

ESTIMATION OF THE ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITY OF THE COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE FERMENTED MILKS*

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ABSTRACT

Background. Free radicals are connected with the increased risk of certain diseases, especially cancers. There is some scientific evidence that antioxidant-rich diet may inhibit the negative impact of free radicals. The aim of the present study was to analyse the antioxidant capacity of the selected commercial natural and flavoured fermented milks offered in Poland, derived from different producers.

Material and methods. The following commercially available natural fermented milks: 12 yoghurts, 12 kefir, 2 butter milks, 2 cultured milks, Turkish yoghurt drink (ayran) and the following flavoured fermented milks: 22 yoghurts, 2 acidophilus milks, 2 kefir, butter milk and vegetable flavoured fermented milk were analysed for their antioxidant potential. The antioxidant capacity was assessed, in two replicates and twice for each product, by means of ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP) and DPPH radical scavenging ability (expressed as ARP – anti radical power) methods.

Results. Among all analysed plain products, yoghurts and kefir were characterised by the highest antioxidant activity. The presence of probiotic *Lactobacillus casei* strains in the product positively affected both FRAP and ARP values. Antioxidant capacity of the flavoured fermented milks was primarily affected by the type and quality (e.g. fruit concentration) of the added flavouring preparation. The most valuable regarding the estimated parameters were chocolate, coffee, grapefruit with green tea extract as well as bilberry, forest fruits, strawberry and cherry with blackcurrant fillings.

Conclusions. Protein content, inclusion of probiotic microflora as well as type and quality of flavouring preparations are the main factors affecting antioxidant properties of fermented milks.

Key words: yoghurt, kefir, butter milk, probiotics, antioxidant activity

INTRODUCTION

Fermented milks, especially yoghurt, are very popular products consumed all over the world due to their excellent taste as well as nutritive and health-promoting properties. They are commercially available in different forms and types. This diversity may result from different basic chemical composition, i.e., fat and solids non-fat (SNF) content, method of production,

the presence or absence of additional probiotic microbiota. They can be also produced as plain products or with addition of flavouring fillings (Grochulska, 2008; Tamime and Robinson, 2009). Besides the main goal of the fruit and non-fruit (chocolate, vanilla etc.) filling application, which is to impart the proper, desired sensory properties, fermented milks are also frequently

* Supported by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland, Project No. DS-3700/WTŻ.

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supplemented with bioactive ingredients, e.g. caffeine, guarana, green tea extract, Q10 coenzyme, ginseng, aloe vera, cranberry, dietary fiber, omega-3 fatty acids, phytosterols and phytosterols as well as prebiotic oligosaccharides (Cossu et al., 2009; Stankiewicz, 2009). Many of these ingredients show strong antioxidant capacity, which results mainly from the high content of polyphenolic compounds and antioxidant vitamins (C, E, carotenoids). There have been many studies performed which confirm that diet rich in antioxidants contributes to the improved protection of human organism against the negative action of free radicals, and thus to the decreased risk of many diseases, including certain types of cancer and cardiovascular disorders (Cossu et al., 2009; Jiménez et al., 2008; O'Rell and Chandan, 2006).

The most popular types of fermented milks in Poland are yoghurt, kefir and butter milk. According to the results of the examination of the consumers' preferences conducted in Krakow and Wrocław, the major factors which determined the selection of the fermented milks were: taste (approximately 25% of indications), brand (app. 24%) and price (11–18%), whereas less important were the parameters connected with the quality, i.e. nutritional value, fat content, health-promoting properties (Cymanow, 2008; Nowak et al., 2007). The highest share in the yoghurt market have the following manufacturers: Danone, Bakoma, Zott (~83%), whereas in the case of kefir and butter milks also other brands like OSM Krasnystaw, Mlekpól and private brands play an important role (Cymanow, 2008; Grochulska, 2008; Nowak et al., 2007). Flavoured yoghurts are the most preferred by the consumers, and among this type the most popular are strawberry (above 50% responses), followed by bilberry, peach, raspberry and other flavours (Cymanow, 2008). O'Rell and Chandan (2006) among ten the most preferred yoghurt flavours mentioned: strawberry, vanilla, peach, raspberry, strawberry-banana, natural, blueberry, lemon-lime, cherry, mixed berry. Contrary to yoghurts, the most preferable flavour of kefir and butter milk is the natural one (Grochulska, 2008).

