

Effect of Convective Drying Method of Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa* L.) on Drying Kinetics, Bioactive Components and Sensory Characteristics of Bread with Chokeberry Powder

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Abstract

The effects of three dehydration temperatures at 50, 60 and 70 °C of convective drying method on fresh fruits of black chokeberries (*Aronia melanocarpa* L.) were evaluated. The drying temperatures were found to have significantly different effects on the characteristics of dried fruits and powders, made by the dried fruits. The maximum drying rate at a temperature of 50 °C was 59 g/h, at 60 °C 102 g/h, and at 70 °C 115 g/h, and thus the drying time was 37 hours, 27 hours and 23 hours respectively. The drying temperature at 50 °C caused the least damage to the cell structure of the fresh chokeberries, bioactive components (anthocyanins, flavonoids, phenols) and total antioxidant activity. The dehydrated chokeberries at the temperature of 50 °C had the highest ratio of total anthocyanins (376.89 ± 5.73 mg cyn-3-glu / 100 g dm), total flavonoids (1037.19 ± 3.83 mg CE / 100 g dm), phenols (1918.79 ± 3.26 mg GAE / 100 g dm) and antioxidant activity (37.11 ± 0.28 mg TE / 100 g dm). The drying process at a temperature of 50 °C required longer drying period, higher energy need and produced the chokeberry powder, which gave the bread with the best sensory characteristics, compared to a drying process at a temperature of 60 °C and 70 °C.

Keywords

convective dehydration, antioxidants, fruit powder, bread, sensory characteristics

1 Introduction

Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa* L.) belongs to the *Rosaceae* family. It may be a deciduous bush found in damp woods and swamps. Its dark berries are comparable to dark currents with a really astringent enhance [1]. The advantageous impacts of chokeberry have been proposed to be ascribed to polyphenols. Polyphenols contribute to health benefits due to its strong antioxidative ability, such as free radical scavenging, oxygen radical absorbance, and chelation of metal ions. They reduce the level of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol in the blood, preventively acting on cardiovascular diseases, reducing the glucose level in the blood, diabetes and gastrointestinal protection [2, 3]. Because of polyphenols (tannins, phenolic acids, and bitter eriodictyol glucuronide), black chokeberry has a bitter and a tart taste [4]. Bioactive components of chokeberry are four anthocyanins, nine flavonoids, two phenolic acids and five quercetins [1]. Total flavonoids content ranging from 3.73 in

chokeberry juice, through 7.85 in fruits to 10.58 g CE / 100 g dry matter (dm) in pomace [5, 6].

One of the fruit products is fruit powders, obtained after the drying process of fresh fruit or juice. Fruit powders are commonly used as intermediates, natural food colorants and supplements [7]. Among the drying techniques, the most commonly used in the food industry is the traditional convection air drying method. This method is a long-time performance. Dried products have low porosity and quality, compared to the fresh products. Drying process causes changes in the quality and quantity of bioactive compounds and their antioxidant capacity [8]. The quality of dehydrated products is defined by physical (texture, appearance, porosity, color) and chemical characteristics (residual nutrients from fresh fruit) [9, 10].

Bread, containing bioactive antioxidants, such as caffeic acid, quercetin, procyanidin and anthocyanins might

be important consumers demand [11]. The bioactive components (antioxidants) in bread may be protected by binding to wheat proteins during or degradation / oxidation of dough formation. Added bioactive components may result in a dilution of gluten (wheat protein), causing reduced loaf volume, because of altered cross-linking [12].

In this study, comparative evaluations on the sensory properties of bread with and without chokeberry powders were analyzed, based on physical and chemical properties (convective drying, solid dry content and acidity, rehydration ratio and water absorption capacity), and properties of bioactive components (anthocyanins, flavonoids, phenols, antioxidant activity) of dried and ground chokeberries, as a wheat powder substitute.

