

## EFFECT OF GINGER AND ROSEMARY EXTRACTS AS ANTIOXIDANT AND ANTIBACTERIAL AGENTS IN TILAPIA FISH FINGERS

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This work aimed to evaluate the antioxidant and antibacterial effects of commercial ginger and rosemary extracts on tilapia fish fingers during frozen storage. Three formulations of fish fingers using tilapia mechanically separated meat (MSM) were produced with 2.5 % of hydroalcoholic ginger extract (GE), 2.5 % of oily rosemary extract (RE) and a control. pH, instrumental color, peroxide value (PV), determination of thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS), and sensorial evaluation with a trained panel, were carried out monthly during 120 days of frozen storage. Total mesophilic and *Enterobacteriaceae* counts were conducted at the beginning and the end of storage. pH remained near 6.0. GE showed a darker color (lower L\*) at the end of the study. PV reduced with storage time, however, there was no difference among formulations. RE had the lowest TBARS value at 120 days. GE became with an unacceptable flavor and had the highest TBARS value at the end of frozen storage. There was a little reduction in the bacteria counts for the products with extracts. Rosemary extract was more efficient in reducing the lipid oxidation of frozen fish finger than ginger extract.

**KEYWORDS:** NATURAL EXTRACTS; ZINGIBER OFFICINALE; ROSMARINUS OFFICINALIS; LIPID OXIDATION; SHELF LIFE

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Approximately one-third of the food produced annually for human consumption in the world is lost or wasted, which accounts for about 1.3 billion tons of food (FAO, 2011). Fish waste represents a valuable source of proteins, minerals and other nutrients (MUZZOLON et al., 2018) and can contribute to food security.

Fish is highly perishable due to high water activity and nutrient availability, as well as, the presence of free amino acids, polyunsaturated fatty acids, autolytic enzymes and pH close to neutrality (SOARES et al., 2014). Biological reactions, such as lipid oxidation, enzymatic activity and metabolic activity of microorganisms, resulting in rapid fish deterioration, are usually responsible for the loss of product freshness (ARASHISAR et al., 2004). Antioxidants and antimicrobials are usually added in fish products to retard the lipid oxidation and microbial development, respectively. These ingredients can be derived from natural and synthetic sources.

Synthetic additives have been associated with adverse health effects, such as allergies, hyperactivity (POLONIO; PERES, 2009) and cancer development (BOTTERWECK, et al. 2000). As a result, the food industry is looking to substitute synthetic additives with natural substances due to consumer trends (CAROCHO; MORALES; FERREIRA, 2018). Rosemary extract is a natural ingredient and contains a significant quantity of the phenolic diterpenes, carnosic acid and carnosol, which have antioxidant potential in foods (FRANKEL, 1999). The main constituents of rosemary essential oil-rich fraction obtained by supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> extraction were  $\alpha$ -pinene, 1,8-cineole, camphor, verbenone, and borneol (SANTOYO et al., 2005). Angioni et al. (2004) also identified these compounds in essential oil extracted by the hydro distillation method. Moreover, the essential oil has antimicrobial properties reported in the literature (PORTE; GODOY, 2001). A previous study found antimicrobial activity against gram-positive bacteria (*Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus subtilis*), gram-negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*), a yeast (*Candida albicans*), and a fungus (*Aspergillus niger*) (SANTOYO et al., 2005).

Another natural food preservative is the ginger extract which has antioxidant (MISHARINA; TERENINA; KRIKUNOVA, 2009; MESOMO et al., 2012) and antimicrobial (SIVASOTHY et al., 2011; PISOSCHI et al., 2018) properties described in the literature. Essential oil and supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> extracts of ginger have similar chemical composition; however, they contained varying amounts of the compounds (MESOMO et al., 2013). The authors identified that the major components in the CO<sub>2</sub> extracts were  $\alpha$ -zingiberene,  $\beta$ -sesquiphellandrene,  $\alpha$ -farnesene, geranial,  $\beta$ -bisabolene and  $\beta$ -eudesmol. In addition,  $\alpha$ -curcumene, geranial and camphene were the main compounds in the essential oil. Methanol extracts of ginger showed effective antimicrobial activity against food spoilage and food-borne pathogens, such as, *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella enteritidis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus cereus*, among others (SUNILSON et al., 2009).