The aim of the present work was to assess the antioxidant properties of certain natural and flavoured fermented milks available on the market in Poland.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Fermented milks were bought in super- and hypermarkets in Krakow. The analyses were performed on the following natural products: 12 yoghurts, 12 kefir, 2 butter milks, 2 cultured milks and Turkish yoghurt drink (ayran) and on the following flavoured fermented milks: 22 yoghurts, 2 acidophilus milks, 2 kefir, 1 butter milk and vegetable flavoured fermented milk. Detailed list of the analysed natural and flavoured fermented milks as well as their composition and nutritional value (based on the information given by the producers on the label) are presented in Tables 1–3, respectively.

Fermented milks were screened for their antioxidant potential by means of two methods, i.e. ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP) and DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) radical scavenging ability methods. Both analyses were performed by the procedures described by Najgebauer-Lejko et al. (2011). The results of FRAP analysis were given as mM Fe²⁺/dm³ sample, whereas DPPH radical scavenging activity as ARP (anti radical power) expressed in relation to ARP of Trolox (6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-carboxylic acid) in mM TE (Trolox equivalents) per 1 kg sample. The antioxidant capacity was assessed, in two replicates and twice for each product (each product was bought twice in two different markets).

All results were subjected to the one-factor analysis of variance (ANOVA) and when applicable Duncan's test was performed to estimate the significance of differences between mean values at $p \leq 0.05$ using Statistica 8.0 software (StatSoft, USA).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Antioxidant properties of natural fermented milks result from the presence of antioxidant compounds in milk, i.e. casein, whey proteins, peptides and amino acids, CLA, uric acid, vitamin C, A and carotenoids, coenzyme Q₁₀, enzymatic systems (superoxide dismutase, catalase, glutathione peroxidase) as well as from the antioxidant activity of the lactic acid bacteria or kefir culture (Jiménez et al., 2008; Liu et al., 2005; Pihlanto, 2006; Zulueta et al., 2009). Mean FRAP values (mM Fe²⁺/dm³) of the particular types of natural fermented milks amounted to respectively

Table 1. Composition of natural yoghurts (YN), kefir (KN), butter milks (BM), cultured milks (CM), Turkish drink “ayran” (by manufacturers)

Product	Components other than milk and characteristic cultures	Chemical composition g/100 g
YN1	DMP, MPr, dietary fiber from chicory 3%, Ca 0.24%; <i>L. acidophilus</i> LA-5, <i>Bifidobacterium</i> BB-12	P – 4.5; C – 6.0; F – 2.0
YN2	DMP	P – 3.4; C – 5.2; F – 2.7
YN3	MP, <i>L. acidophilus</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium</i>	P – 3.6; C – 5.2; F – 3.0
YN4	MP, MPC	P – 5.1; C – 7.2; F – 2.0
YN5	DMP	P – 4.6; C – 6.1; F – 2.0
YN6	DMP, MPr	P – 4.7; C – 4.7; F – 3.0
YN7	MP, MPr, pectins, emulsifier E471	P – 4.4; C – 6.2; F – 3.5
YN8	PRDM, sugar or glucose syrup, glucose; <i>L. casei</i> <i>Defensis</i> (DN-114001)	P – 2.8; C – 10.5; F – 1.6
YN9	PRDM, water, glucose, pectin, aspartame, acesulfame K, aroma, <i>L. casei</i> <i>Defensis</i> (DN-114001)	P – 2.8; C – 3.3; F – 0.05
YN10	DMP, MPr, <i>Bifidobacterium</i> DN173010	P – 4.5; C – 5.1; F – 3.4
YN11	MP, <i>L. acidophilus</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium</i> , <i>L. casei</i>	P – 4.3; C – 5.8; F – 1.5
YN12	MP, MPr	P – 5.0; C – 7.2; F – 3.0
KN1	<i>L. acidophilus</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium</i>	P – 3.0; C – 4.0; F – 3.0
KN2	MP, <i>L. acidophilus</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium</i>	P – 3.6; C – 5.5; F – 1.8
KN3	OMP, MPr	P – 3.2; C – 4.8; F – 1.4
KN4	MP	P – 4.0; C – 4.7; F – 2.0
KN5	DMP	P – 3.6; C – 5.5; F – 2.0
KN6	nd	*P – 2.93%; F – 1.5%
KN7	MP, MPr	P – 4.0; C – 5.7; F – 2.0
KN8	nd	P – 3.2; C – 4.0; F – 1.5
KN9	DMP, MPr	P – 4.0; C – 4.8; F – 0.0
KN10	MPr	P – 3.9; C – 5.7; F – 1.5
KN11	MPr, DMP	P – 3.9; C – 5.0; F – 0.05
KN12	nd	P – 3.4; C – 4.6; F – 2.0
BM 1	DMP, MPr	P – 3.5; C – 4.5; F – 2.0
BM 2	DMP, butter milk	F – 1.5
CM1	nd	P – 3.3; C – 4.8; F – 2.0
CM2	nd	P – 3.1; C – 4.4; F – 1.5
Ayran	MPr, pectins, water; emulsifier E471, salt, lactic acid	P – 2.7; C – 4.0; F – 2.2