2 Experimental

Fruits of chokeberry (black aronia, *Aronia melanocarpa* L.) were collected in August 2018, from the village Kušići, located on Javor mountain (43°28'40.8"N, 20°03'35.7"E, Serbia) and stored in the refrigerator at a temperature of + 4 °C, for no longer than 3 days. The ethanol extracts were prepared from fresh and dried fruits. Fruits were dissolved in 96 % ethanol, slightly milled and placed in the ultrasonic bath (VabSonic, SB-1,5L SH, Serbia) for 30 minutes, filtered, placed in small jars and stored in a refrigerator. A total of seven samples were prepared (fresh fruits, fruits dried at 50, 60 and 70 °C and fruit extracts from the fruits dried at 50, 60 and 70 °C). Dried fruits and fruit extracts were stored in the refrigerator at a temperature of + 4 °C, for no longer than 10 days.

2.1 Experimental drying process

The uncrushed berries were dried by a convective method in a dehydrator (Colossus CSS 5330, PRC) at temperatures of 50, 60 and 70 °C at atmospheric pressure, to the constant weight. Drying of uncrushed fruit will keep a higher level of antioxidant bioactive components (especially anthocyanins), then drying the crushed fruits [13]. The dehydrator is a vertical device, with a central fan (power 250 W at 220 V and constant 0.25 ms⁻¹ air drying velocity) and top perforated cover. Three series of fresh fruits (1200 ± 0.1 g) were measured and divided into five plastic perforated layers (32 cm in diameter), each one consisting of 240 g fruit (5 × 240 g = 1200 g). Dried fruits were milled in a grinder (Delimano Chopper, Switzerland, power 200 W / 50 Hz) and powders were obtained. The milling process was short and pulsed (30 seconds of milling, 60 seconds of stabilization).

The drying kinetics was based on mass losses of chokeberry [14]. The moisture ratio (*MR*) is defined according to Eq. (1):

$$MR = \frac{M_t - M_e}{M_o - M_e} \quad (1)$$

M_t , M_o and M_e denote moisture content achieved after drying time t , initial moisture content, and equilibrium moisture content, respectively. The value of equilibrium moisture content (M_e) usually is very low and can be omitted from Eq. (1) without a significant change in the value of *MR*.

The drying kinetics could be also expressed as a change in the total mass of fruits ($M_{t-1} - M_t$) in the interval of time between 2 measurements ($t_{t-1} - t_t$) on a particular tray during the drying process (drying ratio, *DR*) [15].

2.2 Soluble solid content, dry matter content and acidity

The soluble solid content (*SSC*) of the fruit was determined on a manual refractometer (3828 Carl Zeiss, Germany). The dry matter content (*DMC*) was determined by drying the fruit at 105 °C until a constant mass (Sutjeska, Serbia). The acidity (pH values) of fresh fruit was determined with pH meter (CyberScan CON 510, Eutech, The Netherlands), directly in the fruit juice. Dried fruits were milled and dissolved (25 % solution) in distilled water, placed in a boiling water bath for 30 minutes, cooled under the cold water and eventually, the pH values were determined [16].

2.3 Total anthocyanins, flavonoids, phenols and antioxidant activity

Total anthocyanins content (*TAC*) of extracts was determined using the pH–differential method. The values are expressed as milligrams of cyanidin-3-glucoside equivalents per 100 g dry matter using a molar extinction coefficient of 26900 and the molecular weight of 449.2 g/mol [17]. Total flavonoids content (*TFC*) of extracts was determined by a colorimetric method [18]. The results are expressed as milligrams of catechin equivalents per 100 g dry matter (mg CE / 100 g dm). Total phenols content (*TPC*) of extracts was determined by a modified Folin-Ciocalteu colorimetric method, with results expressed as milligrams of gallic acid equivalents per 100 g dry matter (mg GAE / 100 g dm) [19]. Antioxidant activity (antioxidant capacity, *AA*) was measured by the DPPH assays. Results were expressed as Trolox equivalent antioxidant capacity (mg TE per 100 g dm) [19].

