

COLOR, PIGMENT AND RESIDUAL NITRITE OF *DENDENG SAPI* NATURALLY CURED AT VARIOUS LEVEL OF CELERY LEAVES AND INCUBATION TEMPERATURES

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis pengaruh kyuring alami menggunakan berbagai level daun seledri segar (DSS) dan berbagai level suhu inkubasi. Suhu inkubasi dibedakan menjadi suhu ruang (SR) dan suhu 40,6°C (40,6) selama 2 jam pada pembuatan dendeng sapi yang dapat memberikan karakteristik kyuring yang mirip dengan kontrol yang ditambahkan 50 ppm natrium nitrit (NaNO₂). Empat perlakuan dendeng sapi kyuring alami adalah A₁ = 22 g DSS/kg daging sapi, SR; A₂ = 36 g DSS/kg daging sapi, SR; A₃ = 22 g DSS/kg daging sapi, 40,6; A₄ = 36 g DSS/kg daging sapi, 40,6 dan 1 perlakuan dendeng sapi kyuring konvensional dengan penambahan 50 ppm NaNO₂ sebagai kontrol (A₀). Semua dendeng sapi kyuring alami (A₁-A₄) menunjukkan warna, pigmen kyuring, total pigmen dan residu nitrit yang tidak berbeda nyata (P>0,05) dengan dendeng sapi kyuring konvensional yang ditambahkan 50 ppm NaNO₂ (A₀). Daun seledri segar yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini merupakan pengganti efektif untuk NaNO₂ pada level yang diuji untuk memproduksi dendeng sapi kyuring alami. Hasil penelitian ini mengindikasikan level DSS yang lebih rendah (22 g/kg daging sapi) dan cara inkubasi selama 2 jam di suhu ruang lebih efektif menghasilkan dendeng sapi kyuring alami yang sebanding dengan dendeng sapi kyuring konvensional yang ditambahkan 50 ppm NaNO₂.

Kata kunci: kyuring alami, daun seledri segar, dendeng sapi, pigmen kyuring, residu nitrit

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to analyze the effect of natural curing by various levels of fresh celery leaves (FCL) and various levels of incubation temperature. The incubation temperature was room temperature (RT) and temperature of 40.6°C (40.6) for 2 hours. These incubation temperatures for creating *dendeng sapi* were designed to provide the similar curing characteristics of the control (by addition of 50 ppm of NaNO₂). Four naturally cured *dendeng sapi* treatments were A₁ = 22 g FCL/kg of beef, RT; A₂ = 36 g FCL/kg of beef, RT; A₃ = 22 g FCL/kg of beef, 40.6; A₄ = 36 g FCL/kg of beef, 40.6 and a treatment of conventionally cured *dendeng sapi* by addition of 50 ppm NaNO₂ as a control (A₀). All of the naturally cured *dendeng sapi* (A₁-A₄) showed color, cured pigment, total pigment and residual nitrite which were not significantly different compared with A₀. The FCL used in this study was an effective replacement for sodium nitrite at the test levels in manufacturing natural cured *dendeng sapi*. These results indicated that at fewer FCL levels (22 g/kg of beef) and a more practical of the incubation for 2 hours at room temperature were more effective to create naturally cured *dendeng sapi*.

Keywords: natural curing, fresh celery leaves, dendeng sapi, cured pigment, residual nitrite

INTRODUCTION

Dendeng sapi is jerky beef like Indonesian preserved beef by chemically and physically preservation. *Dendeng sapi* is made by the addition of kitchen salt (NaCl), saltpetre (sodium nitrate/nitrite), sugar and Indonesian typical spices as a seasoning on thin slices of beef or ground meat then dried under sunlight or using a drying oven. *Dendeng sapi* is categorized as conventional curing beef products because of saltpetre (sodium nitrate/nitrite) addition in the composition of raw material. It has been established that nitrite may cause methaemoglobinemia and cancer. For this reason, many researchers investigate the alternatives such as natural curing.