Explanatory notes: MP – milk powder, DMP – defatted milk powder, MPr – milk proteins, PRDM – pasteurised reconstituted defatted milk, MPC – milk protein concentrate, nd – not declared, P – protein, C – carbohydrates, F – fat.

*Based on authors' own research.

Table 2. Composition of the flavoured yoghurts (by manufacturers)

Flavour	Active ingredients including additional microbiota	Chemical composition g/100 g
Coffee	Instant coffee 0.3%, cocoa, <i>L. acidophilus</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium</i>	P – 2.3; C – 15.0; F – 8.0
Coffee with guarana	Natural coffee extract 0.2%*, guarana extract 0.04%*, LA-5, BB-12	P – 2.8; C – 13.0; F – 0.8
Aloe vera with omega 3	Aloe vera – omega 3 – 3.3% (α -linolenic acid – 0.02%), LA-5, BB-12	P – 2.8; C – 13.0; F – 0.8
Chocolate	Chocolate 3%*, cocoa, cocoa butter, vitamins A and D ₃	P – 2.8; C – 13.0; F – 2.5
Pink grapefruit with green tea	Pink grapefruit juice 1.2%*, green tea extract 0.06%*, LA-5, BB-12	P – 2.8; C – 13.0; F – 0.8
Grapefruit with green tea	Pink grapefruit – green tea filling 4% (grapefruit juice from concentrate 25%*)	P – nd; C – nd; F – 1.5
Cherry-ginseng	Cherries 3%*, ginseng extract 0.02%*, LA-5, BB-12	P – 2.8; C – 13.0; F – 0.8
Strawberry-apple-wild rose	Fruit filling 15% (apple 22%*, strawberry 20%, wild rose hip juice from concentrate 15%*), <i>Lb. acidophilus</i> , <i>Lb. paracasei</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium lactis</i>	P – nd; C – nd; F – 1.5
Forest fruits	Raspberries 2.7%*, blackberries 1.4%*, blueberry juice 0.6%*, carrot and elderberry concentrate, <i>Bifidobacterium</i> DN173010	P – 2.8; C – 12.5; F – 1.6
Bilberry 1	Bilberries and bilberry juice from concentrate 6.3%	P – 3.5; C – 15.0; F – 2.5
Bilberry 2	Bilberries 2%, red beetroot juice concentrate, anthocyanins	P – 2.9; C – 17.3; F – 1.1
Dried plum 1	Dried plums 3.2%*, fresh plums – 0.2%*, <i>Bifidobacterium</i> DN173010	P – 2.8; C – 13.1; F – 1.6
Dried plum 2	Oligofructose, dried plum – 2.6%, carrot concentrate	P – 3.7; C – 14.9; F – 2.4
Dried apricot	Oligofructose, dried apricots 1.9%, carrot concentrate, beta-carotene	P – 3.7; C – 15.4; F – 2.4
Cherry-blackcurrant	Cherries 4.8%*, blackcurrants 0.5%*, blackcurrant juice 0.3%*, black carrot juice, <i>Bifidobacterium</i> DN173010	P – 2.8; C – 12.9; F – 1.6
Cranberry	Cranberry 4%*, carrot concentrate, <i>L. casei</i> , vitamin C	P – 2.9; C – 13.4; F – 2.0
Peach	Peaches, peach and passion fruit juice from concentrate	P – 3.5; C – 14.6; F – 2.5
Strawberry 1	Strawberries and strawberry juice from concentrate 9%, red beetroot juice concentrate	P – 3.5; C – 15.0; F – 2.5
Strawberry 2	Strawberries 2%	P – 2.9; C – 17.3; F – 1.1
Strawberry 3	Vitamins: folic acid, B6, B12	P – 1.8; C – 15.7; F – 1.0
Apple-kiwi	Fruit filling 23% (apple 20%*, kiwi 14%*, apple juice from concentrate 8%*)	P – 3.0; C – 13.8; F – 3.6
Pineapple	Pineapple and pineapple juice from concentrate 3%	P – 3.5; C – 15.0; F – 2.5

