Influence of thawing and cooking methods on quality of libyan camel meat

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Abstract

The effect of thawing and cooking methods on chemical composition and quality attributes of Libyan camel meat was investigated. The camel meat was prepared then packaged and frozen at -28°C for 20 days. Chemical composition, microbiological examination and sensory evaluation were conducted on samples thawed and cooked samples by different methods. The percent of loss drip ranged from 1.02 to 22.95%, thawed sample in running water had the highest value meanwhile, thawed sample in microwave had the lowest value. Thawing and cooking decrease water holding capacity (WHC) of camel meat. Thawing decreased ash content of camel meat while thawing decreased proteins content in all samples except sample thawed in microwave. Microwave thawing and cooking decreased loss of proteins and minerals meanwhile, proteins and minerals moved from meat to soup during wet cooking (Blanching). The total bacterial count, coliform group were very low for sample thawed in microwave and refrigerator methods in comparison with that thawed at room temperature and running water. The staphylococcus was 6.5x10² and 1.1x10³ for thawed samples by refrigerator and microwave thawing, respectively. Meanwhile, it was 3.3x10⁴ for sample thawed at room temperature. Cooking under pressure enhanced WHC, texture and juiciness of meat from aged camel. Cooking loss ranged from 26.25 to 34.12%. Thaved sample by microwave then cooked under pressure had the lower cooking loss. The best quality of camel meat was observed for thawed sample in microwave then cooked in pan under pressure followed by thawed sample in refrigerator and cooked in pan under pressure.

Keywords: Libyan camel meat, Thawing, cooking, Chemical composition, Total bacterial count, Sensory evaluation.

Introduction

The practice of freezing meat to prolong its shelf-life has been practised for thousands of years. Freezing plays an essential role in this industry in ensuring the safety of meat and meat products. Nonetheless, the consequences of freezing and thawing on chemical composition and quality of meat remaining significant problem (Leygoine *et al.*, 2012).

The main problem faces production of camel meat its toughness. This toughness due to high percent of connective tissues in camel meat specially in camels more than 4 years old (Sheriha, 2000).

There is general agreement in the literature that the tenderness of meat increase with freezing and thawing when measured with peak force (Patsias *et. al.* 2008).

The US Food and Drug Administration Food Code (2005).recommends several thawing methods for raw meat products: thawing under refrigeration (\leq 5°C), thawing submerged under running water (\leq 21°C) and thawing as a part of cooking process in the case of microwave thawing (Shrestha *et al.*, 2009).

In Libya there is another thawing method in house by thawing at room temperature (22-25°C). Each of the above thawing methods presents some disadvantages to food service operation (Shrestha *et al.* 2009).

The quality of cooked meat depends on the temperature, time and pressure during cooking (Sheriha, 2000). In this study we try to increase the tenderness of camel meat by freezing and thawing, using different method also define the best method for thawing and cooking camel meat.

Materials and methods

Materials:

Camel meat: Camel meat was obtained from local market in south of Libya

Methods:

Sample preparation:

Samples were prepared by removing bone, then cuts to pieces equal in weight and shape. The prepared meat was packaged in polyethylene bags (each package contained 200 g), then stored at (-28° C) for 20 days.

Thawing:

The freeze samples were thawed according to the following methods:

Thawing at $6\pm1^{\circ}$ C was done in refrigerator for 12 hrs.

Thawing at room temperature $(24\pm2^{\circ}C)$ was done at room temperature for 8 hrs.

Microwave thawing was done at 160 watt by using 100g meat for 3 min.

Running water thawing was done by submerging the package under running water for 3 hrs.

- Running water thawing without package was done by submerging the meat pieces under running water for 3 hrs.

Cooking:

The meat samples were cooked according to the following methods:

- Microwave cooking was done by 100g meat at 480 watt for 8 min.

- Wet cooking was done by 100 g meat in 1000 cm^3 of water for 2 hrs. Under normal air pressure.

- Wet cooking under pressure was done on 100 g in 1000 cm^3 water with using autoclaved pan for 1 hr.

Chemical analysis:

Moisture content, soluble and insoluble ash in water, crude protein, crude fat content, pH and WHC were determined according to A.O.A.C (2005).

