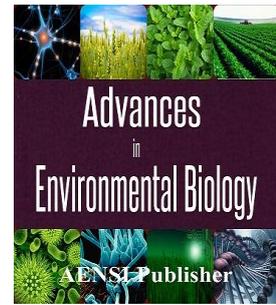




AENSI Journals

Advances in Environmental Biology

ISSN-1995-0756 EISSN-1998-1066

Journal home page: <http://www.aensiweb.com/AEB/>

Production of beverage based on probiotic fermented mixture of malt extract and red fruit juices

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 12 October 2014

Received in revised form 26 December 2014

Accepted 1 January 2015

Available online 17 February 2015

Key words:

Probiotic beverage, Malt extract, Red fruit juices, *Lactobacillus casei*.

ABSTRACT

Probiotics describe as alive microorganisms that after use adequate amount will have beneficial effects on host health. Increase monosaccharides and disaccharides to substrate of fermented probiotic productions intensify growth several probiotics. In this study, production of beverage based on mixture of malt extract and red fruit juices (mixed of apple, red grapes, pomegranate, blackberry, cranberry and black currant juices) by *Lactobacillus casei* carried out. Bacterial growth, pH, titratable acidity, brix and consumption of reduction sugars were checked during fermentation and 28 days of cold storage at 4 °C. For production of probiotic fermented mixture of malt extract and red fruit juices was prepared the microbial *Lactobacillus casei* suspension with initial concentration about 1.5×10^7 , 1.5×10^8 cfu/ml and added from each microbial suspension to the mixture of malt extract with 2,4,6% concentrations and red fruit juices with 5,7,5,10% concentrations. This juice incubated at 37°C for 48 hours. The results revealed that bacteria growth well in mixture of malt extract and red fruit juices, they could decrease sugar value, decrease brix. The results revealed that the sample of M₂B₁C₁ (5% red fruit juices, 4% malt extract and 1.5×10^7 cfu/ml of *Lactobacillus casei*) was considered as the best treatment. This sample had the maximum rates of cell viability during 4 weeks of cold storage at 4 °C. Totally the outcomes of this study revealed that mixture of malt extract and red fruit juices are a suitable substrate for the growth of lactic acid bacteria and production of functional beverage.

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To Cite This Article: ZohreYahyaei Soofyani, MahnazHashemiravan, RezvanPourahmad, Production of beverage based on probiotic fermented mixture of malt extract and red fruit juices. *Adv. Environ. Biol.*, 9(2), 762-769, 2015

INTRODUCTION

One of the most important problems in the production of probiotic foods is the low viability of probiotic bacteria due to their sensitivity to unfavorable conditions of the food and gastrointestinal tract [17].

The effects attributed to the probiotic bacteria include the strengthening and enhancing immunity against intestinal infections, improving lactose consumption, preventing diarrhea and colon cancer, lowering cholesterol and reducing the incidence of stomach and intestinal diseases, better formation and recombination and balance of microbial flora of intestine, improving calcium absorption and synthesis of vitamins promoting better digestion of proteins [2]. It is necessary to note that the activity of probiotic bacteria is not limited to the microbial flora of digestive system and also it is possible to function in microbial communities such as skin, respiratory tract and genital tract [8].

The wide variety of fruits and vegetables and many strains of *Lactobacillus* present a great opportunity for the development and industrialization of value-added non-dairy fermented beverages. Processing and producing fermented beverages is very effective to increase nutritional value, reduce waste and increase value added due to the high nutritional value of and their special position near the public,

Due to their high nutritional value and popularity, processing red fruit juices is so crucial because it can increase the nutritional value, reduce the wastes and increase added value. The aim of this study was to innovate a fermented beverage based on red fruit juice and malt and increase the nutritional value of the beverage. Malt extract or germinated barley extract is a brown syrup obtained from sprouted barley seeds. This extract has many different uses due to the high enzymatic characteristics, diacetic strength, lots of fermentable

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sugars rapidly degraded and absorbed, flavoring power and high nutritional value. Various amino acids, small proteins and various natural sugars contained in the malt extract increases its nutritional value [6].

