Roasted Pearl Millet Flour (RoPMF) Improved the Mineral Composition of Beef Sausages
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Abstract—Meat products which are cheaper and have better nutritional composition are crucial for reducing hunger and promoting good health and wellbeing of humans. This study investigated the nutritional, physicochemical, sensory, and formulation cost of beef sausages prepared using roasted pearl millet flour (RoPMF). A complete randomized design was used to assign roasted pearl millet flour (0% RoPMF, 5% RoPMF, 10% RoPMF and 15% RoPMF) to meats. Other ingredients were added in equal amounts. The official methods of analysis of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists and British Standard Institute procedures were used for mineral and sensory analysis, respectively. There were significant differences ($P<0.05$) in the mineral composition of the beef sausages. The iron, magnesium and calcium contents of the RoPMF sausages were generally higher than the control (0% RoPMF) sausages. The potassium contents of 5% RoPMF and 15% RoPMF sausages were similar ($P>0.05$) to the control. The 5% RoPMF sausages had the highest zinc content of 35.29±0.18 mg/kg. There were no significant differences ($P>0.05$) in the sensory (color, flavor intensity, flavor liking, texture, tenderness, juiciness) scores and overall acceptability of the beef sausages. The ash, fat, carbohydrate, water holding capacity, and peroxide value of the beef sausages were not affected ($P>0.05$) when RoPMF was used for the formulation. In general, the protein content of the RoPMF beef sausages was not affected negatively. The cost of producing a kilogram of beef sausages was GHS 31.50 ($5.47), GHS 31.10 ($5.40), GHS 30.70 ($5.33), and GHS 30.30 ($5.26) for 0% RoPMF, 5% RoPMF, 10% RoPMF, and 15% RoPMF beef sausages, respectively. It is concluded that the formulation of beef sausages with roasted pearl millet flour did not negatively affect the sensory characteristics of the sausages, but improved it mineral composition and reduced production cost.

Keywords—Beef sausages; meat; mineral composition; sensory analysis; roasted pearl millet flour.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The human population worldwide continues to increase and age yearly. The world’s population was estimated to be 7.8 billion [1]. There was a percentage increase of 1.05% from 2019 to 2020 and 1.08% from 2018 to 2019 [1]. An increase in the human population requires the availability, accessibility, and affordability of foods with better nutrient composition [2]. Also, the aging population is sometimes accompanied by the consumption of foods with specific nutrients. Meat (e.g., beef) in the form of food contributes to humans’ protein intake [3]. Besides that, meat contains other nutrients such as lipids (arachidonic, linoleic, linoleic, and oleic), minerals (zinc, calcium, potassium, and iron), vitamins (vitamin B12, vitamin B6, riboflavin, thiamin), some bioactive compounds, and small quantities of carbohydrates [3]-[5].

Despite the nutrient composition of meat, it is highly susceptible to spoilage initiated by microorganisms and enzymatic activities of the meat unless processed into a form that can be consumed or stored [6], [7]. Meat can be processed into products such as sausages, burgers, meatloaf, among others, to improve their palatability, increase their shelf life, and/or add value [8]-[11]. Various cereals (grains) like millet, sorghum, wheat, rice, rye, wheat, and corn can be used to extend meat products to improve their nutrient composition and to reduce cost [12], [13]. Food and Agriculture Organization [4] stated that meat processing results in the preservation and extension of shelf life, and improve tenderness and flavor of meat and meat products.

The ever-growing population and desire by people to improve their lives present them with many opportunities to spend much time working, leaving them with little time for
food preparation [14]. This has resulted in an increasing desire for meat and meat products due to their convenience and the minimal processing required before consumption [15]. However, health-related issues like colorectal cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and diabetes associated with meat and meat products hamper their patronage and consumption [16]. The development of meat and meat products with better nutritional composition is essential to sustain the demand for such products. This can be achieved by incorporating foods or ingredients with the required nutrients into meat products.

