

Original Article

Antimicrobial Effect of Cuminum Cyminum Essential Oil in Iranian White Cheese by Different Packaging

Leila Khaji¹ , Negin Noori^{1*} , Ashkan Jebelli Javan² , Ali Khanjari¹ , Hassan Gandomi¹

1. Department of Food Hygiene and Quality Control, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran.

2. Department of Food Hygiene, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Semnan, Semnan, Iran.



How to Cite This Article Khaji, L., Noori, N., Jebelli Javan, A., Khanjari, A., & Gandomi, H. (2025). Antimicrobial Effect of Cuminum Cyminum Essential Oil in Iranian White Cheese by Different Packaging. *Iranian Journal of Veterinary Medicine*, 19(1), 121-132. <http://dx.doi.org/10.32598/ijvm.19.1.1005411>

<http://dx.doi.org/10.32598/ijvm.19.1.1005411>

ABSTRACT

Background: As one of the most crucial food categories, nutritionists commonly recommend dairy products. Since these products are highly perishable, it is important to find a method to increase their shelf life and conserve their freshness for a long time.

Objectives: The present study aims to assess the antibacterial properties of *Cuminum cyminum* essential oil (CCE) on the quality of refrigerated white cheese preserved through packing under gas mixtures (air, modified atmosphere packaged [MAP]: 70% O₂-30% CO₂).

Methods: The mesophilic bacteria (TMC), psychrotrophic bacteria (PTC), lactic acid bacteria (LAB), *Enterobacteriaceae*, *Listeria monocytogenes* and mold and yeast counts were determined using PCA, DCRB, PCA, MRS agar, violet red bile agar and PALCAM agar, respectively, during 35 days of storage period.

Results: The results revealed that the growth rate of TMC and LAB, *Enterobacteriaceae*, mold and yeast, PTC and *L. monocytogenes* considerably decreased in white cheese samples due to the integration of CCE and MAP. The lowest number was observed in a case with samples packed in MAP+ 0.06% CCE after 35 days of storage.

Conclusion: Given the microbial characterization improvements, CCE was determined to be an optimal alternative, along with MAP, for applications in white cheese.

Keywords: Antibacterial, *Cuminum cyminum*, Essential oil, Cheese, Shelf life

Article info:

Received: 26 Jun 2024

Accepted: 14 Aug 2024

Publish: 01 Jan 2025

*** Corresponding Author:**

Negin Noori, Associate Professor.

Address: Department of Food Hygiene and Quality Control, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran.

Phone: +98 (21) 61117067

E-mail: mnoori@ut.ac.ir

Copyright © 2025 The Author(s);

This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC-BY-NC: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/legalcode.en>), which permits use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited and is not used for commercial purposes.

Introduction

Cheese is one of the most commonly used food products worldwide since it can be produced from a wide range of milk types, and with various technologies, people can achieve considerable product varieties. People have shown an increasing inclination to consume this product due to its scrumptious, great protein level and being perceived as a healthy food (Gouvea et al., 2017). However, this food product is easily contaminated and spoils by pathogenic microorganisms, adversely affecting shelf life and jeopardizing the consumer's health. It was documented that *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Salmonella* spp. are often associated with food-borne diseases due to cheese consumption (Gouvea et al., 2017).

White cheese is manufactured by using different kinds of milk. This product is constantly in the human diet, rich in protein, calcium, minerals and vitamins. Cheese consumption has experienced a dramatic rise worldwide during the past several years. However, its physical, sensory, color and chemical properties have been proven to result from biological and biochemical reactions throughout storage.

White cheese is somewhat susceptible to contamination and spoilage by pathogenic microorganism-induced contamination, which is likely to decrease shelf life and pose a severe threat to the health of human beings. The bacteria, molds, and yeasts are usually responsible for this contamination, decreasing flavor and cheese quality. This outcome usually occurs when the product is stored without packing (El-Sayed & El-Sayed, 2021).

Using modified atmosphere packaging (MAP) has gained more popularity in increasing the shelf life of various foods due to consumers' increased demands for preservative-free, "clean label" foods. Modifying the gas content surrounding a food product during storage, including N₂ and CO₂, will result in comparatively lower physiological deterioration, oxidation reactions, and microbial growth rate (Brown et al., 2018).

Presently, various preservation methods have promoted the shelf storage of food products, the most promising of which is packaging. Certain important functions are attributed to the packaging process, including prevention of deterioration by microbial and chemical changes and development in handling and marketing of packaged goods. Currently, the purpose of food packaging extends beyond convenience and protection attributes (Khoshgo-

zaran et al., 2012). MAP has gained a significant position in research areas as a pragmatic method to preserve the quality of various food products and satisfy customers' growing demands for fresh and preservative-free food (Khoshgozaran et al., 2012). Moreover, this technique is characterized by several crucial outcomes, including retaining the quality of fresh products, promoting the visual and appearance properties of the product, extending the shelf life and minimizing the application of additives and preservatives (Khoshgozaran et al., 2012).

In recent years, the application of natural antimicrobial agents for food preservation has gained wide acceptance due to the public unpopularity of synthetic additives, which are frequently used to inhibit microbial proliferation in food products. Essential oils (EOs) are extracted from medicinal plants with significant antimicrobial activity against various pathogenic and damaging microorganisms (Artiga-Artigas et al., 2017).

Cuminum cyminum is a small, herbaceous, annual plant that belongs to the Umbelliferae family (Petretto et al., 2018). This plant is found in Asia, North Africa, Europe, and America and has also been cultivated in Middle Eastern countries, India, China and the Mediterranean countries (Petretto et al., 2018; Akrami et al., 2015). The seeds of this plant are constantly used as a flavoring spice in various recipes belonging to different cultures (Petretto et al., 2018), particularly in cooking and making salads (Karimirad et al., 2019). Moreover, different varieties of this plant are of extensive use in both traditional and veterinary medicine as stimulant, carminative, astringent and as a treatment for indigestion, flatulence, and diarrhea (Akrami et al., 2015; Derakhshan et al., 2008). *C. cyminum* essential oil (CCE) has high levels of γ -terpinene, p-cymene, pinene, cuminaldehyde, safranal, and cuminal with antimicrobial and antioxidant properties (Karimirad et al., 2019). CCE has an appropriate antimicrobial and antioxidant activity that can be applied as a suitable food preservative agent (Petretto et al., 2018).

The current study aimed to assess (i) the combined effect of CCE and MAP for the control of *L. monocytogenes* inoculated to white Iranian white cheese and (ii) the possible shelf life extension of white Iranian white cheese using the mentioned combination.

