

Acceptability of peanut candy with different proportions of Kinako soy flour and substitution of sucrose by sucralose

Aceitabilidade de paçoca de amendoim com diferentes proporções de Farinha de soja Kinako e substituição da sacarose por sucralose

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ABSTRACT

Objective

The aim of this research was to produce new formulations of peanut “paçoca” candy, replacing peanut flour with Kinako flour, and check if the addition of this ingredient bears a negative impact on acceptance.

Methods

Eight formulations of peanut “paçoca” candy, sweetened with sucrose and sucralose, were prepared with partial and total replacement of peanut flour by Kinako flour. The assessment of the acceptance was carried out by 121 tasters, using the 9cm unstructured hedonic scale. Willingness to purchase the different samples was evaluated by a 5-point scale. In addition, a sociodemographic questionnaire was applied. The results were submitted to ANOVA and Tukey’s test.

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Results

Most of the survey participants stated that they rarely consume soybeans and/or soy derivatives. Regarding acceptance, among the eight formulations analyzed, samples sweetened with sucrose, containing either 100% peanut flour and 50% peanut flour replaced by Kinako flour, did not differ significantly between them ($p < 0.05$) and were the most appreciated by consumers considering the flavor and overall impression attributes.

Conclusion

The results showed that replacing peanut flour with Kinako flour in peanut “paçoca” candy is feasible and that more sensory studies are needed to add this flour to other foods, to provide the nutritional benefits present in soybean.

Keywords: Soy. Peanut. Acceptance.

RESUMO

Objetivo

O objetivo deste estudo foi produzir novas formulações de paçoca de amendoim, substituindo o amendoim pela farinha Kinako e verificar se a inserção deste ingrediente afeta negativamente na aceitação.

Métodos

Foram elaboradas oito formulações de doce de amendoim “tipo paçoca”, adoçados com sacarose e sucralose, com substituição parcial e total da farinha de amendoim por farinha Kinako. A avaliação de aceitação foi realizada por 121 provadores, através da utilização de escala hedônica não estruturada de 9 cm. A intenção de compra das amostras foi avaliada por uma escala de 5 pontos. Além disso, foi utilizado um questionário sociodemográfico. Os resultados foram submetidos à ANOVA, seguido pelo teste de médias de Tukey.

Resultados

A maioria dos participantes afirmou consumir soja e/ou derivados raramente. Em relação à aceitabilidade, dentre as oito formulações analisadas, as amostras adoçadas com sacarose, contendo 100% de amendoim e com 50% de substituição de amendoim por farinha Kinako, não diferiram significativamente entre si ($p < 0,05$) e foram as mais apreciadas pelos consumidores no atributo sabor e impressão Global.

Conclusão

Os resultados demonstraram que é viável a substituição de amendoim por farinha Kinako e que são necessários mais estudos sensoriais visando a inserção desta farinha em outros alimentos, com intuito de agregar os benefícios nutricionais presentes na soja.

Palavras-chave: Soja. Amendoim. Aceitação.

INTRODUCTION

The elaboration of protein products is necessary in many developing countries. Peanuts and soybeans that contain large amounts of protein are low-cost sources of protein and contribute to this purpose [1].

Comparing the protein content of both ingredients, peanuts have an average of 27.2% protein and soybean seeds 40.4% [2]. In addition, the amino acid composition of soybean approximates the amino acid composition of animal foods; hence it is often used as a replacement for meat protein [3].

Kinako is a soy flour, traditional in Japanese cuisine, made from the direct roasting of dry whole grains and their subsequent grinding [4]. Consuming three soy or Kinako tablespoons a day meets the minimum adult daily isoflavone requirements. In addition, Kinako flour is rich in protein and soluble fibers that are effective in controlling type II diabetes and lowering total cholesterol blood levels and Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol [4], [5].

Brazil produces a very popular peanut candy, known as paçoca [6]. The incorporation of Kinako flour and the replacement of sugar with sucralose in a paçoca candy promote the incorporation of the

benefits of soy in a food with indulgent characteristics, in addition to contributing to the reduction of sugar consumption by the population.

However, it is important to emphasize that, regardless of the product, and its potential benefits, successful introduction is ultimately determined by the consumer’s sensory acceptance. Any composition change yields a different product. Therefore, producers ought to be aware if the change is important that is, if it is recognized by consumers and affects their purchase intention. Which product’s features or combinations of features have changed? What can technology do to compensate should this change have negative effects? Answers to these kinds of questions are best obtained through the use of sensory assessment tests [7].