Millet is a small-seeded cereal with better nutritional quality. The grain is widely consumed by millions of people worldwide [13] and ranked fourth among important tropical cereals [17]. It has been reported to be a versatile grain that is highly nutritious, non-acid, and non-glutinous food [18]. Millet contains many macronutrients and micronutrients, and rich in phytochemicals such as phytosterols, phenolic acids, and lignans [19], [20]. It is also a major source of dietary fiber [21]. Ragae et al. [22] indicated that millet is superior or comparable to commonly consumed cereal grains such as rice and wheat.

The consumption of millet also has health-promoting effects. They protect against obesity, ischemic stroke, type II diabetes, breast cancer, heart disease, childhood asthma, among others [13], [23], [24]. Despite the nutritional and health benefits of millet, its potential as an extender in meat and meat products hamper their patronage and consumption worldwide [13] and ranked fourth among important tropical cereals [17]. It has been reported to be a versatile grain that is highly nutritious, non-acid, and non-glutinous food [18]. Millet contains many macronutrients and micronutrients, and rich in phytochemicals such as phytosterols, phenolic acids, and lignans [19], [20]. It is also a major source of dietary fiber [21]. Ragae et al. [22] indicated that millet is superior or comparable to commonly consumed cereal grains such as rice and wheat.

The proximate composition of the beef sausages was done according to the Association of Official Analytical Chemists [26]. The protein content was determined using the Kjeldahl apparatus (method 954.01). The fat content was determined using the Soxhlet apparatus (method 920.39). The ash content was determined using a furnace (method 942.09). The moisture content was determined using oven drying (method 930.15), and the carbohydrate content was calculated using the following equation: Total carbohydrate = 100 - (% moisture + % fat + % protein + % ash). All analyses were carried out in triplicates.

E. Mineral Analysis of RoPMF Beef Sausages

This was done using a slightly modified method of Adua et al. [27]. Ten (10) ml concentrated H2SO4 and 2 ml perchloric acid were added to 1 g of beef sausage sample in a digestion tube. The mixture was heated at a temperature of 350 °C until the solution turned clear. The solution was allowed to cool, and 2 ml of hydrogen peroxide was added. After which, distilled water was added to make up to 50 ml mark. The solution was measured using an Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (AAS model noVAA 400 P, Analytik Jena AG, Germany) to determine the various nutrients. The instrumental conditions used to measure the multiple minerals are shown as supplementary data (instrumental requirements for measuring elements).

F. pH Measurements of RoPMF Beef Sausages

pH was measured using a digital pH meter (Crisson Basic 20, Spain) in triplicates. Before the test, the pH meter was calibrated with two buffers of pH 4.01 and 7.00. Ten grams (10 g) of each sausage was ground in mortar and pestle and homogenized with 10 ml of distilled. After which, the pH values were measured using the pH meter (Crisson Basic 20, Alella, Spain).

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. Preparation of Roasted Pearl Millet Flour (RoPMF)

Pearl millets were purchased from the local market and sieved to remove all debris. They were then washed with water three times to clean the grains. The grains were sun-dried for 8 h and roasted until even browning. Roasted millet grains were allowed to cool and subsequently milled into flour.

| Ingredients | Treatments | 0% | 5% | 10% | 15% |
|-------------|------------|----|----|-----|-----|
| Beef (kg)   | 2.00       | 1.90| 1.80| 1.70|
| RoPMF (g)   | 0          | 0.10| 0.20| 0.30|
| Curing salt (g) | 0.03   | 0.03| 0.03| 0.03|
| Adobo (g)   | 0.002      | 0.002| 0.002| 0.002|
| White pepper (g) | 0.004 | 0.004| 0.004| 0.004|
| Black pepper (g) | 0.004 | 0.004| 0.004| 0.004|
| Chili pepper (g) | 0.001 | 0.001| 0.001| 0.001|
| Phosphate (g) | 0.01 | 0.01| 0.01| 0.01|
| Ice cubes (g) | 0.14 | 0.14| 0.14| 0.14|
| Soy oil (ml) | 0.26 | 0.26| 0.26| 0.26|