Materials and Methods

Plant material

C. cyminum seeds were collected from Kerman City, Iran, in the summer of 2020. Taxonomic identification of plant material was carried out by the Institute of Medicinal Plants, University of Tehran, Iran.

Essential oil extraction and analysis

In the preparation phase, 100 g of powdered seeds were mixed with 1000 mL of distilled water. The CCE was obtained via the 'clever apparatus' for 3 hours. Dehydration of CCE was done by adding sodium sulfate. The collected CCE was stored in dark glass at 4 °C for further analysis (Karimirad et al., 2019; Akrami et al., 2015). The gas chromatography-mass spectrometry analysis was performed according to the method described by Akrami et al. (2015).

Preparation of test microorganisms

L. monocytogenes (ATCC1918) was inoculated in brain heart infusion (BHI) broth. After 24 h incubation at 35 °C, the second subculture was prepared and incubated for 24 h at 35 °C. The *L. monocytogenes* broth culture was placed in a sterile cuvette and optical density (OD) was adjusted to an absorbance of 0.1 using a spectrophotometer (Jenway, UK). Then, the number of cells in the suspension was estimated by duplicate plating from 10-fold serial dilutions on BHI agar and counting the colonies after 24 h incubation at 35 °C and then the suspension was diluted to 4 logs CFU/mL using 0.1% peptone water preparation of white cheese.

Fresh and whole cow's milk was pasteurized to produce Iranian white cheese at 72±2 °C for 15 s. Before starting the different stages of cheese-making, the milk temperature was raised to 35 °C and 10 L of milk was added to the cheese-making container. After that, the 0.5% (V/V) starter was added to the milk samples simultaneously. After half an hour, the amount of 0.02% (weight by volume) of calcium chloride (CaCl₂) (weight by volume) in 20 mL of sterile distilled water at a temperature of 40 °C was added to the milk. Finally, 0.001% (W/V) rennet was added and the milk temperature was maintained at around 35 °C during the clot formation. After one hour, the formed clot was cut into 1-2 cubic cm pieces and according to the instructions for making Iranian white cheeses, it was put under 10 kg pressure for 6 hours to absorb water. Then, the clot was cut into pieces with dimensions of 6×8×12 cm and placed in 2%

sterile salt water for 42 days at a temperature of 4 °C. Immediately after spraying, all blocks were packaged in plastic trays and sealed by a sealing machine. Finally, the samples were air-packaged and gas-flushed with 30% CO₂+70% N₂, sealed using a MAP machine, and stored at 4 °C so the tests could be carried out on day 35 (Govaris et al., 2011).

Microbiological characteristics of white cheese throughout storage

About 25 g of cheese samples were homogenized with 225 mL of sterile tri-sodium citrate (2.00% w/v) for 1 min. After that, decimal dilution with 9 mL sterile NaCl (0.85%) was performed.

The microbiological properties of white cheese samples were determined as follows:

LAB count was enumerated by using MRS agar; yeasts and mold counts were determined on Rose Bengal Chloramphenicol agar; TMC and PSB were estimated on plate count agar; *L. monocytogenes* bacteria counts were determined using PALCAM Listeria selective agar (El-Sayed & El-Sayed, 2021).

Statistical analysis

The experimental data were analyzed by analysis of variance and the significant differences between mean values in different sampling days were evaluated by Duncan's multiple range test/least significant difference. Data was analyzed using the SPSS software, version 14.

Results

Chemical composition of CCE

The analysis of CCE revealed that the EO yield is 4% (v/w). Among all constituents identified by GC/MS, 1, 4-p-Menthadien-7-al and cumin aldehyde stand as the two major compounds with 32.20% and 29.57% percentages, respectively (Table 1).

Microbiological characteristics of white cheese during the storage period

In general, compared to control samples, all coatings in this experiment exhibited significant antibacterial activity against TMC, PSB, LAB, *Enterobacteriaceae* and *L. monocytogenes* in white cheese packed in air and MAP during refrigerated storage (Figures 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5).

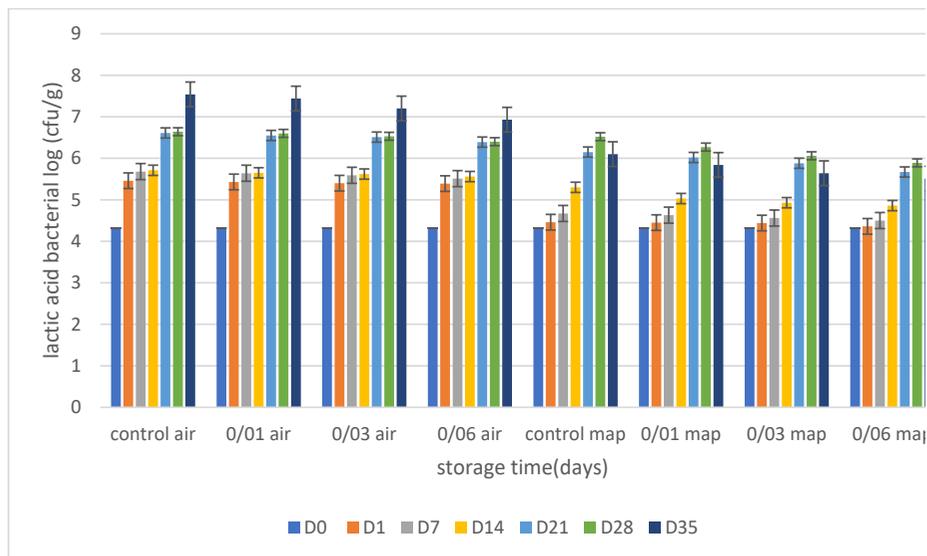
Table 1. Composition of *C. cyminum* essential oil identified by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry

No.	RT (min)	Area (%)	Name	Quality
1	553.6	14.0	α -thujene	91
2	771.6	26.0	2-pinene	97
3	042.8	20.0	Sabinene	96
4	224.8	16.5	β -pinene	97
5	748.8	31.0	β -myrcene	95
6	204.9	20.0	1-phellandrene	97
7	915.9	46.5	Cymene	95
8	128.10	13.0	1, 8-cineole	92
9	581.11	11.10	γ -terpinene	97
10	153.13	02.0	Δ , 3-carene	91
11	684.14	04.0	3-methyl-2, 4-hexadiene	76
12	349.16	19.0	4-terpineol	96
13	738.16	88.0	3-cyclopentylcyclopentan-1-one	83
14	935.16	02.0	Isoterpinolene	72
15	25.19	57.29	Cuminaldehyde	98
16	185.21	50.14	2-carene-10-al	72
17	067.22	20.32	1, 4-p-menthadien-7-al	78
18	084.23	03.0	Myrtenal	76
19	249.26	03.0	Alloocimene	76
20	02.29	05.0	Trans- β -Farnesene	55
21	466.29	13.0	Unknown from limen oil	93
22	255.30	03.0	cis-2-methylenehexahydroindan-7-one	38
23	636.32	02.0	2-methoxybenzyl alcohol	64
24	238.33	06.0	Carotol	90