Considering the soy nutritional quality and its benefits, it is necessary to seek alternatives for the inclusion of this ingredient in the diet and the diversification of products without added sugar.

Given the above, this study aimed to develop *paçoça*-type peanut candy formulations with different proportions of Kinako Flour, sweetened with sucrose and sucralose, to determine the acceptability, purchase intention of the different samples and the frequency of consumption by the tasters in relation to soy and derivative products.

METHODS

Samples of *paçoça*-type peanut candy with different proportions of Kinako flour were prepared at the *Laboratório de Ciência Sensorial e Estudo do Consumidor* (LCSEC, Sensory Science and Consumer Study Laboratory), at the Faculdade de Engenharia de Alimentos (FEA, Faculty of Food Engineering) of *Universidade Estadual de Campinas* (UNICAMP).

The preparation of the samples and performance of the tests took place after approval by the Research Ethics Committee of the UNICAMP under CAAE Opinion No. 69756317.4.0000.5404

The following ingredients were purchased on the market in *Campinas-SP*: soybean Natubom® (*Campo Grande*, Brazil); roasted no-salt peanuts Santa Helena® (*Ribeirão Preto*, Brazil); commercial extra fine Santa Isabel® sucrose (*Novo Horizonte*, Brazil); Cisne® refined salt (*Cabo-Frio*, Brazil); Copra® flavorless coconut oil (*Maceió*, Brazil); Maltodextrin, Fructooligosaccharide (FOS) and Sucralose Sweetmix (*Sorocaba*, Brazil).

The *paçoça* formula was determined based on the study of Lima *et al.* [6]. Initially, the replacements of the percentage of peanut flour by Kinako flour were defined (Table 1).

After defining the proportions of peanuts and Kinako flour, eight candy formulations were developed (Table 2): two containing 100% peanut flour, one sweetened with sucrose (Psac) and another with sucralose (Psuc); three formulations (F1sac, F2sac, F3sac) with , 50:50, 25:75, 0:100 (m:m), proportions of peanut and Kinako flour respectively, sweetened with sucrose; three formulations (F1suc, F2suc, F3suc) with 50:50, 25:75, 0:100 (m:m) proportions of peanut and Kinako flour, sweetened with sucralose.

Table 1 – Percentages of peanut flour and Kinako flour used in the formulations.

Formulations	Flour (%)	
	Peanut Flour	Soybean flour
P _{sac} /P _{suc}	100	-
F1 _{sac} /F1 _{suc}	50	50
F2 _{sac} /F2 _{suc}	25	75
F3 _{sac} /F3 _{suc}	-	100

Note: P_{sac}/P_{suc}: 100% peanut flour; F1_{sac}/F1_{suc}: 50% peanut flour and 50% soy flour; F2_{sac}/F2_{suc}: 75% peanut flour and 25% soy flour; F3_{sac}/F3_{suc}: 100% soy flour.

Table 2 – Raw materials used for the formulation of *paçoca*-type candies with Kinako flour.

Samples	Ingredients (%)							
	Kinako Flour	Peanut Flour	Sucrose	Sodium	Maltodextrin	FOS	Sucralose	Coconut Oil
P _{sac}	-	62	37	1	-	-	0.04	-
F1 _{sac}	31	31	37	1	-	-	0.04	-
F2 _{sac}	46.05	15.5	37	1	-	-	0.04	-
F3 ₁₀₀	59	-	37	1	-	-	0.04	3
P _{suc}	-	62	-	1	28.96	8	0.04	-
F1 _{suc}	31	31	-	1	28.96	8	0.04	-
F2 _{suc}	46.5	15.5	-	1	28.96	8	0.04	-
F3 _{suc}	59	-	-	1	28.96	8	0.04	3

Note: P_{sac}: 100% sucrose-sweetened peanut flour; F1_{sac}: 50% peanut flour and 50% soy flour sweetened with sucrose, F2_{sac}: 75% peanut flour and 25% soy flour sweetened with sucrose; F3_{sac}: 100% soy flour sweetened with sucrose; P_{suc}: 100% sucralose-sweetened peanut flour; F1_{suc}: 50% peanut flour and 50% soy flour sweetened with sucralose, F2_{suc}: 75% peanut flour and 25% soy flour sweetened with sucralose; F3_{suc}: 100% soy flour sweetened with sucralose. FOS: Fructooligosaccharide.