Juices contain high levels of antioxidants, vitamins, minerals, dietary fiber and other nutrients, therefore are so useful and healthy [16,13]. The aim of this work is producing a probiotic fermented beverage based on red fruit juice and malt and determination of the optimum shelf life of the product according to the red fruit juice and malt extract concentration, inoculation amount and density of probiotic bacteria and study of reducing sugar content, brix and viability of probiotic bacteria after fermentation and during the 28 days of storage at 4 °C.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Materials:

The materials used for manufacturing of the probiotic beverage including red fruit juice concentrate which was a combination of apple, red grape, pomegranate, cornberry, blackcurrent and blackberry, were prepared from Alifard co. (Sanich) and "Lactobacillus casei 1608" the Organization of scientific and Industrial Research of Iran and malt extract Behnoosh Iran, respectively. Malt extract with the ratios of 2, 4 and 6% was mixed with red fruit juice concentrate with the ratios of 5, 7.5 and 10% diluted by drinking water in a 100 ml flask. The samples were pasteurized in a water bath at 85°C for 10 min [1,3].

Table 1: treatments of study

treatments	Ration of red fruit juice concentrate (%)	the amount of bacteria (cfu/ml)	Rations of Malt extract (%)
M ₁ B ₁ C ₁	5	1.5 x 10 ⁷	2
M ₁ B ₁ C ₂	7.5	1.5 x 10 ⁷	2
M ₁ B ₁ C ₃	10	1.5 x 10 ⁷	2
M ₁ B ₂ C ₁	5	1.5 x 10 ⁸	2
M ₁ B ₂ C ₂	7.5	1.5 x 10 ⁸	2
M ₁ B ₂ C ₃	10	1.5 x 10 ⁸	2
M ₂ B ₁ C ₁	5	1.5 x 10 ⁷	4
M ₂ B ₁ C ₂	7.5	1.5 x 10 ⁷	4
M ₂ B ₁ C ₃	10	1.5 x 10 ⁷	4
M ₂ B ₂ C ₁	5	1.5 x 10 ⁸	4
M ₂ B ₂ C ₂	7.5	1.5 x 10 ⁸	4
M ₂ B ₂ C ₃	10	1.5 x 10 ⁸	4
M ₃ B ₁ C ₁	5	1.5 x 10 ⁷	6
M ₃ B ₁ C ₂	7.5	1.5 x 10 ⁷	6
M ₃ B ₁ C ₃	10	1.5 x 10 ⁷	6
M ₃ B ₂ C ₁	5	1.5 x 10 ⁸	6
M ₃ B ₂ C ₂	7.5	1.5 x 10 ⁸	6
M ₃ B ₂ C ₃	10	1.5 x 10 ⁸	6
C	7.5	-	4

2.2. Strain preparation for inoculation:

The activation of *Lactobacillus casei* PTCC1608 was conducted in MRS broth and incubation at 37° C for 24 h. In order to provide the bacterial culture medium for storage, about 10ml of the 24h-medium was centrifuged at 25°C and 3500 rpm for 5 min [10]. About 5 ml of the 24 hours culture medium was inoculated to 95 ml of the sterile MRS broth and incubated at similar condition for more activation of the bacteria (the second stage of the culture) [10]. To obtain single colonies of bacteria and ensure the viability of bacterial cells, the 24 h culture tubes were mixed in a shaker and cultured on MRS agar by streak plate method. The plates were wrapped in

parafilm and incubated at 37° C for 48 h. After this period, the bacteria grown on the agar were used in the later stages of the study [12].

2.2.1. Microorganism inoculation:

The microbial inoculation was conducted by the McFarland method (Ashrafi, 2006) which was used to determine the amount of bacteria at the two levels of 1.5×10^7 and 1.5×10^8 cfu/ml.