2.4 Rehydration ratio and water absorption capacity

Rehydration experiments were carried out in distilled water at room temperature. Dried fruits (4 g) were added to 100 ml of distilled water and mixed thoroughly. The samples were rehydrated for 24 hours, and the rehydration temperature was kept constant. At the end of the rehydration process, the unabsorbed water was decanted, and the weight and moisture content were determined. The rehydration ratio (R_r) was expressed as a ratio of water absorbed by the dried fruits (g) to the weight of the dried fruits (g).

The coefficient of rehydration (C_r) is water absorption during the rehydration process [20]. W_r is the weight of rehydrated fruits, W_d the weight of the dried sample, A the moisture of fresh fruits (% wet matter) and its moisture is about 1 % (W_u). The coefficient of rehydration (C_r) is calculated by Eq. (2):

$$C_r = \frac{W_r \cdot (100 - A)}{W_d - W_d \cdot \frac{W_u}{100}} \quad (2)$$

2.5 Method of laboratory bread baking

The amount of powder, yeast, salt, and other ingredients was mixed in a Diosna-type mixer (Colossus CSS5406, PRC) for 3 minutes. The dough was removed from the mixer, measured, shaped and fermented in a thermostat at 30 °C for 90 minutes, with occasional re-mixing [21]. After the fermentation process was finished, the dough was split, shaped and placed on a canvas in a knitted basket, for final fermentation. The final fermentation was carried out in a thermostat at 30 °C and relative humidity of 75 %, for 50 minutes. The bread was baked in the laboratory oven at 220–250 °C for about 20 minutes. The working space in the laboratory oven was saturated with steam. When the baking process was finished, the baked bread was placed on a wooden grid to cool down and wrapped in aluminum foil and left for 24 hours at room temperature, prior to sensory evaluation of bread quality after 24 hours.

Composition of bread ingredients was as follows: wheat flour type T400 (total ash \leq 0.45 %, total water \leq 5 %) 100 %, dried chokeberry powder (10 % + 90 % wheat flour type T400), crystal sugar (sucrose, 1.50 %) salt (1.85 %), fresh yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, 3.0 %, palm fat (1.85 %) and distilled water (58.0 %).

2.6 Method of sensory evaluation of bread quality

Sensory evaluation of bread quality (500 \pm 0.1 g of bread sample) was determined by scoring and QDA method [21, 22],

by a panel of six trained evaluators. Evaluators identified descriptors and scored taste using a 6-point scale (0 – not detected, 5 – strong). QDA method is qualitative descriptive analysis method which involves evaluating (from 1 to 5, 0.5 increments) individual quality parameters and their input into polar coordinates. The combination of five evaluated labels determined the quality diagram of bread.

2.7 Statistics

All samples were analyzed triplicates. The results are expressed as mean values \pm standard deviation (SD). Differences were considered significant if P -values were under 0.05. Statistical analysis of experimental data was performed using the Statistica (Tukey HSD Test), [23].

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Effects of drying temperature on the quality parameters of chokeberry

The moisture content of fresh chokeberry was 3.65 ± 0.3 g/g dm (dry matter). The Henderson & Pabis exponential model was one of the best models [14, 24] to predict the mass losses of chokeberry samples dehydrated by convective drying at 50, 60 and 70 °C (Eq. (3), Fig. 1 (a)). The drying kinetics could be also precisely predicted by the GaussMod function (Fig. 1 (b), Eq. (4)). Parameters of models, describing the drying kinetics of chokeberries using all these protocols, were summarized in Table 1.

$$MR = a \cdot e^{-kt} \quad (3)$$

where a , n , and k are constants.

$$DR = y_0 + \frac{A}{t_0} e^{\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{w}{t_0} \right)^2 \frac{x-x_c}{t_0}} \int_{-\infty}^z \frac{1}{2\pi} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} dy, \quad z = \frac{x-x_c}{w} - \frac{w}{t_0} \quad (4)$$

where y_0 , A , x_c , w , and t_0 are constants.

