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FABÍOLA AYRES CACCIATORE

**ENCAPSULAÇÃO DE CARVACROL EM NANOCÁPSULAS DE
MUCILAGEM DE CHIA E LINHAÇA VISANDO A INIBIÇÃO DE
MICRORGANISMOS PATOGÊNICOS EM ALIMENTOS**

Porto Alegre

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Mestre em Ciência e Tecnologia de Alimentos - UFRGS

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MUCILAGEM DE CHIA E LINHAÇA VISANDO A INIBIÇÃO DE
MICRORGANISMOS PATOGÊNICOS**

Tese apresentada ao Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciência e Tecnologia de Alimentos da Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, como requisito parcial para obtenção do grau de Doutora em Ciência e Tecnologia de Alimentos.

Orientadores:

Prof. Dr. Adriano Brandelli
Profa. Dra. Patrícia da Silva Malheiros

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RESUMO

A disponibilidade de nutrientes e a diversidade nutricional tornam os alimentos suscetíveis à contaminação por bactérias, bolores e leveduras, representando um desafio significativo para a indústria alimentícia na manutenção da qualidade e segurança. Apesar das várias técnicas e aditivos disponíveis para o processamento de alimentos, a crescente demanda dos consumidores por produtos com menor quantidade de aditivos sintéticos é evidente. A perspectiva de substituir esses aditivos por antimicrobianos naturais, como o carvacrol, é considerada pelas indústrias alimentícias. No entanto, desvantagens como a alta volatilidade, sabor residual e degradação durante o processamento são desafios a serem superados. A encapsulação em nanopartículas, utilizando matrizes naturais como mucilagens, emerge como uma alternativa promissora para proteger os compostos, preservando sua atividade antimicrobiana e proporcionando liberação controlada. Este estudo buscou encapsular carvacrol em nanocápsulas de mucilagem de chia (CMNP) e linhaça (FMNP), visando a inibição de bactérias patogênicas relevantes em alimentos. As nanocápsulas foram produzidas pela técnica de emulsificação de alta energia, sendo caracterizadas e avaliadas quanto à sua ação antimicrobiana contra coquetéis de *Salmonella enterica* e *Listeria monocytogenes in vitro* no artigo 1. As CMNP apresentaram diâmetro de 179 nm, potencial zeta de -11,4 mV e eficiência de encapsulação de 98%. A Concentração de Inibição Bactericida (CIB) das CMNP foi de 0,42 mg/mL contra *Salmonella* e de 0,83 mg/mL contra *L. monocytogenes*. FMNP apresentou diâmetro de 165,3 nm, potencial zeta de -12,6 mV e eficiência de encapsulação de 98%. CIB das FMNP foi de 0,83 mg/mL contra as duas bactérias testadas. CMNP e FMNP apresentaram melhor eficiência na inativação de *Salmonella* e *L. monocytogenes* em comparação com emulsão de carvacrol (1,77 mg/mL para ambos microrganismos). A cinética de multiplicação/inativação *in vitro* foi determinada para cada bactéria (8 log UFC/mL) utilizando diferentes concentrações de CMNP e FMNP. Após 2 horas de contato a 37 °C, CMNP e FMNP em concentração CIB inibiram *Salmonella* e *L. monocytogenes* abaixo do limite de detecção do método (< 1,69 log UFC/mL). Entretanto, para CMNP ao final do experimento (48 horas) os baixos níveis mantiveram-se constantes, enquanto para FMNP a partir de 24 horas as contagens dos microrganismos aumentaram, atingindo 3 log UFC/mL em 48 horas. Portanto, CMNP foi selecionada para as próximas etapas da pesquisa. O artigo 2, apresentou uma nova abordagem envolvendo a aplicação de CMNP como ingrediente antimicrobiano contra *Salmonella* em carne de frango. Nesse artigo, foi determinada a CIB de CMNP e emulsão de carvacrol (CE) em caldo de galinha, visando aplicar essa concentração em amostras de carne de frango artificialmente contaminadas com um coquetel de *Salmonella*, além de analisar as modificações de cor e textura das amostras tratadas. A CIB das CMNP e da CE em caldo de galinha foi de 0,92 mg/mL e 1,77 mg/mL, respectivamente. Estas concentrações foram aplicadas para avaliar a cinética do crescimento bacteriano em amostras de carne de frango armazenadas sob refrigeração durante 72 h. Para CMNP foi observada uma redução de ~2 log UFC/g nas contagens de *Salmonella* durante as 72 horas do experimento. Para CE, a redução máxima ocorreu às 6 h (1,7 log UFC/g). Após o tratamento houve mudança de cor das amostras, apresentando coloração esbranquiçada, semelhante à do frango cozido. A textura das amostras tornou-se mais firme após 48 h de exposição aos tratamentos. Portanto, a CMNP tem potencial para ser utilizada como antimicrobiano em frangos processados, como *nuggets* ou hambúrgueres, considerando sua eficácia contra *Salmonella* e que as alterações de cor e textura não serão perceptíveis ao consumidor, especialmente considerando que esses alimentos são consumidos após o processo de cozimento. No artigo 3, as mesmas nanocápsulas (CMNP) foram aplicadas como sanitizante em repolho para avaliar sua atividade contra *Salmonella*, *E. coli* e *L.*

monocytogenes, em comparação com CE e solução clorada 200 ppm (CS). Após a sanitização, foram avaliados os impactos na cor e textura das amostras de repolho. CMNP reduziu *Salmonella* para níveis abaixo do limite de detecção ($< 2 \log$ UFC/mL), para *E. coli* houve redução de $\sim 3,5 \log$ UFC/mL e de $\sim 2,5 \log$ UFC/mL para *L. monocytogenes*. Estes resultados são semelhantes ou mesmo superiores aos obtidos com CE e CS. Além disso, a higienização de repolho com CMNP preservou a firmeza e a cor das amostras. Esta abordagem inovadora é promissora para aumentar a segurança microbiológica do repolho, ao mesmo tempo que atenua os potenciais inconvenientes associados aos métodos de higienização tradicionais. Portanto, CMNP mostram potencial para uso como conservante de aplicação direta em alimentos ou sanitizante de vegetais, sendo necessários mais estudos para futura aplicação na indústria de alimentos.

Palavras-chave: Carvacrol; Nanocápsulas; Patógenos; Frango; Repolho; Sanitização

ABSTRACT

The availability of nutrients and nutritional diversity make food susceptible to contamination by bacteria, molds and yeasts, representing a significant challenge for the food industry in maintaining quality and safety. Despite the various techniques and additives available for food processing, the growing consumer demand for products with fewer synthetic additives is evident. The perspective of replacing these additives by natural antimicrobials, such as carvacrol, has been considered by the food industry. However, disadvantages such as high volatility, aftertaste and degradation during processing are challenges to overcome. Encapsulation in nanoparticles, applying natural matrices such as mucilage, has emerged as a promising alternative for protecting compounds, preserving their antimicrobial activity and providing controlled release. This study aimed to encapsulate carvacrol in chia mucilage (CMNP) and flaxseed (FMNP) nanocapsules to inhibit food-borne pathogenic bacteria. The nanocapsules were produced using the high-energy emulsification technique and were characterized and evaluated for their antimicrobial action against cocktails of *Salmonella enterica* and *Listeria monocytogenes* *in vitro* in paper 1. The CMNPs exhibited a diameter of 179 nm, a zeta potential of -11.4 mV and an encapsulation efficiency of 98%. The Bactericidal Inhibition Concentration (BIC) of the CMNPs was 0.42 mg/mL against *Salmonella* and 0.83 mg/mL against *L. monocytogenes*. FMNP exhibited a diameter of 165.3 nm, a zeta potential of -12.6 mV and an encapsulation efficiency of 98%. The CIB of the FMNPs was 0.83 mg/mL against the two bacteria tested. CMNP and FMNP exhibited better efficiency in inactivating *Salmonella* and *L. monocytogenes* compared to carvacrol emulsion (1.77 mg/mL for both microorganisms). Kinetics of microbial growth/survival *in vitro* were determined for each bacterium (8 log CFU/mL) applying different concentrations of CMNP and FMNP. After 2 hours of contact at 37 °C, CMNP and FMNP at CIB inhibited *Salmonella* and *L. monocytogenes* below the detection limit (< 1.69 log CFU/mL). However, for CMNP at the end of the experiment (48 hours) the low levels remained constant, while for FMNP after 24 hours the microorganism counts increased, reaching 3 log UFC/mL in 48 hours. Therefore, CMNP was selected for the next phases of the research. The second paper exhibited a new approach involving the application of CMNP as an antimicrobial ingredient against *Salmonella* in chicken meat. In this paper, the CIB of CMNP and carvacrol emulsion (CE) in chicken broth was determined, with the aim of applying this concentration to samples of chicken meat artificially contaminated with a cocktail of *Salmonella*, as well as analyzing the changes in color and texture of the treated samples. The CIB of CMNP and CE in chicken broth was 0.92 mg/mL and 1.77 mg/mL, respectively. These concentrations were used to assess the kinetics of bacterial growth in chicken meat samples stored under refrigeration for 72 hours. For CMNP, a reduction of ~2 log CFU/g in *Salmonella* counts was observed during the 72 hours of the experiment. For CE, the maximum reduction occurred at 6 h (1.7 log CFU/g). After treatment, the color of the samples changed to whitish, similar to cooked chicken. The texture of the samples became tighter after 48 h of exposure to the treatments. Thus, CMNP has the potential to be applied as an antimicrobial in processed chickens, such as nuggets or hamburgers, due to its efficacy against *Salmonella* and considering that the changes in color and texture will not be noticeable to the consumer, especially given that these foods are consumed after the cooking process. In paper 3, the same nanocapsules (CMNP) were applied as a sanitizer to cabbage to evaluate their activity against *Salmonella*, *E. coli* and

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Keywords: Carvacrol; Nanocapsules; Pathogens; Chicken; Cabbage; Sanitization

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LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS E SIGLAS

‰: percentual

° C: graus Celsius

µg: micrograma

µL: microlitro

µm: micrometro

BHI: *Brain Heart Infusion*

BPF: Boas Práticas de Fabricação

CIB: Concentração de Inativação Bactericida

CE: *Carvacrol Emulsion*

CFU: *Colony-Forming Unit*

CMNP: Nanopartícula de mucilagem de chia

UCMN: Nanopartícula de mucilagem de chia vazia

EFMNP: Nanopartícula de mucilagem de linhaça vazia

EE: Eficiência de Encapsulação

FDA: *Food and Drug Administration*

FMNP: Nanopartícula de mucilagem de linhaça

GRAS: *Generally Recognized as Safe*

ICTA: Instituto de Ciência e Tecnologia de Alimentos

KHz: quilohertz

MBC: *Minimum Bactericidal Concentration*

mg: miligrama

mV: milivolt

nm: nanômetro

PDI: polidispersidade

RCM: Mucilagem de chia reidratada

RFM: Mucilagem de linhaça reidratada

rpm: rotações por minuto

UFC: unidades formadoras de colônias

WHO: *World and Health Organization*

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1. INTRODUÇÃO

A ampla variedade e disponibilidade de nutrientes tornam os alimentos suscetíveis à contaminação por bactérias, bolores e leveduras, apresentando um desafio significativo para a indústria alimentícia na preservação de sua qualidade e segurança. Enquanto a contaminação por microrganismos deteriorantes provocam modificações nas características organolépticas, diminuindo a qualidade (PELLISSERY *et al.*, 2019; SUN *et al.*, 2022), os microrganismos patogênicos e suas toxinas podem ser causadores de doenças, tornando o alimento potencialmente inseguro (GONELIMALI *et al.*, 2018; ZHAO; TALHA, 2021).