Microbiological examination:

Microbiological examinations were done for fresh and thawed meats: total viable bacteria counts, coliform group, staphylococcus bacteria and yeast and molds were enumerated according to the methods established by (APHA, 1992).

Sensory evaluation (organoleptic evaluation):

Texture, flavor, juiciness, color and appearance were evaluated. Every item given the following mark: flavor (25), texture (25), color (20), juiciness (20) and appearance (10). Statistical analysis was determined according to Sendecor and Cocharn (1980).

Results and discussion

Chemical composition:

Data in Table (1) indicated that the moisture content of Libyan camel meat was 69.31%. The moisture content lower than moisture content of camel is lower than from other Arab countries. Babiker and Yousif (1990) found that the moisture content in Sudan camel meat is 75.89%. The low moisture in Libyan camel meat indicate that camel meat from aged camel where, moisture content decreases with increase age and weight of camel (Abdallah, 1999 and Dawood and Alkanhal, 1995). The results of crude protein are in excellent agreement with those stated by El-Faer et al. (1991). Total crude lipid in Libyan camel meat was higher than which reported in literature and this indicate that the camel was aged. Crude lipids increase with increasing the age of camels (Abdallah, 1999). On the other hand, the value of pH is in excellent agreement of those Babiker and Yousif 1990. The total volatile nitrogen was 12.60 mg/10g meat, these results were low. pH and total volatile nitrogen indicated that the meat was fresh. The percentage of soluble and insoluble ash in water were 1.09, 1.01 and 0.08%, respectively. These results are in a good agreement with those reported by Sheriha, 2000 and Abdallah (1999). Finally, the results indicated that WHC for Libyan camel meat was 75.88%.

Statistical analysis:

Table 1. Effect of thawing methods on chemical composition and physiochemical characteristics of Libyan camel meat.

		Thawing methods					
Component	Fresh meat	Refrigerator 7°C (For 12 hrs.)	Room temperature (For 8 hrs.)	Microwave 160 Watt (For 3 min)	Running water with package at room temperature (For 3 hrs.)	Running water without package at room temperature (For 3 hrs.)	
Moisture %	69.31	67.18	67.25	67.34	75.76	74.35	
Proteins %	19.25	18.95	18.37	20.12	15.75	14.87	
Crude fat %	9.81	9.68	7.90	9.69	9.09	7.79	
Soluble ash %	1.01	0.79	0.87	0.75	0.55	0.66	
Insoluble ash %	0.08	0.17	0.12	0.22	0.23	0.16	
T.V.N (mg/100 g)*	12.60	11.9	12.6	12.2	12.7	12.6	
WHC %**	75.88	73.55	68.37	65.69	71.01	72.00	
Drip %	-	2.09	2.14	1.02	22.95	-	
PH	5.70	5.7	5.2	5.8	5.9	5.8	

* T.V.N: Total volatile nitrogen (mg/100 g).

** W.H.C: Water holding capacity.

Effect of thawing methods on chemical composition of Libyan camel meat:

Data in (Table 1) indicated that, the moisture content for thawed samples at refrigerator, room temperature and microwave methods was decreased, this may be due to loss of water from surface of meat, meanwhile thawing in microwave increases the temperature of meat piece and evaporates water. These results are in good agreement with those reported by Legyonie *et al.* (2012); they stated that

freezing steric effects due to shrinkage of myofibrils cause moisture loss in frozen thawed meat. On the other hand, the moisture of samples thawed in running water with package or without package were increased due to absorb water from running water. Total volatile nitrogen (TVN) for sample which thawed in refrigerator and microwave is lower than other samples, this may be due to the low temperature in refrigerator was inhibit growth of microorganisms which increase TVN in the same time the time for thawing in microwave was very low (3 min) and there is no enough time to growth microorganisms which cause increase in TVN. The soluble ash in water decreased in all samples. The crude protein decreased in all samples except microwave thawed sample. The lowest content of these components were in sample thawed in running water, this is may be due to high loss of drip. These results were in good agreement with those reported by Pham (2004) who reported that the moisture lost during thawing is rich in proteins, vitamins and minerals. There is no clear effect of thawing methods on total crude fat content of sample.

