

Effect of Green Banana Peel Flour Substitution on Physical Characteristics of Gluten-Free Cakes

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ABSTRACT

Celiac Disease is the most common food-sensitive enteropathy in humans that is triggered by the consumption of wheat gluten as well as related with protein in barley, rye and oat. The only treatment ever known for celiac disease is gluten-free diet. Most gluten-free food product on the market is rich in starch but poor in terms of other nutrients, functional and health beneficial ingredients. Green (unripe) banana is a good source of resistant starch, non-starch polysaccharides including dietary fiber, antioxidants, polyphenols, essential minerals such as potassium, various vitamins e.g. provitamin A, carotenoid, B1, B2, C which are important for human health. In this research, it is aimed to develop nutritious and functional gluten free cake formulations by substituting green banana peel flour (GBPF) with rice flour (5%, 10%, 15% and 20%) and to investigate physical properties of GBPF substituted cakes. Cake volume, specific volume, density, baking loss and height of the cakes were in the range of 831.44 – 1034.11 cm³, 1.91-2.41 cm³/g, 0.41-0.52 g/cm³, 16.38-18.14% and 4.36-5.77 cm respectively. As a result, GBPF substituted gluten free cakes were successfully produced. Physical analyses of gluten free cakes showed that 5% and 10% GBPF substitution did not affect gluten free cake volume, specific volume, density and baking loss negatively. 5% and 10% GBPF substituted cakes were not different from control cake statistically ($p > 0.05$). However, substitution levels of 15% and 20% resulted in poorer physical properties. Sensory analysis (data not shown) indicated that all GBPF substitution levels were acceptable, as determined by hedonic scale tests. By developing a nutritious gluten free cake alternative, it is expected to provide an alternative in the dietary diversity of individuals with celiac disease.

Keywords: Gluten-free cake, banana peel flour, green banana, unripe banana, physical properties.

INTRODUCTION

Celiac disease (CD), also called Gluten Enteropathy and Coeliac Sprue, is one of the most common food induced diseases in humans. The prevalence is approximately 0.3-1% in the general population of World¹ and is increasing. CD is triggered by the consumption of wheat gluten in barley (hordein) and rye (secalin)² and related cereals in genetically predisposed individuals³. Uncontaminated oats are tolerated by most patients with coeliac disease but are not totally innocent⁴. CD is associated with maldigestion and

malabsorption of nutrients, vitamins, and minerals in the gastrointestinal tract since it leads to the atrophy of the intestinal villus³.

CD is a life-long disease that is an autoimmune enteropathy that can occur at any age and the only treatment available for CD individuals is a strict and life-long Gluten-free Diet⁵. Gluten-free diet requires significant lifestyle changes in celiac individuals and a critical process of adaptation. Therefore, researches on the nutritious alternatives supporting similar features with the wheat based formulations has importance in terms of improving

the quality of celiac individuals' lives, as well as supporting nutrient intake, enabling adaptation to gluten-free diet and increasing availability on the market by increasing the variety of gluten-free products. However, gluten-free raw materials do not possess gluten-forming proteins or baking properties.

Therefore, many GF-cereal products (especially breads) available on the market are still of low quality with a dry crumbling texture and a dense crumb structure, resulting in poor mouthfeel and a poor flavour^{6,7}.

Recently, possibility of using green banana pulp or peel flour as a functional gluten-free ingredient to produce gluten free products with high nutritional value and good quality is reported by many researchers.

Bananas are fruit of the *Musa spp.*, comprising dessert banana (*Musa AAA*) and plantain (cooking banana, *Musa BBB*). It is reported by Sarawong *et al.*⁸ to be one of the most produced and consumed food crops in the world, and its worldwide production tends to increase. When banana is green (unripe), it is a good source of dietary fibre, resistant starch (RS2 type: ungelatinised starch granule), antioxidants (especially catechin, epicatechin and gallic acid), total phenolics, minerals (Ca, Mg, P, K) and vitamins (pro-vitamin A, B1, B2, C)^{9,10,11,12,13,14,15}.

The peel of banana that represents about 40% of the total weight of banana¹⁶ has been underutilized despite the beneficial health benefits for humans¹⁷ and to be able to offer new product with standard composition for various industrial and domestic uses¹⁸.

The recent studies on banana pulp and peel has focused on drying characteristics^{9,19,20,21,22,23,24} physicochemical properties²⁵, rheological and antioxidant properties¹⁴, phenolic profiling²⁶ of their unripe pulp and peel flours, antioxidant activity of peel extracts²⁷ and antioxidant phenolic compounds of banana peel flours²⁸.