2.2.2. Inoculation of microorganisms to samples:

10 ml of MRS broth was transferred to a sterile falcon by a sterile pipette in a laminar hood under sterile conditions and centrifuged at a speed of 3500 g for 10 minutes. Then the supernatant fluid was separated [10]. Then some amount of sterilized distilled water was poured into the falcon containing sediment to wash the remaining medium. The spectrophotometer was adjusted to 0.5 McFarland, in fact the turbidity was equal to 0.5 McFarland times by the turbidity caused by 1.5×10^8 cfu/ml of the given bacterial strain. To prepare the bacterial population of 1.5×10^7 cfu/ml, 1 ml of the medium was moved to a falcon containing 9 ml of sterilized distilled water by a sterilized pipette. After that the strains were prepared for inoculation.

2.3. Fermentation of samples:

The fermentation was conducted by incubating falcons at 37°C for 48h. According to Saxelin *et al.* (1999), 37-40° C is an appropriate temperature range for the growth of probiotic bacteria, especially *Lactobacillus casei*. After fermentation, the flasks were stored at 4°C for 4 weeks to study the considered factors [22].

2.3. Tests:

2.3.1. Lactic acid bacteria counts:

Pour plate and decimal dilution methods were used for microbial counts according to SPC method. 1 ml of the dilution was poured into a sterile plate and the sterilized MRS agar was spread on it. After the liquid medium converted into a solid one, the plates were transferred to an incubator of 37° C for 48 h. Then the grown colonies were counted by a colony counter after 48 hours. The number of colonies was multiplied by the inverse of the dilution according to the equation (1) and the final number was reported as the colony number per milliliter (cfu/ml) [21].

$$\text{Inverse of dilution factor} \times \text{colony number} = (\text{cfu/ml}) \text{ colony number per milliliter eq.} \quad (1)$$

2.3.2. Measurement of reducing sugar:

This test was conducted according to the National Standard No. 2685 and the final result was calculated by the equation (2).

$$n = \frac{F \times 100 \times 100}{V \times 25} \text{ eq.} \quad (2)$$

n = amount of reducing sugar (before hydrolysis) gr per 100gr

F = Fehling factor

V = consumed volume of the neutralized solution A.

2.3.3. Measurement of water soluble solids (Brix at 20 ° C):

For the measurement of water soluble solids, a digital refractometer (RX- 7000 α) was used. The device was calibrated with distilled water before use. The number reading showed soluble solids per 100 g of sample [14].

2.3.4. Statistical analysis and design:

To examine the results, the factorial experiment in a completely randomized design was used. The data was statistically analyzed by the software SPSS 20 and the mean values comparison was done by using Duncan's test at 95% confidence.

3. Results:

3.1. Evaluation of reducing sugar changes in the beverages before fermentation, after 48 hours of fermentation at 37° C and during the 4 weeks of storage at 4° C:

The test results showed that the amount of malt extract, bacterial density, fruit juice concentration, storage and interaction between them did significantly influence on the amount of reducing sugars ($p < 0.01$).

There was no significant difference between the sugar amount of the control before fermentation and those of the treatments $M_2B_2C_2$ and $M_2B_1C_2$ ($p > 0.05$). The highest amounts of sugar before fermentation belonged to the treatments $M_3B_1C_3$ with the formulation of 10% fruit juice, 6% malt extract and bacterial density of 1.5×10^7 cfu/ml and $M_3B_2C_3$ with the formulation of 10% fruit juice, 6% malt extract and bacterial density of

1.5×10^8 cfu/ml, respectively. There was no significant difference between the reducing sugar amount of the control and that of the treatment $M_3B_1C_1$ after 48 hours of fermentation ($p > 0.05$). The highest amount of reducing sugars after 48 hours belonged to treatment $M_3B_1C_3$ with the formulation of 10% fruit juice, 6% malt extract and bacterial density of 1.5×10^7 cfu/ml.

Moreover, no significant difference was observed between the amounts of reducing sugars of the control and the treatments $M_2B_1C_3$ and $M_2B_2C_3$ after one week of storage at the temperature 4°C ($p > 0.05$). The highest amount of reducing sugar after a week of storage at 4°C belonged to $M_3B_1C_3$ with the formulation of 10% fruit juice, 6% malt extract and bacterial density of 1.5×10^7 cfu/ml.