Effect of thawing methods on physiochemical properties of camel meat:

Data in the same Table show the water holding capacity for refrigerator, room temperature, microwave, running water with package and running water without package thawed samples was 73.55, 68.37, 65.69, 71.01, 72.00%, respectively.

All thawed samples have low WHC than fresh meat sample. These results are in a good agreement with those obtained by Savage *et al.* (1990) they reported that the loss in WHC is related to the distribution of the muscle fiber as well as the

modification and/or denaturation of proteins during freezing and thawing.

In general, there is consensus in the scientific literature in the notion that freezing, frozen storage and thawing contribute to decrease in water holding capacity of meat (Anon and Cavelo, 1980, Nagapo *et al.*, 1999 and Vieira *et al.*, 2009).

The loss of drip ranged from 1.02- 22.95% the lowest loss was the sample which thawed by microwave, this may be due to the short time for thawing (3 min). Meanwhile, the highest loss was in the thawed sample by running water with package, this may be due to the long thawing time (12 hrs) and discharge of drip with water. Decrease in thawing time to be low 50 min, resulted in decrease in exudate drip loss. (Anon and Cavelo 1980). There were no changes in pH value during thawing except the sample thawed at room temperature the pH decreased from 5.7 to 5.2. This reduction in pH may be due to deamination of proteins by microbial or enzymatic action causes release of hydrogen atoms, and then decrease pH (Leygonie et al., 2011). The lower loss in water soluble ash was observed in thawed samples in refrigerator temperature, microwave and room temperature.

Effect of thawing methods microbial count in Libyan camel meat:

Good hygiene and handling practices are even more important for meat that is to be frozen and thawed compared to that is to be sold fresh (Pham, 2004). Thawed samples by microwave and running water without package had the lower total bacterial count, coliform count, staphylococcus count and yeasts and molds count (Table 2); this may be due to the shorter time for thawing and denaturation of microbial proteins by microwave ray.

Table 2. Effect of thawing methods on microbial count of Libyan camel meat.

		Thawing methods					
Microorganisms	Fresh meat	Refrigerator 7°C (For 12 hrs.)	Room temperature (For 8 hrs.)	Microwave 160 Watt (For 3 min)	Running water with package at room temperature (For 3 hrs.)	Running water without package at room temperature (For 3 hrs.)	
Total bacterial count	1.8x10 ³	$1.5 x 10^2$	3.0x10 ⁵	$8.0 x 10^{1}$	$5.5 x 10^3$	6.5x10 ¹	
Coliform group	1.8×10^2	1.6×10^2	1.2×10^{5}	<10	$1.1 \mathrm{x} 10^3$	<10	
Staphylococcus aureus count	$2.0x10^{2}$	6.5×10^2	3.3x10 ⁴	1.1x10 ³	<10	$2.3 x 10^2$	
Yeasts and molds count	1.8x10 ²	5.5x10 ¹	6.5x10 ¹	<10	3.0x10 ¹	<10	

The thawed sample in running water without package had lower count for total bacterial, Coliform group, *Staphylococcus aureus* and yeasts and molds, this may be due to microorganisms moved with running water as result microorganisms on the surface of meat diluted. Sample thawed at room

temperature and running water with package had the higher counts in total bacterial count, Coliform group and yeasts and molds (Table 2). The drip lost during thawing is rich in proteins vitamins and minerals, provides an excellent medium for microbial growth (Pham, 2004).microbes regain their activity during thawing (Löndohl and Nilaaon, 1993). Finally the thawed sample in refrigerator had low counts in total bacterial count, Coliform group, *Staphylococcus aureus* and yeasts and molds, this may be due to low temperature $(6\pm 1^{\circ}C)$ inhibits the growth of microorganisms.