As doenças transmitidas por alimentos (DTAs) geralmente são causadas por bactérias, vírus ou parasitas devido a falhas durante o processamento de alimentos. Dentre os microrganismos patogênicos que despertam maior interesse dos órgãos governamentais de vigilância epidemiológica destacam-se *Salmonella* e *Listeria monocytogenes*. Geralmente DTAs causam sintomas leves como náuseas, vômitos e diarreia, porém em crianças, idosos e imunodeprimidos podem provocar a morte (BRASIL, 2022a; EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY, 2022).

Diversas técnicas podem ser utilizadas para conservação de alimentos (congelamento, resfriamento, cura e outros), sendo permitida a adição de conservantes e aditivos durante o processamento (BRASIL, 2019). Entretanto, muitos desses aditivos são prejudiciais à saúde quando ingeridos acima da dose permitida (JABARI *et al.*, 2018), aumentando a demanda por alimentos mais naturais e com menor quantidade de aditivos sintéticos. Este posicionamento dos consumidores aumentou o interesse da indústria alimentícia por inovações tecnológicas, como a substituição de conservantes sintéticos por antimicrobianos naturais, visando a manutenção da segurança e qualidade de seus produtos (DELGADO-PANDO *et al.*, 2021; SANTIESTEBAN-LÓPEZ *et al.*, 2022).

Antimicrobianos naturais podem ter origem vegetal, animal ou microbiana, sendo mais utilizados em pesquisas os óleos essenciais (OE), devido sua elevada atividade antimicrobiana contra microrganismos patogênicos e deteriorantes (JU *et al.*, 2019; MAURYA *et al.*, 2021; PRAKASH *et al.*, 2018). Como esses óleos geralmente apresentam odor forte e característico muitas pesquisas são realizadas com compostos extraídos dos OE, que possuem odores mais suaves, tais como carvacrol, que é o mais estudado para aplicações em alimentos (MARINELLI *et al.*, 2019; PATEIRO *et al.*, 2021; SANTIESTEBAN-LÓPEZ *et al.*, 2022).

O carvacrol é extraído dos óleos essenciais de orégano (*Origanum vulgare* L.) e tomilho (*Thymus vulgaris* L.) e apresenta excelente atividade antimicrobiana contra bactérias (Gram-positivas e Gram-negativas), fungos filamentosos e leveduras (HAJIBONABI *et al.*, 2023; KACHUR; SUNTRES, 2020). Sua adição em alimentos é permitida na China, Estados Unidos (LIU *et al.*, 2021) e União Europeia (EUROPEAN COMMISSION, 2002) como flavorizante. Além disso, apresenta baixa toxicidade para humanos, sendo considerado uma substância Geralmente Reconhecida como Segura (GRAS) (FDA, 2018).

Entretanto, a aplicação de carvacrol no processamento de alimentos é limitada devido a características como hidrofobicidade, baixa estabilidade, odor marcante e alta volatilidade (WANG; WU, 2021), o que torna a encapsulação uma estratégia para possibilitar sua utilização nestes produtos.

A nanoencapsulação proporciona a proteção de compostos sensíveis no interior de uma partícula de dimensões nanométricas (menor que 1000 nm) produzida a partir de uma matriz polimérica sintética ou natural, conforme característica desejada para a nanopartícula (ASSADPOUR; JAFARI, 2019; SOUZA *et al.*, 2022). Esta técnica promove liberação gradativa do composto encapsulado (CHARLES *et al.*, 2022; HAJIBONABI *et al.*, 2023; NIZA *et al.*, 2020), além de melhorar sua solubilidade, mascarar odores indesejáveis e proteger os compostos encapsulados das condições adversas do processamento (alta temperatura, umidade, pH e outros) (KAUR, R.; KAUR, L., 2021).

Polímeros naturais podem ser extraídos de plantas, animais ou microrganismos, apresentando baixa toxicidade e variedade de aplicações (KOUHI; PRABHAKARAN; RAMAKRISHNA, 2020; ZHAO *et al.*, 2022). Nas pesquisas para aplicação em alimentos, destaca-se a utilização de quitosana, alginato, amido, pectina e, nos últimos anos, gomas e mucilagens (WAGHMARE *et al.*, 2021).

Mucilagens são carboidratos produzidos por plantas como material de reserva de energia e água (PRAJAPATI *et al.*, 2013; TOSIF *et al.*, 2021; WAGHMARE *et al.*, 2021). São polímeros que possuem alta capacidade de hidratação, baixo custo e não apresentam toxicidade (CAMPO *et al.*, 2017; SOUKOULIS; GAIANI; HOFFMANN, 2018; TAHERI; JAFARI, 2019). Apresentam grande potencial para uso como material de parede pois conseguem reter compostos bioativos no interior das nanopartículas (TOSIF *et al.*, 2021) e sua estrutura pode ser quimicamente modificada para melhorar

características como biocompatibilidade e estabilidade (DEBELE; MEKURIA; TSAI, 2016; REHMAN et al., 2020).

Diversos estudos utilizaram mucilagens para a produção de nanopartículas a partir de vegetais comestíveis (CHARLES *et al.*, 2022; EKRAMI *et al.*, 2022; TAHERI; JAFARI, 2019) destacando-se chia (ANTIGO *et al.*, 2020; CAMPO, C. *et al.*, 2017; FERNANDES *et al.*, 2023; ROOBAB *et al.*, 2021) e linhaça (NASRABADI; GOLI; DOOST; DEWETTINCK; *et al.*, 2019; NASRABADI; GOLI; DOOST; ROMAN; *et al.*, 2019; REZAUL *et al.*, 2023).

Nesse contexto, a preparação, caracterização e avaliação do potencial antibacteriano de nanocápsulas de mucilagem de chia e linhaça como um novo antimicrobiano inovador representam um avanço para o processamento e conservação de alimentos.

2. OBJETIVOS

2.1 OBJETIVO GERAL

Encapsular carvacrol em nanocápsulas de mucilagem de chia e linhaça visando a inibição de bactérias patogênicas de importância em alimentos de origem animal e vegetal.

2.2 OBJETIVOS ESPECÍFICOS

- a) Desenvolver e caracterizar nanocápsulas de mucilagem de chia e linhaça contendo carvacrol através de análise de tamanho, polidispersidade, eficiência de encapsulação e potencial zeta;
- b) Determinar a estabilidade das nanocápsulas por um período de 28 dias;
- c) Determinar a Concentração de Inativação Bactericida (CIB) de carvacrol livre, bem como do carvacrol encapsulado em nanocápsulas de mucilagens de chia e linhaça contra *Salmonella* e *Listeria monocytogenes*;
- d) Determinar a cinética de multiplicação *in vitro* de *Salmonella* e *L. monocytogenes* em presença de carvacrol livre e encapsulado em nanocápsulas de mucilagens de chia e linhaça utilizando diferentes concentrações, CIB e ½ CIB (metade da concentração determinada como CIB);
- e) Determinar a CIB de carvacrol livre e encapsulado em nanocápsulas de mucilagem de chia contra *Salmonella* em caldo de frango;
- f) Determinar a cinética de multiplicação/inibição de *Salmonella* artificialmente inoculada em carne de frango, mantido em refrigeração durante 72 horas, na presença de carvacrol livre e encapsulado em nanocápsulas de mucilagem de chia;
- g) Avaliar a atividade antimicrobiana de carvacrol livre e encapsulado em nanocápsulas de mucilagem de chia para sanitização de repolho artificialmente contaminado com *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli* e *Listeria monocytogenes*;

CAPÍTULO 3 - REVISÃO BIBLIOGRÁFICA

3. REVISÃO BIBLIOGRÁFICA

3.1 Microrganismos patogênicos em alimentos

Um dos desafios mais importantes para a indústria alimentícia é a manutenção da segurança e qualidade do alimento até o momento do consumo. Devido à disponibilidade de água, proteínas, carboidratos, lipídios e demais nutrientes os alimentos são facilmente degradados por bactérias, fungos e leveduras. A multiplicação de bactérias deteriorantes pode gerar mau cheiro, descoloração, viscosidade, formação de gás e redução do pH, diminuindo assim a qualidade dos produtos e levando ao desperdício de alimentos (PELLISSERY *et al.*, 2019; SUN *et al.*, 2022).

Por outro lado, os microrganismos patogênicos e suas toxinas podem ser causadores de doenças, porém sem provocar alteração sensorial no alimentos (GONELIMALI *et al.*, 2018; ZHAO; TALHA, 2021). Existem mais de 250 tipos de DTA conhecidas, a maioria causada por bactérias, vírus ou parasitas e relacionadas, principalmente, a falhas durante o processamento e manipulação dos alimentos. Os principais sintomas de DTA são náuseas, vômitos e diarreia, acompanhadas ou não de febre, porém podem evoluir para perdas de funções vitais e morte, afetando principalmente crianças, idosos e imunodeprimidos (BRASIL, 2022a; EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY, 2022).

Dentre os microrganismos patogênicos *Salmonella* é um dos principais causadores de surtos alimentares e *Listeria monocytogenes* é outro patógeno muito importante na área de alimentos, pois provoca doença com alta letalidade e vem causando diversos surtos em todo o mundo nos últimos anos (BRASIL, 2022a; CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC), 2023; EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY, 2022).

Neste sentido, os microrganismos patogênicos de interesse na presente pesquisa serão comentados a seguir.

3.1.1 *Salmonella*

Salmonella spp. são responsáveis por grande parte dos surtos alimentares que ocorrem no Brasil e no mundo (BRASIL, 2022a; CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC), 2023; EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY, 2022). Estes microrganismos pertencem à família *Enterobacteriaceae*, são anaeróbios facultativos, possuem forma de bacilos Gram-negativos e temperatura ótima de

crescimento a 37 °C. Podem ser encontradas no trato intestinal do homem e animais, principalmente aves (FORSYTHE, 2020; MILAN; TIMM, 2015). *Salmonella* apresenta uma notável capacidade de formar biofilme (LIU, X. et al., 2023; MUHAMMAD et al., 2020; WANG, R.; KING; KALCHAYANAND, 2022) e pode exibir resistência a antimicrobianos (CHAVES et al., 2024; SURYA et al., 2023), tornando seu controle fundamental para indústria de alimentos.

A doença causada por esta bactéria é a salmonelose cujo tempo de incubação e severidade dos sintomas dependem da quantidade de bactérias presentes no alimento ingerido, do estado imunológico da pessoa e do tipo de *Salmonella*. Entretanto, na maioria dos casos os sintomas surgem entre 12 a 36 horas após a ingestão, com quadro clínico caracterizado por febre, dor abdominal, diarreia, náuseas e vômitos. Em consequência da desidratação provocada pelos sintomas, as vezes pode ser necessária internação hospitalar. Em idosos e imunodeprimidos, algumas vezes, esta doença pode provocar a morte (EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY, 2022).

Os principais alimentos suscetíveis à contaminação por *Salmonella* são as preparações à base de ovos, principalmente as que utilizam gema crua. Porém, diversos outros alimentos com alto teor de umidade, proteína e carboidratos são suscetíveis à contaminação por *Salmonella* como carne bovina, carne de aves, leite, frutos do mar, frutas e vegetais (HE et al., 2021; LOPES; CARMO DA SILVA; TONDO, 2023; RETA et al., 2023).

Alimentos processados, como *nuggets* e hambúrgueres de frango, não estão isentos de contaminação por *Salmonella*. Por exemplo, no período de 2016 a 2018, no Canadá, foram registrados surtos de salmonelose relacionados a tiras e *nuggets* de frango (THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MICROBIOLOGICAL CRITERIA IN FOODS, 2023). Além disso, o cozimento inadequado desses alimentos representa um significativo fator de risco para infecção por *Salmonella*. A aparência dourada devido ao empanamento muitas vezes pode levar os consumidores a erroneamente presumir que o alimento está completamente cozido, aumentando o risco de ingestão crua (HOBBS et al., 2017). Adicionalmente, a presença de *Salmonella* nesses produtos pode resultar em contaminação cruzada nas cozinhas.