Explanatory notes: P – protein, C – carbohydrates, F – fat, *content in fruit/chocolate preparation, nd – not declared.

(in decreasing order): 1.19 (yoghurts), 1.03 (kefirs), 0.66 (cultured milks), 0.48 (ayran) and 0.45 (butter milks). The highest ability to scavenge DPPH radicals were also found for yoghurts (0.19 mM TE/kg) and

kefirs (0.17 mM TE/kg), followed by butter milks, cultured milks and ayran, for which the following mean ARP values were determined: 0.14, 0.11 and 0.09 mM TE/kg (respectively; Table 4). These results indicate

Table 3. Composition of the flavoured fermented milks (by manufacturers)

Product	Ingredients (other than milk)	Chemical composition g/100 g
Acidophilus milk-vanilla	Vanilla-flavoured syrup 15% (sugar, water, aroma, colouring agents: E160 C, E110), lactic acid bacteria, <i>Lb. acidophilus</i>	P – 3.0; C – 14.0; F – 2.0
Acidophilus milk-cherry	Cherry-flavoured syrup 15% (sugar, water, cherry concentrate 2%, aroma, colouring agents: E160 C, E120), lactic acid bacteria, <i>Lb. acidophilus</i>	P – 3.0; C – 14.0; F – 2.0
Butter milk with strawberry and rhubarb	Fruit filling 8% (fruits, sugar, glucose-fructose syrup, modified starch, thickening agent: pectin, aroma, colouring agent: cochineal), defatted milk powder, live bacteria culture	P -2.8; C – 9.6; F – 1.3
Kefir with cranberry	Cranberry syrup 11% (sugar, cranberry syrup 2%, carrot, grape and chokeberry concentrate, aroma, cochineal), milk proteins, live bacteria culture	P – 3.3; C – 9.0; F – 0.05
Strawberry kefir	Fruit filling (sugar, strawberry puree, modified starch, citric acid, cochineal , aromas) sugar, live lactic acid bacteria	P – 2.8; C – 11.0; F – 1.5
Vegetable flavoured fermented milk	Vegetable filling: cucumber, red beetroot, garlic, dill, wheat glucose-fructose syrup, salt, modified maize starch, red beetroot concentrate, chive, pepper, wine vinegar, aroma, sodium glutamate	P – 3.2; C – 5.0; F – 1.8

Explanatory notes: P – protein, C – carbohydrates, F – fat.

