

# Solid State Bioconversion for Producing Common Bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) Functional Flour with High Antioxidant Activity and Antihypertensive Potential

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The main objective of this investigation was to study the time effect during solid state bioconversion (SSB) on total phenolics content (TPC) and antioxidant activity (AoxA) of common beans to improve antihypertensive functionality. Cooked cotyledons of dehulled common beans were inoculated with a suspension of R. oligosporus NRRL 2710 (1 ×  $10^6$  spores/mL), and incubated at 35°C for times of 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84, 96 and 108 h (after 108 h the cotyledons showed off odor). Flours from bioprocessed dehulled common bean from each incubation time were blended with their corresponding milled seed coats. The best time for producing bioprocessed common bean (added with seed coats) functional flour with the highest AoxA (ORAC value = 17,468 µmol Trolox equivalents (TE)/100 g sample, dw; ABTS value = 13,505 µmol TE/100 g sample, dw) was 108 h. The SSB process substantially increased TPC and total hydrophilic AoxA and antihypertensive potential of common beans in 2.24, 2.45 - 2.73 and 6769 times, respectively. Proteins hydrolyzates from unprocessed whole and bioprocessed (108 h) common beans had IC<sub>50</sub> [concentration needed to inhibit 50% the activity of angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE)] of 79.2 and 0.0117 µg/mL, respectively. The SSB is an efective strategy to improve the TPC of common beans for enhanced functionality with improved antioxidant activity and antihypertensive potential.

**Keywords:** Solid State Bioconversion; Common Bean Functional Flour; Antioxidant Activity; Antihypertensive Activity

#### 1. Introduction

Phenolic compounds and antioxidant activities in legume seeds were reported by several earlier communications, although legumes constitute one of the most abundant and least expensive sources of protein in human/animal diet [1]. Among natural antioxidants, phenolics form the largest group. Such compounds are secondary metabolites synthesised solely in plants. Phenolics comprise several groups of compounds differing in structure: phenolic acids (benzoic acids and hydroxycinnamic acids), flavonoids (flavonols, flavones, flavanols, isoflavones), stilbenes and tannins [2-4]. The raw materials that are

rich in antioxidants include dry beans of *Phaseolus vulgaris* L. which, among other components, contain flavonoids and phenolic acids [5-7]. A high consumption of beans is believed to reduce the incidence of cardiac diseases, diabetes, colon cancer and hypertension [8-11]. It has been reported that many natural angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors isolated from the hydrolysis of various grains proteins such soybean [12], and common beans [13] or during gastrointestinal digestion or food processing [14,15] can be used as pharmaceuticals and physiological functional food supplements for hypertension therapy.

Solid state bioconversion (SSB) is microbial bioprocessing of a solid food substrate that acts as a physical

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support and source of nutrients in the presence of low free liquid [16]. It is a simple alternative technology with a long history in Asia to improve the nutritional quality and palatable characteristics of cereals and legumes. Tempeh is a nutritious oriental bioprocessed food produced by SSB of soybeans with *Rhizopus oligosporus*. Several other substrates have been used to prepare tempeh, e.g. common beans, chickpeas, rice, oat, lupine, home bean, ground nut, wheat, corn/soybean [17-21]. The solid state bioconversion (SSB) would increase the phenolic content and antioxidant activity of fungal processed seeds and legumes which will enhance the potential health-relevant functionality [22-24].

The objective of this investigation was to study the effect of fermentation time during solid state bioconversion (SSB) on total phenolic content and antioxidant activity of common beans to improve antihypertensive functionality.

#### 2. Materials and Methods

#### 2.1. Chemicals

Reagents Folin-Ciocalteu reagent, dichlorofluorescin diacetate, 2,2'-Azobis (2-amidinopropane), *ABTS* (2,2'-azinobis-(3-ethylbenthiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) diammonium salt, ACE (from rabbit lung), hippuryl-histidylleucine, pancreatin enzyme, potassium persulfate (dipotassium peroxdisulfate), PBS (phosphate buffered saline), gallic acid, trolox, HCl, ethanol, acetic acid, were purchased from Sigma Aldrich Chemicals (St Louis, MO, USA). All other chemical and reagents were of analytical grade.

#### 2.2. Legumes

Common beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L., var Azufrado Higuera) were cultivated at the Culiacan Valley Experimental Station of the National Research Institute for Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock (INIFAP), Sinaloa, México. Grains were harvested, cleaned and stored at 4°C in tightly sealed containers until used. The *Rhizopus oligosporus* NRRL 2710 strain was obtained from American Type Culture Collection, Manassas, USA.