For the preparation of soy flour, the grain was roasted at 150°C for 30 minutes in a ClimaPlusCombi Combi Oven – CPC (Rational®, Germany). Afterwards, soy and peanuts were separately crushed in an industrial blender, TA-02-N (Skymesen®, Brazil). The flours obtained were sieved in 60 mesh sieve to obtain uniformity of the granules and then packed in appropriate containers for later use in the formulations.

The dry ingredients (Kinako flour, peanut flour, refined salt, sucrose, maltodextrin, FOS and sucralose) were weighed and then homogenized for 2 minutes in an industrial blender, TA-02-N (Skymesen®, Brazil). In samples F3_{sac} and F3_{suc}, formulated with 100% soy flour, 3% deodorized coconut oil was added to improve consistency, facilitating the pressing and cutting operations.

The mixtures obtained were pressed in a 140.6 kgf/cm² hydraulic press (SchwingSiwa®, Brazil) up to 70.3 kgf/cm² pressure, for six minutes and then cut into squares (2cmx2cm). The candies were wrapped in PVC plastic film and stored protected from light and at room temperature until the time of sensory analysis.

The tests were applied at UNICAMP's LCSEC, in individual booths under white light, with temperature controlled at 25°C. The samples were served to the tasters in disposable white plastic mini dishes, coded with random three-digit numbers, in balanced complete blocks [8]. Inside the booths, the tasters had water available and a water cracker to cleanse the palate between samples intake.

One hundred twenty-one volunteer tasters participated in the test to assess acceptance. Initially, the judges signed the Informed Consent Form and answered a questionnaire containing questions related to age, gender and frequency of consumption of soy-based foods.

A 9 point unstructured hedonic scale was used, with limits being the terms "I Disliked Extremely" on the left and "Liked Extremely" on the right, for the attributes appearance, aroma, flavor, texture and impression [9].

The purchase intention of the tasters in relation to the samples was also evaluated, through the 5 points, purchase intention scale, which ranged from 1 – certainly would buy to 5 – certainly not. The consumer test was evaluated using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), Tukey's test of means with the aid of the Statistical Analysis System (SAS) 9.4 program.

RESULTS

A total of 121 tasters participated in the acceptance test, with 68% of the tasters being female and 32% male. Most participants (87.6%) were between 18 and 30 years old, and 8.4% were between 31 and

40 years old. The tasters in the age range of 41 to 50 years were 3% and only 1% of the tasters were over 50 years old.

Regarding the level of education, 54% of participants attended higher education courses and 7% had completed higher education, followed by 36% of graduate students and 3% with complete high school.

Data regarding soybean and/or soy products frequency of consumption were collected (Figure 1). The results obtained in this investigation demonstrate that the participants profile included mostly young people with a high level of education and the vast majority (65.80%) seldom consumed soybean and/or soy by-products.

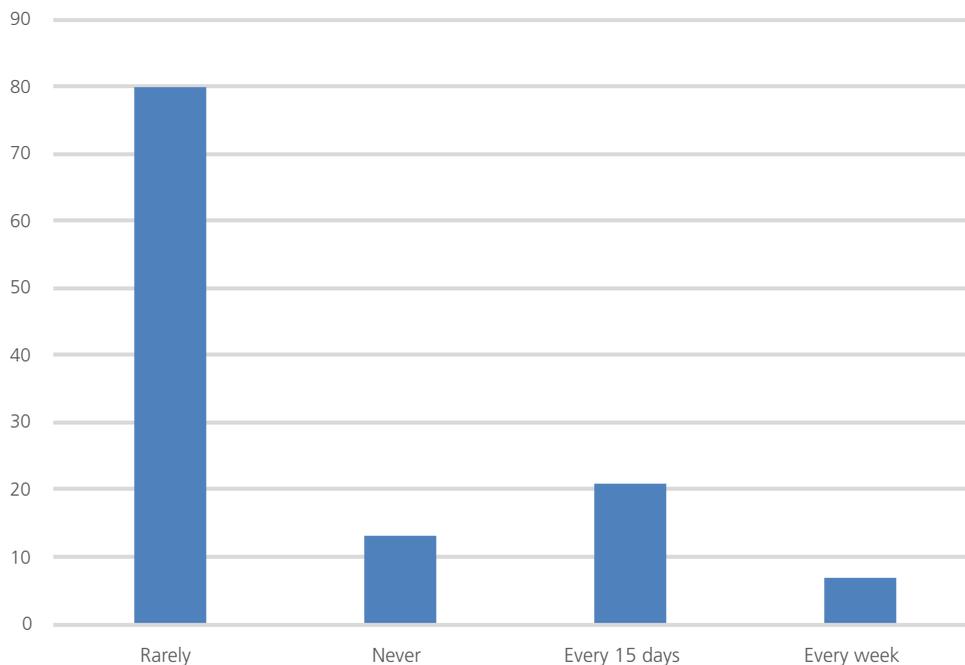


Figure 1 – Consumption frequency of soybean and/or soy products by the study participants.