Effect of cooking methods on WHC and cooking loss for thawed meat in refrigerator and microwave:

Data in Table (3) showed that the all cooking methods decreased the WHC in comparison with fresh meat (75.88% Table, 1). It has been reported that, the loss in WHC is related to the distribution of the muscle fiber structure as well as the modification and/or denaturation of proteins during freezing, thawing and cooking (Savage et al., 1990). Sample thawed and cooked by using microwave had the lowest WHC (Table 3). This may be due to denaturation of proteins during microwave cooking. The results are in agreement with those obtained by (Vieira, et al., 2009). They reported that during cooking, the melting of fat and denaturation of proteins reportedly cause the release of chemically bond water. Sample thawed at refrigerator temperature, then cooked in pan under pressure had the highest WHC 64.52%. This result is in a good agreement with those stated by (Taher, 1983 and Elgalily et al., 1985). The high value in WHC for thawed sample in refrigerator, then cooked in pan under pressure may be due to hydrolysis the connective tissue (collagen) to gelatin at temperature more than 100°C as result the WHC increased. On the other hand, there is no big difference in cooking loss percent between cooking methods, it ranged from 26.25 to 34.12 %.

Effect of cooking methods on chemical composition of camel meat which thawed at refrigerator temperature and microwave methods:

Data in Table (4) indicated that, the thawed sample at refrigerator temperature then cooked by different cooking methods had the same trend for thawed sample in microwave then cooked by different cooking methods in protein, crude fat and ash content. Thawed samples at refrigerator temperature then cooked by different method usually had the higher value of moisture and proteins than that thawed in microwave then cooked by different cooking methods.

Effect of cooking methods on chemical composition of camel meat thawed in microwave:

Data in the same Table observed that the all cooking methods decreased the moisture content for cooked meat in comparison with fresh or thawed meat. Thawed sample then cooked in microwave had the lower moisture content; this is due to denaturation of proteins and evaporation of water inside microwave. Cooking in microwave increased total ash and inhibit loss of water soluble ash. meanwhile blanch cooking (wet cooking) decreased the total and water soluble ash as result of moving minerals to blanching water. The proteins content for cooked samples increased in comparison with thawed or fresh meat, this may be due to loss of water and increased of the dry matter in meat proportionally. The sample cooked in pan under pressure had the lowest total fat because high temperature melts the fat, then it moved to blanching water.

Effect of cooking methods on sensory evaluation of camel meat thawed at refrigerator temperature and microwave methods:

Data in Table (5) showed that, there was no effect of cooking methods on flavor, color and appearance of cooked camel meat (Table 5). Statistical analysis indicates that there was no significant difference among cooking methods. Samples cooked in microwave had lower juiciness and tenderness than that cooked by wet cooking (blanching). These results are in excellent agreement with results of WHC thawing microwave or cooking decreased the juiciness of meat. Cooking in pan under pressure enhance the texture of camel meat. This may be due to hydrolysis of connective tissue and melting of fat inside tissues then prevent loss of water. The higher score for overall acceptability was for thawed sample in microwave and cooked by blanching (88.2) the best texture was for thawed sample in microwave then cooked in pan under pressure which had value (22.6).

Table 3. Effect of cooking methods on water holding capacity and cooking loss of Libyan camel meats thawed by microwave and refrigerator methods.

	Microwave thawing (160 Watt)			Refrigerator thawing (6±1°C)		
Properties	Blanching* cooking	e		Blanching* cooking	Microwave cooking	Pressure cooker cooking
WHC %	53.65	51.7	63.44	63.09	53.44	64.52
Cooking loss %	26.35	33.25	26.25	29.75	34.12	28.00

* wet cooking under atmospheric pressure.

	Microwa	ve thawing came	l meat	Refrigerator thawing camel meat		
Component	Blanching Microwave cooking cooking		Pressure cooker cooking	Blanching cooking	Microwave cooking	Pressure cooker cooking
Moisture %	53.65	51.71	63.44	63.09	53.44	64.52
Protein %	26.35	33.25	26.25	29.75	34.12	28.00
Crude fat %	14.29	13.93	4.01	14.29	12.93	4.91
Soluble ash %	0.13	0.95	0.30	0.20	0.87	0.23
Insoluble ash %	0.38	0.52	0.25	0.31	0.29	0.18

Table 4. Effect of cooking methods on chemical composition of Libyan camel meat which thawed by microwave and refrigerator methods.

Table 5. Effect of cooking	g methods on sensory	evaluation of Libyan camel meat.