Researches on product development using banana peel are very limited. Ramli *et al.*¹¹ prepared

yellow alkaline noodles by partial substitution of wheat flour with ripe banana pulp and peel flours. They reported that Cavendish banana pulp and peel flour could be useful for controlling starch hydrolysis of yellow noodle. Onwuka and Onwuka,²⁹ has investigated the effects of three different stages of ripening on the chemical composition and functional properties of green plantain pulp flour and plantain flour based cake. Yomeni *et al.*,³⁰ studied the effects of four different stages of ripening on sensory and physicochemical characteristics of plantain cakes and chips.

However, to the best of authors' knowledge, there are no studies related to the utilization of green Cavendish banana peel flour in gluten free cake production. In this study, it is aimed to develop nutritious and functional GF cakes by substituting green banana peel flour (GBPF) with rice flour (5%, 10%, 15% and 20%) and to determine some physical properties of control and GBPF substituted cakes.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

110-120 days grown green bananas (*Musa Cavendishii*) which are going to be used in production of green banana peel flour, were harvested (Gazipaşa, Antalya) and transferred to Manisa Celal Bayar University in 12 hours. The colour index of green banana peel was 2 (completely green) with reference to commercial peel colour scale¹³. Gluten free rice flour was supplied from Ege Glutensiz Ekmek ve Gıda Ürünleri San. Tic. Ltd. Şti., Xanthan gum was supplied from Smart Kimya Ltd. Şti., Granulated sugar (Balküüpü), eggs (Güres XL A class), baking soda (Dr.Oetker) and sunflower seed oil (Yonca) were supplied from a local market in Manisa.

Production of Green Banana Peel Flour (GBPF)

Green bananas coming to the laboratory were immersed in clean water^{31,32} to remove latex and dirt, and washed efficiently. Peels were removed and rinsed in citric acid solution (1g/L)³³. They were cut into 2 - 3 cm pieces (Figure 1), rinsed again for one minute in citric acid solution (1g/L) and stored at -18°C before lyophilization. Frozen peels were freeze-dried for 48 hours (24 hours sublimation, 24 hours desorption) in a freeze-drier (Cryst-alfa 2,4 LD Plus, Newtown Wem, Shropshire, UK) and ground

using a blade grinder (Retsch, GRINDOMIX 200, Germany). Figure 2 shows green banana peel slices after lyophilization. Green banana peel flour particles under 212 μm (Figure 3) were collected after passing through a sieve shaker (Şimşek Laborteknik, ES-608, Turkey) for five minutes. GBPF (Figure 3) was stored in sealed glass containers at 4°C until gluten free cake production. Green banana peel flour was characterized in Table 1.

METHODS

Cake Production

Cake dough was prepared according to Gularte *et al.*³⁴ with some modifications. Gluten free cake formulation was presented in Table 2. GBPF was substituted with rice flour in proportions of 5%, 10%, 15% and 20%. All powdery ingredients (rice flour, green banana flour, baking soda, xanthan gum) were mixed homogeneously in a closed vessel and then added to the kneader machine (Kitchenaid Artisan, USA), which other ingredients (sugar, milk, sunflower seed oil) had been put in before. All ingredients were mixed for one minute at 4th cycle followed by 9 minutes at 6th cycle. Baking process was performed at 175 °C for 70 minutes. All physical analyses were carried out after one hour

cooling process. Control and green banana peel flour substituted cakes were given in Figure 4.

Physical Analysis

Volume (mL), specific volume (cm^3/g), density (g/cm^3) and height (cm) were carried out according to Ho *et al.*³⁵. Baking loss was calculated according to Hathorn *et al.*³⁶.

Cake weight: Cakes were weighed in grams (g) using analytical balance.

Cake volume: Cake volume was measured by rapeseed displacement method.