Table 4. Antioxidant activity of the plain fermented milks (means ± standard deviation, $n = 4$)

Product	FRAP, mM Fe ²⁺ /dm ³	ARP, mM TE/kg
1	2	3
Plain yoghurts		
YN1	0.993 ^{bc} ± 0.050	0.198 ^a ± 0.025
YN2	1.006 ^{bc} ± 0.512	0.193 ^a ± 0.030
YN3	0.466 ^c ± 0.241	0.123 ^a ± 0.014
YN4	2.445 ^a ± 0.028	0.201 ^a ± 0.026
YN5	1.147 ^{bc} ± 0.231	0.185 ^a ± 0.018
YN6	0.834 ^{bc} ± 0.194	0.141 ^a ± 0.010
YN7	0.953 ^{bc} ± 0.303	0.220 ^a ± 0.084
YN8	1.676 ^{ab} ± 0.587	0.237 ^a ± 0.065
YN9	1.518 ^b ± 0.406	0.240 ^a ± 0.013
YN10	0.776 ^{bc} ± 0.069	0.176 ^a ± 0.051
YN11	1.358 ^{bc} ± 0.068	0.166 ^a ± 0.009
YN12	1.071 ^{bc} ± 0.798	0.170 ^a ± 0.028
Plain kefir		
KN1	1.228 ^b ± 0.312	0.149 ^a ± 0.006
KN2	1.083 ^{bc} ± 0.175	0.162 ^a ± 0.043
KN3	0.830 ^{bc} ± 0.157	0.196 ^a ± 0.067

Table 4 – cont.

1	2	3
KN4	0.580 ^c ± 0.002	0.242 ^a ± 0.128
KN5	0.992 ^{bc} ± 0.000	0.161 ^a ± 0.030
KN6	0.653 ^c ± 0.133	0.164 ^a ± 0.030
KN7	2.520 ^a ± 0.475	0.135 ^a ± 0.038
KN8	0.819 ^{bc} ± 0.228	0.149 ^a ± 0.011
KN9	0.965 ^{bc} ± 0.138	0.207 ^a ± 0.014
KN10	0.695 ^{bc} ± 0.045	0.151 ^a ± 0.006
KN11	1.237 ^b ± 0.357	0.177 ^a ± 0.003
KN12	0.760 ^{bc} ± 0.193	0.123 ^a ± 0.009
Butter milks (BM), cultured milks (CM), ayran		
BM1	0.235 ^a ± 0.150	0.131 ^a ± 0.027
BM2	0.628 ^a ± 0.151	0.140 ^a ± 0.036
CM1	0.635 ^a ± 0.088	0.068 ^a ± 0.001
CM2	0.688 ^a ± 0.692	0.156 ^a ± 0.005
Ayran	0.482 ^a ± 0.003	0.092 ^a ± 0.063

Explanatory notes: FRAP – ferric reducing antioxidant power, ARP – antiradical power (against DPPH radical), different superscript letters in columns and in the certain product group denote statistically significant differences at $p \leq 0.05$.

that among all types of fermented milks yoghurts and kefir were characterised by the highest antioxidant capacity. This phenomenon may be connected with the fact that these types of fermented milk products are very often fortified with milk powder and/or milk proteins. Manufacturers declared addition of milk protein preparations into all analysed plain yoghurt and 8 of 12 kefir (Table 1). According to many reports milk proteins, especially rich in sulphur and hydrophobic amino acids whey proteins, are potent antioxidant substances (Cichosz et al., 2012; Pihlanto, 2006). Another factor that should be taken into account is the supplementation of the fermented milks, particularly yoghurts with additional probiotic bacteria. Data found in literature indicate that certain *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium* strains exhibit significant antioxidant properties (Zhang et al., 2010). In the present work, among all studied plain yoghurts the highest FRAP values (1.4–2.4 mM Fe²⁺/dm³) were observed (in decreasing order) for: YN4, YN8, YN9 and YN11 (Table 4). The first mentioned yoghurt according to data provided by the producer was characterised by the highest protein content (5.1%, fortified with milk protein concentrate), whereas the following three yoghurts contained *L. casei* bacteria. Analysing the results for ARP values in the group of the natural fermented milks one can conclude that there was lower diversity of the results (differences not statistically significant, $p > 0.05$) when compared to FRAP values. The radical scavenging ability in this group was estimated in the range of 0.07–0.24 mM TE/kg, and the highest values were noticed for YN8 and YN9 yoghurts (both containing probiotic *L. casei* DN-114001 strain) and for the KN4 kefir. Antioxidant activity of *L. casei* bacteria was confirmed in both *in vitro* (Virtanen et al., 2007) and *in vivo* studies (Kapila and Sinha, 2006; Zhang et al., 2010). Moreover, the results obtained by Jain et al. (2009) revealed that among three tested lactic acid bacteria (LAB) strains, the culture of *L. casei* was characterised by the highest ability to eliminate DPPH, hydrogen peroxide, malonaldehyde radicals, and to inhibit linoleic acid peroxidation. Many studies indicate that the antioxidant potential of LAB is influenced not only by the species but also by the strain of the bacteria, therefore careful choice of the culture for milk inoculation may be helpful in designing products with

additional health-promoting properties (Saide and Gililand, 2005; Virtanen et al., 2007).

