

β -ODAP and IP₆ quantification & degradation from *Lathyrus sativus* L. seed upon fermentation by supplementing *Aspergillus niger* phytase

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ABSTRACT

The presence of an endogenous neurotoxic non-protein amino acid, β -N-oxalyl-L- α,β -diaminopropionic acid (β -ODAP) in grass pea (*Lathyrus sativus* L.) is major limitation which affects utilization of the seed for human consumption, though highly nutritious. Furthermore, phytate (IP₆) a well-known antinutrient is present in concentration capable of hindering bioavailability of micronutrients. In this paper, β -ODAP content was assayed by the *o*-phthalaldehyde method from twenty-nine accessions of varieties in Ethiopia and a variety from Germany. IP₆ was also quantified combining AOAC procedure with HPLC ion-pair chromatography. A sample was selected to observe the effect of fermentation on the reduction of β -ODAP and IP₆ with supplementation of *Aspergillus niger* phytase. The level of β -ODAP found in twenty-nine accessions was categorized as high (18 acces.), intermediate (9 acces.) and low (2 acces.) with the values from 300.5-436.3 mg/100 g, 197.8-295.9 mg/100 g and 42.0-160.2 mg/100 g respectively. The content in the German variety was determined to be 116.0 mg/100 g. *Aspergillus niger* was supplemented after knowing intrinsic content of phytase activity in raw grass pea seed (257.7 U/kg) and the activity of the *Aspergillus niger* itself (220.0 U/g). Thus, dough supplemented with 1000.0 U/ml, 500.0 U/ml of *Aspergillus niger*; fresh yeast and sour dough fermented for 12hrs was evaluated. A significant reduction of both compounds was observed in all four fermentations. β -ODAP: 42.6%, 39.0%, 35.7% and 12.4% respectively. Phytate degradation was also observed with respective percentage reduction of 87.0%, 90.5%, 24.2% and 13.3% from the initial value. From these results, it can be concluded that the level of β -ODAP varies widely among genotypes and location-environments. Moreover, supplementation of *Aspergillus niger* speeds-up degradation of β -ODAP and IP₆ during fermentation.

KEY WORDS: *Lathyrus sativus* L., β -ODAP, IP₆, *Aspergillus niger*, fermentation