Comparatively, higher bacterial counts were present in groups packed in air than in MAP ($P < 0.05$). It can be seen from Figures 1 and 2 that the initial TMC and LAB of white cheese samples were found to be 4.5 and 4.32 log CFU/g, respectively. The TMC and LAB of control samples constantly increased and reached 7.53 and 7.54 log CFU/g after 35 days of storage in air packaging, respectively (Figures 1 and 2). The TMC and LAB of control samples continuously increased and reached 7.22 and 6.1 log CFU/g after 35 days of storage in MAP

packaging, respectively. Packing conditions determined the growth of TMC and LAB. The lowest TMC and LAB belonged samples packed in MAP+0.06% CCE were 6.26 and 5.51 log CFU/g, respectively.

In the present study, PSB count in the control group was found to increase from an initial count of 5.43 log CFU/g to 7.9 log CFU/g at the end of chilled storage in air packaging and an initial count of 5.43 log CFU/g to 6.09 log CFU/g at the end of chilled storage in MAP

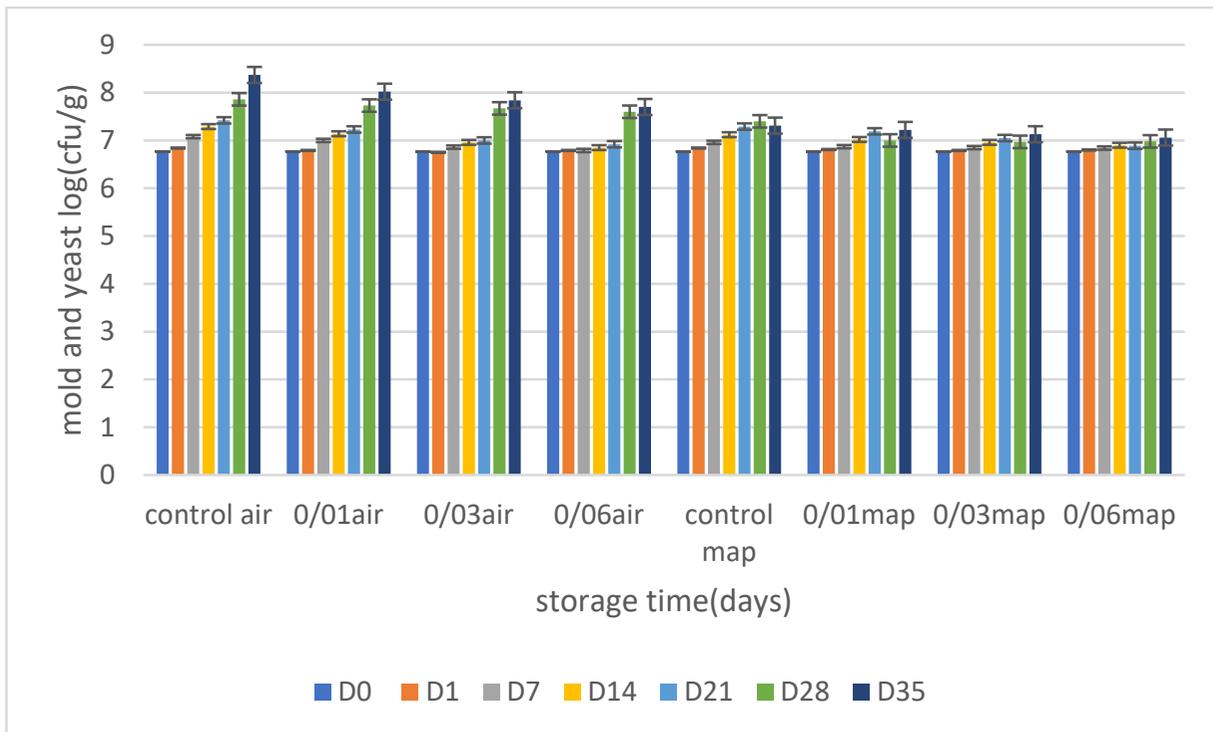


Figures 1. Changes in lactic acid bacteria (LAB) of white soft cheese at 4 °C

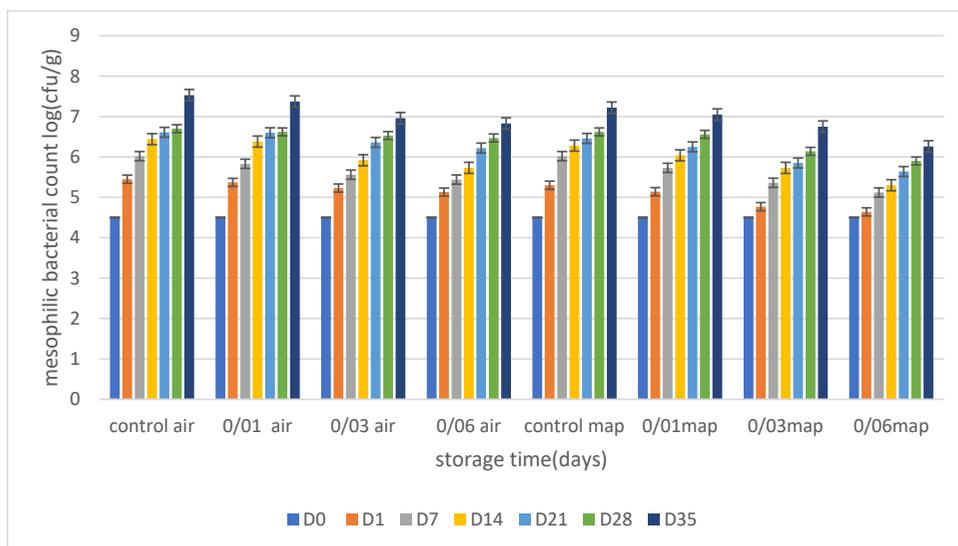
packaging. The smallest PSB count belonged to samples packed in air +0.06% CCE (6.72) after 35 days of storage. The lowest PSB count was obtained for samples packed in MAP+0.06% CCE (5.72) after 35 days of storage (Figure 3).