There was no significant difference in the amount of reducing sugars of the control and that of $M_2B_1C_3$ after two weeks of storage at 4°C ($p > 0.05$). The highest concentration of reducing sugars after two weeks of storage at 4°C was related to the treatment $M_3B_1C_3$ with the formulation of 10% fruit juice, 6% malt extract and bacterial density of 1.5×10^7 cfu/ml.

Also, no significant difference was observed in the reducing sugar contents of the control and $M_2B_1C_3$ after 3 and 4 weeks of storage at 4°C ($p > 0.05$). The highest amount of reducing sugar after 3 weeks of storage at 4°C was related to the treatment $M_3B_1C_3$ with the formulation of 10% fruit juice, 6% malt extract and bacterial density of 1.5×10^7 cfu/ml.

According to Figure 1, it was found that the changes in sugar levels were similar at the times of examination. Also, the sugar content was significantly reduced after 48 hours of fermentation at 37°C and four weeks of storage at 4°C .

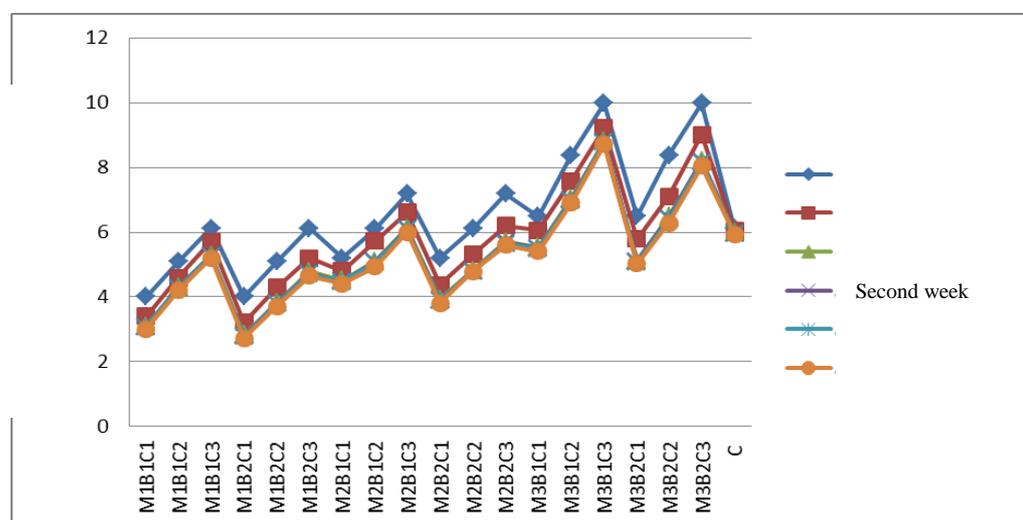


Fig. 1: The overall changes of reducing sugars of fermented beverage after 48 hours at 37°C and four weeks at 4°C .

3.2. Evaluation of Brix changes in the beverages before fermentation, after 48 hours of fermentation at 37°C and four weeks at 4°C :

The results demonstrated that the amount of malt extract, bacterial density, fruit juice content, as well as their interactions significantly affected the Brix ($p > 0.01$).

There was no significant difference between the Brix of the control before fermentation and those of $M_2B_1C_2$ and $M_2B_2C_2$ ($p > 0.05$). The highest values of Brix before fermentation were related to the treatments $M_3B_1C_3$ with the formulation of 10% fruit juice, 6% malt extract and bacterial density of 1.5×10^7 cfu/ml and $M_3B_2C_3$ with the formulation of 10% fruit juice, 6% malt extract and bacterial density 1.5×10^8 cfu/ml, respectively.

A significant difference was observed between the Brix of the control after 48 hours of fermentation and during four weeks at 4°C and those of other treatments ($p < 0.01$). The highest value of Brix after 48 hours of fermentation belonged to the treatment $M_3B_1C_3$ with the formulation of 10% fruit juice, 6% malt extract and bacterial density of 1.5×10^7 cfu/ml.

