | 555.14 | 11.87 | | | |
| | S04 1M/2 | | 2,429.68 | 440.67 | 8.83 | | | |
| | S03 M1/2 | | 2,133.22 | 674.13 | 13.02 | | | |
| | S03F11 | | 1,865.25 | 505.22 | 9.84 | | | |
| | S01M122 | | 2,227 | 578.26 | 9.37 | | | |
| | <i>hirae</i> | | IS02/Z30 | 159.8 | 79.6 | | | |
| | | <i>Staphylococcus</i> | <i>carosum</i> | P06/8 | | 161.1 | 20.2 | |
| <i>epidermidis</i> | IS02/Z16 | | | | | | 8.8 | |
| | <i>pasteuri</i> | | IS02/M5 | | | | 227.3 | 8.1 |
| <i>warneri</i> | | | CTC6010 | | | | 427.5 | 137.5 |

^a Biogenic amines produced by each strain were analyzed in duplicate, and the relative standard deviation was always below 5%.

decarboxylate phenylalanine (21). This finding is in agreement with the high frequency of simultaneous production of tyramine and phenylethylamine by enterococcal strains.

Staphylococcus species usually are described as weak or negative for decarboxylase activity (6, 25, 36). Martín et al. (23) found this activity in only 35 of 240 strains, including strains of *S. xylosus*, *S. warneri*, *S. epidermidis*, and *S. carnosus*. Martuscelli et al. (24) reported that 50% of the *S. xylosus* strains tested were only weak producers of biogenic amines. However, some researchers have described staphylococci as having a remarkable potential to form biogenic amines (26, 35, 37). The genetic potential for the tyrosine decarboxylase enzyme has been partially sequenced in an *S. epidermidis* strain (EF371899) and *S. xylosus* (41).

In addition to determining whether various bacteria produce biogenic amines, the level of such production is also of interest. Table 2 shows the quantitative results for biogenic amine accumulation in the fermenting broth by the amine-positive strains. All LAB strains formed tyramine and β -phenylethylamine; the strongest tyrosine decarboxylase species were *E. faecium*, *L. carnosum*, and two strains of *L. curvatus*, all of which produced levels higher than 2,000 mg/liter in most cases. All of these strains also showed the capacity to produce moderate amounts of β -phenylethyl-

amine (up to 1,000 mg/liter). In contrast, all strains of *L. brevis* and some of *L. curvatus* produced at least 10-fold lower amounts of tyramine and β -phenylethylamine. Decarboxylase-positive species of staphylococci did not produce tyramine. Depending on the species, these strains produced β -phenylethylamine, tryptamine, putrescine, and cadaverine. Usually the production of β -phenylethylamine and tryptamine is associated with high occurrence of tyramine (36), but for *S. carnosus* the production of these amines was not related to that of tyramine. Although there was not a general trend, other authors also found this particular profile of amines produced by *S. carnosus* (1, 12). *E. faecium* strains also produced low amounts of tryptamine, but this finding is consistent with the presence of tryptamine in fermented sausages when there are high amounts of tyramine. Putrescine and cadaverine production was less extensive; only two strains of *L. curvatus* and one of *Staphylococcus pasteuri* and *S. warneri* produced these diamines, especially putrescine (Table 2). In the present study, none of the species tested produced histamine. Histidine decarboxylase activity seems to be limited to some specific strains of contaminant species (22, 30, 41). The results of the present work agree with other published data on decarboxylase activity of *Lactobacillus* (3, 6, 7, 12, 31), *Leuconostoc* (31), *Enterococcus* (6, 13, 21), and *Staphylococcus* (23, 25) strains found in fermented sausages.

On the basis of these results regarding biogenic amine production, enterococci and some strains of *Lactobacillus* usually found in dry fermented sausages (e.g., *L. curvatus*) would not be suitable candidates for starter cultures for traditional fermented sausages. In contrast, *L. sakei* and *L. plantarum* strains (among the LAB) and *S. xylosus* and *S. equorum* (among the GCC⁺) would be the most appropriate candidates to be used as autochthonous starters. However, to maintain the sensory properties of traditional sausages, the use of more complex mixed starter cultures than those used in industrial procedures would be desirable. For this purpose, the contribution of other weak amine-producing bacteria, such as *L. brevis* or some strains of staphylococci, could be considered. *L. curvatus* also could be used, but the heterogeneous distribution of aminogenic potential among strains of this species confirms that amino acid decarboxylase activity is a strain-dependent property. Thus, the amino acid decarboxylase activity of any strain intended to be used as a starter culture must be tested case by case. The behavior of the selected strain(s) also must be assessed in the real product under the actual processing conditions. This was the aim of further studies carried out within the frame of the European Tradisausage project (19, 40, 42).

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Artículo III.

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Characterization of *Staphylococcus xylosus* and *Staphylococcus carnosus* isolated from Slovak meat products

Monika Simonová^{a,*}, Viola Stropfová^a, Miroslava Marciňáková^a, Andrea Lauková^a, Satu Vesterlund^b, Mariluz Latorre Moratalla^c, Sara Bover-Cid^c, Carmen Vidal-Carou^c

^a Institute of Animal Physiology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Šoltésovej 4-6, Košice, Slovakia

^b Functional Foods Forum, Pharmacy 5 Krs., Itäinen Pitkätatu 4A, 20520 Turku, Finland

^c Department of Nutrition and Food Science-CeRTA, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Barcelona, Av. Joan XXIII 8ln, E-08028 Barcelona, Spain

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Abstract

The aims of this study were to isolate, identify and characterize the population of coagulase-negative staphylococci in different types of Slovak traditional sausages and to determine the metabolic properties of selected *Staphylococcus xylosus* and *S. carnosus* strains for the selection of potential starter cultures to use in the processing of sausages. The strains were tested for lactic acid production, survival in the presence of bile and sensitivity to antibiotics. Bacteriocin production, adhesion ability as well as biogenic amine (BA) production by isolates were also analysed. Most of the isolates were identified as *S. xylosus* and *S. carnosus*. Lactic acid values ranged from 0.40 to 1.03 mmol/l and strains survived in the presence of 1% bile. Most of the strains studied were sensitive to all antibiotics. Two strains, *S. xylosus* SO3/1M/1/2 and *S. carnosus* SO2/F/2/5 inhibited *Listeria innocua* and *Pseudomonas* sp. *S. xylosus* strains did not produce any BA, while *S. carnosus* SO2/F/2/5 did. *S. xylosus* SO3/1M/1/2 and *S. carnosus* SO2/F/2/5 appeared as the most adhesive strains. *S. xylosus* SO3/1M/1/2 with antimicrobial activity against *Enterococcus avium* EA5, *L. innocua* LMG13568 and *Pseudomonas* sp. SO1/1M/1/4, adhesion ability and free BA production could be used as starter culture in sausage manufacture.

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Keywords: *Staphylococcus xylosus*; *S. carnosus*; Fermented sausage; Bacteriocin

1. Introduction

Fermented meat products have been produced for 2000 years. Many countries possess traditional meat products and wish to keep their traditionality. However, the raw materials (meat) can be a source of different microorganisms; which can contaminate the final products. Many microorganisms induce changes in flavour, nutritional quality, texture, safety and other characteristics, depending on their activity. On the other hand, addition of specific microorganisms – starter cultures to meat products is well known and necessary in special types of sausages. The most frequently used starter cultures in meat products are lactic

acid bacteria (LAB) in combination with coagulase-negative staphylococci (CNS), such as *Staphylococcus xylosus* and *S. carnosus*. While LAB ensure the safety of products by reducing the pH through fermentation of sugars, CNS influence other technological properties of fermented meat products (Lücke, 1998). Staphylococci play important role in the development of aroma as well as flavour and colour of fermented products (Jessen, 1995). Their ability to reduce nitrate in nitrite, leads to the production of nitrosylmyoglobin; which is important for the characteristic red colour of such products (Skibsted, 1992). Also, catalase activity is important to decompose hydrogen peroxide and to prevent lipid oxidation (Barrière et al., 2001). The production of lipases is a general property of staphylococci and they play a role in flavour development of fermented meat products (Lücke, 1986; Nychas & Arkoudelos, 1990; Talon &

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +421 55 633 6251; fax: +421 55 7287 842.
E-mail address: simonova@saske.sk (M. Simonová).

Montel, 1997). *S. xyloso*s and *S. carnosus* are commonly used lipolytic starter cultures for fermented sausage (Jessen, 1995). Organoleptic quality of meat products is also dependent on the proteolytic activity of the starter cultures. Ability of CNS to produce bacteriocins is also well known (Lauková & Mareková, 1993); this property may be important for the safety of sausages. On the other hand, safety of these products for consumers also depends on the content of biogenic amines (BA), such as histamine, tyramine, phenylethylamine and tryptamine, which might represent a food poisoning hazard (Halász, Baráth, Simon-Sarkadi, & Holzapfel, 1994). The production of BA requires the presence of amino acid-decarboxylating microorganisms, which are usually detected in dry fermented sausages during the fermentation process (Bover-Cid, Schoppen, Izquierdo-Pulido, & Vidal-Carou, 1999).

The purpose of this study was to isolate the strains of *S. xyloso*s and *S. carnosus* from Slovak traditional meat products and characterize their metabolic properties: antibiotic sensitivity, tolerance to oxgall bile, lactic acid production, adhesion and amino acid-decarboxylase activity as well as their ability to produce bacteriocins with the aim to select a new optimal starter culture.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Isolation, bacterial counts and identification of bacteria

Staphylococci were isolated from four traditional Slovak meat products. The strains were selected by standard microbiological methods using appropriate dilutions in Buffered Peptone Water (Biomark, India). Dilutions were plated onto Mannitol Salt agar plates (MSA, Becton & Dickinson, Cockeysville, USA) and incubated at 37 °C for 24 h. After incubation, the colony forming units (cfu) were counted. Then, 187 colonies of staphylococci (including all samples) were randomly picked and maintained on MSA agar for further identification and testing. For DNA preparation, the strains were cultivated on MSA agar at 37 °C for 24 h and checked for purity. DNA from each strain was obtained by the following procedure: one loopfull of bacterial colony (10 µl) was resuspended in 30 µl H₂O and vortexed for 10 min. Then, the supernatants were used as template DNA. One µl of the template was added to 24 µl of the reagent mixture which contained 0.5 µM of each primer, 0.2 mM of each deoxynucleotide (dATP, dTTP, dCTP, dGTP – dNTPs, Invitrogen), 2.5 mM MgCl₂ (Invitrogen), 10xPCR buffer (Invitrogen), 1.25 U Taq polymerase (Invitrogen), and water to a total volume of 25 µl. The sequences of the primer pairs used for PCR-amplification of staphylococci were as follows: for *S. xyloso*s 5'-AAGTCGGTTGAAAACCTAAA-3' and 5'-CATTGACATATTGTATTTCAG-3', for *S. carnosus* 5'-GAACCGCATGGTTCTGCAA-3' and 5'-CCGTCAAGGTGCGCATAGT-3' (Aymerich, Martín, Garriga, & Hugas, 2003). The amplification protocol was as follows: initial denaturation at 96 °C for 3 min, 35 cycles of 95 °C

for 30 s, 58 °C for 30 s, 72 °C for 30 s, 72 °C for 5 min. A Techgene KRD thermocycler (Techne, UK) was used for all samples. The PCR products (10 µL of each) were separated by electrophoresis in 0.8% agarose gels (SIGMA, Germany) buffered with 1xTAE (Merck, Germany) containing 1 µg/mL ethidium bromide (SIGMA). The molecular mass standard (Promega, USA) was used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

2.2. Sensitivity to oxgall bile, lactic acid production and antibiotic profil

Resistance to bile was tested according to Gilliland and Walker (1990). Brain Heart Infusion broth (BHI, Becton & Dickinson) was prepared by the addition of 1% (w/v) oxgall (Becton & Dickinson). The volume 50 µl of an 18 h culture of each strain was added to 5 ml of BHI broth with oxgall. After incubation at 37 °C for 24 h, the bacterial growth of strains was measured using a spectrophotometer (Spekol 11, Jena, Germany) at 600 nm. Numbers of viable cells were estimated at 0 h and after 24 h of incubation on MSA agar.

The ability to produce lactic acid was measured according to Pryce (1969) and expressed in mmol/l.

Antibiotic resistance of isolated staphylococci was tested by the agar disc diffusion method on Columbia agar (Becton & Dickinson) with 10% of defibrinated sheep blood. The following antibiotic discs (Becton & Dickinson) were used: clindamycin (2 µg), erythromycin, methicilin, neomycin (5 µg), ampicillin, tobramycin, lincomycin (10 µg), gentamycin, chloramphenicol, novobiocin, rifampicin, tetracycline, vancomycin and amoxicillin (30 µg). After incubation at 37 °C for 18 h, the strains were classified as resistant or sensitive (by comparing the size of the inhibitory zones in mm).

2.3. Bacteriocin and amino acid-decarboxylase activity of selected isolates

Bacteriocin activity was tested by the agar spot test (De Vuyst, Callevart, & Crabbe, 1996). A cell-free supernatant was prepared by centrifuging 1 mL of a 18 h culture (BHI, Becton & Dickinson) of tested strains (10,000g for 30 min). Generally, Brain Heart Infusion supplemented with 1.5% agar (for Gram-positive indicator bacteria) and Trypticase Soy agar (for Gram-negatives, Becton & Dickinson) were used for the bottom agar layer. For overlay, the same types of media (0.7% concentration) of soft agar were prepared. Plates were incubated overnight at 37 °C. Principal indicator bacteria *Enterococcus avium* EA5 (our isolate from piglets), *S. aureus* SA5 (our isolate from cow milk), *Listeria innocua* LMG13568 (supplied by Prof. L. DeVuyst, University of Brussel, Belgium), *L. monocytogenes* CCM4699 (Czech Collection of Microorganisms, Brno, Czech Republic), *Pseudomonas* sp. SO1/1M/1/4 and *Escherichia coli* (our isolates from fermented meat products) were used for bacteriocin activity determination. Brain Heart

Infusion and Trypticase Soy broth (Becton & Dickinson) were used for the growth of the indicator strains. Bacteriocin activity was defined as the reciprocal of the highest two-fold dilution demonstrating complete inhibitory activity of the indicator strain and was expressed in arbitrary units per millilitre (AU/ml) of culture medium.

Amino acid-decarboxylase activity of bacteria was assessed by the presence of biogenic amines in a decarboxylase broth as described by Bover-Cid and Holzapfel (1999).

The medium (pH 5.2) contained the precursor amino acids (0.5% tyrosine di-sodium salt and 0.25% L-histidine monohydrochloride, L-ornithine monohydrochloride, L-lysine monohydrochloride, L-phenylalanine and L-tryptophan), pyridoxal-5-phosphate as a codecarboxylase factor, growing factors and buffer compounds. Biogenic amines, tyramine (TY), phenylethylamine (PHE), putrescine (PU), histamine (HI), cadaverine (CA) and tryptamine (TRY) were determined by ion-pair high-performance liquid chromatography and post-column derivatization with *ortho*-phthalaldehyde according to Hernández-Jover, Izquierdo-Pulido, Veciana-Nogués, and Vidal-Carou (1996).

2.4. Adhesion assay

For adhesion studies, the strains were grown in BHI broth (Becton & Dickinson) at 37 °C for 22 h. An 0.1% inoculum from stocks stored in 40% glycerol was used. Bacteria were metabolically labelled by the addition of 10 µl/ml of methyl-1,2 [5'-3 H] thymidine (14.4 Ci mmol⁻¹, Amersham Biosciences, UK). Radiolabelled bacteria were harvested by centrifugation (2000 g, 7 min) and the pellet was washed three times with phosphate buffered saline (PBS, 5 mmol; pH 7.3). The optical density (at 600 nm) of each bacterial suspension was adjusted to 0.5 ± 0.02 to give approximately 10⁸–10⁹ cfu/ml. Human intestinal mucus was isolated from the healthy part of resected colonic tissue and treated as described by Ouwehand et al. (2002). The use of human intestinal material was approved by the joint ethical committee of the University of Turku and Turku University Central Hospital. The results shown are expressed as the average of three independent experiments in four parallel replicates and are expressed as log₁₀ cfu adhering to the immobilized mucus per microtitre plate well.

3. Results

3.1. Identification and bacterial counts of coagulase-negative staphylococci

The total counts of coagulase-negative staphylococci from traditional meat products varied from 5.30 to 6.92 log cfu/ml. Among 187 isolates specified by PCR, 63.6% of strains (119 isolates) were allotted to the species *S. xylosus*, 10.7% of strains (20 isolates) belonged to the species *S. carnosus* and 25.7% of isolates (48) were not identified.

3.2. Metabolic properties of isolates

Staphylococci were able to grow in the presence of 1% oxgall (bile) reaching 10⁶–10⁷ cfu/ml in comparison with the control growth (10⁸–10⁹ cfu/ml) in oxgall-free broth. The ability of the tested strains to survive in broth with 1% oxgall (bile) varied between 54% and 99%.

Lactic acid (LA) production of *S. xylosus* isolates ranged from 0.40 to 1.03 mmol/l. The lowest (0.40 mmol/l) was found in SO3/Z/2/1 and the highest in SO1F/1/1. LA values of *S. carnosus* varied from 0.51 to 0.79 mmol/l.

Seventy-one percent (84 isolates) of all tested strains of *S. xylosus*, were sensitive to all antibiotics tested. Staphylococcal isolates showed sensitivities of 99% to novobiocin, methicillin, ampicillin and rifampicin. Resistance of 4% of the tested strains was found to lincomycin, amoxicillin, clindamycin and tetracycline. Five percent of staphylococci were resistant to phosphomycin, 11% to tobramycin and 19% of isolates were resistant to neomycine. Among the tested *S. carnosus* isolates all were sensitive, except *S. carnosus* SO2/F/2/5 which was resistant to chloramphenicol, amoxicillin and neomycine.

3.3. Bacteriocin and amino-acid decarboxylase activities, adhesion assay

Three strains of *S. xylosus* (SO1/1M/2b, SO2/2M/2b, SO3/1M/1/2) and one strain of *S. carnosus* (SO2/F/2/5) were selected for testing their bacteriocin and decarboxylase activities as well as their adhesion ability to mucus.

Isolates were tested against six indicators (Table 1), among which are included the most frequent contaminants in meat. The most sensitive indicator was *E. avium* EA5. Only two strains, *S. xylosus* SO3/1M/1/2 and *S. carnosus* SO2/F/2/5 showed inhibitory activity against *L. innocua* LMG13568 and *Pseudomonas* sp. SO1/1M/1/4.

S. xylosus strains tested for amino acid-decarboxylating activity, did not produce any biogenic amines (BA, Table 1). On the other hand, *S. carnosus* SO2/F/2/5 produced BA, primarily TY, in the range 1000–2500 mg/l, but also PHE (100–1000 mg/l). The production of TRY was much lower, <50 mg/l, while HI, PU and CA formation was not detected.

S. xylosus SO3/1M/1/2 and *S. carnosus* SO2/F/2/5 were the most adhesive strains with 7.17% and 10.87% of the added bacteria adhering, respectively (Table 1). The adherence of these strains was better than of *S. xylosus* SO1/1M/2b, SO2/2M/2b strains (0.28%; 0.24%).

4. Discussion

The total counts of coagulase-negative staphylococci (CNS) from traditional meat products found in our study, are in agreement with results of CNS enumeration in fermented sausages, published by Blaiotta et al. (2004). In general, low levels of staphylococci correspond with the request of ISO norms.

Table 1
Adhesion, decarboxylase and bacteriocin activities of *taphylococcus xylosus* and *S. carnosus* strains

| Activity | <i>S. xylosus</i> | | | <i>S. carnosus</i> |
|--|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| | SO1/1M/2b | SO2/2M/2a | SO3/1M/1/2 | SO2/F/2/5 |
| Bacteriocin activity (AU/ml) | | | | |
| <i>Enterococcus avium</i> EA5 ^a | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| <i>S. aureus</i> SA5 ^b | – | – | – | – |
| <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> CCM4699 ^c | – | – | – | – |
| <i>L. innocua</i> LMG13568 ^d | – | – | 400 | 100 |
| <i>Pseudomonas</i> sp. SO1/1M/1/4 ^e | (100) ^f | (100) | (100) | (100) |
| <i>Escherichia coli</i> ^e | – | – | – | – |
| <i>Biogenic amines (mg/l)</i> | | | | |
| Tyramine (TY) | – | – | – | +++ |
| Phenylethylamine (PHE) | – | – | – | ++ |
| Tryptamine (TRM) | – | – | – | ± ^g |
| Putrescine (PU) | – | – | – | – |
| Histamine (HI) | – | – | – | – |
| Cadaverine (CA) | – | – | – | – |
| Adhesion assay (%) | 0.28 ± 0.15 | 0.24 ± 0.14 | 7.17 ± 0.48 | 10.87 ± 2.64 |

^a Our isolate from faeces of piglet.

^b Our isolate from cow milk.

^c Czech collection of microorganisms, Brno, Czech Republic.

^d Supplied by Prof. L. DeVuyst (University of Brussel), Belgium.

^e Our isolates from fermented meat products.

^f Unclear zone.

^g +++, 1000–2500 mg/l; ++, 100–1000 mg/l; ±, <50 mg/l; –, Not detected.

S. xylosus is the dominating CNS species in many Italian and Spanish sausages (Blaiotta et al., 2004; Coppola, Iorizzo, Saotta, Sorrentino, & Grazia, 1997; García-Varona, Santos, Jaime, & Rovira, 2000), but in traditional Greek sausages, *S. saprophyticus* and *S. carnosus* are the most frequent bacterial strains (Papamanoli, Kotzekidou, Tzanetakis, & Litopolou-Tzanetaki, 2002). We achieved similar results of genotypic identification to those presented by Blaiotta et al. (2004).

Survival ability of isolates in the presence of oxgall bile is important to select probiotic strains. Although, studies about this property of enterococci and lactic acid bacteria of milk and meat origin have been published (Vinderola & Reinheimer, 2003), information about staphylococci are limited. On the one hand, in the case of staphylococci attention is focused on their survival in salt and acidic environments; these conditions are required during fermentation, ripening and storing of meat products. Mauriello, Casaburi, Blaiotta, and Villani (2004) described good surviving ability of CNS isolated from Italian sausage at low temperature, in the presence of 15% NaCl at several pH's. Vinderola and Reinheimer (2003) reported the growth of commercial and collection probiotic strains, such as *Lactobacillus acidophilus* A13, A14, LB, BRA, *L. casei* CNRZ 1874 and *L. rhamnosus* A15, A16 and LS; results that are in agreement with those achieved by ourselves. It can be regarded as bile stable, but further studies are needed before these strains may be considered probiotic starter meat cultures.

CNS arises mainly from human and animal environments and several studies have reported the presence of antibiotic resistant genes in CNS isolated from food

(Neu, 1992; Perreten, Giamp, Schuler-Schmid, & Teuber, 1998). Moschetti, Mauriello, and Villani (1997) found no strain was resistant to vancomycin, chloramphenicol and rifampicin and only one strain (among 30) was resistant to gentamycin, isolated from Italian sausages. These authors also reported the low resistance of tested strains to gentamycin (3%), which is in agreement with our results. Similarly, Maurello, Moschetti, Villani, Blaiotta, and Coppola (2000) described the sensitivity of CNS from artisanal Naples-type salami to methicillin, vancomycin, chloramphenicol and rifampicin and lower resistance was observed to gentamycin and neomycin. In both studies, resistance to lincomycin, novobiocin (64%), neomycin, erythromycin (50%) and tetracycline (21%; 30%) was found; our isolates showed no or less resistance to these antibiotics. Surprisingly, commonly novobiocin-resistant *S. xylosus* (especially from animal sources) was found to be novobiocin-sensitive at 30 µg concentration. Unexpectedly, we found a different (low) percentage of resistance to erythromycin, lincomycin and tetracycline, the presence of tetracycline- and erythromycin-resistant genes is well known (Milton, Hewitt, & Harwood, 1992; Schwartz & Noble, 1994). However, prevalence of antibiotic sensitivity is a good criteria to select bacteria for their industrial (starter culture) use.

Lactic acid bacteria as well as staphylococci can inhibit the growth of pathogens and spoilage organisms during food fermentation by natural antimicrobial substances, e.g., organic acids, diacetyl and bacteriocins (Klaenhammer, 1993; Villani et al., 1997). Lactic acid production leads to a decrease in pH, that can ensure the stability of products. Values of lactic acid produced by CNS from Slovak

traditional meat products correspond with our previous results for staphylococci from feed and animal sources (Lauková & Kmet', 1992; Lauková, 1993). The presence of the most frequently found pathogens, e.g., *S. aureus*, *L. monocytogenes*, *E. coli* and *Salmonella* can be controlled by a combination of low pH, competitive exclusion with starter cultures and/or bacteriocin production. The antimicrobial spectrum of bacteriocin-like substances produced by rumen staphylococci was observed by Lauková and Mareková (1993). Villani et al. (1997) also described the inhibitory activity of an antagonistic substance produced by *S. xylosus* 1E against *L. monocytogenes* and other Gram-positive bacteria; these results correspond to ours, although the authors reported higher inhibitory activity for their isolate. The growth inhibition of *L. monocytogenes* by the bacteriocin-like substance produced by staphylococci in this study may provide added control against pathogens in traditional sausages.

Adhesion to the intestinal mucus is one of the main selection criteria for probiotics (Ouweland, Tuomola, Tölkö, & Salminen, 2001). The adhesive properties of staphylococci have received little attention. Therefore, this study investigated the adhesive capacity of selected *S. xylosus* and *S. carnosus* isolates from traditional sausages to human intestinal mucus. As found for enterococci by Lauková, Stropfová, and Ouweland (2004), our isolates, tested for adhesion ability to mucus were found to be strain-dependent; that is, among the same species, different adhesive capabilities were detected.

The amount and type of biogenic amines (BA) depends on the nature of the food and the microorganisms. In the present work, no BA formation was found in the *S. xylosus* strains, but *S. carnosus* SO2/F/2/5 produced TY, PHE and small amounts of TRY. Similar results of BA production by *S. xylosus* strains were recorded by several authors (Bover-Cid, Hugas, Izquierdo-Polido, & Vidal-Carou, 2001; Casaburi, Blaiotta, Mauriello, Pepe, & Villani, 2005). On the other hand, Casaburi et al. (2005) did not find BA production for *S. carnosus* strains. However, in our study only one strain of *S. carnosus* selected according to its beneficial purposes was tested for decarboxylase activity.

In conclusion, selected strains of *S. xylosus* and *S. carnosus* possessed sufficient growth characteristics on ox-bile, bacteriocin activity, adhesive capacity and *S. xylosus* isolates also did not form BA. On the basis of these results, especially its antimicrobial activity, decarboxylase-negativity as well as its adaptability to different technological conditions, strain *S. xylosus* SO3/1M/1/2 can be utilized as a starter culture for sausage manufacture. However, additional studies are necessary to evaluate its performance directly in sausage production.

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8

INFLUENCIA DE LOS FACTORES TECNOLÓGICOS EN LA FORMACIÓN DE AMINAS BIÓGENAS DURANTE LA ELABORACIÓN Y ALMACENAMIENTO DE PRODUCTOS CÁRNICOS CRUDOS-CURADOS FERMENTADOS

La formación de aminas biógenas en los productos cárnicos fermentados depende, además de la presencia de microorganismos aminogénicos y de aminoácidos libres, de múltiples y complejos factores tecnológicos (formulación, características del producto, las condiciones del proceso de elaboración, etc). Todos estos factores influyen, en mayor o menor medida, el crecimiento microbiano, las interacciones existentes entre las diferentes comunidades microbianas, la acidificación, la anaerobiosis, y los procesos de proteólisis, entre otros. Estas variables interactúan entre sí y no siempre en el mismo sentido, lo cual en muchas ocasiones hace difícil precisar el efecto que pueden ejercer sobre la formación de aminas.

Los trabajos recogidos en este capítulo plantean el estudio de algunos de los parámetros tecnológicos que *a priori* podrían modular la formación de aminas biógenas por parte de los microorganismos que se desarrollan durante la elaboración de los productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados artesanales.

8.1. Determinación de los contenidos de aminas biógenas en productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados del mercado español en función de los valores de pH y del diámetro.

Artículo IV.

M.J. Miguelez-Arrizado, S. Bover-Cid, **M.L. Latorre-Moratalla**, M.C. Vidal-Carou. (2006). Biogenic amines in Spanish fermented sausage as a function of diameter and artisanal or industrial origin. *Journal of Science of Food and Agriculture*, 88: 549-557.

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8.1.1 Planteamiento y objetivo del estudio

Uno de los factores que parece influir más significativamente en la formación de aminas biógenas es el pH. En contraposición a los embutidos fermentados de origen industrial, elaborados normalmente con la utilización de cultivos iniciadores que provocan un rápido e intenso descenso del pH inicial, en la elaboración artesanal la fermentación es menos intensa provocando una disminución de los valores de pH progresiva, más lenta y suave. El efecto del pH sobre la aminogénesis es controvertido. Un pH ácido puede favorecer la actividad descarboxilasa como un mecanismo de defensa del microorganismo contra las condiciones desfavorables de un medio ácido o por lo contrario, una rápida y fuerte disminución en el pH inhibe el crecimiento de las bacterias alterantes potencialmente aminogénicas y puede en consecuencia reducir la formación de aminas biógenas.

El objetivo principal de este estudio fue evaluar la distribución del contenido de aminas biógenas con respecto al grado de acidificación de los productos cárnicos fermentados (artesanales vs industriales), centrándose en tres tipos de productos españoles del mercado de gran consumo en España (fuet, salchichón y chorizo). A

partir de los resultados, se evaluó la influencia de otros parámetros asociados al tipo de producto como el diámetro.

8.1.2 Diseño experimental

Se obtuvieron un total de 100 embutidos crudos-curados fermentados de diferentes comercios y mercados locales de Cataluña.

Después de comprobar el pH de todos los embutidos, se clasificaron en dos grupos: productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados ácidos con $\text{pH} < 5,5$, asociados a una elaboración más industrializada, y productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados ligeramente ácidos con un $\text{pH} > 5,5$, relacionados con una elaboración artesanal (Parente y col., 2001; Barbuti y Parolari, 2002).

8.1.3. Resultados

Influencia del grado de acidificación sobre el contenido de aminas biógenas en diferentes tipos de productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados

En general, el contenido total de aminas biógenas fue superior en los embutidos más ácidos (industriales) que en los poco ácidos (artesanales). Sin embargo, la influencia de la acidificación sobre el contenido de aminas biógenas en los diferentes productos varió en función del tipo de embutido y de la amina.

La tiramina fue la amina principal presente en todos los embutidos, aunque con una amplia variabilidad. Los embutidos más ácidos son *a priori* más intensamente fermentados que los poco ácidos y, por tanto, cabría esperar contenidos más altos de esta amina principalmente asociada a la actividad de las bacterias fermentativas. Sin

embargo, esta hipótesis sólo se confirmó en el caso del chorizo. Por lo que se refiere a los contenidos de putrescina, aunque no se encontraron diferencias significativas dependiendo del pH del producto, los valores medios mostraron un patrón similar al observado para la tiramina. Contrariamente a las aminas anteriores, los contenidos de cadaverina en los embutidos más ácidos fueron casi el doble que en los embutidos de baja acidez, presentando el chorizo los niveles más altos. El contenido de histamina fue relativamente bajo, a pesar de que fue detectada en un número considerable de muestras. Debido a la amplia variabilidad en las concentraciones de histamina, no se detectaron diferencias significativas entre los diversos grupos de embutidos. Sin embargo, el contenido de histamina en los embutidos industriales (más ácidos) dobló al observado en los artesanales, siendo el chorizo, el producto que mostró los contenidos de histamina más altos.

Por otro lado, se comprobó que el tipo de producto, y fundamentalmente el diámetro, que influye en el grado de anaerobiosis, potencial redox y a_w , tuvo una mayor influencia que el grado de acidificación en la acumulación de aminas biógenas. Así pues el salchichón, con un diámetro mayor, fue el producto con el contenido más alto de tiramina y del resto de las aminas, especialmente en el grupo de los productos industriales.

Se evaluó la importancia del fabricante sobre la aminogénesis de productos cárnicos fermentados. A pesar de la variabilidad en el perfil de aminas biógenas de productos pertenecientes a un mismo elaborador, el análisis de varianza (MANOVA) confirmó que la planta de elaboración, que incluye tanto los factores tecnológicos como su microbiota autóctona característica, fue un factor determinante en el contenido total de aminas biógenas. Sin embargo, la variabilidad también se puede atribuir a la importante influencia de la calidad de la materia prima, lo que hace que el perfil de aminas biógenas difiera incluso entre lotes de un mismo elaborador.

8.1.4 Aportaciones más relevantes

- Los resultados de este estudio preliminar sobre la influencia del pH indican que el contenido total de aminos biógenas tiende a ser más elevado en productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados más ácidos (como en los de origen industrial) que en los poco ácidos (de elaboración más artesanales).
- El diámetro de los productos cárnicos, que afectaría básicamente el grado de anaerobiosis, potencial redox y a_w , es un factor modulador del contenido total de aminos biógenas. De este modo, a mayor diámetro mayores contenidos de aminos.
- La planta de procesado o elaboración, que incluye tanto los factores tecnológicos como en la microbiota autóctona característica, parece ser un factor significativo del tipo y del contenido total de aminos biógenas en embutidos fermentados artesanales.

Artículo IV.

M.J. Miguelez-Arrizado, S. Bover-Cid, **M.L. Latorre-Moratalla**, M.C. Vidal-Carou. (2006). Biogenic amines in Spanish fermented sausage as a function of diameter and artisanal or industrial origin. *Journal of Science of Food and Agriculture*, 88: 549-557.

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Biogenic amines in Spanish fermented sausages as a function of diameter and artisanal or industrial origin

M Jesús Miguélez-Arrizado, Sara Bover-Cid, M Luz Latorre-Moratalla and M Carmen Vidal-Carou*

Departament de Nutrició i Bromatologia, Facultat de Farmàcia, Universitat de Barcelona, Avinguda Joan XXIII s/n, E-08028 Barcelona, Spain

Abstract: The distribution of biogenic amines in three types of fermented meat sausages (chorizo, fuet and salchichón) was examined with respect to the degree of acidification. The aim was to determine whether low-acid sausages (artisanal/traditional) have a different biogenic amine profile than more acidic products (industrial). Despite wide variability, tyramine was always found and was generally the major amine, followed by putrescine. Their contents in both industrial and artisanal sausages were similar, but correlated with the diameter of the product. In contrast, industrial sausages showed a higher average content of cadaverine and histamine, especially in chorizo, which also showed the highest content of free amino acids. Moreover, a multiple analysis of variance confirmed that the processing plant had a significant influence on the overall biogenic amine composition of products, histamine being the most important amine accounting for this effect.

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Keywords: tyramine; diamines; histamine; fermented meat products; sausage acidity

INTRODUCTION

Industrialisation in the meat industry has led to increased production at lower cost, ensuring the quality of the final product. However, the sensory characteristics associated with artisanal production¹ may be lost owing to the standardisation of the products. Furthermore, mainly the BSE crisis in the meat sector has undermined consumer trust in industrial production systems, while the traditional/artisanal methods have gained in popularity.

In Mediterranean countries, artisanal fermented meat products are manufactured by small companies, farms or local butchers and generally without the inoculation of a commercial starter culture.^{2–4} Thus, the natural microbiota comprises a mixture of lactic acid bacteria species, including enterococci and lactobacilli, as well as coagulase-negative staphylococci and yeasts that come either from the meat itself or the environment and thus constitute part of what is termed in-house flora.^{2,5–7} These sausages are spontaneously and slightly fermented and usually have a final pH higher than that of industrial starter-mediated products.^{2,4,8}

Biogenic amines (such as tyramine, histamine, putrescine and cadaverine) result from the decarboxylation of precursor amino acids (tyrosine, histidine, ornithine and lysine, respectively) by bacterial enzymes. They can therefore be found in fermented foods, especially those produced from raw materials with high protein content such as fermented sausages.^{9,10} However, biogenic amines are undesirable compounds from both safety and hygiene points of view.^{9,11} Procedures for preventing the formation of biogenic amines in fermented sausages aim to reduce and/or inhibit the amino acid-decarboxylating microbes. Although the use of high-quality raw materials is critical, the inoculation of competitive amine-negative starter cultures and the application of adequate processing conditions to favour their development are also important.^{12,13} Hence the potential risk of biogenic amine formation in artisanal low-acid fermented sausages may be high because no starter cultures are used to control the fermentation process. Moreover, they are usually fermented at low temperatures (<20 °C) and result in a low-acid product in which contaminant

* Correspondence to: M Carmen Vidal-Carou, Departament de Nutrició i Bromatologia, Facultat de Farmàcia, Universitat de Barcelona, Avinguda Joan XXIII s/n, E-08028 Barcelona, Spain
E-mail: mcvidal@ub.edu

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decarboxylase-positive bacteria may not be sufficiently inhibited.¹⁴

In addition to the effect of starter cultures, aminogenesis in fermented sausages is due to a complex interaction between microbial activities and several modulating factors. The distribution of biogenic amines in industrial fuet and salchichón was examined in a previous study,¹⁵ where it was concluded that the diameter of the sausage could be a technological factor modulating the accumulation of biogenic amines. Sausage formulation is another parameter reported to be of importance in relation to biogenic amine accumulation,^{16–18} since it may also affect microbial growth and metabolism during meat fermentation. Acidification has often been reported to affect biogenic amine formation, although the effect of pH on aminogenesis is controversial. A rapid and sharp decrease in pH seems to inhibit contaminant bacteria and the consequent formation of biogenic amines.^{14,16,19} In contrast, an acidic pH may favour decarboxylation reactions and amine formation as a protective mechanism of microorganisms against unfavourable growth conditions. Some studies have reported a relationship between acidic pH and biogenic amine accumulation, since the maximum rate of amine production usually occurs when the pH falls.^{8,20,21}

Given these findings, the distribution of biogenic amine content was evaluated with respect to the degree of acidification, focusing on three types of fermented products—chorizo, fuet and salchichón—which are widely consumed in Spain. The aim was to determine whether sausages of low acidity, a property related to artisanal/traditional fermented products, have a different biogenic amine profile to industrial and more acidic fermented sausages. In addition, we examined how other parameters (mainly diameter but also formulation) may affect the amine content depending on the degree of acidification. Other variables, such as proteolysis and water activity, were also studied as complementary data that may help in interpretation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Samples

A total of 100 fermented sausages, including chorizo, fuet and salchichón, all widely consumed in Spain, were obtained from the commercial network in Catalonia (north-eastern Spain). These types of traditional Spanish sausages are manufactured from a mixture of minced pork meat and fat (occasionally beef), with the addition of salt, spices, condiments and additives; these ingredients are mixed and stuffed into either natural or artificial casings, which then undergo a ripening–drying process. Salchichón is a salami-like sausage containing black pepper and has a diameter of up to 4–6 cm; fuet is a smaller diameter (<4 cm) sausage, originally from Catalonia, and chorizo differs from the latter in the addition of other condiments and spices, such as garlic and

paprika or hot red pepper.^{22,23} After checking the pH, two groups were distinguished: acid sausages with pH > 5.5 and low-acid sausages with pH < 5.5, the latter corresponding to traditionally manufactured products.^{4,24} Each sample was analysed in duplicate for pH, moisture, total nitrogen, non-protein nitrogen, free α -amine nitrogen and biogenic amine content.

Analytical determinations

The pH was measured by inserting an electrode connected to a pH meter (Crison 507, Spain) into the mass of each sausage. Moisture was determined by drying the sample at 100–105 °C until constant weight was reached.²⁵ Total nitrogen (TN) was determined by the Kjeldahl method. Non-protein nitrogen (NPN) was determined by the Kjeldahl method from a perchloric extract and the proteolysis index (PI) was calculated as (NPN/TN) \times 100. Determination of the free α -amino nitrogen (AAN) fraction was carried out on a neutralized 0.6 mol L⁻¹ perchloric extract by titration of protons released after the reaction with formaldehyde.²⁵ Biogenic amines were determined by high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC).²⁶ Briefly, the HPLC method is based on the formation of ion pairs between amines, extracted with 0.6 mol L⁻¹ perchloric acid and octanesulfonic acid present in the mobile phase. The separation was carried out using a reversed-phase column (Nova-Pack C₁₈). Post-column derivatisation with *o*-phthalaldehyde was followed by spectrofluorimetric detection.

Statistical analysis

Statistical tests were performed using SPSS 11.0 for Windows. Data were examined to check the normality of distributions and homogeneity of variances. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) and *post hoc* comparisons [Tukey's Honest Significant Difference (HSD)] were performed to examine the differences between acid and low-acid sausages, and also among the three types of products (chorizo, fuet and salchichón). When data were not normal or symmetrically distributed, the corresponding non-parametric test was applied. Regression analysis was used to calculate the correlation coefficients and significance of relationships between variables. Multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) was applied to investigate whether the processing plant (manufacturer) influences the overall biogenic amine profile of fermented sausages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Physico-chemical and proteolysis characterisation

The pH value was used to classify samples in acid (pH < 5.5) and low-acid (pH > 5.5) sausages, the latter corresponding to traditionally manufactured products fermented spontaneously without a starter culture.^{4,8,17,24} In both groups, significant differences were found depending on the type of sausages (Table 1). Fuet sausages showed higher pH values

Table 1. Physico-chemical and proteolytic related parameters in Spanish fermented sausages

| | | Acid | | | Low-acid | | |
|--|---------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| | | Chorizo (n = 10) | Fuet (n = 11) | Salchichón (n = 12) | Chorizo (n = 8) | Fuet (n = 47) | Salchichón (n = 12) |
| pH | Mean | 5.1 ^a | 5.3 ^a | 5.2 ^a | 5.8 ^b | 6.1 ^b | 5.9 ^b |
| | Median | 5.2 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.8 | 6.1 | 5.9 |
| | SD | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| | Minimum | 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.6 |
| | Maximum | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 6.0 | 7.1 | 6.3 |
| Moisture (%) | Mean | 26.9 ^{ab} | 25.9 ^{ab} | 32.6 ^b | 19.9 ^a | 23.9 ^a | 27.0 ^{ab} |
| | Median | 26.2 | 27.9 | 31.3 | 19.9 | 22.4 | 27.8 |
| | SD | 5.5 | 4.7 | 10.0 | 4.9 | 6.8 | 4.6 |
| | Minimum | 17.5 | 16.2 | 21.8 | 13.4 | 12.7 | 21.3 |
| | Maximum | 33.9 | 30.0 | 58.6 | 29.0 | 42.4 | 35.2 |
| Protein (%) | Mean | 19.0 ^a | 24.1 ^{bc} | 23.9 ^b | 27.8 ^{bc} | 30.3 ^c | 29.1 ^{bc} |
| | Median | 20.8 | 25.0 | 24.3 | 26.5 | 29.3 | 28.6 |
| | SD | 5.6 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 6.9 | 5.5 | 5.0 |
| | Minimum | 10.8 | 16.8 | 17.2 | 18.8 | 21.6 | 20.8 |
| | Maximum | 26.4 | 31.3 | 29.9 | 41.6 | 48.5 | 38.7 |
| PI (%) | Mean | 5.02 ^a | 7.51 ^a | 6.70 ^a | 5.70 ^a | 5.29 ^a | 5.28 ^a |
| | Median | 4.66 | 6.62 | 5.83 | 5.14 | 5.10 | 5.26 |
| | SD | 1.71 | 3.31 | 3.70 | 1.75 | 2.16 | 1.39 |
| | Minimum | 2.37 | 3.96 | 3.09 | 3.79 | 1.19 | 2.79 |
| | Maximum | 7.49 | 15.44 | 14.75 | 8.57 | 9.53 | 7.58 |
| Non protein nitrogen (mg g ⁻¹) | Mean | 1.57 ^a | 2.79 ^a | 2.53 ^a | 2.59 ^a | 2.54 ^a | 2.44 ^a |
| | Median | 1.69 | 2.82 | 2.16 | 2.13 | 2.36 | 2.15 |
| | SD | 0.75 | 0.92 | 1.30 | 1.37 | 1.10 | 0.72 |
| | Minimum | 0.43 | 1.46 | 1.06 | 1.64 | 0.49 | 1.50 |
| | Maximum | 2.69 | 4.50 | 4.65 | 5.70 | 4.78 | 3.80 |
| α -Amino nitrogen (mg g ⁻¹) | Mean | 1.85 ^a | 0.35 ^b | 0.65 ^b | 1.89 ^a | 0.66 ^b | 0.35 ^b |
| | Median | 1.50 | 0.14 | 0.27 | 1.80 | 0.19 | 0.17 |
| | SD | 0.66 | 0.41 | 0.64 | 0.70 | 0.70 | 0.54 |
| | Minimum | 1.17 | 0.08 | 0.12 | 0.98 | 0.08 | 0.14 |
| | Maximum | 2.91 | 1.21 | 1.89 | 2.97 | 2.11 | 1.98 |

^{a,b,c} Mean values with different superscript letter show statistically significant differences ($P < 0.05$) according to the *post hoc* comparisons (Tukey's HSD) of the ANOVA.

than both chorizo and salchichón, which can be explained by the typical growth of moulds on the sausage surface, a process that occurs generally in fuet, only occasionally in salchichón and never in chorizo.¹ A statistically significant correlation ($P < 0.001$) was found between pH values and the diameter of products, which can be explained by the more intense fermentation that usually occurs in sausages of bigger calibre.¹⁵

The chemical determinations of moisture, protein and proteolytic-related parameters with respect to the degree of acidification and product type are also summarized in Table 1. When comparing acid and low-acid products overall, acid sausages (industrial) showed greater moisture ($P < 0.01$) and lower protein content ($P < 0.001$), which would indicate the use of a smaller quantity of lean meat as raw material in comparison with the low-acid products (traditional). Anyway, most of the samples (84%) fell within the 'Extra' commercial category according to the values of moisture and protein content established by Spanish regulations.²² Among the different types of products, salchichón showed slightly greater moisture than other

sausages owing to the larger diameter. However, in the group of acid sausages a significantly lower ($P < 0.01$) protein content was detected in chorizo than fuet and salchichón. Although the proportion of fat and lean meat may vary widely in these types of Spanish sausages, chorizos are usually fatter than the others.

In terms of proteolysis, the various parameter values showed relatively wide variability, although some differences were detected depending on the parameter and the sausage group or type considered. Thus, PI was significantly higher ($P < 0.05$) in the group of acid sausages (average value 6.44%) than low-acid sausages (5.34%). However, such a difference was not found for the NPN values. This apparent disagreement is due to the fact that total nitrogen content (protein) was lower in acid sausages, which increases the ratio between NPN and total nitrogen content. None of these proteolytic parameters differed among the three types of sausages compared. During sausage fermentation, a wide variety of nitrogenous compounds of low molecular weight (such as peptides, free amino acids and ammonia) may be formed as a result of proteolytic events catalysed by both endogenous and microbial

enzymes. Overall proteolysis can be affected by several factors^{23,27} but, according to our results, acidification would have a stronger influence than product type. Indeed, an overall statistically significant correlation ($P < 0.05$) between pH and PI values was found.

Different behaviour was observed in relation to free amino acid content (AAN values), as here the type of product proved much more important than the degree of acidification. Chorizo sausages showed much higher average AAN contents ($P < 0.001$) than fuet and salchichón sausages in both the acid and low-acid groups. The increase in free amino acids may favour decarboxylase reactions and hence chorizo sausages may show *a priori* a higher risk of biogenic amine accumulation than other types of sausages.

Biogenic amine content

The potential influence of the degree of acidification on the biogenic amine content in Spanish fermented sausages varied according to both the amine and the type of product. A two-way ANOVA test was applied in order to analyse the effects of two factors (acidity and type of product) on the amine contents. However, no statistical significance was found for the interaction between the two factors and therefore a one-way ANOVA test was used to calculate further the *post hoc* contrasts for each amine and factor. Overall, the total biogenic amine content (excluding endogenous

polyamines) was higher in acid (industrial) than in low-acid sausages (artisanal). Figure 1 shows the content of tyramine and putrescine according to both the degree of acidification and the type of fermented meat product. Tyramine was found in all the sausages and was generally the major amine, accounting for, on average, 54 and 61% of the biogenic amine pool in acid and low-acid sausages, respectively. Putrescine was generally the second major amine, although it occasionally surpassed the levels of tyramine. This occurred more frequently in the group of acid sausages (up to 18% of samples) than in low-acid sausages (13%). Despite tyramine levels showing a relatively wide variability [relative standard deviation (RSD) = 73%], the average value was about 140 mg kg⁻¹, irrespective of the sausage group. Acid sausages are, *a priori*, more intensively fermented than low-acid sausages and therefore higher tyramine levels could be expected. However, this hypothesis was only confirmed in chorizo sausages. Indeed, product type, mainly due to the different diameter, proved to have a greater influence ($P < 0.001$) than the degree of acidification, salchichón being the product with the highest tyramine content, especially in the group of acid sausages.