The diversification of the results obtained for flavoured fermented milks was much higher than for the natural products. The obtained FRAP and ARP values in the former group were also higher when compared to the latter products (Table 5). The antioxidant properties of the flavoured yoghurts were on average two-fold (FRAP) and five-fold (ARP) higher than the respective values stated for the yoghurts without flavouring fillings. This resulted from the fact that fruits, tea, coffee, chocolate (cocoa) are known for their distinguishing high antioxidant potential (Halvorsen et al., 2006). This is also consistent with the results obtained by Carlsen et al. (2010), who estimated the FRAP values of the natural, strawberry and mixed wild berries yoghurts at the level of respectively: 0.05; 0.11; 0.25 mM/100 g.

Antioxidant properties of the flavoured fermented milks were in the greatest manner influenced by the type of applied filling and its quality. FRAP values in the group of flavoured yoghurts fluctuated from 0.72 (peach yoghurt) to 7.48 mM Fe²⁺/dm³ (coffee yoghurt), whereas for other fermented milks (acidophilus milks, kefir, butter milk, vegetable flavoured fermented milk) they were in the range of 0.66–1.64 mM Fe²⁺/dm³. The strongest ability to reduce Fe³⁺ to Fe²⁺ ions and to scavenge DPPH radicals was determined for the yoghurts with coffee extracts and chocolate, whereas less potent, however still exhibiting high antioxidant capacity, were those supplemented with green tea extracts. Among fruit yoghurts the following supplements affected the highest antioxidant potential: bilberry (1), forest fruits, strawberry (1) and cherry-blackcurrant. On the contrary, yoghurts containing light-coloured fruits (peach, apricot, pineapple) were characterised with lower FRAP and ARP values. These results are in agreement with the findings of Halvorsen et al. (2006), who listed chocolate, strawberries, bilberries and coffee among the 50 food products with the highest antioxidant capacity. So strong antioxidant properties of fruits result mainly from the considerable content of polyphenols, vitamin C and to a lesser extent from the presence of vitamins A, B and carotenoids (Lim et al., 2007). Skrede et al. (2004), while studying different fruit preparations destined for application in dairy products observed the highest ability

Table 5. Antioxidant activity of flavoured fermented milks (means \pm standard deviation, $n = 4$)

