

ABSTRACT

The potential health benefits of soy and tomatoes, attributed in part to the presence of isoflavones and carotenoids, have been associated with reduced risks of cancers and cardiovascular diseases. A tomato juice, from concentrate, containing 1% soy protein has been used as a delivery system for these phytonutrients. The rheological properties of this product were compared to standard tomato juice using a controlled rate RFS II Rheometrics system with Couette geometry at 25°C. Shear thinning behavior was observed by steady shear experiments at 0.02-200 s⁻¹ for both tomato juices with and without soy. Addition of soy protein significantly affected the time dependence (studied from 10-1500 s⁻¹) of the juice. In the standard plain tomato juice, a slight thixotropic behavior was observed. The tomato juice containing soy exhibited a thixotropic behavior at low shear rate; at higher shear rates, a rheopectic behavior was observed. Steady and dynamic tests indicate a physical gel behavior for both the samples. In the range studied (0.1-15 rad s⁻¹), the storage modulus was consistently higher than loss modulus. The addition of soy protein further increased the modulus values enhancing aggregation between pectin chains and stability of the suspension, without influencing the gel like-behavior. It was concluded from this study, that the addition of 1% soy protein to tomato juice increases its apparent viscosity improving the overall rheological behavior.

INTRODUCTION

Tomatoes and soy are two foods that possess biologically active components that can significantly impact upon health. The impact of combining these foods, developing new products, and characterizing their functional characteristics and health benefits has been extensively investigated. The combination of soy and tomato products is particularly relevant as the soy component is associated with a lower risk of cardiovascular disease and cancer (1). One of the most important quality parameters of tomato products is its stability, which is strongly dependent on pectins and their degree of esterification which affect the physical properties forming an entanglement where other particles are physically entrapped (2). The rheological properties of tomato products (juice, puree and paste) are affected by the thermal treatment during hot or cold break. Tomato juice, like other tomato products, is typically shear thinning (3, 4).

Soy protein isolates are globular which, when suspended in water, constitute a suspension. An increased consistency and a reduced serum separation have been reported in tomato sauce after the addition of soy proteins, due to an increased water capacity (5). Since the physico-chemical interactions of tomato juice and soy protein are unknown, the aim of this research is to analyze the rheological changes of tomato juice due to the addition of soy protein.

MATERIALS & METHODS

Standard break tomato juice with salt added was analyzed. Tomato juice with soy was prepared by addition of 1% soy protein isolate PTI FXPH0159 to tomato concentrate and the homogenized product was retorted around 100°C for 10 minutes. The pH was 4.19 and the density was 1.025 and 1.027 g cm⁻³ for the products without and with soy, respectively.

Steady and dynamic rheological experiments were conducted at ambient temperature (25°C) using a controlled rate RFS II Rheometrics system. Couette geometry was used (diameter of cup 34mm; diameter of bob 32mm; length of bob 33.3mm).

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RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Tomato juice behaves as a **non-Newtonian fluid**, due to the presence of soluble pectins which, enhanced by the addition of calcium salt, creating a calcium pectate gel by binding free carboxyl groups on adjacent pectin polymers (6, 7). Steady shear experiments, reported in Fig.1 and 2 for tomato with and without soy establish the **pseudoplasticity** of both products. However the tomato juice containing soy resulted in a higher viscosity. We hypothesize that the addition of soy protein reinforces the three-dimensional network by hydrogen and hydrophobic bonding interactions.

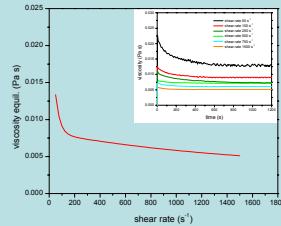


Fig. 1 Equilibrium viscosity and step rate tests for tomato juice

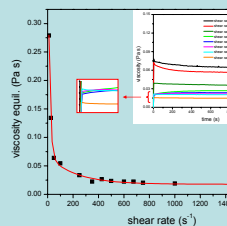


Fig. 2 Equilibrium viscosity and step rate tests for tomato juice with soy

The addition of soy protein plays also an interesting role on the **time-dependent** behavior of tomato juice. The tomato juice exhibits a slight **thixotropic** behavior (Fig. 3, 4, 5) attributed to the breakdown of secondary bonds related to pectic links (6, 7). On the other hand, the addition of soy affects the time dependence of the product in three different ways. **1.** Flow curves at maximum shear rate of 500s^{-1} show hysteresis loops due to incomplete structure recovery, demonstrating thixotropy (an example is reported in Fig. 3). At higher maximum shear rate values, the behavior is **rheopectic** (an example is reported in Fig. 4) suggesting possible aggregation. **3.** At shear rate higher than 1000s^{-1} , results depict a process of aggregation followed, after the intersection in the hysteresis loops, by a breakdown of secondary bonds (an example is reported in Fig. 5).

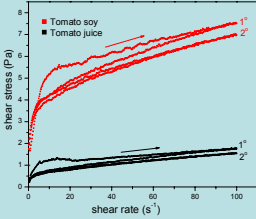


Fig. 3 Time-dependence comparison at maximum shear value 100s^{-1}

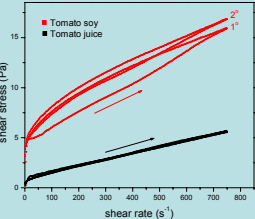


Fig. 4 Time-dependence comparison at maximum shear value 750s^{-1}

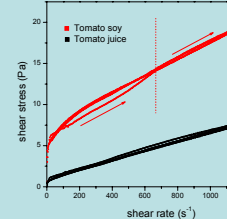


Fig. 5 Time-dependence comparison at maximum shear value 1250s^{-1}

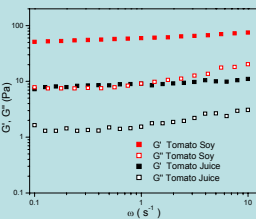


Fig. 6 Soy effect on storage (G') and loss modulus (G'')

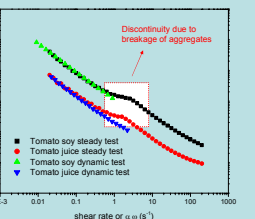


Fig. 7 Cox-Merz rule for tomato products

Both products show **gel-like** behavior and a higher value of storage modulus compared to loss modulus (Fig. 6). The addition of soy protein to tomato juice causes an increased difference in both moduli as compared to tomato juice (Fig. 6).

Viscosities obtained from dynamic steady tests, Fig. 7, follow a modified **Cox and Merz rule** using α horizontal shift factor (8). The deviations of tomato juice with and without soy from the Cox and Merz rule confirm the gel-like nature of the products and confirm the important role of the secondary interactions on the stability of the system.

CONCLUSIONS

The tomato juice products with and without soy protein isolate depict characteristic behavior of “physical gels” governed by secondary interactions which are dynamically formed and broken.

The addition of 1% soy protein isolate to tomato juice:

- ✓ increases the value of viscosity and viscoelastic moduli of tomato juice,
- ✓ affects the time-dependent behavior due to conformational changes of soy protein at different ranges of shear rate,
- ✓ improves the overall rheological behavior due to improved stability of the suspension.