Rosemary and ginger extracts have been applied to fish and other seafood products as natural antioxidants and antimicrobials (HASSOUN; ÇOBAN, 2017). Rosemary extract prevented lipid oxidation and improved the sensory quality of sardine (OZOGUL et al., 2010). Fish fingers from *Sardasarda* treated with ginger essential oil extended shelf life during refrigerated storage compared to the control (ÇOBAN, 2013).

These previous studies used commercial extracts and showed promising results for fish conservation. Commercial extracts derived from natural sources are available to

manufacturers to use them as natural preservatives. However, to the best of our knowledge, there are still limited studies on the application of natural extracts in tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) and its products. Therefore, this study aimed to evaluate the antioxidant and antibacterial effects of commercial extracts of ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) and rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) in tilapia fish fingers during frozen storage for 120 days.

## 2 MATERIAL AND METHODS

### 2.1 PREPARATION OF FISH FINGERS

The fish fingers were prepared with 70% of mechanically separated meat (MSM) from V-cut fillet trimmings and 30% of MSM from tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) carcass, which are tilapia filleting residues. The MSMs were donated by Tilapia Brazilian (Toledo, PR). The remaining ingredients (0.5% salt, 0.9% seasonings, 3% corn starch, 2.5% extracts or mineral water) were added based on the total mass of MSM. Ginger extract (GE), Rosemary extract (RE), and Control formulations had 2.5% ginger hydroalcoholic extract, 2.5% rosemary oil extract, and 2.5% water, respectively. The extract concentrations were determined by preliminary experiments to define the maximum level that did not interfere with product texture. Commercial extracts were donated by Duas Rodas (Jaraguá do Sul, SC). They were stored in the dark at refrigeration temperature and used within the shelf life period defined by the company.

Ingredients were weighed in a semi-analytical balance (UX6200H, SHIMADZU, São Paulo, SP) and then homogenized in a cutter (CUT .4, METVISA, Brusque, SC) for 2 min. The mixture remained at rest at -18 °C for 1 h, to facilitate the molding step. Subsequently, 20 g of the batter was measured and molded manually in a rectangular shape (7 cm long x 2 cm wide) of stainless steel in the fish finger format. Dimensions were based on commercial product size. The strips were placed in low-density polyethylene packaging and frozen in a horizontal freezer (H500, Electrolux, Curitiba-PR), with the “quick freeze” function activated. After frozen, the samples were submitted to three breading steps: pre-dust, batter, and final breading flour (Baptistella Alimentos, Itatiba, SP). The breaded strips were placed in low-density polyethylene packagings and frozen for 12 h (overnight) at -18 °C in the same horizontal freezer.

Three batches of each formulation were produced, totaling 50 products of each formulation. The samples were stored in a vertical freezer (FFE24, Electrolux, Curitiba, PR) at -18 °C for up to 120 days. Ten samples of each formulation were randomly chosen at each sampling time. All analyses, except sensory, were performed with thawed crude samples. Samples were thawed at refrigeration temperature for 2 h before analysis. For sensory evaluation, the frozen fish fingers were baked in an oven (C20, Technicook Practice, Pouso Alegre, MG) preheated at 180°C for 10 min, and then cooked for 10 min, until the center reached 70 °C monitored with a digital thermometer. The analyses were performed monthly at 0, 30, 60, 90 and 120 days of frozen storage. Microbiological tests were carried out at 0 and 120 days.

## 2.2 pH DETERMINATION

The sample (10 g) was homogenized manually with 100 mL of distilled water for 2 min. The pH value was measured with a calibrated pH meter (HI2221, HANNA instruments, Tamboré, SP), as described by Instituto Adolfo Lutz (IAL, 2008). The analysis was carried out in triplicate.

## 2.3 DETERMINATION OF PEROXIDE VALUE (PV)

PV determination was performed using the fat extracted from the sample by the Bligh-Dyer method (BLIGH; DYER, 1959). 5 mL of the chloroform phase was removed in a test tube and evaporated in an oven at 70 °C. After evaporation, the remaining fat was dissolved with a 2 mL of benzene-methanol solution. 0.2 mL of that solution was transferred to polypropylene tube with 10 µL of 30 % ammonium thiocyanate, 10 µL of 10 mmol/L and benzene-methanol solution to make up to 6 mL. The blank was prepared with benzene-methanol solution analogously. All tubes were homogenized for 15 s and taken to a water bath at 50 °C for 2 min. Subsequently, they were cooled to room temperature, and the reading was performed in a spectrophotometer (350-700 nm). Results were expressed in miliequivalent of peroxide oxygen per kilogram of fat (meq O<sub>2</sub>/kg of fat). The analysis was performed in triplicate.