B. Formulation of Beef Sausages Using RoPMF

RoPMF replaced minced beef at 0, 5, 10, and 15% on a two-kilogram basis. Spices and ice cubes were added in equal amounts, as shown in Table 1. Beef samples were cut into smaller pieces and minced through a 5 mm mincer (Telleres Rammon, Spain). The minced beef was comminuted with spices using a bowl chopper (Telleres Rammon, Spain). Ice was added during comminution to maintain the temperature at 16 °C and to attain the desired consistency. The comminuted batter was transferred into a hydraulic stuffer (Telleres Rammon, Spain) and manually linked into the equal length of about 10 cm. They were then smoked for 30 min at 105 °C; after which, they were scalped for 20 min at 55 °C. The final beef sausages were cooled, packaged, and stored at -18 °C for nutritional, sensory, and physicochemical analyses.

C. Preparation and Sensory Evaluation of RoPMF Beef Sausages

Frozen beef sausages were allowed to thaw at room temperature for 2 h and grilled in an electric oven (Turbofan Blue Seal, UK) for 45 min at a temperature of 105 °C. The grilled beef sausages were sliced into uniform sizes of 2 cm in length and wrapped in coded aluminum foil for sensory evaluation. Fifteen panelists were selected at random from the University for Development Studies and trained using British Standard Institute Guidelines [25] to constitute the taste panel. The products were presented to each of the panelists for independent evaluation for color, flavor intensity, flavor liking, tenderness, texture, taste, juiciness, and overall preference using a nine-point hedonic scale (e.g., 1: extremely like to 9: dislike extremely) as presented in supplementary data (sensory analysis outline).
G. Water Holding Capacity (WHC) of RoPMF Beef Sausages

The WHC was determined using a slightly modified procedure of Heywood et al. [28]. The analysis was carried out in triplicates. Briefly, 2.5 g of each sample was placed in pre-weighed 50 ml centrifuge tubes, and 10 ml distilled water was added. They were mixed thoroughly, allowed to stand for 30 min at room temperature, and centrifuged at 3700 rpm for 30 min using Hettich ROTOFIX 32A Centrifuge, Germany. After centrifugation, the supernatant was decanted, and the sample weight taken. WHC was calculated according to the following equation:

\[
\text{WHC/g} = \frac{Dw - Sw}{Sw} \\
\text{WHC} = \frac{Dw - Sw}{Sw} \times 100
\]

Where: Dw is the decant weight of the sample after centrifugation, Sw is the sample weight.

H. Cooking Loss (CL) of RoPMF Beef Sausages

Cooking loss was determined according to Lee et al. [29]. Three fingers from each treatment were weighed separately and then grilled in an oven at 150°C for about 45 min to a core temperature of 70°C. Samples were allowed to cool at room temperature and reweighed. Cooking losses were determined by the weight difference between raw and cooked/grilled sausages using the following equation:

\[
\text{Cooking loss} = \text{Raw weight} - \text{Cooked weight} \\
\text{Cooking loss} = \frac{Wr - Wc}{Wr} \times 100
\]

Where: Wr = weight of raw sausage, Wc = weight of cooked sausage.

I. Peroxide Value Determination of RoPMF Beef Sausages

Peroxide value was determined using a modified method of Abu et al. [9] and Adua et al. [27]. Briefly, 10 g of the beef sausage was added to 30 ml hexane in a 100 ml Erlenmeyer flask and shaken at 250 rpm for 60 min. It was then transferred into a 50 ml falcon tube, and centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 5 min. The supernatant was evaporated using an evaporator. The residues were evaporated twice, first extracted with 5 ml acetic acid-chloroform solution and 10 ml of additional acetic acid-chloroform. The extracted samples were transferred into a 100 ml Erlenmeyer flask and were added with 1 ml of saturated potassium iodide solution. After which, 5 ml of 1% starch soluble solution was added, and the resulting mixture was titrated against 0.01N sodium thiosulfate solution. The endpoint was identified by transforming a cyan or orange color to a transparent or white color. A blank test was used for calibration. The peroxide value was calculated using the following equation:

\[
\text{Peroxide value (mEq/kg)} = \frac{(V_i - V_0) \times N \times 1000}{S}
\]