### 2.3. Manufacture of Bioprocessed Common Bean Flours (BCBF)

Bioprocessed common bean flours were prepared using the procedure described by Reyes-Moreno *et al.* [25] with minor modifications. Common bean seeds were soaked at 25°C for 16 h in acetic acid solution (pH 3.0). Seeds were then drained and their seed coats removed manually. Seed coats were dried (moisture content 11%) and milled (UD, Cyclone Sample Mill, UD Corp, Boul-

der, CO, USA) to pass through and 80-US mesh (0.180 mm) screen, packed and stored (4°C). The cotyledons were cooked in acetic acid solution (pH 3.0) at 90°C for 30 min, cooled at 25°C for 3 h, inoculated with a suspension of R. oligosporus NRRL 2710 (1 × 10<sup>6</sup> spores/mL), and packed in perforated polyethylene bags (15 × 15 cm). Solid state bioconversion (SSB) was performed at 35°C and fermentation times of 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84, 96 and 108 h. The resulting bioprocessed common bean cotyledons were dried (50°C/8 h), cooled (25°C) and milled (80-US mesh = 0.180 mm). Bioprocessed common bean flours from each fermentation time were blended with their corresponding milled seed coats, packed and kept at 4°C in tightly sealed containers until use.

#### 2.4. Extraction of Free Phenolic Compounds

Free phenolic compounds in ground samples were extracted as previously reported by Dewanto *et al.* [26] with minor modifications. Briefly, 1 g of ground sample was blended with 10 mL of 80% chilled ethanol for 10 min and then centrifugated at 2500 g for 10 min, the supernatant was concentrated under vacuum at 45°C. The resulting extracts were stored at -40°C until evaluation.

#### 2.5. Extraction of Bound Phenolic Compounds

Bound phenolic compounds in ground samples were extracted using the method reported by Adom & Liu [27] with minor modifications of Mora-Rochín et al. [28]. After extraction of free phenolic compounds, the residue was digested with 10 mL of 2 M sodium hydroxide in a water bath at 95°C for 30 min with previous removal of O<sub>2</sub> using nitrogen gas. Finally, the sample was agitated for 1 additional hour at 25°C (In the original technique of Adom and Liu [27] the residue was digested only at room temperature for 1 h). The mixture was acidified (pH < 2.0) with 2 mL of 2 M hydrochloric acid and extracted with hexane to remove lipids. The final solution was extracted five times with 10 mL of ethyl acetate for each extraction. The ethyl acetate fraction was pooled and evaporated to dryness under vacuum at 35°C. Bound phenolic compounds were reconstituted in 2 mL of methanol-water (50:50, v/v) to improve the solubility of the compounds and have a clear and homogeneous solution. The extracts were frozen and stored at -40°C until evaluation.

#### 2.6. Determination of Total Phenolics

Phenolic content of free and bound phenolic compounds extracts were determined using the colorimetric method described by Singleton *et al.* [29]. Briefly, 20 µL of extracts were oxidized with 180 mL of Folin-Ciocalteu

reagent. After 20 min, absorbance of the resulting blue color was measured at 750 nm using a Synergy Microplate Reader (Synergy<sup>TM</sup> Multi-Detection, BioTek, Inc, Winooski, VT). A calibration curve was prepared using gallic acid as standard and total phenolics were expressed as milligrams of gallic equivalents (mg GAE) per 100 g of sample (dw).

#### 2.7. Antioxidant Activity (AoxA)

### 2.7.1. Oxigen Radical Absorbance Capacity (ORAC) Assay

Free and bound hydrophilic antioxidant capacities were determined using the oxygen radical absorbance capacity (*ORAC*) assay. Extracts were evaluated against a standard of Trolox with Fluorescein as a probe as described initially by Cao *et al.* [30] and later modified by Ou *et al.* [31]. Peroxyl radicals were generated by 2,2-azobis (2-amidinopropane) dihydrochloride, and fluorescent loss was monitored in a Microplate Reader (SynergyTM HT Multi-Detection, BioTek, Inc., Winooski, VT, USA). The absorbance of excitation and emission was set at 485 and 538 nm, respectively. Data was expressed as micromoles of Trolox equivalents (TE) per 100 g of dry weight (dw) sample.