## 2.4 DETERMINATION OF THIOBARBITURIC ACID REACTIVE SUBSTANCES (TBARS)

Sample (1.0 g) was transferred to polypropylene tube with 5.0 mL of 1% potassium chloride (m/v). The mixture was vortexed for 2 min and centrifuged for 10 min at 5000 rpm. A 1.0 mL of the supernatant aliquot was transferred to another polypropylene tube with 250 µL of 30% (m/v) trichloroacetic acid, 500 µL of 0.8 % (m/v) thiobarbituric acid and sufficient distilled water to complete the final volume of 2.0 mL. After addition of each component, the sample was homogenized in a vortex following the above sequence. The tubes were heated in a boiling water bath for 30 min, and after which time 5.0 mL of 1-butanol was added to the mixture. The mixture was vortexed for 2 min and centrifuged at 5000 rpm for 10 min. The absorbance of the organic phase was measured in a spectrophotometer (535 nm). Results were expressed as mg of malonaldehyde (MDA) per kilogram of sample (mg MDA/kg). The analysis was carried out in triplicate.

## 2.5 INSTRUMENTAL COLOR ANALYSIS

The color measurements (n = 4) were obtained on the internal surface of the samples after a longitudinal cut, with a portable colorimeter (Chroma Meter CR-400/410, Konica Minolta Optics, Inc., Japan), calibrated with a white porcelain plate. The CIE scale L\*C\*h, consisting of the L\* component, chroma (C\*) and hue angle (0° ≤ h° ≤ 360°) was used. L\* represents luminosity (L\* = 0 black and L\* = 100 white). Chroma is an expression of color intensity or saturation. Hue angle is the observable color or tonality that changes in the angular direction representing the different existing colors.

## 2.6 SENSORY ANALYSIS

The project was approved (CAAE: 53646116.4.0000.5564) by the Human research ethics committee before conducting the sensory analysis. The trained panel consisted of six panelists who were trained as described in a previous study (MESSIAS et al., 2016). They evaluated color, odor, taste and overall impression of the products, using a scale ranging from 9 "very good quality", 7-8 "good quality", 5-6 "acceptable quality", 1-4 "poor or unacceptable quality", as described by Ozogul et al. (2010). These sensory attributes were chosen, as they indicate possible sensory changes due to lipid oxidation.

## 2.7 MICROBIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Total mesophilic bacteria (PCA media, 30 °C, 48 h) and *Enterobacteriaceae* (VRBG medium, 37 °C, 24 h) counts were performed according to American Public Health Association (APHA) methodologies described by Silva et al. (2010). The analyses were performed in duplicate.

## 2.8 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The effects of formulation (F), storage time (ST) and their interaction (F x ST) on the product parameters were analyzed by analysis of variance (ANOVA) to determine significant differences with 95 % significance ( $p < 0.05$ ). Results were expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard error of mean (SEM). If interaction F x ST was not significant, and an effect (F, ST) had significant difference, the results were also expressed as the mean of the factors (F or ST). The comparison of means was performed using the Tukey's test ( $p < 0.05$ ), when statistical significance was found. Statistical analysis was carried out using Genes free software, version 1990.2017.61 (UFV, Brazil) (CRUZ, 2013).

# 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

## 3.1 CHEMICAL ANALYSES

pH and peroxide values (PV) results for tilapia fish fingers with ginger extract (GE), rosemary extract (RE) and control, during the frozen storage for 120 days are presented in TABLE 1.

TABLE 1 - pH AND PEROXIDE VALUES (PV) OF TILAPIA FISH FINGERS CONTAINING GINGER EXTRACT (GE), ROSEMARY EXTRACT (RE), AND CONTROL DURING FROZEN STORAGE