Where: \(V_i\) = titre value of sample, \(V_0\) = titre value of blank, \(S\) = weight of sample, \(N\) = normality of sodium thiosulfate.

J. Cost of Production of RoPMF Beef Sausages

The cost of a kilogram of beef and millet, and the cost of processing each kilogram millet were determined. The cost of each percentage inclusion level (0, 5, 10, and 15 %) was determined as a proportion of the respective kilogram cost. The cost of spices, curing salt, and ice cubes for processing a kilogram of beef sausage were equal across treatments.

K. Data Analysis

The data obtained were analyzed using one-way ANOVA in Genstat Discovery 4th edition. Significant differences were separated at 5 % using Tukey studentized range test. [18].

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Proximate Composition of Roasted Pearl Millet Flour (RoPMF) Beef Sausages

The results for the proximate composition of the RoPMF beef sausages are shown in Table 2. There were no significant differences (P>0.05) in the ash, fat, and carbohydrate contents of the beef sausages. The ash, fat, and carbohydrate contents ranged from 4.47±0.57 to 5.94±0.92%, 5.53±3.22 to 8.97±3.99%, and 2.77±1.70 to 6.76±3.42%, respectively. The moisture content of the control beef sausages (0% RoPMF beef sausages) was significantly higher (P<0.05) than the 5, 10, and 15% RoPMF beef sausages. Interestingly, the protein content was highest in the 15% RoPMF beef sausages and least in the 5% RoPMF beef sausages.

| Treatment (%) | Parameters |
|---------------|------------|
| Moisture (%)  | Ash (%)    | Fat (%)  | Protein (%) | Carbohydrate (%) |
| 0% RoPMFS (Control) | 68.42±0.43a | 4.47±0.57 | 5.53±3.22 | 18.81±1.50b | 2.77±1.70 |
| 5% RoPMFS | 67.05±0.37b | 4.49±1.02 | 8.00±2.71 | 15.69±0.44b | 4.77±3.04 |
| 10% RoPMFS | 64.11±0.39c | 4.77±0.87 | 7.73±1.18 | 16.62±1.32c | 6.76±3.42 |
| 15% RoPMFS | 61.07±0.40d | 5.94±0.92 | 8.97±3.99 | 20.02±2.55a | 4.01±3.32 |

P – value: < 0.001 0.199 0.566 0.041 0.456

Values are means ± standard deviation. Values with different superscripts under the same column are significantly different (P < 0.05)

The development of food products brings diversity and increases the choice of food for consumption. This diversity also promotes sustainability by helping to reduce hunger, promoting good health and poverty alleviation by direct or indirect employment for those involved in the handling of meat and meat products. Foods from animal sources are very important sources of protein and other nutrients. The demand for foods that require minimum processing before consumption has contributed to the craving for meat and meat products. The good taste of meat products has also aggravated this. The Chorizo sausage...
has been shown to provide 13.6g of protein, 25.9g of total fat, 788 mg of sodium, 308mg of potassium, 20mg of magnesium, 19mg of calcium, 1.6mg of zinc, 1.1mg iron, and 5.4mg of niacin [31].