Putrescine content was more variable than that of tyramine (RSD = 134%) and there were no significant differences between the two groups with respect

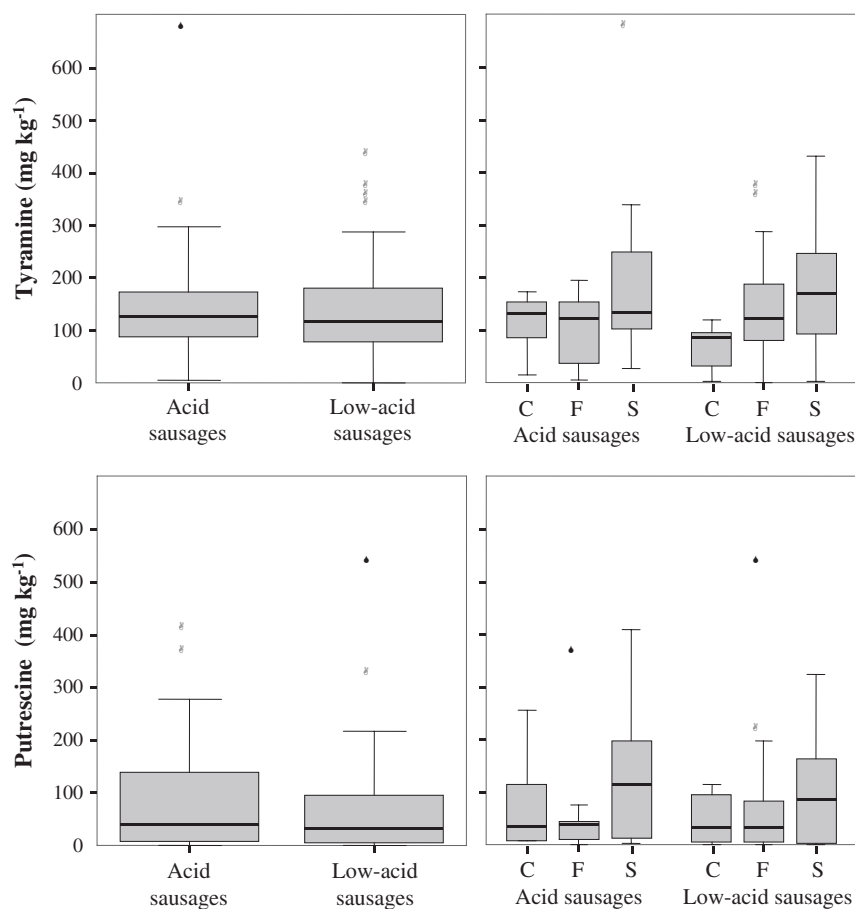


Figure 1. Box-plot representation of tyramine (TY) and putrescine (PU) content in Spanish fermented sausages as a function of the degree of acidity (left) and product type (right). C, chorizo; F, fuet; S, salchichón.

to pH or product type. Nevertheless, the average values of the compared groups showed a similar pattern to that observed for tyramine, since salchichón showed a higher putrescine content than did the other products. Moreover, a significant correlation ($P < 0.005$) between both tyramine and putrescine and the diameter of the sausages was also observed, this being consistent with the findings of Parente *et al.*⁴ for industrial and artisanal Italian fermented sausages; these authors reported a higher tyramine content in soppressata (diameter 45–60 mm) than in salsiccia (diameter 20–25 mm).

Tyramine is the biogenic amine most closely related to lactic fermentation, since many lactic acid bacteria have the potential to decarboxylate tyrosine. In contrast, the origin of putrescine is more controversial as it can be partially formed through the ornithine–decarboxylase activity of some lactic acid bacteria but also by many enterobacteria.

Cadaverine is the other diamine usually found in fermented sausages, usually in smaller amounts than the other two compounds. Levels of this diamine (Fig. 2) were even more variable (RSD = 185%) than the former two and therefore no significant differences were detected among the compared groups. However, the average value in acid sausages (47 mg kg^{-1}) was almost twice that in low-acid sausages (26 mg kg^{-1}). When comparing the different product types, the

highest average content was observed in chorizo, especially in the group of acid sausages. When comparing the groups according to pH, nearly one-third of the sausages (27%) contained more cadaverine than putrescine, especially in the case of fuet. The ratio between diamines (putrescine > cadaverine) has also been reported in Spanish,^{15,18,8} Finnish,²⁹ French³ and Italian products.⁴ However, a recent study of fuet sausages showed that cadaverine appeared in greater quantities than putrescine when meat raw materials are not frozen before sausage manufacture; otherwise, putrescine was the main diamine.³⁰ Only in a few samples of chorizo and fuet (a total of 6%) was cadaverine the major amine, its content even being higher than that of tyramine. High cadaverine content would be of concern in terms of hygiene, since it has been associated with the presence of undesirable loads of contaminant enterobacteria, which are known to decarboxylate lysine.³¹

The average histamine content was relatively low. Although it was detected in a considerable number of samples, the majority showed either no histamine or very low amounts: below 10 mg kg^{-1} in 75% of the samples and below 1.5 mg kg^{-1} in 50%. Owing to the wide variability (RSD = 225%), there were no significant differences between sausage groups (Fig. 2). However, as in the case of cadaverine, the average value for acid sausages (28 mg kg^{-1}) was

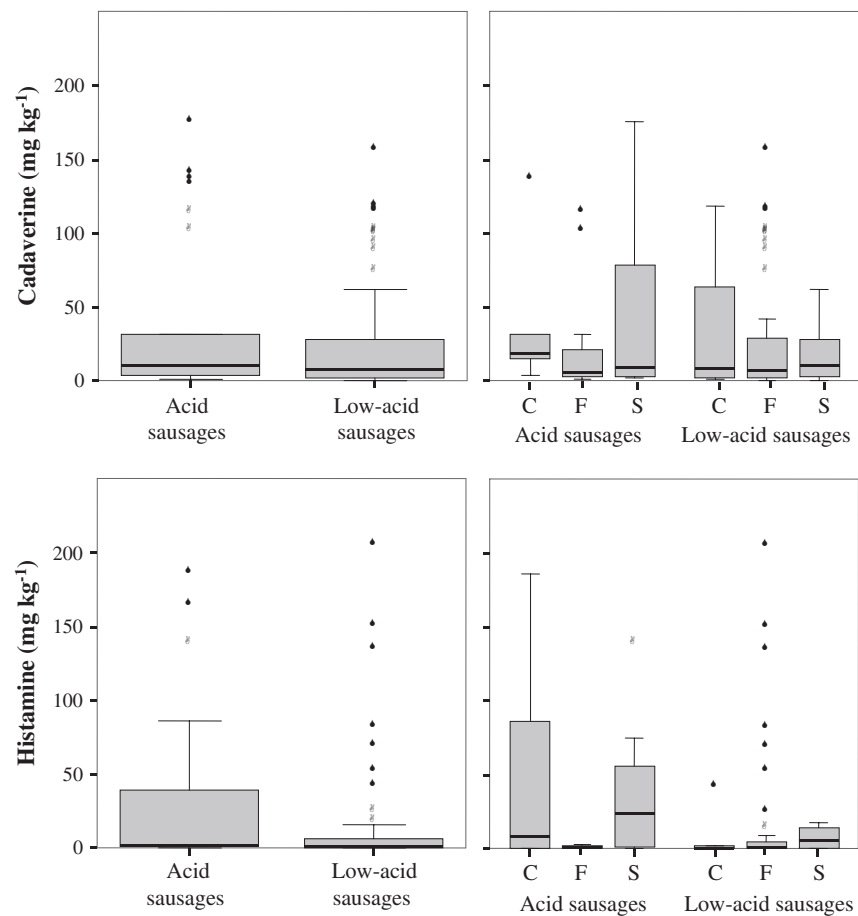


Figure 2. Box-plot representation of cadaverine (CA) and histamine (HI) content in Spanish fermented sausages as a function of the degree of acidity (left) and product type (right). C, chorizo; F, fuet; S, salchichón.

twice that of low-acid sausages (14 mg kg^{-1}). Likewise, among acid (industrial) sausages, chorizo showed the highest average histamine value, with two samples having higher levels of histamine than tyramine.

Histamine is the only biogenic amine whose levels are subject to legal regulations, although this only refers to some fish species. The upper allowable limit of histamine has been set at 100 mg kg^{-1} by the European Union³² and 50 mg kg^{-1} by the US Food and Drug Administration³³ on the basis of the potential health risk and hygiene considerations. The value of 100 mg kg^{-1} has been used as a reference for other products such as fermented sausages.^{3,11} This value was reached by 9% of samples in the acid group (up to 300 mg kg^{-1}) and 4% of low-acid sausages. The accumulation of histamine in fermented sausages has been related to an inadequate pH decrease during the first days of the ripening process, as this could allow histaminogenic contaminating microorganisms to grow.^{8,14} Proteolytic microorganisms or proteases from meat have also been suggested to play a role in excessive formation of histamine.³⁴ In this respect, a significant ($P = 0.009$) correlation was found between histamine content and the AAN values of sausages analysed in the present study, this being consistent with the higher histamine content of chorizo. However, several studies concerning the manufacture of fermented sausages have failed to detect histamine, even if pH does not fall sharply or proteolysis is high.^{4,18,28,35,36} In contrast, significant amounts of histamine do accumulate if low-quality raw material is used for sausage manufacture.^{13,34} Indeed, histamine levels above those of tyramine are rarely observed in Spanish fermented sausages.^{15,18,28} Therefore, the occurrence of histamine in fermented sausages, even at relatively low levels, could be of critical significance from a hygienic point of view.

Phenylethylamine and tryptamine were minor amines, detected in only small amounts. The average values were 23.6 mg kg^{-1} (standard deviation, SD =

51.0) and 31.0 mg kg^{-1} (SD = 53.5) for phenylethylamine and tryptamine, respectively. They were not widely distributed in all samples, the highest levels of both amines being found in salchichón (of the acid sausage group). A strong correlation ($P < 0.001$) was found between both these amines and tyramine, and also between both amines and product diameter. These findings are in agreement with the appearance of these amines during the later phases of sausage manufacture, when tyramine has already accumulated in high amounts, and also with the fact that salchichón has a larger diameter and hence may need a longer ripening period.^{15,28}

As expected, the physiological polyamines spermidine and spermine were detected in all the sausages, the amounts of spermidine (6.1 mg kg^{-1}) being lower than those of spermine (23.4 mg kg^{-1}), as is usually reported for animal products. They showed much less variability (RSD = 73 and 55%, respectively) than biogenic amines. Although differences were not significant, the average values for acidic sausages were lower than those of low-acid sausages (Table 2), as was the case for average protein content, which was higher in artisanal than in industrial sausages. This is in agreement with the endogenous origin of polyamines.²⁸

The role of the manufacturer in the biogenic amine profile

The biogenic amine profile in fermented sausages was characterised by wide variability in both industrial and artisanal products. Such variability is usually reported in fermented products and is generally attributed to the important influence of raw material quality, which makes the biogenic amine profile differ from batch to batch.²⁸ Indeed, as shown in Fig. 3, there was quite a wide variation in the qualitative and quantitative composition of biogenic amines of fermented products both among and within manufacturers. The case of manufacturer I was, however, an exception since a certain degree of reliability was found in the qualitative distribution

Table 2. Polyamine content (mg kg^{-1}) in Spanish fermented sausages

| | | Acid | | | Low-acid | | |
|------------|---------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| | | Chorizo ($n = 10$) | Fuet ($n = 11$) | Salchichón ($n = 12$) | Chorizo ($n = 8$) | Fuet ($n = 47$) | Salchichón ($n = 12$) |
| Spermidine | Mean | 3.14 ^a | 8.99 ^b | 4.18 ^{ab} | 4.09 ^{ab} | 6.94 ^{ab} | 5.72 ^{ab} |
| | Median | 3.19 | 7.48 | 2.97 | 4.09 | 6.47 | 3.93 |
| | SD | 1.24 | 5.79 | 2.74 | 1.68 | 4.65 | 4.63 |
| | Minimum | 1.22 | 2.02 | 1.09 | 1.55 | 0.86 | 2.17 |
| | Maximum | 4.83 | 19.56 | 8.64 | 6.71 | 28.52 | 18.80 |
| Spermine | Mean | 21.5 ^a | 21.93 ^a | 23.25 ^a | 26.48 ^a | 23.17 ^a | 25.28 ^a |
| | Median | 20.04 | 20.14 | 23.43 | 23.69 | 20.16 | 27.15 |
| | SD | 9.07 | 10.57 | 7.19 | 14.27 | 15.08 | 13.78 |
| | Minimum | 8.27 | 7.47 | 10.16 | 9.71 | 2.04 | 4.72 |
| | Maximum | 33.67 | 43.82 | 37.98 | 55.12 | 78.24 | 53.39 |

^{a,b} Mean values with different superscript letter show statistically significant differences ($P < 0.05$) according to the *post hoc* comparisons (Tukey's HSD) of the ANOVA.

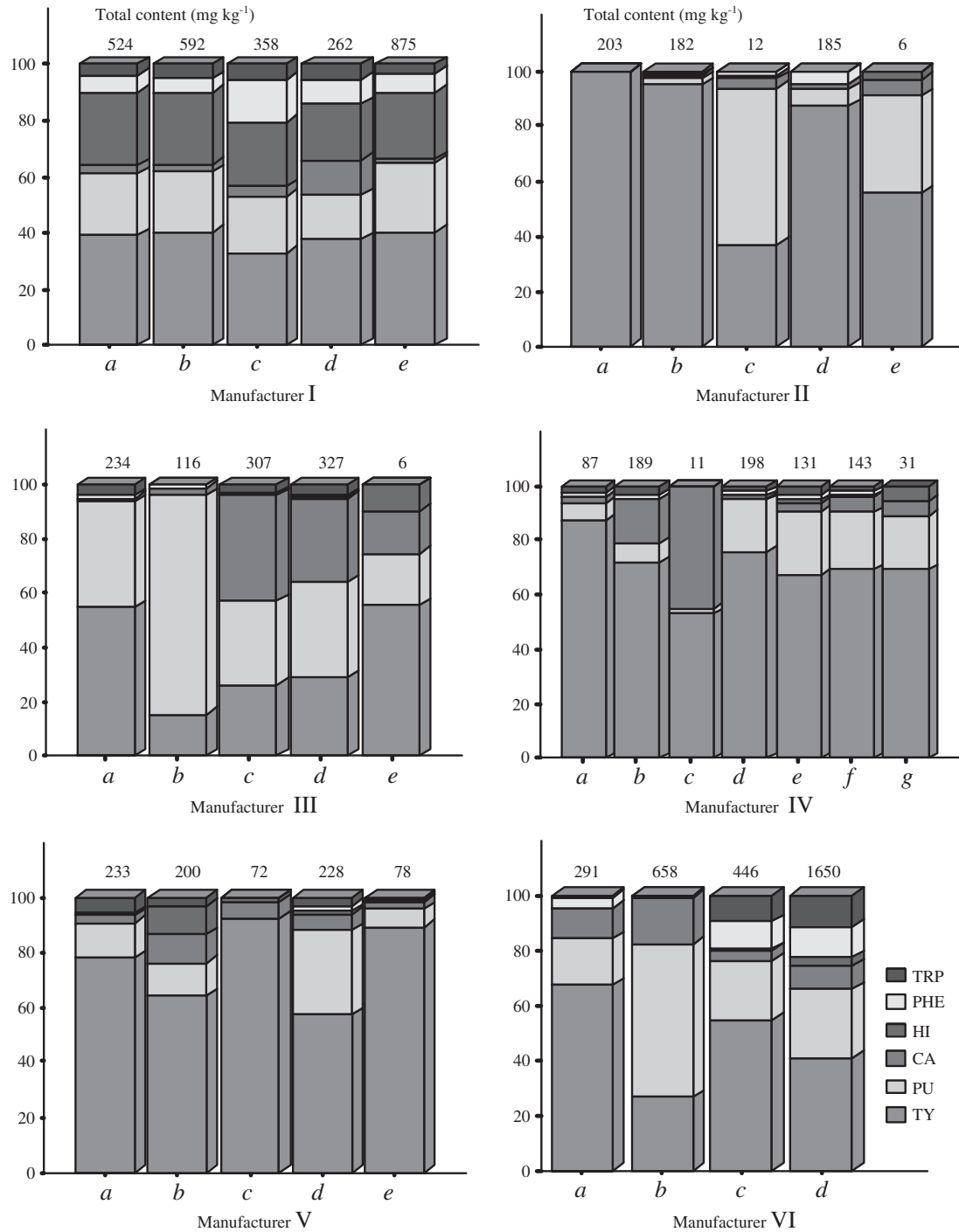


Figure 3. Distribution of the biogenic amine profile (% of the total biogenic amine content) within products of the same manufacturer.

of amines within its products. Other manufacturers (e.g. manufacturer II) showed two different qualitative profiles: one for samples with high total biogenic amine content (samples a, b and d) and another for samples with low total amine content (samples c and e). On the basis of these results, a MANOVA was performed to evaluate the importance of manufacturer on the aminogenesis of fermented meat products. The analysis of variance confirmed that the processing plant, including both technological factors and its characteristic in-house microbiota, had a significant ($P < 0.001$) influence on the overall biogenic amine

composition of sausages. When assessing the particular contribution of each biogenic amine to this effect, histamine proved to be the most important amine in this regard. Other authors also reported a relationship between histamine and product brand, suggesting that environmental processing conditions play a role in the manufacturer-specific variation.^{34,37} Moreover, the capability to decarboxylate histidine does not seem to be a widely distributed property among meat-related microorganisms. Rather, the histaminogenic potential seems to be related to specific strains of some enterobacteria and lactic acid bacteria species.^{34,38,39}

This is in agreement with the relatively low occurrence of fermented sausages with high histamine content in comparison with tyramine and diamines.

To sum up, the present results show that levels of tyramine (the biogenic amine most closely linked to fermentation processes) were similar in Spanish fermented sausages of either artisanal or industrial origin. In contrast, other biogenic amines usually associated with the hygienic quality of raw materials (such as cadaverine and histamine) occurred in higher amounts in industrial than artisanal products.

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8.2 Influencia de las condiciones tecnológicas en la actividad aminogénica de la microbiota espontánea y del *Lactobacillus curvatus* CTC273 durante la elaboración de productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados

Artículo V.

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla, S. Bover-Cid, M.C. Vidal-Carou. (2010). Technological conditions influence aminogenesis during spontaneous sausage fermentation. *Meat Science*, 85: 537-541.

Índice de impacto (JCR 2008): 2,183

Posición en el área "Food and Science Technology": 17/107

Artículo VI.

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla, S. Bover-Cid, M.C. Vidal-Carou. Effect of technological conditions on the aminogenic activity of the amino acid positive stain *L. curvatus* CTC273. *Food Microbiology*. En revisión.

Índice de impacto (JCR 2008): 2,847

Posición en el área "Food and Science Technology": 7/107

Comunicación escrita:

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla, S. Bover-Cid, T. Veciana-Nogués, M.C. Vidal-Carou. Influence of Traditional and Industrial Processing Conditions on the Aminogenic Activity of a *Lactobacillus curvatus* Strain during the Ripening of Fermented Sausages of Different Diameter. *Food Micro 2006. "Food Safety and Food biotechnology: diversity and global impact"*. Bolonya, 29 de Agosto - 2 de Septiembre de 2006.

8.2.1 Planteamiento y objetivo del estudio

La temperatura y humedad relativa (HR) del ambiente durante la elaboración de los productos cárnicos fermentados factores tecnológicos que pueden influir de manera importante en la formación de aminas biógenas, ya que pueden estimular o inhibir el desarrollo y/o actividad de la microbiota potencialmente aminogénica. Estos

parámetros asociados al proceso de elaboración varían según el tipo de producto y fabricante. En la elaboración industrial de los embutidos fermentados, además del uso de cultivos iniciadores que controlan el proceso de fermentación, la temperatura aplicada durante los primeros días de la fermentación es relativamente elevada (hasta 18-26 °C) para favorecer un rápido crecimiento de los microorganismos y la rápida bajada de pH (Ordoñez y col., 1999). Transcurrido este periodo, la temperatura y la humedad relativa descienden progresivamente favoreciendo el proceso de desecación. Sin embargo, en la elaboración artesanal la fermentación se realiza normalmente a la temperatura ambiente del lugar o planta de elaboración, que acostumbran ser lugares frescos y secos con temperaturas cercanas a los 11-15 °C, aunque en algunos lugares pueden ser aún más bajas (Lebert y col., 2007).

El objetivo de este trabajo fue evaluar comparativamente la influencia de parámetros tecnológicos (temperatura y humedad relativa) empleados en la elaboración industrial y artesanal de productos cárnicos fermentados en la actividad aminogénica de la microbiota espontánea (artículo V) y de la cepa *L. curvatus* CTC273, con demostrada capacidad aminoácido descarboxilasa *in vitro*.

8.2.2 Diseño experimental

Los diferentes lotes de productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados objeto de estudio se elaboraron en paralelo a partir de las mismas materias primas y formulación (Tabla 4.1 de la sección Material y Métodos). Una mitad de la masa cárnica se inoculó con la cepa *L. curvatus* CTC273 ($\sim 10^6$ cfu/g). La otra mitad, sin la cepa aminogénica, corresponde a los lotes con fermentación espontánea. La masa cárnica inoculada y no inoculada se embutió en tripas naturales de diferentes diámetros: “fuet” con un diámetro más pequeño (2,5 cm) y salchichón con un

diámetro mayor (4,5 cm). Para cada tipo de producto, se aplicaron dos condiciones de elaboración diferentes:

- **Proceso A (industrial)**, consistente en una fermentación a 20-23 °C y 90-95% HR durante 3 días y un posterior secado/curado a 12-14 °C y 70% HR durante 20 días.
- **Proceso B (artesanal)**, consistente en una maduración y secado progresivos a 12-13 °C y 70-90% HR durante 23 días.

Para cada lote (8 en total) se tomaron muestras de tres productos durante diferentes puntos del proceso de elaboración: justo después de embutir (tiempo 0) y después de 2, 3, 7, 14 y 23 días de elaboración.

8.2.3. Resultados

Influencia de parámetros tecnológicos (temperatura y humedad relativa) y del diámetro de los productos en la actividad aminogénica de la microbiota espontánea y de la cepa aminogénica *L. curvatus* CTC273.

Los contenidos totales de aminas biógenas encontrados en los lotes fermentados espontáneamente fueron relativamente bajos, alcanzando valores de entre 13 y 91 mg/kg. Las principales aminas encontradas fueron la tiramina en fuet, y la putrescina en salchichón. Los productos de los lotes inoculados con la cepa *L. curvatus* CTC273 presentaron cantidades elevadas de aminas, del orden de entre 10 y 100 veces más altos que en los lotes fermentados espontáneamente. En este caso la amina mayoritaria fue la tiramina, aunque en los productos acabados los contenidos de cadaverina fueron similares o incluso superiores a los de tiramina.

Los contenidos de aminas biógenas en los productos elaborados mediante el proceso A (industrial) fueron superiores que los del proceso B (artesanal), tanto en los lotes inoculados con *L. curvatus* CTC237 como fermentados espontáneamente. Así pues, la temperatura y humedad relativa de fermentación del proceso A, superior a los 20°C y al 90% respectivamente, parecen favorecer la actividad aminoácido descarboxilasa de la microbiota fermentativa. Una posible explicación es que la temperatura y humedad relativa más alta, normalmente asociada a la elaboración industrial, ofrece las condiciones más adecuadas para el crecimiento y actividad de la microbiota más aminogénica. Dado que los recuentos de *L. curvatus* CTC273 fueron similares en todos los lotes, la influencia de estos parámetros tecnológicos en la modulación de la aminogénesis no está necesariamente vinculada al crecimiento de las cepas aminoácido descarboxilasa positivas sino que parece estimular la actividad aminoácido-d Descarboxilasa de los microorganismos aminogénicos.

El diámetro del producto, salchichón o fuet, también se influyó sobre los contenidos de aminas biógenas. Los niveles de aminas encontrados en salchichón (mayor diámetro) fueron en todos los casos superiores a los encontrados en fuet (menor diámetro), independientemente del tipo de fermentación (espontánea o *L. curvatus* CTC273) y de las condiciones aplicadas (proceso A o B). El diámetro del embutido influye en el grado de anaerobiosis, el potencial redox y la a_w . Los valores de a_w más altos y una mayor anaerobiosis en el salchichón explicarían los mayores contenidos de aminas biógenas, ya que todas estas variables favorecen el crecimiento de algunos grupos microbianos. Además, la mayor proteólisis (contenidos más elevados de aminoácidos libres, NAA) así como, los valores de pH más bajos en los productos de mayor diámetro favorecerían también la formación de aminas biógenas, al promover la actividad aminoácido descarboxilasa de la microbiota.

Actividad aminogénica de *L. curvatus* CTC273 en condiciones reales de fermentación.

En condiciones *in vitro*, de laboratorio, la cepa *L. curvatus* CTC273 es capaz de producir grandes cantidades de tiramina (2500 mg/L) y putrescina (900 mg/L), moderadas de feniletilamina (130 mg/L) y en menor intensidad cadaverina (18 mg/L) (Bover-Cid y col., 2008). En condiciones reales de fermentación esta cepa se mostró fuertemente productora de tiramina, pero sorprendentemente la cantidad formada de cadaverina fue mucho mayor que la de putrescina. Este hecho podría explicarse, en parte, por la posible baja disponibilidad de la ornitina, aminoácido no “natural” cuya formación se deriva de la glutamina, que habría actuado como factor limitante para la producción de esta amina. La importante formación de cadaverina por *L. curvatus* CTC273 podría ser el resultado de la actividad de enzimas lisina y ornitina descarboxilasa sobre la lisina (aminoácido libre muy abundante en la carne). Estos aminoácidos tienen una estructura química muy similar, por lo que en ocasiones se ha sugerido que los enzimas lisina y ornitina descarboxilasa puedan tener cierta afinidad por la ornitina y la lisina, respectivamente, cuando la disponibilidad del sustrato principal está limitada.

8.2.4 Aportaciones más relevantes

- La temperatura y humedad relativa típica de una fermentación de tipo industrial, así como un mayor diámetro (anaerobiosis, potencial redox, a_w y pH) de los embutidos fermentados estimulan la actividad aminogénica de los microorganismos durante la elaboración de embutidos crudos-curados fermentados.
- Los resultados obtenidos mediante la cepa *L. curvatus* CTC273 (utilizada como modelo aminogénico) confirman la tendencia, des de un punto cualitativo, de los

resultados sobre la influencia de las condiciones tecnológicas obtenidos bajo procesos de fermentación espontánea.

- Se ha puesto en evidencia que el comportamiento aminogénico de la cepa *L. curvatus* CTC273 puede ser diferente en un sistema de fermentación real en comparación con las condiciones *in vitro*.

Artículo V.

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Technological conditions influence aminogenesis during spontaneous sausage fermentation

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla, S. Bover-Cid¹, M.C. Vidal-Carou*

Department of Nutrition and Food Science, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Barcelona, Avinguda Joan XXII s/n, E-08028 Barcelona, Spain

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ABSTRACT

The influence of two manufacturing processes on biogenic amine formation during the manufacture of Spanish dry fermented sausages of different diameters (*fuet* and *llonganissa*) was evaluated to elucidate which conditions allow better control of the aminogenic activity of spontaneous microbiota. Technological conditions affected both the amounts and the qualitative profile of biogenic amine accumulated. The higher processing temperature and relative humidity in process A (simulating those applied in industrial manufacture) favoured aminogenesis, since biogenic amine accumulation was faster and higher than in sausages manufactured under the process B (close to those used in traditional practices). The major amine differed depending on the diameter of the sausages, tyramine being the major amine in *fuet* (2.5 cm diameter sausage), and putrescine in *llonganissa* (4.5 cm). Moreover, sausages of higher diameter (*llonganissa*) had higher biogenic amine contents compared with the thinnest sausages (*fuet*). Conditions would modulate biogenic amine accumulation not only due to its influence on development of the bacterial population but also on its aminogenic activity. From the biogenic amine point of view, when sausages are spontaneously fermented, traditional lower temperatures and relative humidities are more appropriate than those usually applied in industrial processes.

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1. Introduction

Biogenic amines (i.e. tyramine, histamine, putrescine, cadaverine) in foods are synthesized mainly by bacterial enzymes that decarboxylate amino acids. These enzymes are usually induced under certain environmental conditions (e.g. slightly acidic pH and availability of precursor amino acids). The environmental conditions during fermentation, maturation and storage of dry fermented sausages may favour bacterial growth and amino acid decarboxylation, which can cause accumulation of biogenic amines (Suzzi & Gardini, 2003; Vidal-Carou, Veciana-Nogués, Latorre-Moratalla, & Bover-Cid, 2007).

The hygienic quality of the raw materials and processing plant are key factors in biogenic amine accumulation, since most contaminant bacteria, such as enterobacteria and pseudomonads, possess aminogenic capability (Ruiz-Capillas & Jimenez-Colmenero, 2004; Suzzi & Gardini, 2003). The aminogenic potential among fermentative bacteria is low (from 10% to 20%), however some lactic acid bacteria (LAB) frequently involved in sausage fermentation, such as *Lactobacillus curvatus*, are usually amino acid decarboxyl-

ase positive (Bover-Cid, Hugas, Izquierdo-Pulido, & Vidal-Carou, 2001; Latorre-Moratalla et al., 2010). Therefore, the fermentative microbiota, mainly LAB, may contribute to biogenic amine accumulation during sausage fermentation. Thus, to reduce biogenic amine formation in fermented sausages it is not only important to prevent contaminant bacteria, but also to select fermentative bacteria and conditions that reduce the activity of potential amine formers.

Biogenic amine formation in fermented meat products is subject to several technological factors, such as formulation, sausages characteristics and processing parameters (Bover-Cid, Schoppen, Izquierdo-Pulido, & Vidal-Carou, 1999; Komprda, Sládková, & Dohnal, 2009; Miguélez-Arrizado, Bover-Cid, Latorre-Moratalla, & Vidal-Carou, 2006; Roseiro et al., 2010). These factors may be influenced through several phenomena associated with aminogenesis, including microbial growth and interaction among microbial communities, acidification, redox potential (anaerobiosis), proteolysis which can, eventually, affect decarboxylase enzyme production and the activity of aminogenic microorganisms. To ensure fast growth of fermentative bacteria manufacturers of fermented meat products often accelerate the initial fermentation by applying higher processing temperatures and relative humidities in comparison with the traditional practices (Talon, Leroy, & Lebert, 2007). In a previous survey comparing traditional and industrially fermented sausages, variable biogenic amine contents were found

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +34 93 402 45 08; fax: +34 403 59 31.
E-mail address: mcvidal@ub.edu (M.C. Vidal-Carou).

¹ Present address: Institute for Food and Agricultural Research and Technology, IRTA, Food Technology, Finca Camps i Armet s/n, E-17121 Monells, Spain.

(Miguélez-Arrizado et al., 2006). A significant correlation between biogenic amine contents and the diameter of the sausage was observed. However, it was difficult to establish a relationship between traditional and industrial processes due to several factors affecting the amine contents of the sausages (e.g. different formulation, raw materials and processing conditions).

The overall aim of the present work was to elucidate the effect of each technological factor (i.e. temperature and relative humidity, and the diameter of the sausage) on aminogenesis during spontaneous sausage fermentation. The influence on biogenic amine accumulation of (i) two different manufacturing processes (based on the temperature and relative humidity program) and (ii) the diameter of the product, were studied to determine the conditions that reduce the aminogenic activity of the spontaneous microbiota.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Samples and sampling

Four batches of dry fermented sausages were manufactured in parallel from a common meat batter consisting of 80% lean pork meat and 20% pork fat, minced and mixed with salt (2.8%), pepper (0.26%), dextrose (0.5%), lactose (2.5%), sodium nitrite (0.015%) and sodium ascorbate (0.05%). The batter was stuffed into natural casings of different diameter: *fuet* with a smaller diameter (2.5 cm) and *llonganissa* with a larger diameter (4.5 cm). For each type of product, two different processes were applied: "Process A" consisted of 3 days at 20–23 °C and 90–95% RH followed by 20 days at 12–14 °C and 70% RH; "Process B" consisted of 23 days at 12–13 °C and 70–90% RH.

Three sausages from each batch were sampled during the process: just after stuffing (time 0) and after 2, 3, 7, 14 and 23 days. Samples were analysed in duplicate for microbial counts, physicochemical parameters, nitrogen fractions and biogenic amine contents.

2.2. Microbial enumeration

After aseptically removing the casing, between 10 and 20 g of sausage was diluted 10-fold in buffered peptone water and homogenized in a Stomacher (model 400, Blender, Cooke Laboratories, Alexandria, VA, USA) for 2 min. Serial decimal dilutions were made and lactic acid bacteria (LAB) were enumerated by pour plating in Man, Rogosa and Sharpe (MRS) agar (Oxoid, Basingstoke, Hampshire, England) at 30 °C for 72 h in anaerobiosis (anaerobic jars with Anaero-Gen, Oxoid), enterococci were enumerated by pour plating in kanamycin-esculin-azide agar (Oxoid) at 37 °C for 24 h, and *Enterobacteriaceae* were enumerated by pour plating in violet red bile glucose agar (Oxoid) with a double layer at 30 °C for 24 h.

2.3. Determination of physicochemical and proteolytic parameters

The pH was measured using a microcomputerized pH meter Crison 2001 (Crison Barcelona, Spain) inserting the electrode directly into the sausage. Water activity (a_w) values were obtained at 25 °C by means of Aqualab® equipment (Decagon Devices Inc., Pullman, Washington). Moisture was determined by drying the sample at 100–105 °C until constant weight (AOAC, 2005). Total nitrogen (TN) and non-protein nitrogen (NPN) contents were determined by the Kjeldahl method (AOAC, 2005). The NPN fraction was previously extracted from 5 to 10 g of sample with 0.6 M perchloric acid (Dierick, Vandekerckhove, & Demeyer, 1974). The proteolysis index (PI) was calculated as the ratio between NPN and TN multiplied by 100. The Sørensen method of

titration with formaldehyde (AOAC, 2005), was used to determine free amino acids as α -amino nitrogen (AAN).

2.4. Determination of biogenic amines

Biogenic amines (tyramine, phenylethylamine, histamine, tryptamine, putrescine and cadaverine) were analysed by ion-pair reverse-phase high performance liquid chromatography, as described in Hernández-Jover, Izquierdo-Pulido, Veciana-Nogués, and Vidal-Carou (1996). This method is based on the formation of ion-pairs between biogenic amines, previously extracted with 0.6 M perchloric acid from 5 to 10 g of sausage without casings, and octanesulphonic acid present in the mobile phase. Amine separation was performed through a C18 reverse-phase column (Waters Corp., Milford, MA, USA), followed by a post-column derivatization with *o*-phthalaldehyde (OPA, Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) and spectrofluorimetric detection (λ ex: 340 nm and λ em: 445 nm).

Due to the loss of water during the manufacturing process and to compare results from different sampling times and batches, data for nitrogenous fractions and biogenic amine contents were referred to dry matter (dm).

2.5. Statistical analysis

Two-way ANOVA and *t*-test were performed using the software package SPSS v.15.0 for Windows (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

3. Results and discussion

Fig. 1 shows the changes in biogenic amine contents during the manufacture of two different dry fermented sausages (*fuet* and *llonganissa*) spontaneously fermented following two processes.

The biogenic amine content in the four batches was relatively low, ranging from 13 to 91 mg/kg, compared to levels usually reported for dry fermented sausages (Ruiz-Capillas & Jimenez-Colmenero, 2004; Suzzi & Gardini, 2003). The major amine produced by the spontaneous microbiota was tyramine in *fuet*, whereas putrescine was the main amine found in *llonganissa*. Cadaverine was only present in *llonganissa* products, though in very low amounts (below 10 mg/kg dm). Histamine, phenylethylamine and tryptamine were not detected in any samples, irrespective of the batch.

Technological conditions affected both the amounts and the qualitative profile of biogenic amine accumulated. Higher processing temperatures and relative humidity favoured aminogenesis, since overall biogenic amine accumulation was faster and higher ($p < 0.05$) in sausages manufactured following process A. The small diameter sausage (*fuet*) manufactured with process B had more than 3-fold lower tyramine and 5-fold lower putrescine contents than found in batches manufactured with process A ($p < 0.05$). In the case of *llonganissa* sausage, the putrescine contents were at least 35% lower in batches manufactured with process B ($p < 0.05$), whereas the content of tyramine was similar under both processing conditions. According to the two-way ANOVA, the interaction term between both technological conditions (process parameters and diameter) showed a significant effect ($p < 0.05$) on the overall biogenic amine content, putrescine being the amine responsible for this statistical significance.

Overall, LAB and enterococci increased in number throughout the manufacturing process (Table 1). *Enterobacteriaceae* counts decreased to levels less than 2 log cfu/g, irrespective of the conditions, which could be related to the low cadaverine contents observed in all batches (Bover-Cid, Hernández-Jover, Miguélez-Arrizado, & Vidal-Carou, 2003; Latorre-Moratalla et al., 2008). It

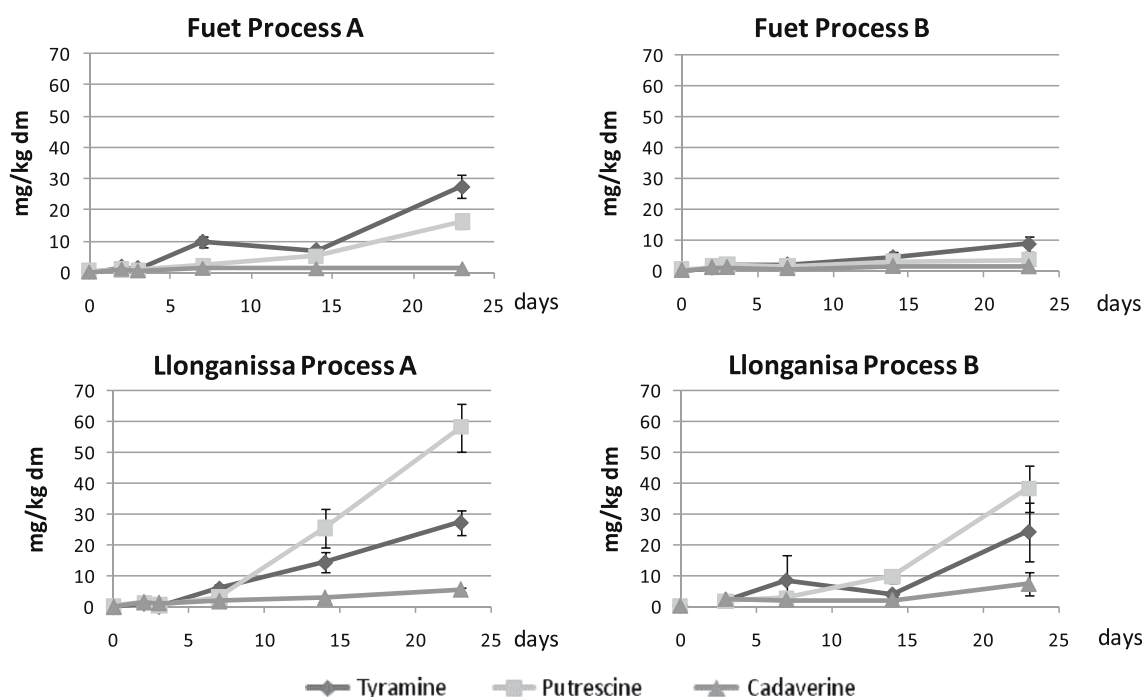


Fig. 1. Evolution of biogenic amine (mg/kg dm) during the manufacture of *fuet* (2.5 cm diameter) and *llonganissa* (4.5 cm diameter) spontaneously fermented as: process A (3 days at 20–23 °C and 90–95% HR followed by 20 days at 12–14 °C and 70% HR) and process B (23 days at 12–13 °C and 70–90% HR).

Table 1

Microbial counts as log (CFU/g) during the manufacture of *fuet* (diameter 2.5 cm) and *llonganissa* (diameter 4.5 cm) spontaneously fermented as: process A (3 days at 20–23 °C and 90–95% HR followed by 20 days at 12–14 °C and 70% HR) and process B (23 days at 12–13 °C and 70–90% HR). Mean in bold and standard deviation in italics.

| | Day | Process A | | Process B | |
|---------------------------|-----|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | <i>Fuet</i> | <i>Llonganissa</i> | <i>Fuet</i> | <i>Llonganissa</i> |
| LAB | 0 | 3.83 (0.08) | 3.83 (0.08) | 3.83 (0.08) | 3.81 (0.08) |
| | 3 | 7.09 (0.12) | 7.08 (0.07) | 5.56 (0.49) | 5.44 (0.11) |
| | 7 | 7.87 (0.04) | 8.20 (0.06) | 7.36 (0.10) | 7.70 (0.01) |
| | 14 | 8.33 (0.00) | 8.29 (0.08) | 8.06 (0.10) | 8.15 (0.11) |
| | 23 | 8.26 (0.06) | 8.50 (0.34) | 7.92 (0.09) | 8.69 (0.01) |
| Enterococci | 0 | 2.29 (0.08) | 2.29 (0.08) | 2.29 (0.08) | 2.27 (0.08) |
| | 3 | 2.69 (0.00) | 2.61 (0.35) | 2.04 (0.56) | 1.95 (0.55) |
| | 7 | 3.99 (0.73) | 4.20 (0.43) | 3.91 (0.17) | 3.60 (0.15) |
| | 14 | 5.62 (0.07) | 4.35 (0.01) | 4.21 (0.56) | 4.99 (0.27) |
| | 23 | 5.24 (0.08) | 4.77 (0.19) | 4.01 (0.15) | 4.79 (0.02) |
| <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> | 0 | 3.14 (0.04) | 3.14 (0.04) | 3.14 (0.04) | 3.09 (0.04) |
| | 3 | 2.93 (0.01) | 2.70 (0.05) | 3.25 (0.35) | 2.91 (0.25) |
| | 7 | 2.80 (0.22) | 2.65 (0.08) | 2.85 (0.45) | 2.96 (0.01) |
| | 14 | 2.51 (0.20) | 2.34 (0.40) | 2.55 (0.08) | 2.44 (0.08) |
| | 23 | 1.76 (0.27) | 0.42 (0.00) | 1.64 (0.38) | 1.13 (1.20) |

should be noted that the growth of LAB, but not of enterococci, was significantly ($p < 0.05$) affected by the processing temperature and relative humidity, being faster with process A than with B. The population of LAB and enterococci at the end of the manufacturing process was affected by process type and the diameter of the sausages. *Fuet* sausages had significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher final counts of LAB and enterococci when were manufactured with process A. In *llonganissa*, no significant differences were found between processes, though differences in biogenic amine contents due to the manufacturing process were considerable. The higher biogenic amine production associated with the use of relatively high processing temperatures could be explained by the more favourable conditions for microbial growth (in case of small diameter sausages) and/or for the decarboxylase activity of the aminogenic spontaneous microbiota (mainly in products of a wide diameter). It has been reported that high processing temperatures stimulate

biogenic amine formation, chiefly by favouring proteolytic enzymes and decarboxylase reactions (Joosten, 1997; Suzzi & Gardini, 2003).

All products showed relatively weak acidification (Table 2), as usually occurs in the spontaneous fermentation of Spanish fermented sausages (Aymerich, Martín, Garriga, & Hugas, 2003; Miguélez-Arrizado et al., 2006). The different temperature and relative humidity during the first 3 days of the processes did not affect ($p < 0.05$) pH and a_w values. Despite the fast growth of LAB in process A, the pH values of samples from process A were very similar to those from process B during the 23 days of sampling. However, the diameter of the sausage influenced the pH and a_w of the products during the second part of the manufacturing process (from day 14). Sausages with larger diameters (*llonganissa*) had lower pH and higher a_w values than sausages with smaller diameter (*fuet*). It is recognized that the pH promotes the activity of

Table 2
Physicochemical and proteolytic related parameters (alpha-amino nitrogen, AAN; proteolysis index, IP) during the manufacture of *fuet* (diameter of 2.5 cm) and *lloganissa* (diameter 4.5 cm) spontaneously fermented as: process A (3 days at 20–23 °C and 90–95% HR followed by 20 days at 12–14 °C and 70% HR) and process B (23 days at 12–13 °C and 70–90% HR). Mean in bold and standard deviation in italics.

| | Day | Process A | | Process B | |
|-------|-----|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | <i>Fuet</i> | <i>Lloganissa</i> | <i>Fuet</i> | <i>Lloganissa</i> |
| pH | 0 | 5.83 (0.01) | 5.86 (0.01) | 5.86 (0.01) | 5.87 (0.01) |
| | 3 | 5.85 (0.04) | 5.91 (0.00) | 5.86 (0.00) | 5.92 (0.01) |
| | 7 | 5.75 (0.01) | 5.72 (0.04) | 5.80 (0.01) | 5.77 (0.03) |
| | 14 | 5.62 (0.02) | 5.23 (0.01) | 5.67 (0.01) | 5.40 (0.08) |
| | 23 | 5.70 (0.01) | 5.26 (0.00) | 5.76 (0.02) | 5.32 (0.01) |
| a_w | 0 | 0.96 (0.00) | 0.96 (0.00) | 0.96 (0.00) | 0.96 (0.00) |
| | 3 | 0.95 (0.00) | 0.95 (0.01) | 0.95 (0.01) | 0.95 (0.01) |
| | 7 | 0.93 (0.00) | 0.94 (0.00) | 0.93 (0.01) | 0.94 (0.04) |
| | 14 | 0.88 (0.01) | 0.92 (0.01) | 0.87 (0.01) | 0.92 (0.01) |
| | 23 | 0.80 (0.01) | 0.89 (0.01) | 0.81 (0.01) | 0.90 (0.16) |
| AAN | 0 | 1.28 (0.06) | 1.28 (0.06) | 1.28 (0.06) | 1.28 (0.06) |
| | 3 | 1.35 (0.12) | 2.22 (0.11) | 1.81 (0.17) | 1.40 (0.09) |
| | 7 | 1.15 (0.22) | 1.78 (0.29) | 1.71 (0.19) | 1.47 (0.15) |
| | 14 | 1.63 (0.15) | 1.83 (0.45) | 1.95 (0.20) | 1.76 (0.21) |
| | 23 | 1.24 (0.04) | 2.17 (0.37) | 1.58 (0.11) | 1.94 (0.34) |
| IP | 0 | 8.95 (7.89) | 8.42 (0.75) | 8.42 (0.75) | 8.42 (0.75) |
| | 3 | 3.38 (0.53) | 2.19 (1.04) | 3.75 (2.34) | 2.51 (0.74) |
| | 7 | 5.14 (1.16) | 2.48 (2.09) | 5.35 (1.34) | 3.69 (1.24) |
| | 14 | 7.25 (3.51) | 8.15 (3.06) | 4.31 (1.36) | 9.33 (0.86) |
| | 23 | 8.33 (0.75) | 8.85 (1.54) | 9.58 (0.58) | 7.72 (4.28) |

amino acid decarboxylases as a system to neutralize an unfavourable acidic environment. A relationship between pH and biogenic amine content has been reported by Miguélez-Arrizado et al. (2006), who found higher biogenic amine contents in acid than in low acid sausages. However, although the more acidic environment could partially account for the higher amine accumulation detected in *lloganissa*, the differences in biogenic amine contents between the two processing conditions can not be exclusively attributed to these physicochemical factors.

Regarding proteolytic parameters, the values of ANN and IP were quite variable during the manufacture of the four different batches and a clear trend could not be established. Although proteolysis has been described as a potential factor favouring the accumulation of biogenic amines (Vidal-Carou et al., 2007), in the present work, it was not possible to find any relationship between the proteolytic parameters and the extent of aminogenesis.

The results, dealing with fermented sausages manufactured under controlled conditions (from the same raw materials and ingredients), show that even if counts of microorganisms, which could potentially be amine producers, were similar during fermentation, a large variability in type and quantity of biogenic amines, indicates that their formation is dependent on a complex interaction of factors that determine aminogenic activity. For instance, it is recognized that the diameter of the sausages affects different physicochemical properties: the greater the diameter the higher the a_w due to a lower drying, which also yields a lower salt concentration (Demeyer et al., 2000). Moreover, the increase in diameter confers a greater degree of anaerobiosis, which can be related to a lower redox potential. These characteristics may favor growth but they may especially stimulate the metabolic activity of fermentative LAB, especially if the processing parameters (temperature and relative humidity) are close to optimal for LAB growth and activity. As a consequence, the pH decreases, due to the production of organic acids (lactic acid) are usually lower in sausages of bigger diameter (e.g. *lloganissa*) fermented at higher temperatures (e.g. process A). Similarly, biogenic amine production by aminogenic bacteria would be enhanced by the same factors: larger diameter and higher fermentation temperatures (Ruiz-Capillas & Jimenez-Colmenero, 2004; Vidal-Carou, Izquierdo-Pulido, Martín, & Mariné, 1990).