Storage time (days)	Formulation (F)			Mean	p value		
	GE	RE	Control		F x ST	F	ST
<b>pH</b>					0.063 <sup>ns</sup>	1 <sup>ns</sup>	0.141 <sup>ns</sup>
0	6.3 ± 0.1	6.2 ± 0.1	6.1 ± 0.1	6.2	0.063 <sup>ns</sup>	1 <sup>ns</sup>	0.141 <sup>ns</sup>
30	6.1 ± 0.1	6.1 ± 0.1	6.1 ± 0.1				
60	6.3 ± 0.1	6.1 ± 0.1	6.2 ± 0.1				
90	6.3 ± 0.1	6.5 ± 0.1	6.3 ± 0.1				
120	6.1 ± 0.1	6.1 ± 0.2	6.3 ± 0.1				
<b>PV (meq O<sub>2</sub>/kg of fat)</b>					0.168 <sup>ns</sup>	1 <sup>ns</sup>	0.001
0	0.7 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.1	0.7 <sup>b</sup>	0.168 <sup>ns</sup>	1 <sup>ns</sup>	0.001
30	1.1 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.1	1.1 ± 0.2	1.1 <sup>a</sup>			
60	0.7 ± 0.1	0.9 ± 0.1	0.9 ± 0.1	0.8 <sup>b</sup>			
90	0.7 ± 0.1	0.5 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.1	0.6 <sup>bc</sup>			
120	0.6 ± 0.1	0.4 ± 0.2	0.2 ± 0.2	0.4 <sup>c</sup>			

Results are expressed as mean ± standard error of mean (n = 3 replicates). ns: not significant ( $p > 0.05$ ).

<sup>a-c</sup> Different and lowercase letters on the same column are significantly different by Tukey's test ( $p < 0.05$ ).

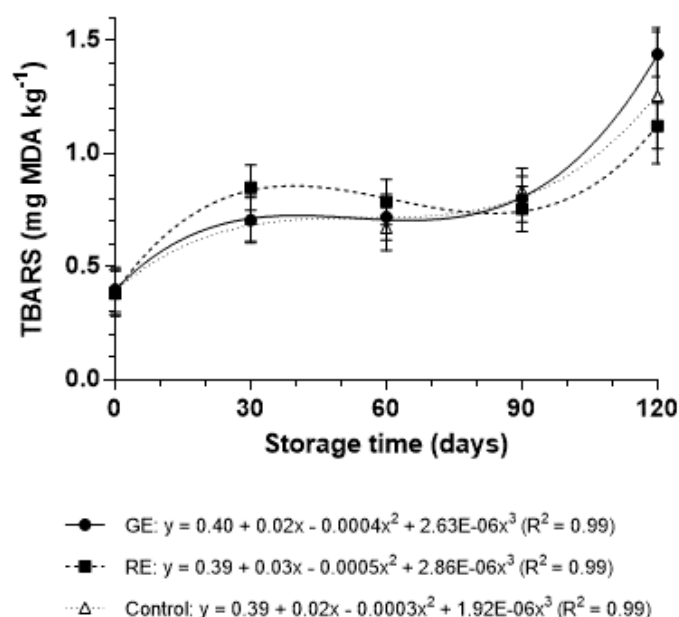
pH was not affected by formulations(F), storage times (ST) and interaction of the factors F x ST. As a result, the mean value of pH was reported in Table 1 and was approximately 6.2, which stands within the neutrality range. Post-mortem pH of fish ranges from 6.0 to 6.8 (KHALAFALLA; ALI; HASSAN, 2015), agreeing with the results found in this study. Additionally, Khalafalla; Ali; Hassan (2015) obtained similar pH values, ranging from 6.2 to 6.6 for tilapia fillets containing rosemary and thyme extracts during refrigerated storage for six days. The maximum pH considered acceptable for fish and fish products is 6.5, and higher values can be attributed to the increase of volatile bases, such as ammonia, produced by endogenous or microbial enzymes (MANAT et al. al., 2005).

Regarding the PV results, F x ST was not significant, and no differences were observed among formulations during storage. Therefore, the natural extracts were not efficient in reducing the hydroperoxide formation, which is the primary product of the oxidative process. PV was only affected by storage time. For this reason, the mean values of PV for each storage time were reported in Table 1. It was observed a progressive decrease from 30 to 120 days. This is probably a result of an increase in malonaldehyde (MDA) level, which is a byproduct from lipid oxidation.

In contrast, Ozogul et al. (2010) observed an increase in PV for sardines refrigerated for 20 days. Additionally, the sardine with rosemary extract presented a lower PV than the control. The results were also different from those found by Ozogul; Uçar (2013) with mackerel (*Scomberjaponicus*) fishburger with the addition of natural extracts. The authors obtained an increase in PV during the 8 months of frozen storage.