No caso de vegetais folhosos, *Salmonella* pode penetrar nas folhas, tornando desafiadora a sua inativação por meio de sanitizantes convencionais (GRIVOKOSTOPOULOS et al., 2022). A detecção frequente desse microrganismo nesses alimentos foi evidenciada por um surto multiestadual em 2021 nos Estados

Unidos, envolvendo *Salmonella* Typhimurium em vegetais folhosos embalados, resultando em casos de salmonelose em 31 pessoas, com quatro hospitalizações (MCCLURE et al., 2023).

3.1.2 *Listeria monocytogenes*

Listeria monocytogenes é uma bactéria ubíqua, apresenta-se sob forma de bastonetes Gram-positivos, que não produzem toxina nem esporos. São capazes de multiplicar-se em presença ou ausência de oxigênio, em alimentos com pH ácido e sob temperaturas de refrigeração (CESARE et al., 2018; FORSYTHE, 2020; PASONEN et al., 2019). Além de contaminar os alimentos diretamente, podem também ser causadores de contaminação pós-processamento pois frequentemente *L. monocytogenes* é encontrada em ambientes de manipulação de alimentos sob forma de biofilmes (KOCOT; OLSZEWSKA, 2017).

Este microrganismo causa listeriose, uma doença bastante severa que apresenta alta taxa de hospitalização e letalidade (20 a 40% dos casos), sendo bastante perigosa para pessoas pertencentes aos grupos de risco como idosos, imunocomprometidos e gestantes e seus bebês (CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC), 2023; EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY, 2022; FAN et al., 2019). Seus sintomas iniciais são dores musculares, vômitos e diarreia, podendo evoluir para meningite, septicemia e outras doenças do sistema nervoso e em gestantes pode provocar aborto (EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY, 2022; FAN et al., 2019).

Os principais alimentos envolvidos em surtos decorrentes de contaminação por *L. monocytogenes* são laticínios, carnes, salsichas, hambúrguer, vegetais, produtos marinados e peixes curados, além de refeições prontas para o consumo (devido contaminação cruzada) e alimentos com baixos teores de umidade. Entretanto, é difícil rastrear o alimento causador de listeriose, pois esta doença possui longo tempo de incubação (CESARE et al., 2018; JAMALI; CHAI; THONG, 2013; TAYLOR; QUINN; KATAOKA, 2019).

Surto envolvendo *L. monocytogenes* estão se tornando cada vez mais frequentes. Em 2021, nos Estados Unidos ocorreu simultaneamente em 13 estados um surto envolvendo saladas verdes embaladas, com 18 doentes, 16 hospitalizações e 3 mortes. Em 2023, ocorreu outro surto multiestadual nos Estados Unidos envolvendo saladas verdes embaladas, porém neste ano o número de estados afetados aumentou para 16, houve 19 doentes, 16 pessoas hospitalizadas e nenhuma morte. O ponto em comum entre

esses dois surtos recentes é que as saladas eram de marcas diferentes e compradas em várias lojas, portanto, pode-se concluir que a contaminação de vegetais folhosos por *L. monocytogenes* nos Estados Unidos está disseminada pelo país, sendo necessárias maiores medidas de controle (CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC), 2023).

3.1.3 *Escherichia coli*

E. coli pertence à família das *Enterobacteriaceae*, não esporulada, que apresenta-se na forma de bacilos Gram-negativos, com capacidade de fermentar glicose produzindo gás e ácido, com temperatura ideal de multiplicação situada 35 e 40 °C. Sua detecção em alimentos ou água é indicador de contaminação fecal, pois esta bactéria é encontrada no intestino humano e de animais de sangue quente (FRANCO; LANDGRAF, 2008).

Embora a maioria das cepas não represente perigo para o hospedeiro, algumas cepas exibem altos graus de virulência, como a *E. coli* O157:H7, um dos patógenos mais importantes veiculados por meio de alimentos (CARVALHO; MITTELSTAEDT, 2006).

Os alimentos frequentemente implicados em surtos de contaminação por *E. coli* incluem leite não pasteurizado, produtos lácteos, água, sucos de frutas, vegetais consumidos crus e, especialmente, carne bovina mal cozida (ANDRADE, 2008). Em frutas e vegetais a contaminação por *E. coli* muitas vezes está ligada à presença de fezes de animais na água de irrigação, práticas inadequadas de manuseio ou sanitização insuficiente (LIU, C.; HOFSTRA; FRANZ, 2013).

Nas últimas duas décadas, os vegetais folhosos tornaram-se um dos alimentos mais consumidos no mundo e juntamente com o aumento do consumo também houve crescimento no número de surtos envolvidos com estes alimentos, principalmente na Europa e América do Norte. Entre os anos de 1999 e 2019, foram atribuídos à *Escherichia coli* mais de 4.500 surtos na Europa e mais de 3.000 surtos na América do Norte (AIYEDUN *et al.*, 2021).

3.2 Inibição de bactérias patogênicas em alimentos

A incorporação de antimicrobianos sintéticos, com o intuito de inibir patógenos em alimentos, representa uma solução economicamente viável amplamente adotada pela indústria. Contudo, é importante destacar que muitos desses conservantes antimicrobianos têm sido demonstrados como prejudiciais à saúde quando consumidos em doses superiores às permitidas (JABARI *et al.*, 2018). Além disso, a associação

frequente entre as palavras "químico" e "sintético" por parte dos consumidores amplifica a percepção de potenciais riscos. Este cenário tem impulsionado uma crescente demanda por alimentos com menor quantidade de aditivos sintéticos, incentivando a indústria a explorar novas tecnologias para garantir a segurança e qualidade de seus produtos (JANJARASSKUL; SUPPAKUL, 2018; SHARMA et al., 2017). A substituição de conservantes sintéticos por antimicrobianos naturais emerge como uma dessas novas tecnologias com potencial promissor a ser investigado na preservação de alimentos.

3.3 Antimicrobianos naturais

Os antimicrobianos naturais podem ser provenientes de animais, vegetais e microrganismos, entretanto, os óleos essenciais (OE) e seus componentes destacam-se devido seu pronunciado efeito antimicrobiano contra ampla gama de microrganismos patogênicos e deteriorantes (JU et al., 2019; MAURYA et al., 2021; PRAKASH et al., 2018). Porém, devido ao odor característico destes óleos diversos estudos são realizados com compostos antimicrobianos derivados de OE, que geralmente apresentam odor e sabor mais suaves do que os OE, gerando menores alterações organolépticas nos alimentos (LEE; YUN; PARK, 2015). Um dos compostos derivados de óleos essenciais mais estudados para aplicações em alimentos é o carvacrol.

3.3.1 Carvacrol

O carvacrol é um fenol monoterpênóide extraído dos óleos essenciais de orégano (*Origanum vulgare* L.) e tomilho (*Thymus vulgaris* L.). Esse composto apresenta grande atividade antioxidante e antibacteriana contra bactérias patogênicas e deteriorante (Gram-positivas e Gram-negativas), fungos filamentosos e leveduras (BURT, 2004; CHANG et al., 2017; MILADI et al., 2016). É um composto permitido para adição como flavorizante em alimentos na China, Estados Unidos (LIU et al., 2021) e União Europeia (EUROPEAN COMMISSION, 2002), além de apresentar baixa toxicidade para humanos e ser considerado uma substância GRAS pelo FDA (FDA, 2018).

Carvacrol é o composto extraído de óleos essenciais mais utilizado em pesquisas (MARINELLI et al., 2019), principalmente devido ao efeito desintegrador na membrana externa de microrganismos Gram-negativos, uma característica incomum em compostos extraídos de óleos essenciais (STORIA et al., 2011). O carvacrol, por ser um composto altamente lipofílico, age na membrana celular dos microrganismos, alojando-se entre os ácidos graxos, causando desestabilização de sua estrutura com ruptura e vazamento dos

íons K^+ e H^+ , causando morte celular (KACHUR; SUNTRES, 2020; MARINELLI; STEFANO; CACCIATORE, 2018).

Apesar de sua reconhecida atividade antimicrobiana contra os principais patógenos alimentares (CACCIATORE *et al.*, 2020; CAMPANA; BAFFONE, 2018; ENGEL *et al.*, 2017; HECKLER *et al.*, 2020; VIDÁCS *et al.*, 2018), a aplicação de carvacrol é limitada devido ao seu odor pronunciado, hidrofobicidade, baixa estabilidade, alta volatilidade (WANG; WU, 2021) e suscetibilidade a degradação por agentes químicos (ar, pH, umidade) e físicos (luz UV, temperatura) (DORMAN; DEANS, 2000). Além disso, o carvacrol pode interagir com os componentes dos alimentos, diminuindo sua atividade antimicrobiana (BRANDELLI; LOPES; BOELTER, 2017), tornando a encapsulação uma estratégia para possibilitar sua utilização em alimentos.

3.4 Nanoencapsulação

A nanoencapsulação é uma técnica que visa proteger compostos sensíveis no interior de partícula de tamanho nanométrico (menor que 1.000 nm) produzida a partir de uma matriz polimérica inerte (material de parede) proporcionando a liberação dos compostos encapsulados de forma gradativa sob determinadas condições específicas (CHANDRAKASAN *et al.*, 2019; JAFARI, 2017). Além disso, as nanopartículas apresentam grande área superficial, favorecendo o contato entre nanopartículas e células microbianas (OGUNSONA *et al.*, 2019; SRIVIDYA; GHOORA; PADMANABH, 2017) e devido ao seu tamanho ser aproximadamente 1.000 vezes menor que o tamanho das bactérias (NATIONAL NANOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE, 2021) conseguem penetrar através da membrana plasmática destes microrganismos (MORONES *et al.*, 2005). A estratégia de nanoencapsulação é eficaz para proteger o material do núcleo contra condições adversas do processamento de alimentos (alta temperatura, umidade, pH e outros), mascarar odores indesejáveis e melhorar a bioatividade, solubilidade e estabilidade dos compostos encapsulados (KAUR, R.; KAUR, L., 2021).

O composto presente no interior da cápsula é chamado de núcleo ou encapsulado, sendo possível encapsular materiais sólidos, líquidos ou gasosos (JAFARI, 2017; MAHDAVI *et al.*, 2014). Os polímeros usados como material de parede podem ser sintéticos ou naturais, dependendo da característica desejada para a nanopartícula (MOHAMMADI *et al.*, 2017).

3.5 Polímeros naturais

Os polímeros naturais também são chamados de biopolímeros, pois são produzidos por plantas, animais ou microrganismos. Podem ser obtidos através de extração direta de materiais biológicos, sintetizados a partir de monômeros naturais ou produzidos por microrganismos geneticamente modificados (AHMADZADEH; KHANEGHAH, 2019). Estes polímeros, de maneira geral, apresentam baixa toxicidade quando comparados aos polímeros sintéticos (HORST; MOIEMEN; GROVER, 2019; PRAJAPATI *et al.*, 2013).

De maneira equivocada, muitas vezes biopolímeros são confundidos com polímeros biodegradáveis. Entretanto, um polímero somente será considerado biodegradável se em sua degradação produzir unicamente gases, água e biomassa, independente se sua origem for sintética ou natural (REHMAN *et al.*, 2020).

Polímeros naturais são divididos em três classes distintas: polissacarídeos, proteínas e polinucleotídeos, porém nas pesquisas acerca de nanoencapsulação os polímeros mais utilizados são os polissacarídeos (REHMAN *et al.*, 2020), destacando-se quitosana, alginato, amido, pectina e, nos últimos anos, gomas e mucilagens.