In conclusion, high temperature and high relative humidity during fermentation and larger diameter sausages are important technological parameters that may stimulate the aminogenic activity of the spontaneous microorganisms present during fermented sausage manufacture. Therefore, the higher temperatures and relative humidities usually applied in industrial processing to ensure rapid acidification may not be the best procedure to control or reduce biogenic amine formation. In this case, it will be critical to use starter cultures without the ability to form biogenic amines (Bover-Cid, Hugas, Izquierdo-Pulido, & Vidal-Carou, 2000). However, keeping the relatively low temperature and relative humidity usually used for the manufacture of traditional dry fermented sausages would be best to control the aminogenic activity of spontaneous fermentative microbiota, especially when the diameter of sausages is relatively large.

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Artículo VI.

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Influence of technological conditions of sausage fermentation on the aminogenic activity of *L. curvatus* CTC273

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla¹, S. Bover-Cid^{1,2}, J. Bosch-Fusté, M.C. Vidal-Carou*

Department of Nutrition and Food Science, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Barcelona, Avinguda Joan XXII s/n, E-08028 Barcelona, Spain

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ABSTRACT

The influence of technological factors (temperature and relative humidity of the manufacturing process and the diameter of the sausage) on the aminogenic activity of the strain *Lactobacillus curvatus* CTC273 was evaluated. Inoculation of sausages with *L. curvatus* CTC273 resulted in the accumulation of large amounts of biogenic amines (higher than 1000 mg/kg dry matter in some samples) during the manufacture of *fuet* and *llonganissa* sausages. Sausages produced via process 'A' (3 days at 20–23 °C and 90–95% RH followed by 20 days at 12–14 °C and 70% RH) contained significantly higher amounts ($p < 0.05$) of biogenic amines than those manufactured via process 'B' (23 days at 12–13 °C and 70–90% RH), specifically tyramine, cadaverine and phenylethylamine in *llonganissa* and phenylethylamine in *fuet*. The higher fermentation temperature and relative humidity during the fermentation stage in process 'A' promoted decarboxylase activity in *L. curvatus* CTC273 and thus favoured amine accumulation. The diameter of the sausages also influenced biogenic amine production. Higher amine levels were found ($p < 0.05$) in *llonganissa* than in *fuet*, regardless of the manufacturing conditions. The effect of the factors considered on the modulation of aminogenic activity is not necessarily linked to the effect of strain growth, but chiefly favouring proteolytic and decarboxylase reactions.

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1. Introduction

The biogenic amines that are found in food are synthesized mainly by decarboxylation of precursor amino acids by enzymes of bacterial origin, which are usually inducible by certain environmental conditions (e.g. slightly acidic pH, occurrence of precursor amino acids). Fermented meat products and especially dry fermented sausages, are one of the most common sources of these microbial metabolites. During fermentation, maturation and storage of dry fermented sausages suitable environmental conditions take place favouring the activity of microorganisms bearing decarboxylase enzymes, and thus the accumulation of biogenic amines, mainly tyramine, histamine, phenylethylamine, tryptamine, putrescine and cadaverine may occur (Suzzi and Gardini, 2003; Vidal-Carou et al., 2007).

Biogenic amine accumulation in dry fermented sausages chiefly depends on hygienic quality of raw meat material and processing plant, since most of the contaminant bacteria such as

enterobacteria and pseudomonads, can produce amines (Suzzi and Gardini, 2003; Ruiz-Capillas and Jimenez-Colmenero, 2004). The relevance of Gram-negative bacteria to biogenic amine accumulation during sausage fermentation has been demonstrated previously (Bover-Cid et al., 2000, 2003; Durlu-Özkaya et al., 2001). Although found at a lower frequency than in such contaminants, 10–20% of fermentative microbiota isolates, including lactic acid bacteria (LAB) and Gram-positive catalase-positive cocci (GCC+), have also been reported to possess aminogenic potential. More specifically, particular strains of species that are usually involved in the sausage fermentation process, such as *Lactobacillus curvatus*, *Lactobacillus brevis*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Enterococcus faecium* and *Staphylococcus carnosus*, are able to produce one or more biogenic amines (Straub et al., 1995; Bover-Cid et al., 2000; Latorre-Moratalla et al., 2010a).

Besides the presence of microorganisms, biogenic amine accumulation is affected by both intrinsic (size and formulation of sausage) and extrinsic (temperature, relative humidity and length of manufacturing process) technological factors. These factors strongly influence the microbial growth and interaction among microbial communities as well as acidification and proteolysis which determining the decarboxylase enzyme activity. Previous studies (Miguélez-Arrizado et al., 2006; Komprda et al., 2009; Roseiro et al., 2010; Latorre-Moratalla et al., 2010b) have

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +34 93 402 45 08; fax: +34 403 59 31.

E-mail address: mcvidal@ub.edu (M.C. Vidal-Carou).

¹ Both authors contributed equally to this work.

² Present address: Institute for Food and Agricultural Research and Technology, IRTA, Food Safety Programme, Finca Camps i Armet s/n, E-17121 Monells, Spain.

evaluated the possible influence of various technological parameters on the aminogenic activity of the microorganisms involved in the fermentation of sausages. However, the type and amount of biogenic amines formed depend on multiple and complex variables, all of which can interact, making it difficult to characterise the real effect of each factor on aminogenesis. Research focused on each factor is required in order to elucidate when and why aminogenesis occurs and to enable the implementation of the best control measures.

The strain *L. curvatus* CTC273, which was isolated from fermented sausages and is well adapted to meat fermentation conditions, is a strong positive amino acid decarboxylase strain that is able to simultaneously produce high amounts of tyramine, putrescine, cadaverine and phenylethylamine under *in vitro* conditions (Bover-Cid et al., 2008).

Bover-Cid et al. (2008) studied the amino acid decarboxylase activity of *L. curvatus* CTC273 in laboratory media in relation to various factors, such as pH, glucose availability and presence of oxygen. These environmental factors affected the decarboxylase enzymes in different ways. For instance, aromatic amines (tyramine and phenylethylamine) play a role in neutralisation in non-optimal acidic media, whereas putrescine is involved in other processes such as the generation of metabolic energy. However, it is generally recognised that aminogenic bacterial activity *in vitro* does not imply the same behaviour in a real fermentation process, since the actual environmental conditions of such a process are not reproducible in laboratory media. Studies dealing with the aminogenic behaviour of amine-producing bacteria in a real fermentation environment are scarce.

The present work aimed to study the influence of various technological factors on the aminogenic activity of amino acid decarboxylase positive strain *L. curvatus* CTC273 under real sausage fermentation conditions. Two different processing conditions (temperature and relative humidity programmes) were used to manufacture two typical Spanish fermented sausages of different diameters (*fuet* and *llonganissa*).

2. Material and methods

2.1. Bacterial strain

The strain *L. curvatus* CTC273 was obtained from the culture collection of the Institute for Food and Agricultural Research and Technology (IRTA, Monells, Spain). This strain was originally isolated from a fermented pork sausage and showed remarkable decarboxylase activity under *in vitro* conditions, producing up to 2500 mg/l tyramine, 900 mg/l putrescine, 130 mg/l phenylethylamine and 18 mg/l cadaverine after 5 days of aerobic growth in decarboxylase broth at 30 °C (Bover-Cid et al., 2008).

2.2. Samples and sampling

Four batches of dry fermented sausages were manufactured in parallel from a common meat batter as those reported in Latorre-Moratalla et al. (2010b), consisting of 80% lean pork meat and 20% pork fat, minced and mixed with salt (2.8%, w/w), pepper (0.26%, w/w), dextrose (0.5%, w/w), lactose (2.5%, w/w), sodium nitrite (0.015%, w/w) and sodium ascorbate (0.05%, w/w). In the present batches, the strain *L. curvatus* CTC273 was inoculated into the meat batter at a level of $\sim 10^6$ cfu/g. The meat batter was stuffed into natural casings of different diameters: *fuet* with a smaller diameter (2.5 cm) and *llonganissa* with a larger diameter (4.5 cm). Two different processing programmes were used to manufacture each type of product: process 'A' consisted of 3 days at 20–23 °C and 90–95% relative humidity (RH) followed by 20 days at

12–14 °C and 70% RH; and process 'B' consisted of 23 days at 12–13 °C and 70–90% RH. Process 'A' simulated industrial practices, in which relatively high temperatures and RH (above 20 °C and RH over 90%) are applied during the fermentation step with the aim of promoting the correct and rapid development of fermentative microbiota (usually using an inoculated starter culture). Process 'B' simulated artisanal manufacturing practices, in which temperatures and RH tend to be lower than industrial ones (12–15 °C and 70–90% RH) and constant throughout fermentation and ripening.

Three sausages from each batch were sampled at selected times: immediately after stuffing (time 0), after 2, 3, 7 and 14 days and the end product (day 23). Samples were examined in duplicate for microbial counts, physico-chemical parameters, nitrogen fractions and biogenic amine contents.

2.3. Microbial counts

After aseptically removing the casing, 10–20 g of sausage was diluted 10-fold in buffered peptone water and homogenised in a Stomacher (model 400, Blender, Cooke Laboratories, Alexandria, VA, USA) for 2 min. Serial decimal dilutions were made and LAB were enumerated by plating on Man, Rogosa and Sharpe (MRS) agar (Oxoid, Basingstoke, Hampshire, England) at 30 °C for 72 h in anaerobiosis (anaerobic jars supplied by Anaero-Gen, Oxoid); enterococci were enumerated by plating in kanamycin-esculin-azide agar (Oxoid) at 37 °C for 24 h; and *Enterobacteriaceae* by plating in violet red bile glucose agar (Oxoid) with a double layer at 30 °C for 24 h.

In order to check the dominance of the inoculated strain along manufacturing, the carbohydrate fermentation profile (of the API 50CHL strips, BioMérieux, France) of 10 randomly selected colonies from MRS plates was compared with that of *L. curvatus* CTC273.

2.4. Determination of physico-chemical and proteolytic parameters

The pH was measured using a microcomputerised Crison 2001 pH meter (Crison Barcelona, Spain), inserting the electrode directly into the sausage. Water activity (a_w) values were obtained at 25 °C using an Aqualab® device (Decagon Devices Inc., Pullman, Washington). Moisture was determined by drying the sample at 100–105 °C until constant weight (AOAC, 2005). Total nitrogen (TN) and non-protein nitrogen (NPN) contents were determined using the Kjeldahl method (AOAC, 2005). The NPN fraction was extracted from 5 to 10 g of sample using 0.6 M perchloric acid (Panreac, Barcelona, Spain). The proteolysis index (PI) was calculated as the quotient between NPN and TN multiplied by 100 (Astiasarán et al., 1990). The Sørensen method of titration with formaldehyde (AOAC, 2005) was used to determine free amino acids as α -amino nitrogen (AAN).

2.5. Determination of biogenic amines

Biogenic amines (tyramine, histamine, putrescine, cadaverine, phenylethylamine and tryptamine) were obtained from Sigma (St. Louis, MO, USA) and were analysed by ion-pair reverse-phase high performance liquid chromatography, as described in Hernández-Jover et al. (1996). Briefly, this method is based on the formation of ion-pairs between biogenic amines, previously extracted with 0.6 M perchloric acid from 5 to 10 g of sausage sample without casings, and octanesulphonic acid (Romil Chemicals, Cambridge, UK), which is present in the mobile phase. Amine separation was performed through a C-18 reverse phase column (Waters Corp., Milford, MA, USA), followed by a post-column derivatisation with

o-phthalaldehyde (OPA, Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) and spectrofluorimetric detection (λ ex: 340 nm and λ em: 445 nm).

In order to allow comparison of the results from different sampling times and batches, the data on nitrogenous fractions and biogenic amine contents were referred to dry matter (dm).

2.6. Statistical analysis

Two-way and one-way ANOVA and *t*-tests were performed using the software package SPSS v.15.0 for Windows (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

3. Results & discussion

Table 1 shows the microbial counts (LAB, enterococci and enterobacteria) found at different times throughout the manufacture of *fuet* (2.5 cm diameter) and *llonganissa* (4.5 cm diameter) under the two processing conditions 'A' and 'B'. The LAB counts were higher than 9 log (cfu/g) in all batches, from the third day of fermentation until the end of the manufacturing process. Enterococci and enterobacteria counts decreased in all samples throughout the process to low or undetectable levels, respectively. No statistically significant differences ($p < 0.05$) of microbial counts were found between processing conditions ('A' and 'B') or types of sausage (*fuet* and *llonganissa*) for any of the monitored microbial group.

The results of the main physico-chemical parameters (pH and a_w) associated with the fermentation of sausages are shown in Fig. 1. pH showed a strong decrease during the first few days, coinciding with the growth of LAB, reaching values below 5 in all batches. It then remained virtually constant until the end of the manufacturing process (between 4.80 and 5.20 depending on the batch). There were no significant differences ($p > 0.05$) in pH values between the two processing conditions, except for the pH of day 3 which was higher in sausages of process B (fermented at higher temperature and RH). Sausages with a larger diameter were more acid ($p < 0.05$) than smaller sausages following the first week of the manufacturing process. The decrease in a_w was rapid and constant in all batches studied, being similar in 'A' and 'B'. In contrast, the a_w values differed significantly ($p < 0.05$) in the two types of sausage, with final values of 0.82 in *fuet* and 0.88 in *llonganissa*. With regards the proteolytic parameters (Table 2), the values of AAN and IP were relatively variable and a clear trend was not apparent. The only

differences in the AAN fraction were between sausages of different diameter, with a higher AAN in *llonganissa* than in *fuet* ($p < 0.05$).

Fig. 2 shows the accumulation of tyramine, putrescine, cadaverine, histamine and phenylethylamine during the manufacture of *fuet* and *llonganissa* under the processing conditions 'A' and 'B'. Tyramine was the earliest biogenic amine to appear in all batches studied. Considerable amounts of tyramine (approximately 100 mg/kg dm) were produced during the first 3 days, coinciding with the highest drop in pH (Fig. 1). The rate of tyramine accumulation slowed down after the second week, achieving levels in the final product of between 300 and 500 mg/kg dm, depending on the batch. Cadaverine and phenylethylamine did not appear until the 3rd and 7th day of fermentation, respectively. However, the cadaverine content in the end product was similar to that of tyramine, and in the case of *llonganissa* even slightly higher. Cadaverine in dry fermented sausages is usually associated with the presence of relatively high loads of spoilage Gram-negative microbiota, which was not the case of the sausages of the present study. The accumulation of putrescine and histamine in all batches was low and the final values did not exceed 16 mg/kg dm in either case.

Biogenic amine production during sausage fermentation was mainly attributed to the inoculated *L. curvatus* CTC273. Sausages simultaneously manufactured made (in parallel) from a common meat batter (with the same raw materials and ingredient), but fermented by spontaneous microbiota were considered as control samples. In these control sausages, much lower levels of biogenic amines (below 100 mg/g dm) were accumulated in comparison with inoculated ones of the present paper. These results were previously published in Latorre-Moratalla et al. (2010b). In addition, the sugar profile of the randomly isolated LAB colonies from the MRS plates coincided with that of *L. curvatus* CTC273, which is in agreement with the dominance (95–99%) of the inoculated strain in the fermented sausages. Thus, *L. curvatus* CTC273 was responsible for the production of large amounts of biogenic amines during sausage manufacture, achieving total amine contents of more than 1000 mg/kg dm in some end products.

The aminogenic behaviour of *L. curvatus* CTC273 in a real fermentation model system followed a similar qualitative profile as *in vitro*, during which the strain produced tyramine, putrescine, phenylethylamine and cadaverine (Bover-Cid et al., 2008). However, it should be noted that little putrescine was found in the inoculated sausages, despite the strong *in vitro* ornithine-decarboxylase activity of the *L. curvatus* CTC273 strain. This could be explained by the possible absence or low availability of free ornithine, which could have been the limiting factor in putrescine production. Putrescine is mainly formed by the decarboxylation of ornithine, an amino acid that is detected at low levels or is even undetectable in fermented or cured meat products (Beriaín et al., 2000; Alfaia et al., 2004). In contrast, high cadaverine formation by *L. curvatus* CTC273 (weak cadaverine producer *in vitro*) could be the result of lysine-decarboxylase and ornithine-decarboxylase activity on lysine, as these two amino acids have a similar chemical structure (Bardocz, 1995). The availability of amino acids, as precursors of biogenic amines, is currently under study in order to elucidate their relationship with the amino acid decarboxylase activity of this aminogenic *L. curvatus* CTC273 strain.

The different technological factors studied ('A' and 'B' processing conditions and diameter) had a significant effect ($p < 0.05$) on the global biogenic amine profile according to the factorial ANOVA. However, the *post hoc* analysis revealed that this influence varied according to the amine, processing condition and type of sausage. Sausages produced using process 'A' contained statistically higher amounts ($p < 0.05$) of biogenic amines than those manufactured using process 'B', specifically tyramine, cadaverine and phenylethylamine in *llonganissa* and phenylethylamine in *fuet* (Fig. 2).

Table 1

Microbial counts, as log (cfu/g), during the manufacture of *fuet* (2.5 cm diameter) and *llonganissa* (4.5 cm diameter) inoculated with *L. curvatus* CTC273. Process A (3 days at 20–23 °C and 90–95% RH followed by 20 days at 12–14 °C and 70% RH) and Process B (23 days at 12–13 °C and 70–90% RH). Mean (standard deviation).

| | Day | Process A | | Process B | |
|----------------|-----|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| | | <i>Fuet</i> | <i>Llonganissa</i> | <i>Fuet</i> | <i>Llonganissa</i> |
| LAB | 0 | 6.11 (0.07) | 6.11 (0.07) | 6.11 (0.07) | 6.11 (0.07) |
| | 3 | 9.31 (0.01) | 9.25 (0.02) | 9.02 (0.04) | 9.15 (0.05) |
| | 7 | 9.54 (0.1) | 9.3 (0.03) | 9.15 (0.27) | 9.32 (0.06) |
| | 14 | 9.37 (0.12) | 9.28 (0.05) | 9.34 (0.03) | 9.32 (0.06) |
| | 23 | 9.35 (0.08) | 9.34 (0.01) | 9.33 (0.03) | 9.27 (0.06) |
| Enterococci | 0 | 3.12 (0.13) | 3.12 (0.13) | 3.12 (0.13) | 3.12 (0.13) |
| | 3 | 1.72 (0.83) | 1.55 (0.1) | 2.42 (0.16) | 2.32 (0.11) |
| | 7 | 1.96 (0.07) | 0.98 (0.71) | 0.59 (0.07) | 1.42 (1.52) |
| | 14 | 2.54 (0.02) | 3.08 (0.22) | 2.38 (0.01) | 1.99 (0.52) |
| | 23 | 2.24 (0.09) | 2.6 (1.19) | 1.91 (0.24) | 1.86 (0.19) |
| Enterobacteria | 0 | 4.03 (0.04) | 4.03 (0.04) | 4.03 (0.04) | 4.03 (0.04) |
| | 3 | 2.90 (0.93) | 3.22 (0.08) | 3.59 (0.07) | 3.37 (0.6) |
| | 7 | 3.09 (0.14) | 3.09 (0.01) | 3.06 (0.05) | 3.15 (0.36) |
| | 14 | 1.67 (0.16) | 1.88 (0.9) | 2.06 (0.45) | 2.18 (0.29) |
| | 23 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 |

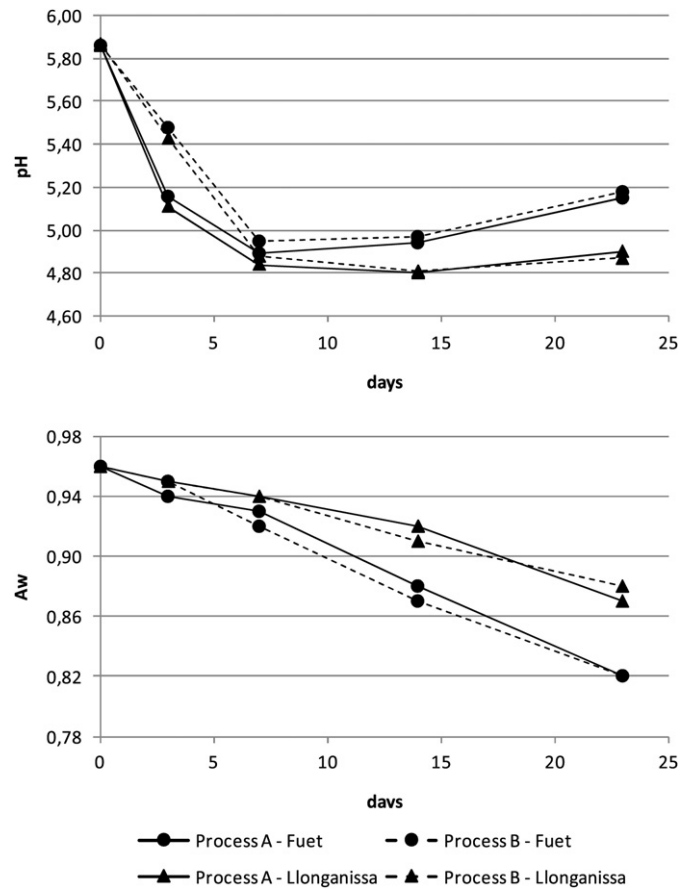


Fig. 1. Fate of physico-chemical parameters (pH and a_w values) during the manufacture of *fuet* (2.5 cm diameter) and *llonganissa* (4.5 cm diameter) inoculated with *L. curvatus* CTC273. Process A (3 days at 20–23 °C and 90–95% RH followed by 20 days at 12–14 °C and 70% RH) and Process B (23 days at 12–13 °C and 70–90% RH).

Moreover, biogenic amines formed more rapidly in products manufactured using process 'A' than those manufactured using process 'B', in which the increase was more gradual. Although fermentation temperatures higher than 20 °C and elevated RH clearly favoured the growth of aminogenic fermentative microbiota (Majjala and Nurmi, 1995; Suzzi and Gardini, 2003), in this study no differences in microbial counts were found between the processing conditions, even though there were notable differences in the biogenic amine content. Therefore, the effect of the factors considered on the modulation of aminogenic activity was not necessarily linked to the bacterial growth, but chiefly favouring

Table 2

Proteolytic related parameters (α -amino nitrogen, NAA; proteolysis index, IP) during the manufacture of *fuet* (2.5 cm diameter) and *llonganissa* (4.5 cm diameter) inoculated with *L. curvatus* CTC273. Process A (3 days at 20–23 °C and 90–95% RH followed by 20 days at 12–14 °C and 70% RH) and Process B (23 days at 12–13 °C and 70–90% RH). Mean (standard deviation).

| | Day | Process A | | Process B | |
|------------|-----|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| | | <i>Fuet</i> | <i>Llonganissa</i> | <i>Fuet</i> | <i>Llonganissa</i> |
| AAN (mg/g) | 0 | 0.99 (0.01) | 0.99 (0.01) | 0.99 (0.01) | 0.99 (0.01) |
| | 3 | 1.31 (0.25) | 1.68 (0.22) | 0.77 (0.18) | 1.68 (0.13) |
| | 7 | 1.66 (0.24) | 1.29 (0.20) | 2.34 (0.71) | 1.26 (0.35) |
| | 14 | 1.91 (0.30) | 1.76 (0.17) | 1.31 (0.23) | 1.87 (0.53) |
| | 23 | 1.52 (0.25) | 2.15 (0.26) | 1.24 (0.28) | 2.52 (0.16) |
| IP (%) | 0 | 5.77 (7.80) | 6.78 (1.43) | 6.78 (1.43) | 6.78 (1.43) |
| | 3 | 0.64 (1.25) | 1.35 (1.77) | – | 2.77 (1.17) |
| | 7 | 3.69 (0.33) | 0.55 (0.95) | 0.45 (0.71) | 0.90 (0.80) |
| | 14 | 2.38 (0.71) | 5.78 (2.40) | 3.70 (1.07) | 5.64 (2.74) |
| | 23 | 7.82 (1.51) | 2.11 (2.16) | 9.21 (2.04) | 4.23 (1.91) |

proteolytic and decarboxylase reactions. The relatively high processing temperatures and RH during fermentation in process 'A', simulating the industrial manufacture of dry fermented sausages, seemed to promote the decarboxylase activity of *L. curvatus* CTC273 and hence, favoured amine accumulation. Although the levels of biogenic amines found in the spontaneously fermented control products were approximately 10-fold lower, differences were also found according to the processing conditions used (Latorre-Moratalla et al., 2010b). The results were in agreement with those obtained by Masson et al. (1999) who demonstrated that a strain of *Carnobacterium divergens* produced more tyramine at 25 °C than at 15 °C. Most of the studies on this issue considered temperature to be the only variable that could affect the aminogenic process. Joosten and van Boekel (1988) reported that the histidine decarboxylase activity of *Lactobacillus buchneri* increased as fermentation temperature increased from 15 °C to 30 °C. Likewise, Kranner et al. (1991) reported more histamine formation at a higher ripening temperature (18 °C) compared with a lower one (7 °C), especially with the addition of histidine-producing microorganisms. However, RH may also modulate amine formation in dry fermented sausages.

The diameter of the sausages directly affects the conditions (salt concentration, pH, humidity and degree of proteolysis) that favour the growth and/or metabolic and enzymatic activity of fermentative LAB. In the present study, the diameter of the dry sausages also influenced biogenic amine production. Higher amine levels ($p < 0.05$) were accumulated in *llonganissa* than in *fuet*, both manufactured from the same raw materials, irrespective of the processing conditions (Fig. 2). The lower pH values recorded for

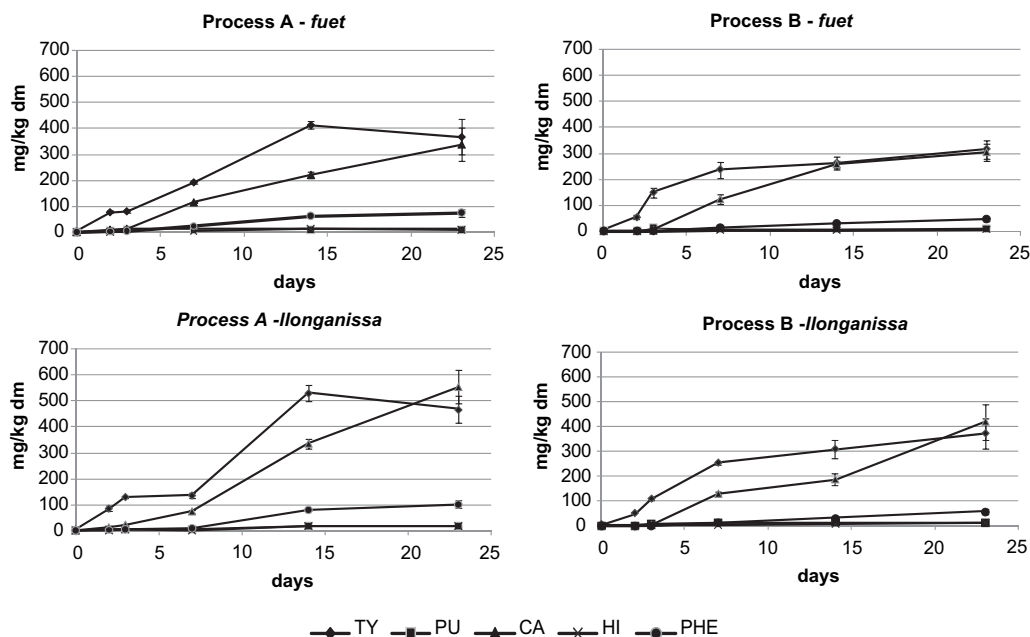


Fig. 2. Biogenic amine contents (mg/kg dm) during the manufacture of *fuet* (2.5 cm diameter) and *llonganissa* (4.5 cm diameter) inoculated with *L. curvatus* CTC273. Process A (3 days at 20–23 °C and 90–95% RH followed by 20 days at 12–14 °C and 70% RH) and Process B (23 days at 12–13 °C and 70–90% RH).

llonganissa could favour the aminogenic activity of *L. curvatus* CTC273. The pH regulates the activity of amino acid decarboxylases, which act as a physiological system in bacteria to neutralise unfavourable acidic environments (Bover-Cid et al., 2008). On the other hand, other intrinsic conditions such as the higher a_w value and free amino acid availability in *llonganissa* could also explain the higher levels of biogenic amines found in this type of sausage. Other authors have also reported that diameter may affect aminogenesis in dry fermented sausages (Parente et al., 2001; Komprda et al., 2004, 2009; Miguélez-Arrizado et al., 2006).

Based on these results, the control of fermentation temperatures and RH together with a small diameter can contribute in preventing the formation of high levels of biogenic amines in fermented sausages. Traditional processing conditions, characterised by a lower temperature and RH, would be more suitable than industrial processing for controlling or reducing biogenic amine formation by aminogenic fermentative microbiota. However, to prevent the growth of potential aminogenic organisms, such as *L. curvatus* strain, the use of other control measures, such as the addition of autochthonous starter cultures without aminogenic capability, could be an effective complementary approach for reducing levels of biogenic amines (Latorre-Moratalla et al., 2010c).

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ESTRATÉGIAS PARA REDUCIR LA ACUMULACIÓN DE AMINAS EN PRODUCTOS CÁRNICOS CRUDOS-CURADOS FERMENTADOS DE ELABORACIÓN ARTESANAL

La reducción de los contenidos de aminas biógenas es un aspecto importante para la obtención de alimentos que cumplan con las premisas actuales sobre calidad higiénica y seguridad alimentaria.

En esta línea, uno de los objetivos de esta tesis fue la evaluación de posibles medidas de control para la obtención de embutidos fermentados de elaboración artesanal libres o con bajos niveles de aminas biógenas, sin que se vean alteradas las características sensoriales típicas de estos productos.

Este capítulo recoge dos trabajos que evalúan la eficacia de diferentes medidas de control destinadas a la reducción de la aminogénesis en productos cárnicos fermentados artesanales. Para este fin, se plantearon estrategias de forma individual o combinada a nivel de:

- Higienización de materias primas, para reducir o eliminar la microbiota contaminante potencialmente aminogénica.
- Cambios en la formulación que permitan modular el crecimiento y actividad de la microbiota presente durante la elaboración
- Inoculación de cultivos iniciadores autóctonos con el fin de controlar la microbiota espontánea con una posible actividad aminogénica.

9.1 Evaluación de la eficacia del tratamiento de las materias primas con altas presiones hidrostáticas y del uso de cultivos iniciadores autóctonos

Artículo VII.

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla, S. Bover-Cid, T. Aymerich, B. Marcos, M.C. Vidal-Carou, M. Garriga. (2007). Aminogenesis control in fermented sausages manufactured with pressurized meat batter and starter culture. *Meat Science*, 75 (3):460-469.

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9.1.1 Planteamiento y objetivo del estudio

Debido a la importancia de la higiene de las materias primas para la obtención de alimentos libres de aminas biógenas, podría ser adecuado el uso de tratamientos higienizantes capaces de destruir los microorganismos contaminantes y potencialmente aminogénicos. Los tratamientos térmicos, habitualmente aplicados a la leche para la elaboración de queso, no pueden ser utilizados para obtener productos cárnicos fermentados ya que provocan cambios en la estructura y textura de las materias primas. La aplicación de tratamientos de altas presiones hidrostáticas (APH) se plantea como una buena alternativa higienizante de las materias primas de este tipo de productos sin provocar cambios sensoriales significativos. Sin embargo, no existen estudios sobre el efecto de tratamientos de APH en las materias primas sobre la aminogénesis durante la fermentación de productos cárnicos.

El uso de cultivos iniciadores debidamente seleccionados es una de las estrategias más eficaces a nivel industrial para la obtención de productos cárnicos fermentados con bajos niveles de aminas biógenas. El riesgo de formación de aminas biógenas en los productos artesanales podría ser alto debido a la no utilización de

cultivos iniciadores que controlen el proceso de fermentación. En el caso de proponer el uso de cultivos iniciadores para la elaboración de este tipo de productos artesanales, estos deberían de ser mucho más específicos, debidamente aislados y seleccionados del propio producto para su mejor adaptación y sobre todo para que los productos no pierdan su autenticidad ni los matices sensoriales tan apreciados.

El objetivo del presente trabajo fue evaluar la posible aplicación de las APH sobre las materias primas para intentar reducir la acumulación de aminas biógenas durante el proceso de fermentación y contribuir a la mejora de la seguridad y la calidad del producto final. Además, se utilizó un cultivo iniciador autóctono compuesto por diversas cepas de lactobacilos y estafilococos descarboxilasa negativos *in vitro*, con el objetivo de evaluar su resistencia al tratamiento de presurización y su habilidad para inhibir la aminogénesis en dos tipos de productos cárnicos fermentados.

9.1.2 Diseño experimental

El estudio se realizó con dos tipos de productos cárnicos fermentados de origen artesanal: fuet y chorizo. Se realizaron un total de 8 lotes en paralelo, a partir de la misma materia prima. La mezcla para cada uno de los tipos de producto se dividió en dos partes iguales. Una de las partes se inoculó con un cultivo iniciador autóctono descarboxilasa negativo, formado por dos cepas de *Lactobacillus sakei* (CTC6469 y CTC6626) y dos cepas de *Staphylococcus xylosus* (CTC6013 y CTC6169) en la cantidad necesaria para alcanzar los 4×10^5 ufc/g de producto de cada una de las especies. Estas cepas fueron previamente aisladas y seleccionadas de productos cárnicos fermentados artesanales. La otra parte de la masa cárnica fue fermentada de forma espontánea ya que no se le añadió ningún cultivo iniciador. La mitad del lote de cada tipo de producto, tanto inoculado como no, y previamente embutidos en tripas naturales, se sometió a un tratamiento de presurización a 200 MPa a 17°C durante 10 minutos.

Para cada lote se tomaron muestras durante diferentes puntos del proceso de elaboración: a tiempo 0 y después de 7, 14 y 21 días.

9.1.3 Resultados

Aminas biógenas en materias primas e ingredientes

Las únicas aminas presentes en las materias primas en cantidades significativas fueron las poliaminas fisiológicas espermidina y espermina, lo que indicó una buena calidad higiénica de las materias cárnicas utilizadas. Los recuentos microbianos también confirmaron la calidad higiénica de las materias primas.

En las especias utilizadas en la formulación de los embutidos se observó la presencia de aminas biógenas. En el caso particular del ajo en polvo, añadido en la elaboración del chorizo, se detectaron niveles considerables de tiramina y algo menores de feniletilamina. Sin embargo, la contribución final de aminas procedentes de las especias al conjunto total de aminas biógenas del embutido fermentado sería insignificante (siempre por debajo de los 0,05 mg/kg), ya que estos condimentos se incorporan a concentraciones bajas (de 2,5 g/kg a 15 g/kg).

Los recuentos de microorganismos aerobios de las especias variaron desde 4,6 hasta 7,4 log ufc/g, y por lo que su contribución al total de la carga bacteriana de la masa cárnica estaría en el rango de 2 a 5 log ufc/g en función de la especia. Las especias podrían vehicular, bien los microorganismos potencialmente aminogénicos o los enzimas aminoácido descarboxilasa a la masa cárnica, y ambos podrían contribuir a la acumulación de aminas durante las etapas de fermentación y maduración de los embutidos.

Aminogénesis en productos cárnicos tras la aplicación de estrategias de control

Los contenidos de aminas asociadas con la actividad bacteriana (tiramina, histamina, putrescina y cadaverina) se vieron influenciadas por las tres variables estudiadas: tipo de producto, tratamiento APH y cultivo iniciador.

La acumulación de aminas biógenas fue mucho menor en fuet que en chorizo. La tiramina fue la única amina detectada en fuet, mientras que la cadaverina fue la amina más importante en chorizos. La diferencia encontrada en la acumulación de aminas entre los diferentes tipos de productos puede ser debida a la mencionada vehiculación de microorganismos aminogénicos o enzimas descarboxilasa por parte de las especias utilizadas en chorizos (pimentón dulce y picante) y que no se adicionaron en fuets. Además las concentraciones iniciales de nitritos y nitratos fueron casi el doble en fuet que en chorizo, lo que pudo provocar una mayor inhibición microbiana en fuet.

Los bajos contenidos de aminas biógenas encontradas en los lotes de fuets no permitieron estudiar la eficacia de los tratamientos de AHP y la utilización del cultivo iniciador en la prevención de la formación de aminas.

La aplicación de las AHP en las materias primas para la elaboración de chorizo provocó una fuerte reducción en de la acumulación de las diaminas, siendo los niveles de putrescina y cadaverina, hasta un 88% y 98% inferiores a los lotes no-presurizados. Por lo que respecta a la formación de tiramina no se detectaron diferencias significativas debido a la aplicación o no de APH. El tratamiento de APH aplicado (200MPa) tuvo un efecto higienizador al reducir las bacterias Gram-negativas contaminantes y de su actividad lisina y ornitina descarboxilasa, mientras que los microorganismos-tirosina descarboxilasa positivos, como los enterococos, no fueron sensibles a la presión aplicada.

La inoculación del cultivo iniciador autóctono en el chorizo fue capaz de reducir hasta un 93% la acumulación de putrescina y hasta un 99% la de cadaverina. Además, y a diferencia de los chorizos sometidos a tratamientos de AHP, el cultivo iniciador autóctono también redujo los contenidos de tiramina en un 76% respecto al lote fermentado espontáneamente.

La influencia del tratamiento de presurización en los lotes inoculados con el cultivo iniciador autóctono, no fue relevante, muy probablemente debido al uso de materias primas cárnicas en un óptimo estado higiénico. Posiblemente, el uso de materias primas de peor calidad higiénica, permitiría apreciar el valor añadido de este tipo de tecnología en la reducción de las aminas biógenas, especialmente las relacionadas con las flora contaminante.

9.1.4. Aportaciones más relevantes

- Las APH se muestran efectivas como tratamiento higienizante de las materias primas (masa cárnica con aditivos e ingredientes), reduciendo el desarrollo de enterobacterias y, consecuentemente, las aminas biógenas (putrescina y cadaverina) relacionadas con este tipo de microorganismos. Sin embargo, este procedimiento higienizante parece no reducir la formación de tiramina, amina relacionada con microorganismos fermentativos, resistentes a las presiones aplicadas.
- La inoculación del cultivo iniciador formado por cepas autóctonas aisladas de embutidos artesanales se muestra como una medida de protección muy eficaz para evitar la acumulación de aminas biógenas durante la elaboración de embutidos fermentados artesanales.

- Las cepas de lactobacilos y de estafilococos inoculados como cultivo iniciador autóctono fueron resistentes a la presurización de los productos cárnicos, sin ver alterada su capacidad protectora antiaminogénica.

Artículo VII.

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Aminogenesis control in fermented sausages manufactured with pressurized meat batter and starter culture

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla ^a, S. Bover-Cid ^{a,b,*}, T. Aymerich ^b, B. Marcos ^b,
M.C. Vidal-Carou ^a, M. Garriga ^b

^a Department of Nutrition and Food Science, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Barcelona, Avinguda Joan XXIII s/n, E-08028 Barcelona, Spain

^b Institute for Food and Agricultural Research and Technology (IRTA) – Meat Technology Centre, Granja Camps i Armet s/n, 17121 Monells, Spain

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Abstract

The application of high hydrostatic pressure (200 MPa) to meat batter just before sausage fermentation and the inoculation of starter culture were studied to improve the safety and quality of traditional Spanish fermented sausages (fuet and chorizo). Higher amounts of biogenic amines were formed in chorizo than in fuet. Without interfering with the ripening performance in terms of acidification, drying and proteolysis, hydrostatic pressure prevented enterobacteria growth but did not affect Gram-positive bacteria significantly. Subsequently, a strong inhibition of diamine (putrescine and cadaverine) accumulation was observed, but that of tyramine was not affected. The inoculated decarboxylase-negative strains, selected from indigenous bacteria of traditional sausages, were resistant to the HHP treatment, being able to lead the fermentation process, prevent enterococci development and significantly reduce enterobacteria counts. In sausages manufactured with either non-pressurized or pressurized meat batter, starter culture was the most protective measure against the accumulation of tyramine and both diamines.

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Keywords: Fermented sausages; High hydrostatic pressure; Starter culture; Biogenic amines; Enterococci; Enterobacteria

1. Introduction

Food quality and safety are of paramount importance to health and research organisations worldwide. The improvement of food products in relation to quality attributes arises from the requirement of good manufacturing practices and the need for minimizing the risks, while ensuring the desired sensory traits of food products. Biogenic amines have been classically regarded as potentially hazardous microcomponents of food that may cause disorders to consumers, although the toxic doses and the mechanisms of such effects are not well established. Besides the

toxicological implications, biogenic amines are of concern in relation to food hygiene (Mariné-Font, Vidal-Carou, Izquierdo-Pulido, Veciana-Nogués, & Hernández-Jover, 1995). Biogenic amines accumulate in food as a consequence of bacterial amino acid-decarboxylase activity. Food produced through a fermentation process is described as particularly rich in biogenic amines. Indeed, the growth of a wide variety of bacteria potentially harbouring decarboxylase activity, the mild acidification and the proteolysis taking place during fermentation, are favourable conditions for biogenic amine accumulation. Fermenting microorganisms, mainly non-starter lactic acid bacteria, seem to play a significant role in the amine accumulation, especially tyramine. The contaminant microbial population (such as enterobacteria) also contributes largely to the occurrence of certain amines (such as diamines putrescine and cadaverine) being indicative of improper hygienic conditions. Therefore, the optimization

* Corresponding author. Address: Institute for Food and Agricultural Research and Technology (IRTA) – Meat Technology Centre, Granja Camps i Armet s/n, 17121 Monells, Spain. Tel.: +34 972 630 052; fax: +34 972 630 373.

E-mail address: sara.bovercid@irta.es (S. Bover-Cid).

of hygienic conditions of both raw materials and processing is one of the key measures that enable the control of the aminogenesis during food processing and storage (Bover-Cid & Holzapfel, 1999; Bover-Cid, Izquierdo-Pulido, & Vidal-Carou, 2001; Halász, Báráth, Simon-Sarkadi, & Holzapfel, 1994).

The hygienic quality of raw materials may be improved by decreasing microbial loads through sterilization or pasteurization, which is a common practice in the cheese making industry. However, in the case of fermented meat products, high temperatures cause detrimental changes in the raw materials, and thus, it is not possible to apply conventional heat treatments. Alternative non-thermal technologies show challenging possibilities in this connection. For instance, high hydrostatic pressure (HHP) is getting popularity especially in relation to the so-called hurdle technology. Thanks to its advantages in comparison to thermal treatments to inactivate microorganisms with minimal sensory changes to the product, HHP has promising applications to satisfy consumer demand for high quality and safe meat products (Hugas, Garriga, & Monfort, 2002). Some works have been published dealing with the effect of HHP on the stability of meat products and its biogenic amine content during storage (Garriga et al., 2005; Ruiz-Capillas & Jiménez-Colmenero, 2004). To the best of our knowledge, within the field of biogenic amines, the effect of HHP applied to raw materials has only been studied in milk used for cheese production as an alternative to pasteurization, with equivalent effects on aminogenesis (Novella-Rodríguez, Veciana-Nogués, Trujillo-Mesa, & Vidal-Carou, 2002). However, no research has been carried out in relation to fermented sausages.

Traditional Spanish low-acid ripened sausages are manufactured following traditional procedures, which are based on a spontaneous fermentation process at a relatively low temperature of approximately 10–15 °C. The ripening and drying process ensures low water activity values, but these slightly fermented products are characterized by a relatively high pH (over 5.3). Microflora contaminating raw materials (Gram-negative bacteria) may not be totally inhibited during the manufacture, compromising the safety and stability of the final product. The inoculation of competitive and decarboxylase-negative starter culture has been shown to be a useful tool to inhibit spontaneous aminogenic microflora and thus considerably reduce aminogenesis (Bover-Cid, Hugas, Izquierdo-Pulido, & Vidal-Carou, 2000). However, the selection of appropriate strains is needed to keep the typical sensory characteristics of particular artisanal products (Di Maria, Basso, Santoro, Grazia, & Coppola, 2002).

In this frame, the present work deals with the study of the potential application of mild HHP treatments on meat batter just before fermentation to improve the safety and quality of the final product. Moreover, decarboxylase-negative starter cultures, accurately selected from the indigenous microflora of traditional sausages showing optimal technological properties, were assessed in order to investi-

gate their resistance to HHP and their ability to inhibit aminogenesis in two different types of traditional Spanish fermented sausages: fuet and chorizo.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Sausage manufacture and sampling

The experiment was carried out with two types of traditional low-acid fermented sausages: fuet and chorizo. A total of eight batches of fermented sausages were manufactured in parallel (following the experimental design of Fig. 1) from the same lot of raw materials consisting of 50% of lean pork meat and 50% pork back fat. Meat raw materials were minced at -1 °C in a meat cutter (Tecmap, Barcelona, Spain), with an adjustable plate set at a hole diameter of 6 mm, and then mixed with other ingredients in a mixer machine (model 35P, Tecnotrip S.A., Terrassa, Spain). For fuet sausages the ingredients were 20 g/kg sodium chloride, 2.5 g/kg black pepper, 1.0 g/kg dextrose, 0.5 g/kg sodium ascorbate 0.1 g/kg potassium nitrate and 0.1 g/kg sodium nitrite. Chorizo sausages contained 20 g/kg sodium chloride, 15 g/kg cayenne pepper, 15 g/kg paprika, 3.0 g/kg powdered garlic and 1.0 g/kg dextrose. Cayenne pepper and paprika supplied 0.05 g/kg nitrate and 0.04 g/kg nitrite as curing agents for chorizo sausage (Garriga et al., 2005).

The mixture for each type of product was divided in two further parts. To one of them a mixture of bacteria consisting of two strains of *Lactobacillus sakei* (CTC6469 and CTC6626) and two strains of *Staphylococcus xylosus* (CTC6013 and CTC6169) was inoculated to achieve 4×10^5 CFU/g of sausage for each specie. These strains had previously been isolated from traditional low-acid fermented sausages and had demonstrated a proper performance as starter cultures for both fuet and chorizo (Garriga et al., 2005). The other part was not inoculated in order to proceed with a spontaneous fermentation. Sausages were stuffed into collagen casings (4 cm diameter; Colex 32 mm, Fibra S.A., Girona, Spain). For each type of product, either without or with starter culture, half of the stuffed sausages were vacuum packaged in polyamide-polyethylene bags (Sacoliva, Castellar del Vallès, Spain) and submitted to a high hydrostatic pressure treatment of 200MPa for 10 min at 17 °C, using an industrial high hydrostatic pressurization unit (Alstom, Nantes, France); whereas the other half were not pressurized. Packaging was removed after the high pressure processing. All sausages were hung in a climate chamber MLR.350 H (Sanyo Electric Co., Ora-Gun, Japan) at 12 °C and with a relative humidity of >95% for 10 days and reduced to 80% till the end of the ripening process (21 days). Three sausages from each batch were sampled during the ripening process at selected times: just after stuffing (time 0) and after 1, 2 and 3 weeks. The analytical determinations were performed in triplicate.

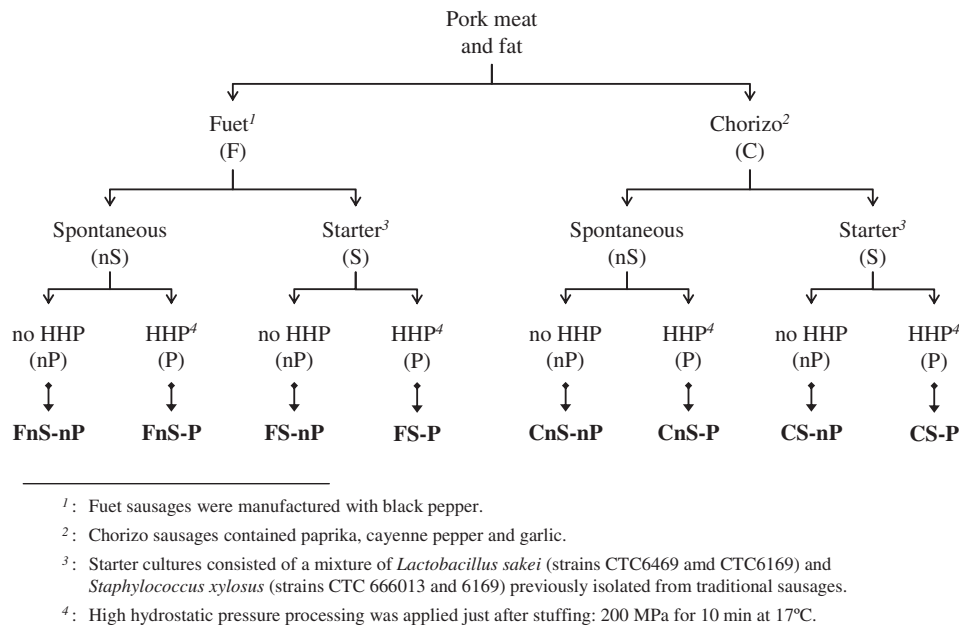


Fig. 1. Experimental design for the study of aminogenesis in fuet and chorizo sausages manufactured through spontaneously and starter mediated fermentation, without and with high hydrostatic pressure treatment.