Product (flavour)	FRAP, mM Fe ²⁺ /dm ³	ARP, mM TE/kg
Flavoured yoghurts		
Coffee	7.48 ⁱ \pm 0.01	2.20 ^{hi} \pm 0.22
Coffee with guarana	3.96 ^g \pm 0.32	1.49 ^{figh} \pm 0.30
Chocolate	5.73 ^h \pm 0.10	2.43 ⁱ \pm 0.09
Aloe vera with omega 3	0.90 ^{ab} \pm 0.03	0.66 ^{abc} \pm 0.01
Pink grapefruit with green tea	2.4 ^{cdef} \pm 1.25	1.26 ^{efgh} \pm 0.39
Grapefruit with tea	3.30 ^{fg} \pm 0.28	0.22 ^a \pm 0.02
Cherry-ginseng	1.67 ^{abcd} \pm 0.70	0.50 ^{abc} \pm 0.04
Strawberry-apple-wild rose	1.30 ^{abc} \pm 0.07	0.72 ^{abcd} \pm 0.06
Forest fruits	2.83 ^{ef} \pm 0.50	1.54 ^{fg} \pm 0.50
Bilberry 1	3.35 ^{gh} \pm 1.12	1.71 ^{gh} \pm 0.15
Bilberry 2	1.20 ^{ab} \pm 0.02	0.62 ^{abc} \pm 0.10
Dried plum 1	1.96 ^{bcde} \pm 0.57	0.77 ^{abcd} \pm 0.59
Dried plum 2	1.65 ^{abcd} \pm 0.02	0.67 ^{abc} \pm 0.01
Dried apricot	1.45 ^{abcd} \pm 0.01	0.47 ^{ab} \pm 0.01
Cherry-blackcurrant	3.08 ^{gh} \pm 0.07	0.94 ^{bcde} \pm 0.50
Cranberry	1.31 ^{abc} \pm 0.08	0.78 ^{abcd} \pm 0.17
Peach	0.72 ^a \pm 0.04	0.47 ^{ab} \pm 0.09
Strawberry 1	2.45 ^{efg} \pm 0.61	1.08 ^{cdef} \pm 0.01
Strawberry 2	1.16 ^{ab} \pm 0.28	0.74 ^{abcd} \pm 0.34
Strawberry 3	1.30 ^{abc} \pm 0.01	0.40 ^{ab} \pm 0.07
Apple-kiwi	1.32 ^{ab} \pm 0.09	0.66 ^{abc} \pm 0.06
Pineapple	1.49 ^{abcd} \pm 0.49	0.55 ^{abc} \pm 0.11
Flavoured acidophilus milks (AM), kefir (K), butter milks (M), vegetable flavoured fermented milk		
Vanilla – AM	0.99 ^a \pm 0.02	0.12 ^a \pm 0.09
Cherry – AM	0.66 ^a \pm 0.03	0.24 ^a \pm 0.05
Strawberry – K	1.16 ^{ac} \pm 0.06	0.58 ^a \pm 0.46
Cranberry – K	1.59 ^b \pm 0.10	0.34 ^a \pm 0.15
Strawberry with rhubarb – M	1.64 ^b \pm 0.04	0.88 ^a \pm 0.03
Vegetable flavoured fermented milk	1.41 ^{bc} \pm 0.27	0.20 ^a \pm 0.13

Explanatory notes as under the Table 4.

to scavenge DPPH radicals (ARP) and oxygen radical absorbance capacity (ORAC) for the fillings prepared from berry fruits. High content of polyphenolic compounds, especially red/bluish-coloured anthocyanins is considered to be a key factor contributing to the antioxidant activity of berries. The authors observed also 5–13-fold increase of the ARP values for the probiotic milks blended with 13% of bilberry and blackcurrant extracts when compared to the plain fermented milk sample.

The results of the present study indicate that among different yoghurts of the same flavours (strawberry, bilberry) the products containing lower share of fruits (cheaper ones) exhibited 50% (or less) of the antioxidant activity measured for the yoghurts with richer composition. This relation is particularly evident for strawberry yoghurts, which showed the ARP values in the following order: Strawberry 1 > Strawberry 2 > Strawberry 3, and the obtained FRAP values decreased in the order: Strawberry 1 > Strawberry 3 and Strawberry 2. The fruit content in these products, according to the manufacturers amounted to: 9% (Strawberry 1), 2% (Strawberry 2), or the product did not contain fruits (Strawberry 3, flavour and colour imparted by an addition of aromas and carmine). The differences in the antioxidant parameters were observed also for the two tested bilberry yoghurts. These fermented milks (both derived from the same producer) contained respectively 6.3 and 2% of fruits, what resulted in almost 3-fold higher DPPH radical scavenging ability and ferric reducing power of the former product. According to the study of Carlsen et al. (2010) three tested strawberry yoghurts differed as regards measured FRAP values which ranged from 0.08 to 0.13 mM/100 g, and the highest value was determined for the yoghurt with fruits at the bottom of a cup. In the group of flavoured fermented milks other than yoghurts, the lowest antioxidant parameters were observed for acidophilus milks. In this case the differences could result from the quality of the flavouring preparation. Commercial flavouring fillings for fermented milks are offered in the variety of types, e.g. fillings with the higher share of fruits, prepared on the basis of fruit pulps or purees, or cheaper fillings in the form of syrups usually applied for drinkable fermented milks (Şengül et al., 2012; Zaręba and Ziarno, 2012). The proper taste and odour of the fermented milk can be also achieved by

the application of the synthetic flavouring substances (Coïsson et al., 2005). Both studied acidophilus milks were flavoured with respectively vanilla and cherry syrups, what was reflected in the level of measured parameters. On the other hand, strawberry kefir and butter milk were characterised with the ARP and FRAP values similar to those determined for the strawberry yoghurts. The only product enriched with vegetables and herbs showed FRAP value close to the average level of this parameter obtained for fruit kefir, butter milk and most of the fruit yoghurts.