3.5.1 Mucilagens

As mucilagens são produtos normais do metabolismo das plantas, compostas por carboidratos de alto peso molecular que são formados dentro das células vegetais para serem utilizados como material de reserva de energia e água (JANI *et al.*, 2009; PRAJAPATI *et al.*, 2013). São polímeros hidrossolúveis, que podem ser classificados como polissacarídeos aniônicos, não aniônicos ou sais de polissacarídeos. Apresentam alta capacidade de hidratação, baixo custo, são materiais não-tóxicos, biocompatíveis, abundantes na natureza e quimicamente modificáveis conforme a aplicação de interesse (CAMPO *et al.*, 2017; SOUKOULIS; GAIANI; HOFFMANN, 2018; TAHERI; JAFARI, 2019).

Mucilagens possuem grande potencial para uso como material de parede de nanopartículas pois os carboidratos de alto peso molecular favorecem a retenção de compostos bioativos (TOSIF *et al.*, 2021) e modificações químicas podem ser facilmente realizadas em sua estrutura para melhorar características como biocompatibilidade e estabilidade (DEBELE; MEKURIA; TSAI, 2016; REHMAN *et al.*, 2020). Também podem ser utilizados como estabilizadores em emulsões, pois provocam redução da tensão interfacial entre óleo e água (GOLKAR; TAGHAVI; DEHNAVI, 2018; SIBAJA-

HERNÁNDEZ *et al.*, 2015). A estabilização ocorre porque a pequena porção de lipídios presentes na mucilagem se ligam à fração hidrofóbica do sistema, adsorvendo as gotículas de óleo, ao mesmo tempo em que a porção hidrofílica da mucilagem se liga à fase aquosa, estabilizando a emulsão por repulsão estérica (FERNANDES; MELLADO, 2018; YADAV; MOREAU; HICKS, 2007).

Nos últimos anos diversas mucilagens extraídas de vegetais comestíveis estão sendo estudadas como material de parede para a produção de nanopartículas tais como quiabo (PRASAD, A. R. *et al.*, 2019), manjerição (KURD; FATHI; SHEKARCHIZADEH, 2019; MOHAMMAD; HASHEMI; MOUSAVI, 2017), chia (CAMPO *et al.*, 2017; STEFANI *et al.*, 2019; TIMILSENA; ADHIKARI *et al.*, 2016), linhaça (NASRABADI; GOLI; DOOST; DEWETTINCK; *et al.*, 2019; NASRABADI; GOLI; DOOST; ROMAN; *et al.*, 2019) e outros.

3.5.1.1 Linhaça

Linho (*Linum usitatissimum* L.) é uma planta herbácea pertencente à família *Linaceae*, nativa do Oriente Médio, cujos maiores produtores atualmente são Canadá, Estados Unidos, Índia e China (KAUR, R.; KAUR, M.; GILL, 2017). São subdivididos em dois tipos de cultivares diferentes: de um são extraídas as fibras para produção de tecido e do outro são utilizadas as sementes para fins alimentares (ZUK *et al.*, 2015).

As sementes de linho, chamadas de linhaça, são ricas em ácidos graxos poli-insaturados, carboidratos, flavonóides, fibras e proteínas (CZEMPLIK *et al.*, 2011; POPA *et al.*, 2012), das quais podem ser extraídos óleo, utilizado na alimentação humana, e também mucilagem, que é facilmente extraível com água e possui propriedades físico-químicas, funcionais e sensoriais (sabor insípido) adequadas para uso em aplicações alimentícias (BASIRI *et al.*, 2018; KAEWMANEE *et al.*, 2014). A mucilagem da linhaça representa entre 3 a 9% do peso total das sementes e é composta principalmente por polissacarídeos (50 - 80%) (KAEWMANEE *et al.*, 2014; OOMAH *et al.*, 1995). Esta porção polissacarídica é dividida em uma fração neutra (83%), composta por heteropolissacarídeos de alto peso molecular, principalmente arabinosilanos, e uma fração ácida (17%) composta por carboidratos menores, principalmente ácido galacturônico e ramnose (KAEWMANEE *et al.*, 2014; QIAN *et al.*, 2012).

A mucilagem de linhaça apresenta propriedades reológicas e capacidade de retenção de água semelhantes à goma arábica, por isso estão sendo estudadas aplicações em alimentos como estabilizante, espessante ou emulsificante (BASIRI *et al.*, 2018;

KAEWMANEE *et al.*, 2014; LIU *et al.*, 2018). Vários estudos também comprovam seu potencial para uso como estabilizador para emulsões de óleo em água (LIU *et al.*, 2018; NASRABADI; GOLI; DOOST; DEWETTINCK; *et al.*, 2019; NASRABADI; GOLI; DOOST; ROMAN; *et al.*, 2019).

3.5.1.2 Chia

Chia (*Salvia hispanica* L.) é uma planta da família *Lamiaceae*, nativa do México e Guatemala. Suas sementes apresentam altos teores de ácidos graxos poli-insaturados (principalmente ômega-3), proteínas, fibras dietéticas, minerais e compostos fenólicos. Estas podem ser utilizadas na alimentação sob forma de óleo, mucilagem, farinha ou inteiras (MARINELI *et al.*, 2014; SEGURA-CAMPOS *et al.*, 2014).

Em 1996 a FAO (*Food and Agricultural Organization*) caracterizou a semente de chia como uma potencial fonte de goma de polissacarídeo devido às excelentes propriedades de formar géis em soluções aquosas, mesmo em baixas concentrações (MUÑOZ; AGUILERA; *et al.*, 2012). Devido a suas características funcionais e nutricionais a chia atualmente é um vegetal cultivado em diversos países no mundo (DICK *et al.*, 2015).

A semente de chia ao entrar em contato com água exsuda um gel mucilaginoso transparente (fibra dietética solúvel), composto principalmente por xilose, glicose e ácido metilglucurônico, que formam um polissacarídeo ramificado de alto peso molecular (variando entre 0,8 a 2,0 x 10⁶ Da) (LIN; DANIEL; WHISTLER, 1994). Este gel apresenta alta capacidade de retenção de água (até 23 vezes seu peso em água) (TIMILSENA *et al.*, 2015) e, devido a essas características, tem potencial para ser utilizado na indústria de alimentos como emulsificante ou ingrediente (CÂMARA *et al.*, 2020; CAMPOS *et al.*, 2016; SALGADO-CRUZ *et al.*, 2013; ZETTEL; HITZMANN, 2018), matéria-prima para o desenvolvimento de filmes biodegradáveis e/ou comestíveis (DICK *et al.*, 2015; LUO *et al.*, 2019; MUÑOZ *et al.*, 2012) e material de parede para nanopartículas poliméricas (CAMPO *et al.*, 2017; TIMILSENA *et al.*, 2016; TOSIF *et al.*, 2021).

Além disso, a mucilagem de chia já demonstrou possuir atividade antimicrobiana contra microrganismos da família *Enterobacteriaceae* (BRUNO-BARCENA; AZCARATE-PERIL, 2015; XING *et al.*, 2017), *Salmonella* Typhimurium e *Campylobacter jejuni* (FROEBEL, L. K.; FROEBEL, L. E.; DUONG, 2020).

CAPÍTULO 4 - ARTIGOS

4. METODOLOGIA, RESULTADOS E DISCUSSÃO

A metodologia e os resultados obtidos neste trabalho estão apresentados na forma de artigos científicos publicados ou a serem submetidos para publicação em periódicos especializados. Cada subtítulo desse capítulo corresponde a uma publicação

4.1 ARTIGO 1

Carvacrol encapsulation into nanoparticles produced from chia and flaxseed mucilage: Characterization, stability and antimicrobial activity against *Salmonella* and *Listeria monocytogenes*

Artigo publicado no periódico **Food Microbiology 108, 2022, 104116**

Disponível em:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S074000202200140X>

4.2 ARTIGO 2

Carvacrol encapsulated in chia mucilage nanocapsules to inhibit *Salmonella* in chicken meat

4.3 ARTIGO 3

Chia mucilage nanocapsules as an alternative sanitizer to inhibit *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli* and *Listeria monocytogenes* in green cabbage

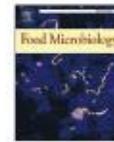
4.1 ARTIGO 1

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Carvacrol encapsulation into nanoparticles produced from chia and flaxseed mucilage: Characterization, stability and antimicrobial activity against *Salmonella* and *Listeria monocytogenes*

Fabiola Ayres Cacciatore^{a,b}, Caroline Maders^a, Bibiana Alexandre^a, Cristian Mauricio Barreto Pinilla^b, Adriano Brandelli^{b,c,*}, Patrícia da Silva Malheiros^a

^a Laboratório de Microbiologia e Higiene de Alimentos, Departamento de Ciência de Alimentos, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil

^b Laboratório de Biotecnologia e Microbiologia Aplicada, Departamento de Ciência de Alimentos, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil

^c Centro de Nanotecnologia e Nanocotecnologia, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil

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ABSTRACT

Carvacrol is a natural antimicrobial with excellent antimicrobial properties against several foodborne pathogens. Encapsulation can increase carvacrol stability and solubility, and mask its pronounced odor. Mucilages have been studied as wall material for nanoparticles due to their high retention capacity of bioactive compounds and ease of chemical modifications to improve their stability. In this study, 1.67 mg/mL of carvacrol encapsulated into chia mucilage nanoparticles (CMNP) and flaxseed mucilage nanoparticles (FMNP) were produced by high-energy emulsification technique and tested against *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Salmonella*. Encapsulation efficiency around 98% of carvacrol was obtained for both formulations. CMNP showed a diameter size of 179 nm and zeta potential of -11.4 mV. Bacterial Inactivation Concentration (BIC) of CMNP was 0.42 mg/mL against *Salmonella* and 0.83 mg/mL against *L. monocytogenes*. FMNP showed diameter size of 165.3 nm and zeta potential of -12.6 mV. BIC of FMNP was 0.83 mg/mL against both microorganisms. Scanning electron microscopy analysis showed that the nanoparticles are spherically shaped. Concentrations of BIC and % BIC were used to evaluate the kinetics of bacterial growth in the presence of antimicrobials (CMNP, FMNP and carvacrol solution). The results of this test showed that viable counts of *Salmonella* and *L. monocytogenes* were below the detection limit (1.69 log CFU/mL) after 2 h incubation (37 °C) using CMNP at the BIC. The wall material, rehydrated chia and flaxseed mucilages, reduced *L. monocytogenes* growth during 24 h. However, unloaded nanoparticles kept the viable counts of both microorganisms 2–5 log CFU/mL below the control curve of microbial growth during the 48 h experiment, suggesting that nanostructured mucilages potentiate antimicrobial properties. The results indicate that CMNP and FMNP have potential for use as food preservatives.

1. Introduction

Carvacrol is an aromatic monoterpene, extracted from thyme (*Thymus vulgaris* L.) and oregano (*Origanum vulgare* L.), which has excellent antimicrobial properties against fungi, Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria. Carvacrol has a GRAS status and can be used as a food additive in China, United States and European Union (Liu et al., 2021). Moreover, carvacrol is the essential oil (EO) component most commonly used in research studies (Marinelli et al., 2019), mainly for its disintegrating effect on the outer membrane of Gram-negative

microorganisms, an unusual feature related to EO compounds (La Storia et al., 2011). Several studies prove its antimicrobial activity against the main food pathogens (Cacciatore et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2021; Trevisan et al., 2018).

However, carvacrol and other compounds extracted from EOs have limited use in foods due their pronounced odor, hydrophobicity, low stability and high volatility (Wang and Wu, 2021). Furthermore, carvacrol can interact with food constituents, decreasing its antimicrobial activity. In this context, nanoencapsulation emerges as a strategy to improve the use of natural antimicrobials in food systems (Lopes and

Abbreviations: EO, essential oil; CMNP, chia mucilage nanoparticle; FMNP, flaxseed mucilage nanoparticle; BIC, bacterial inactivation concentration.

* Corresponding author. ICTA-UFRGS, Av. Bento Gonçalves 9500, 91501, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

E-mail address: abrandelli@ufrgs.br (A. Brandelli).

