Oxidative and interfacial behavior of native oil bodies from walnut

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Walnuts are among the most widely consumed commercially grown tree nuts in the world. Indeed, their consumption is associated with many health benefits, such as reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease, coronary heart disease and other neurological disorders. These benefits are attributed to their fatty acid profiles, which is rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) [1]. As a result, walnuts are used in several food products, such as walnut-based beverages, where fat is partly dispersed under the form of natural lipoprotein assemblies, which are called oil bodies (OB).

Two questions remain pressing: what is walnut OB’s oxidative behavior and what are the consequences of oxidation on its interfacial reactivity?

Material and methods - characterization

Oxidative challenge test (PV, TBARS)

Confocal microscopy

Tensiometry/Ellipsometry

Atomic Force Microscopy

PV value

Conclusion: Walnuts OB were stable to oxidation on the short term (few days). This phenomenon is related to the “assembly effect” of OB and to their antioxidant content in vitamin E (41.0 ± 20.7 % wt.) [3]. The stability of lipid dispersion was higher under “milk” form due to a complex “matrix effect”.

Results - Interfacial behavior

How does the structural changes of oxidized OB affect the behaviour at the interface?

Conclusion: When OBs are intact, they open at the interface and spread out in domains and assemblies thanks to good cohesiveness between the different molecules. Oxidation phenomenon modified the physical integrity of the OB, decreasing intermolecular forces, which resulted in a different interfacial organization with a majority of lipids at the interface and solubilization of proteins.

CONCLUSION: Altogether, this study unveiled the interesting stability of OB and their specific interfacial reactivity opening the way to interesting food applications of these natural lipoprotein assemblies.

References