2.2. Microbial analysis

After aseptically removing the casing, approximately 20 g of sausage were 10-fold diluted in buffered peptone water (AES Laboratories, Combourg, France) and homogenized in a Masticator (model 400, Cooke Laboratories, Alexandria, VA, USA) for 1 min. Serial decimal dilutions were made and lactic acid bacteria (LAB) were enumerated by pour plating in Man, Rogosa and Sharpe (MRS) agar (Difco Laboratories, Detroit, MI, USA) at 30 °C for 72 h in anaerobiosis (Oxoid jars with Anaero-Gen; Oxoid, Basingstoke, Hampshire, England), Gram-positive catalase positive cocci (GCC+) by spread plating on mannitol salt agar (Difco Laboratories) at 30 °C for 48 h, enterococci by pour plating in kanamycin-esculin-azide agar (Oxoid LTD) at 37 °C for 24 h, *Enterobacteriaceae* by pour plating in violet red bile glucose agar (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) with a double layer at 30 °C for 24 h.

The implantation of the inoculated strains and their dominance over the spontaneous flora were monitored by plasmid and RAPD profiling analysis as previously reported by Garriga et al. (2005).

2.3. Physico-chemical, nitrogenous fraction and biogenic amine analysis

Values of pH were determined using a Crison Basic 20 pH-meter by directly inserting an electrode into the sausage (model 52-32, Crison Instruments, S.A., Barcelona, Spain). Water activity was measured with the AquaLab® Series 3 Aw-meter (Decagon Devices Inc., Pullman, Washington, USA). Water content was measured gravimetrically, drying a sample aliquot to a constant weight at 102 °C (AOAC,

1995). To evaluate the proteolysis, total nitrogen was determined following the official Kjeldahl method in 2000 Kjeldahl® equipment (Tecator, Foss España S.A., Barcelona, Spain). From a 0.6 N perchloric extract of the sample without casing, the non-protein nitrogen was also determined by Kjeldahl and the free amino acid fraction (as α -amino nitrogen) by the Sorensen method through volumetric titration with 0.01 N sodium hydroxide after reaction with formaldehyde (AOAC, 1995). The proteolysis index was calculated as the quotient between NPN and TN multiplied by 100 as described by Astiasarán, Villanueva, and Bello (1990).

Biogenic amines (tyramine, histamine, putrescine, cadaverine, phenylethylamine, tryptamine, agmatine, spermidine and spermine) were extracted with 0.6 N perchloric acid from spices (black pepper, cayenne pepper, paprika and powdered garlic), raw meat batter and sausages without casings during ripening. Thereafter, they were determined by ion-pair reverse-phase column high performance liquid chromatography with post-column derivatization with *ortho*-phthalaldehyde according to the procedure described by Hernández-Jover, Izquierdo-Pulido, Veciana-Nogués, and Vidal-Carou (1996).

Due to the typical loss of water content during the manufacturing process, the results of nitrogenous fractions and biogenic amine contents of samples, except for raw materials, were referred to dry matter (dm).

2.4. Statistical analysis

Data was statistically treated using the SPSS 11.0 for Windows software (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) in order to determine the significance of the effect of starter

inoculation as well as the hydrostatic pressure treatment. A two-way ANOVA was applied to rule out an interactive effect of starter culture and high hydrostatic pressure treatment, then a one-way analysis of the variance (ANOVA) together with the post hoc contrasts of Tuckey's HSD test was applied to examine the differences between products (fuet and chorizo) and among batches.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Microbial results

Raw meat materials and spices used to manufacture the fuet and chorizo sausages were examined for their microbiological quality. Bacterial counts corresponding to meat batter (as the mixture of lean meat and back fat) were relatively low, in log(CFU/g): 3.38 for LAB, 4.38 for GCC+, 2.68 log for enterococci and <2 for enterobacteria, indicating a good hygienic quality of meat raw materials. Spices were examined for the total mesophilic aerobic counts; high loads up to 7.4 log(CFU/g) were found in black pepper and cayenne pepper, 6.2 log(CFU/g) in paprika and 4.6 log(CFU/g) in powdered garlic.

Changes in bacterial counts during sausage fermentation and ripening are shown in Table 1. Due to starter inoculation, initial LAB and GCC+ counts were higher in batches FS and CS than FnS and CnS. The implantation of the

starter culture strains was confirmed by plasmid and RAPD profile (data not shown). Maximum LAB counts were reached after one and two weeks of ripening in starter (S) and spontaneously (nS) fermented batches, respectively. GCC+ grew to a lesser extent than LAB, even in batches where *S. xylosus* strains had been inoculated as starters. After ripening (21 days), irrespective of the type and starter inoculation, LAB counts were over 8 logarithmic units, whereas GCC+ did not surpass 7.5 logs. Overall, the high pressure processing of the sausages just after stuffing did not influence the initial LAB and GCC+ counts significantly or their progression during the manufacture in any of the products without or with starter culture inoculation.

The behaviour of enterococci during fermentation and ripening was similar in fuet and chorizo batches. Thus, spontaneously fermented products showed increasing loads of enterococci during the first week and then remained around 10⁴ CFU/g. No effect by the HHP processing was observed. By contrast, the starter inoculation prevented enterococci development significantly remaining around 10² CFU/g throughout the ripening.

More important and significant differences in relation to the occurrence of enterobacteria were found among all the batches. On the one hand, non-pressurized spontaneously fermented sausages showed a notable increase of enterobacteria loads during the first week of fermentation, in fuet (FnS-nP) being slightly lower than in chorizo (CnS-nP).

Table 1

Microbial counts^a, log(CFU/g), during the manufacture of fuet and chorizo through spontaneously and starter mediated fermentation, without and with high hydrostatic pressure treatment

| Day | Fuet (F) | | | | Chorizo (C) | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Control – spontaneous fermentation (nS) | | Starter (S) | | Control – spontaneous fermentation (nS) | | Starter (S) | |
| | Not pressurized | Pressurized (P) | Not pressurized | Pressurized (P) | Not pressurized | Pressurized (P) | Not pressurized | Pressurized (P) |
| | FnS-nP | FnS-P | FS-nP | FS-P | CnS-nP | CnS-P | CS-nP | CS-P |
| LAB | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 3.47 (0.13) | 3.47 (0.13) | 5.70 (0.13) | 5.70 (0.13) | 3.65 (0.41) | 3.65 (0.41) | 5.65 (0.14) | 5.65 (1.38) |
| 7 | 8.29 (0.03) | 8.27 (0.02) | 9.39 (0.45) | 8.96 (0.04) | 8.26 (0.07) | 8.41 (0.03) | 9.54 (0.05) | 8.98 (1.45) |
| 13 | 8.81 (0.09) | 8.80 (0.04) | 9.14 (0.14) | 9.16 (0.07) | 9.03 (0.16) | 9.12 (0.10) | 9.59 (0.05) | 9.74 (0.03) |
| 21 | 8.18 (0.23) | 8.74 (0.15) | 8.78 (0.15) | 8.70 (0.07) | 8.66 (0.11) | 8.95 (0.14) | 9.31 (0.11) | 9.51 (0.13) |
| GCC+ | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 4.04 (0.64) | 4.09 (0.64) | 5.55 (0.10) | 5.60 (0.10) | 3.16 (0.28) | 3.68 (0.28) | 6.58 (0.08) | 5.73 (1.16) |
| 7 | 5.49 (0.29) | 5.49 (0.64) | 6.05 (0.31) | 5.53 (0.15) | 5.79 (0.55) | 6.75 (0.22) | 7.04 (0.26) | 6.51 (0.33) |
| 13 | 6.21 (0.07) | 6.99 (0.42) | 7.30 (0.46) | 6.84 (0.79) | 6.99 (0.13) | 7.37 (0.24) | 7.32 (0.37) | 6.44 (0.70) |
| 21 | 6.15 (0.26) | 7.41 (0.81) | 7.40 (0.29) | 6.86 (0.19) | 6.68 (0.06) | 7.42 (0.14) | 7.13 (0.47) | 6.67 (0.39) |
| Enterococci | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 2.64 (0.06) | 2.66 (0.06) | 2.48 (0.13) | 2.29 (0.13) | 2.66 (0.47) | 4.62 (0.47) | 2.90 (0.39) | 2.59 (0.26) |
| 7 | 4.62 (0.24) | 4.75 (0.16) | 2.06 (0.21) | 2.20 (0.17) | 4.73 (0.21) | 4.57 (0.30) | 2.37 (0.17) | 2.33 (0.43) |
| 13 | 4.78 (0.76) | 4.26 (0.20) | 2.13 (0.35) | 2.28 (0.20) | 4.62 (0.49) | 4.63 (0.31) | 2.22 (0.17) | 2.16 (0.28) |
| 21 | 3.79 (0.28) | 4.32 (0.17) | 2.14 (0.08) | 1.88 (0.25) | 4.19 (0.41) | 4.79 (0.18) | 2.50 (0.05) | 2.33 (0.05) |
| Enterobacteria | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | <2 | <2 | <2 | <2 | <2 | <2 | <2 | <2 |
| 7 | 5.60 (1.10) | <2 | <2 | <2 | 6.62 (0.44) | 3.60 (0.59) | <2 | <2 |
| 13 | 4.51 (1.24) | <2 | <2 | <2 | 5.67 (1.10) | 3.63 (0.95) | <2 | <2 |
| 21 | <2 | <2 | <2 | <2 | 3.52 (0.66) | 2.48 (1.36) | <2 | <2 |

^a Data are expressed as the mean and in italics the standard deviation of the three sausage replicates.

Thereafter, a decrease was observed to $<10^2$ CFU/g in fuet and to 5×10^3 CFU/g in chorizo at the end of the ripening. HHP treatment inhibited enterobacteria growth in fuet (FnS-P), in which they were below the detection limit throughout the ripening, and significantly reduced its development in chorizo (CnS-P). Nevertheless, starter cultures were much more effective in inhibiting enterobacteria growth, since they quickly decreased not only in fuet (FS-nP and FS-P) but also in chorizo (CS-nP and CS-P) sausages.

3.2. Physico-chemical and proteolysis related parameters

Fig. 2 shows the pH and Aw values of sausages during the production process. Initial pH values were within the normal range (Ordóñez, Hierro, Bruna, & de la Hoz, 1999). Spontaneously fermented batches showed a weak acidification without statistically significant effect due to HHP application. Chorizo sausages showed slightly lower pH values than fuet, which could be related to an extra amount of fermentable carbohydrates coming from paprika added to chorizo (Lois, Gutiérrez, Zumalacárregui, & López, 1987). The inoculation of the starter resulted

in a much stronger acidification during the first week of production, again to lower pH values in chorizo than in fuet. Then, a pH increase of 0.35–0.42 U occurred and as a consequence final pH values were not significantly different from the corresponding spontaneously fermented batches. The HHP treatment did not seem to affect the fermentative activity of either the spontaneous microflora or the starter culture, and the course of acidification was the same between non-pressurized and pressurized sausages.

Values of Aw decreased gradually during the first two weeks and more intensively during the last week of the ripening, reaching final values lower than 0.85 in all products. No significant differences were found between products (fuet and chorizo), by the inoculation of starters or by HHP treatment. The same can be said regarding water content decrease (from 62.5% to 36.7% on average). Since all samples were hung in the same climatic chamber under the same environmental conditions, it can be concluded that the drying process was not affected by the different formulation (type of product), the inoculation of starter cultures or the high pressure processing.

The evolution of the proteolysis related parameters was affected by the type of product, the inoculation of starter

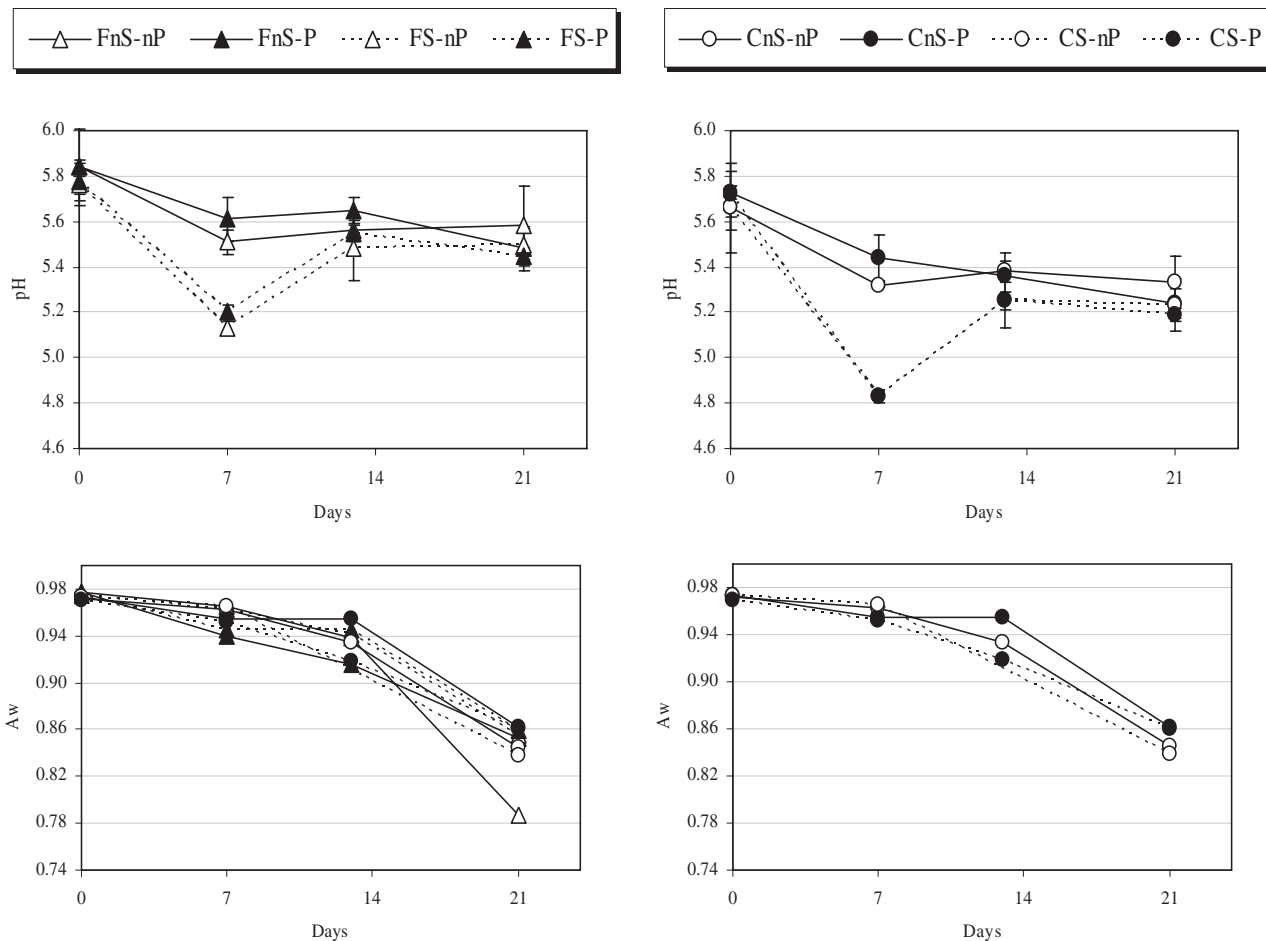


Fig. 2. Changes in pH (top) and water activity (bottom) during the manufacture of fuet (F, left column) and chorizo (C, right column) through spontaneously (nS) and starter (S) mediated fermentation, without (nP) and with (P) high hydrostatic pressure treatment.

culture as well as the application of HHP, but in a different manner depending on the parameter (Table 2). The PI, as the percentage of NPN among total nitrogen, did not increase significantly during manufacture, and the starter culture had little influence. By contrast, HHP treatment resulted in higher values of PI, which was especially evident for chorizo sausages. However, differences in the overall PI among the four batches of each product were not statistically significant according to the post hoc contrasts of the ANOVA test (HSD of Tuckey). Concerning the content of free amino acids, values of AAN increased gradually throughout the ripening, at a higher rate in chorizo sausages in comparison with fuet. Although batches with starter cultures tended to show higher AAN values than those spontaneously fermented, differences were never statistically significant. Neither did the HHP seem to exert any effect on AAN release. The proteolysis occurring during meat fermentation is a rather complicated phenomenon involving several types of endogenous and microbial enzymes (Ordóñez et al., 1999). The respective roles have been a source of controversy, but numerous studies over the last decade have concluded that muscle proteinases (particularly cathepsin D) are activated by the drop of pH and seem primarily responsible for proteolysis during the early fermentation, while bacterial enzymes are more important during the latter stages of ripening (Hughes et al., 2002). It has been reported that high pressure up to 400 MPa may induce proteolysis due to lysosomal membrane breakdown with the consequent release of proteases into the cytosol and, in turn, the activation of some cathepsins (Homma, Ikeuchi, & Suzuki, 1994; Jung, Lamballerie-Anton, Taylor, & Ghoul, 2000). In the present study,

although the PI values show a tendency to be higher in pressurized batches when compared to non-treated ones, nothing can be stated about the effect of HHP (200 MPa) on the proteolytic changes during the ripening of fuet and chorizo.

The high pressure processing of the meat batter did not significantly affect the ripening performance, since no significant differences were observed in the pH, Aw and proteolysis. Moreover, the colour of the sausages was not visually affected by the pressure treatment applied.

3.3. Aminogenesis

Contents of biogenic amines of raw materials are shown in Table 3. In meat batter, the only amines present in significant amounts were the physiological polyamines spermidine and spermine, which conforms with the high hygienic quality of meat used for sausage elaboration, as do the microbial counts. Other biogenic amines were found in the spices. In the particular case of powdered garlic, added in chorizo manufacture, considerable levels of tyramine and lower levels of phenylethylamine were detected. However, the final quantitative contribution of these spices to the total biogenic amine pool in the stuffed sausage was insignificant (always below 0.05 mg/kg to the final mixture), since they are incorporated in low concentrations from 2.5 g/kg to 15 g/kg. On the other hand, the aerobic counts in spices ranged from 4.6 to 7.4 log(CFU/g), and thus their contribution to total bacterial load of the meat batter might be calculated to range from 2 to 5 log(CFU/g) depending on the spices. The occurrence of biogenic amines (especially aromatic amines and cadaverine) in

Table 2

Results^a on proteolytic related parameters (α -amino nitrogen, NAA; non-protein nitrogen, NPN; proteolysis index, PI) during the manufacture of fuet and chorizo through spontaneously and starter mediated fermentation, without and with high hydrostatic pressure treatment

| Day | Fuet (F) | | | | Chorizo (C) | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| | Spontaneous fermentation (nS) | | Starter (S) | | Spontaneous fermentation (nS) | | Starter (S) | |
| | Not pressurized (nP) | Pressurized (P) | Not pressurized | Pressurized (P) | Not pressurized (nP) | Pressurized (P) | Not pressurized (nP) | Pressurized (P) |
| | FnS-nP | FnS-P | FS-nP | FS-P | CnS-nP | CnS-P | CS-nP | CS-P |
| AAN (mg/g dw) | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 1.10 (0.11) | 1.41 (0.10) | 1.23 (0.05) | 1.41 (0.12) | 1.28 (0.17) | 1.58 (0.28) | 1.37 (0.09) | 1.66 (0.19) |
| 7 | 1.74 (0.27) | 1.60 (0.10) | 2.56 (0.69) | 2.02 (0.20) | 2.06 (0.06) | 2.19 (0.22) | 2.40 (0.07) | 2.46 (0.14) |
| 13 | 2.99 (0.62) | 1.64 (0.04) | 2.32 (0.19) | 2.41 (0.20) | 2.64 (0.06) | 2.64 (0.03) | 3.11 (0.18) | 2.90 (0.11) |
| 21 | 1.97 (0.26) | 2.08 (0.10) | 1.92 (0.15) | 2.51 (0.02) | 3.12 (0.32) | 3.07 (0.18) | 2.83 (0.09) | 3.42 (0.18) |
| NPN (mg/g dw) | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 1.20 (0.75) | 1.83 (0.45) | 1.44 (0.28) | 2.74 (0.88) | 3.23 (0.50) | 4.01 (2.26) | 4.06 (0.58) | 4.60 (1.08) |
| 7 | 1.14 (0.68) | 1.60 (0.10) | 3.64 (2.94) | 2.28 (1.21) | 7.10 (3.48) | 5.66 (0.27) | 6.05 (1.15) | 4.22 (1.31) |
| 13 | 0.86 (0.56) | 2.25 (0.21) | 1.61 (1.01) | 2.70 (0.58) | 2.92 (1.01) | 3.73 (0.41) | 0.72 (0.21) | 2.91 (0.63) |
| 21 | 2.17 (1.18) | 3.55 (0.68) | 1.86 (0.47) | 3.76 (0.54) | 4.07 (1.30) | 4.56 (1.98) | 3.73 (1.64) | 5.28 (0.06) |
| PI (%) | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 1.54 (0.14) | 2.54 (0.60) | 1.48 (0.09) | 3.31 (1.12) | 1.84 (0.16) | 5.68 (2.91) | 2.14 (0.11) | 7.16 (1.43) |
| 7 | 2.36 (0.37) | 2.12 (0.05) | 3.16 (0.85) | 2.86 (1.58) | 2.77 (0.02) | 7.66 (0.43) | 3.41 (0.28) | 5.73 (1.57) |
| 13 | 4.06 (0.69) | 2.99 (0.22) | 2.88 (0.28) | 3.27 (0.67) | 3.31 (0.01) | 4.77 (0.53) | 4.23 (0.14) | 4.06 (0.96) |
| 21 | 2.62 (0.13) | 4.45 (0.75) | 2.37 (0.10) | 5.07 (1.11) | 3.65 (0.31) | 5.72 (2.21) | 3.76 (0.07) | 6.96 (0.34) |

^a Data are expressed as the mean and in italics the standard deviation of the three sausage replicates.

Table 3

Mean (standard deviation) values of biogenic amine contents (mg/kg fresh matter) of spices and raw meat batter used for sausage manufacturing

| | Black pepper | Paprika | Cayenne pepper | Powdered garlic | Meat batter |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Tyramine | 3.69 (0.12) | 3.60 (0.38) | 0.48 (0.01) | 15.76 (0.12) | <0.3 |
| Phenylethylamine | n.d. ^a | n.d. | n.d. | 2.03 (0.18) | n.d. |
| Putrescine | n.d. | 5.40 (0.18) | 2.92 (0.28) | 10.23 (0.27) | n.d. |
| Cadaverine | 2.50 (0.09) | 3.34 (0.12) | <0.3 | 2.31 (0.08) | n.d. |
| Agmatine | n.d. | 4.48 (0.25) | 7.79 (0.44) | 3.10 (0.09) | n.d. |
| Spermidine | 0.76 (0.15) | 6.34 (0.30) | 4.00 (0.82) | 32.72 (0.02) | 2.82 (0.38) |
| Spermine | 5.04 (0.66) | 8.70 (0.38) | 4.13 (1.05) | 20.49 (0.13) | 24.26 (3.64) |

^a n.d., not detected.

spices may be indicative of contamination with amino acid-decarboxylase positive microorganisms. In this sense, spices might have been vehicles of potentially aminogenic microorganisms to meat batter or eventually amino acid-decarboxylase enzymes, which might have contributed to biogenic amine accumulation during the subsequent fermentation and ripening process.

During sausage manufacture, contents of physiological polyamines did not show significant changes ($p > 0.05$). No influence of starter inoculation or HHP processing was observed in either type of product, fuet or chorizo (Fig. 3). These data are in agreement with the hypothesis that spermidine and spermine in meat products are of endogenous origin, not being formed by microbial activity.

By contrast, the main biogenic amines associated with bacterial activity in fermented meat products (tyramine, putrescine and cadaverine) were influenced by all three variables studied (product type, starter culture and HHP treatment), in a different manner depending on the amine

(Fig. 4). Batches without starter culture and no HHP treatment (that is, FnS-nP and CnS-nP) can be considered as “control”, from which the influence of formulation on the quantitative and qualitative aspects of aminogenesis can be determined. Biogenic amine accumulation was much lower in fuet than in chorizo sausages. Tyramine was the only biogenic amine detected in fuet, whereas cadaverine was the major amine in chorizo sausages, which is usually associated with lysine-decarboxylase activity of undesirable Gram-negative bacteria (Bover-Cid & Holzappel, 1999; Bover-Cid, Miguélez-Arrizado, Latorre-Moratalla, & Vidal-Carou, 2006). Tyramine was the second amine, followed by putrescine. No other biogenic amine (histamine, phenylethylamine or tryptamine) was detected in any sample. Several explanations can be made to account for the differences in the biogenic amine accumulation between products. On the one hand, the spices added in chorizo (mainly garlic, but also cayenne pepper and paprika) may have been a vehicle of aminogenic contami-

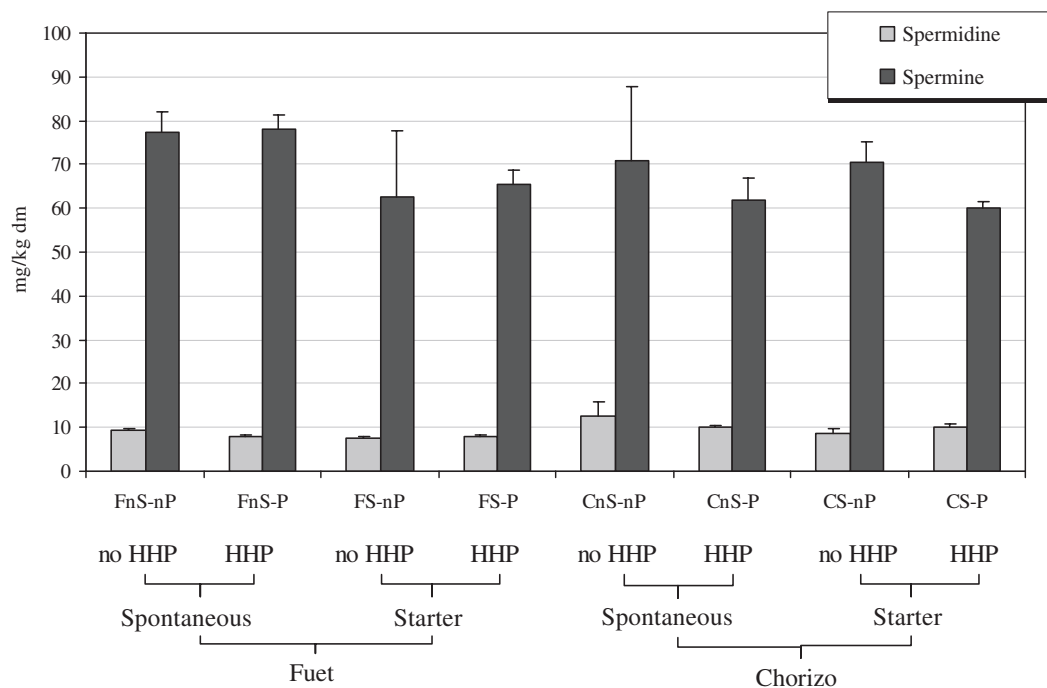


Fig. 3. Polyamine contents in fuet and chorizo sausages manufactured through spontaneously and starter mediated fermentation, without and with high hydrostatic pressure treatment.

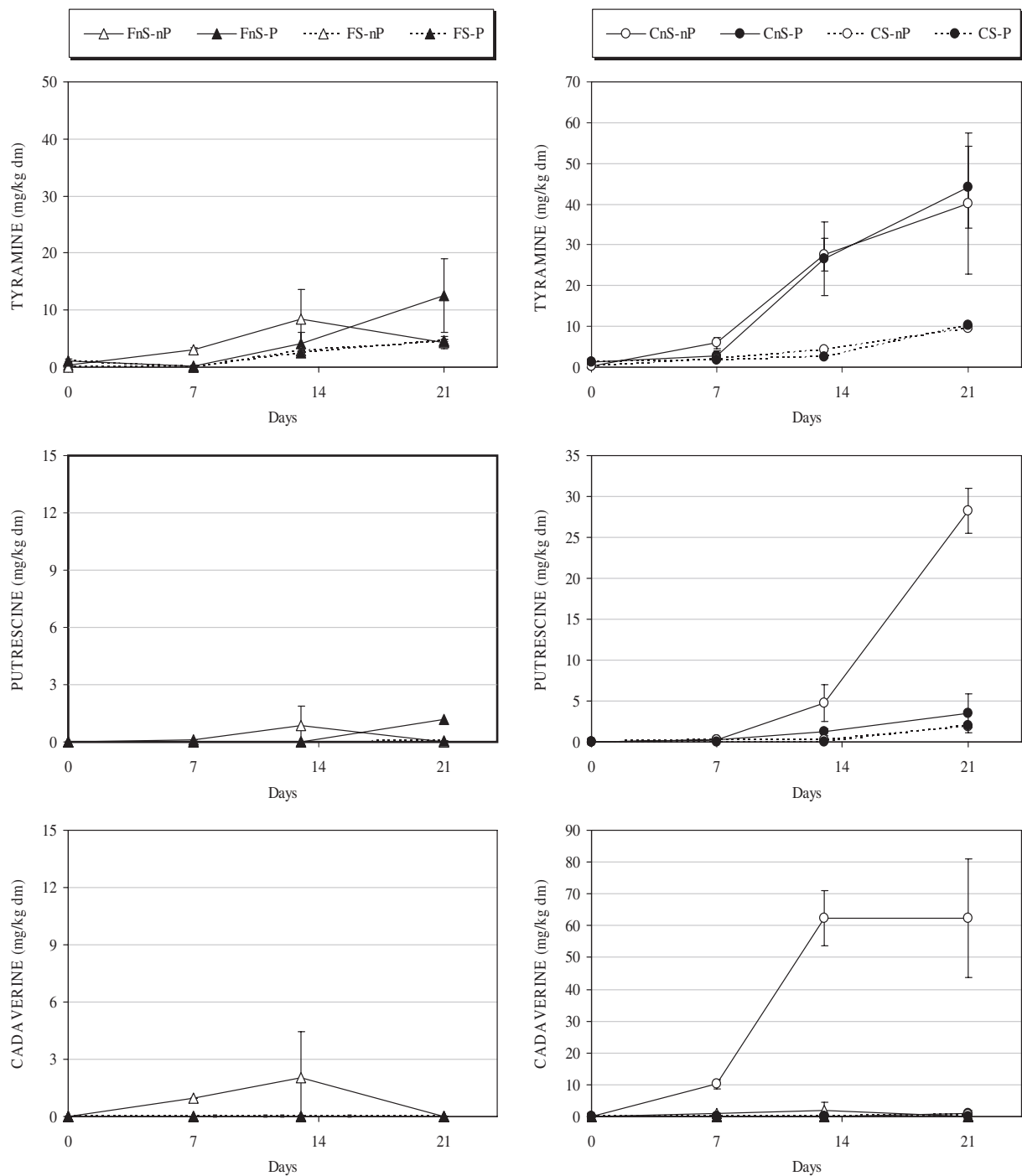


Fig. 4. Changes in tyramine, putrescine and cadaverine contents during the manufacture of fuet (F, left column) and chorizo (C, right column) through spontaneously (nS) and starter (S) mediated fermentation, without (nP) and with (P) high hydrostatic pressure treatment.

nant bacteria or decarboxylases enzymes. Another difference between products was the amount of curing agents, since fuet contained up to twice the initial nitrate and nitrite content in comparison to chorizo, in which 0.05 g/kg nitrate and 0.04 g/kg nitrite were incorporated as constituents of cayenne pepper and paprika (Garriga et al., 2005). Under these concentrations bacteria are less inhibited in chorizo than in fuet. Moreover, chorizo reached

lower pH values and higher free amino acid contents during fermentation. Both factors are known to favour biogenic amine production by microorganisms, since bacterial decarboxylase enzymes are induced by the presence of precursor amino acids at mild acid pH (Bover-Cid & Holzapfel, 1999). Nevertheless, the extremely low levels of biogenic amines in fuet sausages were surprising in comparison to the variable but higher levels (140 mg/

kg on average with a relative standard deviation of 73%) usually reported for similar products (Miguélez-Arrizado, Bover-Cid, Latorre-Moratalla, & Vidal-Carou, 2006). In previous work (Bover-Cid et al., 2006) the aminogenesis in spontaneously fermented fuet was much more important, even when the hygienic quality of raw materials was optimal in both cases. In this cited work, the temperature of fermentation was considerably higher (17 °C) than in the present study (12 °C), and this may suggest that, besides the hygiene of raw materials and formulation, temperature might be a technologically important parameter to control the aminogenic activity of spontaneous fermenting microorganisms.

Low contents of biogenic amines were also observed in the other three batches of fuet manufactured, which only allows to confirm that starter cultures prevented production of biogenic amines under *in situ* sausage fermentation environment, and HPP treatment did not have any influence. Therefore, the protective effect of HPP processing and indigenous starter culture will be discussed based on the results obtained for chorizo sausages. In spontaneously fermented sausages, the application of HPP (batch CnS-P) resulted in a strong inhibition of diamine accumulation, the levels of putrescine and cadaverine being up to 88% and 98% lower than the non-pressurized batch (CnS-nP). By contrast, tyramine production was almost equal in both batches. It seems that high pressure (at 200 MPa) has a hygeinizing effect reducing the lysine- and ornithine-decarboxylase activity of contaminant bacteria in agreement with the also reduced counts of enterobacteria; whereas tyrosine-decarboxylase positive microorganisms, such as enterococci, are not sensitive to the applied pressure.

Little is known about the effect of HPP treatment of raw materials on the aminogenesis occurring during food fermentation. Some reports have been published dealing with cheese making. Milk pressurization at 500 MPa for 15 min at 20 °C was equivalent to heat pasteurization (72 °C for 15 seg), without differences on biogenic amine accumulation (Novella-Rodríguez, Veciana-Nogués, Trujillo-Mesa, et al., 2002). The application of 400 MPa for 5 min to dried curds after salting in brine, in order to accelerate cheese ripening, had no significant effect on aminogenesis in comparison to untreated samples. However, milder and longer high-pressure treatment (50 MPa for 72 h) yielded almost 3-fold higher tyramine contents (Novella-Rodríguez, Veciana-Nogués, Saldo, & Vidal-Carou, 2002).

The inoculation of strains previously selected among indigenous sausage microflora as starter culture was the most protecting measure to avoid biogenic amine accumulation during chorizo manufacture. Indeed, starters were not only able to reduce up to 93% putrescine and up to 99% cadaverine accumulation, but also about 76% of tyramine. Starter cultures are not always reported as being able to reduce or inhibit the accumulation of all biogenic amines, which have been attributed to their low competitiveness or difficulty to adapt to meat fermentation (Bover-Cid, Hugas, et al., 2000). If starters are accurately

selected among decarboxylase-negative strains isolated from fermented sausages, the probability of success is much higher. As reported in a previous work (Bover-Cid, Izquierdo-Pulido, & Vidal-Carou, 2000), mixed starter cultures of *L. sakei* (strain CTC494) with *S. xylosum* (strain CTC3037 or CTC3050) were effective in reducing 90% of the overall aminogenesis in fuet. The results obtained proved the suitability of the selected indigenous starters for both types of fermented product (fuet and also chorizo).

4. Conclusion

The high pressure treatment (200 MPa for 10 min at 17 °C) applied to meat batter showed a strong inhibitory effect on diamine formation, but hardly any influence on tyramine accumulation. Moreover, high hydrostatic pressure processing before sausage fermentation did not reduce the capability of the inoculated lactobacilli and staphylococci strains to lead the fermentation, which wielded a strong protective effect against tyramine and diamine producing microflora. The pressurization of meat batter did not interfere with the ripening performance, since no significant differences were observed in pH, Aw, proteolysis and in the colour of the sausages. Therefore, it seems challenging and interesting to proceed with further research dealing with such non-thermal technology to improve the hygienic status of raw material.

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9.2 Evaluación de la eficacia de cambios en la formulación de productos cárnicos fermentados y/o el uso de cultivos iniciadores autóctonos

Artículo VIII.

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla, S. Bover-Cid, R. Talon, M. Garriga, E. Zanardi, A. Ianieri, M.J. Fraqueza, M. Elias, E.H. Drosinos, M.C. Vidal-Carou. (2010). Strategies to reduce biogenic amine accumulation in traditional sausage manufacturing. *LWT-Food science and Technology*, 43 (1): 20-25.

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Artículo IX.

R. Talon, S. Leroy, I. Lebert, P. Giammarinaro, J.P. Chacornac, **M.L. Latorre-Moratalla**, M.C. Vidal-Carou, E. Zanardi, M. Conter, A. Lebecque. (2008). Safety improvement and preservation of typical sensory qualities of traditional dry fermented sausages using autochthonous starter cultures. *International Journal of Food Microbiology*, 126: 227-234.

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9.2.1 Planteamiento y objetivo del estudio

Existen estudios que confirman que el tipo y cantidad de ingredientes y aditivos utilizados en la formulación de los productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados y el uso de cultivos iniciadores de la fermentación son factores que influyen o modulan la formación de aminas biógenas en este tipo de productos. Sin embargo, los estudios sobre la eficacia de estos factores para la reducción de la aminogénesis en productos cárnicos fermentados artesanales, con unas características particulares de elaboración, son muy escasos.

Tal como se ha señalado en apartados anteriores el uso de cultivos iniciadores autóctonos, formados por cepas de microorganismos autóctonos, y por lo tanto bien

adaptados a la ecología de la fermentación de los productos elaborados artesanalmente, y que carezcan de actividad aminoácido descarboxilasa, se presenta como una de las medidas de control más prometedora para este fin.

El objetivo de esta parte del trabajo, enmarcado dentro del proyecto europeo Tradisausage, fue evaluar la eficacia de dos tipos de estrategias de control para evitar la formación de aminas biógenas en productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados elaborados artesanalmente y originarios de diferentes países europeos. Las estrategias estudiadas consistieron en la modificación de la formulación incrementando las concentraciones de azúcar y/o la inoculación de cultivos iniciadores artesanales, específicamente aislados y seleccionados para cada tipo de producto y previamente caracterizados como aminoácido-descarboxilasa negativos *in vitro* (Capítulo 7.1)

9.2.2 Diseño experimental

Todos los productos cárnicos fermentados se elaboraron a partir de carne de cerdo junto con otros ingredientes y especias que varían según el país de procedencia (Tabla 4.1 de la sección Material y Métodos). Las estrategias aplicadas se eligieron en función de las características y necesidades particulares de cada producto o fabricante. Las estrategias concretas aplicadas por cada uno de los participantes se resumen en la Tabla 9.1. Para cada una de las estrategias se elaboró un lote del mismo tipo de embutido elaborado según la manera habitual sin la aplicación de la estrategia (lote control).

9.2.3 Resultados

Evaluación de la eficacia de las diferentes estrategias en la reducción de los contenidos de aminas en productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados.

El incremento en la concentración de azúcar (dextrosa y sacarosa) en la formulación del producto italiano *salame abruzzese* de hasta el 0,38% en el caso del lote F1 y hasta el 0,50% en el F2, redujo significativamente los contenidos finales de cadaverina en un 43% y en un 21% respectivamente, al ser comparados con el lote control, elaborado con 0.26% de azúcar. Sin embargo, los contenidos de tiramina no se redujeron en ninguno de los dos casos.

Tabla 9.1. Estrategias aplicadas por cada planta elaboradora de diferentes países europeos.

| Estrategia | Producto (País) | Lote ^a | Artículo |
|--|----------------------------------|--|----------|
| Formulación (F) | <i>Salame abruzzese</i> (Italia) | F1: Dextrosa (0,19%) y Sacarosa (0,19%) F2: Dextrosa (0,30%) & Sacarosa (0,20%) | |
| | <i>Saucisson</i> (Francia) | F3: Sacarosa (0,50%) | |
| | Cultivo iniciador autóctono (S) | <i>Chouriço</i> (Portugal) | |
| S2: <i>S. equorum</i> | | | |
| S3: <i>L. sakei</i> y <i>S. equorum</i> | | | |
| <i>Fuet</i> (España) | | S4: <i>S. xylosus</i> CTC6013 y <i>L. sakei</i> CTC6626 | |
| | | S5: <i>S. xylosus</i> CTC6013 y <i>L. sakei</i> CTC494 | |
| <i>Aeros thasou</i> (Grecia) | | S6: <i>L. sakei</i> y aceite esencial de <i>Satureja thymbra</i> (0,5%) | |
| Formulación y Cultivo iniciador autóctono (FS) | <i>Saucisson</i> (Francia) | FS1: Sacarosa (0,50%) y <i>S. succinus</i> , <i>S. equorum</i> y <i>L. sakei</i> | IX |

^a Se elaboró paralelamente a cada lote con estrategia un lote control.

Contrariamente a lo ocurrido en los productos italianos, la adición de 5 g/kg de sacarosa en el *saucisson* francés (F3), no fue capaz de reducir los contenidos de aminas, siendo incluso los contenidos finales de cadaverina, tiramina e histamina ligeramente superiores a los encontrados en el lote control, elaborado sin la adición de azúcar.

En los productos donde se utilizó un cultivo iniciador autóctono se observaron contenidos inferiores de aminas con respecto al lote control (fermentado espontáneamente), aunque la intensidad de la reducción dependió de las cepas utilizadas y de la amina considerada. La mayor reducción se alcanzó en el producto griego *Aeros thasou* (S6) que se elaboró con una cepa de *L. sakei* junto con un aceite esencial de la planta *Satureja thymbra*. Esta estrategia evitó totalmente la formación de putrescina y provocó una reducción significativa de histamina (71%) y de tiramina (62%). En los *xouriços* portugueses, tras el uso de la cepa de *S. equorum* (S2) los contenidos de putrescina se redujeron en un 45%, aunque no fue capaz de reducir la tiramina ni la putrescina. La cepa de *L. sakei* (S1) inoculada en este mismo producto se mostró mucho más eficaz que *S. equorum*, reduciendo la cadaverina en un 75% y la tiramina en un 17%. Cuando ambas cepas (*L. sakei* y *S. equorum*) se utilizaron conjuntamente (S3) la reducción de la cadaverina llegó a ser del 89%.

En el caso de los fuets españoles, el cultivo utilizado en el lote S4 (*L. sakei* CTC6626 y *S. xylosus* CTC6013) redujo ligeramente los contenidos de tiramina (19%) mientras que al utilizar una cepa diferente de *L. sakei* (CTC494) junto con el mismo *S. xylosus* (CTC6013), en el lote S5, redujo la tiraminogénesis cerca de un 50%. Este resultado demuestra que no sólo las especies sino también la cepa específica es un factor determinante del grado de reducción de los contenidos de aminas biógenas.

En el producto *saucisson* francés (FS1) se evaluó la eficacia de la combinación de las dos estrategias, el incremento en el contenido de azúcar y la inoculación de un cultivo iniciador autóctono formado por cepas de *S. succinus*, *S. equorum* y *L. sakei*, todas aminoácido descarboxilasa negativos *in vitro*. La aplicación de esta estrategia redujo los contenidos de tiramina en un 87%, los de cadaverina en un 35% y los de histamina en un 38%. Este resultado muestra que la inoculación de cultivos iniciadores autóctonos es mucho más eficaz que la simple adición de azúcar, ya que en este caso (en el lote F3) no se vio ningún efecto positivo sobre las aminas.

9.2.4. Aportaciones más relevantes

- La formulación, en cuanto al tipo y concentración de azúcar añadido, tiene un efecto diferente dependiendo del tipo de producto y de proceso de elaboración específico.
- La inoculación de cultivos iniciadores autóctonos se muestra como una estrategia efectiva para evitar la formación de aminas biógenas en este tipo de productos, sobre todo cuando forma parte del cultivo iniciador una cepa de *L. sakei*, sola o en combinación con otras cepas.
- Otros factores como el tipo de producto, las condiciones tecnológicas aplicadas o la planta elaboradora son claves para optimizar la eficiencia del cultivo iniciador autóctono inoculado.

Artículo VIII.

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Strategies to reduce biogenic amine accumulation in traditional sausage manufacturing

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla^a, S. Bover-Cid^{a,1}, R. Talon^b, M. Garriga^c, E. Zanardi^d, A. Ianieri^e,
M.J. Fraqueza^f, M. Elias^g, E.H. Drosinos^h, M.C. Vidal-Carou^{a,*}

^a *Departament de Nutrició i Bromatologia, Facultat de Farmàcia, Universitat de Barcelona, Avinguda Joan XXIII s/n, E-08028 Barcelona, Spain- XaRTA (Catalonian Reference Network on Food Technology) - INSA (Nutrition and Food Safety Research Institute)*

^b *Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Centre de Recherches de Clermont-Ferrand-Theix, Microbiology Unit, 63 122 Saint-Genès Champanelle, France*

^c *Institute for Food and Agricultural Research and Technology (IRTA), Finca Camps i Armet, E-17121 Monells, Spain*

^d *Dipartimento di Produzioni Animali, Biotecnologie Veterinarie, Qualità e Sicurezza degli Alimenti, Università degli Studi di Parma, Via del Taglio, 8, 43100 Parma, Italy*

^e *Dipartimento di Scienze degli Alimenti, Università degli Studi di Teramo, Piazza Aldo Moro, 45, 64100 Teramo, Italy*

^f *Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária, CIISA, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Av. da Universidade Técnica, Polo Universitário, Alto da Ajuda, 1300-477 Lisboa, Portugal*

^g *School of Sciences and Technology, University of Évora, 94, 7002-554 Évora, Portugal*

^h *Department of Food Science and Technology, Agricultural University of Athens, 75 Iera Odos Str., Votanikos, GR-118 55 Athens, Greece*

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ABSTRACT

Different strategies in the reduction of biogenic amine accumulation during the manufacture of five European traditional fermented sausages were studied concerning sausage formulation, the increase of sugar in the Italian *salame abruzzese* reduced the accumulation of cadaverine up to 43%. However, the addition of sugar in the French *saucisson* did not show a significant amine reduction. The inoculation of a decarboxylase-negative autochthonous starter culture reduced the biogenic amine accumulation in a different manner depending on the species and strain(s). The highest reduction was achieved by *Lactobacillus sakei* used in the Greek *aeros thasou*, resulting in a total putrescine reduction and a significant decrease in tyramine (62%) and histamine (71%). In Portuguese *chouriços* cadaverine reduction was only of 45% when a single strain of *Staphylococcus equorum* was inoculated, whereas a single strain of *L. sakei* or a mixture of *S. equorum* yielded a 75% and 89% of reduction, respectively. In Spanish *fuet*, a combination of *L. sakei* CTC6626 plus *S. xylosus* CTC6013 had only a very slight effect on tyramine reduction (19%) in Spanish *fuet*, whereas *L. sakei* CTC494 plus *S. xylosus* CTC6013 was capable to reduce tyraminogenesis by nearly 50%, suggesting that *L. sakei* CTC494 was the strain responsible for the additional tyramine reduction.

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1. Introduction

Traditionally, interest in the study of biogenic amines such as tyramine and histamine in foods has been linked to their potential risk for human health due to their vasoactive properties. Although biogenic amines have been studied for more than 30 years as hygiene indicator in meat, nowadays the interest of the study of mainly histamine, tyramine, cadaverine and putrescine is more relevant since food safety requirements are higher. Fermented foods, and particularly fermented meat products, constitute one of the foods in which considerable amounts of biogenic amines can be

found and their levels reported in the literature vary in a wide range (Latorre-Moratalla et al., 2008; Suzzi & Gardini, 2003). In general, tyramine along with putrescine, cadaverine and histamine are the most important amines detected in fermented sausages of both industrial and artisan origin (Miguélez-Arrizado, Bover-Cid, Latorre-Moratalla, & Vidal-Carou, 2006; Montel, Masson, & Talon, 1999; Parente et al., 2001). These compounds are formed by the decarboxylation of the precursor amino acid by specific enzymes of microbial origin under suitable conditions. The manufacturing of fermented sausage allows the availability of the precursor free amino acids resulting from proteolytic phenomena and the growth of a variety of micro-organisms which can show aminogenic ability (Vidal-Carou, Veciana-Nogués, Latorre-Moratalla, & Bover-Cid, 2007).

In the current context in which food safety and food quality are important concerns, technological and scientific efforts are being

* Corresponding author. Fax: +34 93 403 59 31.