#### 2.7.2. ABTS Radical Cation Decolorization Assay

[2,2'-azinobis-(3-ethylbenthiazoline-6-sulfonic acid)] can produce stable free radicals, which are decolorized into their non-radical form when reacting with antioxidants. The method for determining ABTS radical scavenging activity was modified from Re et al. [32]. Briefly, ABTS<sup>+</sup> was generated by oxidation of 7 mM ABTS with 2.45 mM potassium persulfate (K<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub>), and then stored in a dark place at room temperature for 12 - 16 h. Then ABTS<sup>+</sup> stock solution was diluted with deionized water to obtain ABTS<sup>+</sup> working solution. The reactions between ABTS<sup>+</sup> working solution and different sample concentrations were initiated and stored at room temperature until the reaction was complete. After that, the reacted samples' absorbance was read at 734 nm. The results are expressed as umol Trolox equivalent (TE)/100 g sample, dw.

#### 2.8. Antihipertensive Potential

#### 2.8.1. Enzyme Hydrolysis

BCBF with higher *AoxA* was hydrolysed with pancreatin enzyme (a mixture of digestive enzymes) so its action simulates gastrointestinal digestion according to Humiski & Aluko [33] and Adler-Nissen [34]. The sample was mixed with deionized water to prepare 10% (w/v) solutions, then temperature and pH was adjusted at 39°C and 8.0, respectively. Hydrolysis reaction time was fixed at 2

h. After the hydrolysis, the slurries were adjusted at pH 4.0 with 2 mol/L HCl and were kept in a water bath at 95°C for 10 min to inactivate the enzyme, after that, they were centrifuged  $(10,000 \times g, 30 \text{ min}, 25^{\circ}\text{C})$ ; the supernatant containing the hydrolysates was recovered and preserved at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

### 2.8.2. Angiotensin Converting Enzyme-Inhibitory (ACE-I) Activity

To determinate the antihypertensive potential of BCBF 108 h was determined by its Angiotensin Converting Enzyme-Inhibitory (ACE-I) activity according to Miguel et al. [35] with modifications. ACE hydrolyses hippuryl-histidyl-leucine (HHL) to generate hippuric acid and the peptide His-Leu. The reaction mixture, consisting of the substrate (HHL) and hydrolysate sample (BCBF) was prepared in ACE buffer (50 mol/L sodium borate, containing 0.5 mol/L sodium chloride, pH 8.3) and was pre-incubated at 37°C for 5 min, after that, ACE was added to a final concentration of 2.5 mU/mL. Different dilutions of each BCBF 108 h hydrolysates were added and incubated in the before mentioned reaction mixture for 30 min at 37°C; after that, the reactions were stopped by addition of 150 µL of 1 mol/L HCl solution, followed by addition of 1 mL of ethyl acetate, to extract hippuric acid, and mixed by vortex for 1 min. The mixture was centrifugated at 14,000 × g at 25°C for 10 min, 750 µL of the organic phase was collected and transferred into a test tube and evaporated. The residue was dissolved in 600 uL water and concentration of hippuric acid was determined at 228 nm using water as a blank. In order to determinate the IC50 of sample, data were adjusted to a non-linear regression model using Hill's equation [36].

#### 2.9. Chemical Composition

The following AOAC methods [37] were used to determine chemical composition: drying at  $130^{\circ}$ C for moisture (method 925.09B), and micro-Kjeldahl for protein ( $N \times 6.25$ ) (method 960.52). Soluble and insoluble fiber (method 985.29) were carried out with a commercial total dietary fiber assay kit from Sigma-Aldrich, meanwhile, resistant starch content were determined using resistant starch assay kit from Megazyme. The enzymatic assay was conducted according to a laboratory protocol based on AACC [38] method 32 - 40.

#### 2.10. Physicochemical Properties

#### 2.10.1. Total Color Difference (ΔE)

The surface color of the samples was measured using a Minolta color difference meter Model CR-210 (Minolta LTD, Osaka, Japan). The parameters L (0 = black, 100 = white), a (+value = red, -value = green) and b (+ value

= yellow, -value = blue) were recorded. The L, a and b values of a white standard tile used as reference were 97.63, -0.78 and 2.85, respectively.  $\Delta E$  was calculated as  $\Delta E = [(\Delta L)^2 + (\Delta a)^2 + (\Delta b)^2]^{1/2}$ , where  $\Delta L = L_{\text{std}} - L_{\text{sample}}$ ,  $\Delta a = a_{\text{std}} - a_{\text{sample}}$  and  $\Delta b = b_{\text{std}} - b_{\text{sample}}$ .

#### 2.10.2. Water Activity (A<sub>w</sub>)

This parameter was determined in 5 g flour samples, tempered at 25°C, using a Hygrometer Aqua Lab Model CX-2 (Decagon Devices Inc., Pullman, WA, USA), which was calibrated with a saturated potassium chloride solution ( $A_w = 0.841$  at 25°C). Readings were taken after leaving the sample for 1 h to attain headspace equilibrium.

