



Research Article

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Effect of Canning/Thermal Processing on Quality Characteristics of Yakhni



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Abstract

The study was conducted to analyze the effect of goshtaba products with varying levels of fat and different gums and canning/thermal processing on the proximate composition and microbial stability of yakhni (gravy). The results indicated that non-significant difference was observed in moisture, protein, fat and ash contents in all formulations after canning ($P>0.05$), except yakhni from high fat control formulation which showed significantly higher fat content ($P<0.05$). Incorporation of different gums in goshtaba products showed non-significant effect on proximate of yakhni formulations ($P>0.05$). Microbial evaluation exhibited that after heat processing no viable microbes were recovered from any of the yakhni formulations. Thus all yakhni formulations were commercially sterile.

Keywords: Yakhni; Canning; Proximate composition; Microbial evaluation

Introduction

The state of Jammu and Kashmir in India is widely known for wazwan, which is a multi-course meal in Kashmiri cuisine. The preparation of wazwan is considered an art and a point of pride in Kashmiri culture and identity. Yakhni forms the essential component of Kashmiri wazwan. Yakhni is prepared from curd, water, hydrogenated vegetable oil, spices and condiments along with the meat balls (Goshtaba) or mutton pieces. This recipe has mouth-watering flavours that can tempt any one and is usually served with steamed rice. Aromatic spices included fennel seeds, cinnamon, cardamom, cloves etc. are added which are responsible for unique taste and flavour of yakhni.

Dairy and meat products when stored at room temperature can serve as an excellent medium for growth of microorganisms, since they are a good source of amino acids and nitrogen [1]. When these microorganisms multiply, they produce toxins that are hazardous and even lethal to humans [2]. Indian dairy and meat processing is focusing on export, looking for unique shelf stable products for national and international markets. High perishability of yakhni is a serious problem for its commercialization. Thus the preservation alternative that may enhance the shelf life of this product at ambient temperature is important so that this good protein source can be offered to other regions of the country and to promote its export potential. There are many methods of production, thermal processing is one the promising method of processing food products [3].

Thermal processing has been widely used in food processing to produce microbiologically safe products having acceptable eating quality. Commercial thermal processing ensures a reduction or inactivation of spore-forming microorganisms sufficient to guarantee commercial sterility. Canning is a way of value addition of food products that can be served to consumers for more than 2 years, and it continues to be the most preferred and convenient technique of preservation to produce shelf stable products that can be stored at ambient temperatures [4]. The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of canning on proximate composition and microbial stability of yakhni a traditional curd and meat based product of Jammu and Kashmir, India.

Materials and Methods

Materials

Fresh boneless mutton and mutton fat from three different male sheep were purchased on three different occasions from a local butcher at Hazratbal Srinagar, India. Non-meat ingredients, salt, fresh curd from cow's milk, oil and spices were procured from the local market. Guar gum used in this study was procured from Hi-Media Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai India.

Formulation of yakhni Lean meat and mutton fat were initially ground separately in a mincer (SIRMAN, TC 22, Italy) through an 8-mm plate and divided into five parts for various

formulations, which differed in composition with respect to fat content and guar gum level. Each treatment, which comprised of a formulation with a specific composition in terms of fat and gum level, was triplicated in each batch. The first formulation was used as high (regular) fat control and fat content was adjusted to 20% by the addition of mutton fat. The second formulation was used as low fat control and fat content was adjusted to 10% by the addition of mutton fat. The other formulations were supplemented with various levels of guar gum 0.5%, 1%, and 1.5% and fat content was adjusted to 10% with the addition of mutton fat. After addition of the fat replacers the emulsion formulations were first subjected to manual mixing and then homogenized in a blender for 2 min to ensure uniform distribution of the fat replacer.

The remaining non-meat ingredients (salt 2.5%, black cardamom seeds 0.2% and cumin 0.1%) were then added to the mixture and mixed for eight additional min to make homogenous viscoelastic like mass. The mixtures were reground separately in a mincer (SIRMAN, TC 22, Italy) through a 6-mm plate. The temperature of emulsion was maintained below 10 °C during mincing by using all the relevant materials under chilled conditions and addition of chilled water. Meat balls weighing 50-60g and diameter of about 60mm were made from the material. The balls were rolled between palms to achieve their sphericity. The meat balls from each batch were then processed in curd (gravy) separately to get goshtaba and yakhni as the finished products.

Table 1: Standardized recipe for yakhni preparation.