According to the data collected, we observe that the consumption of soybeans and soy derivatives is low.

Regarding the averages obtained in the acceptance test, for the eight candy samples, we can observe (Table 3) that the samples Psac and F1sac did not differ significantly ($p \leq 0.05$) in relation to appearance, aroma, flavor, texture and global impression and obtained the highest sensory averages in most attributes; they were the samples most preferred by the tasters. Nevertheless, for all attributes, all samples means were above the indifference score [4,5].

When sucrose was replaced by sucralose, it was observed that the samples with the sweetener in their composition differed statistically ($p > 0.05$) from those that were sweetened with sucrose with regard to global impression, with the exception of the F3 formulation.

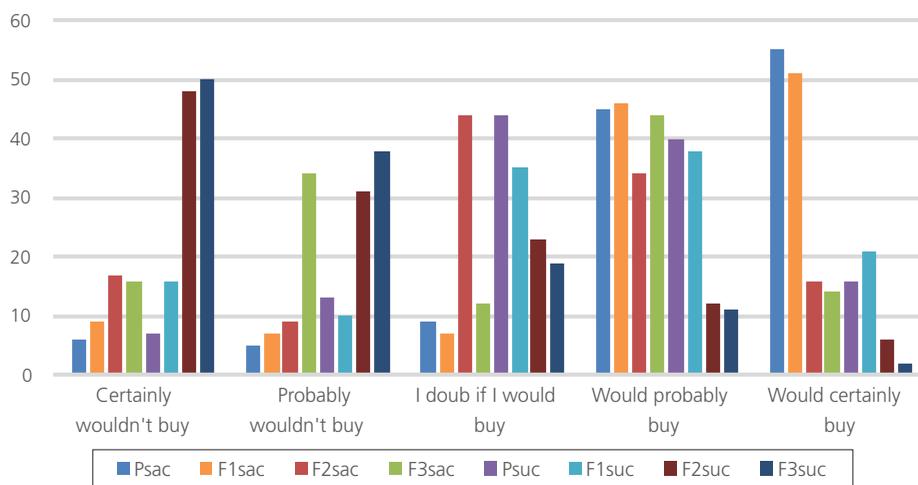
When comparing samples sweetened with sucrose versus samples sweetened with sucralose, it is noted that the diet formulations are lighter color. Possibly the inclusion of ingredients such as Maltodextrin and Fructooligosaccharide contributed to this result. Both ingredients have a white tone.

Table 3 – Average values attributed by consumers for the eight peanut candy samples with replacement of Kinako flour.

Attributes	Samples								MSD*
	P _{sac}	F1 _{sac}	F2 _{sac}	F3 _{sac}	P _{suc}	F1 _{suc}	F2 _{suc}	F3 _{suc}	
Appearance	7.22 ^a	7.11 ^{ab}	6.82 ^{ab}	6.52 ^b	6.57 ^{bc}	6.69 ^{bc}	6.62 ^{bc}	6.22 ^c	0.52
Aroma	6.81 ^a	6.46 ^{ab}	5.97 ^b	5.84 ^b	5.90 ^b	5.75 ^b	5.90 ^b	5.39 ^b	0.64
Taste	7.52 ^a	7.32 ^a	6.10 ^b	5.84 ^b	6.24 ^b	5.98 ^b	4.90 ^c	4.06 ^d	0.69
Texture	6.75 ^a	6.56 ^a	5.91 ^{bc}	5.82 ^{bc}	6.35 ^{ab}	5.73 ^{bc}	5.36 ^c	4.67 ^d	0.66
Overall impression	7.25 ^a	7.12 ^a	6.37 ^b	5.76 ^{bc}	6.38 ^b	5.92 ^{bc}	5.37 ^c	4.95 ^c	0.62

Note: *MSD: Minimum Significant Difference to establish difference according to Tukey's test ($p < 0.05$); Means with equal letters on the same line do not differ statistically from each other ($p < 0.05$); $n = 121$; Flour concentration (peanut/soybean) in the formulations: P_{sac}: 100% peanut flour sweetened with sucrose; F1_{sac}: 50% peanut flour and 50% soy flour sweetened with sucrose, F2_{sac}: 75% peanut flour and 25% soy flour sweetened with sucrose; F3_{sac}: 100% soy flour sweetened with sucrose; P_{suc}: 100% sucralose-sweetened peanut flour; F1_{suc}: 50% peanut flour and 50% soy flour sweetened with sucralose, F2_{suc}: 75% peanut flour and 25% soy flour sweetened with sucralose; F3_{suc}: 100% soy flour sweetened with sucralose.