#### 2.10.3. pH

The pH of flour samples was recorded using a pH meter. Each flour sample (10 g) was suspended in 100 mL of boiling distilled water. After cooling, the slurry was shaken (1500 rpm, 25°C, 20 min) using an orbital shaker (Cole Parmer Model 21704-10, Cole Parmer International, Vernon Hills, IL, USA).

### 2.10.4. Water Absorption Index (WAI) and Water Solubility Index (WSI)

WAI and WSI were assessed as described by Anderson et al. [39]. Each flour sample (2.5 g) was mixed with 30 mL of distilled water in a tared 50 mL centrifuge tube. The slurry was stirred with a glass rod for 1 min at room temperature and centrifuged at 3000 × g for 10 min. The supernatant was then poured carefully into a tared evaporating dish. The WAI was calculated from the weight of the remaining gel and expressed in gram of gel/gram of dry flour. The WSI (gram of solids/100 grams of original solids) was calculated from the weight of dry solids recovered by evaporating the supernatant overnight at 110°C.

#### 2.10.5. Dispersability

It was determinated according to Mora-Escobedo *et al.* [40]. Three grams of flour sample was weighed into 50 mL graduated conic tube; distilled water was added to each volume of 30 mL. The sample was vigorously stirred (Ultra Turrax homogenizer, 10,000 rpm, 5 min) and allowed to settle for 30 min. The volume of settled particles was recorded and subtracted from 30. This value was divided between 30 and multiplied by 100 to give the percentage dispersability.

#### 2.11. Statistical Analysis

Analyses were performed in triplicate. The results were analyzed using one-way analysis of variance followed by Duncan's multiple range test comparisons among means with significance level of 5%. Regression models and parameter estimation was performed by multiple regressions with a significance level of 5%. Pearson correlation coefficient was used to determine correlations among means with a significance level of 5%.

#### 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Effect of Fermentation Time on Total Phenolic Content (TPC)

Unprocessed common bean flour had 35.91, 156.46 and 192.37 mg gallic acid equivalents (GAE)/100 g sample, dw, of free, bound and total phenolic contents, respecttively (Table 1). The solid state bioconversion (SSB) increased (p < 0.05) free and total phenolic contents of common beans at all incubation times; bound phenolic content increased (p < 0.05) significantly after 60 h of fermentation time. The best time for producing bioprocessed common bean (added with seed coats) flour with the highest free (190.46 mg GAE/100 g sample, dw), bound (240.86 mg GAE/100 g sample, dw) and total phenolic (431.33 mg GAE/100 g sample, dw) contents was 108 h. After 108 h of incubation the bioprocessed cotyledons showed off odor. The SSB process by 108 h substantially increased (p < 0.05) 2.24 times the TPC. The increase of TPC in bioprocessed common bean (added with seed coats) flour after 108 h of fermentation time, observed in the present study, is consistent with findings reported by other investigators [20,41-43]. These researchers suggest that  $\beta$ -glucosidase, produced by fungi, catalyse the release of aglycones from the bean substrate and there by increases their TPC. Chaivasut et al. [23] studied the effect of fermentation time on isoflavone content and antioxidant activity of fermented soybeans and observed that the isoflavone content and profile of fermented soybeans are related to the duration of fermentation: isoflavone aglycones and isoflavone glycones increased and decreased, respectively, with fermentation duration. Nevertheless, it is important to consider that several factors might affect the TPC, such as variety, cultivation characteristics, chemical composition, particle size, sample concentration and the method of analysis [44].

### 3.2. Effect of Fermentation Time on Antioxidant Activity (AoxA)

Antioxidant activities of unprocessed and bioprocessed common bean (added with seed coats) flours were evaluated by the *oxigen radical absorbance capacity* (*ORAC*) and *ABTS radical cation decolorization* methods. In general, *AoxA* of bioprocessed bean (added with seed coats) increased with fermentation duration (**Table 2**). The *AoxA*, evaluated by *ORAC* assay, for free, bound and

Table 1. Effect of fermentation time on total phenolics content in common beans.