Ingredient	Quantity
Water	1000.00mL
Curd (Dahi)	1000.00mL
Hydrogenated vegetable oil	100.00(g)
Black cardamom	2.50(g)
Green cardamom	1.00(g)
Cinnamon	3.50(g)
Cloves	0.50(g)
Dried ginger powder	6.00(g)
Aniseed powder	8.00(g)
Garlic paste	10.00(g)
Fried onion paste	50.00(g)
Common salt	13.00(g)

Yakhni is the gravy, in which meat balls are processed (Table 1). For preparing yakhni two parts of fresh curd was homogenized with one part of water with a stirrer, transferred to a thick bottomed stainless steel vessel and heated rapidly on a gas stove for 10-15 minutes. During heating curd was constantly stirred until it reached the boiling point. Hydrogenated vegetable oil was added to it and boiling continued for 10-15 minutes. Then garlic paste was added followed by other spices i.e., black cardamom, green cardamom, cinnamon, cloves, dried ginger powder and

aniseed powder, respectively. Fried onion paste was added at the end. Boiling was continued until the added oil floated back. At this stage, the remaining water was added and yakhni was cooked further for 10-15 minutes, to obtain a desirable consistency. Salt was added towards the end of cooking. The meat balls were then transferred to the boiling yakhni and cooked for 30min.

Canning/thermal processing of yakhni immediately after the preparation of product four meat balls about 200g was packed into washed and cleaned tin cans. The hot gravy (yakhni) at 80 ± 5 °C was then added to each can and lid was applied by single seaming operation. During can filling care was taken to avoid the gravy (yakhni) from contaminating the sealing area of the cans. Head space of about 10% was maintained from the can contents to allow the contents to boil during processing. The cans were exhausted under steam in an exhaust box (Bajaj India, AJAX) at 100 °C for 10min and immediately double seamed in a double seaming machine. Thermal processing was then carried out in an over pressure autoclave (Yorco Sales Ltd., YSI-402D) at 121 °C and 15 psi pressure for about 35 minutes. The cans were cooled immediately by spraying chilled potable water under pressure to a specified temperature of 38 °C, so as to prevent the proliferation of thermophiles and the product from getting over cooked. The cans were then air dried, labeled and kept at ambient temperature for two weeks for conditioning before analysis of yakhni.

Proximate composition

Moisture, protein, fat and ash contents were determined according to Association of Official Analytical Chemists [5].

Microbiological evaluation

Total plate count, coliform count, anaerobic plate count, clostridium count and yeast and mould counts of the yakhni samples were determined by standard methods. Readymade media from Hi-Media Laboratories (P) Ltd., Mumbai were used for the enumeration of different microbes.

Statistical analysis

All tests were done at least three times for each experimental condition and mean values are reported. Data were analyzed using general linear model (GLM) procedure of SPSS Statistics (v. 16, Inc., Chicago, IL) for two-way analyses of variance (ANOVA) as a function of formulation and storage period. Duncan's multiple range test ($P<0.05$) was used to determine the differences between means. The statistical analysis for each parameter combines the data from three batches.

Results and Discussion

Proximate composition

Consumers are interesting in the chemical composition of food product and are one of the most important criteria which consumers look for when purchasing the food product. Thus the changes in moisture, protein, fat and ash contents of yakhni

during canning were monitored and the results are presented in Table 2. After canning the moisture content of yakhni from control formulations (YHFC, YLFC) increased slightly. However the yakhni from low fat formulations with gums exhibited lower values compared to their pre-canned counterparts ($p>0.05$). The slight decrease in moisture content of yakhni from low fat formulations after canning could be attributed to the absorption of moisture by the product incorporated with gums. Comparison of different yakhni samples reveals that the samples from control formulations (YHFC, YLFC) exhibited slightly higher moisture content compared to the samples from low fat formulations ($p>0.05$). This slight variation in moisture content might be attributed to the higher protein oxidation in control goshtaba formulations resulting in higher release of water which is added during emulsion preparation, thus contributing to higher moisture content of yakhni (filling medium). The yakhni from control formulations (YHFC, YLFC) exhibited slight decrease while that from the low fat formulations exhibited slight increase in protein content following the canning process ($p>0.05$). Changes in protein content of yakhni from different goshtaba products could be attributed to the changes in moisture content. The protein content of yakhni from low fat products was higher compared to the yakhni from control goshtaba and increased slightly with the increasing concentration of gums. This higher protein content might be due to the more water retained by low fat goshtaba products resulting in greater protein content of their respective gravy (yakhni) samples compared to the control formulations. After canning the yakhni from high fat goshtaba exhibited significant increase in fat content ($p<0.05$), whereas yakhni from all low fat goshtaba products exhibited slight non-significant increase compared to the pre-canned samples.

Table 2: Effect of canning/thermal processing on ash content (percent) of yakhni.