CONCLUSIONS

Among natural fermented milks, the most important factors positively influencing antioxidant capacity were high protein content and the presence of additional probiotic microflora of the *L. casei* species. On the other hand, in the group of flavoured fermented milks the addition of chocolate, coffee, green tea extract, and dark-coloured fruits (bilberries, forest fruits, blackcurrants, cherries, strawberries) imparted strong antioxidant properties. The quality of the flavouring filling, i.e., the content of bioactive components, was also of a great importance. Summarizing, the results of the present study indicate that measuring of the antioxidant capacity can be considered as another tool which allows to control the quality of fermented milks.

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OCENA AKTYWNOŚCI PRZECIWUTLENIAJĄCEJ MLECZNYCH NAPOJÓW FERMENTOWANYCH DOSTĘPNYCH W HANDLU

STRESZCZENIE

Wstęp. Wolne rodniki są związane ze zwiększonym ryzykiem pewnych chorób, szczególnie nowotworów. Istnieją dowody naukowe, że dieta bogata w antyoksydanty może hamować negatywny wpływ wolnych rodników. Celem pracy była analiza właściwości przeciwutleniających wybranych naturalnych oraz smakowych mlecznych napojów fermentowanych dostępnych w handlu na polskim rynku, pochodzących od różnych producentów.

Materiał i metody. Analizie potencjału antyoksydacyjnego poddano następujące handlowe naturalne mleka fermentowane: 12 jogurtów, 12 kefirów, 2 maślanki, 2 zsiadłe mleka oraz napój turecki (ayran), a także następujące smakowe mleka fermentowane: 22 jogurty, 2 mleka acidofilne, 2 kefiry, maślanekę oraz chłodnik warzywny. Ocenę potencjału antyoksydacyjnego przeprowadzono w dwóch powtórzeniach oraz dwukrotnie dla każdego produktu, poprzez określenie zdolności do redukcji jonów żelaza (FRAP) oraz zdolności wymiatania rodnika DPPH (wyrażonej jako ARP – aktywność przeciwrodnikowa).

Wyniki. Spośród wszystkich analizowanych naturalnych mlecznych napojów fermentowanych największą aktywnością przeciwutleniającą charakteryzowały się jogurty i kefiry. Obecność w produktach kultur probiotycznych *Lactobacillus casei* miała pozytywny wpływ na wyższy poziom zarówno wartości FRAP, jak i ARP. Właściwości przeciwutleniające smakowych mlecznych napojów fermentowanych były determinowane w głównej mierze rodzajem wprowadzonego dodatku smakowego oraz jego jakością (np. zawartością owoców). Najbardziej wartościowe pod względem tej cechy okazały się wsady: czekoladowy, kawowy, grejpfrutowy z dodatkiem ekstraktu zielonej herbaty, jak również: jagodowe, owoców leśnych, truskawkowe, z dodatkiem wiśni i czarnej porzeczki.

Wnioski. Głównymi czynnikami wpływającymi na właściwości antyoksydacyjne mlek fermentowanych okazały się: zawartość białka i mikroflory probiotycznej, a także rodzaj i jakość wsadów smakowych.

Słowa kluczowe: jogurt, kefir, maślanka, probiotyki, aktywność przeciwutleniająca

Received – Przyjęto: 18.06.2015

Accepted for print – Zaakceptowano do druku: 14.08.2015

For citation – Do cytowania

Najgebauer-Lejko, D., Sady, M. (2015). Estimation of the antioxidant activity of the commercially available fermented milks. Acta Sci. Pol. Technol. Aliment., 14(4), 387–396. DOI: 10.17306/J.AFS.2015.4.38