

# Effect of Maillard Reaction Products (MRP) on Chlorophyll Stability in Green Peas

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## ABSTRACT

Maillard Reaction Products (MRP) was prepared from glucose and glycine heated at 90°C in air circulating oven for 12 hours. The effect of MRP on chlorophyll stability in green peas was investigated. The addition of Maillard Reaction Products (MRP) decreased the loss of chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b and total chlorophyll. The conversion of pheophytin and pyropheophytin was also reduced by the addition of MRP.

**Keywords:** Colour; Chlorophyll; Maillard Reaction Products (MRP); Heat Treatment

## 1. Introduction

Colour is a major quality attribute of food products. The sensory perception of food is determined by visual perception and it plays an important role in acceptability of foods. One of the most important colour factors is the presence of green chlorophyll pigments presented in processed foods. Due to various processing/heat treatments involved in food preparation and processing, chlorophyll pigments tend to undergo drastic irreversible changes. The most common alteration occurs in green vegetables in the conversion of chlorophylls to pheophytins, causing a drastic color change from bright green to olive brown. Chlorophyll retention has been used as a measure of quality in green vegetables. Chlorophylls are susceptible to many chemical or enzymatic degradation reactions. The simultaneous actions of enzymes, weak acids, oxygen, light and heat can lead to the formation of a large number of products. Major chemical degradation routes are associated with pheophytinization, epimerization and pyrroles [1]. The conversion is enhanced by extended heat treatment and is dependent upon the number of acid moiety formed during the processing and storage. Studies have indicated that during blanching, heat treatment induces the formation of the C-10 epimers producing chlorophylls which are converted into pheophytins [2] and pheophytin epimers. Various attempts have been made to minimize the loss of chlorophylls during processing by minimizing heat exposure through high tempe-

rate short term (HTST) process or combination of short time processing with pH adjustments. Although most of these methods have proved to be useful in retaining chlorophyll pigments immediately after processing, the retained chlorophyll is still found to degrade rapidly during storage.

The Maillard Reaction Products (MRPs) play an important role in food processing. Maillard reaction (MR) is a very complex reaction between carbonyls and amines. It occurs spontaneously during food processing and storage, mainly by the reaction between reducing sugars and amino groups of proteins [3]. Maillard Reaction usually produces a wide range of products with odours and colours, antioxidants, antiallergenic, antimicrobial and cytotoxic properties [4,5]. The researcher [6] studied the antioxidative effect of some MRPs on lipid oxidation and it was found to slow down the formation of rancid flavour in food. The antioxidative effect of maillard reaction volatile products was developed by heated glucose-glycine mixture. The free radical scavenging activity of Maillard Reaction Products was produced by heating glucose, or lactose with lysine, alanine or glycine [7]. Antioxidant activity of water soluble Maillard Reaction Products was studied [8]. The antioxidant properties [9] of Maillard Reaction Products were obtained by gamma-irradiation of whey proteins. Few reports are available in the influence of MRPs formed in food on microorganisms. The activity of MRPs against food poisoning microorganisms includes *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Aeromonas hydrophyla*

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[10]. The inhibitory effect of MRPs on protein was studied; it was found that the MRPs compound was inhibited carboxypeptidase A [11]. Author [12] observed a strong inhibitory effect of MRPs on polyphenol oxidase (PPO) and peroxidase (PO) enzymes. The inhibition of polyphenol oxidase [13] activity and copper chelating properties of model Maillard systems was studied. It was found that the inhibitory effect of MRP on activity of two copper-oxidoreductases, apple polyphenol oxidases and mushroom tyrosinases assessed by polarography showed that thiol-derived MRE were the most potent inhibitors even at very low levels in the reaction medium. In this study, the possible effect of MRPs on chlorophyll stability in foods during heat treatments is owing to the advantages of MRPs as there is no report of MRPs on chlorophyll stability. The objectives of this study were to examine effect of Maillard Reaction Products (MRP) on chlorophyll stability in green peas.

## 2. Material and Methods

### 2.1. Sample Preparation and Treatment

Freshly harvested green peas (*Pisum Sativum*) was procured from the local market, the pods were hand peeled immediately prior to the experiments. To study the effects of MRP's on chlorophyll stability, the following treatments viz, Control (T1), blanching of raw green peas for 5 minutes (open boiling) (T2), Blanching + chlorophyll fixation (T3), MRP + Blanching (T4).