According to Figure 2, it was found that the trends observed for the Brix variations at the times of investigation were similar and it significantly dropped after 48 hours of fermentation at 37°C and four weeks at 4°C .

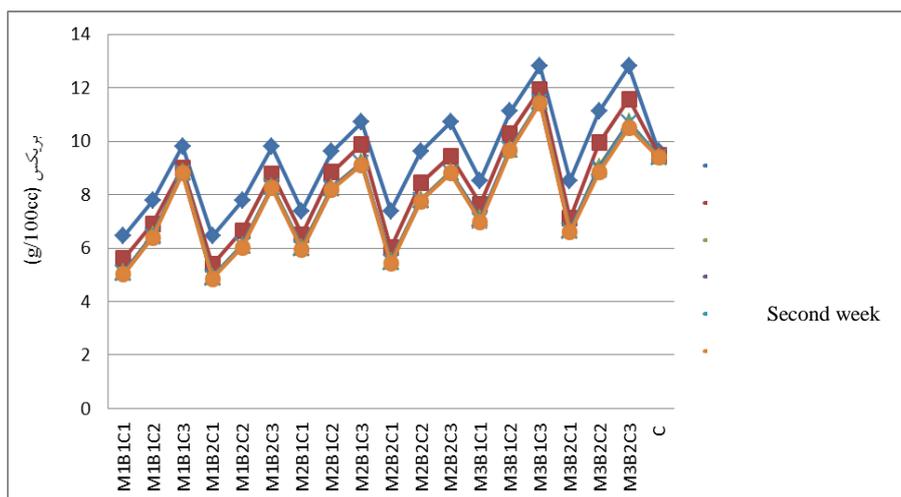


Fig. 2:The overall changes of Brix of fermented beverage after 48 hours at 37 °C and four weeks at 4 °C.

3.3. Correlation between Brix and reducing sugars of the fermented beverage after 48 hours of fermentation at 37 °C and four weeks storage at 4 °C:

Brix indicates the amount of dissolved solids in grams per 100g of the solution. It was measured by refractometry method. Its value is roughly proportional to the amount of sugar contained in the sample. After fermentation and four weeks storage at 4 °C, the Brix and reducing sugar values were reduced and as observed in Figure 3, there is a positive correlation between the values of Brix and reducing sugars.

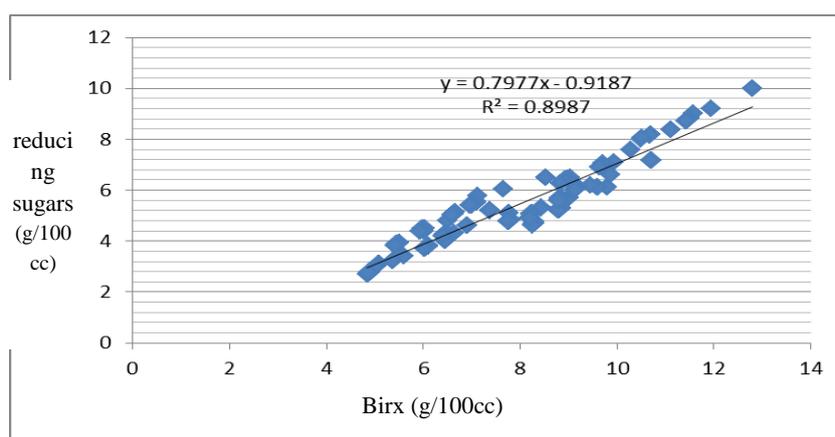


Fig. 3:The correlation between the Brix and reducing sugars before fermentation, after 48 hours of fermentation at 37 °C and four weeks storage at 4 °C.