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Brandelli, 2018). Through encapsulation, a sensitive compound (core) is retained inside a nanoparticle produced from a polymeric matrix (wall material) providing progressive release of the encapsulated compound (Asadpour and Jafari, 2019). The core material can be protected against adverse food processing conditions (high temperature, humidity, extreme pH, and others), masking undesirable odors, and improving bioactivity, solubility and stability of the encapsulated compounds (Kaur and Kaur, 2021). The polymer used as wall material can be synthetic or natural; meanwhile, natural polymers are frequently used for oil nanoencapsulation (Ferreira and Nunes, 2019).

The most widely used natural polymers are polysaccharides such as chitosan, alginate, starches, pectin, gums and mucilages. Mucilages present some desirable properties like high hydration capacity, stability, non-toxicity and low cost, when compared to other natural polymers (Hoest et al., 2019; Taheri and Jafari, 2019). In addition, they facilitate the formation and stabilization of emulsions due to the reduction of interfacial tension between oil and water (Golzar et al., 2018; Fernandes and Salas-Mellado, 2018) and the high molecular weight carbohydrate polymers favors the retention of bioactive compounds (Tosif et al., 2021). Currently, different mucilages extracted from edible vegetables are being studied for using as wall material in nanoparticles, including okra (Parasad et al., 2019), basil (Kurd et al., 2019), flaxseed (Nasrabadi et al., 2019a) and chia seed (Campo et al., 2017; Stefani et al., 2019).

Chia (*Salvia hispanica* L.) belongs to the *Lamiaceae* family and is native from Mexico and Guatemala (Ixtaina et al., 2008). Since 1996 this vegetable is recognized by FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization) as a potential mucilage source, due to its excellent gel formation properties in aqueous solutions, even at low concentrations (Munoz et al., 2012). Chia seed in water contact exudes a transparent gel, composed mainly of carbohydrates (94%) presenting high water retention capacity, reaching about 23 times its weight in water (Lin et al., 1994; Timilsena et al., 2016a). These features make chia mucilage a potential emulsifier or ingredient for food applications (Zettel and Hitzmann, 2018), raw material for bioactive films development (Dick et al., 2015; Munoz et al., 2012) and wall material for polymeric nanoparticles (Campo et al., 2017; Tosif et al., 2021). Furthermore, chia mucilage demonstrated antimicrobial activity against Enterobacteriaceae (Bruno-Barcena and Azcarate-Peril, 2015; King et al., 2017), *Salmonella enterica* sv. Typhimurium and *Campylobacter jejuni* (Froebel et al., 2020).

Flaxseed (*Linum usitatissimum* L.), also called linseed, is rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids, carbohydrates, flavonoids, fibers and proteins (Czemplik et al., 2011). In recent years, flaxseed has been tested as an unconventional source of soluble polysaccharides (Lin et al., 2016). This mucilage is easily extractable with water and has physicochemical, functional and sensory properties (tasteless flavor) suitable for food applications (Basiri et al., 2017; Kaewmanee et al., 2014). Flaxseed mucilage represents between 3 and 9% of the total weight of the seeds, and it is composed mainly by polysaccharides (50–80%), divided into a neutral fraction (83%), composed of high molecular weight heteropolysaccharides, mostly arabinoxylans, and an acidic fraction (17%) composed of smaller carbohydrates, mainly galacturonic acid and rhamnose (Kaewmanee et al., 2014; Qian et al., 2012). Flaxseed mucilage has rheological properties and water retention capacity similar to gum arabic, so is being studied food applications as stabilizer, thickener or emulsifier (Basiri et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2018). Furthermore, flaxseed mucilage demonstrated antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (Czemplik et al., 2011), *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Bacillus cereus* and *Salmonella typhi* (Palla et al., 2015).

Studies using mucilage as wall material to produce nanoparticles have been focused on encapsulation of bioactive compounds, such as vitamins, minerals, fatty acids and flavorings (Taheri and Jafari, 2019). However, studies regarding the preparation and characterization of carvacrol-loaded mucilage nanoparticles have not been described in the current literature. In this context, the objective of this work was the preparation and characterization of nanoparticles produced from chia

and flaxseed mucilage encapsulating carvacrol. Besides that, the antimicrobial action of both preparations were tested against *Salmonella enterica* and *Listeria monocytogenes*.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Materials

Flaxseed (*Linum usitatissimum* L.) and chia seeds (*Salvia hispanica* L.) were purchased in a local market (Porto Alegre, Brazil). The seeds were stored in vacuum-sealed bags at $-18\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ until further use. Ethanol and Tween 80 were acquired from Dinamica (São Paulo, Brazil), carvacrol (98%) was acquired from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA), and acetic acid 99.8% was provided by Neon (São Paulo, Brazil). The other reagents used were analytical grade.

2.2. Bacterial cultures

Two bacterial inoculating cocktails were used in this study, each one containing three strains. The *Listeria monocytogenes* cocktail was formed by *L. monocytogenes* 7459 (isolated from dairy products), *L. monocytogenes* J11 (isolated from meat) and *L. monocytogenes* ATCC 7644, while the *Salmonella enterica* cocktail was formed by *S. Enteritidis* SE86 (isolated from foodborne outbreak), *S. Minnesota* 7301007 and *S. Heidelberg* 22,295 (isolated from chicken slaughterhouses). All strains used in this study were obtained from the bacterial culture collection of the Laboratory of Microbiology and Food Control (ICTA/UFRRGS, Porto Alegre, Brazil). The strains were separately grown in Brain Heart Infusion (BHI) broth at $37\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 18 h. Afterwards, each strain was adjusted to a concentration of 8 log CFU/mL through addition of BHI broth until the optical density ($\text{OD}_{600\text{nm}}$) of approximately 0.5 was reached using a Ultrospec™ 3100 Pro spectrophotometer (GE Healthcare, Amersham, UK). Subsequently, 3 mL of each strain were added to a single tube, obtaining 9 mL of inoculating cocktails. Bacterial suspensions were prepared immediately before each trial.

2.3. Mucilage extraction

2.3.1. Chia mucilage extraction

Chia seed mucilage (CSM) was extracted as proposed by Dick et al. (2015), with minor modifications. Chia seeds were mixed with distilled water (1:30 w/v) and stirred during 2 h at room temperature ($25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) using an electric stirrer (Edutec EE9006A-2, Curitiba, Brazil). Then the chia seeds and mucilage suspension were separated by centrifugation (High-Speed Refrigerated model CR 21GIII; Hitachi, Ibaraki, Japan) at 9000 g for 30 min. The remaining mucilage adhered to the chia seed coat was removed with a vacuum pump and a sieve. CSM was filtered through pieces of gauze to remove small impurities and the resulting solution was dried in a forced air oven (model BSAFD; DeLeo, Porto Alegre, Brazil) at $60\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ during 18 h. Afterwards the dehydrated mucilage was stored in sealed plastic bags until use.

2.3.2. Flaxseed mucilage extraction

Flaxseed mucilage (FSM) was obtained using the method proposed by Tee et al. (2016). Flaxseed was immersed in distilled water at a 1:30 (w/v) ratio and stirred during 3 h (1000 rpm at $80\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) on a magnetic hotplate stirrer (model HJ-4; Centerlab, São Paulo, Brazil). The mucilage solution was kept at room temperature until it reaches $25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. Afterwards the mucilage was centrifuged (model CT-5000 R; Centec, São Paulo, Brazil) at 3900 g for 15 min, filtered through pieces of gauze and dried for 18 h at $60\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ in a forced air oven (model BSAFD; DeLeo, Porto Alegre, Brazil). Then, the dehydrated mucilage was placed in plastic bags, sealed and stored until use.

2.4. Mucilage solutions preparation

The mucilage solutions (chia and flaxseed) were prepared separately, using the methodology proposed by Campo et al. (2017). Dehydrated mucilage (prepared as described above) was suspended in distilled water (0.1% w/v) and mixed on an electric stirrer (model EEQ900GA-2; Edu-tec, Curitiba, Brazil) during 2 h at room temperature (25 °C). Afterwards, the pH was adjusted to 4 using 1 M acetic acid (aiming to prevent microbial growth) and maintained overnight under refrigeration temperature to complete hydration. The hydrated mucilage was autoclaved (121 °C for 15 min) and frozen (-20 °C) for later use.

2.5. Carvacrol encapsulation on chia mucilage nanoparticle (CMNP) and flaxseed mucilage nanoparticle (FMNP)

Carvacrol was encapsulated in mucilage (chia and flaxseed) using the methodology described by Campo et al. (2017) with some modifications. The organic phase was composed by Tween 80 (13.5 mg), carvacrol (40 mg) and ethanol 99.9% (4 mL), kept under magnetic stirring (model 752 A; Fisatom, São Paulo, Brazil) at room temperature (25 °C) during 15 min. The aqueous phase was composed of mucilage solution (prepared as described above). Afterwards, the organic phase was added dropwise to 20 mL of the aqueous phase during homogenization (15 min at 8000 rpm) in Ultra Turrax® (digital model T25; IKA, Staufen, Germany), to produce 24 mL of nanoparticle suspension (final carvacrol concentration 1.67 mg/mL).

The formed nanoparticles were denominated CMNP (chia mucilage nanoparticle) and FMNP (flaxseed mucilage nanoparticle). Unloaded nanoparticles UCMNP (from chia mucilage) and UFMNP (from flaxseed mucilage) were also developed, using caprylic oil triglycerides (oil without antimicrobial activity) instead of carvacrol.

2.6. Characterisation of CMNP and FMNP

2.6.1. Particle size distribution

The diameter size ($D_{[4,0]}$) and span value were determined by laser diffraction (Mastersizer, 2000® 5.61, Malvern Instruments, Malvern, UK) after samples were dispersed in ultrapure water, immediately after encapsulation. The refractive index used for nanoparticles and water were 1.335 and 1.330, respectively. The results were analyzed using the Mastersizer 2000 5.61 software. Span value is the measurement of the width of the distribution. The narrower the distribution, the smaller the span becomes. Span was obtained according to Eq. (1):

$$\text{Span} = (d_{0.9} - d_{0.5}) / d_{0.5} \quad (1)$$

where $d_{0.9}$, $d_{0.5}$ and $d_{0.1}$ are the mean diameters, determined at the 90th, 50th and 10th particle distribution percentiles, respectively.

2.6.2. Zeta potential

After dilution in ultrapure water (1:10 v/v), the zeta potential of CMNP and FMNP was determined through electrophoretic mobility (Zeta Potential Analyzer 31,450, Zeta PALS, Brookhaven Instruments, Holtsville, NY, USA).

2.6.3. Stability evaluation

To evaluate the stability of physicochemical characteristics (mean diameter, span and zeta potential), samples of CMNP and FMNP were stored at 10 °C during 28 days. Measurements were performed immediately after encapsulation (day 0) and once a week until reach 28 days (day 7, day 14, day 21 and day 28).

2.6.4. Encapsulation efficiency

Encapsulation efficiency was determined according to Cacciatore et al. (2020). Briefly, CMNP and FMNP were centrifuged (10,000 g at 4 °C for 20 min); the supernatant was diluted in 95% ethanol and the

absorbance was measured at 297 nm using the Ultrospec™ 3100 Pro spectrophotometer (GE Healthcare, Amersham, UK). The carvacrol concentration in each sample was calculated using the linear equation $y = 0.3431x + 0.1305$ ($R^2 = 0.9835$) as described in a previous study (Cacciatore et al., 2020). In this equation x represents the carvacrol concentration in the sample (mg/mL) and y represents the absorbance (nm).