In the present study, mold and yeast counts in the control group were increased from an initial count of 6.77

log CFU/g to 8.37 log CFU/g at the end of chilled storage in air packaging and an initial count of 6.77 log CFU/g to 7.73 log CFU/g at the end of chilled storage in MAP packaging. The lowest mold and yeast count belonged to samples packed in air +0.06% CCE after 35 days of storage. The lowest mold and yeast count was achieved in the case with samples packed in MAP+0.06% CCE after 35 days of storage (Figure 4).



Figures 2. Changes in mold and yeast of white soft cheese at 4 °C



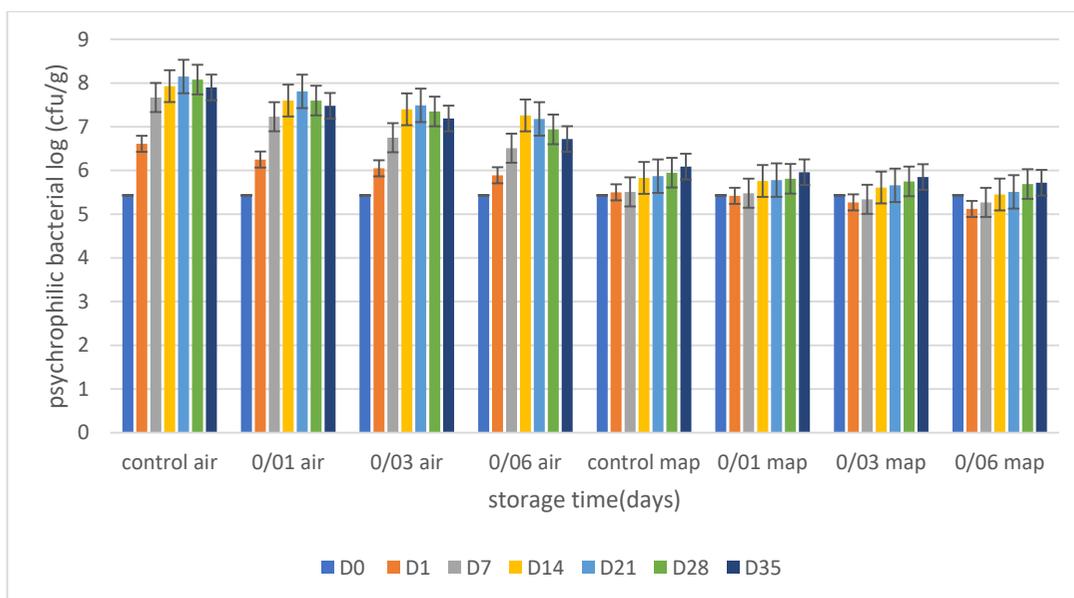
Figures 3. Changes in mesophilic bacterial count (MBC) of white soft cheese at 4 °C

In the present study, *L. monocytogenes* count in the control group was found to increase from an initial count of 4.22 log CFU/g to 8.23 log CFU/g at the end of chilled storage in air packaging and an initial count of 4.22 log CFU/g to 6.98 log CFU/g at the end of chilled storage in MAP packaging. The lowest *L. monocytogenes* count was determined to belong to samples packed in air +0.06 % CCE (6.87 log CFU/g) after 35 days of storage. The lowest *L. monocytogenes* count was achieved in the case with samples packed in MAP+0.06 % CCE after 35 days of storage (Figure 5).

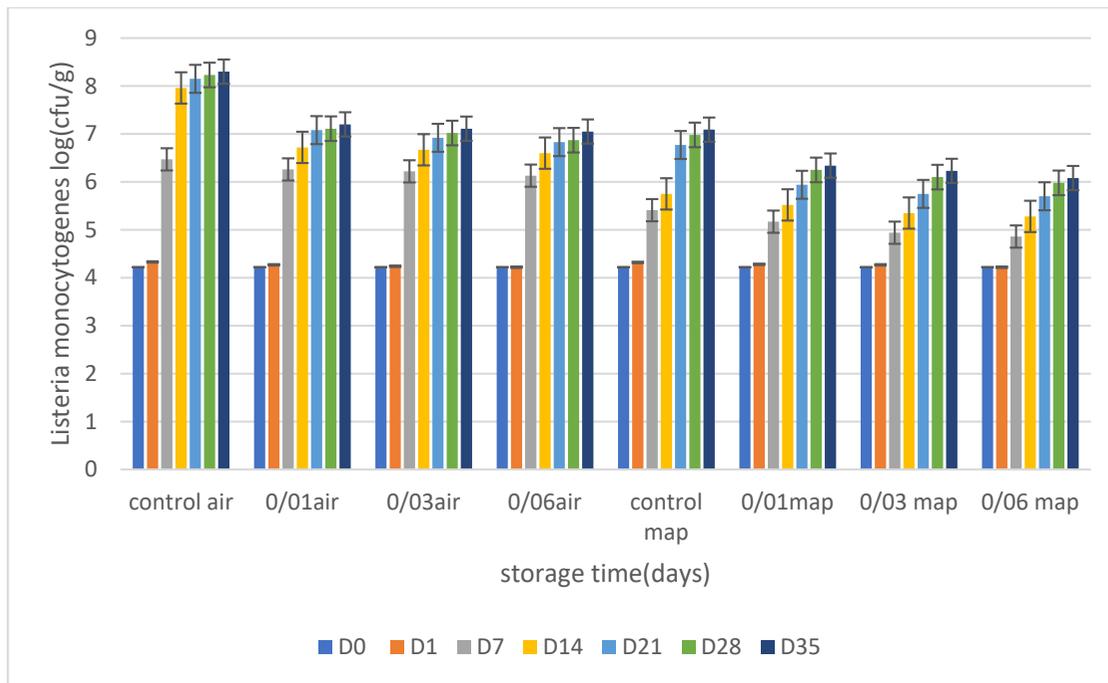
No coliforms were detected in any batch of cheese produced for the shelf life experiments.

Discussion

The analysis of used CCE revealed that 1, 4-p-menthadien-7-al and cuminaldehyde stand as the two major compounds of this essential oil (Table 1). This finding agrees with Karimirad et al. (2019), who reported cuminaldehyde at 23.6% and γ -terpinen-7-al at 22.23% are the major components of CCE. Petretto et al. (2018) noted 25 compounds identified with γ -Terpinen-7-al as the



Figures 4. Changes in psychrophilic bacterial of white soft cheese at 4 °C



Figures 5. Changes in *L. monocytogenes* of white soft cheese at 4 °C

major CCE component. Derakhshan et al. (2008) noted decalacumin aldehyde with 25.2%, p-mentha-1,3-dien-7-al with 13% and p-mentha-1,4-dien-7-al with 16.6%. Also, El-Sayed and El-Sayed (2021) noted cuminaldehyde (30.9%), sabinene (14.3%), p-cymene (13.3%), γ -terpinene (12.6%), cuminyl alcohol (11.5%) and p-cymen-7-ol (8.8%).