3. 4. Evaluation of growth trend of *L.casei* in *cfu/ml* in the beverage before fermentation, after 48 hours of fermentation at 37 °C and four weeks at 4 °C:

The results showed that the bacterial growth was significantly affected by the density of bacteria and the storage period ($p < 0.01$). But the effects of malt and fruit juice concentration did not show any significant differences ($p > 0.05$). The mutual interactions between the factors including "malt extract \times density of bacteria", "malt extract \times storage time", "malt extract \times fruit juice concentration", "fruit juice concentration \times storage time" and "bacterial density \times fruit juice concentration" did not show any significant difference in the growth of bacteria ($p > 0.05$). However, the interaction effect of "bacterial density \times storage time" on the bacterial growth was quite significant ($p < 0.01$). But the tripartite and quartet effects of the variables on the bacterial growth did not show any significant differences ($p > 0.05$).

The viability of the bacteria before fermentation showed no significant differences ($p > 0.05$). There was no significant difference between the treatments in the viability of *L.casei* after 48 hours of fermentation ($p > 0.05$).

There was no significant difference between the treatments in terms of the viability of *L.casei* after one week of storage of the beverage at 4 °C ($p > 0.05$). The viability values of *L.casei* were not significantly different after the two-week storage of the beverage at 4 °C ($p > 0.05$). Moreover, after three weeks of storage at 4 °C, the viabilities of *L.casei* among the treatments $M_2B_1C_1$, $M_3B_2C_2$ and $M_3B_2C_3$ didn't show any significant

differences ($p > 0.05$). But the treatment $M_2B_1C_1$ did show a significant difference with other treatments after four weeks of storage at 4°C in terms of the viability of *L. casei* ($p < 0.01$).

According to Figure 4, it was found that the growth of *L. casei* increased after 48 hours of fermentation at 37°C and significantly reduced during four weeks of storage at 4°C .

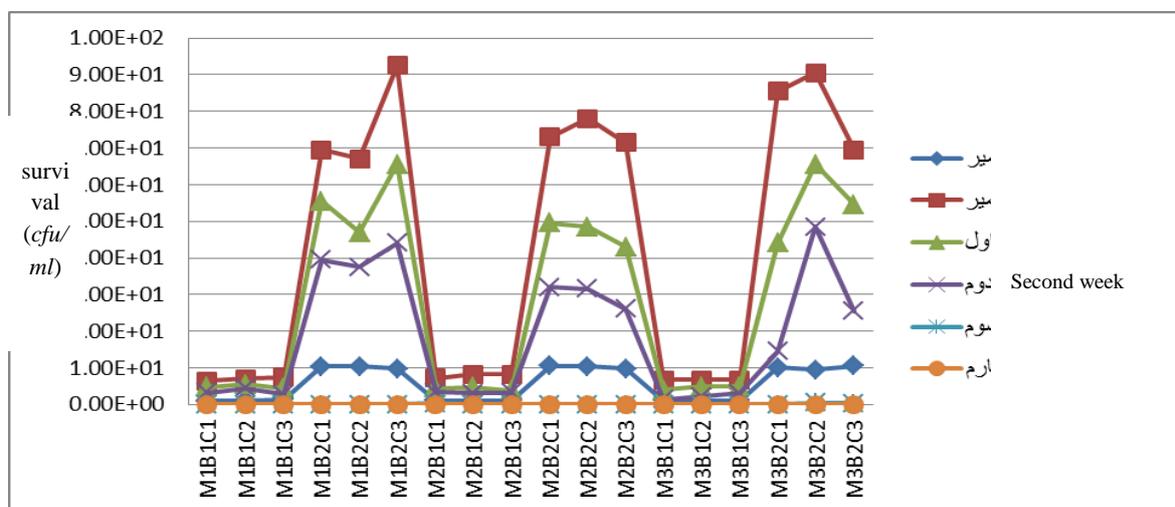


Fig. 4: The overall changes of the growth of *L. casei* of fermented beverage after 48 hours at 37°C and four weeks at 4°C .

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Variation of reducing sugars and Brix during the fermentation and storage:

The results showed that the growth of bacteria was followed by decreasing the reducing sugar content and the Brix during the fermentation and storage that was consistent with the results obtained by Shishe (2013), Nosrati (2013) and Moraru (2007).

However, controlling the fermentation time is also effective on the quality of product due to the consumption of sugar and so production of organic acids.