E-mail address: mcvidal@ub.edu (M.C. Vidal-Carou).

¹ Present address: Institute for Food and Agricultural Research and Technology (IRTA), Finca Camps i Armet, E-17121 Monells, Spain.

focused on minimizing the risks associated with potentially unhealthy food components as well as those related to poor hygienic practices. In this way, the development of appropriate manufacturing technologies to obtain sausages free or nearly free from biogenic amines is one of the current targets of the meat sector, including the traditional manufacturers. The importance of using measures focused on the hygienic quality of both raw material and processing units to avoid the development of aminogenic contaminant bacteria and in turn, to reduce biogenic amine content, is well known. However, proper hygiene may not be enough to avoid some biogenic amine formation and other technological measures must be applied in relation to sausage formulation, ripening conditions and starter culture (Leroy & Vuyst, 2004; Vidal-Carou et al., 2007). Lactic acid bacteria, responsible for the acidification process, and staphylococci, related to proteolysis, color formation and aroma development, are the micro-organisms commonly selected for use as starter cultures in fermented sausage. However, some species are more appropriate than others, and the selection should be performed to strain level (Bover-Cid & Holzapfel, 1999), when the negative amino acid decarboxylase ability is concerned.

Traditional fermented sausages are characterized by handmade manufacturing usually in small-scale units, following spontaneous fermentation by their particular in-house flora (Talon et al., 2007). These products suffer slight acidification and have sensorial properties nowadays very appreciated by the consumers. Available data show that these products are as susceptible to accumulation of biogenic amines as industrial products (Montel et al., 1999; Parente et al., 2001). There is therefore interest in exploiting technological measures to reduce aminogenesis during the manufacture of traditional fermented sausages, such as the use of an autochthonous starter culture (Benito et al., 2007; Villani et al., 2007) originating from meat, which lacks amino acid decarboxylase activity and is well adapted to the ecology of traditional meat fermentation.

The European project “Tradisaisage” (QLK1 CT-2002-02240) aimed to improve the quality and safety of traditional fermented sausages. As part of this project a first exploratory study of biogenic amine accumulation during the manufacture of different European, traditionally fermented sausages, was performed (Latorre-Moratalla et al., 2008). Afterwards, several processing units were selected to study the suitability of specific measures to reduce biogenic amine formation, and thus contribute to improving the global quality of these products. This paper presents the results of the application of technological strategies relating to sausage formulation or the addition of an autochthonous starter culture.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Samples

All products were manufactured from pork meat. Other ingredients such as sugar, curing salts and spices, and the manufacturing conditions, varied depending on the product and the processing unit. Table 1 summarizes the specific technological characteristics and the particular strategy applied by each project partner involved in the study. Different amounts of sugar were incorporated into Italian *salame abruzzese* and French *saucisson*. Different autochthonous starter cultures were used in Portuguese *chouriços*, Spanish *fuet* and Greek *aeros thasou*. The strategies applied were chosen depending on the specific requirements and particular characteristics of each product or manufacturer. A control sausage was manufactured in parallel without the application of the strategy (i.e. original formulation or spontaneous fermentation). Indigenous bacteria to be used as a starter culture were previously isolated from traditional sausages by each partner, and all strains were proven to lack decarboxylase activity (Bover-Cid, Hugas, Izquierdo-Pulido, & Vidal-Carou, 2001; Garriga et al., 2005). For each strategy, three sausages were sampled (minced and homogenized to obtain the analytical samples) at three points during the manufacturing process, point zero (Z): meat batter just stuffed, middle point (M): after fermentation (at the end of bacterial exponential growth) and final point (F): product after ripening, ready for consumption. The 14 samples studied, 9 strategies and 5 controls (one for each type of product), were analyzed by triplicate. Approximately 100 g of sample was wrapped in aluminum foil, packed under vacuum, frozen at -20°C and sent in dry ice to the laboratory, where samples were kept at -20°C until analysis.

2.2. Analytical methods

pH was measured using a micro computerized pH meter Crison 2001 (Crison Barcelona, Spain), inserting the electrode directly in the sausages. Water activity (a_w) values were obtained at 25°C with Aqualab[®] equipment (Decagon Devices Inc., Pullman, Washington). Moisture was determined by drying the sample at $100\text{--}105^{\circ}\text{C}$ to constant weight (AOAC, 2005).

Tyramine, histamine, putrescine and cadaverine were detected and quantified by ion-pair reverse-phase high performance liquid chromatography as described in Hernández-Jover, Izquierdo-Pulido, Veciana-Nogués, and Vidal-Carou (1996). This method is based on the formation of ion-pairs between biogenic amines, previously extracted with 0.6 mol/L perchloric acid (Panreac) from 5 to 10 g of sample without casings. The results are referred to dry

Table 1
Strategies applied by each country participating in the Tradisaisage Project.

| | Strategy ^a | Product (country) | Technology characteristics |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Formulation (F) | F1: dextrose (1.9 g/kg) & saccharose (1.9 g/kg) | <i>Salame abruzzese</i> (Italy) | Fermentation: 30 h at $18^{\circ}\text{C}/80\% \text{RH}$ Ripening: 21 days at $14^{\circ}\text{C}/70\% \text{RH}$ |
| | F2: dextrose (3 g/kg) & saccharose (2 g/kg) | <i>Saucisson</i> (France) | Fermentation: 2 days at $20^{\circ}\text{C}/90\% \text{RH}$ Ripening: 52 days at $12^{\circ}\text{C}/80\% \text{RH}$ |
| | F3: saccharose (5 g/kg) | | |
| Indigenous starter culture (S) | S1: <i>L. sakei</i> | <i>Chouriço</i> (Portugal) | Fermentation / Resting: 48 h at $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}/80\% \text{RH}$ Ripening/smoking: 8 days at $20^{\circ}\text{C}/70\% \text{RH}$ |
| | S2: <i>S. equorum</i> | | |
| | S3: <i>L. sakei</i> & <i>S. equorum</i> | | |
| | S4: <i>S. xyloso</i> CTC6013 & <i>L. sakei</i> CTC6626 | <i>Fuet</i> (Spain) | Fermentation: 2 days at $12^{\circ}\text{C}/85\% \text{RH}$ Ripening: 28 days at $10^{\circ}\text{C}/75\% \text{RH}$ |
| | S5: <i>S. xyloso</i> CTC6013 & <i>L. sakei</i> CTC494 | | |
| | S6: <i>L. sakei</i> & <i>Satureja</i> essential oil (5 g/kg) | <i>Aeros thasou</i> (Greece) | Fermentation: 7 days from $23\text{--}24^{\circ}\text{C}/92\text{--}94\% \text{RH}$ to $17\text{--}18^{\circ}\text{C}/80\text{--}82\% \text{RH}$ Ripening: 21 days at $15^{\circ}\text{C}/76\text{--}80\% \text{RH}$ |

^a A control sample was manufactured and monitored in parallel for comparison.

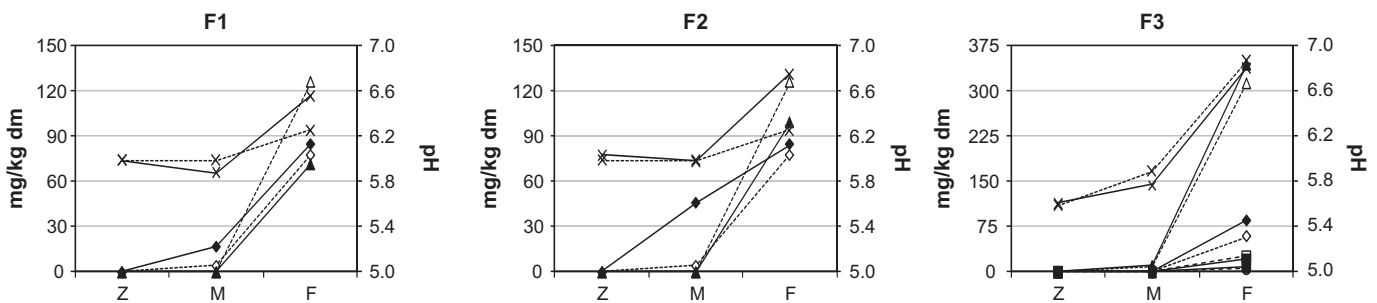


Fig. 1. Contents of tyramine (diamonds), putrescine (squares), cadaverine (triangles) and histamine (circles) and pH values (crosses) in samples just stuffed (Z), intermediate product after fermentation (M) and final product after ripening (F) using a modified strategy (—) in comparison with the corresponding control (- - -). F1: Dextrose (1.9 g/kg) & saccharose (1.9 g/kg); F2: dextrose (3 g/kg) & saccharose (2 g/kg) and F3: saccharose (5 g/kg).

matter (dm) to make comparable the biogenic amine values among products with different moisture during the drying process.

2.3. Statistical analysis

Analysis of the variance (ANOVA), Post-hoc contrast (HSD Tukey) and *t*-tests were performed using the software package SPSS v.11.0 for Windows (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

3. Results

Biogenic amine accumulation was monitored throughout the manufacture of traditional fermented sausages in which specific improving measures were applied: modification of sausage formulation (change of sugar type and/or quantity), and the inoculation of selected autochthonous starter cultures. The strategy applied, was compared with a control sample manufactured following the original formulation and processing conditions usually applied by the manufacturer.

3.1. Physicochemical parameters

The physicochemical parameters determined were a_w and pH, both of which are important for monitoring the sausages during maturation/ripening.

a_w decreased throughout the manufacturing process in all products and there were no differences between control and modified samples, values reaching between 0.87 and 0.92 in the final products.

The pH values of products with the addition of sugar did not suffer the typical pH decrease (Fig. 1), achieving values higher than those of the starter cultures. In the Italian sausages, the pH values were from 6 to 6.3 in the control, 6.6 in F1 and 6.8 in F2. French products showed an initial pH of 5.6 and final pH of 6.8 in the two cases. In the case of products inoculated with autochthonous starter culture decreased an average of 0.6 units during the fermentation step and in some products even throughout the ripening process (0.2 units). The values ranged from 5.4 to 6.3 in raw materials, from 4.7 to 5.7 after fermentation and from 4.6 to 5.7 in the final product depending on the origin of the product (Fig. 2).

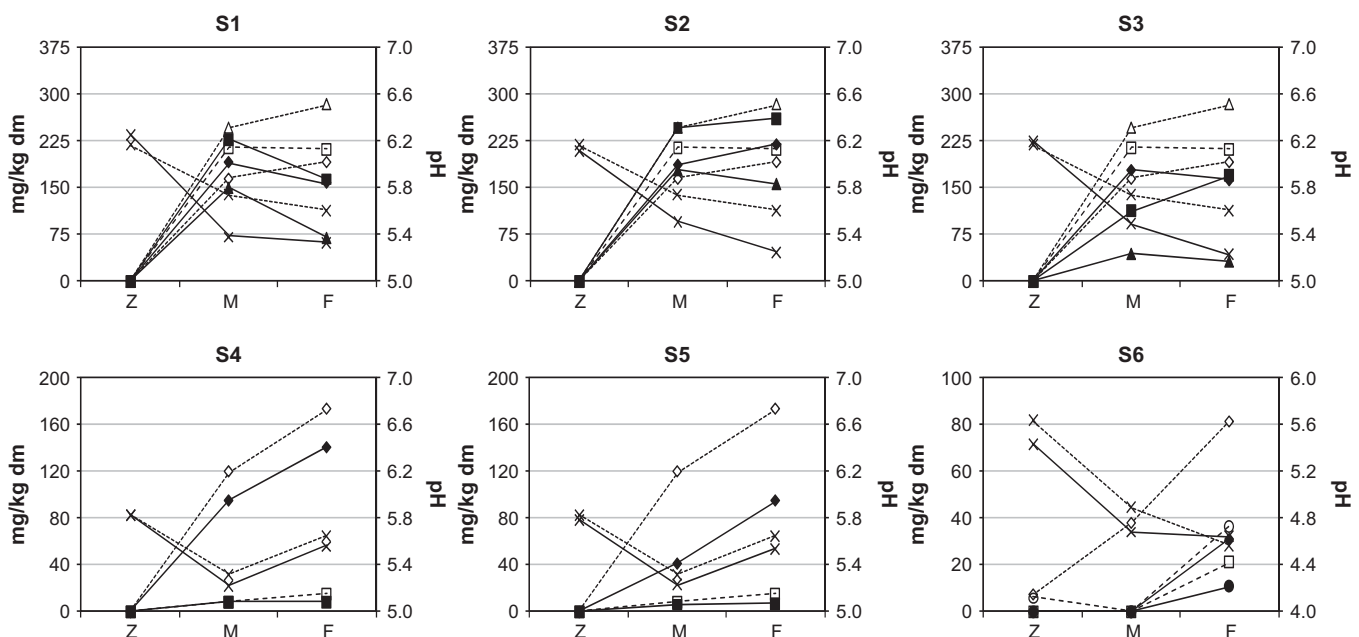


Fig. 2. Contents of tyramine (diamonds), putrescine (squares), cadaverine (triangles) and histamine (circles) and pH values (crosses) in samples just stuffed (Z), intermediate product after fermentation (M) and final product after ripening (F) using a modified strategy (—) in comparison with the corresponding control (- - -). S1: *L. sakei*; S2: *S. equorum*; S3: *L. sakei* & *S. equorum*; S4: *L. sakei* CTC6626 & *S. xyloso* CTC6013; S5: *L. sakei* CTC494 & *S. xyloso* CTC6013; S6: *L. sakei* & *Satureja thymbra* essential oil (5 g/kg).

3.2. Formulation changes

The modification of the formulation applied in the Italian *salame abruzzese* consisted of the addition of an increased amount of sugar (glucose and saccharose), 3.8 g/kg (F1) and 5 g/kg (F2), compared with the control manufactured with 2.6 g/kg of sugar as originally. Results are shown in Fig. 1. Biogenic amines found in the final product of the control were cadaverine (126 mg/kg dm) followed by tyramine (78 mg/kg dm). Putrescine and histamine were below the detection limit (<0.5 mg/kg) throughout manufacturing process. The increase in sugar (F1 and F2) significantly reduced ($p < 0.05$) the final content of cadaverine but not of tyramine ($p > 0.05$). In fact, the higher the sugar amount the earlier the tyramine accumulation occurred.

Strategy F3 corresponded to the French *saucisson* and was manufactured with 5 g/kg of saccharose. In the control product (manufactured without sugar), cadaverine was the most abundant amine, achieving final values of 313 mg/kg dm. Although in lower amounts, tyramine (59 mg/kg dm), putrescine (26 mg/kg dm) and histamine (6 mg/kg dm) were also found, though they appeared after the fermentation step. In contrast to the Italian *salame abruzzese*, in French products the addition of saccharose did not result in a decrease of biogenic amine formation. Slightly but significantly higher levels of cadaverine, tyramine and histamine were observed in the ripened products with added saccharose in comparison with the control.

3.3. Addition of autochthonous starter cultures

Fig. 2 shows the biogenic amine content during the manufacture of products from Portugal, Spain and Greece with the addition of autochthonous decarboxylase-negative starter culture.

Portuguese *chouriços* were inoculated with starter cultures consisting of: *Lactobacillus sakei* strain (S1), *Staphylococcus equorum* strain (S2) and both together (S3). High levels of biogenic amines were accumulated in the control *chouriço* (spontaneously fermented without starter), cadaverine was the main amine at levels higher than 280 mg/kg dm, while putrescine and tyramine reached contents near 200 mg/kg dm. The application of starter cultures had different effect depending on the amine and on the strains inoculated. Cadaverine was significantly reduced ($p < 0.05$) in all cases, obtaining the highest reduction when *L. sakei* was inoculated both alone (S1) or mixed with *S. equorum* (S3), in this last case the reduction was already observed in the fermentation step. Tyramine and putrescine were only slightly reduced by starters of S1 and S3, but only tyramine reduction was statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) when it was compared with the control product. In contrast, the

single strain of *S. equorum* (S2) failed to reduce significantly the accumulation of these two biogenic amines.

The strategy applied for the production of Spanish *fuet* involved two different combinations of starter bacteria. One consisted of *L. sakei* CTC6626 plus *Staphylococcus xylosum* CTC6013 (S4), and the other used *L. sakei* CTC494 plus *S. xylosum* CTC6013 (S5). Tyramine was the only amine present at considerable levels (174 mg/kg dm) in the control *fuet*. The level of putrescine was low (15 mg/kg dm) while cadaverine and histamine were not detected throughout the manufacturing process. The inoculation of starter cultures was able to reduce tyramine accumulation to a significantly different ($p < 0.05$) extent depending on the *L. sakei* strain used. Thus, the addition of the strain *L. sakei* CTC494 (S5) resulted in products with less than 100 mg/kg of tyramine whereas the use of *L. sakei* CTC6626 (S4) resulted in almost 150 mg/kg.

The strategy used to manufacture the Greek *aeros thasou* (S6) consisted of the inoculation of a single decarboxylase-negative starter culture strain of *L. sakei* complemented with 5 g/kg of *Satureja thymbra* essential oil, which acts as a natural antimicrobial agent. The *L. sakei* strain was used as an autochthonous starter culture instead of the commercial starter culture (containing *L. sakei*, *Staphylococcus carnosus* and *S. xylosum*) that is usually employed by the Greek manufacturer studied. Tyramine was the main amine present in the final product of the control (82 mg/kg dm). Histamine and putrescine were also found but at very low levels (37 and 21 mg/kg dm, respectively). Following application of the modified strategy, tyramine and histamine were significantly ($p < 0.05$) reduced, and the production of putrescine was inhibited to undetectable levels.

4. Discussion

In the present work, the technological strategies evaluated were chosen and applied on a case by case basis taking into account the product and producer characteristics and needs. Therefore, each strategy had its own control product for comparison. This type of design allowed the assessment of the particular effect of the strategy applied to the specific product in the specific traditional plant in which it was manufactured.

Overall, the strategies applied had different effects in terms of reduction (%) of biogenic amine accumulation in comparison with the corresponding control (Table 2). It is known that ingredients and additives used in dry sausage formulation are important factors to modulate the biogenic amine formation (Ruiz-Capillas & Jiménez-Colmenero, 2004; Vidal-Carou et al., 2007). With regards the strategies dealing with sausage reformulation, only the increase in sugar applied in products F1 and F2 reduced the accumulation of

Table 2

Summary of the effectiveness of the strategies expressed as % reduction of biogenic amine accumulation in comparison with the control. The symbol asterisk "*" indicates statistical significance ($p < 0.05$).

| Strategy | Batch | % Reduction | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-------------|------|-----|-----|
| | | TY | PU | CA | HI |
| Formulation | F1: glucose (1.9 g/kg) & saccharose (1.9 g/kg) | nr | – | 49* | – |
| | F2: glucose (3 g/kg) & saccharose (2 g/kg) | nr | – | 21* | – |
| | F3: saccharose (5 g/kg) | nr | 21 | nr | nr |
| Indigenous starter culture | S1: <i>L. sakei</i> | 17* | 23 | 75* | – |
| | S2: <i>S. equorum</i> | nr | nr | 45* | – |
| | S3: <i>L. sakei</i> & <i>S. equorum</i> | 15* | 20 | 89* | – |
| | S4: <i>L. sakei</i> CTC6626 & <i>S. xylosum</i> CTC6013 | 19* | 46* | – | – |
| | S5: <i>L. sakei</i> CTC494 & <i>S. xylosum</i> CTC6013 | 45* | 50* | – | – |
| | S6: <i>L. sakei</i> & <i>Satureja</i> essential oil (5 g/kg) | 62* | 100* | – | 71* |

TY: tyramine; PU: putrescine; CA: cadaverine; HI: histamine.

nr: No reduction.–: Not applicable, as amine was below the detection limit.

cadaverine, by 43% and 21% respectively. Consequently, a moderate increase in sugar (F1) achieved the best result, while further increase in sugar was less effective (F2) or totally failed (F3) to reduce cadaverine levels. Tyramine formation could not be reduced in any case irrespectively the amount and type of sugar added. The existing results in this subject are controversial. It has been suggested that the addition of certain concentrations of sugars to sausage formulations can promote the development of lactic acid bacteria, resulting in a rapid and sharp acidification, which has been reported as a key factor limiting the growth of contaminant bacteria with potential decarboxylase activity (Bover-Cid, Izquierdo-Pulido, & Vidal-Carou, 2001a; Maijala, Eerola, Lievonen, Hill, & Hirvi, 1995). González-Fernández, Santos, Jaime, and Rovira (2003) studied the effect of different concentrations of different types and combinations of sugar (glucose, lactose and sucrose) on the formation of biogenic amine in *chorizo* sausages and concluded that concentrations of sugar higher than 5 g/kg would reduce biogenic amine formation, probably due to the more rapid pH decrease. However, in the present work this higher drop in pH was not observed in samples supplemented with additional amounts of sugar. On the other hand, the high amount of sugar used in F3 seemed to presumably promote the growth and/or activity of aminogenic micro-organisms, which could explain the slight but significantly higher increase in the different biogenic amines. This was also observed in Bover-Cid et al. (2001a), who demonstrated that the lack of sugar in the formulation of *fuet* sausage generated an increase in tyramine and cadaverine levels in comparison with sausages formulated with glucose (4 g/kg) or glucose (1 g/kg) plus lactose (20 g/kg). Formerly, the study carried out by Vandekerckhove (1977) in dry sausages manufactured in a pilot plant with the addition of different sugar types (glucose, dextrins, lactose or maltose) revealed that they did not have any effect on biogenic amine production. Therefore, the effect of sausage formulation on biogenic amine reduction may depend on the technological factors used for sausage manufacture.

Concerning the strategies related to the addition of a decarboxylase-negative autochthonous starter culture, biogenic amines were reduced in a different manner depending on the strain used (Table 2). Whenever *L. sakei* was inoculated there was a reduction of all biogenic amines, from 17 to 100% depending on the strain and the amine considered. The highest biogenic amine reduction was achieved by the strain of *L. sakei* used in the Greek *aeros thasou* in combination with the essential oil (S6), resulting in total putrescine reduction and a significant decrease in tyramine (62%) and histamine (71%). On the other hand, when a single strain of *S. equorum* (S2) was inoculated, the cadaverine reduction was only 45%, being not able to reduce the tyramine and putrescine contents. The use of a mixed starter culture including lactobacilli and staphylococci was also quite successful, particularly in the case of cadaverine, for which the highest reduction (89%) was obtained in S3, inoculated with *L. sakei* and *S. equorum* strains. There are several studies supporting the usefulness of decarboxylase-negative single or mixed starter cultures for reducing aminogenesis during fermentation of dry sausage (Suzzi, & Gardini, 2003; Vidal-Carou et al., 2007), although to different extents depending on the amine. For instance, González-Fernández et al. (2003) concluded that the use of a competitive starter culture prevents the growth of micro-organisms responsible for biogenic amine formation in sausages manufactured under simulated industrial conditions. However, there are scarce studies about the effect of autochthonous starter cultures on biogenic amine accumulation. Talon et al. (2008) observed an 87% reduction in tyramine, a 38% reduction in histamine and a 35% reduction in cadaverine during the manufacture of traditional fermented sausages using an autochthonous starter culture

composed of *Staphylococcus succinus*, *S. equorum* and *L. sakei*, compared with spontaneous fermentation. This study, carried out in a real processing unit, proved that the use of an autochthonous starter can successfully replace the spontaneous fermented bacteria responsible for tyramine formation, and partially inhibits the growth of spoilage flora related to histamine and cadaverine formation. However, other studies suggested that the use of certain starter cultures does not guarantee the prevention of the aminogenesis (Bozkurt & Erkmen, 2002; Komprda et al., 2004). For instance, Parente et al. (2001) concluded that the commercial starter cultures (*Pediococcus pentosaceus* plus *S. xylosus*, and *L. sakei* plus *S. xylosus*) did not prevent the production of biogenic amines, irrespective of the type of products (*salsiccia* and *soppressata*), showing similar or often higher levels than the same products manufactured by traditional practices without starter.

The results obtained for the Spanish *fuet* (S4 and S5) indicate that it is not only the species but also the strain used that is important for biogenic amine reduction. The starter culture used in S4 (*L. sakei* CTC6626 plus *S. xylosus* CTC6013) had only a very slight effect on tyramine reduction (19%), whereas the starter inoculated in S5 (*L. sakei* CTC494 plus *S. xylosus* CTC6013) was able to reduce tyraminogenesis by nearly 50%, even when it was produced by the same manufacturer with the same raw material, ingredients and technological conditions. The strains used in this study had previously been shown to perform successfully as starter cultures in dry fermented sausages, showing a proper competitiveness and implantation in the product (Garriga et al., 2005; Hugas, Garriga, Aymerich, & Monfort, 1995). Moreover, Bover-Cid, Izquierdo-Pulido, and Vidal-Carou (2000) obtained a reduction of 90% of the total amine content using the *L. sakei* CTC494 strain as a starter culture in *fuet* sausages manufactured following industrial practices in an experimental pilot plant. Later, a practically total reduction of putrescine and cadaverine and 76% reduction of tyramine were reported by the use of the *L. sakei* CTC6626 and *S. xylosus* CTC6013 combination, among other strains, in the manufacture of traditional sausages, including *fuet* and *chorizo*, in an experimental pilot plant (Garriga et al., 2005; Latorre-Moratalla et al., 2007). The different degree of biogenic amine reduction achieved in the Spanish *fuet* (S4 and S5) manufactured in a real traditional processing plant in comparison with the above cited studies using other combinations of the same strains, may be due to the different technological conditions applied (industrial or traditional practices), the different type of product (*fuet* or *chorizo* sausages) and/or even processing places (experimental or industrial processing plant versus real traditional processing plant).

The high levels of cadaverine in these spontaneously fermented Portuguese *chouriços* are probably due to the higher counts of Enterobacteriaceae in products manufactured in this processing unit (Latorre-Moratalla et al., 2008). Enterobacteriaceae are the main factor responsible for cadaverine formation (Bover-Cid et al., 2001; Durlu-Özkaya, Ayhan, & Vural, 2001), so this could be considered as a good indicator to evaluate hygiene conditions for raw materials and/or the manufacturing process. On the other hand, the addition of *Satureja thymbra* essential oil (with a strain of *L. sakei* as a starter) in S6 could influence amine reduction, since it could act as an antimicrobial agent inhibiting the growth or activity of the decarboxylase-positive spoilage bacteria. The effectiveness of a starter culture seems to be strongly linked to the microbial quality of the raw material, as reported Bover-Cid, Izquierdo-Pulido, and Vidal-Carou (2001b) who showed that the reduction in biogenic amine accumulation by *L. sakei* strain CTC494 was not the same when different hygienic quality of raw material was used to sausage manufacturing.

In conclusion, it could be highlighted that the type and concentration of sugar (as a fermentation substrate) were only

useful for reducing cadaverine, which is the main biogenic amine produced by spoilage bacteria. The use of the autochthonous starters was the most effective strategy for reducing biogenic amine content in fermented sausage. Moreover, the results confirm the important role of the product, technological conditions and the manufacturing plant in the efficiency of the starter. Consequently it has to be borne in mind that it is not only the inoculation of the starter and the modification of formulation, but also optimal hygienic conditions of raw materials and processing conditions, contribute to favor the starter performance and to reduce the aminogenesis during traditional fermented sausages manufacture.

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Artículo IX.

R. Talon, S. Leroy, I. Lebert, P. Giammarinaro, J.P. Chacornac, **M.L. Latorre-Moratalla**, M.C. Vidal-Carou, E. Zanardi, M. Conter, A. Lebecque. (2008). Safety improvement and preservation of typical sensory qualities of traditional dry fermented sausages using autochthonous starter cultures. *International Journal of Food Microbiology*, 126: 227-234.

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Safety improvement and preservation of typical sensory qualities of traditional dry fermented sausages using autochthonous starter cultures

Régine Talon^{a,*}, Sabine Leroy^a, Isabelle Lebert^a, Philippe Giammarinaro^a, Jean-Paul Chacornac^a, Mariluz Latorre-Moratalla^b, Carmen Vidal-Carou^b, Emanuela Zanardi^c, Mauro Conter^c, Annick Lebecque^d

^a INRA, UR 454 Microbiologie, F-63122 Saint-Genès Champanelle, France

^b Departament de Nutrició i Bromatologia, Facultat de Farmàcia, Universitat de Barcelona, Avinguda Joan XXIII s/n, E-08028 Barcelona, Spain

^c Dipartimento di Produzioni Animali, Biotecnologie Veterinarie, Qualità e Sicurezza degli Alimenti, Università degli Studi di Parma, 43100 Parma, Italy

^d ENITA, UR Typicité des Produits Alimentaires, Site de Marmilhat, F-63370, Lempdes, France

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ABSTRACT

Traditional dry fermented sausages are manufactured without addition of starter cultures in small-scale processing units, their fermentation relying on indigenous microflora. Characterisation and control of these specific bacteria are essential for the sensory quality and the safety of the sausages. The aim of this study was to develop an autochthonous starter culture that improves safety while preserving the typical sensory characteristics of traditional sausages.

An autochthonous starter composed of *Lactobacillus sakei*, *Staphylococcus equorum* and *Staphylococcus succinus* isolated from a traditional fermented sausage was developed. These strains were tested for their susceptibility to antibiotics and their production of biogenic amines. This starter was evaluated *in situ* at the French traditional processing unit where the strains had been isolated. Effects of the autochthonous starter were assessed by analysing the microbial, physico-chemical, biochemical and sensory characteristics of the sausages. Inoculation with the chosen species was confirmed using known species-specific PCR assays for *L. sakei* and *S. equorum* and a species-specific PCR assay developed in this study for *S. succinus*. Strains were monitored by pulse-field gel electrophoresis typing. Addition of autochthonous microbial starter cultures improved safety compared with the traditional natural fermentation of sausages, by inhibiting the pathogen *Listeria monocytogenes*, decreasing the level of biogenic amines and by limiting fatty acid and cholesterol oxidation. Moreover, autochthonous starter did not affect the typical sensory quality of the traditional sausages.

This is the first time to our knowledge that selection, development and validation *in situ* of autochthonous starter cultures have been carried out, and also the first time that *S. equorum* together with *S. succinus* have been used as starter cultures for meat fermentation. Use of autochthonous starter cultures is an effective tool for limiting the formation of unsafe compounds in traditional sausage while preserving their original and specific sensory quality.

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1. Introduction

All European countries have cultural traditions linked to specific food products. However, probably due to the specific climatic conditions, there is a wider variety of production in the Southern European countries where, consequently, traditional products have a greater significance and economic weight (Jordana, 2000). There is an increased interest in traditional naturally fermented meats as outlined by the recent abundant literature. Mediterranean countries have a long history of producing these foods, often at local or regional level (Lebert et al., 2007b). There are a wide variety of dry fermented

products on the European market as a consequence of variations in the raw materials, formulations and manufacturing processes, originating from the habits and customs of the different countries and regions (Lebert et al., 2007a). These products are manufactured without addition of starter cultures in small-scale processing units. Thus fermentation in traditional dry sausages relies on indigenous bacteria (Aymerich et al., 2003). Knowledge and control of these typical bacteria during the processing are essential in terms of the microbiological quality, sensory characteristics and food safety.

In the last decade the ecology of fermented sausages has been studied by using traditional microbiological methods based on plating analysis and biochemical identification of the isolates. The introduction of molecular methods has confirmed and extended the knowledge especially of technological lactic acid bacteria (LAB) and Gram-positive catalase positive cocci (GCC+) (Aymerich et al., 2003; Corbière

* Corresponding author. INRA, UR454 Microbiologie, Qualité et Sécurité des Aliments, F-63122 Saint-Genès Champanelle, France. Fax: +33 473 624581.

E-mail address: regine.talon@clermont.inra.fr (R. Talon).

Morot-Bizot et al., 2004; Giammarinaro et al., 2005; Rantsiou and Cocolin, 2006; Urso et al., 2006). By using these methods, the LAB species the most commonly identified in traditional fermented sausages are *Lactobacillus sakei*, *Lactobacillus curvatus* and *Lactobacillus plantarum* (Aymerich et al., 2006; Urso et al., 2006). Among GCC+ isolates, *Staphylococcus xylosum*, *Staphylococcus equorum*, *Staphylococcus succinus* and *Staphylococcus saprophyticus* are mentioned, often with *S. xylosum* predominant (Mauriello et al., 2004; Corbière Morot-Bizot et al., 2006; Drosinos et al., 2007).

The identification of technological bacteria is necessary to select strains to be employed as an autochthonous starter culture (Villani et al., 2007). The main challenge in developing starter cultures is, of course, to improve safety, but also to preserve the typical sensory quality of traditional sausages. The development of starter culture based on indigenous technological bacteria of traditional sausages can be an alternative, as these strains should be well adapted to the environment, and compete well against contaminant strains.

The aim of this study was to develop an autochthonous starter culture that improves safety while preserving the typical sensory characteristic of traditional sausage. An autochthonous starter composed of three strains belonging to *L. sakei*, *S. equorum* and *S. succinus* was tested *in situ* in a French traditional processing unit where these dominant strains were previously isolated. The role of the autochthonous starter culture was assessed by microbial, physico-chemical, biochemical and sensory analyses of the final product. The monitoring of the three species was confirmed by species-specific PCR assays and pulse-field gel electrophoresis typing.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Characteristics of the strains

The *L. sakei* F08F202, *S. equorum* F08bF15 and *S. succinus* F08bF19 strains were all isolated from the traditional dry fermented sausages manufactured by the small French processing unit F08 (Lebert et al., 2007a). In these sausages, these three strains belonged to the dominant bacteria.

Antibiotic susceptibility of these three strains was tested by the agar disc diffusion method on Muller Hinton media (Merck) for *Staphylococcus* and on Man-Rogosa-Sharp agar (MRS, Merck) for *Lactobacillus*. The following antibiotics were tested: penicillin (6 µg), tetracycline (30 µg), erythromycin (15 µg), kanamycin (30 µg), chloramphenicol (30 µg), and ciprofloxacin (5 µg). After incubation at 37 °C for 18 h for *Staphylococcus* and at 30 °C for 24 h under anaerobic conditions for *Lactobacillus*, the antibiotic susceptibilities were evaluated according to the recommendations of the "Comité de l'Antibiogramme de la Société Française de Microbiologie".

Amino acid-decarboxylase activities of the three strains were determined according to Bover-Cid, Hugas, Izquierdo-Pulido and Vidal-Carou (2001). Pure cultures were inoculated in a decarboxylase broth containing the precursor amino acids (tyrosine, histidine, ornithine, lysine, phenylalanine, tryptophan), together with pyridoxal-5'-phosphate as cofactor, and growth factors. The type and amount of biogenic amines formed after 4 days of incubation (30 °C) were determined by HPLC according to Hernández-Jover, Izquierdo-Pulido, Veciana-Nogués and Vidal-Carou (1996).

2.2. Sausage manufacturing

Sausage trials were carried out in the small processing unit F08 manufacturing traditional sausages where the technological strains have been previously isolated. A batter of lean pork (2/3), pork fat (1/3), 30 g/kg NaCl, and spices (pepper, garlic) was prepared. Before filling the natural casings, the batter was divided into two batches of 20 kg each. Batch 1 was used for natural fermentation and considered as the control. In batch 2, sucrose (5 g/kg) and starter culture composed of a

mixture of the strains *L. sakei* F08F202, *S. equorum* F08bF15 and *S. succinus* F08bF19 at 10⁶ bacteria/g of each strain were added. The strains were grown overnight at 30 °C in MRS broth for *Lactobacillus* and in brain heart infusion (BHI, Merck) broth for *Staphylococcus*. Subsequently the cells were washed twice and suspended in saline water. Then 200 ml of the starter cultures in saline water was used to inoculate 20 kg of batter. In batch 1, 200 ml of saline water was added to 20 kg of batter.

Ripening was performed as follows: 48 h of fermentation at 20 °C with a relative humidity (RH) of 90% and 52 days of drying with 80% RH at 12 °C.

2.3. Sampling procedure

For each batch, three meat samples were examined: the stuffed batter (labelled Z), the product after fermentation (M) and the final product (F). For each sampling step, three sausages were taken.

2.4. Microbiological analysis

25 g of each sample was transferred to 225 ml of sterile buffered peptone water (BPW) solution and homogenised for 4 min with a Stomacher. Decimal dilutions in BPW solution were prepared. Duplicate 1 ml or 0.1 ml samples of appropriate dilutions were poured or spread on the selective media to enumerate the bacteria according to the methods described by Lebert et al. (2007a).

2.5. Molecular methods of monitoring starter strains

Twenty-four to 30 colonies were randomly selected on MRS (Merck) plates to monitor *L. sakei* and on mannitol salt agar (MSA, Merck) plates to monitor *S. equorum* and *S. succinus*. Colonies were isolated from each step of manufacturing (Z, M, F) for both batches. Colonies were grown on MRS agar for *L. sakei* and on BHI agar (Merck) for staphylococci. The isolates were stored at –80 °C in 20% glycerol before molecular analysis.

Identification at species level was done by species-specific PCR for *L. sakei* (Berthier and Ehrlich, 1998) and for *S. equorum* (Blaiotta et al., 2004) as described. A part of a colony was used as DNA template. Concerning *S. succinus*, we have developed a species-specific PCR targeting *sodA* gene (AY845222). A *sodA* fragment of 163 bp was amplified using the primers SucSpe1 (TGTTCCGAATAATGGTGAGGT-CAC) and SucSpe2 (CGAAACGTGCTGCAGCTTTATTC). These primers were used at 0.32 µM in 25 µl of PCR mixture containing 50 µM of each deoxyribonucleoside triphosphate, 1 mM MgCl₂ and 1 U of Taq DNA polymerase in 1× buffer according to the manufacturer's instructions (Promega, France). For efficient amplification, the following conditions were used: 10 min at 4 °C, 5 min at 94 °C; 30 cycles of 30 s at 94 °C, 30 s at 67 °C and 10 s at 72 °C; and a final 5 min hold at 72 °C. The PCR products were resolved by agarose (1.5% w/v) gel electrophoresis at 8 V cm⁻¹ for 30 min. The specificity of the *S. succinus* PCR primers was checked against the type strains of the 36 validated staphylococcal species and of the subspecies of *S. cohnii*, *S. equorum* and *S. succinus*. All the type strains used were listed in the study of Giammarinaro et al. (2005). DNAs of type strains were extracted using the Wizard® Genomic DNA Purification Kit (Promega, Lyon Charbonnières, France) according to the manufacturer's instructions. About 50 ng was used for PCR amplification. Moreover the *S. succinus*-specific PCR assay was tested on 21 wild strains of *S. succinus* previously identified according to the method of Giammarinaro et al. (2005). DNA templates from the *S. succinus* isolates and the strain used as starter were obtained from parts of single colonies during the first denaturing step of PCR.

Strains identified at species level by PCR were monitored by pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) analysis. Genomic DNA was prepared in agarose plugs as described previously (Corbière Morot-Bizot et al., 2004) for the *Staphylococcus* strains and using the same method for

Table 1
Bacterial growth, pH and a_w in the control batch and in the batch inoculated with autochthonous starters

| Batch | Samples | Time days | Yeast/Mould | LAB | GCC+ | Enterococci | Enterobacteriaceae | Pseudomonas | <i>L. monocytogenes</i> | pH | a_w |
|---------|---------|-----------|-------------|-----|------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------|------|-------|
| Control | Z | 0 | 3.7 | 4.1 | 3.5 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 4.5 | <1 | 5.59 | 0.966 |
| Control | M | 2 | 4.2 | 5.1 | 5.5 | 3.1 | 5.1 | 4.6 | 1.1 | 5.89 | 0.962 |
| Control | F | 50 | 4.2 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.2 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 6.87 | 0.841 |
| Starter | Z | 0 | 4.2 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 2.0 | 3.1 | 4.6 | <1 | 5.61 | 0.964 |
| Starter | M | 2 | 4.3 | 8.0 | 6.9 | 1.2 | 4.6 | 4.9 | 1.0 | 5.62 | 0.966 |
| Starter | F | 50 | 4.1 | 8.8 | 6.1 | 4.2 | 2.0 | 3.5 | 1.1 | 6.74 | 0.867 |

Data are expressed in log CFU/g, limit of detection 1.0 log CFU/g for *L. monocytogenes*, standard deviation of microbial counts was inferior to 0.3 log CFU/g.

Z, M, F: steps of manufacturing, Z = batter, M = fermentation, F = end of ripening.

Enumeration was performed according to the methods described by Lebert et al. (2007a): yeasts and moulds were enumerated on yeast extract glucose chloramphenicol agar, LAB: lactic acid bacteria on Man-Rogosa-Sharp, GCC+: Gram-positive catalase positive cocci on mannitol salt phenol red agar, Enterococci on M-Enterococcus selective agar, Enterobacteriaceae in crystal violet neutral red bile glucose agar, *Pseudomonas* on cefrimide-fucidin-cephaloridine agar, *Listeria monocytogenes* on *Listeria* agar according to Ottaviani and Agosti.

Lactobacillus strain except that the addition of lysostaphin was omitted. Agarose plugs containing chromosomal DNA were digested with the endonuclease *Sma*I for *S. equorum* and *S. succinus* DNA and with *Not*I for *L. sakei* DNA. Digested DNAs were submitted to PFGE in 1% agarose gels on a CHEF-DRIII apparatus (Bio-Rad, Ivry, France). The electrophoretic conditions were selected with switch times of 40 to 100 s for 2 h and 5 to 35 s for 22 h at 6 V/cm and 14 °C. Lambda ladder was used as molecular weight marker. Gels were stained with ethidium bromide and digitised with the Gel Doc 2000 apparatus (Bio-Rad). Gels were analysed using Quantity one Quantitation software (Bio-Rad).

2.6. Physico-chemical analysis

The pH of the meat samples at the three steps of manufacturing (Z, M, F) for the 2 batches was measured with a pH meter MP230 (Mettler Toledo, Viroflay, France) with a pH probe (Inlab 427 penetration probe, Mettler Toledo). The water activity (a_w) of the meat samples was measured with an a_w -sprint TH500 (Novasina, Roucaire, France). Total fat content of the final product (F) of the 2 batches was determined by Soxhlet extraction using petroleum ether (ISO, 1973).

2.7. Biogenic amine determination

Biogenic amines (tyramine, histamine, putrescine and cadaverine) were analyzed on the meat samples (Z, M, F), by ion-pair reverse phase high performance liquid chromatography according to Hernández-Jover et al. (1996). Briefly, the method involved the extraction of biogenic amines with 0.6 N perchloric acid from a homogenised aliquot (5–10 g). Amine separation was performed through a C18 reverse phase column (NovaPack C₁₈, Waters Chromatography, S.A) followed by a post-column derivatization with o-phthalaldehyde-2-mercaptoethanol with spectrofluorimetric detection. Biogenic amine contents were referred to dry matter (dm) to avoid the concentration effect due to the drying process.

The data were subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) with a Post-hoc contrast (HSD Tuckey) (software package SPSS v.11.0 for Windows).

2.8. Fatty acid composition

Fatty acid estimation was carried out on total lipids extracted by a dichloromethane/methanol mixture (2/1 v/v) according to Folch, Lees and Sloane-Stanley (1957) and submitted to transesterification by NaOH and BF₃ methanolic solution (AOAC, 1990). Gas chromatographic analysis was performed with a Hewlett Packard HP 6890 (Hewlett Packard, Milan, Italy) chromatograph equipped with a capillary fused silica column INNOWax (J&W, Agilent Technologies, Milan, Italy) (30 m length, 0.25 mm bore, 0.25 µm film thickness), split-splitless injector and flame ionisation detector. The latter two were kept at constant temperatures of 260 °C and 270 °C respectively. Nitrogen at a linear velocity of 30 cm/s was the carrier gas. Temperature of the oven was set at 50 °C for 2 min followed by a drop from 50 °C to 220 °C at a rate of 4 °C/min. The final temperature was kept constant for 22 min. One µl of methyl-esters solution was injected. HP Chemstation software was used as data acquisition and data processing system.

2.9. Lipid oxidation determination

Fatty acid oxidation was evaluated by the thiobarbituric acid reactive substances test (TBARS) and the determination of 4-hydroxy-2-nonenal (4-HNE) content. Cholesterol oxidation was estimated by the determination of cholesterol oxidation products (COPs).

TBARS test was performed according to the method Novelli et al. (1998). Briefly, 10 g of sausage homogenate was distilled and an aliquot of the distillate was mixed with 2-thiobarbituric acid aqueous solution. After boiling, the absorbance of the chromofore formed was read by a spectrophotometer at 534 nm. TBARS values were expressed as mg of malonaldehyde per kg (mg MDA/kg).

4-HNE content was determined according to the analytical procedure proposed by Zanardi, Jagersma, Ghidini and Chizzolini (2002), based on a purification by solid phase extraction and liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry analysis by HPLC-MS/MS. MS/MS acquisition, and was performed by monitoring the reaction m/z 171 → 69 characteristic of 4-HNE.

Table 2
Identification and characterisation of the isolates at the three steps of manufacturing in the control batch and in the batch inoculated with autochthonous starters

| Batch | Samples | <i>Staphylococcus</i> isolates ^a | <i>S. equorum</i> | PFGE ^b | <i>S. succinus</i> | PFGE ^b | LAB isolates ^c | <i>L. sakei</i> | PFGE ^b |
|---------|---------|---|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Control | Z | 29 | 17 | 0/17 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Control | M | 26 | 20 | 0/20 | 6 | 2/6 | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Control | F | 30 | 13 | 2/13 | 15 | 6/15 | 30 | 3 | 0/3 |
| Starter | Z | 30 | 24 | 24/24 | 6 | 6/6 | 30 | 30 | 30/30 |
| Starter | M | 30 | 22 | 22/22 | 7 | 7/7 | 24 | 24 | 24/24 |
| Starter | F | 30 | 23 | 11/23 | 6 | 4/6 | 30 | 30 | 30/30 |

Z, M, F: steps of manufacturing, Z = batter, M = fermentation, F = end of ripening.

^a Number of *Staphylococcus* colonies isolated from MSA medium.

^b Number of LAB colonies isolated from MRS medium.

^c Number of isolates with the same PFGE profile of the inoculated strain on the number of isolates characterised by PFGE.

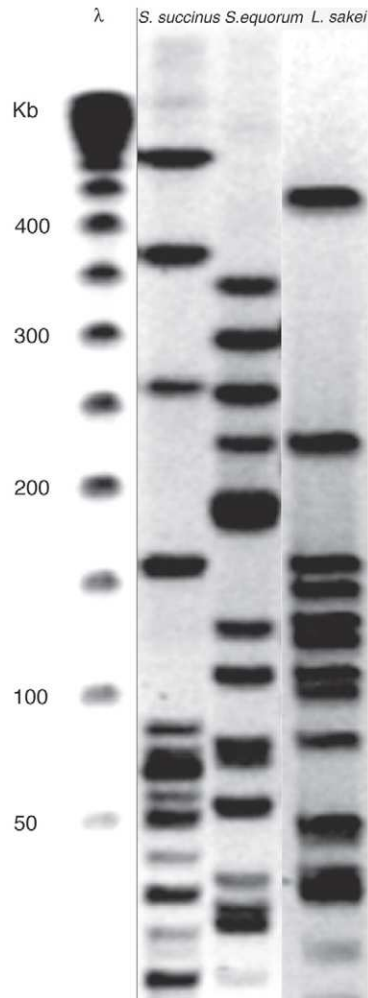


Fig. 1. PFGE patterns of *NotI* restricted genomic DNA of *L. sakei* and *Smal* restricted genomic DNA of *S. equorum* and *S. succinus* used as autochthonous starters.

Cholesterol content was determined through alkaline saponification, solvent extraction, derivatization as trimethylsilyl-ether and gas chromatographic analysis according to Adams, Sullivan, Smith and Richter (1986). COPs were determined by the analytical procedure including the total lipid extraction, lipid fractionation and COPs isolation, and GC/MS analysis as described by Zanardi et al. (1998). Five different COPs were analysed: 7 β -hydroxycholesterol, 7-ketocholesterol, 5,6 α -epoxycholesterol, 25-hydroxycholesterol, 20 α -hydroxycholesterol.

The data were subjected to analysis of variance (one-way ANOVA) and $p \leq 0.05$ was used for the evaluation of statistically significant differences (SPSS Inc., ver. 13.0, Chicago, IL, USA).