Sebranek and Bacus (2007) described the process of meat curing called natural curing. This process uses natural ingredients that contain relatively high levels of nitrate naturally combined with a starter culture of bacteria producing nitrate reductase, which in turn reducing nitrate to become nitrite. Some vegetables, such as celery, was established to have high level of natural nitrate (Keeton *et al.*, 2012). Reduction of nitrate to nitrite by the starter culture is done through the incubation step at a temperature. This may meet the specific requirements of microorganism growth over a certain period before the cooking/thermal processing step. Previous studies recommended a minimum incubation of 2 hours to generate enough nitrite and then to develop the characteristics of cured meat (Sindelar *et al.*, 2007a; Sindelar *et al.*, 2007b).

Sindelar *et al.* (2007a), Sindelar *et al.* (2007b), Sindelar *et al.* (2010), Terns *et al.* (2011a) and Terns *et al.* (2011b) used the natural curing agents in the form of vegetables or fruit juice powdered and *Staphylococcus carnosus* producing nitrate reductase. In this study, the authors used only natural curing agent in the form of fresh celery leaves (FCL) that naturally contains high nitrate and enzyme of nitrate reductase without a nitrate-reducing bacteria addition. Nitrate reduction rely on nitrate reductase from the fresh celery leaf and the nitrate-reducing bacteria naturally found in fresh meat (Pinotti *et al.*, 2001). This study aimed to investigate the effect of natural curing by various levels of FCL and incubation temperature on color, cured pigment, total pigment and residual nitrite of *dendeng sapi*. This method was

designed to provide similar curing characteristics to the control (by addition of 50 ppm NaNO₂) during conventional curing of *dendeng sapi*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials and Experimental Design

The materials used in the present study were ground of fresh beef (bottom round) from local bulls of local Ongole crossbred (OC) about 3 years-old from Penggaron abattoir of Semarang City, sugar, spices, fresh celery leaves (FCL) as a natural curing agent and NaNO₂ as a conventional curing agent. The study used the experimental design of split-plot on the basis of a randomized complete block design consisting 3 replicate groups of each. The main plot was curing treatments (A) consisting 4 natural curing treatments by various levels of FCL and incubation temperature for 2 hours (room temperature = RT and temperature of 40.6°C = 40.6). The levels of FCL were A₁ = 22 g FCL/kg of beef, RT; A₂ = 36 g FCL/kg of beef, RT; A₃ = 22 g FCL/kg of beef, 40.6; A₄ = 36 g FCL/kg of beef, 40.6) and a treatment of conventional curing by 50 ppm sodium nitrite-added as a control (A₀). The subplot was 3 periods of storage or 0, 14th and 28th observation days with the sample of their own. The replicate groups were the origin of bottom round 1, 2 and 3.

Bottom round was trimmed in order to clean of external fat and ground, then was randomly placed in a container (each 1 kg for each treatment). *Dendeng sapi* formulation based on Suryati *et al.* (2014) which consists of the following materials: 1 kg of ground fresh beef (bottom round), 16.5% brown sugar, white sugar 16.5%, 10% garlic, 8.5%, galangal, 2.5% salt, 2.0% coriander, 0.3% white pepper, 0.3% tamarind, 0.3% lime and 0.3% ice/water (based on the weight of the fresh beef). Treatment of A₀ was addition of 50 ppm NaNO₂; treatments of A₁ and A₃ were added 22 g of FCL; and treatment of A₂ and A₄ were added 36 g of FCL. The mixture of *dendeng sapi* A₁ and A₂ were incubated for 2 hours at room temperature. The mixture of *dendeng sapi* A₃ and A₄ were placed in an incubator and incubated for 2 hours at a temperature of 40.6°C. The control (A₀) was dried directly in the oven after flaked by a thin 0.1 to 0.2 cm without incubation step. All treatments were dried using a drying oven for 2 hours at 63°C and reversed such that the bottom side was at the top, and then the drying was continued at

63°C for 2 hours to reach a water activity ≤ 0.85 . After drying, *dendeng sapi* pieces of each treatment for each sample of 0, 14th and 28th day were placed in a plastic barrier bag polypropylene (PP) and packaged vacuum. They were stored at room temperature in a tightly closed container and opaque until analysis of color, pigment and residual nitrite.

