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FUNCTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF BIOACTIVE PHYTOCHEMICALS IN BETA VULGARIS L. ROOT AND THEIR APPLICATION AS ENCAPSULATED ADDITIVES IN MEAT PRODUCTS

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ABSTRACT

Beetroot ethanolic extract contains active compounds and valuable elements such as phenols, carotenoids, alkaloids, tannin, flavonoids, and vitamins B₃, B₉, B₆, and C. Quality characteristics and microbiological activity, texture, and colour were examined in the storage process at refrigerated temperature (up to 9 days at 4±2 °C) of beef burger pads made directly and encapsulated in alginate beads of Beta vulgaris subsp. (BVE). Over time, the Encaps-SDW and SDW (Control Samples) total mesophile bacteria counts peaked at CFU 8.61±0.22 and 8.74±0.17 log CFU/g, respectively, during storage (9 days). The lowest values (p < 0.05) were shown in the Encaps-BVE and BVE samples, with 7.23±0.12 and 6.58±0.09 log CFU/g, respectively. However, the differences between all samples were significant (p<0.05), the BVE extract strongly inhibited Enterobacterial growth, with values on average two log units lower in BVE and Encaps-BVE than SDW and Encaps-SDW samples (control samples). Also, the addition of BVE extract kept the pH of beef minced nearly constant during storage; however, the pH value of control samples increased significantly (p<0.05). Furthermore, samples containing Encaps-BVE showed a more consistent trend in terms of texture and colour characteristics during the storage period than the other treatments, indicating the importance of using it as a natural preservative in meat product formulations to preserve quality standards and preservation.

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