2.10. Sensory analysis

The method performed to describe the organoleptic diversity of the traditional dry sausages was inspired by the Quantitative Descriptive Analysis® procedure described by Stone, Sidel, Oliver, Woosley and Singleton, (1974) and by ISO Norm 11035 (1995). Dry fermented sausages from the two batches were tasted by a trained panel of 9 subjects during 12 sessions for training and evaluation. Presentation of the products was sequential monadic in a randomised order. Evaluations were conducted in standardised individual booths. For each dry sausage, 3 slices (3 mm. thick) were presented on a small plate carrying a 3-digit random number. A continuous 10-point intensity scale was used to evaluate the intensity of the attributes. The

2 profiles were evaluated in 4 duplicates. The assessors generated 26 attributes by consensus to describe the sausages: 4 for the appearance of the slices, 9 for the odour, 7 for the flavour and 6 for the texture. Data were collected via a computer using the TASTEL® software (Thuillier, B. (2003), ABT Informatique, Rouvroy sur Marne, France). An analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed using a mixed model with assessor as a random effect and product and replication as fixed effects (Naes and Langsrud, 1998) with the XLSTAT® 7.5 (Fahmy, T. 2004, XLSTAT, Paris, France).

3. Results

The *L. sakei* F08F202, *S. equorum* F08bF15 and *S. succinus* F08bF19 strains were used in a mixed starter culture to inoculate the batter. The three strains were susceptible to the antibiotics tested and did not produce biogenic amines in the *in vitro* growth conditions tested.

3.1. Bacterial growth, pH and a_w measurements

The technological bacteria, LAB and GCC+, had an initial level of 4.1 and 3.5 log CFU/g, respectively, in the control batch, increased tenfold and hundredfold during the fermentation and reached a population of 6.6 log at the end of the ripening (Table 1). In the batch inoculated with starters, the LAB and GCC+ had an initial level of 6.3 log CFU/g. The LAB increased 1.7 log during the fermentation and 0.8 log during the ripening. The GCC+ increased 0.7 log during the fermentation and returned to the initial level during the ripening period.

Enterococci grew in the control batch throughout the process and reached a high level (6.2 log CFU/g). In the starter batch, they decreased during the fermentation and increased during ripening but reached only 4.2 logCFU/g. *Enterobacteriaceae* increased during the fermentation and decreased during ripening in the 2 batches. *Pseudomonas* remained constant during the fermentation and decreased during ripening in the 2 batches. *L. monocytogenes* was not detected in the batter (level below 1.0 log CFU/g). It grew in the control batch to reach a level slightly above the tolerated level (2.0 log CFU/g) at the end of ripening, whereas in the starter batch it remained near the detection limit.

The pH remained stable up to the fermentation step in the starter batch and then increased, while in the control batch the pH increased throughout the process and reached a value slightly higher than in the starter batch. Water activity decreased in the two batches during ripening (Table 1).

3.2. Monitoring of the starter cultures

For the monitoring of *S. succinus*, no rapid and accurate method has been described in the literature. In order to easily identify *S. succinus*, we developed a species-specific PCR assay targeting the *sodA* gene. Several authors have demonstrated the discriminative power of the

Table 3

Quantity of biogenic amines (mg/kg of dry material) in the control batch and in the batch inoculated with autochthonous starters at the three steps of manufacturing

| Batch | Samples | Tyramine | Putrescine | Cadaverine | Histamine |
|---------|---------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Control | Z | nd | nd | nd | nd |
| Control | M | nd | nd | 8.32 (1.00) | nd |
| Control | F | 58.77 (7.80) ^a | 26.30 (2.76) | 312.96 (9.12) | 6.29 (0.89) |
| Starter | Z | nd | nd | nd | nd |
| Starter | M | nd | nd | 5.04 (0.37) | nd |
| Starter | F | 7.70 (2.87) ^b | 19.18 (0.10) | 202.95 (10.67) ^b | 3.90 (0.15) ^b |

Z, M, F: steps of manufacturing, Z = batter, M = fermentation, F = end of ripening. nd: not detected.

^a Standard deviation.

^b Final contents of inoculated batch significantly different from the control batch ($p < 0.05$).

Table 4
Lipid oxidation index at the end of ripening of the control batch and the batch inoculated with autochthonous starters

| Lipid oxidation index | Control | Starter |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 4-hydroxy-2-nonenal (mg/kg) | n.d. ¹ | n.d. |
| TBARS value (mg MDA/kg) | 0.71 ± 0.01 ² a | 0.61 ± 0.05 b |
| 7β-hydroxycholesterol (mg/kg) | 0.50 ± 0.10 a | 0.30 ± 0.13 a |
| 5α,6α-epoxycholesterol (mg/kg) | 1.19 ± 0.45 | n.d. |
| 7-ketocholesterol (mg/kg) | 2.88 ± 0.60 a | 0.57 ± 0.05 b |
| 25-hydroxycholesterol (mg/kg) | 0.19 ± 0.05 | 0.08 ± 0.01 |
| Total COPs (mg/kg) | 4.75 ± 0.85 a | 0.95 ± 0.10 b |
| % oxidised cholesterol | 0.30 ± 0.06 a | 0.08 ± 0.01 b |

¹Lower than the limit of detection; ² mean values ± standard error; mean values in the same row followed by different letters differ significantly ($p < 0.05$).

sodA gene to identify the different species of *Staphylococcus* (Poyart et al., 2001; Blaiotta et al., 2004, 2005; Giammarinaro et al., 2005). When tested with all the type strains of each staphylococcal species, the primers SucSpe1 and SucSpe2 allowed the amplification of a fragment of 163 bp only when DNA from either *S. succinus* subsp. *succinus* or from *S. succinus* subsp. *casei* type strain was used as template (data not shown). In addition to the validated type strains, the *S. succinus*-specific PCR assay was applied to 21 wild strains of *S. succinus*. A 163 bp product was obtained for all the strains when colonies of *S. succinus* were used as template (data not shown).

The *S. equorum* and *S. succinus*-specific PCR assays allowed identification of the two species in the 2 batches during all fermentation steps except in the batter of the control batch where *S. succinus* was not detected. The *S. equorum* species was dominant compared with the *S. succinus* species except in the final sausage of the control batch in which an equal ratio was found (Table 2). In the starter batch, the ratio between *S. equorum* and *S. succinus* was 0.8/0.2 and this was observed throughout the process.

In the control batch, only 15% isolates at the end of the process identified as *S. equorum* had the same PFGE profile as the inoculated *S. equorum* F08bF15 strain while for *S. succinus* 33% of isolates after fermentation and 40% of isolates at the end of the process had the same PFGE profile as the inoculated *S. succinus* F08bF19 strain (Table 2, Fig. 1). In the starter batch, the two strains inoculated were dominant from the start of the process and remained constant until the end of the ripening, where 48% of the isolates identified as *S. equorum* and 67% of the isolates identified as *S. succinus* had the same PFGE profile as the corresponding inoculated strain (Table 2, Fig. 1).

Using the *L. sakei* specific PCR assay, only three isolates from the final dry sausage of the control batch were identified as *L. sakei*, whereas all the strains isolated from the starter batch and at the three steps of manufacturing were identified as *L. sakei* (Table 2). All the isolates of *L. sakei* characterised by PFGE analysis in the starter batch had the same PFGE profile as the inoculated *L. sakei* F08bF19 strain (Table 2, Fig. 1).

3.3. Biogenic amines

The sausages manufactured as a control batch showed a considerable final concentration of cadaverine: 313 mg/kg dm (Table 3).

Tyramine, putrescine and histamine were also found but in lower amounts. Cadaverine appeared during fermentation while the other amines were detected only in the ripening step. In all cases, no biogenic amines were found in the batter samples. The addition of starters significantly reduced ($p < 0.05$) the accumulation of the above mentioned biogenic amines but did not affect putrescine.

3.4. Fatty acid composition

The average content of total lipids of dry fermented sausages at the end of ripening period was 24.7 ± 0.2% and 22.3 ± 0.4% in control and starter batches, respectively. These values fall in a normal range for commercial products of such a type and no significant differences were detected in the two batches. A similar figure was observed for fatty acid composition which was not statistically different between the two batches. In control and starter batches the percentage of saturated fatty acid was 41.2 and 43.5, respectively, whereas that of monounsaturated was 46.3 and 45.3 and that of polyunsaturated was 12.5 and 11.2, respectively.

3.5. Lipid oxidation

The results of the conventional indexes of lipid oxidation are reported in Table 4. The dry fermented sausages did not show detectable amounts of 4-hydroxy-2-nonenal. This means that the level of 4-hydroxy-2-nonenal was lower than 0.043 mg/kg, the limit of detection of the analytical method (Zanardi et al., 2002). Autochthonous starters appeared to help improve lipid oxidative stability because starter batches presented significantly lower TBARS values (0.61 mg MDA/kg) than the control batch (0.71 mg MDA/kg).

A similar figure could be applied for total COPs content, which was five times lower in starter batch (0.95 mg/kg) than in the control batch (4.75 mg/kg), and for the percentage of oxidised cholesterol, which was nearly four times lower in starter batch (0.08%) than in control batch (0.30%) (Table 4). Overall, cholesterol oxidation was found to be limited both as type of COPs encountered and as total level of oxidation. Three COPs (7β-hydroxycholesterol, 7-ketocholesterol and 25-hydroxycholesterol) were constantly detected in both sausage batches whereas 5α,6α-epoxycholesterol was only detected in the control batch at the level of 1.19 mg/kg. The content of 7β-hydroxycholesterol was similar in the two batches whereas the levels of 7-ketocholesterol and 25-hydroxycholesterol were significantly higher in control sausages.

3.6. Sensory analysis

The specific sensory quality of the French dry fermented sausage is mainly associated with its odour and flavour (Rason et al., 2007). The addition of autochthonous starters had no effect on the overall aroma and flavour of the sausages (Table 5). The rancid and saltiness attributes were perceived as prominent by nose (aroma) but not in the mouth (flavour) in the sausages of the starter batch. Starter cultures noticeably influenced the texture of the sausages compared with the control batch (Table 6). Sausage slices of the starter batch were less brittle and had a better texture. Moreover, the fat perception of the

Table 5
Sensory analysis at the end of ripening of the control batch and the batch inoculated with autochthonous starters

| Batch | Appearance | Aroma | | | | | Flavour | | | |
|---------|-------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|---------|--------|---------|-------|
| | Colour | Global aroma | Vinegar | Saltiness | Marinade | Rancid | Rancid | Pepper | Acidity | Salty |
| Control | 6.6a ¹ | 6.4a | 3.9a | 3.4a | 2.6a | 3.9a | 5.0a | 2.0a | 4.1a | 6.9a |
| Starter | 6.3a | 6.9a | 3.3a | 2.5b | 1.9a | 5.0b | 5.2a | 2.2a | 3.7a | 6.5a |

¹Means with the same letter in a column are not significantly different ($p < 0.005$) according to Student's *t* test and the Newman–Keuls multiple comparison test.

Table 6
Texture analysis at the end of ripening of the control batch and the batch inoculated with autochthonous starters

| Batch | Texture by fingers | | | | Texture in mouth | | |
|---------|--------------------|----------|---------|------------|------------------|------------|---------|
| | Fat | Firmness | Brittle | Slice hold | Fat | Slice hold | Stringy |
| Control | 5.5a ¹ | 3.7a | 4.0a | 3.4a | 4.8a | 3.9a | 3.7a |
| Starter | 5.6a | 3.3a | 2.4b | 5.4b | 4.0b | 4.3a | 4.3a |

¹Means with the same letter in a column are not significantly different ($p < 0.005$) according to Student's *t* test and the Newman–Keuls multiple comparison test.

sausages of the starter batch was less intensive in the mouth. The starter cultures improved the overall texture (tactile and oral) of the sausages.

4. Discussion

Bacteria growth and changes in pH and a_w in this traditional dry fermented sausage were similar to that described in many traditional sausages (Lebert et al., 2007a; Gounadaki et al., 2008). In particular this type of sausage is characterized by high final pH as are many slightly fermented Mediterranean sausages (Aymerich et al., 2006). Enterococci reached high levels of population in the non-inoculated sausages as observed in French (Lebert et al., 2007a), Argentinean (Fontana et al., 2005) and Greek sausages (Samelis et al., 1998), while in the sausages inoculated with autochthonous starters, growth of enterococci was inhibited. Paradoxically, enterococci are useful in food fermentation but also potentially dangerous (Ogier and Serror, in press). Inoculated or not, *Pseudomonas* and *Enterobacteriaceae* were not totally eliminated from the sausages during ripening, as observed by Samelis, Metaxopoulos, Vlassi and Pappa (1998) for traditional Greek salami. LAB and GCC+ constituted the dominant bacteria in the sausages inoculated or not. Similar results were found in other naturally fermented sausages (Samelis et al., 1998; Cocolin et al., 2001). In the inoculated sausages, the level of LAB exceeded that of GCC+, and dominance of LAB in sausages manufactured with starter cultures has been often mentioned (Leroy et al., 2006a). *L. sakei* was present in the final stage of the non-inoculated sausages in association with other non-identified LAB. This result was not surprising as *Enterococcus* spp, *Lactobacillus* spp, *Carnobacterium* and *L. sakei* were the different LAB isolated in the traditional sausages manufactured in processing unit F08 (Leroy et al., 2006b). The autochthonous strain of *L. sakei*, inoculated into the sausage manufactured in F08 outgrew the indigenous bacteria throughout the process. The species *S. equorum* and *S. succinus* were identified both in the inoculated and uninoculated sausages. This result was expected as these constituted the dominant species of *Staphylococcus* identified in the traditional sausages from F08 (Leroy et al., 2006b). However, a balance between the two species was noticed in the final product of the non-inoculated sausages while after inoculation *S. equorum* was consistently dominant. The *S. equorum* strain F08bF15 was rarely isolated in the non-inoculated sausages while it outgrew the indigenous GCC+ in the inoculated sausages. The strain *S. succinus* F08bF19 constituted a non-negligible percentage in the uninoculated sausages and cohabited with *S. equorum* F08bF15 throughout the process after inoculation. This result confirmed that autochthonous strains were well adapted to the process and thus were competitive enough to dominate during the process. The use of adapted molecular methods to accurately identify the three target species and to control the implantation of the strains inoculated allowed monitoring of the growth of autochthonous starters during the process.

Addition of autochthonous starters played a key role in safety of the sausages by keeping the growth of *L. monocytogenes* below the hygienic limit, set at 2.0 log CFU/g at the 'best before' date by the European Commission Regulation (EC, 2007). In non-inoculated sausages, *L. monocytogenes* slightly exceeded the limit. The inhibition

observed in the inoculated sausage could be due to the presence of *L. sakei*. It is well known that LAB, and in particular *L. sakei*, inhibit pathogenic bacteria by acidification or by producing bacteriocins (Hugas, 1998; Talon et al., 2002). However, in this study as no significant difference was noticed between the pH of the non-inoculated and the inoculated sausages and as the *L. sakei* strain did not inhibit *L. monocytogenes* in *in vitro* condition, the inhibition of *L. monocytogenes* remained unspecified.

The formation of biogenic amines, low-molecular-weight compounds, is attributed to the decarboxylase activity of certain bacteria. Some biogenic amines are hazardous to health due to their vasoactive and/or psychoactive properties and some of them could be considered chemical indicators of food spoilage due to their microbial origin (Bover-Cid et al., 2001). The addition of the autochthonous starters decreased their concentration depending on the amine considered, tyramine being the most affected. Tyramine content was reduced by 87%, probably because of the inhibition of enterococci, the main bacterial group associated with tyramine formation together with lactobacilli (Bover-Cid et al., 2001; Suzzi and Gardini, 2003). It is important to reduce tyramine as it is normally the main biogenic amine detected in fermented sausages, both industrial and traditional (Montel et al., 1999; Parente et al., 2001; Miguélez-Arrizado et al., 2006; Latorre-Moratalla et al., 2008). The accumulation of cadaverine, the major amine found in this study, as well as of histamine, is mainly related to decarboxylase activity of *Enterobacteriaceae* and *Pseudomonas* (Roig Sagués et al., 1996; Durlu-Özkaya et al., 2001). Despite similar levels of spoilage bacteria in the two sausages, the autochthonous starters led to decreases of 35% in cadaverine and 38% in histamine content. Several studies support the usefulness of decarboxylase negative single or mixed starter cultures to reduce the aminogenesis during fermentation of dry sausages (Gonzalez-Fernandez et al., 2003; Latorre-Moratalla et al., 2007). Effectiveness of a starter culture depends on the amine considered, but seems strongly linked to the microbial quality of the raw meat used for sausage manufacture (Bover-Cid et al., 2001).

In dry fermented sausages lipid oxidation is responsible for the production of compounds which can affect both sensory qualities and wholesomeness. In this type of meat product lipid oxidation status is the result of competitive activities of oxidant and reducing systems, both endogenous and exogenous (Chizzolini et al., 1998). TBARS values recorded in the present study were within the range reported for dry fermented sausages (Novelli et al., 1998; Chizzolini et al., 1998). Also, content of individual and total COPs and percentage of oxidised cholesterol are in agreement with those obtained by other authors in dry fermented sausages (Ghiretti et al., 1997; Novelli et al., 1998; Zanardi et al., 2004). The total COPs concentrations observed in dry fermented sausages vary from undetectable to 10 mg/kg, because of the variability of the processing. Cholesterol oxidation is found to be around 0.1% of total cholesterol content with values varying from 0.02 to 0.2% in Milan salami (Chizzolini et al., 1998). From a safety point of view, a concentration of COPs around 0.1% of total cholesterol content is approximately the minimum level for toxicity observed in *in vitro* experiments on cultured cells but about 100 times lower than the level required to show toxic effects in *in vivo* trials with laboratory animals (Bösinger et al., 1993). It is well known that technological bacteria, Gram-positive catalase positive cocci in particular, play a role in limiting lipid oxidation through superoxide and peroxide decomposition (Talon et al., 2000; Barrière et al., 2001a). Several studies reported the antioxidant activities of staphylococci belonging to different species such as *S. xylosum*, *S. carnosus* and *S. simulans* (Barrière et al., 2001b; Casaburi et al., 2005). The two strains of staphylococci used in the present study possessed catalase activity and *sod* genes but their SOD activity have not been evaluated. Thus, we can suppose that these strains present at higher levels in the inoculated sausages especially in the beginning of the process could contribute to inhibit lipid oxidation via their catalase activity.

Sensory qualities of dry fermented sausages (texture, colour, and flavour) depend on numerous compounds and chemical or biochemical reactions occurring during the process. Most of the attributes used in this study are widely used to describe industrial pork dry fermented sausages except for some aroma and flavour attributes, which may be specific to traditional dry fermented sausages (Rason et al., 2007). Indeed, marinade aroma, vinegar or rancid flavour were not found in studies of the flavour profile of industrial dry sausages (Stahnke, 1995; Rousset-Akrim et al., 1997). Aroma and flavour of the sausages with or without autochthonous starters were not significantly different. It is well known that staphylococci contribute to the sensory quality of sausages via the catabolism of carbohydrates and amino acids, the formation of esters and their interaction with fatty acids (Montel et al., 1998). In this study GCC+ constituted an important fraction of the sausage bacteria regardless of inoculation. Furthermore *S. equorum* and *S. succinus* were the dominant species in both types of sausages. These findings could explain why the sensory property of the two types of sausage was similar.

The final consistency of the sausage is the result of its acidification and dehydration. Thanks to their acidifying capacity, lactic acid bacteria contribute to the firmness of the sausage (Talon et al., 2002). Acidification also favours the dehydration of the product by reducing the water retention capacity of the mixture. In this study improvement of the overall texture observed in the inoculated sausages could be attributed to the high level of *L. sakei* and to the pH stabilisation during the fermentation step.

This is the first time to our knowledge that *S. equorum* and *S. succinus* have been tested as starter cultures in sausage manufacturing. The present investigation indicates that the use of adequate autochthonous microbial starter cultures is an efficient way to improve the safety of the traditional sausages by inhibiting pathogenic bacteria (*L. monocytogenes*), decreasing the level of biogenic amines and limiting fatty acid and cholesterol oxidation. Moreover, autochthonous microbial starter cultures did not affect the typical sensory quality of the traditional sausages. Use of autochthonous starter cultures is an important tool for traditional sausage manufacture to limit the formation of unsafe compounds while preserving product specificity.

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10

DESARROLLO Y VALIDACIÓN DE MÉTODOS PARA LA DETERMINACIÓN DE AMINAS BIÓGENAS Y DE LA ACTIVIDAD AMINOÁCIDO-DESCARBOXILASA

Este último capítulo incluye los trabajos relacionados con el desarrollo y validación de métodos para la (i) determinación de las aminas biógenas presentes en diferentes tipos de alimentos y de (ii) la determinación semi-cuantitativa de aminas producidas *in vitro* por microorganismos.

10.1 Desarrollo y validación de un método de cromatografía líquida rápida de alta resolución (UHPLC) para la determinación de aminas biógenas en alimentos

Artículo X.

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla, J. Bosch-Fusté, T. Lavizzari, S. Bover-Cid, M.T. Veciana-Nogués, M.C. Vidal-Carou. (2009). Validation of an Ultra High Pressure Liquid Chromatographic (UHPLC) method for the determination of biologically active amines in food. *Journal of Chromatography A*, 1216 (45): 7715-7720.

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10.1.1 Planteamiento y objetivo del estudio

A pesar de la gran variedad de métodos que existen para la determinación analítica de estos compuestos, la cromatografía y concretamente la cromatografía líquida de alta eficacia (HPLC) acoplada a diferentes técnicas de detección, es, sin duda, la metodología más ampliamente utilizada.

Hace relativamente poco tiempo apareció una nueva técnica, la cromatografía líquida rápida de alta resolución (UHPLC) que, en comparación con la cromatografía líquida convencional (HPLC), es capaz de trabajar a presiones de hasta 15.000 psi, permitiendo así una drástica reducción del tiempo de análisis, a la vez que aumenta la resolución y la sensibilidad (Yang y Hodges, 2005).

El objetivo del presente trabajo fue el desarrollo y la optimización de un método, rápido, preciso y versátil para la determinación de las aminas biógenas y poliaminas presentes en diferentes tipos de alimentos mediante UHPLC, unido a una derivatización post-columna *on-line*.

10.1.2 Diseño experimental

La fiabilidad del método para la determinación de aminas biológicamente activas se evaluó en términos de linealidad, sensibilidad, precisión y exactitud (Thompson y col., 2002). Se utilizaron soluciones estándar de las aminas biógenas a diferentes concentraciones (de 0,05 a 50 mg/L) y diferentes tipos de alimentos (vino, pescado fresco, queso y productos cárnicos fermentados).

10.1.3 Resultados

Puesta a punto del método de UHPLC

El método cromatográfico por UHPLC se desarrolló a partir de la modificación de los métodos de HPLC previamente desarrollados en nuestro grupo de investigación, para la determinación de aminas biógenas en diferentes alimentos y bebidas (Izquierdo-Pulido y col., 1993; Veciana-Nogués y col., 1995; Hernández-Jover y col., 1997; Vidal-Carou y col., 2003; Lavizzari y col., 2006).

Las condiciones cromatográficas, la composición de las fases móviles, así como el gradiente de elución finalmente seleccionado se detallan en la Figura 10.1.

El método de UHPLC desarrollado en el presente trabajo permite determinar un total de 12 aminas biógenas y poliaminas presentes en alimentos (octopamina,

dopamina, tiramina, putrescina, serotonina, cadaverina, histamina, agmatina, feniletilamina, espermidina, triptamina y espermina) en menos de 7 minutos de elución cromatográfica. Esto significa una reducción del tiempo de análisis de entre 5 y 11 veces respecto otros métodos de HPLC ya descritos previamente en la literatura para la determinación de aminas biógenas (Vidal-Carou y col., 2008). Esta reducción en el tiempo cromatográfico permite el análisis de un gran número de muestras en menos tiempo, con un menor gasto en reactivos y la generación de un menor volumen de residuos químicos, siguiendo así los actuales criterios de protección medioambiental. Además, a diferencia del único método de UHPLC publicado hasta la fecha para la determinación de aminas biógenas en alimentos (Dadaková y col., 2009), el que se propone permite la determinación de más aminas en un menor tiempo e incorpora la derivatización post-columna on-line totalmente automatizada, lo que acorta el tiempo necesario para la preparación de las muestras y mejora la precisión del método.

Validación del método

El método mostró una linealidad (coeficiente de correlación de $R \geq 0,9990$, para todas las aminas) y sensibilidad (límite de detección $< 0,2$ mg/L y de determinación $< 0,3$ mg/L para todas las aminas) que se consideraron muy satisfactorias. La precisión, evaluada en términos de repetitividad, y expresada como desviación estándar relativa, fue en todos los casos inferior al 5 %. Los resultados de repetitividad obtenidos fueron satisfactorios de acuerdo con el criterio de Horwitz para estudios intralaboratorio (Horwith, 1982). La recuperación media de todas las aminas biológicamente activas fue superior al 98% en vino y al 93% en el resto de los alimentos.

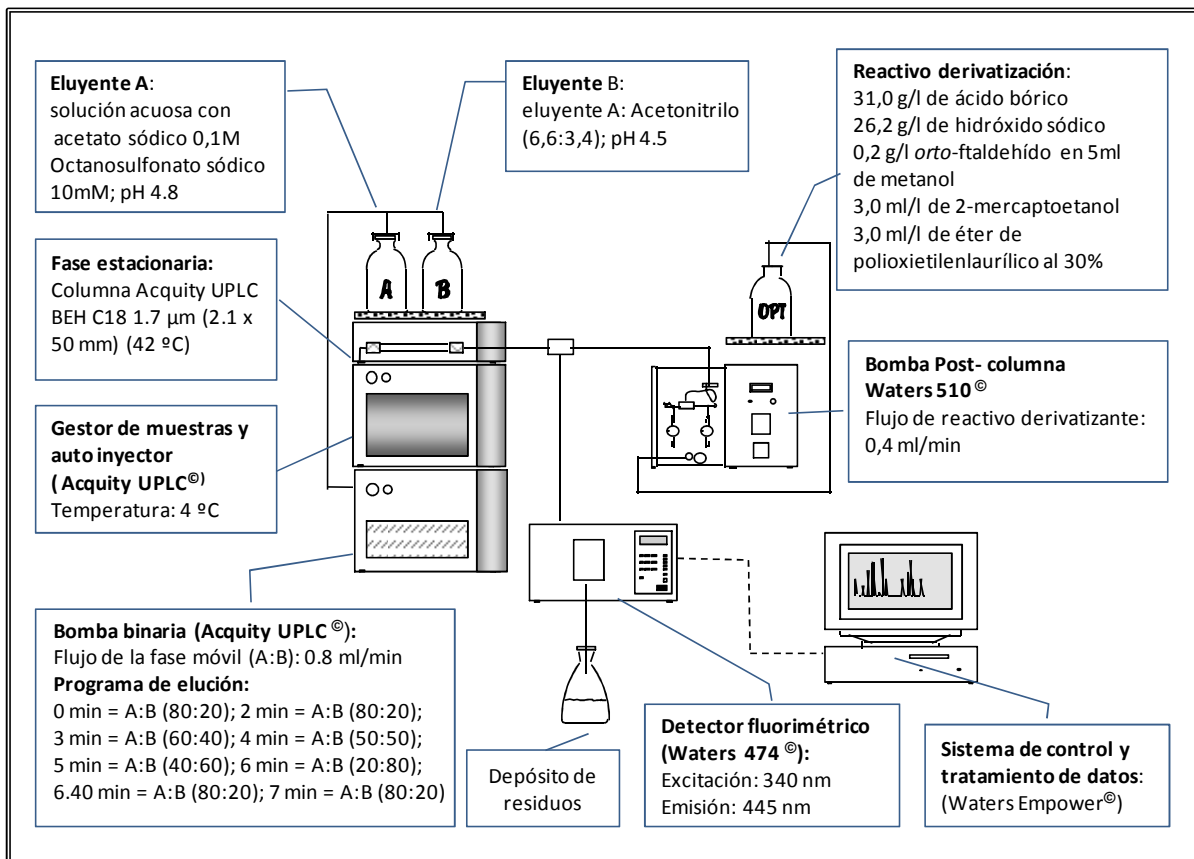


Figura 10.1. Sistema de cromatografía líquida de ultra alta eficacia (UHPLC) unido a un sistema de derivatización post-columna, condiciones cromatográficas y gradiente de elución lineal utilizados para la determinación de 12 aminas biógenas.

10.1.4 Aportaciones más relevantes

- El método de UHPLC descrito se muestra como un procedimiento fiable para la determinación de 12 aminas biológicamente activas, mostrando una linealidad, sensibilidad, precisión y exactitud satisfactorias e independientemente de la matriz alimentaria considerada.

- El tiempo de elución cromatográfica del método propuesto (7 minutos) implica una reducción muy notable del tiempo de análisis en comparación con los procedimientos por HPLC descritos hasta la fecha (del orden de 30 a 80 minutos).
- Hasta donde llega nuestro conocimiento, este es el primer método de UHPLC acoplado a un sistema de derivatización post-columna on-line para la determinación de aminas biógenas en alimentos.

Artículo X.

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Validation of an ultra high pressure liquid chromatographic method for the determination of biologically active amines in food

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla^a, J. Bosch-Fusté^a, T. Lavizzari^a, S. Bover-Cid^b, M.T. Veciana-Nogués^a, M.C. Vidal-Carou^{a,*}

^a Department of Nutrition and Food Science, XaRTA (Catalonian Reference Network on Food Technology) - INSA (Nutrition and Food Safety Research Institute), UB, Av. Joan XXIII s/n, E-08028, Barcelona, Spain

^b IRTA-Food Technology, Finca Camps i Armet s/n, E-17121, Monells, Spain

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ABSTRACT

Biologically active amines include the so called biogenic amines, such as histamine, tyramine and cadaverine, and polyamines such as spermidine and spermine. Ultra high pressure liquid chromatography (UHPLC) is a new generation of separation techniques that takes full advantage of chromatographic principles to increase speed flow which drastically reduce analysis time. The aim of the present work was to validate a rapid method of UHPLC to detect the presence of biogenic amines and polyamines in food. Different food matrixes (wine, fish, cheese, and dry fermented sausage) were used in order to test the versatility of the method. The UHPLC method described in this article has been demonstrated as a reliable procedure to determine 12 biogenic amines and polyamines in less than 7 min of chromatographic elution. The method provides a satisfactory linearity and chromatographic sensitivity with a detection limit lower than 0.2 mg/L and a determination limit falling below 0.3 mg/L for all amines. The precision, in terms of relative standard deviation, was lower than 5% and the accuracy, as mean recovery, was between 93% and 98%, depending on the food matrix.

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1. Introduction

Biologically active amines include the so-called biogenic amines, such as histamine, tyramine and cadaverine, and polyamines, such as spermidine and spermine. Biogenic amines and polyamines are biosynthesized by animal, plant, and microbial metabolisms and are therefore found in a wide variety of food products [1,2]. The interest of the study of biogenic amine content in food lies in safety and quality issues. In terms of safety, histaminic intoxication, food-induced migraines, and hypertensive crises in sensitive individuals are mainly caused by the effects of tyramine and histamine [3–5]. The health risks can increase if enzymatic systems are blocked by mono- or diamine oxidase inhibitors, gastrointestinal diseases, genetic deficiencies, or potentiating factors such as alcohol and other biogenic amines [6]. Furthermore, biogenic amines have been proposed as chemical indicators of the hygienic conditions of raw material and/or manufacturing practices since their accumulation is associated with the activity of contaminant bacteria [7–9]. On the other hand, the polyamines, spermidine and

spermine, are involved in cell metabolism, growth, and differentiation. Moreover, they have a recognized role as antioxidant against the cellular oxidative stress [1], which can be of interest from a nutritional point of view.

Although biogenic amines and polyamines are studied in various different food groups, such as alcoholic beverages, vegetables, fish and fish products, meat and meat products, and dairy products [5,10], their measurement is not a simple procedure because they have diverse chemical structures (aromatic, heterocyclic, and aliphatic). Likewise, they can be present at wide range of concentrations and very often the complexity of the sample matrix, due to high contents of protein and fat, it may make difficult their extraction. Moreover, biogenic amines and polyamines require a derivatization to be detected by UV–vis absorption or fluorescence. Chemical derivatization can be carried out with a variety of reagents, mainly dansyl chloride and o-phthalaldehyde (OPA). Amine derivatives can be formed pre-column, on-column, or post-column. Pre-derivatization comprises a series of time-consuming manual steps and can introduce imprecision to the overall analytical procedure. However, post-column derivatization has the advantage that it is automatically performed online, which avoids sample manipulation reducing the imprecision of the overall procedure and saves time of analysis [11].

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +34 934024508.

E-mail address: mcvidal@ub.edu (M.C. Vidal-Carou).

Analytical determination of these amines can be carried out through a variety of approaches, being the chromatographic procedures the most commonly used [11,12]. Thin layer chromatography [13,14] or gas chromatography [15] has been proposed but high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), coupled to distinct detection techniques, has been the most extensive method used over the past 30-plus years [16–21]. Traditional HPLC methods allow the determination of a wide variety of biogenic amines (over 10), but the time required to carry out the analysis is relatively long, between 20 and 60 min per sample [11,12]. Based on the HPLC principles, when sub-2 μm porous particles are used, speed and peak capacity can be extended to new limits. Ultra high pressure liquid chromatography (UHPLC) is a new generation of chromatographic techniques, that in comparison with HPLC, operate at higher pressures, up to 15 000 psi, require less volume of sample and captures detector signals at high data rates for fast eluting peaks [22,23]. Thus, UHPLC technology allows a drastically reduction on time analysis while increasing resolution and sensitivity [24,25]. According to our knowledge, there is only a previous recently published method [26] that uses this new technology for the biogenic amine determination. However, this method uses dansyl chloride for biogenic amine derivatization, which is an expensive time procedure than an on-line post-column derivatization with OPA. In addition, the UHPLC method described by Dadáková et al. [26] is only able to determine eight biogenic amines.

The aim of the present work was to validate a rapid, precise, and versatile UHPLC method coupled with an on-line OPA post-column derivatization, which allows the determination of twelve biogenic amines and polyamines in different food types. The procedure was validated in terms of linearity, sensitivity, precision, and recovery. To prove the versatility of the method, the analysis was carried out on wine, fish, cheese, and dry fermented sausages.

2. Material and methods

2.1. Samples and sample preparation

Samples of red wine, fish, semi-ripened cheese, and dry fermented sausages were selected to check the recovery and the precision of the method. The preparation of solid samples consisted of the mechanical trituration and homogenization of the product using a domestic mincing machine for 1 min. An aliquot of 5–10 g was accurately weighed in a centrifuge tube and thoroughly mixed with 9 ml of 0.6 M perchloric acid in a magnetic stirring plate for 20 min. Thereafter, the two phases were separated by centrifugation at $5600 \times g$ at 4 °C for 20 min. The extraction process was repeated twice for 20 and 10 min, respectively. The supernatants collected were combined and the final volume was adjusted to 25 ml with 0.6 M perchloric acid. Before UHPLC analysis, perchloric extracts and wine samples were passed through a 0.22 μm filter (GHP, Waters Corp, Milford, MA).

2.2. Equipment

UHPLC was performed using a Waters Acquity system (Milford, MA, USA), which consisted of a binary pump and an auto-sampler accomplished with a post-column pump (Waters 510) and a fluorescence detector (Waters 2475). The post-column pump was connected to a zero dead volume mixing T installed between the column outlet and the detector. Chromatographic separation was performed using an Acquity UPLC BEH C18 1.7 μm column (2.1 mm \times 50 mm) (Waters corp., Milford, MA, USA), which was

placed into an oven to keep it at constant temperature (see below). Data acquisition was accomplished with the Empower version 2 system.

2.3. Chemicals

Ultra pure water was obtained from Milli-Q system (Millipore). HPLC grade acetonitrile and methanol were obtained from SDS (Peppin, France). The other reagent-grade chemicals used were: sodium acetate anhydrous, Brij 35, 2-mercaptoethanol, OPA, and acetic acid from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany); sodium octanesulphonate from Romil Chemicals (Cambridge, UK) and boric acid, potassium hydroxide, hydrochloric acid 35% (HCl), and perchloric acid 70% from Panreac (Montplet & Esteban, Barcelona, Spain). The following biogenic amine and polyamine standards were obtained from Sigma (St. Louis, MO, USA): histamine (HI) dihydrochloride, tyramine (TY) free base, β -phenylethylamine (PHE) hydrochloride, serotonin (SE) creatinine sulphate, tryptamine (TR) hydrochloride, octopamine (OC) free base, dopamine (DO) free base, cadaverine (CA) dihydrochloride, putrescine (PU) hydrochloride, agmatine (AG) sulphate, spermine (SM) tetrahydrochloride, and spermidine (SD) trihydrochloride. A 1000 mg/L stock solution of each amine as a free base was prepared in 0.1 M HCl. A 50 mg/L intermediate solution including all biogenic amines and polyamines was prepared in 0.1 M HCl from the stock solution. Finally, working standard solutions (ranging from 0.1 to 50 mg/L) were prepared in 0.1 M HCl from the intermediate standard solution. The standard solutions were passed through a 0.22 μm filter, protected from light and stored under refrigeration.

2.4. Chromatographic conditions

Mobile phase consisted of the eluent A as a solution of 0.1 M sodium acetate and 10 mM sodium octanesulphonate adjusted to pH 4.8 with acetic acid, and the eluent B as a mixture of solvent B-acetonitrile (6.6:3.4), where solvent B was a solution of 0.2 M sodium acetate and 10 mM sodium octanesulphonate adjusted to pH 4.5 with acetic acid. The mobile phase was filtered through a 0.22 μm filter. The post-column derivatization reagent was prepared as follows: 15.5 g of boric acid and 13.0 g of potassium hydroxide were dissolved in 500 ml of water, then 1.5 ml of 30% Brij and 1.5 ml of 2-mercaptoethanol as a reducing agent were added; finally, 0.1 g of OPA dissolved in 2.5 ml of methanol was added to the above solution. The derivatization reagent was prepared daily, passed through a 0.22 μm filter, and protected from light.

A linear gradient programme was implemented as follows: time = 0 min, A:B (80:20); time = 2 min, A:B (80:20); time = 3 min, A:B (60:40); time = 4 min, A:B (50:50); time = 5 min, A:B (40:60); time = 6 min, A:B (20:80); time = 6.40 min, A:B (80:20); time = 7 min, A:B (80:20).

The flow rate of the mobile phase was 0.8 ml/min, and the flow rate of the derivatization reagent was 0.4 ml/min. The column temperature was 42 °C while the post-column reaction equipment was kept at room temperature. Automatic injection of 1 μl of the standard solution and samples was carried out. Vials filled with either standard solutions or samples were kept at 4 °C in the auto sampler. Fluorimetric detection at 340 nm for excitation and 445 nm for emission was applied.

2.5. Statistical analysis

All statistical tests were performed using Statistical Software Package for Windows SPSS, version 15 (SPSS, Chicago, IL, USA). To assess the reliability of the method, analysis of variance for linear regression was used. To test for comparisons between data sets,

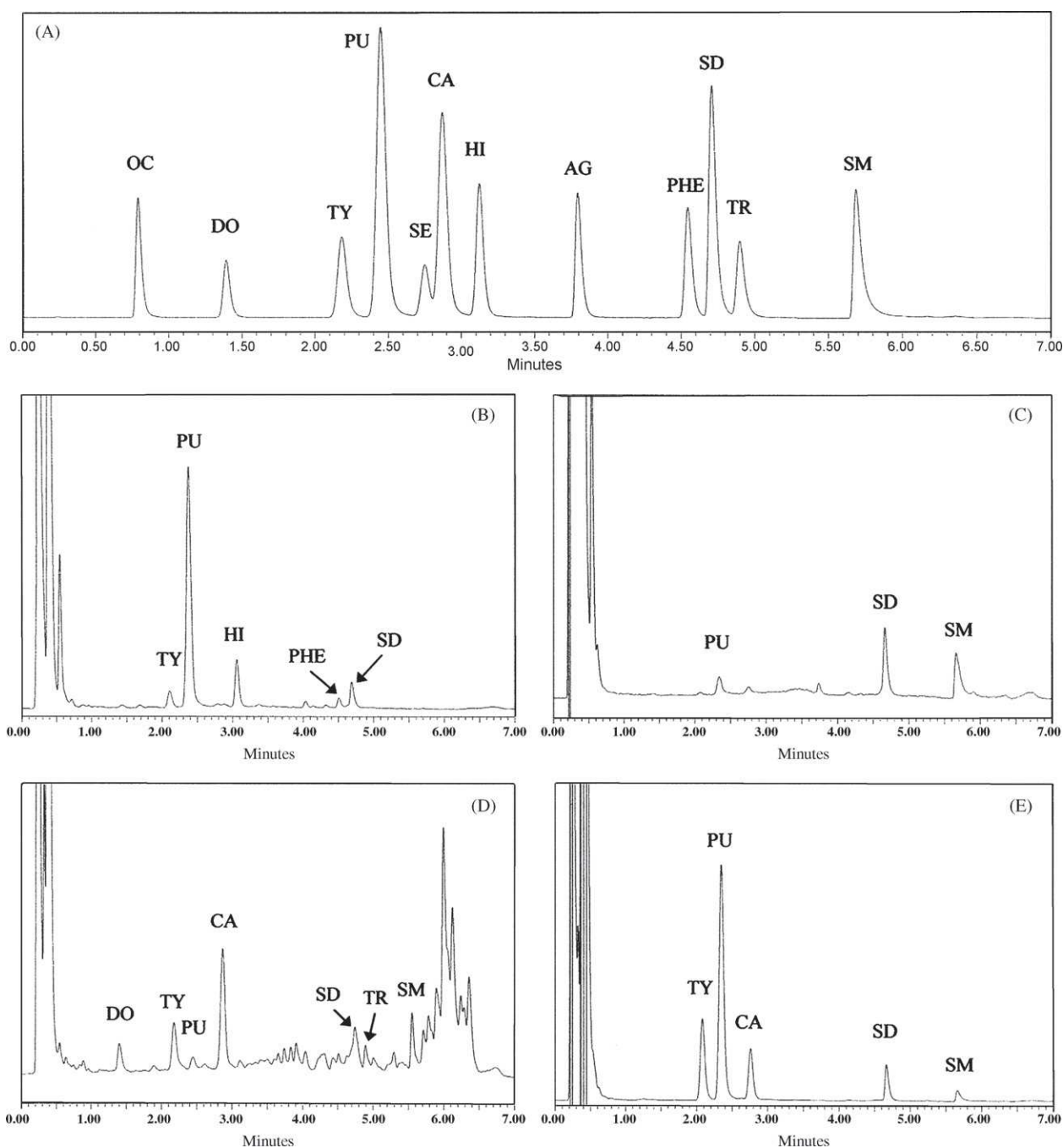


Fig. 1. Chromatograms of a biogenic amine and polyamine solution of 25 mg/L (A), wine (B), fish (C), cheese (D), and dry sausage extracts (E). OC: octopamine; DO: dopamine; TY: tyramine; PU: putrescine; SE: serotonin; CA: cadaverine; HI: histamine; AG: agmatine; PHE: phenylethylamine; SD: spermidine; TR: tryptamine; SM: spermine.

the *t*-test was used, and finally the Cochran test was used to test for homogeneity of variance.

3. Results and discussion

Chromatographic conditions were achieved by following the original HPLC methods used to quantify 12 biogenic amines in several food types [27–30]. To adapt the original mobile phase flow rate and the injection volume to the UHPLC system a scaling factor (derived from the ratio of the column cross sectional areas) was applied in order to retain the linear velocity of the mobile phase. In addition, the pH of the mobile phase and the temperature of the stationary phase (column) were modified slightly to improve peak

resolution, particularly those of serotonin and tryptamine. Therefore, several pH levels (from 4.5 to 5.3) and temperatures (from 37 to 45 °C) were assayed to find the best resolved peaks.

The method allows the resolution of a total of 12 biologically active amines in a single chromatographic run on a 7-min elution programme. The new conditions reduced 9-fold the elution time reported by the original HPLC methods [27–30], and between 5 and 11-fold by others previous HPLC methods for the determination of a similar number of biogenic amines in wine [19,21,31], fish [16], cheese [32,33], and dry fermented sausages [34,35]. As a result of the time reduction, the spent of solvents is drastically reduced making the present UHPLC method of lower reagent cost and less environmental impact.

Table 1
Precision (RSD) and recovery (mean and standard deviation) of the UPLC method for the determination of octopamine (OC), dopamine (DO), tyramine (TY), putrescine (PU), serotonin (SE), cadaverine (CA), histamine (HI), agmatine (AG), phenylethylamine (PHE), spermidine (SD), tryptamine (TR) and spermine (SM) in wine.

| Wine | Addition level I ^a | | | | | Addition level II ^b | | | | |
|------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------|----------|---------------|--|
| | Initial content (mg/L) | Content after addition (mg/L) | RSD ^c (%) | RSDH ^d (%) | Recovery (%) | Content after addition (mg/L) | RSD (%) | RSDH (%) | Recovery (%) | Cochran's test ^e C _{exp} |
| OC | nd ^f | 4.80 | 3.14 | 6.32 | 95.90 (3.01) | 9.79 | 2.57 | 5.68 | 97.87 (2.51) | 0.59 |
| DO | nd | 4.99 | 0.56 | 6.28 | 99.73 (0.56) | 10.09 | 3.57 | 5.65 | 98.94 (1.20) | 0.82 |
| TY | 2.48 | 7.63 | 1.86 | 5.89 | 102.01 (1.90) | 12.41 | 2.33 | 5.48 | 99.48 (2.31) | 0.60 |
| PU | 10.79 | 15.57 | 4.04 | 5.29 | 98.59 (3.98) | 20.03 | 2.16 | 5.10 | 96.38 (20.8) | 0.78 |
| SE | nd | 5.04 | 2.60 | 6.27 | 100.80 (2.62) | 10.08 | 3.57 | 5.65 | 100.76 (3.60) | 0.65 |
| CA | nd | 5.16 | 3.04 | 6.25 | 103.28 (3.14) | 10.02 | 2.87 | 5.65 | 100.24 (2.88) | 0.54 |
| HI | 5.45 | 10.18 | 3.97 | 5.64 | 97.37 (3.87) | 14.46 | 2.25 | 5.35 | 93.56 (2.10) | 0.77 |
| AG | nd | 4.88 | 2.07 | 6.30 | 97.64 (2.02) | 9.82 | 3.27 | 5.67 | 98.20 (3.21) | 0.72 |
| PHE | 0.64 | 5.78 | 3.21 | 6.14 | 102.62 (3.30) | 10.81 | 1.47 | 5.59 | 101.61 (1.49) | 0.83 |
| SD | 0.99 | 6.13 | 3.58 | 6.09 | 100.97 (1.96) | 10.88 | 1.49 | 5.59 | 99.01 (1.48) | 0.64 |
| TR | nd | 4.91 | 3.91 | 6.30 | 98.25 (3.84) | 9.60 | 1.87 | 5.69 | 95.96 (1.79) | 0.82 |
| SM | nd | 4.92 | 2.32 | 6.29 | 98.40 (2.28) | 10.04 | 1.35 | 5.65 | 100.44 (1.36) | 0.74 |

^a 5 mg/L of each amine.

^b 10 mg/L of each amine.

^c RDS, relative standard deviation for the eight determinations.

^d RDSH, upper limit of the acceptable range for relative standard deviations according to Horwitz's formula for intra-laboratory study.

^e Cochran test, C_{tab} (7, 2, 0.05) = 0.8332.

^f Not detected.

The reliability of the UHPLC method for routine analysis of different food matrixes (fish, cheese, wine, and dry fermented sausages) was assessed in terms of linearity, sensitivity, precision, and recovery [36]. As it can be seen in Fig. 1, the chromatograms of the standard solutions and of food samples assayed were simple, without interferences and with certain amine identification on the basis of the retention time by comparison with the standard.

3.1. Linearity

Linear calibration curve of fluorimetric response for all biogenic amines and polyamines studied were obtained from 11 points of different concentrations between 0.1 and 50 mg/L. Linearity of the UHPLC method was verified by analysis of the variance of the regression. Least-squares analysis produced a correlation coefficient of $r \geq 0.9990$ for all biogenic amines and polyamines ($p < 0.001$). The coefficient of determination (r^2) was higher than 99.8% for all standard curves.