Commission International d'Eclairage (CIE) L^* (lightness), a^* (redness) and b^* (yellowness) were determined using a digital colorimeter for Macintosh. Measurements of surface color of *dendeng sapi* were taken after products were removed from vacuum packaging. Measurements were taken at 6 randomly selected areas on the sample and the average was used in data analysis. Mononitrosylhemochrome pigment (cured meat pigment) and total pigment concentrations were measured according to Hornsey (1956) after extraction in 80% acetone and acidified acetone, respectively. Residual nitrite was determined before incubation (preincubate), after incubation (postincubate) after drying (day 0) and continued throughout a 28-day of storage times. Residual nitrite were determined by the AOAC method (AOAC, 1990). All residual nitrite assays were done in duplicate and all treatments within a replication were analyzed at the same time to minimize the variation in the analysis due to time.

Data Analysis

Statistical analysis was performed for all measurement data using the SPSS procedures (version 17.0) using analysis of variance (ANOVA). The differences between treatments were tested further using the Tukey test. Significance level was determined at 5 %.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Color Measurement

CIE a^* (redness) values of non sodium nitrite *dendeng sapi* ($A_1 - A_4$) and sodium nitrite addition (A_0) indicated that the color was not red because all values were under zero. It is presumed that pink cured color produced by the curing reaction was covered by a brown color those resulted from the browning reaction. This was caused by heating temperature at 63°C for 4 hours on the brown sugar, and the addition of white sugar to the product which totals 33% of the weight.

No significant interactions were found between treatments and storage times for CIE a^*

values as shown in Table 1, but the main effect of storage times (time of observation) affected significantly ($P < 0.05$) as shown in Table 2. CIE a^* values significantly ($P < 0.05$) increased throughout storage times toward the red color values (zero). The nitrate concentration in fresh celery leaf as a reservoir for curing reactions may explain this occurrence. The average of nitrate concentration in celery is 1496 ppm, with the range from 20 to 4269 ppm, and the average of nitrite concentration in celery is 0.1 ppm with the range from 0.02 to 0.5 ppm (Keeton *et al.*, 2012). Nitrite is highly reactive as a curing agent so that it will run out relatively quick from cured meat. Nitrate serves as an important reservoir in cured meat products to maintain an effective concentration of nitrite during heating/drying or storage in the long term (Sebranek, 2009).

A significant difference ($P < 0.05$) was observed for the main effect of curing treatments as shown in Table 3. The A_0 had the highest CIE a^* values ($P < 0.05$) compared with all other treatments. This was showed that the A_0 had the largest number of reddish cured pigment.

Table 1 shows the mean of CIE L^* (lightness) values of *dendeng sapi* in various storage times (days 0, 14 and 28). There was no interactive effect between treatment and storage times for the CIE L^* values of *dendeng sapi*. The CIE L^* values were unchanged throughout storage times. This showed that the cured color was not fading throughout storage times. Although there was no significant difference, the A_0 (the control) revealed a lighter color than all other treatments at day 0. Sindelar *et al.* (2010) reported that a lighter color suggests the existence of more darkish-colored metmyoglobin pigment and less reddish-colored nitrosylhemochrome pigment. When nitrite is added to ground beef, browning effect occurs because nitrite is a strong oxidant to the heme in myoglobin, that thus myoglobin and oxymyoglobin are oxidised to metmyoglobin (Honikel, 2008). The reduction of nitrite into nitric acid may create an unstable intermediate pigment (nitrosyl-metmyoglobin) – Because there are no endogenous and exogenous reductants adequately, nitrosylmetmyoglobin pigment may not autoreduct to form more stable dark red NO-myoglobin or nitrosylmyoglobin.

The mean of CIE L^* values of A_0 (the control) showed higher numerically at day 0 than at day 14 and 28 of storage times. This means that the nitrosylhemochrome pigment or fading cured color was decreasing throughout storage times.

Table 1. The Means for Residual Nitrite, Cured Pigment, Total Pigment and CIE L^* , a^* , b^* Values at Various Storage Times