According to the purchase intention data (Figure 2), more than 50% of consumers would certainly buy the P_{sac} and F1_{sac} samples and only 3% the F3_{suc} sample.

**Figure 2** – Purchase intent graph for the eight peanut candy samples with different proportions of Kinako flour.

Note: P_{sac}: 100% sucrose-sweetened peanut flour; F1_{sac}: 50% peanut flour and 50% soy flour sweetened with sucrose, F2_{sac}: 75% peanut flour and 25% soy flour sweetened with sucrose; F3_{sac}: 100% soy flour sweetened with sucrose; P_{suc}: 100% sucralose-sweetened peanut flour; F1_{suc}: 50% peanut flour and 50% soy flour sweetened with sucralose, F2_{suc}: 75% peanut flour and 25% soy flour sweetened with sucralose; F3_{suc}: 100% soy flour sweetened with sucralose.

DISCUSSION

Consumer's acceptance of soy-based functional foods is not well known [10]. Despite the fact that Brazil is a major global producer of soybean, studies found that the consumption of soy and derivatives by Brazilians is low, corroborating the data found in this investigation [11,12].

Regarding the acceptability of the products in this study, samples with total replacement of peanut flour by Kinako flour were less appreciated by consumers. The higher the percentage of peanut replacement with Kinako flour, the lower the acceptance averages attributed. Similar results were found in the study by Romanchik-Cerpovicz, Abbott & Dent [13].

However, Faria *et al.* [14] evaluated the effect of replacing whey protein with soy protein isolate in cereal bar formulations. Sensory evaluation was performed by Diabetic (DB) and Non-Diabetic (NDB) consumers. The tasters did not identify a significant difference ($p \leq 0.05$) between the samples; however, the acceptability test showed that the PB1 sample containing 75% of isolated soy protein obtained more frequently a score of 9 (36.30%), followed by PB2 and PB3 (both 34.09%).

Mariani *et al.* [15] evaluated the sensory characteristics of gluten-free biscuits made from rice flour, rice bran and soy flour. Only the texture attribute of the biscuit made with rice bran and soy flour was considered inferior to the standard biscuit. The other attributes (appearance, aroma, flavor and overall impression) were considered by the evaluators to be of similar quality to the standard biscuit. Biscuits made from rice and soy flour and rice bran (FAFEFS) revealed a higher purchase intention.

Regarding the replacement of sucrose by sucralose in the candies prepared in this trial, it is noted that the diet formulations are clearer. Possibly the inclusion of ingredients such as Maltodextrin and Fructooligosaccharide contributed to this result, reflecting on the data for appearance (Table 3). Both ingredients have a white tone. For Morais *et al.* [16] the color is directly influenced by the raw materials used in the formulation.

The formulations developed in this study, with total replacement of peanuts by soybeans, had a lower degree of acceptance compared to the others; however, for all attributes, all samples had averages above 4.5. Considering that a 9 point scale was used, scores above 4.5 are considered positive for acceptance, while scores below 4.5 were considered negative.

CONCLUSION

The study allowed verifying that the replacement of peanut flour by Kinako flour in “paçoça-like” candies is sensorially acceptable. Partial replacement of 50% peanut flour with soy flour had better averages for all attributes evaluated, however all formulations scored averages above 4.5.

It is noteworthy that most participants rarely consume soybeans and/or soy derivatives and even so, the Kinako flour candies were appreciated by consumers. In view of this, sensory studies are needed to include this flour in different foods, in order to add the nutritional benefits present in soybean.

CONTRIBUTORS

M CAMPOS designed the study, performed the trial, collected and analyzed the data, and wrote the manuscript. C PEREIRA and A MEDEIROS worked on the data analysis and interpretation process and edited the article draft. H BOLINI worked on the study design process, analyzed the results, edited the draft, critically reviewed all documents and approved the final manuscript for submission.

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