Cake specific volume: Cake specific volume was calculated by following formula after measuring cake volume and weight.

$$\text{Specific volume } (\text{cm}^3/\text{g}) = \frac{\text{Cake volume}}{\text{Cake weight}}$$

Cake density: Cake density was calculated by following formula after measuring cake volume and weight.

$$\text{Density } (\text{g}/\text{cm}^3) = \frac{\text{Cake weight}}{\text{Cake volume}}$$



Fig. 1: Green Banana Peel Slices rinsed citric acid solution



Fig. 2: Green Banana Peel Slices dried by Lyophilization



Fig. 3: Green banana peel flour milled and sieved

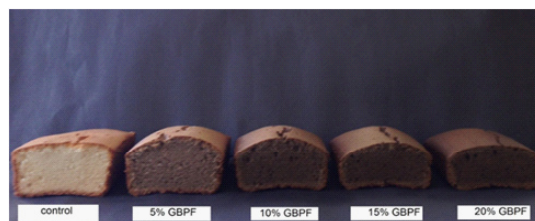


Fig. 4: The front cutaway view of GF cake based rice flour with the substitution levels; 0 %, 5 %, 10 %, 15 %, 20 % of Green Banana Peel Flour (GBPF)

Baking loss: Baking loss of was calculated by following formula after measuring dough weight (DW) and cake weight (CW).

$$\text{Baking loss \%} = \frac{\text{DW} - \text{CW}}{\text{CW}} \times 100$$

Cake height: Cake height was calculated as mean value of 3 height measurements comprising middle point height and 2 highest points.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Physical properties of gluten free control and GBPF substituted cakes were given in Table 3. Use of GBPF in cake production affected physical properties of cakes which were determined in terms

Table 1: Proximate components and some physicochemical properties of green banana peel flour

Moisture (%)	2.83 ± 0.08
Ash (%dm ¹)	1.22 ± 0.52
Fat (%dm ¹)	6.17 ± 0.27
Protein (%dm ¹)	11.16 ± 0.06
Carbohydrates (%)	81.44
a _w	0.194
pH	4.74 ± 0.05
Titrateable acidity (g malic acid/100 g)	1.72 ± 0.09
L*	65.16 ± 0.13
a*	-1.72 ± 0.01
b*	22.49 ± 0.02

¹Dry matter

Values are mean ± SE, n=6

of cake volume, specific volume, density, height and baking loss statistically ($p < 0.05$). 5% and 10% GBPF substitution did not affect cake volume statistically. However, cake volume decreased dramatically by 15% and 20% substitution levels which were also statistically different from control cake. As reported by Stauffer³⁷ a, volume, specific volume and intensity of cake is related with viscosity of dough. Viscosity of dough should be proper for holding the air, which is produced by baking powder during baking process and also coming from outside by mixing the dough. Therefore, increase in viscosity by adding small amounts of fiber helped holding the air and increased volume of cake. Use of high amounts of fiber resulted high dough viscosity; this situation prevented enlargement and caused decrease of cake volume as formerly explained by Gomez *et al.*³⁸. In a similar way, high percentage of substitution (15% and 20% GBPF) on cake production resulted in lower cake volume, specific volume and higher cake density and these cakes were statistically different from control cake ($p < 0.05$). Increase of GBPF substitution resulted in decrease of volume and specific volume which lead to increase of cake intensity.

Cake specific volume, which is defined as volume of unit cake mass, decreased by increasing GBPF level as a result of high dough viscosity preventing rising of cake in the oven. Similar to cake volume, 5% and 10% GBPF substituted cakes were not statistically different from control cake in terms of specific volume. Gomez *et al.*³⁸ produced fiber enriched cakes by substituting 12%, 24% and 36% wheat bran, oat bran and cellulose with wheat flour. When control cake (volume: 508.0 mL, specific

Table 2: Gluten-free cake formulation

Ingredients (g)	Control cake	5 % GBPF	10 % GBPF	15 % GBPF	20 % GBPF
Rice flour	150	142.5	135	127.5	120
GBPF	0	7.5	15	22.5	30
Sugar	150	150	150	150	150
Xsantan gum	0.616	0.616	0.616	0.616	0.616
Baking powder	5.625	5.625	5.625	5.625	5.625
Sunflower seed oil	56.25	56.25	56.25	56.25	56.25
Egg	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75
Semi-skimmed milk	112.5	112.5	112.5	112.5	112.5

Table 3: Some physical properties of GF control cake and GF cakes with green banana peel flour (GBPF)