Fermentation time	Phenolic compounds <sup>a</sup> (mg GAE/100 g sample, dw)					
(h)	Free	Bound	Total			
Unprocessed	$35.91 \pm 0.24^{G}$	$156.46 \pm 5.47^{D,E}$	$192.37 \pm 5.68^{H}$			
Bioprocessed						
24	$91.32 \pm 2.59^{\text{F}}$	$148.88 \pm 4.36^{\rm E}$	$240.20 \pm 2.29^{\rm G}$			
36	$91.86 \pm 5.45^{\text{F}}$	$151.77 \pm 8.64^{\rm D,E}$	$243.63 \pm 10.75^{\rm G}$			
48	$114.04 \pm 1.29^{E}$	$162.14 \pm 3.82^{C,D}$	$276.18 \pm 2.90^{\mathrm{F}}$			
60	$129.49. \pm 3.96^{D}$	$167.78 \pm 8.28^{\circ}$	$297.27 \pm 5.23^{E}$			
72	$134.03 \pm 0.84^{\rm D}$	$183.79 \pm 1.77^{\mathrm{B}}$	$317.83 \pm 1.42^{D}$			
84	$150.81 \pm 6.25^{\circ}$	$193.66 \pm 3.57^{\mathrm{B}}$	$344.46 \pm 9.77^{\circ}$			
96	$172.45 \pm 2.64^{\mathrm{B}}$	$190.09 \pm 5.57^{\mathrm{B}}$	$362.54 \pm 8.15^{B}$			
108	$190.47 \pm 3.79^{A}$	$240.86 \pm 7.06^{\rm A}$	$431.33 \pm 5.78^{A}$			

 $<sup>^{</sup>a}$ Data were expressed as means  $\pm$  standard deviations; mg GAE: Miligrams of gallic acid equivalents;  $^{A-H}$ Means with different superscripts in the same column are significantly different.

Table 2. Effect of fermentation time on antioxidant activity of common beans evaluated by ORAC and ABTS assays.

	Antioxidant activity <sup>a</sup> (µmol TE/100 g sample, dw)						
Fermentation time (h)	ORAC			ABTS			
	Free	Bound	Total	Free	Bound	Total	
Unprocessed	$2018 \pm 90^{\mathrm{F}}$	$4383\pm120^{\rm E}$	$6402 \pm 130^{\text{F}}$	$517 \pm 23^{\rm G}$	$4992 \pm 225^{\circ}$	$5509 \pm 595^{\text{F}}$	
Bioprocessed							
24	$5827\pm140^{\rm E}$	$5402\pm134^{\rm D}$	$11,230 \pm 140^{E}$	$933 \pm 60^{\rm G}$	$3747 \pm 317^{\mathrm{D}}$	$4679\pm140^G$	
36	$5618 \pm 56^{E}$	$6543 \pm 229^{\circ}$	$12,162 \pm 223^{D}$	$1432\pm376^{\text{F}}$	$4149\pm298^{\rm D}$	$5582\pm223^{\mathrm{F}}$	
48	$6582 \pm 340^\mathrm{D}$	$7280\pm332^{\mathrm{A,B}}$	$13,862 \pm 219^{\text{C}}$	$2984\pm294^{\rm E}$	$4916 \pm 281^{\circ}$	$7900 \pm 319^{\mathrm{E}}$	
60	$6802 \pm 242^{C,D}$	$7549 \pm 255^{A}$	$13,863 \pm 169^{\circ}$	$3480\pm153^{\rm D}$	$4994 \pm 297^{\rm C}$	$8475\pm269^{\mathrm{D}}$	
72	$7042 \pm 549^{C,D}$	$6759 \pm 195^{\circ}$	$13,802 \pm 362^{\circ}$	$3890\pm313^{\mathrm{D}}$	$4854\pm202^{\mathrm{C}}$	$8745\pm262^{\mathrm{D}}$	
84	$7350 \pm 570^{\circ}$	$6666 \pm 390^{\circ}$	$14,217 \pm 231^{\circ}$	$4673 \pm 355^{\circ}$	$5762\pm220^{\mathrm{B}}$	$10,435 \pm 331^{\circ}$	
96	$8454 \pm 157^{\mathrm{B}}$	$6948 \pm 333^{B,C}$	$15,402 \pm 280^{\mathrm{B}}$	$5267\pm404^{\mathrm{B}}$	$6093\pm269^{\mathrm{B}}$	$11,360 \pm 280^{B}$	
108	$10,160 \pm 212^{A}$	$7308\pm117^{A,B}$	$17,468 \pm 206^{A}$	$6207\pm285^{\mathrm{A}}$	$7298\pm288^{\mathrm{A}}$	$13,505 \pm 206^{A}$	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Data were expressed as means  $\pm$  standard deviations;  $\mu$ mol TE: Micromols of trolox equivalents; <sup>A-G</sup>Means with different superscripts in the same column are significantly different.