The encapsulation efficiency was calculated using Eq. (2). Initial concentration is the carvacrol amount encapsulated in CMNP and FMNP (1.67 mg/mL) and supernatant concentration is the carvacrol amount in suspension after centrifugation.

$$\text{EE (\%)} = \frac{(\text{Initial concentration} - \text{supernatant concentration})}{\text{Initial concentration}} \times 100 \quad (2)$$

2.6.5. Scanning electron microscopy

The morphological characteristics of nanoparticles produced with chia and flaxseed mucilages encapsulating carvacrol were evaluated by scanning electron microscopy using backscattered electrons detection (BSE SEM). One drop of each solution were placed on the double-sided tape surface fixed to stubs and oven dried at 20 °C for 24 h. Photomicrographs were recorded at 15 kV using a Hitachi TM 3000 scanning electron microscope (Hitachi® High-Technologies Corp., Tokyo, Japan).

2.7. Antimicrobial activity

Antimicrobial activity was determined by Bacterial Inactivation Concentration (BIC) and kinetics of planktonic microbial growth/survival according to Cacciatore et al. (2020). MIC values were not determined as the presence of nanoparticles in suspension affects absorbance and turbidity readings (Ong et al., 2014).

2.7.1. Bactericidal inactivation concentration (BIC)

The BIC test was performed on the day of nanoparticle production (day 0) and 28 days after preparation (day 28). Briefly, samples of CMNP (1.67 mg/mL), FMNP (1.67 mg/mL) and carvacrol solution (10.6 mg/mL) were evaluated using a 96 well microplate. To prepare the carvacrol solution, 0.106 g of carvacrol 98% (Sigma Aldrich, USA) and 0.1 g of Tween 80 (Dinamica, São Paulo, Brazil) were diluted in 10 mL of sterile distilled water and then the solution was homogenized by vortexing. A positive control (without antimicrobial addition) and a negative control (without addition of bacterial cocktails) were also analyzed. This methodology was repeated for *L. monocytogenes* cocktail and *S. enterica* cocktail. The microplates were incubated (24 h at 37 °C) and after this period 20 µL of each well was inoculated on selective growth medium for each bacterium in order to observe the growth of specific colonies after 24 h incubation. The lowest antimicrobial concentration that inactivated the target microorganism was considered the BIC value.

2.7.2. Kinetics of bacterial growth in the presence of antimicrobial (time-kill assay)

The multiplication/survival kinetics of *Listeria* and *Salmonella* cocktails were evaluated using the time-kill assay described by Cacciatore et al. (2020) with modifications. Antimicrobial solutions containing UCMNP and UFMNP (unloaded nanoparticles, without carvacrol), CMNP and FMNP, and carvacrol solution were tested at concentrations ½ BIC and BIC. The antimicrobial solutions were diluted in tubes containing BHI broth up to a final volume of 9.5 mL and 0.5 mL of the inoculum (adjusted to 8 log CFU/mL). A positive control tube was prepared using ultra-purified water instead the antimicrobial. The antimicrobial activity of the wall material was evaluated in tubes containing 9.5 mL RCM (rehydrated chia mucilage) or RPM (rehydrated flaxseed mucilage) (prepared as described above) and 0.5 mL of the inoculum (adjusted to 8 log CFU/mL). The tubes were incubated at 30 °C under

agitation. In predetermined times (0.25, 2, 4, 6, 24 and 48 h) aliquots from each tube were taken, following by aerial dilution and inoculation on selective medium using the drop plate technique. After this step, the plates were incubated at 37 °C for 18–24 h and then bacterial colonies were counted. The detection limit of this method is approximately 1.69 log CFU/mL (Miles and Mira, 1938).

2.8. Statistical analysis

Data on the physicochemical characterization of nanoparticles and bacterial counts were evaluated by Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), and applying Tukey's test ($p < 0.05$) using Statistical Analysis System software (Version 9.4, SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA). All experiments were performed in triplicate.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Production of mucilage nanoparticles

Preliminary tests were performed to evaluate the influence of different amounts of carvacrol on the size distribution of CMNP and FMNP nanoparticles and to determine the ideal formula that would present antimicrobial activity against *S. enterica*. For this purpose, four different formulations were prepared: chia mucilage as wall material (40 mg and 80 mg of carvacrol, denominated as CMNP40 and CMNP80, respectively) and flaxseed mucilage as wall material (40 mg and 80 mg of carvacrol, denominated as FMNP40 and FMNP80, respectively).

In this work, the Bacterial Inactivation Concentration (BIC) was defined as the antimicrobial concentration needed to inactivate the microbial population. This represented a reduction of viable counts below the detection limit of the method (1.69 log CFU/mL) starting from a bacterial concentration of 8 log CFU/mL. This criterion was defined due to the recurrence and severity of the foodborne diseases caused by *S. enterica* and *L. monocytogenes*, especially when affecting patients belonging to risk groups like immunosuppressed, elderly and pregnant women (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022a). Furthermore, regulations on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs determine the absence of *Salmonella* and *L. monocytogenes* in different types of food (Commission of the European Communities, 2015; National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods, 2015). Thus, it was important that the antimicrobial formulations tested could be able to decrease the microbial population to very low levels.

The BIC value necessary to inactivate *S. enterica* cocktail using chia nanoparticles (CMNP40 and CMNP80) was 0.42 mg/mL, while for flaxseed nanoparticles (FMNP40 and FMNP80) the BIC to inactivate the same bacterial cocktail was 0.63 mg/mL. Regarding the antimicrobial activity against *Salmonella*, nanoparticles prepared with 40 or 80 mg carvacrol showed the same BIC value. In the particle size analysis, the four formulations presented adequate size to be considered as nanoparticles (diameter size <500 nm) (Assadpour and Jafari, 2019). However, CMNP40 (179 nm) and FMNP40 (165 nm) presented smaller size when compared to CMNP80 (344 nm) and FMNP80 (281 nm). To choose the best nanoparticle formulation for application as antimicrobial, the smaller the average diameter, the higher the surface area to volume ratio, the greater the possibility of nanoparticles to interact with the membrane of microorganisms (Morones et al., 2005). Furthermore, nanoparticles containing 40 mg of carvacrol showed PDI approximately 0.2 (CMNP40: 0.17; FMNP40: 0.25) while nanoparticles containing 80 mg of carvacrol showed much higher PDI (CMNP80: 4.26; FMNP80: 3.57). PDI values close to 0.2 suggest a lower probability of aggregation and greater stability of the suspensions (Klang et al., 2012; Klang and Valenta, 2011).

Using a larger amount of encapsulated carvacrol (80 mg) did not improve the antimicrobial activity of the chia and flaxseed nanoparticles, but increased PDI values of the system. Therefore, for both mucilages, the nanoparticles produced with 40 mg carvacrol were

selected for the following experiments.

3.2. Characterisation of CMNP and FMNP

After the determination of carvacrol amount, two different formulations of carvacrol-loaded nanoparticles were produced, using chia or flaxseed mucilages as wall material. The results for diameter size, span, zeta potential and encapsulation efficiency are summarized in Table 1. Regardless of mucilage, chia or flaxseed, the particles can be considered as nanostructures, since the diameters were smaller than 500 nm for both formulation (Assadpour and Jafari, 2019). Although FMNP showed smaller size than CMNP ($p < 0.05$), both formulations were in the range from 150 to 200 nm, comparable to values described for different polymeric nanoparticles encapsulating antimicrobial compounds (Herculano et al., 2015; Timbe et al., 2020). The span measure, which evaluates the uniformity of nanoparticle size, showed no significant differences ($p > 0.05$) between CMNP and FMNP (Table 1).

In previous studies using gums or mucilage as wall material, the nanoparticle size was similar to those determined in the present study. For chia nanoparticles containing chia seed oil or flaxseed oil the measured diameters were 205 nm (Campo et al., 2017) and 356 nm (Stefani et al., 2019), respectively, while flaxseed nanoparticle containing flaxseed protein presented a diameter size of 369 nm (Nasrabadipour et al., 2019a). In a study that used cashew gum as wall material, the diameter of the nanoparticles containing *Eucalyptus staigeriana* EO was 153 nm (Herculano et al., 2015). The nanoparticle diameter can be influenced by the type and concentration of gum, extraction method and emulsifier used (Ghayempour et al., 2015).

In this study, no significant differences ($p > 0.05$) have been detected between CMNP and FMNP with regard to zeta potential (Table 1). The zeta potential characterizes the electric charge on the surface of a particle, i.e., the electric charge difference between the nanoparticle and the surrounding solution (Lu and Chiu, 2006). Zeta potential indicates the magnitude of the electrostatic repulsion or attraction between nanoparticles, and is a parameter used to evaluate the stability of the colloidal suspension. The higher the absolute value of zeta potential the greater the repulsion and therefore the lower the possibility of collisions and aggregation of nanoparticles (Arias et al., 2008). In general, a system is considered stable when the absolute value of zeta potential is greater than 30 mV (Wang et al., 2010), but several exceptions have been reported (Jones et al., 2010). When the zeta potential presents values between -30 mV and $+30$ mV this system can be stable by steric stabilization due to the presence of surfactant molecules on the surface of the nanoparticles (Felicio et al., 2020; Washington, 1996). EOs present negative zeta potential values (Matla-Ingok et al., 2020) and therefore, nanoparticles with an oily core generally have a negative zeta potential as well, because the outer layer of the polymeric nanoparticles is very thin, often containing pores and causing leakage of the encapsulated compound (Calvo et al., 1996; Lasa et al., 1993). In addition, zeta potential is influenced by pH. At pH values around 2, nanoparticles are often positively charged. As the pH rises, the magnitude of the

Table 1
Diameter size, Span, zeta potential, and encapsulation efficiency of chia mucilage nanoparticle (CMNP) and flaxseed mucilage nanoparticle (FMNP) containing carvacrol.

	Diameter size ($\mu_{z,0.5}$) (nm)	Span	Zeta potential (mV)	Encapsulation efficiency (%)
CMNP	179.0 ± 2.3 ^a	1.06 ± 0.02 ^a	-11.4 ± 1.4 ^a	98.65 ± 0.06 ^a
FMNP	165.3 ± 1.20 ^b	1.29 ± 0.06 ^a	-12.6 ± 0.3 ^a	98.02 ± 0.04 ^a

^{a,b} Different letters in the same column indicate significant differences by the Tukey's test ($p < 0.05$). Data represent mean ± standard deviation of three independent experiments.

negative electric charge on the nanoparticles increases (Goh et al., 2016; Herculano et al., 2015). In this study, the pH of the aqueous phase was adjusted to 4 prior to nanoencapsulation. In addition, chia and flaxseed mucilages are negatively charged due to the presence of carboxylic acid groups in the carboxylated form (-COO⁻) (Herculano et al., 2015; Timilsena et al., 2016b), so it was already expected that the nanoparticles would exhibit negative zeta potential.

The encapsulation efficiency (EE) was high (>98%) for both formulations (Table 1), with no significant differences between them ($p > 0.05$). The EE is strongly influenced by the physicochemical characteristics of the core and wall components and their interactions (Calvo et al., 1996). High EE values are expected when the encapsulated compound is hydrophobic and the wall material is hydrophilic (Khatyaya et al., 2012; Kumar et al., 2016), as observed in this research in which carvacrol is hydrophobic and mucilages are hydrophilic. High EE values have been documented in several nanoencapsulation studies of EO and their active compounds, such as rosemary EO encapsulated in polypropylolactone with 99% EE (Ephrem et al., 2014), thyme EO encapsulated in chitosan with 81% EE (Sotelo-Boyas et al., 2017), thymol encapsulated in zein/chitosan with EE >80% (Zhang et al., 2014), and carvacrol encapsulated in Eudragit RS 100 with 97% EE (Cacciatore et al., 2020).

The two formulations exhibited stability in diameter size, span and zeta potential during 28 days storage at 10 °C (Table 2), probably due to steric stabilization, as mentioned above. This result is consistent with results found by other authors using mucilage as wall material. Campo et al. (2017) demonstrated stability during 28 days for chia mucilage nanoparticles loaded with chia oil and Nasrabadi et al. (2019b) reported that nanoparticles produced with flaxseed (protein + mucilage) encapsulating flaxseed oil were stable over 28 days.