The good fitting of a specific model to the experimental data was evaluated using the coefficient of determination (R^2) and root mean square error ($RMSE$). The model fit is better if the value of R^2 is closer to unity and the $RMSE$ value is closer to 0.

In the initial stage of convective drying, a fast loss of water was observed, regardless of the drying temperature applied (Fig. 1). The second stage caused a reduction in the speed of water removal from chokeberry samples due to a significantly lower drying rate. All three curves had the same shape, with different drying time to a constant mass. Drying time (Fig. 1 (a)) depended directly on the temperature of drying, and thus the drying time was 37, 27 and 23 hours, respectively. Namely, if the temperature of the drying process was

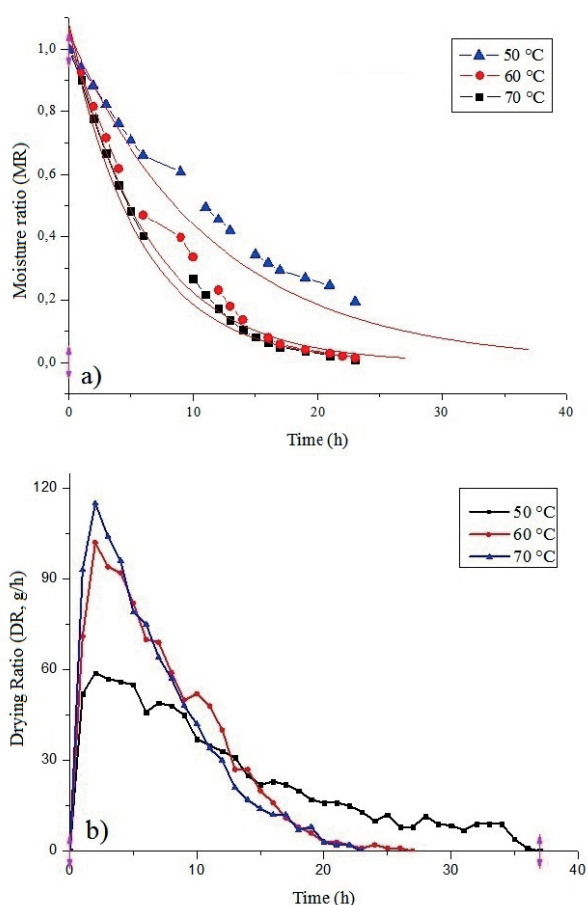


Fig. 1 Effects of drying temperature on the moisture ratio (a) and drying ratio (b)

increased, the partial pressure of the water vapor on the surface of the fruit was increased as well, resulting in a faster diffusion of water from the interior towards the surface of the fruits. The maximum *DR* was achieved in the second hour of the drying process, regardless the temperature, and at a temperature of 50 °C was 59 g/h (*MR* = 0.2287 g/g dm), at 60 °C 102 g/h (*MR* = 0.3953 g/g dm), and at 70 °C 115 g/h (*MR* = 0.4457 g/g dm).

This decrease in the drying time agreed with an increase in the drying constant *k* of the Henderson & Pabis model, from -0.1577 to -0.1748 (Table 1), as in research by Szychowski et al. [14]. The drying constant *a* varied slightly and had values that were closed to 1.

The Henderson & Pabis model was found as a good model taking into account the highest values of *R*² (means of 0.9937, 0.9866 and 0.9909, respectively) and the lowest values of *RSME* (0.0173, 0.0325 and 0.0187, respectively).