According to certain studies, the quality and quantity of certain EOs can be affected by factors such as harvesting season, geographic location, soil conditions, and essential oil extraction technique (Kalemba & Kunicka, 2003; Kizil et al., 2010).

Furthermore, as reported by Eikani et al. (1999), cuminaldehyde and cuminyl alcohol have potent antimicrobial and antioxidant properties with an extensive range. As a result, they may be considered appropriate candidates for preserving agents and are promising to the food industry.

Monoterpenes compounds, such as cuminaldehyde, were reported to be responsible for *C. cyminum* EO's antimicrobial activity. The antibacterial effect of EO plants may be associated with the hydrophobicity nature of constituent's EO, especially oxygenated monoterpenes, and their capability to disrupt the lipid layer of the cell membrane and interact with membrane proteins and intracellular targets of microorganisms. This phenomenon is believed to be able to change the bacterial phospho-

lipid membrane and, as a result, reduce cellular uptake of ethidium bromide while increasing leakage of potassium ions, ATP, and carboxyfluorescein (Kakaei & Shahbazi, 2016).

Hydrocarbon derivatives have been reported to have a low antimicrobial function when used alone. Their low water solubility and limited hydrogen-bound capacity are responsible for this phenomenon. However, the compounds mentioned before can potentiate the activity of terpenoids such as cuminaldehyde, γ -terpinen-7-al and γ -terpinene (monoterpene aldehydes), which exhibit a higher antimicrobial potential owing to their functional groups. For instance, aldehyde moiety by amino groups can link with DNA and proteins and interfere with their normal function. Furthermore, it has been stated that hydrocarbon monoterpenes like p-cymene promote the entrance of other compounds into the cell wall via swelling of the cell membrane (Karimirad et al., 2019).

Regarding crucial foods and pathogens, only a limited number of studies have been conducted on this essential oil.

De et al. (2003) examined the antimicrobial properties of some Indian spices and investigated the antimicrobial properties of *C. cyminum* against the microbes tested (*Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli*), resulting in the approval of its usage as a disinfectant food preservative.

In another study, [Chaudhry Ahmed et al. \(2008\)](#) examined the antibacterial properties of extracts of a few plants such as Shab-kur, *C. cuminum*, and Poppy against 188 species of bacteria such as *B. subtilis*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, and *E. coli*, via disk diffusion method (DDM). They concluded that green cumin extract had the greatest inhibitory effect (73%) on bacteria.

According to [Sadeghi et al. \(2008\)](#), CCE was reported to contain 29.02% cumin aldehyde, 20.70% Alpha-terpinene, and 12.94% gamma-terpinene. It was also observed that the growth rate of *S. aureus* can significantly be reduced in cheese during 75 days of storage compared to the control group by adding 30 mL/100 μ L of CCE.

In another study, the antimicrobial effects of CCE against 10 bacterial strains belonging to 8 different species and 6 yeast strains from 4 species were examined by [Petretto et al. \(2018\)](#). LAB exhibited great resistance to all EO tested, while the CCE showed a strong antifungal activity that affected both maximum specific growth rate and lag time.

Dairy products are categorized as the most popular food, and nutritionists highly recommend them. This food category is critically perishable; therefore, it is crucial to increase its shelf life to make it fresher. As a result of consumers' increased knowledge about the threats of preservatives, technologists and researchers have attempted to introduce novel preservative-free methods, one of which is MAP, which modifies the natural gas surrounding the product in the package to delay deteriorative changes.

Since CO_2 inhibits various spoilage and pathogenic microorganisms, especially gram-negative bacteria and molds, it is usually employed in MAP. Inhibition of microbial growth by CO_2 has been provided in the MAP of perishable foods, improving the shelf life. However, CO_2 inhibition activity against microbial growth increases under chilled conditions since CO_2 is more soluble in food at lower temperatures ([Lee et al., 2008](#)). In addition to controlling and to retard microbial growth, the presence of CO_2 in the package's headspace also leads to the change in the microbial content to bacteria with lower spoilage capacity ([McMillin, 2008](#)). Low temperature during storage helps this capacity.

Several studies have confirmed the effect of MAP in the development of the shelf life of dairy products, especially cheese, and a variety of gas compositions has been suggested for MAP of cheese. The storage stability of 24-month-old portioned-packed Parmigiano Reg-

giano cheese, packed in nylon/polyethylene bags and stored for 3 months at 4 °C, was examined by [Romani et al. \(1999\)](#). No particular change occurred in the quality of different packed products, though samples packed in a 100 % N_2 atmosphere exhibited flavor profiles quite distant from freshly cut, unpacked cheese. The fungal growth and mycotoxin production on commercial sliced cheddar cheese under modified atmospheres were examined by [Taniwaki et al. \(2001\)](#). Eight fungal species were incubated under conditions of decreasing levels of O_2 (5% to packed in aluminum foil and modified atmospheres (100% N_2 , 30% CO_2 /70% N_2 , 50% CO_2 /50% N_2 , 70% CO_2 /30% N_2 , 100% CO_2 , 30% CO_2 /60% N_2 /10% O_2 , 70% CO_2 /20% N_2 /10% O_2 using oriented polyethylene polyamide as the packaging material) as well as in vacuum. The proliferation of coli bacteria was observed in the experimented cheese in aluminum foil. In contrast, the population of the coli group remained unchanged in other samples during the storage period, irrespective of the applied gas mixture.

In another relevant study, the shelf life of Mozzarella cheese was examined by [Alam and Goyal \(2007\)](#) in different atmospheres (air, vacuum, 100% CO_2 , 100% N_2 , and 50% N_2 /50% CO_2) packed in high-barrier bags and stored at -10 °C to -15 °C. According to their observations, Mozzarella cheese under MAP showed a significant increase in its shelf life compared to that of kept in a conventional air package (14–16, 90, 75 and 65 days under air, 100% CO_2 , 50% N_2 /50% CO_2 and 100% N_2 , respectively).