total phytochemicals ranged from 2018 to 10,160, from 4383 to 7308 and from 6402 to 17,468 µmol trolox equivalents (TE)/100 g sample, dw, respectively. ORAC values for total phytochemicals from bioprocessed common beans (added with seed coats) were different (p < 0.05) at 0, 24, 36, 48, 84, 96, and 108 h of incubation time. The highest total hydrophilic antioxidant activity of bioprocessed common bean (added with seed coats) was achieved at fermentation time of 108 h (ORAC value = 17,468 µmol TE/100 g sample, dw). After 108 h of in-

cubation time the bioprocessed common bean cotyledons showed off odor. The AoxA, evaluated by ABTS method, for free, bound and total phytochemicals varied from 517 to 6207, from 4992 to 7298 and from 5509 to 13,505  $\mu$ mol TE/100 g sample, dw, respectively (**Table 2**). ABTS values for total phytochemicals from bioprocessed common beans (added with seed coats) at 60 - 72 h of fermentation duration are not significantly (p > 0.05) different. The highest AoxA of bioprocessed common beans (added with seed coats) can be achieved after be-

ing fermented for 108 h. Both ORAC and ABTS methods showed similar tendency. The study also revealed that the total phenolics content and antioxidant activity of bioprocessed common beans (added with seed coats) correlated (regression analysis) with fermentation duration (p = 0.000). The high regression coefficients of determination ( $R^2 = 0.876 - 0.978$ ) indicated a good correlation coefficient (r = 0.936 - 0.989) between experimental and predicted data. The regression models for total phenolic content and antioxidant activity were: TPC =  $227.9 + 0.1248t + 0.01527t^2$  (R<sup>2</sup> = 0.978, R<sup>2</sup><sub>adj</sub> = 0.969); AoxA (ORAC) = 10015 + 60.4t (R<sup>2</sup> = 0.876, R<sup>2</sup><sub>adj</sub> = 0.856); AoxA (ABTS) = 2383 + 97.8t (R<sup>2</sup> = 0.970, R<sup>2</sup><sub>adj</sub> = 0.965); where: t = fermentation time. The regressionmodels of TPC and AoxA showed high significance (p = 0.000), non-significant lack of fit (p > 0.05), and the relative dispersion of the experimental points from the predictions of the models (CV) was <10%. Based on this analysis, the selected model represented adequately the datas of TPC and both ORAC and ABTS methods for AoxA. The results indicate that bioprocessed common beans (added with seed coats) showed the highest TPC and the total hydrophilic AoxA at 108 h of fermentation time. These results are in agreement with those reported by other researchers [20,21] who found that solid state bioconversion (SSB) would increase the TPC and AoxA of fungal processed seed and legumes which will enhance the potential health-relevant functionality. SSB is a good strategy to improve the TPC of common beans for enhanced functionality with improved AoxA. Therefore, SSB of common beans at 108 h was selected for producing multipurpose bioprocessed common bean (added with seed coats) flour with high antioxidant capacity and nutraceutical potential; its proximate composition and physicochemical properties are shown in **Table 3**.

### 3.3. Correlation between Phenolic Content and Antioxidant Activity

A highly significant correlation was found between TPC and total hydrophilic antioxidant activity (ORAC value) in bioprocessed common beans (added with seed coats) flours (Pearson's correlation coefficient r=0.905; p=0.000). The positive linear correlation obtained is considered extremely significant due to the high coefficient of determination ( $r^2=0.8186$ ). A similar effect was observed between TPC and antioxidant activity assayed by ABTS method (Pearson's correlation coefficient r=0.962; p=0.000). The positive linear correlation obtained is considered extremely significant due to the high coefficient of determination ( $r^2=0.9263$ ). Other researchers [19,45-48] have reported, in whole raw legume seeds, a highly significant correlation between TPC and AoxA.

Table 3. Nutritional, physicochemical and antioxidant properties of unprocessed (raw) and bioprocessed common bean flours.