Treatments	Moisture (%)		Protein (%)				Fat (%)		Ash (%)	
	Pre-canned Yakhni	canned Yakhni								
YHFC	80.00±1.12abA	80.56±1.22abA	3.67±0.64aAB	3.60±0.43aAB	6.53±0.33aAB	7.18±0.36bAB	2.54±0.14aAB	2.50±0.09aAB		
YLFC	80.30±0.97abA	80.69±1.00abA	3.60±0.49aAB	3.54±0.62aA	6.08±0.28aAB	6.20±0.30aAB	2.47±0.24aAB	2.43±0.17aAB		
YGG1	79.81±1.10aA	79.06±1.19aA	3.61±0.41aAB	3.63±0.37aAB	6.09±0.60aA	6.13±0.21aA	2.50±0.33aA	2.53±0.11abAB		
YGG2	79.85±1.07aA	79.01±1.23aA	3.63±0.72aA	3.68±0.34aAB	6.12±0.54aA	6.16±0.17aA	2.51±0.25aAB	2.54±0.20abAB		
YGG3	79.77±1.01aA	79.05±1.01aA	3.64±0.62aA	3.67±0.55aAB	6.13±0.27aA	6.19±0.63aA	2.56±0.20aAB	2.58±0.15abB		
YXG1	79.92±1.20abA	79.07±1.22aA	3.62±0.51aA	3.66±0.47aAB	6.08±0.19aA	6.14±0.51aA	2.53±0.16aAB	2.55±0.14abAB		
YXG2	79.85±1.10aA	79.16±1.20aA	3.65±0.33aAB	3.69±0.30aAB	6.11±0.43aA	6.15±0.40aA	2.53±0.11aAB	2.56±0.27abAB		
YXG3	79.77±1.13aA	79.11±1.16aA	3.64±0.46aA	3.68±0.52aA	6.12±0.32aA	6.17±0.24aA	2.52±0.23aAB	2.57±0.30abB		
YGXG1	79.90±1.21aA	79.10±1.20aA	3.60±0.40aA	3.65±0.66aA	6.07±0.22aA	6.12±0.16aA	2.51±0.35aAB	2.54±0.34abAB		
YGXG2	79.77±1.18aA	79.04±1.14aA	3.63±0.67aA	3.67±0.37aA	6.13±0.26aA	6.19±0.14aA	2.57±0.30abAB	2.60±0.22abAB		
YGXG3	79.73±1.09aA	79.00±1.42aA	3.66±0.53aA	3.69±0.41aAB	6.14±0.44aA	6.21±0.29aA	2.58±0.24abAB	2.65±0.36abB		

All values are mean ± standard deviation. Means in the same column with different superscripts differ significantly: * $P<0.05$. Means with different superscripts in the same row indicate significant difference: ** $P<0.05$.

YHFC: Yakhni of goshtaba with fat (20%); YLFC: Yakhni of goshtaba with fat (10%); YGG1: Yakhni of goshtaba with fat (10%)+guar gum (0.5%); YGG2: Yakhni of goshtaba with fat (10%)+guar gum (1.0%); YGG3: Yakhni of goshtaba with fat (10%)+guar gum (1.5%); YXG1: Yakhni of goshtaba with fat (10%)+xanthan gum (0.5%); YXG2: Yakhni of goshtaba with fat (10%)+xanthan gum (1.0%); YXG3: Yakhni of goshtaba with fat (10%)+xanthan gum (1.5%); YGXG1: Yakhni of goshtaba with fat (10%)+guar/xanthan gum (0.5%); YGXG2: Yakhni of goshtaba with fat (10%)+guar/xanthan gum (1.0%); YGXG3: Yakhni of goshtaba with fat (10%)+guar/xanthan gum (1.5%).

Microbial evaluation

The canned yakhni samples were analyzed for the presence of aerobic or anaerobic mesophilic and thermophilic bacteria, yeast and mould counts immediately after canning. The results indicated that microbial counts including total plate count, total coliform count, anaerobic plate count, total clostridium count, yeast and mould counts were not detected in any yakhni sample after processing. The absence of microbial counts was because of the severity of thermal treatment during canning, thus all samples were commercially sterile. The thermal treatment was therefore, adequate to achieve commercial sterility and hence the safety of product. Our results were in accordance with earlier researchers [6] who studied UHT processed milk and found commercial sterility after thermal processing. Similar results were also observed for retort processed rose flavoured milk during 90 days storage period [7].

Conclusion

The results of this study concluded that yakhni can be preserved by thermal processing without any detrimental effects to the proximate composition which is important quality attribute affecting the consumer acceptability of food products. The results of microbial evaluation after canning revealed that

microbial counts were not detected in any sample immediately after canning, thus indicate the thermal sterility of the product.

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