In the current study, the PSB count in the control group increased from 5.43 log CFU/g to 7.9 log CFU/g at the end of chilled storage in air packaging and an initial count of 5.43 log CFU/g to 6.09 log CFU/g at the end of storage period in MAP. It was demonstrated by [Alves et al. \(1996\)](#) that MAP (100% CO_2) could decrease just the beginning of the PSB growth in Mozzarella cheese, which was similar to other studies ([Pintado and Malcata 2000](#) on Requeijão cheese; [Gammariello et al. 2009](#) on Apulian fresh cheeses). Moreover, [Eliot et al. \(1998\)](#) reported the presence of PSB during the first weeks of storage for the products with the modified atmospheres (10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% N_2) since PSB is a complicated population and species in Mozzarella cheeses are resistant to CO_2 inhibitory effect. In addition, various storage temperatures (10 °C by [Moir et al. 1993](#) on Cottage cheese; 7 °C by [Alves et al. 1996](#) on Mozzarella cheese; 10 °C by [Eliot et al. 1998](#) on Cameros cheese; 4 °C by [Gonzalez-Fandos et al. 2000](#) on Cameros cheese) have been evaluated as a possible contributor means for MAP in controlling PSB growth and applying low

temperatures were found as an effective way in combination with MAP. Due to lower temperatures, a higher inhibitory effect of CO₂ can be achieved by higher CO₂ solubility.

These findings are in line with the studies noted for whey cheese (Dermiki et al., 2008), fresh goat cheese (Gonzalez-Fandos et al., 2000) and Mozzarella (Alam & Goyal, 2011) cheese, where psychrotolerant growth was lower when the CO₂ concentration increased, with 100% CO₂ conditions was the most effective in the growth inhibition. These findings agree with the article which showed that most psychrotolerant bacteria in dairy products are aerobic, gram-negative, and usually more sensitive to CO₂ than gram-positive ones (Rosenthal et al., 1991).

In the present study, mold and yeast counts in the control group were found to increase from 6.77 log CFU/g at the beginning of the study to 8.37 log CFU/g after 35 days of storage at chilled storage in air packaging and an initial count of 6.77 logs CFU/g to 7.73 logs CFU/g at the end of refrigerated storage in MAP packaging. The lowest mold and yeast count belonged to samples packed in air +0.06% CCE (7.7) after 35 days of storage. The inhibition and decrease in yeast and mold population under modified atmospheres compared with growth when packaged under air were confirmed by the previous reports for Mozzarella kept under the same conditions (Alam & Goyal, 2011). The controlling effect of CO₂ on the count of bacteria and yeast is also in line with the previous reports (Alves et al., 1996; Eliot et al., 1998; Dermiki et al., 2008).

Since the 1970s, *L. monocytogenes* has been considered an important food-borne pathogen. Foods such as vegetables, meat, and even certain cheeses are ideal for *Listeria* growth (Genigeorgis et al., 1991; Mossel et al., 1995). Outbreaks of listeriosis following the consumption of Mexican-style cheese from California (James et al. 1985), Mexican soft cheeses (Linnan et al. 1988) and Vacherin Mont D'Or (Bille, 1990) have led to concerns toward *L. monocytogenes*. The inhibitory effect of CO₂ on *L. monocytogenes* was reported by Chen and Hotchkiss (1991), especially in a hurdle technology with cold-temperature storage (4 °C) and pH in Cottage cheese. In the present study, *L. monocytogenes* count in the control group increased from 4.22 log CFU/g to 8.23 log CFU/g at the end of the study period in air packaging and an initial count of 4.22 log CFU/g to 6.98 log CFU/g at the end of refrigerated storage in MAP. According to the study of Brown et al. 2018 which evaluated the effect of MAP on *L. monocytogenes* on fresh cheese, the mean of *L.*

monocytogenes counts increased to levels significantly higher than inoculation on cheeses stored under MAP conditions.

Enterobacteriaceae are suggested to indicate fecal contamination within food analysis, including zoonotic bacteria such as *Salmonella* spp., *Yersinia* spp. and *E. coli*. *Enterobacteriaceae* can cause serious infections in humans, while many of the major important members of the genus of this family are resistant to many of the available antimicrobials (Paterson, 2006). Coliforms were not isolated in this study's Iranian white cheese batch.

Conclusion

The result of the current investigation indicated that the combination of CCE and MAP conditions had a strong antimicrobial effect on *L. monocytogenes* and extended their shelf life. Accordingly, MAP+0.06% CCE exhibited the best inhibitory effects on the microbial population.

Ethical Considerations

Compliance with ethical guidelines

There were no ethical considerations to be considered in this research.

Funding

This research was financially supported by the Research Council of the University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran (Grant No.: 27931/6/16).

Authors' contributions

Writing the original draft: Leila Khaji and Negin Noori; Supervision: Negin Noori and Ashkan Jebelli Javan; Methodology: Hassan Gandomi; Data analysis and visualization: Ali Khanjari.

Conflict of interest

The authors declared no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgments

The authors acknowledge the staff of the Department of Food Hygiene and Control Laboratory of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran.