The TBARS methodology quantifies the MDA which is one of the main decomposition products of hydroperoxides that are formed during the oxidation process (OSAWA; DE FELÍCIO; GONÇALVES, 2005). This analysis was used to evaluate the effect of the extracts in controlling the lipid oxidation in tilapia fish fingers. There was interaction between formulation and storage time ( $p < 0.001$ ). Results are shown in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 1 - RESULTS OF TBARS WITH STORAGE TIME OF TILAPIA FISH FINGERS CONTAINING GINGER EXTRACT (GE), ROSEMARY EXTRACT (RE), AND CONTROL DURING FROZEN STORAGE



The levels of TBARS ranged from 0.4 to 1.4 mg MDA/kg of sample. TBARS values followed a third order polynomial model and increased at the end of storage. Ozogul and Uçar (2013) also found a progressive increase in the TBARS during the frozen storage of mackerel fishburger containing plant extracts.

RE had the highest result at 30 days and reached the lowest TBARS value at 120 days. GE and the control had a similar behavior until 90 days. At the end of storage, GE had the highest value and the control reached a middle value between the two formulations with extracts. This result indicates that rosemary oily extract was more efficient to prevent lipid oxidation in the fish fingers during frozen storage. Similarly, Ozogul and Uçar (2013) concluded that rosemary extract presented antioxidant activity in mackerel fishburgers and reached lower values than the control.

Additionally, the product with ginger extract had a higher TBARS value than the control. This probably occurred due to the hydroalcoholic method used for this extract which could have also extracted metals which act as pro-oxidants in lipid oxidation reactions. Abbas et al. (2015) found high quantities of mineral elements, especially Mg and Zn, in the hydroalcoholic extract of chicory (*Cichorium intybus* L.) leaves.

### 3.2 INSTRUMENTAL COLOR

The instrumental color of the inner surface of the GE, RE and control fish fingers during storage time are shown in TABLE 2. All parameters had interaction between both factors (F x ST). In addition, the formulations showed color changes throughout the frozen storage.

The brightness parameter ( $L^*$ ) ranged from 59.4 to 66.1.  $L^*$  showed no variation among formulations at the beginning of the study ("0 days"). GE presented lower  $L^*$  from 60 to

120 days, indicating a darker color than the other formulations. On the other hand, RE and control were slightly brighter (higher L\*) than GE.

The Hue angle (tonality) varied from 68.4 to 80.4°. Overall, the tonalities of all formulations increased during the storage time. GE and RE had Hue values near 75° from 30 to 120 days, representing an orangish color, based on the L\*C\*h color model. In addition, control had the highest values (~80°) after 90 days which represents a yellowish color.

Chroma (color intensity) ranged from 13.7 to 17.7. Color intensity of GE and control did not vary, when comparing initial and final storage times. On the contrary, RE Chroma increased from ~14 to 16. Additionally, control had the lowest color intensity at 120 days than RE and GE.

### 3.3 SENSORY ANALYSIS

A common way to evaluate fish freshness is using sensory analysis since important information is obtained in a simple and fast way (KHALAFALLA; ALI; HASSAN, 2015). A trained panel evaluated the attributes of color, odor, flavor and overall impression during frozen storage, which are presented in TABLE 3.

All formulations maintained the sensory color and odor during the study, with values near 8 and 7, respectively, which correspond to "good quality" in the scale. Formulations (F), storage times (ST) and the interaction of both factors did not affect these attributes. Consequently, the addition of extracts did not affect the fish finger color and odor during frozen storage.

Flavor and overall impression had interaction F x ST. RE was not different from the control for both attributes, with averages close to 7, indicating that the two formulations maintained the sensory quality up to 120 days of storage. On the other hand, GE had the lowest scores in 90 and 120 days, corresponding to "bad or unacceptable quality". The trained panelists reported an undesirable change in the product due to the loss of ginger flavor and a presence of a rancid off-flavor. This result agrees with the highest TBARS value found for the formulation with ginger extract (FIGURE 1).

The present findings differed from previous studies. Khalafalla; Ali; Hassan (2015) found that tilapia fillets containing rosemary extract had lower scores than the control. The authors reported that the yellow coloration and rosemary strong odor negatively affected the sensory evaluation of the samples. ÇOBAN (2013) concluded that 1% ginger oil increased the shelf life of refrigerated fish fingers from *Sardasarda* and had a positive impact on sensory quality.