Property	Common bean flour			
	Unprocessed	Bioprocessed		
Chemical composition (%, dw)				
Crude protein	$25.36 \pm 0.59^{\rm B}$	$29.54 \pm 2.13^{A}$		
Total dietary fiber	$28.02 \pm 1.00^{\rm B}$	$39.17 \pm 0.97^{\rm A}$		
Soluble	$4.74\pm0.05^{\mathrm{B}}$	$13.32 \pm 1.03^{\rm A}$		
Insoluble	$11.30\pm0.02^\mathrm{B}$	$22.51 \pm 0.14^{A}$		
Resistant starch	$2.41\pm0.27^{\mathrm{B}}$	$5.55 \pm 0.17^{A}$		
Physicochemical				
Color				
Hunter "L" value	$88.34 \pm 0.25^{\rm A}$	$64.01 \pm 0.41^{B}$		
Total color difference	$12.04\pm0.48^{\mathrm{B}}$	$24.90 \pm 0.71^{\rm A}$		
pН	$6.00 \pm 0.16^{A}$	$5.7 \pm 0.27^{B}$		
Water activity	$0.51\pm0.01^{\mathrm{A}}$	$0.50\pm0.01^{\mathrm{A}}$		
Water absorption index (g gel/g dry flour)	$2.33\pm0.07^{\mathrm{B}}$	$3.10\pm0.04^{\mathrm{A}}$		
Water solubility index (g soluble solids/100 g total solids, dw)	$17.39 \pm 2.13^{\mathrm{B}}$	$21.22 \pm 0.25^{A}$		
Dispersability (%)	$30 \pm 0.00^{\mathrm{B}}$	$100\pm0.00^{\mathrm{A}}$		
Antioxidant activity				
Total ORAC (μmol TE/100 g sample, dw)	$6402 \pm 19^{\mathrm{B}}$	$17,468 \pm 206^{A}$		
Total <i>ABTS</i> (μmol TE/100 g sample, dw)	$5509 \pm 301^{\mathrm{B}}$	$13,505 \pm 536^{A}$		
Antihypertensive activity				
$IC_{50} (\mu g/mL)$	$79.22 \pm 0.0377^{A}$	$0.0117 \pm 0.007^{\mathrm{B}}$		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Data were expressed as means±standard deviations; μmol TE: Micromols of trolox equivalents; <sup>A,B</sup>Means with different superscripts in the same raw are significantly different.

Phenolic compounds are considered the major compounds that contribute to the total antioxidant activities of the grains [47]. These compounds have been associated with a reduction in the risk of cancer, heart disease, and diabetes, as well as to have antibacterial, antiviral, anti-inflammatory, and anti-allergenic activities; most of these benefits result from their antioxidant activity [49].

### 3.4. Angiotensin Converting Enzyme-Inhibitory (ACE-I) Activity

To determinate the potential antihypertensive activity in

a compound, IC<sub>50</sub> value must be calculated. IC<sub>50</sub> value is defined as the concentration needed to inhibit 50% the activity of Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE), while this value is smaller, means that the inhibitor has a greater potential antihypertensive. Unprocessed and BCBF [bioprocessed (108 h) common bean flour] were digested with pancreatin enzyme, that is a mixture of several digestive enzymes, its hydrolysates could provide information of the nutraceutical benefits of BCBF 108 h consumption. The BCBF had lower (p < 0.05)  $IC_{50}$  than unprocessed legume (0.0117 vs 79.22 µg/mL) (Table 3). During common bean bioprocessing by SSB exists release of bioactive substances such as phytochemicals [in the presente study an increase in free, bound and total phenolic contents in bioprocessed common bean (added with seed coats) flour was observed after 108 h of fermentation time (Table 1)] or partial hydrolysis of peptides, and in addition the gastrointestinal digestion may have release of peptides, and many other bioactive compounds capable of inhibiting ACE. The Figure 1 shows the non-linear fit plots of unprocessed and bioprocessed common beans hydrolysates ACE-I evaluations; it can be observed that hydrolysates from BCBF shows the nonlinear fit plots of unprocessed and bioprocessed common beans hydrolysates ACE-I evaluations; it can be observed that hydrolysates from BCBF showed the highest ACE inhibitory activity percentage (93%). Some researchers [11,13,50] have reported that common bean seeds are a valuable source of ACE inhibitors (ACE increases blood pressure by converting the inactive decapeptide angiotensin I to the potent vasoconstrictor angiotensin II

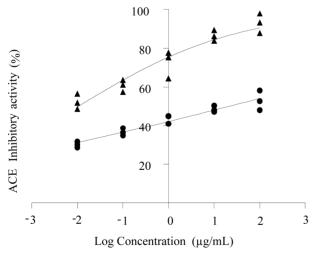


Figure 1. Comparision of ACE inhibitory activity of unprocessed (•) and bioprocessed (•) common bean hydrolysates treated by pancreatin. Continuous lines represent the non linear regression using Hill's equation for each data set. Values are means for three measurements per hydrolysate.

and inactivating the vasodilator bradykinin [35]). Therefore, inhibition of ACE reduces the activity of angiotensin II but increases bradykinin levels, and thus can result in a lowering of blood pressure. It has been reported that many natural ACE inhibitors isolated from the hydrolysis of various grains proteins such soybean [12], wheat germ [51], amaranth [52], common beans [13] or during gastrointestinal digestion or foodprocessing [14,15] can be used as pharmaceuticals and physiological functional food supplements for hypertension therapy. Valdez-Ortiz et al. [11] reported, for protein concentrates of three cultivars of azufrado beans hydrolyzed with pancreatic enzyme,  $IC_{50} = 60 - 319 \mu g/mL$ . The results obtained in this work are encouraging, because IC50 values were lower than those reported for fermented products of soybean (80 - 360  $\mu$ g/mL) [15] and lentils (180 -200 μg/mL) [53], and pepsin-pancreatin hydrolysates from lima bean (250 - 692 µg/mL) [54].