Treatments	Storage times			Treatments	Storage times		
	0	14	28		0	14	28
..... (ppm)							
Residual Nitrite				CIE L^* (Lightness) Values			
A ₀	0.060	0,084	0.050	A ₀	46.762	41.666	41.992
A ₁	0.048	0.073	0.054	A ₁	40.807	41.851	42.477
A ₂	0.053	0.089	0.035	A ₂	44.196	43.349	44.303
A ₃	0.038	0.083	0.045	A ₃	42.080	40.496	41.978
A ₄	0.061	0,072	0.083	A ₄	40.140	40.655	38.148
SEM ^a	0.006			SEM ^a	0.542		
Cured Pigment (Nitrosylhemochrome)				CIE a^* (Redness) Values			
A ₀	57.855	113.293	189.853	A ₀	-3.177	-2.505	-2.603
A ₁	37.072	141.230	139.683	A ₁	-5.093	-5.605	-4.197
A ₂	99.470	155.150	186.180	A ₂	-6.066	-5.139	-4.971
A ₃	41.180	146.933	211.217	A ₃	-5.912	-4.540	-4.207
A ₄	35.090	88.063	185.987	A ₄	-5.931	-5.504	-4.929
SEM ^a	13.353			SEM ^a	0.205		
Total Pigment				CIE b^* (Yellowness) Values			
A ₀	444.040	260.893	244.120	A ₀	18.297	15.613	16.496
A ₁	577.433	248.653	424.547	A ₁	16.642	12.110	13.988
A ₂	340.567	384.427	493.227	A ₂	17.187	13.552	16.140
A ₃	371.280	264.293	338.867	A ₃	18.528	13.276	16.121
A ₄	247.633	259.080	471.240	A ₄	18.035	14,500	14.514
SEM ^a	42.901			SEM ^a	0.527		

^aSEM = standard error of the means

The treatment of A₀ was sodium nitrite addition merely, and no nitrate was added as a backup source of nitrite to regenerate the reaction for curing color development and stability throughout the storage times.

Table 1 shows the mean of CIE b^* (yellowness) values of *dendeng sapi* from all treatments at various storage times (days 0, 14, 28). There were no interactive effect between treatment and storage times for CIE b^* values, but

Table 2 shows that the main effect of storage times (time observation) was significantly different ($P < 0.05$). At the day 14 of storage significantly ($P < 0.05$) increased the CIE b^* value, but at the day 0 of storage significantly ($P < 0.05$) increased and at the day 28 of storage unchanged the CIE b^* value. The CIE b^* values were significantly decreased ($P < 0.05$) or unchanged at the day 28 and day 0 of storages, respectively.

Table 2. The Means for the Main Effect of Storage Times (Days 0, 14, 28) for CIE a^* and b^* Values and Cured Pigment

Parameter	Storage times			SEM
	0	14	28	
CIE a^* (redness)	-5.236 ^q	-4.658 ^{pq}	-4.181 ^p	0.205
CIE b^* (yellowness)	17.738 ^p	13.810 ^q	15.452 ^{pq}	0.527
Cured Pigment (ppm)	54.133 ^q	128.934 ^{pq}	182.584 ^p	13.353

^{p-q} Means within same row with different superscripts are significant different (P <0.05). SEM : standard error of the means

Table 3. The Means for the Main Effect of Curing Treatment

Treatment	CIE a^* (redness)
A ₀	-2.762 ^p
A ₁	-4.965 ^q
A ₂	-5.392 ^q
A ₃	-4.886 ^q
A ₄	-5.454 ^q
SEM	0.205

SEM : standard error of the means

Cured Pigment and Total Pigment

There was no an interactive effect between the treatment and storage times on the cured pigment concentration of each treatment at various periods of storage, but the main effect of storage times was significantly (P<0.05) different (Table 2). The trends indicated that the cured pigment concentration increased significantly (P<0.05) over time of storage regardless of treatment of fresh celery leaves concentration and incubation temperature. This means that the level of fresh celery leaves in formulation and incubation temperature did not appear to be as important as the amount of time required for enzyme of nitrate reductase of fresh celery leaves or fresh beef to convert nitrate to nitrite. This nitrite was then was converted into nitric oxide (NO) for the development of cured pigment. Parthasarathy and Bryan (2012) reported that a

minimum of two hours of incubation is required to convert the 90% of nitrite to nitric oxide (NO) and bound with myoglobin to form nitrosylmyoglobin. After heating, the globin portion of nitrosylmyoglobin is denatured and escaped from the iron atom to form stable nitrosylmyochrome or nitrosylhemochrome (Pegg and Shahidi, 2008). This process of cured pigment is expected to develops or stabilize throughout the storage periods.

The trends of time observations showed that incubation temperature of 40.6°C in natural curing with 22 g of fresh celery leaves was capable of producing nitric oxide (NO) for more cured pigment formation resulting from conversion of nitrate of fresh celery leaves to nitrite compared with incubation at room temperature. This did not occur when natural curing with 36 g of fresh celery leaves and incubation temperature of 40.6°C which produced less nitric oxide compared with the incubation at room temperature.

