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24th International Scientific-Expert Conference of Agriculture and Food Industry

Book of Abstracts

Sarajevo
September 25-28, 2013

24th INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC-EXPERT CONFERENCE OF
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY

organized by

Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
and
Faculty of Agriculture, Ege University Izmir, Republic of Turkey

in cooperation with

Uludağ University, Bursa, Republic of Turkey
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Editors: Milenko Blesić, Belma Dučić; Printed by: Štamparija Fojnica – D.D. Fojnica

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EMULSIFYING PROPERTIES OF CAPRINE MILK: THE INFLUENCE OF pHs

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Summary

During recent years, an increasing interest has developed in foods that contribute to a positive effect on health beyond their nutritional value. Among these functional foods, much attention has been focused on caprine milk and its dairy products. Caprine milk has been described as having a higher digestibility and lower allergenicity than bovine milk and was recognized as a source of valuable bioactive peptides. Emulsifying properties of milk proteins are well established, making them the most studied of the food proteins and widely used in food formulations. Reports on caprine milk proteins in emulsions are very limited unlike the numerous literatures corresponding to bovine milk.

In the present study, emulsifying properties of thermally treated caprine skim milk (90°C, 10 min) at different pHs of milk (from 6.5 to 7.1) were investigated according to the procedure proposed by Pearce and Kinsella (1978). The obtained results indicated that heat treatment of caprine skim milk increased emulsion stability and decreased emulsion activity about two times compared to values obtained for emulsion prepared with raw caprine skim milk. The emulsifying stability index and emulsifying activity index of heated caprine milk showed a dependent behaviour on pH. Maximum emulsion stability was registered at pH 9 (ESI was 201.52 min), whereas minimum was observed at pH 6.5 (ESI was 91.71 min). Maximum emulsion activity was at pH 6.5 and 6.7 (EAI was about 68 m²/g), whereas minimum was at pH 9 (EAI was 56.05 m²/g). The observed changes in emulsifying properties of heat-treated caprine milk could be attributed to whey protein/casein complexes formed during heating of milk.

Key words: caprine milk, thermal treatment, emulsifying properties

Emulsifying properties of caprine milk: the influence of pHs

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Results

24th INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC-EXPERT CONFERENCE
IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY

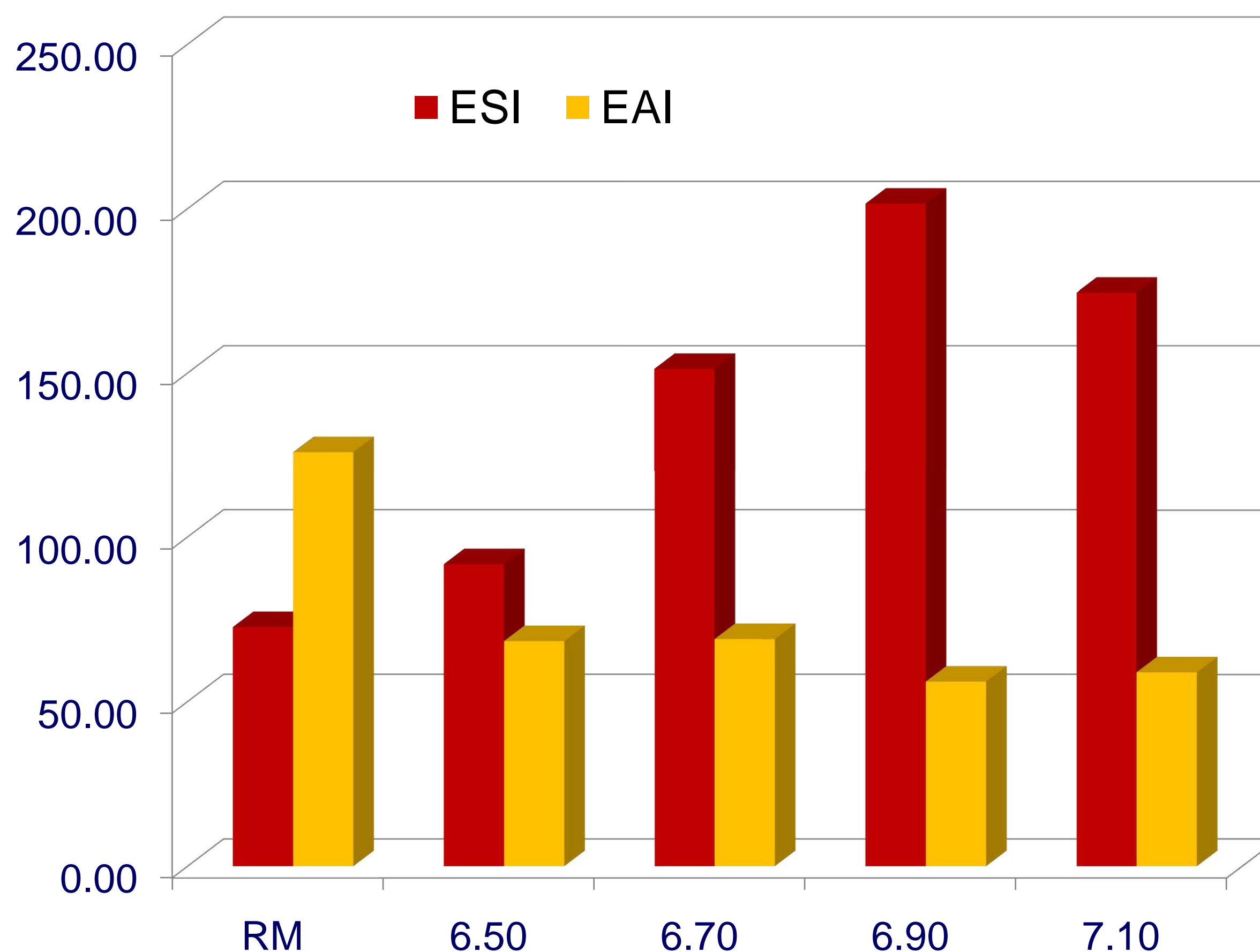
Sarajevo, September 25-28, 2013

Introduction

During recent years, an increasing interest has developed in foods that contribute to a positive effect on health beyond their nutritional value. Among these functional foods, much attention has been focused on caprine milk and its dairy products. Caprine milk has been described as having a higher digestibility and lower allergenicity than bovine milk and was recognized as a source of valuable bioactive peptides (1,2).

Heat treatment of milk and dairy products is one of the essential operations in most dairy processes. This operation is applied either to enhance technological-functional properties of final products or to ensure its safety and shelf life. During heat treatment, the formation of protein complexes among denatured whey proteins, mainly β -lactoglobulin (β -LG) and α -lactalbumin (α -LA), and κ -casein (κ -CN) were occurred (3). The importance of these complexes is well known. They affect many dairy processes such as cheesemaking, yoghurt-making, storage of UHT milk and preparation of functional ingredients. Emulsifying properties of milk proteins are well established, making them the most studied of the food proteins and widely used in food formulations. But, all of these findings were obtained by studying bovine milk. So, the question is: Weather the knowledge gained by studying the bovine milk could be applied to the caprine milk? Until now, only a few studies were performed concerning the formation of WP/ κ -CN complexes in heat-treated caprine milk and behavior of caprine milk proteins in emulsions.

Therefore, the objective of this study was to evaluate emulsifying properties of caprine skim milk thermally treated at different pHs of milk (from 6.5 to 7.1) according to the procedure proposed by Pearce and Kinsella (4).