The equilibrium of dry / moisture contents during the drying process depends on drying temperature. The slope of the drying curve (Fig. 1 (b)), at the drying temperature of 50 °C, was the lowest and occurred after 16 hours of the drying process. Increasing the drying temperature to 60 and 70 °C resulted in a greater slope in the drying curves, with equilibrium content of dry matter and water after 9 and 8 hours, respectively. Increase in a drying temperature agreed with the increase of the drying constants *A*, *x_c*, and *w*, and the decrease of the drying constants *y_o* and *t_o* of the GaussMod model, as in research by Mitrović et al. [15]. The GaussMod model was found as a good model taking into account the highest values of *R*² (means of 0.9789, 0.9856 and 0.9957, respectively) and the lowest values of *RSME* (0.0247, 0.0221 and 0.0196, respectively).

3.2 Soluble solid content, dry matter content and acidity

Total dry matter in fresh chokeberries was 21.48 ± 0.21 %, which was approximated to the results of 22 % of total dry matter, as in research by Liepiņa et al. [25]. The content of soluble dry matter in fresh fruits was 17.71 ± 0.38 % and depended on the variety of chokeberry and cultivation. The higher content of soluble dry matter was explained by the higher amount of present soluble compounds (sugar, acid) as opposed to insoluble substances (cellulose). Total insoluble dry matter in fresh chokeberries was 3.87 ± 0.10 %.

Acidity (pH) of fresh chokeberries and chokeberry dried at 50, 60 and 70 °C were 3.41 ± 0.05^a, 3.41 ± 0.04^a, 3.41 ± 0.05^a and 3.41 ± 0.06^a, respectively. Based on the analysis of the pH of the dried chokeberry powders, the ANOVA and the following post-hoc Tukey's HSD test showed that the different temperatures of the drying process of chokeberry had no influence on fresh and dried chokeberries acidity. Liepiņa et al. [25] for an aqueous extract of fresh chokeberries indicated pH value of 3.2, while for aqueous extracts of dried fruits, the value was 3.8. Deviations in results could be explained by different ways of preparing extracts, different

Table 1 Mathematical model of effects of drying temperature on the moisture ratio (*MR*)

Drying temperature (°C)	The Henderson & Pabis parameters				The GaussMod parameters						
	<i>a</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>R</i> ²	<i>RSME</i>	<i>y_o</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>x_c</i>	<i>w</i>	<i>t_o</i>	<i>R</i> ²	<i>RSME</i>
50	1.0548	-0.0871	0.9937	0.0173	-5.2773	1230.0470	0.6415	0.4416	16.5061	0.9789	0.0247
60	1.0617	-0.1577	0.9866	0.0325	-21.7382	1757.7061	0.7000	0.7026	12.0650	0.9856	0.0221
70	1.0671	-0.1748	0.9909	0.0187	-15.5599	1427.7618	0.6594	0.5253	9.1999	0.9957	0.0196

varieties, in agro-technical measures and the underlying area where the tested chokeberry was grown [26].

3.3 Total anthocyanins, flavonoids, phenols and antioxidant activity

The content of antioxidants was determined by the procedure of fruit preparation for processing [13]. An analysis of variance showed that the total contents of the identified bioactive components among the three dried-group of chokeberries were significantly different ($p < 0.05$). Total anthocyanins, flavonoids, and phenols content and antioxidant activity of fresh and chokeberries dried at 50, 60 and 70 °C are shown in Table 2. The highest loss of total anthocyanins content (80 %) were in chokeberries during convective drying at 60 °C, while vacuum-drying or vacuum-microwave drying kept more than 50 % of total anthocyanins [27]. Anthocyanins are highly thermolabile, and therefore thermal treatments of dehydration extremely reduced the total anthocyanins in the chokeberry extracts. As expected, the highest content of total anthocyanins was determined in the extract of fresh chokeberries (1764.9 ± 25.16 mg cyn-3-glu / 100 g dm). The reducing ratio of total anthocyanins, as a result of a different drying temperature of 50, 60 and 70 °C, is about 21:4, 5:1, 5:1, respectively. Anthocyanins are mainly concentrated in fruits' skin [13]. Their migration from fruit skin into the fruit mesocarp was determined, most of all, by skin damage, i.e. the appropriate method of fruit crushing and damaging the cell walls.