TABLE 2 - INSTRUMENTAL COLOR OF TILAPIA FISH FINGERS CONTAINING GINGER EXTRACT (GE), ROSEMARY EXTRACT (RE), AND CONTROL DURING FROZEN STORAGE

Formulation (F)	Storage time (ST) (days)					<i>p</i> value
	0	30	60	90	120	F x ST
<i>L* (Brightness)</i>						
GE	60.9 ± 0.9 <sup>aA</sup>	59.4 ± 0.1 <sup>bA</sup>	60.3 ± 1.1 <sup>bA</sup>	60.3 ± 0.7 <sup>cA</sup>	60.8 ± 0.6 <sup>bA</sup>	0.001
RE	61.8 ± 0.8 <sup>aC</sup>	63.0 ± 0.2 <sup>aBC</sup>	64.4 ± 0.6 <sup>aAB</sup>	66.1 ± 0.4 <sup>aA</sup>	65.2 ± 0.4 <sup>aAB</sup>	
Control	61.0 ± 0.6 <sup>aB</sup>	61.8 ± 0.3 <sup>aB</sup>	65.6 ± 0.3 <sup>aA</sup>	62.5 ± 0.7 <sup>bB</sup>	65.6 ± 0.6 <sup>aA</sup>	
<i>Hue angle (Tonality)</i>						
GE	70.3 ± 0.5 <sup>aB</sup>	76.4 ± 1.5 <sup>aA</sup>	74.2 ± 0.2 <sup>aA</sup>	74.1 ± 0.3 <sup>bA</sup>	75.3 ± 0.5 <sup>bA</sup>	<0.001
RE	68.8 ± 0.4 <sup>aB</sup>	75.3 ± 0.4 <sup>aA</sup>	74.9 ± 0.5 <sup>aA</sup>	75.8 ± 0.5 <sup>bA</sup>	77.3 ± 0.4 <sup>bA</sup>	
Control	68.4 ± 0.8 <sup>aD</sup>	76.0 ± 1.3 <sup>aBC</sup>	73.9 ± 0.7 <sup>aC</sup>	78.4 ± 0.9 <sup>aAB</sup>	80.4 ± 0.4 <sup>aA</sup>	
<i>Chroma (Color intensity)</i>						
GE	15.4 ± 0.5 <sup>aB</sup>	17.7 ± 0.5 <sup>aA</sup>	15.6 ± 0.4 <sup>aB</sup>	15.5 ± 0.2 <sup>aB</sup>	16.1 ± 0.4 <sup>aAB</sup>	0.023
RE	13.7 ± 0.2 <sup>bB</sup>	15.0 ± 0.4 <sup>bAB</sup>	14.2 ± 0.6 <sup>aB</sup>	14.2 ± 0.1 <sup>abB</sup>	16.0 ± 0.7 <sup>aA</sup>	
Control	14.1 ± 0.4 <sup>abA</sup>	13.9 ± 0.3 <sup>bA</sup>	14.3 ± 0.6 <sup>aA</sup>	13.7 ± 0.3 <sup>bA</sup>	14.0 ± 0.4 <sup>bA</sup>	

Results are expressed as mean ± standard error of mean (n = 4 replicates).

<sup>a-c</sup> Different and lowercase letters on the same column are significantly different by Tukey's test ( $p < 0.05$ ).

<sup>A-D</sup> Different and uppercase letters on the same line are significantly different by Tukey's test ( $p < 0.05$ ).

TABLE 3 - SENSORY EVALUATION OF TILAPIA FISH FINGERS, CONTAINING GINGER EXTRACT (GE), ROSEMARY EXTRACT (RE), AND CONTROL DURING FROZEN STORAGE