Meat products with better nutrient composition are brought about by incorporating ingredients, raw materials, or foods that have required nutrients of interest. Millet is one of the foods that can be added to meat products to improve its nutrient composition and to promote good health upon consumption. It is an important crop, especially in Africa and Asia [32]. It is significantly rich in phytochemicals and micronutrients [33]. It is also a good source of minerals, soluble and insoluble dietary fiber, resistant starch, and antioxidants [22]. The low glycemic index of millet makes it a good grain for diabetic patients and less likely to trigger high blood pressure [13, 22]. The importance of millet can only be unraveled when raw millets are processed into forms that are edible. One of the ways of processing millet to make it ready for consumption is by roasting.

In the current study, roasted pearl millet flour (RoPMF) was incorporated into beef sausages to influence its nutritional, physicochemical and sensory properties and the cost of production. The usage of RoPMF did not influence the ash, fat and carbohydrate contents. Moisture content decreased with the increasing inclusion level of RoPMF. Agnihotri and Pall [34] reported that the moisture content of sausages is about 66.77%, which is similar to the findings of this study. Moisture improves the juiciness of meat products [35], [36]. However, the high moisture content of the 0% RoPMF beef sausages did not reflect in the juiciness of the RoPMF beef sausages as judged by the panelists. The addition of RoPMF to beef sausages did not negatively affect its protein content. Contrarily, the protein contents of sausages were reduced when maize flours were used as an extender [37].

B. Mineral Composition of RoPMF Beef Sausages

Table 3 shows the mineral composition of the RoPMF beef sausages. There were significant differences (P<0.05) in the iron, magnesium, calcium, potassium, and zinc contents of the beef sausages. The iron, magnesium, and calcium contents were higher (P<0.05) in the 5, 10, and 15% RoPMF beef sausages than the control beef sausages. Potassium content was the least (P<0.05) in the 10% RoPMF beef sausages. The zinc content of the 5% RoPMF beef sausages was higher (P<0.05) than the rest of the beef sausages.

| Treatment (%) | Iron (mg/kg) | Magnesium (mg/kg) | Calcium (mg/kg) | Potassium (mg/kg) | Zinc (mg/kg) |
|---------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|
| 0% RoPMFS (Control) | 26.73±0.55a | 594.99±0.94a | 64.26±0.12b | 1137.46±1.24b | 33.96±0.07b |
| 5% RoPMFS | 54.99±0.13a | 753.09±1.10b | 93.67±0.37c | 1125.05±5.34a | 35.29±0.18a |
| 10% RoPMFS | 44.55±0.75a | 780.38±0.39b | 98.84±0.15c | 1075.07±2.84b | 32.20±0.01c |
| 15% RoPMFS | 56.15±0.63a | 842.89±1.82a | 91.22±0.13d | 1132.90±2.18a | 32.25±0.10a |

Values are means ± standard deviation. Values with different superscripts under the same column are significantly (P < 0.05) different.

C. Physicochemical Characteristics of RoPMF Beef Sausages

The pH, water holding capacity, and cooking loss of the RoPMF beef sausages is presented in Table 4. There were significant differences (P<0.05) in the pH and cooking loss of the beef sausages. The pH ranged from 5.94±0.02 for control beef sausages to 6.00±0.02 for 15% RoPMF beef sausages. The cooking loss ranged from 13.32±0.32% for 10% RoPMF beef sausages to 26.74±1.18% for 5% RoPMF beef sausages. The water holding capacity ranged from 1.12±0.07 ml/g for 10% RoPMF beef sausages to 1.25±0.13 ml/g for 15% RoPMF beef sausages. The water holding capacity of the beef sausages did not differ significantly (P>0.05) from each other.

| Treatment (%) | pH | Cooking loss (%) | WHC (ml/g) |
|---------------|----|-----------------|------------|
| 0% RoPMFS (Control) | 5.94±0.02a | 25.00±0.41a | 1.24±0.14 |
| 5% RoPMFS | 5.95±0.00b | 26.74±1.18b | 1.16±0.12 |
| 10% RoPMFS | 5.98±0.01b | 13.32±0.32c | 1.12±0.07 |
| 15% RoPMFS | 6.00±0.02a | 21.48±1.28b | 1.25±0.13 |

Values are means ± standard deviation. Values with different superscripts under the same column are significantly (P < 0.05) different.
differences (P>0.05) in the peroxide value of the beef sausages during the storage period. The peroxide values ranged from 2.84-3.59 meq/kg, 2.41-3.80 meq/kg and 2.21-3.47 meq/kg in week 1, week 2 and week 3, respectively (Supplementary data- peroxide value of RoPMFS).