High temperatures of dehydration process reduced the total flavonoids in the chokeberry extracts. Extracts of fresh chokeberries had the highest content of total flavonoids (2346.31 ± 13.66 mg CE / 100 g dm). Therefore, anthocyanins were more thermolabile than flavonoids on the dehydration process at 50, 60 and 70 °C. The reducing ratio of total flavonoids in fresh chokeberries, as a result of a different drying temperature of 50, 60 and 70 °C, was about 3:1, 5:1, 5:1, respectively. These studies are in agreement with Ioannou and Ghouli [28]. The type and content of plant bioactive components can be also influenced by maturity [29].

Freeze-dried chokeberry had a loss in 9 % of total phenolics [27]. Powder chokeberry, after oven-vacuum drying, had a slightly lower content of total polyphenols [26]. The highest amount of total phenols was found in the extract of fresh chokeberries (5222.54 ± 3.43 mg GAE / 100 g dm). The application of drying processes caused changes between total phenols in the produced powders. The reducing ratio of phenolics in fresh chokeberries, as a result of a different drying temperature of 50, 60 and 70 °C, was about 4, 45:1, 65:1, 15:1, respectively. The extreme reduction values of total phenolics, caused by thermodegradation of the drying process, were in a correlation to total anthocyanins and flavonoids. The variety of chokeberries, and climatic conditions of chokeberry cultivation, as well as the method of powders preparation, showed a major effect on total phenolics [30].

Convention drying leads to the degradation of bioactive compounds that are strongly dependent on the drying method [28]. The degradation of total anthocyanins was 80–90 %, total flavonoids about 50 % and total phenols about 65–75 %.

The antioxidant capacities of the fresh and dried extracts were determined by the DPPH• assay. Antioxidant capacity strongly depends on the properties of bioactive components present in the fruit samples [31]. The results presented in Table 2 indicate the differences in the antioxidant capacity the analyzed samples. Antioxidant activity was pronounced the most in fresh chokeberries (112.14 ± 2.91 mg TE / 100 g dry matter). The reducing ratio of antioxidant activity, as a result of a different drying temperature of 50, 60 and 70 °C, was about 5:1, 7:1, 2:1, respectively. Chokeberries' antioxidant activity was correlated with other bioactive components. The total antioxidant reduction is around 70–80 %.

It can be observed that increasing the drying temperature statistically significantly affects the reduction content of bioactive components. The highest reduction ratio could be seen by comparing the bioactive component content in fresh chokeberry and chokeberries dried at 50 °C. The opposite trend, the lowest reduction in bioactive component contents, might be observed at drying temperatures

Table 2 Total anthocyanins (TAC), flavonoids (TFC), phenols (TPC), and antioxidant activity (AA) of fresh and dried chokeberries

Materials	TAC (mg cyn-3-glu / 100 g dm)	TFC (mg CE / 100 g dm)	TPC (mg GAE / 100 g dm)	AA (mg TE / 100 g dm)
Fresh chokeberry	1764.97 ± 25.16 ^a	2346.31 ± 13.66 ^a	5222.54 ± 3.43 ^a	112.14 ± 2.91 ^a
Dried chokeberry (50 °C)	376.89 ± 5.73 ^b	1037.19 ± 3.83 ^{bc}	1918.79 ± 3.26 ^b	37.11 ± 0.28 ^b
Dried chokeberry (60 °C)	127.43 ± 0.72 ^c	1032.01 ± 1.66 ^c	1346.35 ± 2.67 ^c	26.93 ± 1.11 ^c
Dried chokeberry (70 °C)	83.79 ± 1.18 ^d	800.07 ± 3.86 ^d	1169.39 ± 6.16 ^d	22.10 ± 0.92 ^d

^{a-d}Different letters in the superscript in the same column of the table indicate on the statistical significant difference between values at the level of significance of $p < 0.05$ (based on post-hoc Tukey HSD test)

of 60 °C and 70 °C. The reason might be in a longer period of the drying process and/or a shorter temperature effect.