Formulation (F)	Storage time (days)					pvalue		
	0	30	60	90	120	F x ST	F	ST
<b>Color</b>								
GE	8.2 ± 0.4	8.3 ± 0.2	8.0 ± 0.5	8.5 ± 0.3	8.3 ± 0.3	1 <sup>ns</sup>	0.087 <sup>ns</sup>	0.296 <sup>ns</sup>
RE	8.5 ± 0.2	8.5 ± 0.2	8.5 ± 0.2	8.5 ± 0.3	8.7 ± 0.3			
Control	8.5 ± 0.2	8.7 ± 0.2	8.2 ± 0.4	8.2 ± 0.3	8.5 ± 0.5			
<b>Odor</b>								
GE	8.3 ± 0.4	7.7 ± 0.6	6.8 ± 0.5	6.7 ± 0.7	6.8 ± 0.7	1 <sup>ns</sup>	0.340 <sup>ns</sup>	0.237 <sup>ns</sup>
RE	8.0 ± 0.4	7.5 ± 0.4	7.5 ± 0.4	7.7 ± 0.2	7.5 ± 0.6			
Control	7.7 ± 0.5	7.5 ± 0.6	7.3 ± 0.6	8.0 ± 0.4	7.5 ± 0.6			
<b>Flavor</b>								
GE	7.8 ± 0.5 <sup>aA</sup>	7.0 ± 0.4 <sup>aA</sup>	6.2 ± 0.5 <sup>aAB</sup>	4.5 ± 0.3 <sup>bBC</sup>	3.0 ± 0.9 <sup>bC</sup>	0.002	-	-
RE	8.5 ± 0.3 <sup>aA</sup>	7.5 ± 0.6 <sup>aA</sup>	7.7 ± 0.5 <sup>aA</sup>	7.3 ± 0.5 <sup>aA</sup>	7.2 ± 0.5 <sup>aA</sup>			
Control	7.7 ± 0.4 <sup>aA</sup>	7.3 ± 0.8 <sup>aA</sup>	6.7 ± 0.7 <sup>aA</sup>	8.0 ± 0.4 <sup>aA</sup>	6.7 ± 0.5 <sup>aA</sup>			
<b>Overall impression</b>								
GE	8.2 ± 0.4 <sup>aA</sup>	7.7 ± 0.4 <sup>aAB</sup>	6.0 ± 0.4 <sup>bBC</sup>	4.7 ± 0.4 <sup>bC</sup>	5.2 ± 0.4 <sup>bC</sup>	0.007	-	-
RE	8.0 ± 0.3 <sup>aA</sup>	7.7 ± 0.9 <sup>aA</sup>	8.0 ± 0.4 <sup>aA</sup>	7.3 ± 0.5 <sup>aA</sup>	7.5 ± 0.6 <sup>aA</sup>			
Control	7.8 ± 0.4 <sup>aA</sup>	8.2 ± 0.5 <sup>aA</sup>	7.5 ± 0.5 <sup>abA</sup>	7.7 ± 0.4 <sup>aA</sup>	7.3 ± 0.4 <sup>aA</sup>			

Results are expressed as mean ± standard error of mean (n = 6 replicates).

<sup>a-b</sup> Different and lowercase letters on the same column are significantly different by Tukey's test (p < 0.05).

<sup>A-C</sup> Different and uppercase letters on the same line are significantly different by Tukey's test (p < 0.05).

### 3.4 MICROBIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

The microbiological quality of tilapia fish finger is important and necessary, since this product presents the possibility of microbial growth, because of its intrinsic properties (high water activity, pH near neutrality, etc.). The total counts of mesophilic bacteria and *Enterobacteriaceae* in the GE, RE and control formulations were carried out at the initial and final frozen storage time, as shown in Table 4. F x ST interactions were significant for both analyses.

TABLE 4 - TOTAL MESOPHILIC AND *ENTEROBACTERIACEAE* COUNTS FOR TILAPIA FISH FINGERS CONTAINING GINGER EXTRACT (GE), ROSEMARY EXTRACT (RE) AND CONTROL DURING FROZEN STORAGE

	Storage time (ST) (days)		p value
Formulation (F)	0	120	F x ST
<b>Mesophilic (CFU/g)</b>			
GE	9.6 x 10 <sup>4</sup> ± 2.0 x 10 <sup>3aA</sup>	1.1 x 10 <sup>4</sup> ± 1.4 x 10 <sup>3aB</sup>	0.005
RE	7.1 x 10 <sup>4</sup> ± 4.5 x 10 <sup>3bA</sup>	1.4 x 10 <sup>4</sup> ±4.6 x 10 <sup>3aB</sup>	
Control	5.5 x 10 <sup>4</sup> ± 6.2 x 10 <sup>3cA</sup>	8.0 x 10 <sup>3</sup> ±9.2 x 10 <sup>2aB</sup>	
<b>Enterobacteriaceae (CFU/g)</b>			<0.001
GE	5.9 x 10 <sup>3</sup> ± 4.3 x 10 <sup>2aA</sup>	1.3 x 10 <sup>3</sup> ±2.5 x 10 <sup>1aB</sup>	
RE	4.4 x 10 <sup>3</sup> ± 1.5 x 10 <sup>2bA</sup>	1.3 x 10 <sup>3</sup> ± 8.8 x 10 <sup>1aB</sup>	
Control	1.5 x 10 <sup>3</sup> ± 3.7 x 10 <sup>2cA</sup>	1.3 x 10 <sup>3</sup> ±9.8 x 10 <sup>1aA</sup>	

Results are expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard error of mean (n = 2 replicates).