Table 1 shows the mean values of total pigment concentration of treatments over storage times. There was no an interactive effect between treatment and storage times on total pigment concentration of each treatment at various storage times. This means that bottom round from some local beef cattle carcasses those were utilized randomly for *dendeng sapi* mixture of each treatment did not cause variation in total pigment. The total pigment analysis revealed that total pigment concentration for A₀ decreased numerically over storage times. The depleting amounts of nitrite reservoir in A₀ over storage times may explain this phenomenon. The total pigment of A₂ and A₄ tended to increase over storage times.

Residual Nitrite

The concentrations of residual nitrites at pre- and post-incubation of all treatments were under 0.1 ppm or undetectable nearly. It is suggested that available nitrite had been exhausted in the quick curing reactions during chopping and mixing the *dendeng sapi* mixtures. There was no significant differences for residual nitrites at pre- or post-incubate in any treatments. The A₀ or the control had higher level of residual nitrite at pre-incubation numerically compared with all other treatments (Table 4). The residual nitrite at post-incubation of all treatments tended to be higher than pre-incubation period. This showed the importance of incubation time required for the conversion of nitrate to nitrite. Sindelar *et al.* (2007a) stated that an increase in incubation time, may increase the level of nitrite.

All treatments contained the residual nitrite under 0.1 ppm or undetectable nearly during at pre- and post-incubation periods for *dendeng sapi* mixtures. This suggested that available nitrite was used in the regeneration of the rapid curing reactions during the storage times. There was no interactive effect between treatment and storage times interaction on residual nitrite of all treatments (Table 1). The residual nitrite of all treatments numerically increased at day 14 of storage and then decreased at day 28 of storage. A decrease in the residual nitrite at day 28 of storage was as expected, and the levels of residual nitrite diminished over time for all treatments. This observation results agreed with the result of Sindelar *et al.* (2007a), a decreasing residual nitrite level is accompanied with increasing storage times. Sindelar *et al.* (2007b), also reported that nitrite concentration was affected by storage times and storage temperature. Another explanation was provided by Sindelar *et al.* (2010), the packaging effects sample of natural cured beef whole muscle jerky stored in vacuum packages. The vacuum-packaged whole muscle jerky had lower residual nitrite than samples stored in aerobic condition. This phenomenon was caused by the product environment being in the reduced state, and then allowing the conversion of nitrite to nitric oxide, thus resulted in the lower residual nitrite levels (Sindelar *et al.*, 2010).

Each pair of the treatment combinations (A₁ and A₃; A₂ and A₄) with FCL levels those were held constantly, the residual nitrite levels were unchanged when the incubation temperatures were increased or were differed between room temperature and temperature of 40.6°C (Table 1).

Table 4. The Means for Residual Nitrite at Pre-incubate and Post-incubate

Treatment	Residual Nitrite	
	Pre-incubate	Post-incubate
A ₀	0.075	Not measured
A ₁	0.053	0.046
A ₂	0.048	0.061
A ₃	0.062	0.073
A ₄	0.042	0.043
SEM Error	0.006	0.010

SEM : standard error of the means

This pattern occurred at all days over the 28-d storage times. This showed that the amounts celery leaves of 22 g or 36 g produced the same levels of residual nitrite converted from nitrates during the 120 minutes of incubation at room temperature or at temperature of 40.6°C. The available nitrite that has been reacted through curing reactions may result in the low amount of nitrite of all treatments and over storage times.

The residual nitrite of oven dried *dendeng sapi* of all treatments at days 0, 14 and 28 storage still showed safe limits for human consumption related methaemoglobinemia and or the formation of carcinogenic nitrosamines in the human body. BPOM RI set the daily consumption which does not pose a danger to health (Acceptable daily intake, ADI) for potassium or sodium nitrite by 0 to 0.06 ppm or mg/kg body weight (BPOM, 2013).

CONCLUSION

A little amount of fresh celery leaf (22 g/kg of beef) with the incubation for 2 hours at room temperature may be an effective method for creating natural cured *dendeng sapi* comparable to conventional cured *dendeng sapi* with the addition of 50 ppm sodium nitrite.

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