3.4 Total rehydration ratio and water absorption capacity

Effect of temperature on the properties and quantity of absorbed water by chokeberry was evident [32]. Total rehydration ratio and water absorption capacity of dried chokeberries are shown in Table 3.

Dried fruits of chokeberries had rehydration capacity between 1.77 and 1.93 (Table 3). Increasing the temperature of the drying process, the total rehydration capacity was increased. With an increase in the temperature, the surface area of sorption was decreased. These results are in agreement with results obtained by Červenka [32], in which increasing the surface area enhanced the water adsorption, since more polar groups and carbonyl functions of peptide bound were exposed. Generally, the ANOVA test showed that dehydration temperatures (50, 60, 70 °C) showed minor influence on the capillary spaces in the chokeberries, which explains the great power of re-absorption capacity.

3.5 Results of sensory characteristics of bread quality

Bread made of wheat flour had a low antioxidant capacity [33]. Previous studies suggested potential benefits by using the fruits (blueberry, grape, blackcurrant and raspberry) in the formulation of bakery products, as a

raw ingredient. Therefore, the primary effect of chokeberry powder is food coloring (sensory characteristic), while the secondary effect is a functional characteristic. Anthocyanins were responsible for the purple color of bread with chokeberry phenol extracts. The other color mechanism was a consequence of Maillard reactions and caramelization [34, 35].

The cross-section of the final product (bread) is shown in Fig. 2. Since the content of total bioactive components in chokeberry powders was reduced by about 80 %, their content was not determined in the final product, due to the extreme baking (220–250 °C). The primary result of wheat substitution with chokeberry powders was food coloring and maintenance of bread freshness. It was found that the antioxidant activity in bakery products is strongly dependent on manufacturing conditions (high baking temperatures, the formation of indigestible complexes with bread proteins or starch) and recipes (type and fruit concentration) [33].

All types of bread had satisfying quality and could be placed on the market since they achieved a condition that the total number of points exceeds 40 (Table 4).

The best sensory characteristics had bread with dried chokeberry powder produced at 50 °C, due to the preservation of colored substances, fruit acids and aromatic compounds more than other bread. This bread had also

Table 3 Total rehydration ratio and water absorption capacity of fresh and dried chokeberries

Coefficient	Dried chokeberry (50 °C)	Dried chokeberry (60 °C)	Dried chokeberry (70 °C)
R_r	1.77 ± 0.02 ^a	1.87 ± 0.08 ^a	1.93 ± 0.07 ^a
C_r	38.40 ± 0.35 ^a	40.64 ± 1.84 ^a	41.79 ± 1.42 ^a

^aThe same letters in the superscript in the same row of the table indicate on lack of statistical significant difference between values at the level of significance of $p < 0.05$ (based on post-hoc Tukey HSD test)



Fig. 2 The cross-section of bread without and with chokeberry powder obtained at different drying temperatures

Table 4 The scoring method of bread without and with chokeberry powder obtained at different drying temperatures

	Bread without chokeberry powder	Bread with chokeberry powder produced at 50 °C	Bread with chokeberry powder produced at 60 °C	Bread with chokeberry powder produced at 70 °C
Volume	3.08 ± 0.38 ^{ab}	3.50 ± 0.84 ^b	2.00 ± 0.00 ^a	2.17 ± 0.41 ^a
Appearance	4.92 ± 0.20 ^b	4.33 ± 0.75 ^b	2.67 ± 0.68 ^a	2.92 ± 0.20 ^a
Texture (mouthfeel, by finger)	3.08 ± 0.38 ^a	3.67 ± 1.03 ^a	2.42 ± 0.80 ^a	3.83 ± 0.41 ^a
Mid and crust bread flavor	4.92 ± 0.20 ^a	4.42 ± 0.92 ^a	3.25 ± 1.25 ^a	3.83 ± 0.98 ^a
Mid and crust bread taste	4.92 ± 0.20 ^a	4.67 ± 0.52 ^a	3.42 ± 1.02 ^a	4.08 ± 0.66 ^a
Total score (Σ)	82.00 ± 0.27 ^a	81.95 ± 0.81 ^a	54.96 ± 0.75 ^b	68.48 ± 0.53 ^c