CFU: Colony Forming Units.

<sup>a-c</sup> Different and lowercase letters on the same column are significantly different by Tukey's test ( $p < 0.05$ ).

<sup>A-B</sup> Different and uppercase letters on the same line are significantly different by Tukey's test ( $p < 0.05$ ).

The total mesophilic bacteria count in plates is a microbiological analysis used as a general indicator of the presence of bacteria in foods, since it does not differentiate bacteria types, providing overall information about product quality (SILVA et al., 2010). According to Marengoni et al. (2009), values higher than  $10^6$  CFU/g indicates low fish freshness. The results reached a maximum of  $9.6 \times 10^4$  CFU/g, a value considered satisfactory. Additionally, the *Enterobacteriaceae* count is used as an indicator of the process hygienic conditions (SILVA et al., 2010). The results obtained in this study were not higher than  $5.9 \times 10^3$  CFU/g.

The results were different among formulations at the beginning of the study. Control had lower microbial counts than GE and RE at "0 days". In addition, reductions in bacteria counts between 0 and 120 days were observed for all formulations, except for the *Enterobacteriaceae* count of the control, which did not change significantly. However, no difference was observed among formulations at the end of the storage period (120 days).

The extracts showed a small antibacterial effect against mesophiles and enterobacteria in frozen tilapia fish fingers. This information agrees with the pH results (Table 1), which showed no difference between the beginning and end of the storage time, indicating that inhibition of microbial growth may have occurred during the frozen storage period. According to Colla; Hernandez (2003), there is no microbial growth at the temperature of -18 °C which is usually used to store frozen foods.

Previous works concluded that rosemary (PORTE; GODOY, 2001) and ginger extracts (SUNILSON et al., 2009; SIVASOTHY et al., 2011) have antibacterial activity in vitro. However, these studies did not carry out the application of natural extracts to evaluate the antibacterial effect in food products. Khalafalla; Ali; Hassan (2015) verified that the rosemary extract presented weak antimicrobial activity in tilapia fillets stored under refrigeration.

#### **4 CONCLUSION**

The addition of natural extracts did not reduce the peroxide formation and microbial counts in the products. Rosemary extract decreased the malonaldehyde formation and maintained a good flavor at the end of the storage time. However, the addition of ginger extract negatively affected the fish fingers. The extraction method may affect the antioxidant and antimicrobial properties of the extracts.

#### **RESUMO**

##### **EFEITO DOS EXTRATOS DE GENGIBRE E DE ALECRIM COMO AGENTES ANTIOXIDANTE E ANTIBACTERIANO EM TIRINHA DE TILÁPIA**

Este trabalho teve como objetivo avaliar os efeitos antioxidante e antibacteriano de extratos comerciais de gengibre e de alecrim em tirinhas de tilápia durante armazenamento congelado. Três formulações de tirinhas utilizando carne mecanicamente separada (CMS) de tilápia foram produzidas, com adição de 2,5% de extrato hidroalcoólico de gengibre (GE), 2,5% de extrato oleoso de alecrim (RE) e um controle. Análises de pH, cor instrumental, valor de peróxidos (PV), determinação de substâncias reativas ao ácido tiobarbitúrico (TBARS), avaliação sensorial com painel treinado foram realizadas mensalmente durante 120 dias de armazenamento congelado. As contagens totais de mesófilos e de enterobactérias foram realizadas no início e final do armazenamento. O pH permaneceu próximo de 6,0. GE apresentou coloração mais escura (menor L\*) no final do estudo. PV diminuiu com o tempo de armazenamento, mas não apresentou diferença entre as formulações. RE teve o menor valor de TBARS no tempo 120 dias. GE tornou-se de sabor inaceitável e apresentou o maior valor de TBARS no final da armazenagem congelada. Houve pouca redução das contagens bacterianas nos produtos com extratos. O extrato de alecrim foi mais eficiente em reduzir a oxidação lipídica nas tirinhas congeladas do que o extrato de gengibre.

*PALAVRAS-CHAVE: EXTRATOS NATURAIS; ZINGIBER OFFICINALE; ROSMARINUS OFFICINALIS; OXIDAÇÃO LIPÍDICA; VIDA DE PRATELEIRA*

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