The pH increased as the inclusion level of RoPMF increased in the sausages. However, they were within the normal pH range of 5.94-6.00 for beef sausages as reported by Ibrahim [42]. pH influences the growth of microorganisms and the shelf life of meat and meat products [4].

The high acidity of the beef sausages makes them require refrigerated storage to increase their shelf life. Cooking loss decreased with increasing level of RoPMF in beef sausages, implying that less weight will be lost during cooking of RoPMF beef sausages. Nonetheless, the water holding capacity was not influenced by the use of RoPMF in beef sausages. The percentage cooking loss was similar to the findings of Teye et al. [43], who stated 24.50 – 27.00g in weight loss of extended beef and ham burgers. The peroxide values found in this study were below the maximum permissible limit of 25 meq/kg of oxygen/kg of products [44]. The sausages incorporated with test materials had lower values due to the presence of roasted pearl millet flour, which served as an antioxidant to stop lipid oxidation. Millets have been reported to have higher free radical quenching potential [22, 45].

D. Sensory Evaluation of Roasted Pearl Millet (RoPMF) Beef Sausages

Table 5 shows the sensory characteristics of the RoPMF beef sausages. There were no significant differences (P>0.05) in the color, flavor intensity, flavor liking, texture, tenderness, juiciness, and overall liking of the beef sausages. The use of RoPMF to formulate beef sausages did not affect the color, flavor intensity, flavor liking, texture, tenderness, and juiciness, and overall liking of the sausages. The beef sausages were described as intermediate to slightly pale for color, intermediate to slightly strong for flavor intensity, like slightly for flavor liking, intermediate to slightly smooth for texture, intermediate to slightly tender for tenderness, intermediate to slightly juicy for juiciness, and like slightly to like moderately for overall liking by the sensory panelist. Teye et al. [46] stated that the inclusion of cowpea flours up to 10% in comminuted beef and pork frankfurter-type sausages gave positive outcomes in sensory and yield of products.

E. Formulation Cost of Roasted Pearl Millet (RoPMF) Beef Sausages

The formulation cost of the RoPMF beef sausages is shown in Table 6. The formulation cost in Ghana cedis (GHS) of the RoPMF beef sausages for the control (0%), 5%, 10%, and 15% incorporation levels were 31.50 ($5.47), 31.10 ($5.40), 30.70 ($5.33), and 30.3 ($5.26), respectively. The formulation costs of 5, 10, and 15% RoPMF beef sausages were lower than the 0% RoPMF (control) beef sausage. The reason being that the cost of 5, 10, or 15% lean beef cost more than the same percentage cost of pearl millet on a kilogram basis. This means that the inclusion of RoPMF in beef sausages could reduce the cost of production, making the products more affordable compared to the control. This is supported by Malav et al. [47], who stated that the high cost of meat products limits its regular usage by the average income earner due to the expensive nature of lean meat.
We conclude that the incorporation of roasted pearl millet (RoPMF) in beef sausages generally improved the mineral contents of the sausages. Cooking lost was lowest for the 10% RoPMF beef sausages. The pH was lowest for the 0% and 5% RoPMF beef sausages. The addition of RoPMF to beef sausages did not affect the sensory characteristics, water holding capacity, and peroxide value of the beef sausages. The ash, fat, and carbohydrate contents were also not affected by the use of RoPMF for beef sausages. Formulation of beef sausages with RoPMF reduced the cost of production. Further research should be conducted to evaluate the microbial and phytochemical properties of roasted pearl flour beef sausages.

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