^{a-c}Different letters in the superscript in the same row of the table indicate on the statistical significant difference between values at the level of significance of $p < 0.05$ (based on post-hoc Tukey HSD test)

the most homogeneous texture and uniformity of the mid pores, without large bubbles and volume (Fig. 2), due to a higher quality chokeberry powder. The greatest bread volume might be caused by the smallest rehydration ratio and water absorption capacity of dried chokeberries at 50 °C.

Sensory characteristics, such as flavor and taste, as well as the surface appearance of the bread, were rated with the highest average score. Therefore, it could be concluded that these parameters proved to be the dominant and most influential ones when the sensory characteristics were determinate, especially by the consumers. It can be seen that increasing the drying temperature statistically significantly affects the reduction of all sensory characteristics.

QDA method was an adequate method in monitoring the quality of the final product (i.e. bread) in the industry (Fig. 3, Table 4). As the area on QDA diagram was larger, the quality of the final product was higher. Bread with chokeberry powder produced by chokeberry dried at 50 °C had the best sensory quality (the largest QDA area). Increasing the drying temperature up to 60 °C and 70 °C, decreased the sensory quality of chokeberry powder and sensory quality of bread. QDA method is in a strong correlation to the scoring method, in which the bread with chokeberry powder produced by drying at 50 °C had the highest average score. Based on the layout of the QDA diagram, QDA method is a quick qualitative method that can be used in industrial production.

4 Conclusions

The chokeberry convective drying kinetics was successfully described by the Henderson & Pabis and GaussMod models. The recommended drying method was convective drying at 50 °C. It showed the highest total content of bioactive components (anthocyanins, flavonoids and phenols) and antioxidant activity and produced the chokeberry powder which would make the bread with the best sensory characteristics. The drying process at 70 °C is the alternative method, which

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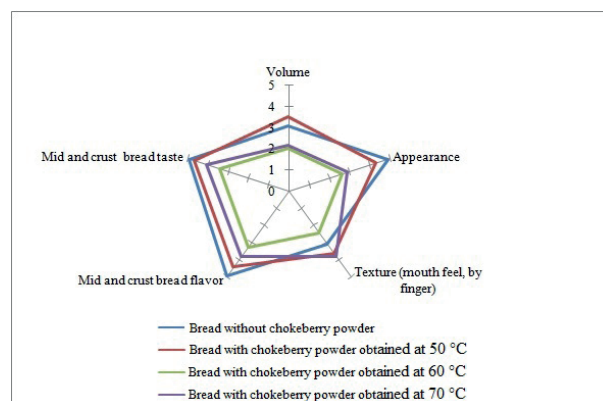


Fig. 3 QDA diagrams of bread without and with chokeberry powder obtained at different drying temperatures

would make the bread with very good sensory characteristics and lower values of total bioactive components.

The reducing ratio of antioxidant activity shows that the anthocyanins are the most degraded (4 to 7 times more degraded relative to phenols, flavonoids, and antioxidant activity).

The addition of chokeberry powders would lead to changes within the bread sensory characteristics, especially volume and appearance (color), flavor and taste. These products can be commercially produced. Unfortunately, the content of total bioactive components, after drying and pre-baking process, was reduced up to 80 %. Therefore, the attempts to increase the antioxidants content in bread and developing functional bread would be a technical challenge. Future experiments will include studies based on dehydration methods of chokeberry (such as lyophilization) and dehydration parameters (vacuum, low-temperature ratio, methods of fruit preparation), applied to a wider of confectionery products.

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