References

- Akrami, F., Rodríguez-Lafuente, A., Bentayeb, K., Pezo, D., Ghalebi, S., & Nerín, C. (2015). Antioxidant and antimicrobial active paper based on Zataria (*Zataria multiflora*) and two cumin cultivars (*Cuminum cyminum*). *LWT-Food Science and Technology*, 60(2), 929-933. [DOI:10.1016/j.lwt.2014.09.051]
- Alam, T. & Goyal, G.K. (2007). Influence of modified atmosphere packaging and storage at deep freeze conditions on the sensory characteristics of Mozzarella cheese. *Milchwissenschaft*, 62(3), 311-314. [Link]
- Alves, R. M. V., DE Luca Sarantópoulos, C. I. G., VAN Dender, A. G. F., & DE Assis Fonseca Faria, J. (1996). Stability of sliced mozzarella cheese in modified-atmosphere Packaging. *Journal of Food Protection*, 59(8), 838-844. [DOI: 10.4315/0362-028X-59.8.838] [PMID]
- Artiga-Artigas, M., Acevedo-Fani, A., & Martín-Belloso, O. (2017). Improving the shelf life of low-fat cut cheese using nanoemulsion based edible coatings containing oregano essential oil and mandarin fiber. *Food Control*, 76, 1-12. [DOI:10.1016/j.foodcont.2017.01.001]
- Bille, J. (1989). Anatomy of a foodborne listeriosis outbreak. Hamburg: B. Behr's Verlag GmbH & Co.
- Brown, S. R. B., Forauer, E. C., & D'Amico, D. J. (2018). Effect of modified atmosphere packaging on the growth of spoilage microorganisms and *Listeria monocytogenes* on fresh cheese. *Journal of Dairy Science*, 101(9), 7768-7779. [DOI:10.3168/jds.2017-14217] [PMID]
- Chaudhry, N. M. A., & Tariq, P. (2008). In vitro antibacterial activities of kalonji, cumin and poppy seed. *Pakistan Journal of Botany*, 40(1), 461. [Link]
- Chen, J. J., & Hotchkiss, J. H. (1993). Growth of *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Clostridium sporogenes* in cottage cheese in modified atmosphere packaging. *Journal of Dairy Science*, 76(4), 972-977. [Link]
- De, M., De, A.K., Mukhopadhyay, R., Banerjee, A.B. & Miro, Y.M. (2003). Antimicrobial activity of *Cuminum cyminum* L. *Ars Pharm.* 44, 257-269. [Link]
- Derakhshan, S., Sattari, M., & Bigdeli, M. (2008). Effect of sub-inhibitory concentrations of cumin (*Cuminum cyminum* L.) seed essential oil and alcoholic extract on the morphology, capsule expression and urease activity of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. *International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents*, 32(5), 432-436. [DOI:10.1016/j.ijantimicag.2008.05.009] [PMID]
- Dermiki, M., Ntzimani, A., Badeka, A., Savvaidis, I. N., & Kontominas, M. G. (2008). Shelf-life extension and quality attributes of the whey cheese "Myzithra Kalathaki" using modified atmosphere packaging. *LWT-Food Science and Technology*, 41(2), 284-294. [DOI: 10.1016/j.lwt.2007.02.014]
- El-Sayed, H. S., & El-Sayed S. M. (2021). A modern trend to preserve white soft cheese using nano-emulsified solutions containing cumin essential oil. *Environmental Nanotechnology, Monitoring & Management*, 16, 100499. [DOI:10.1016/j.enmm.2021.100499]
- Eikani, M. H., Goodarznia, J., & Mirza, M. (1999). Supercritical carbon dioxide extraction of cumin seeds (*Cuminum cyminum* L). *Flavour and Fragrance Journal*. 14(3), 29-31. [DOI: 10.1002/(SICI)1099-1026(199901/02)14:1<29::AID-FFJ765>3.0.CO;2-G]
- Eliot, S. C., Vuilleumard, J. C., & Emond, J. P. (1998). Stability of shredded Mozzarella cheese under modified atmospheres. *Journal of Food Science*, 63(6), 1075-1080. [DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2621.1998.tb15858.x]
- Gammariello, D., Conte, A., Attanasio, M., & Del Nobile, M. A. (2009). Effect of modified atmospheres on microbiological and sensorial properties of Apulian fresh cheeses. *African Journal of Microbiology Research*, 3(7), 370-378. [Link]
- Genigeorgis, C., Carniciu, M., Dutulescu, D., & Farver, T. B. (1991). Growth and Survival of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Market Cheeses Stored at 4 to 30°C. *Journal of Food Protection*, 54(9), 662-668. [DOI: 10.4315/0362-028X-54.9.662] [PMID]
- Gonzalez-Fandos, E., Sanz, S., & Olarte, C. (2000). Microbiological, physicochemical and sensory characteristics of Cameros cheese packaged under modified atmospheres. *Food Microbiology*, 17(4), 407-414. [DOI: 0.1006/fmic.2000.0338]
- Gouvea, F. S., Rosenthal, A., & Ferreira, E. H. R. (2017). Plant extract and essential oils added as antimicrobials to cheeses: A review. *MICROBIOLOGY. Ciencia Rural*, 47(8). [DOI:10.1590/0103-8478cr20160908]
- Govaris, A., Botsoglou, E., Sergelidis, D., & Chatzopoulou, P. S. (2011). Antibacterial activity of oregano and thyme essential oils against *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Escherichia coli* O157: H7 in feta cheese packaged under modified atmosphere. *LWT - Food Science and Technology*, 44(4), 1240-1244. [DOI:10.1016/j.lwt.2010.09.022]
- Hassanien, M. F., Mahgoub, S. A., & El-Zahar, K. M. (2014). Soft cheese supplemented with black cumin oil: Impact on food borne pathogens and quality during storage. *Saudi Journal of Biological Sciences*, 21(3), 280-288. [DOI:10.1016/j.sjbs.2013.10.005] [PMID] [PMCID]
- James, S. M. (1985). Listeriosis outbreak associated with Mexican-style cheese – California. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 34, 357. [Link]
- Kakaei, S. & Shahbazi, Y. (2016). Effect of chitosan-gelatin film incorporated with ethanolic red grape seed extract and *Ziziphora clinopodioides* essential oil on survival of *Listeria monocytogenes* and chemical, microbial and sensory properties of minced trout fillet. *LWT-Food Science and Technology*. 72, 432-438. [DOI: 10.1016/j.lwt.2016.05.021]
- Kalemba, D. & Kunicka, A. (2003). Antibacterial and antifungal properties of essential oils. *Current Medicinal Chemistry*, 10, 813-829. [DOI:10.2174/0929867033457719] [PMID]
- Karimirad, R., Behnamian, M., & Dezhsetan, S. (2019). Application of chitosan nanoparticles containing *Cuminum cyminum* oil as a delivery system for shelf-life extension of *Agaricus bisporus*. *LWT*, 106, 218-228. [DOI:10.1016/j.lwt.2019.02.062]
- Kızıl, S., Hasımi, N., Tolan, V., Kılınç, E., & Yuksel, U. (2010). Mineral content, essential oil components and biological activity of two mentha species (*M. piperita* L., *M. spicata* L.). *Turkish Journal of Field Crops*, 15(2), 148-153. [Link]
- Khoshgozaran, S., Azizi, M.H. & Bagheripoor-Fallah, N. (2012). Evaluating the effect of modified atmosphere packaging on cheese characteristics: A review. *Dairy Science & Technology*, 92(1), pp.1-24. [DOI:10.1007/s13594-011-0044-3]