These findings were inconsistent with the results of Vidal Fonteles *et al.* (2011) who had investigated the fermentation of melon juice to produce a probiotic fermented drink. The latter investigation indicated that *Lactobacillus casei* is not capable of fermenting the sugars naturally present in melon juice, without the need of supplements such as sucrose, or other nutrients. While the results of this study showed that *Lactobacillus casei* doesn't need any supplement such as sucrose and other nutrients to ferment the sugars naturally present in red fruit juices and in case of existence of malt extract, it can ferment, grow and be viable.

4.2. Variations of the growth of probiotic bacteria during fermentation and storage:

The results of this study showed the increased levels of probiotic bacteria during fermentation, which confirms the results of Lee *et al.*, (2013).

The probiotic bacteria content was reduced within the four weeks of storage at 4°C , so that the maximum survival of bacteria was two weeks for most of the treatments over the four weeks of storage which is in the range recommended by the Food and Drug Administration, only the treatments $M_3B_2C_2$ containing 7.5% red fruit juice, 6% malt extract and bacterial density of $1.5 \times 10^8 \text{ cfu/ml}$ and $M_3B_2C_3$ containing 10% red fruit juices, 6% malt extract and bacterial density of $1.5 \times 10^8 \text{ cfu/ml}$ had a retention time of three weeks and the treatment $M_2B_1C_1$ containing 5% red fruit juices, 4% malt extract and bacterial density $1.5 \times 10^8 \text{ cfu/ml}$ was maintained for four weeks. These findings confirm the results obtained by Seyedi (2011) who showed that the number of probiotic bacteria was reduced over the 28 days of storage.

The results were consistent with the findings by Ding and Shah (2008), who showed that the survival of non-encapsulated probiotic bacteria in a mixture of red fruit juices and malt extract rapidly declined over 4 weeks in the refrigerator due to the acidic conditions of the beverage. Of course controlling the fermentation time is effective on the quality of the product.

The results obtained in this study were similar to the findings of Pereria *et al.* (2011) who found that the number of living cells of probiotic bacteria in a mixture of red fruit juices and malt extract was increased during 48 hours of fermentation at 37°C and decreased rapidly within 4 weeks in the refrigerator due to the acidic condition of the beverage. It is worth mentioning that the two inoculum levels of 1.5×10^7 and $1.5 \times 10^8 \text{ cfu/ml}$ of *Lactobacillus casei* were appropriate.

Conclusion:

In this study, the factors including reducing sugars, Brix, viability of probiotic bacteria in a probiotic fermented drink consisted of malt extract in the ratios of 2, 4 and 6%, red fruit juice concentrate (a mixture of apple, pomegranate, red grapes, cornelian cherry, black raspberry and gooseberry juices) in the ratios of 5, 7.5 and 10% and the strain of *Lactobacillus casei* at two inoculum levels of 1.5×10^7 and 1.5×10^8 cfu/ml were examined. According to the results, it was concluded that the optimum condition of the beverage fermentation by the studied bacteria was 37°C for 48 hours. The number of the probiotic bacteria was increased during the fermentation because of the consumption of sugar and nutrients contained in the malt extract and red fruit juice concentrate by the probiotic bacteria. Therefore, the amount of reducing sugars and Brix (water soluble solids) decreased. The maximum survival of the bacteria for most of the treatments over the four weeks of storage was 2 weeks, which was in the range recommended by the Food and Drug Administration. Only the treatments M₃B₂C₂ containing 7.5% red fruit juice, 6% malt extract and bacterial density of 1.5×10^8 cfu/ml and M₃B₂C₃ containing 10% red fruit juices, 6% malt extract and bacterial density of 1.5×10^8 cfu/ml had a retention time of three weeks and the treatment M₂B₁C₁ containing 5% red fruit juices, 4% malt extract and bacterial density 1.5×10^8 cfu/ml was maintained for four weeks.

In conclusion, the results of this work showed that a mixture of red fruit juices and malt extract is a suitable environment for the growth of lactic acid bacteria and thus producing a functional beverage.

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