## 3.5. Chemical Composition and Physicochemical and Nutraceutical Properties of Bioprocessed (108 h) Common Bean (Added with Seed Coats) Functional Flour

Solid state bioconversion (SSB) of common beans with *Rhizopus oligosporus* at 35°C and 108 h of fermentation increased (p < 0.05) crude protein content (dw) from 25.36% to 29.54% (**Table 3**). Paredes-López *et al.* [55] reported that during the initial steps (soaking, cooking) of SSB processing of chickpea for animal consumption the total protein content increased significantly (9.4%), which might be due to leaching of solid material during these treatments; furthermore, they found that fermentation for 72 h increased the protein content significantly (21.7%), which may reflect an increase in mould biomass [56].

The soluble, insoluble and total dietary fiber, and resistant starch contents in common beans increased (p < 0.05), in dry weight, from 4.74% to 13.32%, from 11.30% to 22.51%, from 28.02% to 39.17%, and from 2.41% to 5.55%, respectively, after bioprocessing (108 h) (Table 3). The presence of dietary fiber and resistant starch in foods is important in health because they have been considered as functional ingredients to reduce colon cancer and battle [10,57]. These changes may be due to leaching out some compounds during steeping and cooking steps (before fermentation) and to fungi grow which have consumed carbohydrates and fat as an energy sources and the development of a fiber-rich fungous mycelium [58]. Gelatinisation and retrogradation of the starch are important processes that govern the formation of resistant starch; during SSB process the content of moisture and cooking temperature, the action of water on the hydrogen bonds between molecular chains within the

starch granular are former. Resistant starch is a fraction of starch that is not digested by amylolytic enzymes in the digestive track but is fermented by the gut bacteria in the colon and produces short-chain fatty acids and others organic acids. They are interest in consuming RS because of its health benefits including reduction of the glycemic and insulinemic responds to foods, obesity, diabetis, cardiovascular disease and colon cancer [59,60].

Bioprocessed common beans (added with seed coats) flour had lower (p < 0.05) Hunter "L" value and pH, higher (p < 0.05)  $\Delta E$ , and similar (p > 0.05) water activeity than unprocessed whole common bean flour (**Table 3**). Soaking and cooking produced a significant increase in the "L" value of common beans, meaning a lighter color (data not shown), but fermentation resulted in a slightly darker color, probably due to the influence of mycelia color and the drying step. Despite the bioprocessed common bean (added with seed coats) flour had a higher  $\Delta E$  than the unprocessed sample, the color of bioprocessed common bean flour looked acceptable, although sensory studies were not conducted.

Bioprocessed common bean (added with seed coats) flour showed higher (p < 0.05) water absorption (*WAI*) and water solubility (*WSI*) indexes than unprocessed whole common bean flour (**Table 3**); partial protein denaturation and starch gelatinization occurring during the cooking step may be responsible for these changes. The dispersability was much higher in bioprocessed common bean than unprocessed common bean flour (100% vs 39%). Angulo-Bejarano *et al.* [61] reported, for bioprocessed (with *Rhizopus oligosporus* at 34.9°C and 51.2 h) chickpeas (without added seed coats) *WAI*, *WSI* and dispersability values of 4.2 g gel/g sample (dw), 11.3 g soluble solids/100 g original solids, and 66.5%, respectively.

The bioprocessed (108 h) common bean functional flour (100 g) shows a total antioxidant activity of 17,468  $\mu$ mol TE and 13,505  $\mu$ mol TE, evaluated by ORAC and ABTS methodologies, respectively. The USDA recommends a daily intake of 3000 to 5000  $\mu$ mol TE (ORAC value) to maintain an adequate level of antioxidants in the body [62]. A 20 g portion of the bioprocessed common bean functional flour contributes with 54% - 116% of the recommended daily intake for antioxidants.

#### 4. Conclusion

Solid state bioconversion can be an efficient strategy to improve the phenolic content and antioxidant activity of these common bean extracts with associated health-linked functionality enhancement. At fermentation time of 108 h there is enhancement of total phenolics and antioxidant activity in the bioprocessed common beans (added with seed coats) extracts. Bioprocessed common

beans (added with seed coats) extracts are potentially safer, so therefore may be a preferred alternative for a nutraceutical ingredient/supplement development for prevention and control of degenerative diseases such as hypertension and those derived from oxidative stress.

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