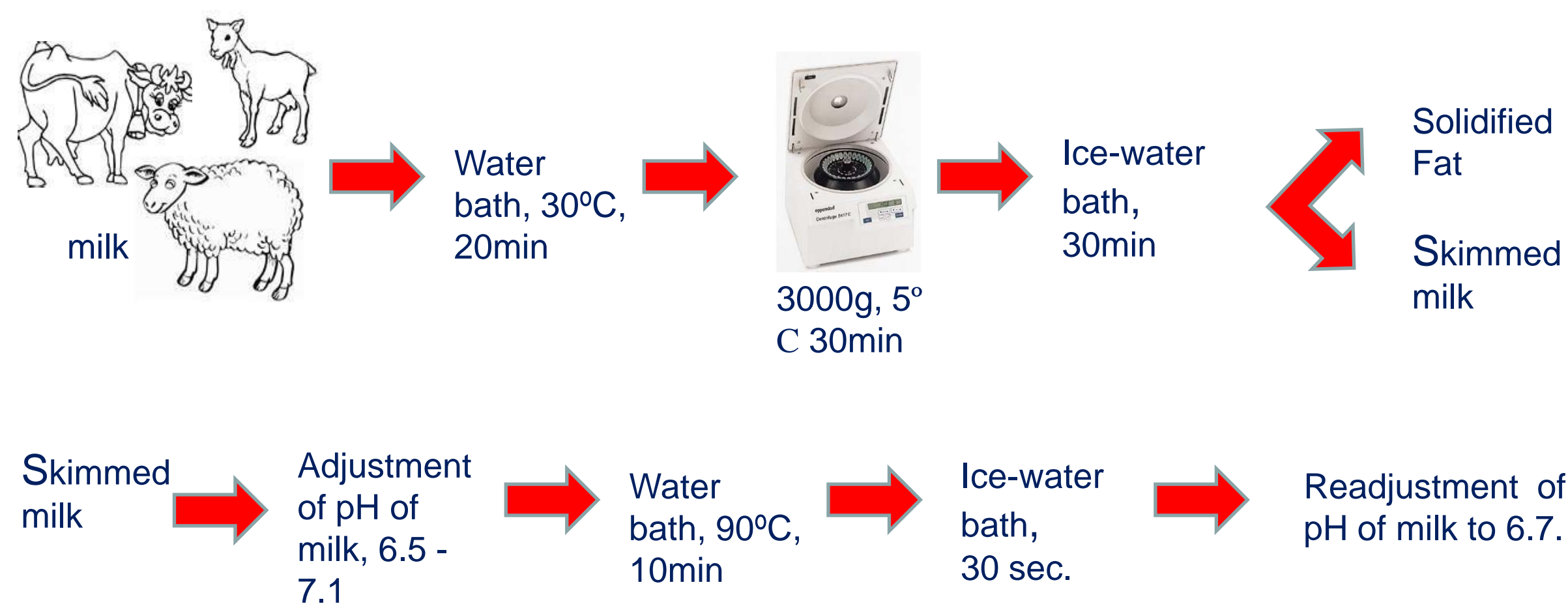


ESI (min)	72.61	91.71	151.25	201.52	174.42
EAI (m ² /g)	125.93	68.35 ^a	68.95 ^a	56.05	58.96

Means with the same letters within the same row are not significantly different ($p < 0.05$).

Figure 1. Emulsifying properties of caprine skim milk thermally treated at different pHs (6.5, 6.7, 6.9, and 7.1)

Sample preparation



Emulsifying properties

Pure sunflower oil (15 ml) and 45 ml of 0.1% aqueous solution of milk samples were homogenised with high speed homogenizer (MSE – Homogeniser, Measuring & Scientific Equipment Ltd., Spenser st., London, S.W1, England) at highest settings for 1min. Fifty-micro litre portions of the emulsion was pipetted from the bottom of the container at 0 and 10 min after homogenization. Each portion was diluted with 10mL of 0.1% (w/v) SDS solution. Absorbance of diluted emulsion was measured at 500 nm. The absorbance measured immediately (A_0) and 10 min (A_{10}) after emulsion formation was used to calculate the emulsifying activity index (EAI) and the emulsifying stability index (ESI).

Discussion

The obtained results indicated that heat treatment of caprine skim milk increased emulsion stability and decreased emulsion activity about two times compared to values obtained for emulsion prepared with raw caprine skim milk. The emulsifying stability index and emulsifying activity index of heated caprine milk showed a dependent behaviour on pHs. Maximum emulsion stability was registered at pH 6.9 (ESI was 201.52 min), whereas minimum was observed at pH 6.5 (ESI was 91.71 min). Maximum emulsion activity was at pH 6.5 and 6.7 (EAI was about 68 m²/g), whereas minimum was at pH 6.9 (EAI was 56.05 m²/g).

The observed changes in emulsifying properties of heat-treated caprine milk could be attributed to whey protein/casein complexes formed during heating of caprine milk. Recently, it was reported that heat treatment of caprine milk at natural pH of milk (6.7) induced formation of micelle-bound complexes (5). These complexes, uniformly distributed on the surface of caprine casein micelles could significantly changed the behaviour of caprine milk proteins on the surface of oil droplets during emulsion formation. Casein micelles with small, well distributed denatured whey proteins on their surfaces probably enhance stability of protein films formed around the oil droplets and decrease emulsion activity compared to emulsions formed by raw skim milk. The differences of emulsifying properties of caprine milk heated at different pHs indicated to different distribution, size or structure of whey protein/casein complexes formed during heating of caprine milk.

Conclusions

Heat treatment of caprine milk at different pHs of milk significantly changed its emulsifying properties. This could be attributed to whey protein/casein complexes formed during heating of caprine milk. However, further research will be needed to test how heat-induced complexes formed at different pHs of milk affect emulsifying properties of caprine milk.

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