- Lee, J., Park, D.H. & Han, I. (2008). The effect of negative online consumer reviews on product attitude: An information processing view. *Electronic Commerce Research and Applications*, 7(3), 341-352. [DOI: [10.1016/j.elerap.2007.05.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.elerap.2007.05.004)]
- Linnan, M. J., Mascola, L., Lou, X. D., Goulet, V., May, S., Salminen, C., & Broome, C. V. (1988). Epidemic listeriosis associated with Mexican-style cheese. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 319(13), 823-828. [DOI: [10.1056/NEJM19880929319130](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJM19880929319130)]
- McMillin, K.W. (2008). Where is MAP going? A review and future potential of modified atmosphere packaging for meat. A review. *Meat Science*, 80(1), 43-65. [DOI: [10.1016/j.meatsci.2008.05.028](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.meatsci.2008.05.028)] [PMID]
- Moir, C.J., Eyles, M.J. & Davey, J.A. (1993). Inhibition of pseudomonads in cottage cheese by packaging in atmospheres containing carbon dioxide. *Food Microbiology*, 10(4), 345-351. [DOI: [10.1006/fmic.1993.1040](https://doi.org/10.1006/fmic.1993.1040)]
- Mossel, D. A. A., & Pflug, I. J. (1975). Occurrence, prevention, and monitoring of microbial quality loss of foods and dairy products. *Critical Reviews in Environmental Science and Technology*, 5(1), 1-139. [Link]
- Paterson, D. L. (2006). Resistance in gram-negative bacteria: Enterobacteriaceae. *American Journal of Infection Control*, 34(5), S20-S28. [DOI:]
- Petretto, G.L., Fancello, F., Bakhy, K., AL Faiz, Z., Ibbawayh, S., Chessa, M., et al. (2018). Chemical composition and antimicrobial activity of essential oils from *Cuminum cyminum* L. collected in different areas of Morocco. *Food Bioscience*, 22:50-58. [DOI: [10.1016/j.fbio.2018.01.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fbio.2018.01.004)]
- Pintado, M. E., & Malcata, F. X. (2000). Optimization of modified atmosphere packaging with respect to physicochemical characteristics of Requeijão. *Food Research International*, 33(10), 821-832. [DOI: [10.1016/S0963-9969\(00\)00078-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0963-9969(00)00078-8)]
- Romani, A., Mulinacci, N., Pinelli, P., Vincieri, F. F., & Cimato, A. (1999). Polyphenolic content in five tuscan cultivars of *Olea europaea* L. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 47(3), 964-967. [DOI: [10.1021/jf980264t](https://doi.org/10.1021/jf980264t)]
- Rosenthal, I., Rosen, B., Bernstein, S., & Popel, G. (1991). Preservation of fresh cheeses in a CO₂-enriched atmosphere. *Milchwissenschaft* 46(11):706-708.
- Sadeghi, E., Akhondzadeh Basti, A., Noori, N., Khanjari, A., & Partovi, R. (2008). Effect of *Cuminum cyminum* L. essential oil and *Lactobacillus acidophilus* (a probiotic) on *Staphylococcus aureus* during the manufacture, ripening and storage of white brined cheese. *Journal of Food Processing and Preservation*, 37(5), 449- 455. [DOI: [10.1111/j.1745-4549.2011.00664.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1745-4549.2011.00664.x)]
- Taniwaki, M. H., Hocking, A. D., Pitt, J. I., & Fleet, G. H. (2001). Growth of fungi and mycotoxin production on cheese under modified atmospheres. *International journal of food microbiology*, 68(1-2), 125-133. [DOI: [10.1016/s0168-1605\(01\)00487-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0168-1605(01)00487-1)] [PMID]

مطالعه پژوهشی

بررسی اثر ضد میکروبی اسانس زیره سبز در پنیر سفید ایرانی بسته بندی شده به صورت معمولی و اتمسفر اصلاح شده طی مدت زمان نگهداری در یخچال

لیلا خاجی^۱، نگین نوری^۱، اشکان جبلی جوان^۲، علی خنجری^۱، حسن گندمی^۱

۱. گروه بهداشت و کنترل کیفی مواد غذایی، دانشکده دامپزشکی، دانشگاه تهران، ایران.

۲. گروه بهداشت و کنترل کیفی مواد غذایی، دانشکده دامپزشکی، دانشگاه سمنان، ایران.

Use your device to scan and read the article online

**How to Cite This Article** Khaji, L., Noori, N., Jebelli Javan, A., Khanjari, A., & Gandomi, H. (2025). Antimicrobial Effect of Cuminum Cyminum Essential Oil in Iranian White Cheese by Different Packaging. *Iranian Journal of Veterinary Medicine*, 19(1), 121-132. <http://dx.doi.org/10.32598/ijvm.19.1.1005411> <http://dx.doi.org/10.32598/ijvm.19.1.1005411>

چکیده

زمینه مطالعه: متخصصان تغذیه به عنوان یکی از مهم ترین دسته های غذایی معمولاً محصولات لبنی را توصیه می کنند. از آنجایی که این محصولات بسیار فاسد شنی هستند، یافتن راهی برای افزایش ماندگاری و تازه نگه داشتن آنها برای مدت طولانی بسیار حیاتی است.

هدف: مطالعه حاضر با هدف بررسی خواص ضد باکتریایی اسانس زیره سبز (CCE) بر کیفیت پنیر سفید در شرایط بسته بندی معمولی و در شرایط اتمسفر اصلاح شده (۷۰ درصد CO₂ و ۳۰ درصد O₂) در دمای یخچالی است.

روش کار: تعداد باکتری های مزوفیل، کپک و مخمر، باکتری های سرماگرا، باکتری های اسیدلاکتیک، انتروباکتریاسه و لیستریا مونوسیتوزنز به ترتیب با استفاده از پلیت کانت آگار، دی کلران رزینگال آگار، پلیت کانت آگار، MRS، VRBA و پالکام آگار تعیین شد.

نتایج: نتایج نشان داد که سرعت رشد تعداد باکتری های مزوفیل و تعداد باکتری های اسید لاکتیک، انتروباکتریاسه، کپک و مخمر، باکتری های سرماگرا و لیستریا مونوسیتوزنز در نمونه های پنیر سفید در نتیجه مصرف همزمان اسانس زیره سبز و اتمسفر اصلاح شده به میزان قابل توجهی کاهش یافت. کمترین تعداد در مورد نمونه های بسته بندی شده در CCE + 0.06% MAP پس از ۳۵ روز نگهداری مشاهده شد.

نتیجه گیری نهایی: با توجه به بهبود خصوصیات میکروبی، اسانس زیره سبز به عنوان یک جایگزین بهینه به همراه اتمسفر اصلاح شده برای کاربرد در پنیر سفید تعیین شد.

کلیدواژه ها: ضد میکروبی، اسانس، زیره سبز، پنیر، زمان نگهداری

تاریخ دریافت: ۰۶ تیر ۱۴۰۳

تاریخ پذیرش: ۲۴ مرداد ۱۴۰۳

تاریخ انتشار: ۱۲ دی ۱۴۰۳

* نویسنده مسئول:

دکتر نگین نوری

نشانی: تهران، دانشگاه تهران، دانشکده دامپزشکی، گروه بهداشت و کنترل کیفی مواد غذایی.

تلفن: +۹۸ (۲۱) ۶۱۱۱۷۰۶۷

رایانامه: nnoori@ut.ac.ir

Copyright © 2025 The Author(s);

This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC-BY-NC: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/legalcode.en>), which permits use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited and is not used for commercial purposes.