The mucilage nanoparticles containing carvacrol were analyzed by scanning electron microscopy and their morphological characteristics can be observed in Fig. 1. Both CMNP and FMNP were essentially observed as spherical structures, ranging from 200 to 800 nm. The size of nanoparticles was larger as compared to their size measured by light scattering analysis (Table 1), which can be associated with some structural changes during the sample preparation for electron microscopy, as the fixing and drying processes may cause a tendency to agglomeration.

3.3. Antimicrobial activity

3.3.1. Bacterial Inactivation Concentration (BIC) of CMNP and FMNP

The BIC test was performed on the day the nanoparticles were produced (day 0) and 28 days after preparation (day 28). There were no significant differences ($p > 0.05$) in the BIC values obtained on day 0 and day 28, i.e., the chia and flaxseed nanoparticles kept their antimicrobial

Table 2
Stability during 28 days of diameter size, span and zeta potential of chia mucilage nanoparticle (CMNP) and flaxseed mucilage nanoparticle (FMNP) containing carvacrol.

Day	Diameter size (nm)	Span	Zeta Potential (mV)
0	CMNP		
0	179.0 ± 2.3 ^a	1.06 ± 0.02 ^a	-11.4 ± 1.4 ^a
7	181.1 ± 1.9 ^a	1.22 ± 0.04 ^a	-10.9 ± 0.9 ^a
14	182.5 ± 1.7 ^a	1.08 ± 0.07 ^a	-10.8 ± 1.1 ^a
21	184.6 ± 2.1 ^a	1.23 ± 0.01 ^a	-10.6 ± 1.2 ^a
28	185.2 ± 1.8 ^a	1.28 ± 0.04 ^a	-10.3 ± 0.8 ^a
0	FMNP		
0	168.3 ± 1.20 ^b	1.29 ± 0.06 ^a	-12.6 ± 0.3 ^a
7	167.4 ± 1.6 ^b	1.14 ± 0.05 ^a	-12.7 ± 0.6 ^a
14	175.1 ± 2.1 ^b	1.10 ± 0.07 ^a	-12.3 ± 0.5 ^a
21	181.3 ± 1.9 ^b	1.18 ± 0.06 ^a	-11.9 ± 0.9 ^a
28	181.1 ± 1.5 ^b	1.23 ± 0.04 ^a	-11.5 ± 0.8 ^a

^{a,b} Different letters in the same column indicate significant differences by the Tukey's test ($p < 0.05$). Data represent mean ± standard deviation of three independent experiments.

activity constant after 28 days of preparation. BIC results for the two mucilage nanoparticles (CMNP and FMNP), as well as for carvacrol solution, are presented in Table 3. The unloaded nanoparticles (UCMNP and UFMNP), produced without carvacrol, did not inactivate the bacteria tested. This behavior indicates that the presence of carvacrol is necessary for the bactericidal activity.

The BIC of encapsulated carvacrol was lower ($p < 0.05$) than carvacrol solution (control) against both *S. enterica* and *L. monocytogenes*. Contrasting with this result, some studies using other wall materials such as beeswax (Shakeri et al., 2019) and ethyl acrylate/methyl methacrylate copolymer (Cacciatore et al., 2020) described that a higher concentration of encapsulated carvacrol is required to achieve BIC as compared with carvacrol solution.

The higher activity of encapsulated carvacrol can be attributed to specific properties coming from the mucilages or from the nanostructure formulation. Nanoencapsulation can improve the antimicrobial activity of the core compound due to protection against degradation and improvement of its solubility and stability (Kaur and Kaur, 2021). Regarding the properties of chia and flaxseed mucilages, it has been shown that these seeds hold flavonoids such as kaempferol and quercetin that exhibit antimicrobial activity against some microorganisms (Czemplik et al., 2011; Palla et al., 2015; Wu et al., 2013). The main microbial inactivation mechanisms of these flavonoids are: (i) stiffening of the plasma membrane, decreasing its permeability and leading to the death of the microorganism (Czemplik et al., 2011; Wu et al., 2013); (ii) decrease in the capacity of the microorganism to perform phagocytosis and neutralization of their toxins (Kobus-Cisowska et al., 2019). Besides that, mucilages extracted from chia and flaxseed have bioadhesive characteristics that may favor the formation of non-covalent bonds between the nanoparticles and the microorganisms, facilitating the entry of carvacrol into microbial cells. The bioadhesiveness is a mucilage structural characteristic, due to the presence of hydrophilic groups such as hydroxyl, amine and carboxyl in the polysaccharide structure (Rashidinejad and Jafari, 2020).

In this study, BIC value for carvacrol solution was 1.77 mg/mL for the two evaluated microorganisms (Table 3). Another studies demonstrated values for carvacrol solution as 1.77 mg/mL against *Salmonella* and *L. monocytogenes* (Cacciatore et al., 2020), 3.12 mg/mL against *Salmonella* (Trevisan et al., 2018) and 6.0 mg/mL against *L. monocytogenes* (Lidion et al., 2009). The bactericidal concentration for encapsulated carvacrol can be higher or minor than carvacrol solution, depending on bacteria final concentration (BFC) and the encapsulation technique, making it difficult to compare results (Reyes-Jurado et al., 2015). When carvacrol was encapsulated in nanoemulsion, the bactericidal effect was found at 0.5 mg/mL against *S. enterica* (BFC: 6 log CFU/mL) (Mazarei and Rafati, 2019) and *Salmonella* Typhimurium (BFC: 6 log CFU/mL) (Falecio et al., 2020). However, for carvacrol encapsulated in polymeric nanoparticles the bactericidal concentration was 3.31 mg/mL against *Salmonella* and *L. monocytogenes* (BFC: 8 log CFU/mL) (Cacciatore et al., 2020). Niza et al. (2020) when testing carvacrol encapsulated in poly (L-lactic acid) nanoparticles found a bactericidal effect at 1.02 mg/mL for *L. monocytogenes* (BFC: 8 log CFU/mL) and 0.512 mg/mL for *S. enterica* (BFC: 8 log CFU/mL). Furthermore, the BIC value can differ if the study uses individual strains or a cocktail (combined strains) of microorganisms. Generally, a cocktail present higher resistance to antimicrobial (higher bactericidal concentration) when compared to single strains (Kim et al., 1995; Laranja et al., 2021).

Comparing the BIC values for CMNP (0.42 mg/mL) and FMNP (0.83 mg/mL) against *Salmonella* it can be observed that there was a significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between the formulations. Generally, the presence of an external membrane in Gram-negative bacteria hinders the passage of hydrophobic compounds like carvacrol into the microbial cells (La Storia et al., 2011; Niza et al., 2020). Meanwhile, in this study, CMNP were more efficient in inactivating *Salmonella* than *L. monocytogenes*. Components from chia mucilage possibly acted synergistically

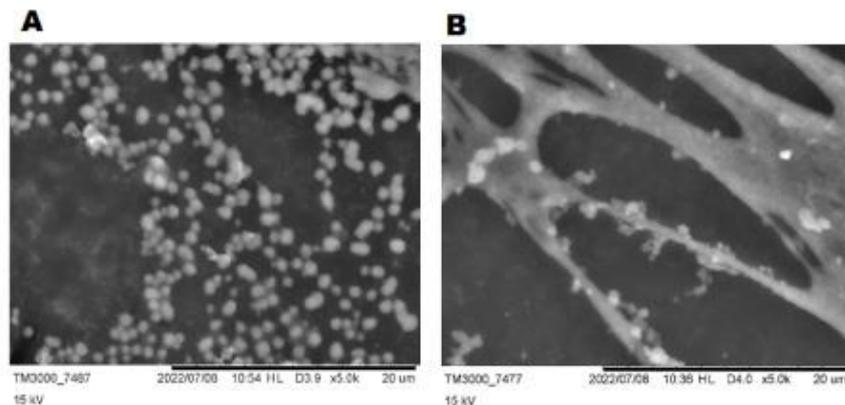


Fig. 1. Scanning electron microscopy images of chia mucilage nanoparticles CMNP (A) and flaxseed mucilage nanoparticles FMNP (B) containing carvacrol at 5000 \times magnification.

Table 3

Bacterial inactivation concentration (BIC) of carvacrol solution (control), unloaded nanoparticles (UCMNP and UFMNP), and mucilage nanoparticles containing carvacrol (CMNP and FMNP) against bacterial cocktails of *Salmonella enterica* and *Listeria monocytogenes*.

Formulation	BIC (mg/mL)	
	<i>S. enterica</i>	<i>L. monocytogenes</i>
Control	1.79 \pm 0.76 ^a	1.79 \pm 0.76 ^a
CMNP	0.42 \pm 0.00 ^c	0.83 \pm 0.00 ^b
FMNP	0.83 \pm 0.00 ^b	0.83 \pm 0.00 ^b
UCMNP	**	**
UFMNP	**	**

^{a,b,c} Different letters in the same column indicate significant differences by the Tukey's test ($p < 0.05$). Data represent mean \pm standard deviation of three experimental repetitions. **: No bactericidal effect. Unloaded mucilage nanoparticles UCMNP and UFMNP were prepared using caprylic oil instead of carvacrol, an oil without antimicrobial activity.

with carvacrol in the inactivation mechanism. Chia mucilage presents, besides the flavonoids explained before, high amounts of plantecose, a hydrophilic carbohydrate composed of three glucose molecules (Xiang et al., 2017). This oligosaccharide has shown efficiency in inhibiting the growth of pathogenic microorganisms of the *Enterobacteriaceae* family (Bruno-Barcena and Azeiteiro-Peril, 2015; Shoaf et al., 2006).

In relation to *L. monocytogenes*, the BIC values were 0.83 mg/mL for both formulations, demonstrating no significant differences ($p > 0.05$) on antimicrobial activity between the two formulations. Carvacrol is a natural antimicrobial that increases the permeability of the microbial plasma membrane by changing the composition of fatty acids (Swamy et al., 2016). In this process the membrane polarity decreases, affecting essential cellular processes with subsequent cell death (Ultee et al., 1999). Recently, some authors reported that the carvacrol inactivation mechanism against *L. monocytogenes* not only occurs through depolarization and increased membrane permeability, but also causes a decrease in its respiratory activity (Churklum et al., 2020). Although there have been no earlier reports that carvacrol acts on the respiratory activity of microorganisms, coriander EO has been shown to decrease the respiratory rate of Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria (Niza et al., 2020; Silva et al., 2011).

3.3.2. Kinetics of bacterial growth in presence of antimicrobial (time-kill assay)

The viable counts of *S. enterica* and *L. monocytogenes* were monitored during 48 h contact with different concentrations of CMNP, FMNP, UCMNP, UFMNP and carvacrol solution. The results are summarized in Fig. 2.

The viable counts of *S. enterica* and *L. monocytogenes* were below the detection limit from the first measurement (0.25 h) until the end of the assay (48 h), using carvacrol solution at the BIC. However, when carvacrol solution was used at sub-lethal concentration ($\frac{1}{2}$ BIC) only *Salmonella* was inhibited from 0.25 h until 48 h. The population of *L. monocytogenes* treated with $\frac{1}{2}$ BIC carvacrol solution was 6.3 log CFU/mL at 0.25 h and 7.2 log CFU/mL after 48 h. The counts of *S. enterica* treated with CMNP at BIC were below the detection limit from the second measurement (2 h) until the end of experiment (Fig. 2A), but bacterial growth was recovered after 24 h for FMNP (Fig. 2B), reaching 2.8 log CFU/mL at 48 h. In the 48-h assay, *L. monocytogenes* was efficiently inhibited until the end of experiment by both CMNP and FMNP treatments at BIC (Fig. 2C and D).