Table 2
Precision (RSD) and recovery (mean and standard deviation) of the UPLC method for the determination of octopamine (OC), dopamine (DO), tyramine (TY), putrescine (PU), serotonin (SE), cadaverine (CA), histamine (HI), agmatine (AG), phenylethylamine (PHE), spermidine (SD), tryptamine (TR) and spermine (SM) in fish.

| Fish | Addition level I ^a | | | | | Addition level II ^b | | | | |
|------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------|----------|--------------|--|
| | Initial content (mg/kg) | Content after addition (mg/kg) | RSD ^c (%) | RSDH ^d (%) | Recovery (%) | Content after addition (mg/kg) | RSD (%) | RSDH (%) | Recovery (%) | Cochran's test ^e C _{exp} |
| OC | nd ^f | 23.68 | 2.25 | 4.97 | 94.73 (2.13) | 46.83 | 1.17 | 4.48 | 93.65 (1.10) | 0.79 |
| DO | nd | 24.10 | 1.61 | 4.96 | 96.40 (1.56) | 47.76 | 1.36 | 4.47 | 95.51 (1.30) | 0.59 |
| TY | nd | 23.89 | 2.09 | 4.96 | 95.58 (2.00) | 47.53 | 1.17 | 4.47 | 95.06 (1.11) | 0.76 |
| PU | 1.03 | 25.29 | 1.70 | 4.92 | 97.16 (1.65) | 48.96 | 0.82 | 4.45 | 95.96 (0.79) | 0.81 |
| SE | nd | 21.71 | 1.87 | 5.03 | 86.83 (1.62) | 41.84 | 2.69 | 4.56 | 83.68 (2.25) | 0.66 |
| CA | nd | 24.23 | 1.69 | 4.95 | 96.90 (1.64) | 48.05 | 1.48 | 4.47 | 96.10 (1.42) | 0.57 |
| HI | nd | 23.56 | 1.27 | 4.97 | 94.23 (1.20) | 46.66 | 1.69 | 4.49 | 93.31 (1.58) | 0.64 |
| AG | nd | 23.23 | 2.07 | 4.98 | 92.91 (1.92) | 46.61 | 1.64 | 4.49 | 93.23 (1.53) | 0.61 |
| PHE | nd | 22.84 | 1.69 | 5.00 | 91.38 (1.55) | 46.06 | 1.70 | 4.49 | 92.13 (1.57) | 0.51 |
| SD | 3.34 | 28.00 | 2.20 | 4.84 | 98.81 (2.18) | 52.32 | 1.79 | 4.41 | 98.09 (1.76) | 0.60 |
| TR | nd | 21.08 | 2.56 | 5.06 | 84.30 (2.16) | 43.21 | 2.73 | 4.54 | 86.43 (2.36) | 0.54 |
| SM | 6.16 | 27.40 | 2.33 | 4.86 | 87.93 (2.05) | 49.87 | 1.97 | 4.44 | 88.80 (1.75) | 0.58 |

^a 25 mg/kg of each amine.

^b 50 mg/kg of each amine.

^c RDS, relative standard deviation for the eight determinations.

^d RDSH, upper limit of the acceptable range for relative standard deviations according to Horwitz's formula for intra-laboratory study (1/2 of the interlaboratory study calculate by the formula).

^e Cochran test, C_{tab} (7, 2, 0.05) = 0.8332.

^f Not detected.

3.2. Sensitivity

The chromatographic detection limit (DL) and determination limit (DTL) were obtained according to the IUPAC approach [36]. Standard regression curves were obtained at a low-concentration range (from 0.1 to 2 mg/L) for all biogenic amines and polyamines. Baseline noise was determined using a perchloric acid solution (0.6 M) as a blank. DLs were lower than or equal to 0.05 mg/L for OC, TY, PU, CA, HI, AG, PHE, and SD, 0.12 mg/L for DO, SE, and TR, and 0.2 mg/L for SM. DTLs were 0.1 mg/L for OC, TY, PU, CA, HI, AG, PHE, and SD, 0.2 mg/L for DO, and SE, and 0.3 mg/L for TR and SM. All DLs and DTLs obtained for each amine were confirmed by the analysis of a standard solution at those level concentrations.

3.3. Precision

The precision of the method, in terms of repeatability, was assessed by carrying out eight independent determinations for each food sample using the same UHPLC conditions (appara-

Table 3

Precision (RSD) and recovery (mean and standard deviation) of the UPLC method for the determination of octopamine (OC), dopamine (DO), tyramine (TY), putrescine (PU), serotonin (SE), cadaverine (CA), histamine (HI), agmatine (AG), phenylethylamine (PHE), spermidine (SD), tryptamine (TR) and spermine (SM) in cheese.

| Cheese | Addition level I ^a | | | | | Addition level II ^b | | | | | Cochran's test ^e C _{exp} |
|--------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------|----------|---------------|------|--|
| | Initial content (mg/kg) | Content after addition (mg/kg) | RSD ^c (%) | RSDH ^d (%) | Recovery (%) | Content after addition (mg/kg) | RSD (%) | RSDH (%) | Recovery (%) | | |
| OC | nd ^f | 23.76 | 1.04 | 4.97 | 94.11 (0.59) | 45.60 | 2.02 | 4.50 | 92.06 (1.22) | 0.81 | |
| DO | 8.52 | 33.60 | 1.69 | 4.71 | 100.14 (1.83) | 58.56 | 2.65 | 4.34 | 100.08 (2.65) | 0.68 | |
| TY | 10.02 | 32.92 | 2.87 | 4.73 | 94.30 (2.64) | 56.56 | 1.66 | 4.36 | 91.98 (3.46) | 0.63 | |
| PU | nq ^g | 22.60 | 2.70 | 5.00 | 90.40 (2.44) | 43.59 | 2.79 | 4.53 | 88.60 (1.58) | 0.71 | |
| SE | nd | 20.31 | 1.44 | 5.08 | 81.25 (1.17) | 39.55 | 3.12 | 4.61 | 79.10 (2.43) | 0.81 | |
| CA | 9.89 | 33.49 | 2.98 | 4.72 | 94.41 (2.22) | 64.62 | 1.59 | 4.27 | 92.46 (1.47) | 0.69 | |
| HI | 2.19 | 24.38 | 2.78 | 4.95 | 91.45 (1.54) | 45.97 | 1.39 | 4.50 | 88.80 (0.72) | 0.82 | |
| AG | nd | 24.98 | 2.39 | 4.93 | 99.92 (2.39) | 48.89 | 2.18 | 4.45 | 97.77 (2.13) | 0.56 | |
| PHE | nd | 25.75 | 1.01 | 4.91 | 103.00 (1.04) | 51.00 | 1.23 | 4.43 | 102.01 (1.26) | 0.59 | |
| SD | 1.24 | 24.35 | 1.79 | 4.95 | 92.81 (1.66) | 48.06 | 1.99 | 4.47 | 93.80 (1.87) | 0.56 | |
| TR | 3.29 | 28.14 | 1.42 | 4.84 | 99.44 (1.41) | 53.57 | 1.53 | 4.39 | 100.53 (1.54) | 0.54 | |
| SM | 0.91 | 23.40 | 3.08 | 4.98 | 91.47 (2.00) | 47.00 | 3.21 | 4.48 | 94.79 (1.96) | 0.51 | |

^a 25 mg/kg of each amine.

^b 50 mg/kg of each amine.

^c RSD, relative standard deviation for the eight determinations.

^d RSDH, upper limit of the acceptable range for relative standard deviations according to Horwitz's formula for intra-laboratory study (1/2 of the interlaboratory study calculate by the formula).

^e Cochran test, C_{tab} (7, 2, 0.05)=0.8332.

^f Not detected.

^g Not quantified.

tus and reagents). Since none of the food products contained all analytes, samples were spiked by adding known amounts of all the biogenic amines and polyamines. To test the precision at two different concentration levels, known amounts of biologically active amines were added (5 and 10 mg/L in wine samples, and 25 and 50 mg/kg in the fish, cheese, and dry fermented sausage samples). For all the biogenic amines and for all the food products, the relative standard deviation (RSD) was always lower than 5% (Tables 1–4), which indicates that the method can be carried out with a satisfactory level of precision. The results are consistent with the Horwitz formula for intra-laboratory studies [37].

3.4. Recovery

The accuracy of the method was tested by the standard addition procedure using two addition levels (5 and 10 mg/L for wine, and 25 and 50 mg/kg for the solid samples of each amine). Eight determinations were carried out for each food sample and each addition level (Tables 1–4). The mean recovery of biogenic amines and polyamines was greater than 98% (SD=2.3) for wine, which was not statistically different from the theoretical value of 100% ($p > 0.05$ according to the Student's *t*-test). Recoveries greater than 93% were recorded for amines in the solid foods (fish, cheese, and dry sausage). Cochran's C-test was used to verify that the variance of

Table 4

Precision (RSD) and recovery (mean and standard deviation) of the UPLC method for the determination of octopamine (OC), dopamine (DO), tyramine (TY), putrescine (PU), serotonin (SE), cadaverine (CA), histamine (HI), agmatine (AG), phenylethylamine (PHE), spermidine (SD), tryptamine (TR) and spermine (SM) in dry sausage.

| Dry sausages | Addition level I ^a | | | | | Addition level II ^b | | | | | Cochran's test ^e C _{exp} |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------|----------|--------------|------|--|
| | Initial content (mg/kg) | Content after addition (mg/kg) | RSD ^c (%) | RSDH ^d (%) | Recovery (%) | Content after addition (mg/kg) | RSD (%) | RSDH (%) | Recovery (%) | | |
| OC | nd ^f | 21.96 | 1.69 | 5.03 | 87.85 (1.49) | 44.74 | 1.86 | 4.51 | 89.48 (1.66) | 0.55 | |
| DO | nd | 23.14 | 2.40 | 4.99 | 92.56 (2.22) | 48.29 | 2.72 | 4.46 | 95.58 (2.63) | 0.58 | |
| TY | 129.08 | 153.14 | 2.14 | 3.75 | 99.92 (2.04) | 175.23 | 2.50 | 3.68 | 97.85 (2.44) | 0.59 | |
| PU | 98.14 | 123.44 | 1.31 | 3.88 | 100.24 (1.32) | 147.33 | 2.11 | 3.77 | 99.45 (2.09) | 0.72 | |
| SE | nd | 21.57 | 4.69 | 5.04 | 86.27 (4.04) | 42.31 | 3.60 | 4.55 | 84.63 (3.04) | 0.64 | |
| CA | 28.95 | 50.34 | 1.36 | 4.44 | 93.32 (1.27) | 74.11 | 2.92 | 4.18 | 93.86 (2.74) | 0.82 | |
| HI | nd | 23.96 | 2.59 | 4.96 | 95.83 (2.48) | 46.73 | 3.38 | 4.49 | 93.45 (3.16) | 0.62 | |
| AG | nd | 23.72 | 2.16 | 4.97 | 94.88 (2.05) | 46.99 | 2.62 | 4.48 | 93.99 (2.46) | 0.59 | |
| PHE | nd | 23.65 | 1.22 | 4.97 | 94.62 (1.15) | 47.42 | 2.84 | 4.48 | 94.24 (2.17) | 0.78 | |
| SD | 17.10 | 40.61 | 0.98 | 4.58 | 96.47 (0.95) | 63.98 | 1.69 | 4.28 | 95.35 (1.61) | 0.74 | |
| TR | nd | 22.37 | 2.35 | 5.01 | 89.48 (2.10) | 43.66 | 2.24 | 4.53 | 87.33 (1.96) | 0.54 | |
| SM | 7.94 | 30.75 | 3.36 | 4.78 | 93.64 (3.15) | 53.78 | 2.41 | 4.39 | 92.99 (2.24) | 0.66 | |

^a 25 mg/kg of each amine.

^b 50 mg/kg of each amine.

^c RSD, relative standard deviation for the eight determinations.

^d RSDH, upper limit of the acceptable range for relative standard deviations according to Horwitz's formula for intra-laboratory study (1/2 of the interlaboratory study calculate by the formula).

^e Cochran test, C_{tab} (7, 2, 0.05)=0.8332.

^f Not detected.

recovery values was not dependent on the amine content (addition level) of the sample ($p > 0.05$).

3.5. Lack of interferences

To verify the lack of interferences from amino acids, a standard solution including all the amino acid precursors of the studied amines (tyrosine, histidine, tryptophan, lysine, arginine, phenylethylamine, glutamine, and ornithine) was injected using the same chromatographic conditions as described above. Due to their more polar nature, amino acids have a smaller retention time than biogenic amines and elute in the first 30 s of the chromatogram. As it has been reported for post-column derivatization procedures [27,38], the proposed method allows avoiding peak interferences.

4. Conclusion

The UHPLC method described is a reliable procedure to determine 12 biogenic amines and polyamines in different food types in less than 7 min of chromatographic elution, showing a satisfactory linearity, sensitivity, precision, and accuracy irrespective of the food matrix. The shortening of the run time was between 5-fold and 11-fold less in comparison with the conventional existing HPLC methods. This allows the analysis of a large number of samples spending not only less time but also less solvent volumes, which is in agreement with environmental sustainability criteria. To our knowledge, this is the first UHPLC procedure with OPA post-column derivatization and fluorescence detection proposed to determine biogenic amines and polyamines in food.

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M.L. Latorre Moratalla¹, J. Bosch Fusté, S. Bover Cid², T. Lavizzari, T. Veciana Nogués¹ and M.C. Vidal Carou¹

¹Departament de Nutrición y Bromatología, Universitat de Barcelona. Av. Joan XXIII s/n, 08028 Barcelona, España.

²IRTA, Finca Granja Camps i Armet, E-17121 Monells, España.

INTRODUCCIÓN

Las aminos biológicamente activas incluyen las llamadas aminos biógenas (histamina, tiramina...) y las poliaminas (espermidina y espermina). Aunque, estos compuestos se han estudiado en muchos tipos de alimentos [1], su análisis no es un procedimiento simple debido a sus diferentes estructuras químicas, a las diferentes concentraciones en las que pueden estar presentes y a la complejidad de la matriz alimentaria. La cromatografía líquida de ultra alta eficacia (UPLC) es una nueva técnica de cromatográfica, que en comparación con la cromatografía líquida de alta eficacia convencional, es capaz de trabajar a presiones de hasta 15.000 psi., permitiendo una drástica reducción del tiempo de análisis, al igual que un aumento de la resolución y la sensibilidad [2].

OBJETIVOS

- ✓ Desarrollar un método de UPLC rápido, preciso y versátil para la determinación de 12 aminos biógenos y poliaminas en diferentes tipos de alimentos.
- ✓ Evaluar la fiabilidad del método así como comprobar su efectividad (versatilidad) para diferentes matrices alimentarias.

MATERIAL & MÉTODOS

-Muestras y Preparación de las muestras: La fiabilidad del método para la determinación de 12 aminos biológicamente activas fue evaluada, en términos de linealidad, sensibilidad, precisión y exactitud según las normas IUPAC [3], en soluciones patrón (0.05 a 50 mg/kg) y en muestras de vino, pescado, queso y embutido. La extracción de las muestras sólidas, previamente trituradas, se realizó con ácido perclórico. Estos extractos perclóricos, las muestras de vino y las soluciones patrón se pasaron a través de un filtro de 0.22 µm antes del análisis cromatográfico.

-Equipo: Tal como muestra la Figura 1, el sistema UPLC utilizado (Acquity, Waters) estaba constituido por una bomba binaria (nº1), un inyector automático (nº2) y una columna Acquity UPLC BEH c18 1.7 µm (2,1 x 50mm) mantenida a una temperatura constante de 42 °C (nº3). A este equipo se le unió una bomba post-columna (Waters 510, nº4) y un detector de fluorescencia (Waters 2475, nº5).



Figura 1. Sistema UPLC (acquity, Waters). 1: bomba binaria; 2: inyector automático; 3: horno con columna UPLC BEH C18; 4: bomba post-columna; 5: detector fluorescencia

RESULTADOS

Las condiciones cromatográficas y el gradiente de elución lineal obtenidos tras el desarrollo del método se detallan en la Tabla 1.

- ✓ fase móvil: 0.8 ml/min
- Eluyente A: (solución acuosa con octanosulfonato sódico, pH 4.8)
- Eluyente B: (eluyente A : acetonitrilo (6.6:3.4), pH 4.5).
- ✓ Derivatización post-columna: 0.4 ml/min
reactivo de derivatización: o-ftalaldehído
- ✓ Detección fluorimétrica:
λ excitación: 340 nm y λ emisión: 445 nm.

| Tiempo (min) | Fase A (%) | Fase B (%) |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| 0:00 | 80 | 20 |
| 2:00 | 80 | 20 |
| 3:00 | 60 | 40 |
| 4:00 | 50 | 50 |
| 5:00 | 40 | 60 |
| 6:00 | 20 | 80 |
| 6:40 | 80 | 20 |
| 7:00 | 80 | 20 |

Tabla 1. Condiciones cromatográficas y gradiente de elución del método UPLC descrito.

El método de UPLC descrito permitió determinar 12 aminos biógenos y poliaminas en menos de 7 minutos de elución cromatográfica (Figura 2). Este método permitió la reducción del tiempo de análisis de entre 6 y 10 veces en comparación con otros métodos de HPLC existentes. Esto, permite el análisis de un gran número de muestras no sólo en menos tiempo, sino con un menor gasto en solventes cumpliendo así con los actuales criterios de sostenibilidad ambiental.

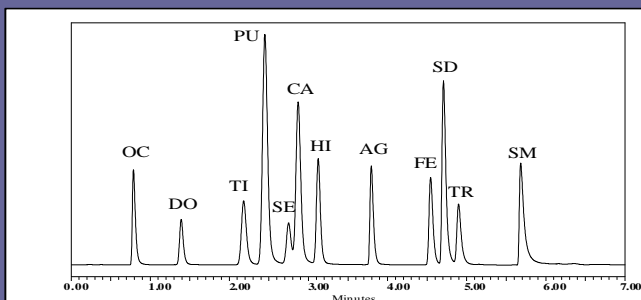


Figura 2. Cromatograma de una solución patrón de 25 mg/kg de aminos biógenos y poliaminas. OC: octopamina; DO: dopamina; TI: tiramina; PU: putrescina; SE: serotonina; CA: cadaverina; HI: histamina; AG: agmatina; FE: feniletilamina; SD: espermidina; TR: triptamina; SM: espermina

El método mostró una satisfactoria linealidad (coeficiente de correlación de $r \geq 0.9990$) y sensibilidad (límite de detección < 0.2 mg/L y de determinación $< 0,3$ mg/L) para todas las aminos. La precisión, evaluada en términos de repetitividad y expresada como desviación estándar relativa (DSR) y la exactitud o recuperación del método obtenidas para los diferentes alimentos estudiados se muestran en la Tabla 2. La DSR fue en todos los casos inferior al 5% indicando un buen nivel de precisión del método y siendo estos resultados coherentes con la fórmula de Horwitz para estudios interlaboratorio [4]. La recuperación media de todas las aminos biológicamente activas fue superior al 98% en el vino y al 93% en el resto de los alimentos.

| | Vino | | Pescado | | Queso | | Embutido | |
|----|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| | DSR (%) | Rec. (%) | DSR (%) | Rec. (%) | DSR (%) | Rec. (%) | DSR (%) | Rec. (%) |
| OC | 2,86 | 96,89 | 1,71 | 94,19 | 1,53 | 93,09 | 1,78 | 88,67 |
| DO | 2,07 | 99,34 | 1,49 | 95,96 | 2,17 | 100,11 | 2,56 | 94,07 |
| TI | 2,10 | 100,75 | 1,63 | 95,32 | 2,27 | 93,14 | 2,32 | 98,89 |
| PU | 3,10 | 97,49 | 1,26 | 96,56 | 2,75 | 89,50 | 1,71 | 99,85 |
| SE | 3,09 | 100,78 | 2,28 | 85,26 | 2,28 | 80,18 | 4,15 | 85,45 |
| CA | 2,96 | 101,76 | 1,59 | 96,50 | 2,29 | 93,44 | 2,14 | 93,59 |
| HI | 3,11 | 95,47 | 1,48 | 93,77 | 2,09 | 90,13 | 2,99 | 94,64 |
| AG | 2,67 | 97,92 | 1,86 | 93,07 | 2,29 | 98,85 | 2,39 | 94,44 |
| FE | 2,34 | 102,12 | 1,70 | 91,76 | 1,12 | 102,51 | 2,03 | 94,43 |
| SD | 2,54 | 99,99 | 2,00 | 98,45 | 1,89 | 93,31 | 1,34 | 95,91 |
| TR | 2,89 | 97,11 | 2,65 | 85,37 | 1,48 | 99,99 | 2,30 | 88,41 |
| SM | 1,84 | 99,42 | 2,15 | 88,37 | 3,15 | 93,13 | 2,89 | 93,32 |

Tabla 2. Precisión (DSR) y recuperación (Rec.) de las 12 aminos en los diferentes alimentos evaluados. El test de Chochran verificó que la precisión y la recuperación obtenida no depende del nivel de aminos adicionado en la muestra, por lo que la tabla presenta el valor medio resultante de dos niveles de adición.

CONCLUSIÓN

En conclusión, el método de UPLC descrito es un procedimiento fiable para la determinación de 12 aminos biológicamente activas en menos de 7 minutos de elución cromatográfica, mostrando una satisfactoria linealidad, sensibilidad, precisión y exactitud independientemente de la matriz alimentaria considerada.

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10.2 Desarrollo de un método de cromatografía en capa fina para la separación, identificación y semi-cuantificación de aminas biógenas producidas *in vitro* por microorganismos aislados de productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados

Artículo XI.

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla, S. Bover-Cid, M.T. Veciana-Nogués, M.C. Vidal-Carou. (2009). Thin-layer chromatography for the identification and semi-quantification of biogenic amines produced by bacteria. *Journal of Chromatography A*, 1216: 4129-4132.

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Comunicación escrita.

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10.2.1 Planteamiento y objetivo del estudio

La mayoría de los métodos que existen actualmente para la detección de la actividad descarboxilasa de microorganismos se basan en el uso de medios de cultivo diferenciales (poco específicos) o bien en la determinación instrumental (como por ejemplo HPLC) de las aminas producidas en medios de cultivo. Este último enfoque requiere de un equipo sofisticado de un alto coste así como de personal capacitado. Esta complejidad no se ajusta a las necesidades de un análisis "screening" de rutina. La cromatografía en capa fina (CCF) se presenta como una buena alternativa a los métodos instrumentales más sofisticados, ya que es un método que permite el análisis de las aminas biógenas de una forma más simple, rápida y económica y al alcance de muchos laboratorios de análisis.

Existen ya algunos métodos para la determinación de la capacidad aminoácido descarboxilasa de microorganismos por CCF. Sin embargo, estos presentan, a nuestro juicio, algunas limitaciones. Así, el método descrito por García-Moruno y col, (2005) para la determinación de la actividad descarboxilasa *in vitro* de microorganismos presenta limitaciones con respecto al número de aminas detectadas, el tiempo de análisis y especialmente la sensibilidad.

El cloruro de dansilo (ClDn) es uno de los reactivos de derivatización más utilizados en los métodos de CCF, ya que forma compuestos estables. Sin embargo, en muchas ocasiones requiere un largo tiempo de reacción con las aminas, por lo que resulta conveniente optimizar el tiempo de la derivatización para su uso en un método de análisis de rutina.

El objetivo de este trabajo fue desarrollar un método de “screening” semi-cuantitativo por CCF para la determinación de la capacidad aminoácido descarboxilasa *in vitro* de microorganismos, que permita el análisis de un gran número de muestras en el menor tiempo posible. Para ello se pretende también optimizar el proceso de dansilación de las aminas con el fin de adaptarlo a un procedimiento de rutina. La idoneidad del método semi-cuantitativo por CCF se evaluó comparando los resultados con los obtenidos con un método cuantitativo por HPLC, previamente valorado para la determinación de aminas biógenas en alimentos.

10.2.2 Diseño experimental

Para valorar la fiabilidad del procedimiento de CCF para la determinación de aminas biógenas producidas por la actividad aminoácido descarboxilasa de microorganismos en el medio descarboxilasa se planteó el estudio de su: (i) repetitividad, como el coeficiente de variación de los factores de retención (Rf)

obtenidos tras tres eluciones diferentes de patrones a diferente concentración de cada una de las aminas, (ii) sensibilidad, como la mínima intensidad de fluorescencia necesaria para la visualización a 366 nm y, (iii) selectividad, frente a posibles interferencias procedentes del reactivo de derivatización o de la matriz (medio descarboxilasa). Para ello se utilizaron soluciones patrón de cada amina a diferentes concentraciones y muestras de medio descarboxilasa con la adición de las aminas patrón y de sus aminoácidos precursores. El método se estudio utilizando cepas representativas de especies presentes en productos cárnicos fermentados (*L. curvatus*, *L. brevis*, *E. faecium*, *S. xylosum*, *S. carnosus*, *E. cloacae* y *K. oxytoca*) de las que se conocía su capacidad aminoácido descarboxilasa *in vitro* (Capítulo 7.1 y Bover-Cid y Holzapfel, 1999).

10.2.3 Resultados

El método utilizado para la derivatización de las aminas con CIDn se basó en el descrito por Lapa-Guimarães y col. (2001), sobre el que se le aplicaron algunas modificaciones con el objetivo de reducir el tiempo de análisis. Se evaluó el efecto del incremento de la temperatura de reacción de dansilación de las aminas (de 40 a 100°C) asociado a una reducción en el tiempo de la misma (de 45 a 5 min). Finalmente, las condiciones seleccionadas por permitir una buena dansilación de las aminas en el menor tiempo posible, fueron 100 °C durante 18 minutos. Esta optimización redujo en 4 veces el tiempo empleado por el método original.

Las aminas dansiladas se aplican en una placa cromatográfica de sílica gel que se introduce en una cámara o jarra cromatográfica con la fase móvil o solvente de elución. Se evaluaron un total de 5 condiciones cromatográficas y se seleccionó la fase móvil descrita por Lapa-Guimarães y col. (2004), compuesta por cloroformo, dietiléter y trietilamina, en una proporción de 4:1:1. Cuando el solvente de elución recorre una

distancia de 17 cm desde la posición inicial, la placa cromatográfica se retira de la cámara, se deja secar y se visualizan las manchas de las aminos ya separadas bajo una lámpara UV a 366 nm. La identificación de las aminos se realiza comparando los factores de retención (R_f) de las muestras con los de las soluciones patrón. El color de la mancha (tonos amarillos y verdes), propio de cada una de las aminos, también ayuda a su identificación. Las condiciones seleccionadas permiten una correcta separación de 9 aminos biógenos de una manera rápida y sencilla, en el siguiente orden: agmatina, putrescina, triptamina, cadaverina, espermidina, histamina, espermina, tiramina y feniletilamina.

El método de CCF mostró una buena repetibilidad con un coeficiente de variación medio de los valores de R_f de todas las aminos de 2,4%, siendo la feniletilamina la menos variable (0,7%) y la histamina la más variable (4,2%). Asimismo, el método presentó una buena especificidad al no aparecer interferencias provenientes del reactivo de derivatización (ClDn) ni de la matriz de las muestras (medio descarboxilasa).

La semi-cuantificación de las aminos se realiza comparando el tamaño y la intensidad fluorescente de las manchas de las muestras con los de las soluciones patrón. El método permite la semi-cuantificación de 8 de las 9 aminos separadas, ya que la agmatina permanece en el punto inicial junto con otros componentes del medio. El límite de detección (sensibilidad) obtenido para todas las aminos fue de 10 ng (1 mg/L por cada 10 μ l sembrados).

El método permite clasificar los microorganismos en no formadores (no existen manchas que correspondan a ninguna amina), poco formadores (tamaño e intensidad de la mancha similar o inferior a la mancha del patrón de 5 mg/L), moderadamente formadores (tamaño e intensidad de la mancha similar a la mancha del patrón de 25 mg/L) y muy formadores (tamaño e intensidad de la mancha similar o superior a la del

patrón de 50 mg/L). Si se tiene en cuenta la dilución realizada durante la extracción ácida de las aminos presentes en el medio de cultivo, la cantidad real en las muestras es 10 veces superior a la de los patrones de referencia. Así, los microorganismos pueden clasificarse como poco, moderadamente o muy formadores cuando las aminos presentes en el medio están por debajo de los 50 mg/L, entre 50 y 500 mg/L o por encima de los 500 mg/L, respectivamente (Tabla 10.1).

Para comprobar la fiabilidad del método, los resultados de CCF de las aminos producidas por 20 cepas de microorganismos se compararon con los obtenidos por el método de HPLC de referencia (Hernández-Jover y col., 1996, descrito en el apartado 5.3 de la sección Material y Métodos). Según el test estadístico χ^2 (*Chi cuadrado*), no existen diferencias significativas entre los niveles de semi-cuantificación establecidos.

Tabla 10.1. Aplicación de la CCF para la clasificación de los microorganismos en función de su capacidad para formar aminos biógenos en el medio de cultivo.

| MICROORGANISMOS | INTENSIDAD Y TAMAÑO DE LA MANCHA (EN COMPARACIÓN CON PATRONES) | CONCENTRACIÓN DE AMINAS BIÓGENAS EN EL MEDIO DE CULTIVO |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| No formadores | Solo mancha del medio descarboxilasa | ≤ 1 mg/L |
| Poco formadores | ≤ 5 mg/L | ≤ 50 mg/L |
| Moderadamente formadores | 5-50 mg/L | entre 50 y 500 mg/L |
| Muy formadores | ≥ 50 mg /L | ≥ 500 mg /L |

10.2.4. Aportaciones más relevantes

- El tiempo necesario para la dansilación de las aminas biógenas ha sido drásticamente reducido respecto otros procesos de dansilación publicados, incrementando la temperatura de reacción.
- El nuevo método de CCF permite la determinación y semi-cuantificación simultánea de 8 aminas biógenas y representa una alternativa sencilla, rápida y económica para la determinación de la capacidad aminoácido descarboxilasa de los microorganismos.
- La aplicación del método permite la clasificación de los microorganismos en función de su capacidad para formar aminas biógenas en el medio de cultivo como: no formadores, poco formadores (por debajo de los 50 mg/L), moderadamente formadores (entre 50 y 500 mg/L) y muy formadores (por encima de los 500 mg/L).

Artículo XI.

M.L. Latorre-Moratalla, S. Bover-Cid, M.T. Veciana-Nogués, M.C. Vidal-Carou. (2009). Thin-layer chromatography for the identification and semi-quantification of biogenic amines produced by bacteria. *Journal of Chromatography A*, 1216: 4129-4132.

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Short communication

Thin-layer chromatography for the identification and semi-quantification of biogenic amines produced by bacteria[☆]M.L. Latorre-Moratalla^a, S. Bover-Cid^b, T. Veciana-Nogués^a, M.C. Vidal-Carou^{a,*}^a Department of Nutrition and Food Science, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Barcelona, Avinguda Joan XXIII s/n, E-08028 Barcelona, Spain^b IRTA, Food Technology, Finca Camps i Armet s/n, E-17121 Monells, Spain

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ABSTRACT

The screening TLC method described enables the simultaneous identification and semi-quantification of eight biogenic amines with a large number of samples handled in a short period of time. The dansylation process time was drastically reduced from 80 to 18 min by increasing the reaction temperature to 100 °C. Bacteria could be classified as no, low, moderate or powerful amine producers when no spots were noticeable in TLC plates, less than 50 mg/L, from 50 to 500 mg/L, or more than 500 mg/L of amines were present in the decarboxylase broth medium, respectively. This TLC method is a simpler, faster and less expensive alternative to other methods, such as differential culture media, HPLC and even more sensitive than other TLC procedures.

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1. Introduction

Biogenic amines (BAs) in foods are mainly formed by amino acid decarboxylase by different bacterial groups associated with food fermentation and spoilage [1,2]. A comprehensive knowledge of the microorganisms responsible for BA formation is necessary in order to improve measures that control their accumulation in foods.

Several methods have been used to assay the microbial aminogenic activity [3]. Most of the existing methods are based on the pH shift of a culture medium including the precursor amino acids of the BAs [4,5]. However, some limitations have been described due to false positives or false negatives responses [6]. Identification and quantification of BAs in a suitable culture medium by high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) have also been published [7]. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) is a simple, quick and inexpensive procedure that could be an alternative to sophisticated instrumental methods used to determine BAs produced by bacteria. One of the advantages of the TLC procedure is the large number of samples that can be handled in a short period compared to the single sample analyzed in each HPLC run. TLC procedures have been applied occasionally to determine histamine (HI) produced by microorganisms [8,9]. García-Moruno et al. [10] used TLC to determine tyramine (TY), phenylethylamine (PHE), putrescine

(PU) and HI in bacterial cultures. However, the low sensitivity in these published TLC methods, especially for HI (detection limit higher than 500 mg/L), is problematic for the detection of moderate amine producing bacteria. Moreover, besides the four BAs mentioned, other BAs could be produced by microorganisms, including cadaverine (CA) and tryptamine (TRP), which are not identified by the methodologies described so far.

On the other hand, BAs have low-absorption coefficients and require derivatization when methods involve UV-vis absorption or fluorescence detection. Within TLC methods, the derivatizing reagent commonly used is dansyl chloride (Dns-Cl), which forms stable compounds [11–13] but requires a long-reaction time (from 60 min at 55 °C [14] to 10 h at room temperature [15]), depending on the authors.

The aim of this study was to develop a TLC method for the rapid screening of BAs potentially produced by microorganisms *in vitro*. Some improvements were implemented for the Dns-Cl derivatization process to obtain a more rapid and routine procedure. The suitability of the proposed procedure as a semi-quantitative method was assessed by comparing results with the usually applied quantitative HPLC method [16].

2. Experimental

2.1. Preparation of standards

A stock standard solution was prepared for each amine [TY dihydrochloride, HI dihydrochloride, PHE hydrochloride, TRP hydrochloride, PU dihydrochloride, CA dihydrochloride, agmatine

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* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: mavidal@ub.edu (M.C. Vidal-Carou).

(AG) sulfate, spermine (SM) tetrahydrochloride and spermidine (SD) trihydrochloride), at 1000 mg/L in 5% trichloroacetic acid (TCA). Working standards with all BAs were prepared by diluting the stock solution in 5% TCA. Standards were refrigerated protected from light until required.

2.2. Assessment of amino acid decarboxylase capability of bacterial strains

The microorganisms tested included *Lactobacillus curvatus*, *Lactobacillus brevis*, *Staphylococcus xylosus*, *Staphylococcus carnosus*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Enterobacter cloacae* and *Klebsiella oxytoca* isolated from fermented sausages. Some of these strains showed decarboxylase activity under *in vitro* conditions, producing TY, PU, CA, HI and/or PHE, whereas others did not.

To promote enzyme induction [7], strains were subcultured four times in de Man, Rogosa and Sharpe Broth (MRS broth) for lactic acid bacteria and in tryptic soy broth (TSB broth) for staphylococci and enterobacteria containing 0.1% of the corresponding amino acid precursor (L-tyrosine free base; L-histidine monochlorohydrate; L-ornithine monochlorohydrate; L-tryptophan; L-lysine monochlorohydrate; L-phenylalanine; L-arginine) at 30 °C for 24 h. Afterwards, bacterial strains were placed in a decarboxylase medium described by Bover-Cid and Holzapfel [7], and incubated aerobically at 30 °C for 4 days.

After incubation, 2 mL of decarboxylase broth were centrifuged (6720 × g/10 min) for cell precipitation. For the HPLC analysis, 1 mL of 0.6 M perchloric acid was added to 1 mL of supernatant to precipitate proteins, centrifuged (6720 × g/10 min) and the supernatant was filtered through 0.45 μm. For the TLC analysis, the culture supernatant was diluted 10-fold (200 μL/2 mL) to reduce the proportion of decarboxylase medium and minimize interferences during the derivatization.

2.3. Biogenic amine dansylation

To accelerate the derivatization process some modifications in the conditions (110 °C during 10 min) of Meseguer-Lloret et al. [17] were assessed and compared with that reported by Lapa-Guimarães et al. [18] (at 40 °C for 60 min plus 20 min after the addition of glycine to react with residual Dns-Cl). Other temperatures and times, from 40 to 100 °C and from 45 to 5 min, were also assessed and 100 °C for 12 min plus 6 min after the glycine addition were chosen as the optimal. The thermostability of BAs at 100 °C was checked previously. During this procedure, light exposure was minimized.

2.4. Separation of dansyl amines by TLC

The TLC glass plates were 20 cm × 20 cm, precoated with 0.25 mm of silica gel G60 (Merk, Darmstadt, Germany); they were activated at 100 °C for 1 h. A 10-μl volume of ethyl acetate extract of dansylated amines was applied at 2 cm from the plate base edge at 1 cm intervals.

The developing chamber was loaded with 100 mL of the solvent system previously equilibrated with a saturation pad. When the solvent reached the distance from the start position (10–17 cm, depending on the type of development tested), the plate was removed from the chamber, dried, and separated spots were viewed under a UV lamp at 366 nm. To identify each BA, the retention factor (R_F) was determined and compared with the R_F of a standard, being the fluorescence and colour also useful to locate the amines on the plate. The R_F is defined as the distance traveled by the compound divided by the distance traveled by the solvent. The size and light intensity of the spots allowed semi-quantification.

2.5. Solvent system

Several solvent systems (A–F) were assessed to select the most suitable for the simultaneous resolution of nine BAs (Table 1). Among solvent systems applied by Lapa-Guimarães et al. [18] to separate BAs from seafood, two solvent systems were assayed: (A) single development with chloroform–diethyl ether–triethylamine (4:1:1) and (B) double developments using chloroform–diethyl ether–triethylamine (6:4:1) and chloroform–triethylamine (6:1). To improve the chromatographic resolution some modifications were considered: (C) chloroform–diethyl ether–triethylamine (5:1:1), which higher chloroform proportion decreased the solvent polarity, (D) chloroform–diethyl ether–triethylamine (4:2:1), which also reduced solvent polarity, (E) chloroform–diethyl ether–triethylamine (3:1:1), to reduce environmental residues by diminishing the chloroform proportion and (F) dichloromethane–diethyl ether–triethylamine (4:1:1), to diminish the toxicity by avoiding chloroform.

2.6. Validation of the TLC method

The repeatability of chromatographic separation was studied by running different concentrations of standards (from 5 to 50 mg/L) in triplicate using the selected solvent system. Since the procedure is a semi-quantitative method, repeatability could not be expressed in terms of amine concentration.

To determine the sensitivity, standard solutions of decreasing concentrations (from 500 to 0.5 mg/L) were ran. The detection limit was measured in terms of the minimum fluorescence intensity of dansyl amines needed for noticeable visualization at 366 nm.

To check the selectivity, potential interference from Dns-Cl and the matrix (decarboxylase medium) were evaluated. Samples of decarboxylase medium, containing the precursor amino acids, and BA standards were used.

2.7. BA analysis by HPLC

BAs were analyzed from samples by ion-pair reverse-phase HPLC (Waters, Milford, MA, USA) according to Hernández-Jover et al. [16] and successfully applied to determine BA production by microorganisms [7]. This method applies a post-column derivatization with *o*-phthalaldehyde/2-mercaptoethanol, followed by a spectrofluorometric detection (excitation and emission wavelengths of 340 and 445 nm, respectively).

2.8. Statistical analysis

Concordance between the TLC and HPLC results was tested by the, Chi-square test using the SPSS 14.0 (Statistical Software Package for Windows, Chicago, IL, USA).

3. Results and discussion

3.1. BA dansylation optimization

Fig. 1 shows the BA standards derivatized at 100 and 50 °C. No significant differences in the size or intensity of spots were found between the dansylation processes assayed. High temperatures (100 °C) allowed a 4-fold reduction in the reaction time from the original 80 min [18] to 18 min (12 min plus 6 min after the glycine addition), allowing a higher number of possible analyses per day.

3.2. Solvent system selection

Table 1 shows the BA R_F values using the solvent systems assayed. Systems A and B allowed a good resolution of all BA,

Table 1
 R_f values and fluorescent colour response of each biogenic amine using the different solvent systems.

| Biogenic amine | Colour | Solvent systems ^a | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | A | B | C | D | E | F |
| AG | Blue–green | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| PU | Blue–green | 0.26 | 0.30 | 0.35 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.66 |
| TRP | Blue–green | 0.30 | 0.34 | 0.37 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.66 |
| CA | Blue–green | 0.38 | 0.43 | 0.46 | 0.41 | 0.40 | 0.72 |
| SM | Blue–green | 0.44 | 0.47 | 0.53 | 0.45 | 0.44 | 0.72 |
| HI | Yellow–orange | 0.57 | 0.58 | 0.57 | 0.51 | 0.49 | 0.76 |
| SD | Blue–green | 0.62 | 0.62 | 0.63 | 0.54 | 0.53 | 0.76 |
| TY | Yellow | 0.76 | 0.75 | 0.68 | 0.65 | 0.60 | 0.82 |
| PHE | Blue–green | 0.81 | 0.84 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.66 | 0.82 |

^a A: chloroform–diethyl ether–triethylamine (4:1:1) to 17 cm; B: chloroform–diethyl ether–triethylamine (6:4:1) to 17 cm plus chloroform–triethylamine (6:1) to 10 cm; C: chloroform–diethyl ether–triethylamine (5:1:1) to 17 cm; D: chloroform–diethyl ether–triethylamine (4:2:1) to 17 cm; E: chloroform–diethyl ether–triethylamine (3:1:1) to 17 cm; F: dichloromethane–diethyl ether–triethylamine (4:1:1) to 17 cm. AG: agmatine, PU: putrescine, TRP: tryptamine, CA: cadaverine, SD: spermidine, HI: histamine, SM: spermine, TY: tyramine and PHE: phenylethylamine.

although PU and TRY remained quite close. The rest of the systems did not significantly improve PU and TRY separation, rather they negatively affected the resolution of other BAs. Therefore solvent system A was chosen as the simplest and quickest. Fig. 2 shows the separation of standard solutions of each BA and a mixture of all, using solvent system A, obtaining the following BA order: AG, PU, TRP, CA, SD, HI, SM, TY and PHE. The BAs were well resolved without tail formation in any spot. Despite PU and TRP appeared so close, they could be clearly distinguished in the eluted TLC plates. AG was separated from the rest, but its permanent position at the start makes difficult its semi-quantification.

3.3. TLC method validation

Satisfactory chromatographic separation repeatability was obtained as shown by the fairly constant R_f . The R_f variation coefficients was 2.4% in average, PHE being the least variable (0.7%) and HI the most (4.2%). R_f repeatability was compromised by the evaporation of solvents over time, modifying the separation of the spots. This could be a problem especially for PU and TRP. Thus, mobile phases must be renewed when R_f values deviate from the calculated variation coefficients.

The detection limit was 10 ng (1 mg/L per 10 μ L spotted) for all BAs, which improves by 10- to 1000-fold the sensitivity reported by García-Moruno et al. [10] method applied to bacterial cultures. The

detection limit obtained for all BAs using the proposed method was similar to those obtained by Lapa-Guimarães et al. [18] for seafood.

The method showed good selectivity since no significant interference appeared. The use of glycine, which reacts with Dns-Cl residue, allowed a BA determination free from this interference [18]. Likewise, there was no interference from amino acids in the decarboxylase medium, since they had a smaller R_f than the BAs due to their high polar nature.

3.4. Semi-quantification of BAs produced by microorganisms

Different bacterial strains with known decarboxylase activity were used to evaluate the TLC method described above. To establish whether the method is useful for semi-quantitative purposes, the size and fluorescent intensity of the spots of different standards were considered. This TLC method allows amino acid decarboxylase positive bacteria to be identified and classified as low BA producers, if the size and intensity of the spot was similar or lower than that of the 5 mg/L standard; moderate producers, when the size and intensity was similar to the 25 mg/L standard, and powerful producers if the resulting spot was similar or higher than the 50 mg/L standard. Taking into account the sample dilution during acid extraction of the culture media, the actual amount in the samples were 10-fold

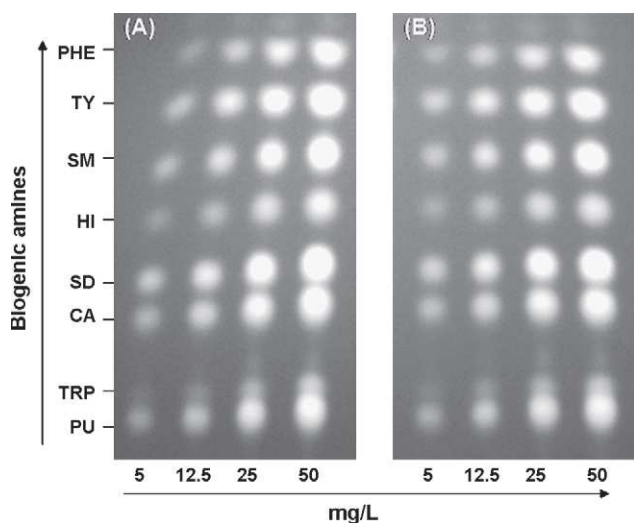


Fig. 1. TLC development of biogenic amine standards dansylated at 50 °C (A) and 100 °C (B). PU: putrescine; TRP: tryptamine; CA: cadaverine; SD: spermidine; HI: histamine; SM: spermine; TY: tyramine; PHE: phenylethylamine.

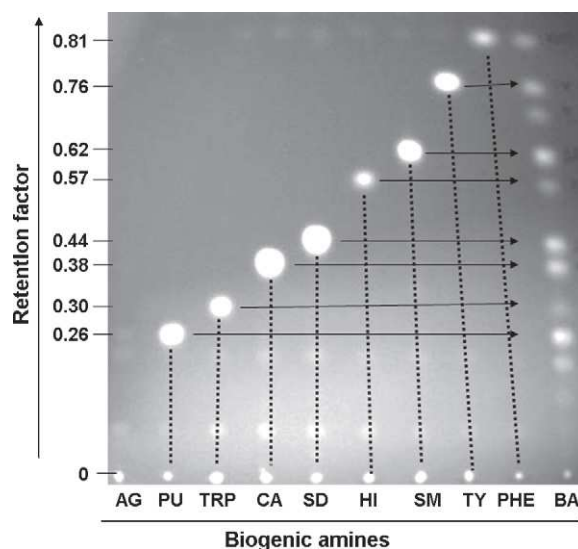


Fig. 2. TLC development and separation of BAs (20 mg/L) using the solvent system chloroform–diethyl ether–triethylamine (4:1:1), agmatine (AG), putrescine (PU), tryptamine (TRP), cadaverine (CA), spermidine (SD), histamine (HI), spermine (SM), tyramine (TY) and phenylethylamine (PHE).

Table 2Biogenic amine production of different strains of enterococci determined by TLC (+++: ≥ 500 mg/L; ++: 50–500 mg/L; +: ≤ 50 mg/L; -: negative) and HPLC (mg/L) methods.

| Strain | TY | | PHE | | PU | | CA | | HI | |
|--------|-----|---------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|-------|-----|------|
| | TLC | HPLC | TLC | HPLC | TLC | HPLC | TLC | HPLC | TLC | HPLC |
| EF1 | + | 25.12 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF2 | +++ | 1633.8 | ++ | 297.7 | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF3 | +++ | 1595.1 | ++ | 206.7 | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF4 | +++ | 1007.6 | ++ | 169.0 | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF5 | +++ | 963.3 | ++ | 235.1 | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF6 | +++ | 1380.3 | ++ | 377.9 | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF7 | +++ | 2235.2 | ++ | 645.0 | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF8 | +++ | 687.2 | ++ | 297.9 | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF9 | +++ | 1376.9 | ++ | 270.2 | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF10 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF11 | +++ | 2281.7 | +++ | 716.1 | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF12 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF13 | +++ | 1323.9 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF14 | +++ | 1146.8 | ++ | 406.1 | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF15 | +++ | 1452.9 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF16 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF17 | ++ | 562.2 | + | 28.1 | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF18 | +++ | 1669.9 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF19 | ++ | 632.75 | + | 22.3 | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EF20 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| LC | +++ | 2561.65 | ++ | 175.51 | +++ | 1673.6 | + | 20.79 | – | – |
| LB | ++ | 169.47 | + | 11.28 | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| SX | – | – | – | – | +++ | 430 | ++ | 140 | – | – |
| SC | – | – | ++ | 160.50 | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| EC | – | – | – | – | +++ | 568 | +++ | 755 | + | 29 |
| KO | – | – | – | – | – | – | +++ | 683 | + | 39 |

TY: tyramine; PHE: phenylethylamine; PU: putrescine; CA: cadaverine; HI: histamine; LC: *Lactobacillus curvatus*, LB: *Lactobacillus brevis*; EF: *Enterococcus faecium*; SX: *Staphylococcus xylosum*; SC: *Staphylococcus carnosus*; EC: *Enterobacter Cloacae*; KO: *Klebsiella oxytoca*.

higher than the standard. In this way, microorganisms could be classified as low, moderate or powerful amine producers when less than 50 mg/L, from 50 to 500 mg/L, or more than 500 mg/L of amines are present in the decarboxylase broth medium, respectively.

To objectively check the effectiveness of the semi-quantification process, results from the TLC were compared with those provided by the validated HPLC [16]. Several bacterial strains producing different types and amounts of BAs were considered for the comparison. The results obtained by HPLC were in most cases within the range of values obtained by TLC (Table 2). Only small differences in the semi-quantification of E17 and E19 strains for TY, of E7 for PHE, and of SX for PU were observed. The Chi-square test was applied to measure the significance of any discrepancy between the TLC and HPLC methods. No statistical differences ($p > 0.05$) for any BA were found. Fig. 3 shows the suitability of the TLC method to detect and semi-quantify BAs produced by different types of microorganism. TLC clearly revealed that *L. curvatus* produced high amounts of TY, PHE and PU and low amounts of CA, whereas *L. brevis* was only able to produce moderate amounts of TY together with low PHE. Likewise, it was possible to identify negative amino acid decarboxylase strains, such as EF10, since no spots were recorded for this bacterium.