### 2.2. Estimation of Chlorophyll, Pheophytin and Pyropheophytin

The sample (green peas) was extracted by blending a suitable weight in such volume of acetone that the equilibrium concentration was about 80%. The pigments were then transferred to diethyl ether and the absorbance was measured at 660 and 642 nm and the respective absorption maxima of chlorophyll a and chlorophyll b for the determination of, Pheophytin and pyropheophytin, by addition of one drop of concentrated hydrochloric acid to 25 to 50 ml of diethyl ether solution to convert chlorophyll to pheophytin and pyropheophytin respectively. Granular anhydrous sodium sulphate was also added, to clarify and dry the solution. The ether solution was allowed to store for 2 hours in dark at room temperature. Its absorbance was then measured at 665.5 and 653 nm the respective absorption maxima of pheophytin a and pheophytin b [14]. All the absorbance measurements were conducted in UV-visible spectrophotometer.

### 2.3. Preparation of Maillard Reaction Products

Glucose and glycine (AR grade) were dissolved in water to obtain a 1.71 M glucose and 2.05 M glycine solution. The initial pH of the aqueous solution was adjusted to 6.0.

Aliquots of solution were placed in vials that were sealed and heated at 90°C in air circulating oven for 12 hours. The MRP content was obtained as the difference between the content of glucose and glycine before and after heating.

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## 2.4. Statistical Analysis

The samples were analysed triplicate and data obtained were analysed statistically to find out Mean and standard deviations.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Changes in Chlorophyll Content

The effect of heat treatment and addition of MRP on the stability of chlorophyll in green peas has been shown in Figure 1 and Table 1. The initial chlorophyll content of

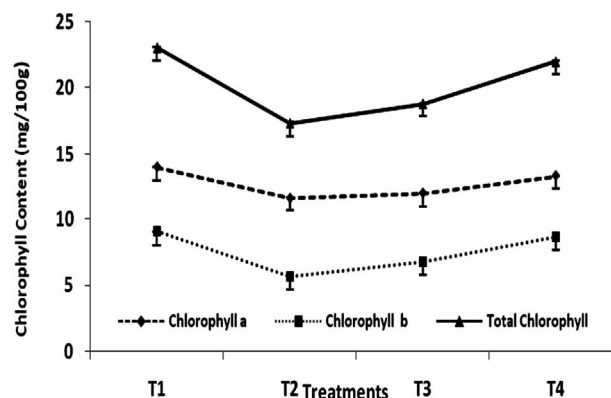


Figure 1. Change in chlorophyll content (mg/100g) of Green Peas (T1-Fresh Peas; T2 Blanching; T3 Blanching + chlorophyll fixation; T4 MRP + Blanching)

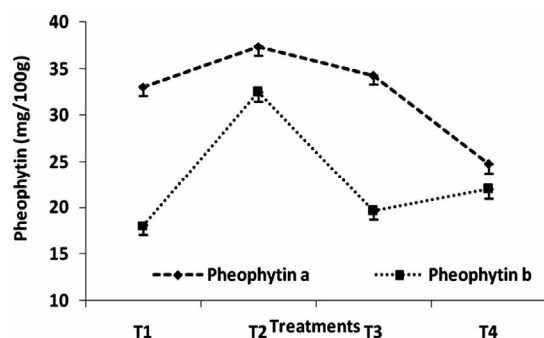
Table 1. Change in chlorophyll content (mg/100g) of Green Peas (T1-Fresh Peas; T2 Blanching; T3 Blanching + chlorophyll fixation; T4 MRP + Blanching) Mean ± SD.

Treatments	Chlorophyll a	Chlorophyll b	Total Chlorophyll
T1	14.01 ± 0.005	9.06 ± 0.012	23.06 ± 0.015
T2	11.67 ± 0.021	5.68 ± 0.005	17.35 ± 0.100
T3	12.05 ± 0.020	6.78 ± 0.005	18.83 ± 0.011
T4	13.36 ± 0.012	8.66 ± 0.015	22.01 ± 0.020

green peas was 23.06 mg/100g has been found to reduce to 17.35 mg/100g due to blanching. However, the addition of MRP at the concentration level of 1% (v/w) has been found to have a significant effect on discoloration of chlorophyll content of green peas. Because, although the sample was subjected to heat treatment as in the case of treatment (T2), the final concentration of chlorophyll in all samples was 22.01 mg/100g addition of 1% (v/w) maillard reaction products of sample had significant effect on chlorophyll retention in green peas. Whereas the samples without MRP treatment had shown that the loss of chlorophyll pigment was maximum. The loss of chlorophyll can be due to the formation of the C-10 epimers producing Chlorophylls a<sup>1</sup> and b<sup>1</sup>. Heat induced loss of green colour is a consequence [15] of both chlorophyll a and b degradation. In the present study, the effect of MRP on chlorophyll stability is more when compared to the stability of chlorophyll II b. formation of Zinc-chlorophyll derivative complexes in thermally processed green peas was studied [16]. The zinc ion reactions with chlorophylls lead to the formation of zinc chlorophyll complex, Zn pheophytin a and a' compounds contributing to the green colour of thermally processed green peas.

