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ELECTROPHORETIC AND MASS SPECTROMETRY-BASED CHARACTERIZATION OF SOLUBLE FRACTION OF CAMEL MILK PROTEINS UPON FREEZE AND SPRAY DRYING TREATMENT

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Objective: Camel milk is highly nutritious food with numerous health benefits proposed. Demand for camel milk has increased worldwide. Production of camel milk powders facilitate its transport, prolonge shelf-life, and also offer an attractive additive for various food products. In this study we characterized proteins of soluble fraction of freeze/spray dried camel milk powders.

Material and Methods: Whole camel milk powders were prepared by spray drying treatment at six different inlet temperatures (190°C - 250°C) or by freeze drying. The soluble protein fractions upon the treatments were analysed by combination of electrophoretic techniques and circular dichroism. Freeze dried camel milk and spray dried at 250°C were analysed by mass spectrometry.

Results: SDS-PAGE revealed non-uniform increase in Mw of major protein bands, while native electrophoresis revealed non-uniform decrease in pI values with increased inlet temperature of spray drying. That indicated occurrence of the Maillard reaction. Far-UV circular dichroism spectra showed no differences in secondary structures between freeze and spray dried samples. Mass spectrometry identified α -lactalbumin, glycosylation-dependant cell adhesion molecule 1 (GLYCAM1), immunoglobulin heavy chain, peptidoglycan recognition protein and camel serum albumin as dominant proteins in soluble fraction of camel milk powders. Carboxymethyl-lisene (CML), well known marker of Maillard reaction in food analysis, was detected on GLYCAM1 and on immunoglobulin heavy chain.

Conclusions: Our results indicate glycation of camel milk proteins via Maillard reaction upon spray drying treatment which further may affect techno-functional properties of camel milk powders, their shelf-life and nutritional value.

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