In conclusion, the described TLC method could simultaneously detect and semi-quantify more amines with an improved sensitivity in comparison with the previously published TLC procedures focused on the determination of microbial amino acid decarboxylase potential. Moreover, it drastically reduced the dansylation process period from 80 to 18 min, by increasing the reaction temperature to 100 °C. This TLC method showed good repeatability, a detection limit of 1 mg/L for all BAs and no interferences from Dns-Cl or the matrix of samples. This TLC method is useful for identifying amino acid decarboxylase positive bacteria, allowing the classification of bacteria according to their BA production. The results of this method coincide with those obtained by the HPLC method. Therefore, this TLC method is presented as a simpler, faster and less expensive alternative to other methods, such as differential culture

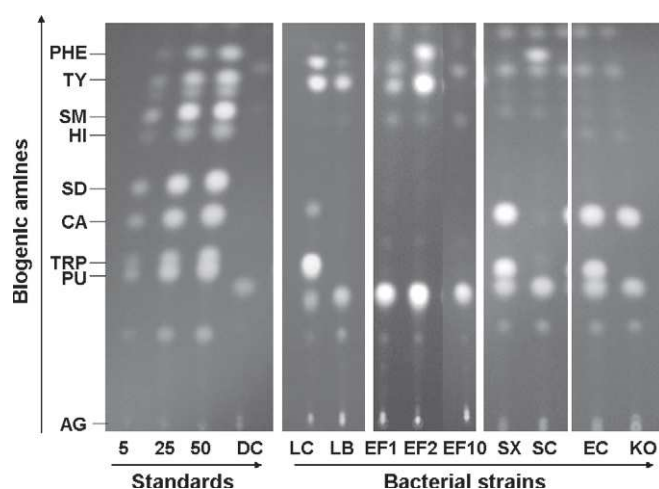


Fig. 3. TLC detection of biogenic amines produced by different bacterial strains. Biogenic amine standards of 5, 25 and 50 mg/L. DC: decarboxylase medium; LC: *Lactobacillus curvatus*, LB: *Lactobacillus brevis*; EF: *Enterococcus faecium*; SX: *Staphylococcus xylosum*; SC: *Staphylococcus carnosus*; EC: *Enterobacter cloacae*; KO: *Klebsiella oxytoca*.

media, HPLC and even other previously published TLC procedures. Moreover, it improves the sensitivity of the previously published TLC procedures.

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Thin-Layer Chromatography for the identification and Semi-Quantification of bacterial Amino Acid Decarboxylase Activity

M. Luz Latorre Moratalla, Sara Bover Cid, Teresa Veciana Nogués and M. Carmen Vidal Carou



1Department de Nutrition and Food Science, Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitat de Barcelona, Av. Joan XXIII s/n, E08028 Barcelona, Spain.
2IRTA, Finca Granja Camps i Armet, E-17121 Monells, Spain.

INTRODUCTION

Most of the existing screening methods to detect positive decarboxylase microorganism are based on a suitable culture medium for biogenic amines (BA) formation and their subsequent identification and quantification by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). However this technique requires sophisticated equipment with a high cost and trained staff that probably surpasses the requirements for a rapid screening analysis. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) is a simple, quick and inexpensive procedure that could be useful for the analysis of BA formed by bacteria.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

TLC method description

The proposed TLC method involved two different steps:

a) dansylation process: BA are derivatized with dansyl chloride using a modification of the method described by Lapa-Guimarães et al. [1], at 100°C during a total time of 18 min.

b) TLC development: Ten µl of ethyl acetate extract containing the dansyl-amines are applied at 2cm from the base edge of TLC plate (20 cm x 20 cm precoated with 0.25 mm silica gel G60) in 5mm bands at 1cm intervals. Developing chamber is loaded with 100mL of the solvent system, consisting on chloroform, diethyl ether and triethylamine (4:1:1). When the solvent reach the distance to the front limit (17 cm), the plate is removed from the developing chamber, dried, and the components are visualized under a UV lamp at 366 nm. To identify each BA from the mixture, the retention factor is determined and compared with the R_f of a standard. The size and the light intensity of the spots allowed the semi quantification.

TLC Validation

a) Reliability of the TLC method:

- The repeatability was studied calculating the R_f of each BA standard by triplicate.
- The sensitivity was determined running standard solutions from 500 mg/L to 0.5 mg/L, on a TLC plate. The detection limit was measured in terms of the minimum fluorescence intensity of the dansyl-amines needed to be visualized under a UV lamp.
- To evaluate the specificity of the method, dansylated samples of decarboxylase medium and of BA standards were used.

b) Evaluation of the semi quantitiveness: the BA results of the TLC were compared with the quantitative values provided by the HPLC method described by Hernández-Jover et al. [2]

Microbial strains tested: *Lactobacillus curvatus*, *Lactobacillus brevis*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Staphylococcus xylosus*, *Staphylococcus carnosus*, *Enterobacter cloacae* and *Klebsiella oxytoca*.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The TLC method is able to separate and identify simultaneously up to nine BA (Figure 1), which improves the number of BA detected by other reported methods [3, 4]. The time spent on the dansylation process has been drastically reduced from 100 min (in the original method) to 18 min, increasing the incubation temperature up to 100 °C (after checking that BA are stable to this temperature). The method shows a good repeatability with VC of replicates between 0.7 and 4.2%. The detection limit (sensitivity) is 1 mg/L for all BA. The specificity of the method is good since no significant interferences come from the dansyl chloride neither from the decarboxylase medium (matrix of samples) appear.

Figure 2 shows the TLC identification and semi quantification of BA produced by different type of bacterial strains. The TLC method is useful to identify the amino acid decarboxylase positive bacteria. For the semi quantification of samples, BA standards are spotted together with a sample of sterile decarboxylase medium as a blank in order to ensure the lack of interference from the matrix. Table 1 shows the classification of the microorganism by the TLC method, according to the BA accumulated in the decarboxylase medium.

In order to objectively check the reliability of the present TLC method, the semi quantitative values from the TLC were compared with the quantitative values provided by a HPLC method as a reference. Several strains, most of them producers of different types of BA and at different concentrations were considered for the method comparison. The results obtained by the HPLC were, in most of cases, into the range of values obtained by the TLC (Table 2), indicating a good semi quantification. Moreover, none statistically differences ($p > 0.05$) between methods for any BA was obtained by a Chi-square test.

OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To develop a screening TLC method to determinate the BA produced *in vitro* by microorganisms which allows handling a large number of samples in a short time.
- ✓ To asses the semi quantification of the TLC method comparing with a usually applied quantitative HPLC method.
- ✓ To identify and to semi quantify BA produced by different type of bacterial cultures commonly present in foods by the TLC proposed method.

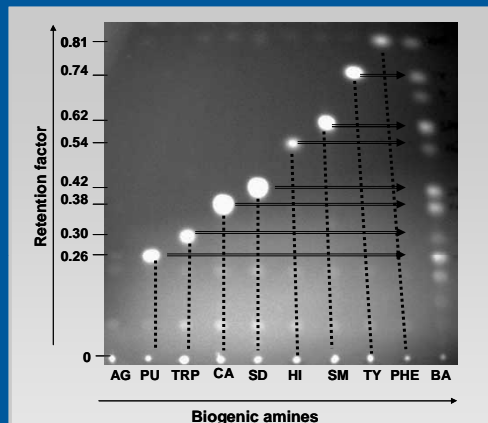


Figure 1 shows the TLC development of each BA standard with their corresponding R_f values and the separation of a mixture of all BA: agmatine (AG), putrescine (PU), triptamine (TRP), cadaverine (CA), spermidine (SD), histamine (HI), spermine (SM), tyramine (TY) and phenylethylamine (PHE)

| Positive amino acid decarboxylase microorganisms usually classified as a : | Classification of microorganism by the proposed TLC method when the size and intensity of the spot is: |
|--|--|
| low BA producers | <50 mg/L similar or lower than the standard of 5 mg/L. |
| moderate BA producers | 50 mg/L - 500 mg/L similar to the standard of 25 mg/L. |
| powerful BA producers | ≥500 mg/L similar or higher than the standards of 50 mg/L. |

Table 1. Classification of microorganisms by the proposed TLC method.

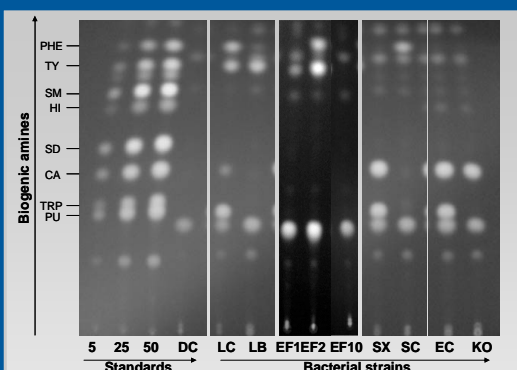


Figure 2 shows the TLC detection of the different BA produced by each type of bacterial strains: *Lactobacillus curvatus* (LC), *Lactobacillus brevis* (LB), *Enterococcus faecium* (EF1, EF2 and EF10), *Staphylococcus xylosus* (SX), *Staphylococcus carnosus* (SC), *Enterobacter cloacae* (EC) and *Klebsiella oxytoca* (KO).

| strain | TY | | PHE | | PU | | CA | | HI | |
|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|--------|------|------|-----|------|
| | TLC | HPLC | TLC | HPLC | TLC | HPLC | TLC | HPLC | TLC | HPLC |
| LC | ≥500 | 2561.7 | 50-500 | 175.5 | ≥500 | 1673.6 | <50 | 20.8 | - | - |
| LB | ≥500 | 169.5 | <50 | 11.3 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| EF1 | <50 | 27 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| EF2 | ≥500 | 2294 | 50-500 | 429 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| EF3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| SX | - | - | - | - | ≥500 | 1368 | ≥500 | 624 | - | - |
| SC | - | - | 50-500 | 160.50 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| EC | - | - | - | - | ≥500 | 568 | ≥500 | 755 | <50 | <50 |
| KO | - | - | - | - | - | - | ≥500 | 683 | <50 | <50 |

Table 2. BA production of different strains determined by TLC and HPLC methods

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DISCUSIÓN GENERAL

En este capítulo se presenta una discusión global de los resultados obtenidos en los diferentes trabajos incluidos en la tesis doctoral, agrupados en bloques temáticos. En primer lugar se tratan los contenidos de aminas biógenas, los microorganismos responsables de su formación y los factores que han podido influenciar en la aminogénesis de los embutidos artesanales europeos. A continuación se evalúa el posible riesgo para la salud del consumo de estos productos debido a sus contenidos en aminas biógenas. Finalmente, y después de analizar la significación higiénica de los contenidos de aminas, se discute la eficacia de las diferentes estrategias propuestas para reducir la acumulación de aminas biógenas y adaptadas a este tipo elaboración específica.

Discusión General

La mayoría de los embutidos artesanales se elaboran sin la adición de cultivos iniciadores por lo que en el proceso de fermentación participan microorganismos procedentes de la contaminación natural de las materias primas cárnicas, de los ingredientes y del propio ambiente de la planta elaboradora. Esta microbiota está constituida por microorganismos de interés tecnológico (bacterias del ácido láctico y CCG+) y por microorganismos alterantes relacionados con el deterioro del producto. Todos estos microorganismos pueden poseer capacidad aminoácido descarboxilasa, es decir, de formar aminas biógenas.

Contenidos, microorganismos formadores y factores que influyen en la formación de aminas biógenas

Los contenidos totales de aminas biógenas en los embutidos fermentados artesanalmente, procedentes de diferentes países europeos (apartado 6.1), fueron muy variables. Tanto el perfil cualitativo como los contenidos de aminas biógenas fueron similares a los descritos para productos de elaboración más industrial (Suzzi y Gardini, 2003; Ruiz-Capillas y Jiménez-Colmenero, 2004). La tiramina fue, en general, la amina mayoritaria, seguida de las diaminas putrescina y cadaverina. Histamina, feniletilamina y triptamina se encontraron sólo en un número muy reducido de muestras, y generalmente a concentraciones inferiores a los de tiramina y diaminas.

La acumulación de aminas biógenas en los alimentos requiere la concurrencia de varios factores, siendo los más importantes la presencia de microorganismos con capacidad aminogénica, la disponibilidad de aminoácidos precursores (incrementada por fenómenos proteolíticos) y las condiciones ambientales favorables para la síntesis y actividad de enzimas aminoácido descarboxilasa (principalmente pH ligeramente

ácido). Precisamente, estos factores concurren durante los procesos de fermentación de la carne, por lo que la elaboración de productos cárnicos fermentados sería especialmente favorable para los fenómenos aminogénicos.

En el estudio presentado en el apartado 6.1, se observó una asociación entre contenidos de ciertas aminas biógenas y algunos recuentos microbianos (en concreto entre cadaverina y enterobacterias) aunque sólo en algunos productos concretos. Sin embargo, el tratamiento estadístico global de los resultados mediante un análisis de componentes principales no permitió establecer una correlación estadísticamente significativa entre la aminogénesis y el incremento de los recuentos microbianos durante la elaboración artesanal de los embutidos fermentados.

El estudio específico de la capacidad aminoácido-descarboxilasa de los microorganismos aislados de los embutidos artesanales (apartado 7.1), permitió identificar los posibles responsables de la acumulación de aminas biógenas en estos productos. La cantidad y el tipo de amina dependen del tipo de microorganismo. Aunque la capacidad concreta para descarboxilar ciertos aminoácidos es una propiedad cepa dependiente, hay una clara asociación entre ciertas familias o géneros bacterianos y esta capacidad. Por ello es importante conocer la capacidad aminogénica de la microbiota presente en los embutidos fermentados artesanales europeos para el diseño de estrategias específicas de control de la formación de aminas en estos productos.

El 48% de las bacterias el ácido láctico analizadas fueron aminoácido-descarboxilasa positivas, siendo capaces de formar una o más aminas biógenas. Este hecho sugiere que los microorganismos responsables de la fermentación espontánea de los embutidos artesanales pueden también contribuir de forma relevante a la formación de aminas biógenas. Estos resultados coinciden con los descritos para otras bacterias lácticas aisladas de varios tipos de embutidos fermentados (Aymerich y col.,

2006; Bover-Cid y col., 2001; De las Rivas y col., 2008; Gonzalo de Llano y col., 1998; Montel y col., 1999; Silla-Santos y col., 1998; Straub y col., 1995).

Las cepas lácticas que mostraron mayor capacidad para formar aminas en los productos cárnicos fermentados europeos fueron las pertenecientes a las especies de *L. curvatus*, *L. brevis* y *E. faecium* y *E. hirae*. Fenotípicamente las cepas de *L. brevis* y *L. curvatus* se asocian con la producción de tiramina y en algunos casos también con la producción de feniletilamina, triptamina, putrescina y/o cadaverina (Aymerich y col., 2006; Bover-Cid y col., 1999). Se han identificado ya los genes tirosina Descarboxilasa (*tdc*) en varias cepas de *L. brevis* (Gen Bank accession numbers EF371897.1, EF371893.1 y AF446085.5) y de *L. curvatus* (EF371895.1, AJ871286.1, AF354231.1 y AB086652.1). Del mismo modo, muchas cepas de enterococos aisladas de productos cárnicos fermentados han sido ampliamente descritos como formadores de aminas, especialmente de tiramina y feniletilamina (Bover-Cid y col., 2001; Suzzi y Gardini, 2003). En este caso, también se ha aislado e identificado el gen *tdc* de cepas de las especies *E. faecium* (EF371894 y AJ83966) y *E. hirae* (AY303667). La mayoría de las cepas aminogénicas de enterococos, no son selectivas para tirosina, sino que también pueden descarboxilar la fenilalanina (Maijala y Eerola, 1993; Maijala y col., 2006).

Las cepas aisladas de las especies *L. plantarum* y *L. sakei* resultaron ser aminoácido Descarboxilasa negativas, coincidiendo con los resultados descritos hasta el momento para la mayoría de las cepas de estas especies (Aymerich y col., 2006; Bover-Cid y col., 1999). Por el momento, no se ha encontrado la presencia del gen *tdc* en el genoma de *L. sakei*, lo que concuerda con la incapacidad de formar aminas biógenas en las cepas estudiadas. Sin embargo, en el caso de *L. plantarum*, se ha secuenciado parcialmente dicho gen (EF17882.1).

Por lo que se refiere a las cepas de estafilococos estudiadas, sólo un 13% fueron capaces de formar aminas biógenas *in vitro*. Generalmente, las especies pertenecientes al género *Staphylococcus* se consideran bacterias sin o con débil

actividad aminoácido descarboxilasa (Aymerich y col., 2006, Martín y col., 2006), pero hay excepciones y así, algunos trabajos han descrito un elevado potencial para formar aminas en cepas concretas de estafilococos (Montel y col., 1999, Silla-Santos, 1998; Straub y col., 1995). Las cepas de estafilococos aminogénicas presentes en los embutidos estudiados pertenecían a las especies *S. carnosus*, *S. epidermidis*, *S. pasteurii* y *S. warneri*. A pesar de que ninguna de las 17 cepas analizadas de *S. xylosum* resultó positiva, en esta especie se ha secuenciado parcialmente el gen que codifica el enzima tirosina descarboxilasa (Torriani y col., 2008).

Sobre la base de estos resultados, *L. sakei* y *L. plantarum* entre los lactobacilos, y *S. xylosum* y *S. equorum* entre los estafilococos, serían los candidatos más apropiados para ser usados como cultivos iniciadores autóctonos, ya que no expresaron esta capacidad *in vitro*. Sin embargo, el comportamiento de estas cepas podría no ser igual en condiciones reales de fermentación, por lo que es importante validar su aptitud mediante estudios "*in situ*" de inoculación en productos reales (como por ejemplo en el estudio presentado en los capítulos 8 y 9).

Además de la presencia de microorganismos aminogénicos, se sabe que la formación de aminas biógenas está sujeta a otros factores tecnológicos, tales como la formulación, las características del producto y las condiciones del proceso de elaboración (Bover-Cid y col., 1999; Komprda y col., 2009; Roseiro y col., 2010). Estos factores pueden influir sobre varios de los fenómenos asociados con la aminogénesis, incluyendo el crecimiento microbiano y la interacción entre las comunidades microbianas, la acidificación, la proteólisis o el potencial redox (anaerobiosis), entre otros.

El tipo y la cantidad de aminas dependen de múltiples variables, que interactúan entre sí, lo que hace difícil de caracterizar el efecto individual de cada factor sobre la aminogénesis, a no ser que se diseñen estudios específicos controlando

todas estas variables. Precisamente, esta podría ser una de las razones por las que, en el estudio presentado en el apartado 6.1, no se encontró una relación estadísticamente significativa entre la formación de aminas biógenas y los diferentes parámetros tecnológicos (temperatura y humedad relativa del proceso de elaboración) y físico-químicos (a_w e índice de proteólisis) estudiados en los embutidos artesanales en función del país de origen. Tampoco Parente y col. (2001) observaron una relación directa entre el incremento de los contenidos de aminas biógenas en distintos tipos de embutidos y los diferentes factores o variables relacionados.

Por ello, es imprescindible estudiar el efecto de cada uno de los factores o variables sobre la aminogénesis en los productos cárnicos fermentados, y con este objetivo, se estudió de forma controlada la influencia de diferentes factores tecnológicos (tipo de elaboración y diámetro del producto) en la formación de aminas biógenas en estos productos (capítulo 8).

A grandes rasgos, la elaboración industrial se diferencia de la artesanal principalmente por el uso o no de cultivos iniciadores de la fermentación. Además, en las prácticas industriales, con el fin de favorecer el desarrollo de la microbiota fermentativa (cultivo iniciador) se aplican temperaturas generalmente superiores a los 20°C y humedades relativas entorno al 90%, durante los primeros días del proceso de fermentación, para luego descender durante el proceso de maduración. En cambio, las temperaturas y humedades aplicadas en la elaboración artesanal suelen ser más bajas y constantes (12-15°C, y 70-80% HR) durante todo el proceso de fermentación y maduración (Lebert y col., 2007). Estas particularidades condicionan, *a priori*, la evolución del proceso fermentativo. Así, en los procedimientos industriales la etapa de fermentación sería más rápida e implicaría una acidificación más intensa en comparación con los procedimientos artesanales (a temperaturas más bajas y sin cultivo iniciador de la fermentación).

En general, los productos industriales se caracterizan por tener valores de pH más bajos que los artesanales (Aymerich y col., 2003, Parente y col., 2001; Bunic y col., 1993). En el estudio presentado en el apartado 8.1, los contenidos totales de aminas biógenas fueron mayores en los productos más ácidos (asociados a una elaboración de tipo industrial) en comparación a los productos poco ácidos (asociados a la elaboración de tipo artesanal). Algunos estudios han observado que la máxima formación de aminas biógenas ocurre normalmente durante los primeros días de fermentación en los que se observa un notable descenso del pH (Bunic y col., 1993; Santos-Buelga y col., 1986; Bover-Cid y col., 2001). La acidificación es un factor que afecta, en general, a la formación de aminas biógenas a través de distintos mecanismos. Por una parte, una intensa y rápida disminución de los valores de pH durante los primeros días de fermentación son críticos para la inhibición de la microbiota indeseable, y por consiguiente minimizaría la acumulación de aminas biógenas. Por otra parte, también es conocido el hecho que la acidificación favorece las reacciones descarboxilación microbianas y, consecuentemente, la formación de aminas como un mecanismo de defensa de los microorganismos contra un medio ácido que les es desfavorable.

Los resultados de esta tesis demuestran que la relación entre el pH y el contenido de aminas biógenas fue diferente dependiendo de la amina. Los niveles de tiramina, la amina más relacionada con la microbiota responsable del proceso de fermentación, fueron similares en todos los productos, tanto ácidos como poco ácidos, pero los de cadaverina e histamina, aminas asociadas a la calidad higiénica de las materias primas, fueron superiores en los productos más ácidos. Sin embargo, este estudio se realizó en muestras de mercado y no permitió controlar factores importantes, tales como las condiciones higiénicas de las materias primas o los parámetros tecnológicos concretos de la elaboración.

Por ello, con el fin de estudiar de forma comparativa la influencia de las condiciones de elaboración típicamente industriales y artesanales en la acumulación

de aminas biógenas en productos cárnicos fermentados, se planteó un experimento específico, mediante un diseño experimental controlado (apartado 8.2). Este estudio se llevó a cabo con productos obtenidos mediante fermentación espontánea (microbiota autóctona) de diferente diámetro (fuet y salchichón) y con embutidos inoculados con una cepa con demostrada capacidad aminoácido descarboxilasa *in vitro* (*L. curvatus* CTC273). Con esta cepa, utilizada como modelo representativo de una microbiota fermentativa aminogénica, se pretendió investigar con más profundidad el efecto de las variables arriba mencionadas (elaboración industrial vs artesanal y diámetro del producto).

Los resultados de este estudio indican de nuevo que los embutidos elaborados a temperaturas y humedades relativas más altas acumulan mayores contenidos de aminas, tanto los fermentados espontáneamente como los inoculados con la cepa aminogénica, en comparación con los productos elaborados bajo condiciones típicamente artesanales. Se demuestra por tanto que la temperatura y humedad relativa elevada favorecen el desarrollo de la microbiota fermentativa y/o estimulan la actividad aminogénica de los microorganismos aminoácido-descarboxilasa positivos. Estos resultados concuerdan con los descritos en estudios previos en los que se señala que la aplicación de temperaturas relativamente elevadas (e.g. 18-26°C) podrían favorecer la acción de las enzimas proteolíticas y de las reacciones de descarboxilación con la consecuente formación de aminas biógenas (Joosten, 1997; Suzzi y Gardini, 2003). Por ejemplo, Masson y col. (1999) demostraron que una misma cepa de *Carnobacterium divergens* fue capaz de producir más tiramina a 25°C que a 15 °C. En la mayoría de casos, la influencia de la temperatura se asocia a un mayor crecimiento bacteriano, lo que conlleva una mayor actividad aminogénica. Sin embargo, en el presente estudio, los recuentos microbianos fueron muy similares pero la acumulación de aminas biógenas fue distinta, lo que sugiere que las condiciones del proceso elevadas favorecieron principalmente la actividad aminogénica de los microorganismos aminoácido-descarboxilasa positivos.

De acuerdo con estos resultados, cabe extrapolar que la elaboración industrial de embutidos fermentados y elaborados a temperaturas y humedades más altas, favorecería la formación de aminas biógenas. Es por ello que la utilización de cultivos iniciadores aminoácido-descarboxilasa negativos se convierte en un factor crítico para la obtención de embutidos sin o con bajos niveles de aminas biógenas. Las relativamente bajas temperaturas y humedades relativas usadas habitualmente en la elaboración artesanal son las condiciones menos favorables para la formación de aminas biógenas, lo que es un factor positivo en productos donde no se suelen emplear cultivos iniciadores.

El diámetro de los embutidos fermentados, como reflejo de variables como la anaerobiosis, potencial redox, a_w y pH, es otro de los factores o variables que pueden modular de manera significativa la formación de aminas. En el mercado existen una gran variedad de productos fermentados, que se caracterizan, entre otras cosas, por sus diferentes diámetros. El estudio de la influencia del diámetro en la formación de aminas biógenas (apartado 8.1, en muestras de mercado, y 8.2, en muestras elaboradas a nivel de planta piloto) permite concluir que a mayor diámetro, mayor es el contenido de aminas acumuladas. Otros estudios también han descrito esta relación (Bover-Cid y col., 2001; Komprda y col., 2004; Komprda y col., 2009). El diámetro del embutido afecta a diferentes propiedades físico-químicas, pues cuanto mayor es el diámetro del embutido más elevados son los valores de la actividad de agua, debido a la menor pérdida de agua, lo que determina, a su vez, una menor concentración de sal (Demeyer, 2000). Además, un mayor diámetro provoca un mayor grado de anaerobiosis que está relacionado con un menor potencial redox. Todas estas características pueden favorecer el crecimiento microbiano y estimular la actividad metabólica de las bacterias del ácido láctico fermentativas, especialmente si la temperatura y humedad relativa son próximas a las óptimas para su crecimiento y actividad. Otro efecto relacionado con el mayor diámetro es el mayor descenso de los

valores de pH debido a un aumento en la producción de ácidos orgánicos (ácido láctico) derivados de la actividad fermentativa de los microorganismos.

Significación toxicológica de los contenidos de aminas biógenas de embutidos fermentados de elaboración artesanal

Los límites tóxicos de las aminas biógenas en alimentos son difíciles de establecer, ya que existe una alta variabilidad en las respuestas y sensibilidades entre individuos. Varios factores genéticos, farmacológicos y dietéticos son los responsables de la variabilidad inter-individual en la sensibilidad frente a las aminas biógenas (véase capítulo 2.2.2). En la población sana adulta, las barreras intestinal y hepática, principalmente por la acción de enzimas mono y di-amino oxidasas, son altamente eficaces, impidiendo que las aminas biógenas ingeridas a través de los alimentos se absorban y, consecuentemente, reduciendo el riesgo de problemas de salud asociados a la ingesta de aminas.

Las crisis hipertensivas relacionadas con el consumo de tiramina, según la literatura, requieren dosis de 200 a 2000 mg de tiramina para poder desencadenarse en individuos sanos (Korn y col., 1988; Berlin y col., 1989; Patat y col., 1995; Dingemans y col., 1998). Sin embargo, en personas que reciben tratamientos con medicamentos IMAO, generalmente se les recomienda evitar los alimentos con tiramina y otras aminas biógenas, ya que dosis de 6 mg de tiramina pueden causar síntomas y dosis de 25 mg desencadenar crisis hipertensivas de cierta consideración (McCabe, 1986). No obstante, actualmente son más utilizados los fármacos IMAO de tercera generación, con los que se toleran de 50 a 100 mg de tiramina (Dingemans y col., 1998).

El contenido medio de tiramina en los embutidos fermentados europeos elaborados artesanalmente fue de 223 mg/kg y considerando 23 g como la ración

media de consumo de embutido (según los datos proporcionados por el proyecto Tradisausage, véase apartado 2.2.3), sólo aquellas personas bajo tratamiento con fármacos IMAO clásicos, estarían en riesgo de sufrir algún tipo de efecto adverso. Sin embargo, considerando el peor de los escenarios, es decir, el consumo de una ración generosa (100 g) del embutido artesanal que contenía los valores más elevados de tiramina (728 mg/kg), se alcanzaría la dosis de tiramina sugerida para individuos bajo tratamiento con fármacos de tercera generación (50 mg). Por el contrario, los individuos que no se incluyen dentro de estos grupos de riesgo, difícilmente corren riesgo de sufrir reacciones hipertensivas por el consumo de productos cárnicos fermentados de elaboración artesanal, puesto que sería necesario consumir entre 270 y 2700 g del producto con mayor contenido de tiramina para alcanzar la dosis potencialmente tóxica. Ahora bien, no hay que olvidar que los embutidos sólo son una de las posibles fuentes dietéticas de aminas biógenas y que muchos otros alimentos también pueden aportar. Del mismo modo, parece difícil alcanzar la ingesta de 100 mg de tiramina necesarios para desencadenar migrañas en individuos susceptibles (Hannington, 1980).

La histamina es la única de las aminas biógenas sujeta a una regulación legal aunque sólo para algunas especies de pesados, con un límite máximo de 100 mg / kg en Europa (Reglamento (CE) 2073/ 2005). No existe normativa sobre límites de aminas biógenas en embutidos fermentados. Los contenidos de histamina en los embutidos europeos artesanales estudiados, fueron en general muy bajos (mediana de 1 mg/kg), aunque excepcionalmente se detectaron contenidos elevados (máximo de 204 mg/kg). Consecuentemente, para alcanzar los niveles sugeridos por algunos autores como límite para establecer el riesgo potencial de sufrir una intoxicación histamínica en individuos sanos, alrededor de los 100 mg de histamina (Montil y Scrimshaw, 1979; Shalaby, 1996; Wohrl y col., 2004; Raucher y Gaberning, 2009), sería necesario el consumo de aproximadamente 500 g del embutido con los contenidos más elevados

de histamina, valor muy alejado de un consumo considerado normal o habitual de embutido.

El principal enzima para la metabolización de la histamina en el tracto intestinal es la diamino oxidasa (DAO). La intolerancia a la histamina puede aparecer cuando el enzima DAO está afectado por deficiencias genéticas o por el uso de medicamentos que son inhibidores de la DAO, como la acetilcisteína, el verapamilo y la metoclopramida, entre otros. Se ha estimado que aproximadamente un 20% de la población utiliza en un momento u otro este tipo de medicamentos (Sattler y col., 1988).

Por tanto, aunque en la mayoría de los productos fermentados europeos de origen artesanal estudiados tienen contenidos de histamina no supondrían un riesgo para la población sana no sensible, ciertos individuos tratados con fármacos con actividad inhibidora del enzima DAO podrían sufrir efectos adversos por su consumo, al encontrarse puntualmente comprometidos los sistemas intestinales de metabolización de esa amina.

Significación higiénica de la presencia de aminas biógenas en embutidos fermentados artesanales y posibles estrategias para su control

Uno de los aspectos esenciales en cuanto a la presencia de aminas biógenas en los alimentos en general, y en los productos cárnicos fermentados en particular, es concluir si su presencia se puede considerar normal, y hasta cierto punto inevitable, o si, por el contrario, es una consecuencia de falta de higiene, elaboraciones defectuosas o de alteraciones del alimento. No es fácil establecer unos niveles de aminas a partir de los cuales se pueda considerar que el producto es o no aceptable desde el punto de vista higiénico. En el estudio presentado en el apartado 6.1, los productos cárnicos europeos fermentados artesanalmente se clasificaron según su significación higiénica en 5 grupos (A-E) a partir de los contenidos de aminas biógenas presentes en el

producto final. Los grupos A y B (que reúnen más del 60% de los productos analizados) serían la opción más deseada desde el punto de vista higiénico. En estos grupos, los contenidos totales de aminas fueron desde muy bajos a moderados, siendo en todos los casos la tiramina la amina mayoritaria, normalmente, seguida por la putrescina. En estos grupos de embutidos la cadaverina y la histamina fueron prácticamente inexistentes, lo que indicaría una buena calidad higiénica de las materias primas utilizadas.

La tiramina es la principal amina formada en los productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados y está asociada generalmente a la actividad tirosina-decarboxilasa de algunas cepas de bacterias del ácido láctico, especialmente lactobacilos y enterococos, y en menor medida también a la actividad de los cocos Gram-positivos catalasa-positivos (Suzzi y Gardini, 2003). Por ello, ciertos contenidos, bajos o moderados de esta amina, pueden ser aceptables y hasta cierto punto normales e inevitables por ser una consecuencia de los procesos de fermentación/maduración.

Los productos cárnicos fermentados distribuidos entre los grupos C, D y E, pueden considerarse de peor calidad higiénica, pues contenían cantidades totales de aminas entre moderadas y muy altas, en algunos casos superiores a los 500 mg/kg. Además, en estos casos la amina mayoritaria fue la cadaverina. Los productos con contenidos significativos de histamina también se encontraban dentro de estos tres últimos grupos. La cadaverina y la histamina están generalmente asociadas a la actividad descarboxilasa de la microbiota alterante o contaminante, como por ejemplo las enterobacterias (Durlu-Özkaya y col., 2001), las cuales no se encontrarían totalmente inhibidas durante el proceso de fermentación/maduración de los embutidos. Así, los contenidos elevados de cadaverina o de histamina se consideran indicadores de una mala calidad higiénica de las materias primas (ingredientes, aditivos, etc.) o de un proceso de elaboración no del todo correcto desde el punto de vista higiénico (manipulación de materias primas, condiciones de proceso, higiene de

las instalaciones y/o utensilios, etc.) (Bover-Cid y col., 2001; Bover-Cid y col., 2003). En el caso de los embutidos artesanales europeos, sólo 5 de los productos se elaboraron con materias primas que contenían niveles significativos de aminas biógenas y por tanto de una baja calidad higiénica. Estos productos quedaron clasificados en los grupos de peor calidad higiénica (C-E), lo que también confirma que el estado higiénico-sanitario de las materias primas es un elemento imprescindible, aunque no suficiente, para obtener productos finales libres o con muy bajos contenidos de aminas biógenas.

Desde un punto de vista higiénico, la ausencia o cantidades muy bajas de aminas en estos productos deberían considerarse como un atributo de calidad, mientras que, por el contrario, la presencia significativa de ciertas aminas biógenas (especialmente cadaverina) sería un indicador de una calidad higiénica defectuosa.

Los niveles extremadamente bajos de aminas biógenas, especialmente tiramina, en algunos de los productos incluidos en el grupo A, demuestran que es posible obtener productos cárnicos fermentados de elaboración artesanal prácticamente libres de tiramina y otras aminas biógenas. Sin embargo, en ocasiones puede ser conveniente implementar estrategias de control basadas en tecnologías de elaboración apropiadas para minimizar la producción de aminas biógenas. Por ejemplo, estrategias como el uso de cultivos iniciadores descarboxilasa negativos se han aplicado de forma exitosa en embutidos fermentados de elaboración tipo industrial (Bover-Cid y col., 2001). Sin embargo, las medidas propuestas a nivel industrial no siempre son compatibles con las prácticas artesanales, por lo que es necesario el desarrollo de medidas específicas para los embutidos fermentados artesanalmente.

Una de las medidas o estrategias clave para reducir la aminogénesis durante la elaboración y almacenamiento de este tipo de productos es optimizar las condiciones higiénicas tanto de las materias primas como del proceso de elaboración (Bover y

Holzappel, 1999; Bover-Cid y col., 2001; Halász y col., 1994). Una práctica común en la industria alimentaria para mejorar la calidad higiénica de las materias primas es la pasteurización y la esterilización de las mismas, al objeto de eliminar la carga microbiana. Sin embargo, en el caso de los productos cárnicos fermentados, este tipo de tratamientos no son factibles porque causan un detrimento de las materias primas y consecuentemente del producto final. La aplicación de otras tecnologías no térmicas, como el caso de las altas presiones hidrostáticas (APH), se ha planteado como una alternativa para este propósito. La APH es una de las tecnologías emergentes más estudiada actualmente, ya que permite inactivar microorganismos con mínimos cambios nutricionales y sensoriales (Hugas y col., 2002). Hasta el momento, en el campo de las aminas biógenas, la aplicación de AHP en las materias primas ha sido únicamente estudiada en la producción de quesos como alternativa a la pasteurización. En el estudio realizado por Novella-Rodríguez y col. (2002) describen efectos equivalentes en la reducción de la formación de aminas tras el tratamiento de materias primas lácteas con APH y con la pasteurización térmica.

El trabajo recogido en el apartado 9.1 estudia el efecto sobre la acumulación de aminas de las APH aplicadas en las materias primas cárnicas. En los lotes presurizados se observó una fuerte inhibición de la acumulación de las diaminas putrescina y cadaverina (siendo un 88% y 98% más bajas que en los productos no presurizados, respectivamente). Sin embargo, este tratamiento no fue capaz de reducir la formación de tiramina. Las altas presiones aplicadas (200MPa) parecen tener un efecto higienizador sobre las bacterias contaminantes, asociado a un descenso de los recuentos de enterobacterias y este efecto se tradujo en una menor presencia de diaminas. Es conocida la sensibilidad de las enterobacterias (como microorganismos Gram-negativos) a los tratamientos con altas presiones (Yuste y col., 2002). Por el contrario, los microorganismos asociados con actividades tirosina descarboxilasa, como los enterococos, tienen una reconocida resistencia a las APH (Winckel y col., 1997), y no fueron sensibles a las presiones aplicadas.

Como ya se ha concluido en los apartados 6.1 y 9.1 de esta tesis, unas óptimas condiciones higiénicas son imprescindibles pero no suficientes para reducir la formación de aminas biógenas, por lo que, en muchas ocasiones puede ser necesaria la aplicación de otras medidas o estrategias basadas en la tecnología de elaboración.

Los ingredientes y aditivos utilizados en la formulación de los embutidos fermentados son también factores moduladores de la acumulación de aminas biógenas (Ruiz-Capillas y Jiménez-Colmenero, 2004; Vidal-Carou y col, 2007). Los cambios en las concentraciones de azúcar en la formulación de los embutidos fermentados artesanales estudiados (apartado 9.2) generaron resultados contradictorios. Por un lado, en los productos de origen italiano, el aumento de azúcar fue una medida eficaz para reducir significativamente los contenidos de cadaverina, la principal amina producida por las enterobacterias. En cambio, en otro tipo de producto (saussisson francés), un incremento similar en la concentración de sacarosa, no sólo no redujo los contenidos de aminas sino que presumiblemente estimuló el crecimiento o la actividad de los microorganismos aminogénicos. En la literatura también encontramos resultados contradictorios acerca del efecto del contenido y tipo de azúcar sobre la acumulación de aminas biógenas. Varios estudios sugieren que la adición de ciertas concentraciones de azúcar estimularía el desarrollo de las bacterias lácticas, obteniendo una rápida y fuerte acidificación, lo que consecuentemente limitaría el crecimiento y por tanto la actividad aminogénica de la microbiota contaminante (González-Fernández y col., 2003; Maijala y col., 1995). En este sentido, el trabajo de Bover-Cid y col. (2001) demostró que la falta de azúcar en la formulación de los productos cárnicos fermentados genera un incremento de las concentraciones de aminas biógenas, concretamente de tiramina y cadaverina, en comparación con los productos formulados con azúcar. Por lo contrario, Vanderkerck-Hove (1977), no encontró ningún efecto en la adición de diferentes tipos de azúcares y a diferentes concentraciones en la acumulación de aminas biógenas en productos cárnicos fermentados.

Una de las estrategias más eficaces para la reducción de aminas biógenas es la adición de cultivos iniciadores específicamente seleccionados por carecer de capacidad para descarboxilar aminoácidos. Sin embargo, en las elaboraciones de tipo más artesanal el uso de cultivos iniciadores comerciales esta desaconsejado ya que podrían provocar, en mayor o menor medida, una pérdida de los matices organolépticos característicos y apreciados de este tipo de productos. Una estrategia alternativa para evitar estas pérdidas sensoriales sería la adición de cultivos iniciadores autóctonos (Talon y col., 2007), formados por cepas de microorganismos procedentes del producto concreto y/o del lugar de elaboración del mismo. Estos microorganismos se encontrarían bien adaptados a la ecología de fermentación del producto en particular, y permitirían conservar los matices sensoriales que caracterizan los productos de elaboración artesanal (Benito y col., 2007). En la literatura, existen escasos estudios del efecto de cultivos iniciadores autóctonos, por lo que en esta tesis se plantearon estudios específicos (apartados 9.1 y 9.2).

Los cultivos iniciadores autóctonos demostraron ser una buena estrategia para la reducción de la formación de aminas biógenas en todos los casos estudiados, aunque no todos los cultivos presentaron la misma eficacia. Las mayores reducciones, tuvieron lugar mediante la adición de cultivos compuestos por cepas de *L. sakei*, tanto solas como en combinación con otras cepas de lactobacilos y/o estafilococos. El efecto más intenso se detectó sobre todo en la minimización de la acumulación de cadaverina, con una reducción máxima del 99%. Además, los resultados obtenidos también demuestran que no sólo son importantes las especies sino la cepa concreta que forma el cultivo iniciador. Algunas de las cepas utilizadas como cultivos iniciadores autóctonos ya se habían utilizado con éxito en estudios previos realizados en plantas piloto, mostrando una adecuada competitividad e implantación en el producto y consiguiendo reducciones de hasta el 90 % del contenido total de aminas (Hugas y col., 1995; Bover-Cid y col., 2000; Garriga y col., 2005). Sin embargo, cuando estas mismas cepas se inoculan en productos elaborados en una planta real de elaboración

artesanal, el cultivo muestra un efecto protector ligeramente más débil, reduciendo la tiraminogénesis sólo en un 50 %. Así pues, el distinto grado de reducción de aminas biógenas por parte de un cultivo iniciador puede depender de las distintas condiciones tecnológicas aplicadas y/o de los lugares de elaboración.

Las cualidades sensoriales de los embutidos fermentados (textura, color y *flavour*) dependen de numerosos compuestos que resultan de las reacciones químicas y bioquímicas que tienen lugar durante el proceso de elaboración de estos compuestos, y por tanto en último término de la formulación del producto y de la microbiota presente en el mismo. Con el objetivo de comprobar si las estrategias aplicadas para reducir la aminogénesis (incremento de azúcar y inoculación de cultivos iniciadores autóctonos) modificaban sustancialmente las características sensoriales de los productos cárnicos elaborados artesanalmente, cada participante del proyecto europeo llevo a cabo el análisis sensorial de los correspondientes embutidos. Los embutidos fermentados estudiados no presentaron diferencias significativas en cuanto a las cualidades sensoriales estudiadas (textura, color y aroma) independientemente de si se le había aplicado la estrategia de mejora o no (Talon y col., 2008; Informe final proyecto Tradisausage QLK1-CT-2002-02240). Por lo tanto, se puede concluir que la adición de cultivos iniciadores artesanales es capaz de reducir la formación de aminas biógenas, sin afectar los matices o connotaciones sensoriales típicos de una elaboración artesanal de embutidos fermentados.

En definitiva, el presente trabajo aporta nuevos datos sobre los contenidos de aminas biógenas en productos cárnicos fermentados elaborados artesanalmente, sobre la influencia de los factores que pueden influir en su formación y propone medidas de control para reducir su acumulación durante la elaboración de este tipo de embutidos.

CONCLUSIONES

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Las conclusiones que se derivan de los diferentes trabajos de investigación que forman esta tesis se describen a continuación en función de los objetivos marcados:

- Los contenidos totales de aminas biógenas de los embutidos fermentados artesanalmente y procedentes de diferentes países europeos fueron muy variables. La tiramina fue, en general, la amina mayoritaria, seguida de las diaminas putrescina y cadaverina. Los contenidos de histamina, feniletilamina y triptamina se encontraron sólo en un número muy reducido de muestras.
- Se ha demostrado una relación positiva entre el incremento de las aminas y el de los aminoácidos libres, lo que está de acuerdo con el papel de los aminoácidos como precursores de las aminas. Sin embargo, no fue posible relacionar el proceso aminogénico y el resto de los factores físico-químicos, tecnológicos o microbiológicos. Además, tampoco se pudo demostrar una relación entre la aminogénesis y el lugar de procedencia de los embutidos.
- Se han propuesto límites para la clasificación higiénico-tecnológica de los embutidos fermentados en base a su perfil cuantitativo y cualitativo de las aminas biógenas en el producto final. Más de la mitad de los productos (61 %) se incluyeron en los grupos considerados como satisfactorios y aceptables desde el punto de vista higiénico-tecnológico, por sus contenidos bajos en aminas biógenas. Por el contrario, la presencia considerable o elevada de ciertas aminas biógenas, encontrada en un 39% de los productos, podría considerarse indicadora de una calidad higiénica y tecnológica pobre y, por lo tanto, ser productos menos deseables que el resto.

- El consumo de embutidos europeos de elaboración artesanal, no supone ningún riesgo de sufrir un efecto tóxico asociado a la ingesta de aminas biógenas para la población en general. Sin embargo, este riesgo se ve incrementado en individuos sensibles, especialmente aquellas bajo tratamiento con fármacos IMAO u otros con acción inhibitoria de la enzima DAO.
- En general, no se observó prácticamente formación de aminas biógenas durante el almacenamiento de los embutidos fermentados artesanales procedentes de diferentes países europeos, y por tanto se pueden considerar productos estables, independientemente de la temperatura a la que se conserven.
- El periodo de maduración breve de ciertos embutidos fermentados de elaboración artesanal constituye un factor de riesgo desde el punto de vista de la aminogénesis durante el posterior almacenamiento de estos productos.
- Los microorganismos responsables en gran medida de la fermentación espontánea de los embutidos artesanales europeos tuvieron una contribución relevante en la formación de aminas biógenas, especialmente si se tiene en cuenta que son grupos microbianos presentes a niveles elevados en este tipo de productos. Las cepas de *L. curvatus* junto con las de enterococos fueron las que presentaron una actividad descarboxilasa más intensa.
- Desde el punto de vista aminogénico, las cepas de las especies *L. plantarum*, *L. sakei* y *S. xylosum*, aisladas de los productos cárnicos fermentados europeos de elaboración artesanal, son las más adecuadas para ser utilizadas como parte de los cultivos iniciadores autóctonos, debido a su falta de capacidad para descarboxilar aminoácidos.
- Los productos cárnicos crudos-curados fermentados procedentes del mercado español más ácidos (o de origen industrial) presentaron contenidos de aminas biógenas superiores a los menos ácidos (o artesanales).
- Las relativamente altas temperaturas y humedades relativas, a las que tiene lugar la fermentación en las elaboraciones de tipo industrial favorecen la

actividad aminogénica de los microorganismos presentes durante la elaboración de embutidos crudos-curados fermentados.

- El diámetro de los productos cárnicos es una variable que influye el contenido total de aminas biógenas. De este modo, a mayor diámetro mayores contenidos de aminas.
- Las altas presiones hidrostáticas se muestran efectivas como tratamiento higienizante de las materias primas, reduciendo los recuentos de enterobacterias, y consecuentemente todas las aminas biógenas (putrescina y cadaverina) relacionadas con este tipo de microorganismos. Sin embargo este procedimiento higienizante parece no influir en la formación de tiramina.
- Las estrategias basadas en la reformulación de los embutidos fermentados artesanales, en cuanto al tipo y concentración de azúcar, presentan efectos diferentes en la reducción de la formación de aminas biógenas, dependiendo del tipo de producto y del proceso de elaboración específico.
- La inoculación de cultivos iniciadores autóctonos fue la estrategia más efectiva para evitar la formación de aminas biógenas en este tipo de alimentos, sobre todo cuando cepas de *L. sakei* forman parte del cultivo iniciador, solas o en combinación con otras cepas de lactobacilos o estafilococos.
- El método de UHPLC descrito se muestra como un procedimiento fiable para la determinación de 12 aminas biológicamente activas en menos de 7 minutos de elución cromatográfica, mostrando una satisfactoria linealidad, sensibilidad, precisión y exactitud independientemente de la matriz alimentaria considerada. Este método es el primer método de UHPLC acoplado a un sistema de derivatización post-columna *on-line* para la determinación de aminas biógenas en alimentos.
- El método de CCF desarrollado permite la determinación y semi-cuantificación simultánea de hasta 8 aminas biógenas, presentando una muy buena repetibilidad, especificidad y sensibilidad. El método de CCF se presenta como una alternativa sencilla, rápida y económica para la determinación de la capacidad aminoácido descarboxilasa expresada por los microorganismos,

además de permitir su clasificación según la intensidad con la que son capaces de formar cada una de las aminas.

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