### 3.2. Changes in Pheophytin Content of Green Peas

The effect of heat treatment and addition of MRP on the stability of pheophytin in green peas has been shown in **Figure 2** and **Table 2**. Author [17] reported that chlorophyllb degraded at a rate approximately 25% - 40%



**Figure 2.** Change in pheophytin content (mg/100g) of Green Peas (T1-Fresh Peas; T2 Blanching; T3 Blanching + chlorophyll fixation; T4 MRP + Blanching).

**Table 2.** Change in pheophytin content (mg/100g) of Green Peas (T1-Fresh Peas; T2 Blanching; T3 Blanching + chlorophyll fixation; T4 MRP + Blanching) Mean ± SD.

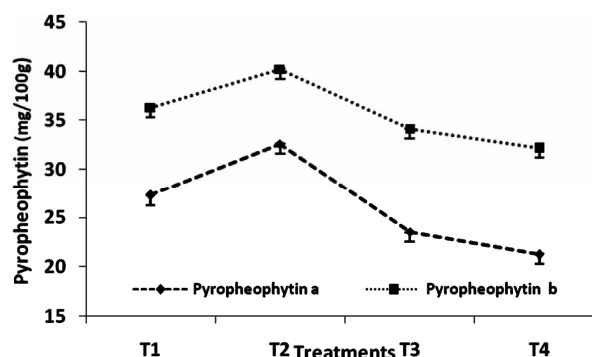
Treatments	Pheophytin a	Pheophytin b
T1	33.08 ± 0.015	18.02 ± 0.020
T2	37.39 ± 0.005	32.48 ± 0.01
T3	34.25 ± 0.015	19.65 ± 0.020
T4	24.77 ± 0.025	22.01 ± 0.015

faster than pheophytin depending on the temperature. To estimate the effect of MRP chlorophyll conversion, the conversion of chlorophyll a to pheophytin a is minimum when compared to the conversion of chlorophyll b to pheophytin b. This clearly indicates that the effect of MRP is maximum in stabilizing chlorophyll a content compared to chlorophyll b. Generally, the total destruction of chlorophylls results in the formation of pheophytins and pyropheophytins. pH of spinach product decreases [18] with increasing heat treatment during pheophytinisation. The extent of conversion of pheophytins to pyropheophytins is related to the severity of heat treatment. In this study, it clearly indicates that at all levels the MRP plays an important role in retention of chlorophyll content.

### 3.3. Changes in Pyropheophytin Content of Green Peas

The effect of heat treatment and addition of MRP on the stability of pyropheophytin in green peas has been shown in **Figure 3** and **Table 3**. The dependence of pheophytin conversion in an acid medium and/or heat has led many investigations of pH control to preserve the typical green color of chlorophyll, or minimize heat exposure by applying high temperature, short time processing or combining high temperature and time with pH adjustments, [19] observed greater stability of chlorophyll colour in blanched spinach puree when surfactants were added.

Enzymes systems particularly, oxidizing enzymes,



**Figure 3.** Change in pyropheophytin content (mg/100g) of Green Peas (T1-Fresh Peas; T2 Blanching; T3 Blanching + chlorophyll fixation; T4 MRP + Blanching).

**Table 3.** Change in pyropheophytin content (mg/100g) of Green Peas (T1-Fresh Peas; T2 Blanching; T3 Blanching + chlorophyll fixation; T4 MRP + Blanching) Mean ± SD.

Treatments	Pyropheophytin a	Pyropheophytin b
T1	27.32 ± 0.011	36.28 ± 0.015
T2	32.62 ± 0.025	40.21 ± 0.030
T3	23.54 ± 0.005	34.12 ± 0.025
T4	21.26 ± 0.032	32.16 ± 0.015

have been implicated as factors in chlorophyll degradation. They have reported that the loss of chlorophyll is frozen peas associate with lipoxygenase activity and fat peroxidation. Author [20] reported chlorophyll blanching in a mixture of fatty acid lipoxygenate and legume seed extract. Oxygen was required for the reaction to proceed and prooxidants inhibited the rate. The exact mechanism of MRP on chlorophyll stability may be attributed to the presence of furfural of 5-HMF. The pH [6] range (6 - 9) gave the strictest antioxidative effect of MRP's. Further more there is possibility that the colour stability effect on MRP is due to free radicals formed during the heating of sugars and amines [21].

#### 4. Conclusion

During heat treatment, chlorophyll degrades to pheophytin, which in turn decomposes to other degradation products. Both chlorophyll and pheophytin conversion can be minimized by the addition of maillard reaction products to improve the colour stability. The present study clearly shows the advantage of using MRP on chlorophyll stabilization and retention in green peas.

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