Thawing		Means					Total
methods	Cooking methods	Flavor	Texture	Color	Juiciness	Appearance	acceptability
		(25)	(25)	(20)	(20)	(10)	(100)
Microwave	Blanching	22	21.8^{ab}	17.2	19.0 ^a	8.2	88.2 ^a
	Microwave	19	18.0°	18.2	13.8 ^c	7.6	76.4 ^b
	Pressure cooker	21.8	22.6 ^a	17.4	18.0^{ab}	7.6	87.4 ^a
Refrigerator - at (6±1°C)	Blanching	20.8	20.0^{ab}	16.8	18.2 ^{ab}	7.4	83.2 ^a
	Microwave	18.8	18.2 ^c	17.0	15.8 ^{bc}	7.0	76.8 ^b
	Pressure cooker	21	19.6 ^{bc}	17.8	17.4 ^{ab}	8.2	84.0^{a}
L.S.D 0.05		-	2.58	-	2.58	-	6.29

Means designed with the same letter within each column are not significantly different

(-) LSD was not calculated because; there are no significant differences in the analysis of variance table .

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تأثير طرق فك التجميد والطهى على جودة لحوم الابل الليبية

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تم دراسة تأثير طرق فك التجميد وطرق الطهي على التركيب الكيميائي والجودة الحسية للحوم الابل الليبية. جهزت العينات ووضعت في عبوات وخزنت تحت التجميد لمدة 20 يوما على درجة -82° م. تم تقدر كل من التركيب الكيميائي والفحص الميكروبيولوجي وصفات الجودة الحسية لعينات لحم الابل الليبية المفكوك تجميده بالطرق المختلفة والمطهي بالطرق المختلفة المستخدمة في هذه الدراسة. تزاوحت النسبة المئوية للسائل المفقود اثناء فك التجميد من (1.02 الى 2.952 %) وكانت اعلي نسبة فقد في العينة المعباة المفكوك تجميدها بالماء الجاري بينما كانت اقل نسبة فقد في العينة المفكوك تجميده بالصرة الميكروويف .جميع طرق فك التجميد والطهي. أدت الى انخفاض مقدرة اللحم على مسك الماء. فك التجميد ادي الى خفض الرماد في العينات. فك التجميد ادي الي خفض البروتين في جميع العينات ما عدا المفكوك تجميدها الماء. فك التجميد ادي الى خفض الرماد في العينات. فك التجميد ادي الي خفض البروتين في جميع العينات ما عدا المفكوك تجميدها بالميكروويف. استخدام فرن الميكروويف في فك التجميد او الطهي خفض فقد البروتين والاملاح المعدنية . أدى الطهي الرطب (سلق) الى خفض البروتين والاملاح المعدنية في المينات. العدد الكلي للبكتريا وعدد بكتريا القولون كان منخفض في العينات التي تم فك تجميدها بالميكروويف و الثروتين والاملاح المعدنية في العينات. العدد الكلي للبكتريا وعدد بكتريا القولون كان منخفض في العينات التي تم فك تجميدها بالميكروويف و المؤلوبين والاملاح المعدنية في العينات. العدد الكلي للبكتريا وعدد بكتريا القولون كان منخفض في العينات التي تم فك تجميدها بالميكروويف و المؤلوبين والاملاح المعدنية في العينات. العد الكلي للبكتريا وعدد بكتريا القولون كان منخفض في العينات التي تم فك معود العبوة. كان بكتريا الاستيفلوكوكس (6.5 × 1.1[°] , 1.1 × 1[°])</sup> للعينات التي الحري فك تجميدها على درجة حرارة الغرفة أو بالميكروويف و والعصيرية للحوم الابل كبيرة العمر . تزاوحت الناسبة المغوك تجميدها على درجة حرارة الغرفة أو بالسينا كانت الاعداد 3.3 × والعصيرية للحوم الابل كبيرة العمر . تزاوحت النمية ألمي و ي حلة تحت الضغط إلى تحسن من قدرة اللحم على مسك الماء و القوا والعصيرية والمول الن المين المانت الل العينات الفي الفقد الثاء الطمي من 20.2 20 2.1 2.1 × 1.0 كانت الاعدا الميكوويو والمعيوز والمام ورز 2.5 × 1.0 كان الماء