Cake sample	Cake Volume (cm ³)	Specific Volume (cm ³ /g)	Density (g/cm ³)	Baking Loss(%)	Height (cm)
Control	1002.11 ^a ±76.337	2.35 ^a ±0.163	0.43 ^c ±0.029	18.14 ^a ±0.698	5.32 ^b ±1.473
5%GBPF	1034.11 ^a ±4.160	2.41 ^a ±0.015	0.41 ^c ±0.003	17.85 ^{ab} ±0.582	5.77 ^a ±0.670
10%GBPF	985.11 ^{ab} ±44.404	2.29 ^{ab} ±0.107	0.44 ^{bc} ±0.021	17.49 ^{ab} ±0.288	5.44 ^b ±2.776
15%GBPF	906.44 ^{bc} ±43.473	2.10 ^{bc} ±0.109	0.48 ^b ±0.025	17.02 ^{bc} ±0.547	4.74 ^c ±1.060
20%GBPF	831.44 ^c ±45.806	1.91 ^c ±0.108	0.52 ^a ±0.028	16.38 ^c ±0.220	4.36 ^d ±0.960

Values are mean ± SE, n=3.

Means with the same letter in a column are not statistically different from each other (p<0.05).

volume:2.74 cm³/g) was compared with other cakes, substitution of different fiber sources increased volumes and specific volumes of cakes to a certain extent. It was found that 36% fiber substituted cakes (569.1 mL, 3.10 cm³/g) had higher volume and specific volume values than control cake, but had lower volume and specific volume than 12% substituted cake (615.4 mL, 3.35 cm³/g) and 24% substituted cake (626.2 mL, 3.40 cm³/g). In a study conducted by Sharoba *et al.*³⁹, fruit and vegetable wastes were utilized in production of wheat flour cake; 500-600 μm fiber particles which had been obtained from orange waste, carrot pulp, orange peel and green pea pod, were used as dietary fiber source. Different fiber particles with 5%, 10%, 15% and 20% percentages were substituted with wheat flour and it was determined that all cakes had higher volumes and specific volumes than control cake. Besides, percentage increases of dietary fiber substitution induced increase in volumes and specific volumes. When volume (1084.93 mL) and specific volume (2.38 cm³/g) of control cake were compared with others, 20% orange waste pulp enriched cake had the highest volume (1481.28 mL) and specific volume (3.21 cm³/g). Green pea pod (1391.24 mL), carrot pulp (1357.42 mL) and potato peel (1286.59 mL) fiber enriched cakes by 20% followed orange waste pulp enriched cake. However, in our study increasing GBPF levels (15% and 20%) used as fiber source resulted in decreasing cake volume and specific volume. This may be related with differences in cake formulations, particle size and source of fibers.

Cake density, which is defined as weight of unit cake volume (g/cm³), increased by ascending GBPF substitution (Table 3). There were no differences between density of control cakes and 5%, 10% GBPF substituted cakes, likewise volume and specific volume values of cakes (p>0.05).

When cake height values were investigated, 5% GBPF substituted cake had the highest height which was statistically different from control and other gluten free cakes (p<0.05). It was determined that average height of control cake (5.32 cm) was statistically similar with 10% GBPF substituted cake (5.44 cm), and substitution levels higher than 10% GBPF resulted in a dramatical decrease of cake height values.

Baking loss of 5% and 10% GBPF substituted cakes were statistically similar with control cake. 15% and 20% GBPF substituted cakes had less baking loss and were statistically different from control. Mohamed *et al.*⁴⁰ reported that green banana flour components which had high water binding capacity, especially insoluble fibers (lignin, cellulose, hemicellulose), could cause water intake from other ingredients in product formulation. They also reported that high percentage substitution of green banana flour leads to high water intake from other ingredients in product formulation, and it effects quality characteristics of dough and final product such as volume, hardness and colour negatively. When Table 3 is examined, decrease of cake volume, specific volume and height by high

percentage substitution of GBPF (15% and 20%) can be explained by this phenomenon. In our study, decrease of baking loss with increasing GBPF substitution level may be attributed to high water holding capacity (4.91-5.88 g water/ g dry matter) reported by Alkarkhi *et al.*²⁵ which is a functional characteristic of green banana flour.

As a result, GBPF substituted gluten free cakes were successfully produced. Physical analyses of gluten free cakes showed that 5% and 10% GBPF substitution did not affect gluten free cake volume, specific volume, density and baking loss negatively. 5% and 10% GBPF substituted cakes were not different from control cake statistically ($p > 0.05$).

However, substitution levels of 15% and 20% resulted in poorer physical properties. Apart from these results given in the study, sensory analysis (data not shown) indicated that all gluten free GBPF substituted cakes were sensorially acceptable as a result of hedonic tests, 5% and 10% GBPF substituted cakes receiving higher scores than 15% and 20%.

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