When the nanoparticles were tested at sub-lethal concentrations ($\frac{1}{2}$ BIC for both formulations) the 48-h assay showed differences according with the microorganism and nanoparticle formulation. For *Salmonella* in contact with $\frac{1}{2}$ BIC of CMNP (Fig. 2A), growth was not detected between 0.25 and 6 h, but it was recovered after that, reaching 3.2 log CFU/mL at 48 h. For this same microorganism, $\frac{1}{2}$ BIC of FMNP maintained the counts below the control (Fig. 2B), from the minimum value observed at 0.25 h (4.8 log CFU/mL) to the maximum at 48 h (7.1 log CFU/mL). However, even the counts at 48 h were about 2.0 log CFU/mL lower than the control. For *L. monocytogenes* (Fig. 2C and D) the antimicrobial activity of the two nanoparticle formulations ($\frac{1}{2}$ BIC of CMNP or FMNP) was similar during the first 24 h, showing a consistent decrease and similar counts during all measurement points. After 24 h, the counts of *L. monocytogenes* in contact with $\frac{1}{2}$ BIC FMNP continued to decline, reaching counts below detection limit at 48 h (Fig. 2D), while the counts with $\frac{1}{2}$ BIC CMNP showed a value of 2.5 log CFU/mL (Fig. 2C).

In this same assay, unloaded nanoparticles (UCMNP and UFMNP) and rehydrated chia and flaxseed mucilages (RCM and RFM) were also tested. In the case of RCM and RFM treatments for *Salmonella* (Fig. 2A and B), bacterial counts were similar to the control ($p > 0.05$). The only exception was the 4-h point, where a significant difference ($p < 0.05$) was observed between the control and RCM and RFM treatments.

However, the unloaded nanoparticles showed different behavior

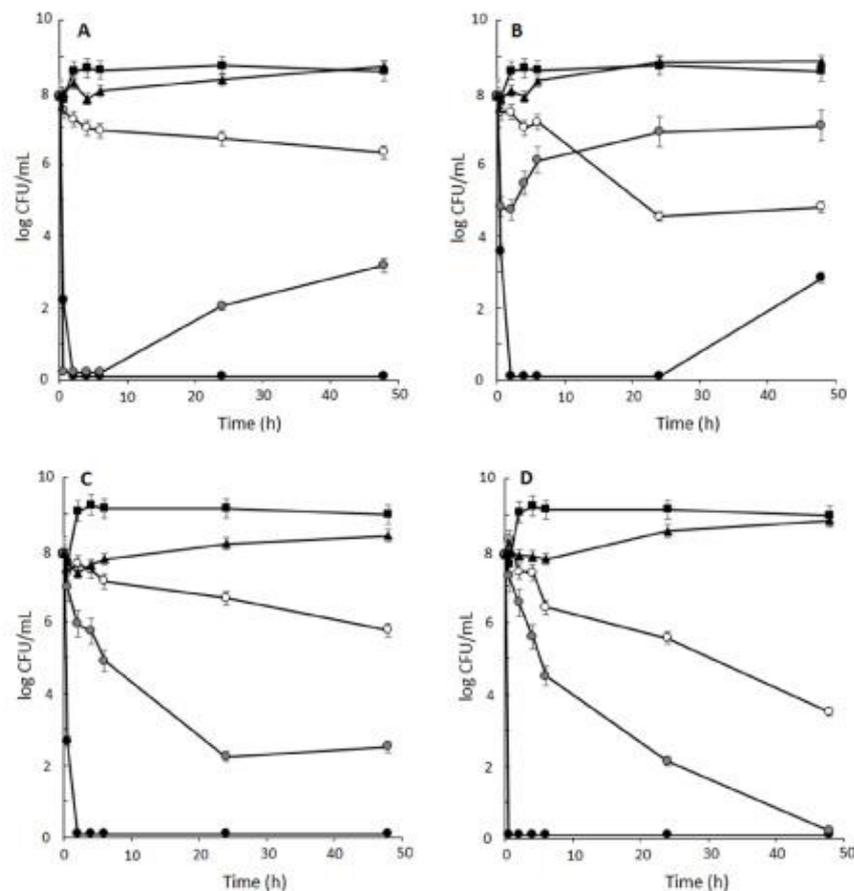


Fig. 2. Multiplication kinetics of bacterial cocktails of *Salmonella enterica* (A,B) and *Listeria monocytogenes* (C,D). Bacteria were treated with chia mucilage nanoparticles CMNP (A,C) or flaxseed mucilage nanoparticles FMNP (B,D) containing carvacrol at BIC (full circles), 1/2 BIC (grey circles) or unloaded mucilage nanoparticles (open circles, using caprylic oil instead of carvacrol). Cells treated with rehydrated mucilages (triangles) were also monitored. The control (squares) corresponds to the population of each microorganism without any antimicrobial addition. Data represent mean \pm standard deviation of three experimental replications.

each other and compared with rehydrated mucilages. Meanwhile, for both unloaded nanoparticle formulations the counts were always lower than the control during the whole experiment ($p < 0.05$).

For *Salmonella* (Fig. 2A and B), UCMNP and UFMNP showed very similar results until 6 h but after this time UCMNP continued to present counts near to 7 log CFU/mL while UFMNP showed counts around 4.5 log CFU/mL. For *L. monocytogenes* (Fig. 2C and D), the behavior was very similar for both unloaded nanocapsules until 6 h. At 24 h, the counts of *L. monocytogenes* were 6.6 and 5.6 log CFU/mL for UCMNP and UFMNP, respectively. At 48 h, a significant difference between the viable counts for UCMNP and UFMNP (2 log CFU/mL) was observed ($p < 0.05$).

As the rehydrated mucilages caused a reduced growth of *L. monocytogenes* and the unloaded nanoparticles showed antimicrobial activity, this effect is possibly associated with the existence of antimicrobials in the mucilages. Some polar antimicrobial compounds such as

phenolic acids, flavonoids and lignans are likely present in chia and flaxseed mucilages (Güzel et al., 2020; Son and Soog, 2017), and the formulation as nanostructures may improve their exposure/availability to exert the respective antimicrobial effects. Supporting this concept, nanostructures have a greater interaction with bacteria due to their size, shape and large superficial area (Morones et al., 2005; Ogunsona et al., 2019; Srividya et al., 2017). Further studies should be conducted to evaluate the influence of chemical composition of the mucilages and the spatial conformation of the produced nanocapsules on the achieved antimicrobial effect, even when small concentrations of carvacrol are used.

Despite CMNP and FMNP have shown good antimicrobial results against *Salmonella* and *L. monocytogenes* in laboratory tests, effectiveness in real food systems is important as well. Chicken meat is the major source of *Salmonella*, a microorganism that causes 1.35 million

infections and 420 deaths per year in the United States (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022b). Ready-to-eat foods are the most common sources of *L. monocytogenes* infections, especially deli meat, with a prevalence of 3%. However, when slicing deli meat is performed in retail stores, the prevalence increases to 30% (Churchill et al., 2019; Forauer et al., 2021). Thus, further studies should evaluate the antimicrobial activity of CMNP and FMNP on chicken and deli meat artificially contaminated with *Salmonella* and *L. monocytogenes*, respectively.

4. Conclusion

Carvacrol was encapsulated in chia and flaxseed mucilage nanoparticles. Both formulations presented suitable diameter size, low zeta value and high encapsulation efficiency. Flaxseed mucilage nanoparticle (FMNP) presented smaller size than chia mucilage nanoparticle (CMNP) but for the other physicochemical parameters, there were no significant differences between formulations. Encapsulated carvacrol showed better results than carvacrol solution for the inactivation of the tested foodborne pathogens. When the nanoparticles were tested at concentrations equal to BIC, both formulations showed bactericidal action against *L. monocytogenes*, although CMNP demonstrated greater efficacy than FMNP against *S. enterica* after 24 h. Rehydrated chia and flaxseed mucilages did not present antimicrobial activity against the microorganisms tested. However, both unloaded nanoparticle formulations demonstrated antimicrobial action when compared to the control microbial growth curve during the 48-h experiment. The results obtained in this study suggest that nanoencapsulated carvacrol in mucilage nanoparticles of chia and flaxseed have the potential to be used as food preservatives, but further studies and approval by regulatory agencies are needed for this purpose.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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CAPÍTULO 5 – DISCUSSÃO GERAL

5. DISCUSSÃO GERAL

A técnica de nanoencapsulação como veículo para incorporação de antimicrobianos, visando a inibição de microrganismos relevantes em alimentos, é um tópico que está gerando diversas pesquisas atualmente. A tese em questão apresenta informações importantes sobre a aplicação da nanotecnologia, em conjunto com antimicrobianos naturais, no desenvolvimento de um agente antimicrobiano destinado à aplicação direta em alimentos ou na sanitização de vegetais.

Inicialmente, carvacrol foi encapsulado em nanocápsulas, utilizando mucilagens provenientes de duas fontes distintas: chia e linhaça. As nanocápsulas contendo carvacrol foram caracterizadas e avaliadas em relação a ação antimicrobiana através de testes *in vitro* contra as bactérias patogênicas *Salmonella* e *L. monocytogenes*.

O artigo 1 da presente tese revelou que ambas as mucilagens demonstraram eficácia na encapsulação do carvacrol, resultando na formação de partículas com dimensões apropriadas para serem consideradas nanoestruturas (NATIONAL NANOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE, 2021). Além disso, neste artigo foi desenvolvida a metodologia que denominamos de Concentração de Inativação Bactericida (CIB), uma adaptação da Concentração Bactericida Mínima (CBM). A CBM significa uma redução de 3 log UFC/g na população bacteriana de acordo com o *Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute* (CLSI, 1999), enquanto a CBI corresponde à concentração de antimicrobiano necessária para inativar toda a população microbiana (6 log UFC/mL).

Nanopartículas de mucilagem de chia (CMNP) apresentaram diâmetro médio de 179 nm, polidispersidade de 0,17, eficiência de encapsulação de 98,65 % e potencial zeta de -11,4 mV. A CIB das CMNP foi de 0,42 mg/mL contra *Salmonella* e 0,83 mg/mL contra *Listeria monocytogenes*.

Nanopartículas de mucilagem de linhaça (FMNP) apresentaram diâmetro de 165,3 nm, polidispersidade de 0,25, potencial zeta de -12,6 mV e eficiência de encapsulação de 98,02 %. A CIB das FMNP foi de 0,83 mg/mL contra ambos microrganismos.

Em relação ao tamanho as FMNP foram menores do que CMNP, fator que pode ser um facilitador para que essas nanopartículas penetrem através da membrana citoplasmática dos microrganismos (MORONES *et al.*, 2005; RAI; BAI, J. A., 2011). Quanto à análise de polidispersidade, verifica-se que ambas as formulações apresentaram resultados semelhantes e próximos a 0,2, sugerindo baixa probabilidade de agregação das nanopartículas (KLANG *et al.*, 2012; KLANG; VALENTA, 2011). Em relação ao potencial zeta ambas as formulações

apresentaram resultado negativo, conforme previsto, uma vez que os óleos essenciais (MUTLU-INGOK *et al.*, 2020), assim como as mucilagens empregadas, apresentam um potencial zeta negativo (HERCULANO *et al.*, 2015; TIMILSENA; WANG; *et al.*, 2016).

Ambas nanopartículas apresentaram estabilidade em relação aos parâmetros físico-químicos durante período de 28 dias, conforme demonstrado na tabela 2 do artigo 1. Este comportamento pode ser proveniente da presença de moléculas de surfactante na superfície das nanopartículas (FELICIO *et al.*, 2020; WASHINGTON, 1996).

Além disso, as formulações desenvolvidas apresentaram alta eficiência de encapsulação (98,65 % para chia e 98,02 para linhaça), resultado que é bastante frequente em estudos que encapsulam compostos hidrofóbicos usando material de parede hidrofílico (KHAYATA *et al.*, 2012; KUMAR *et al.*, 2016; SOTELO-BOYÁS *et al.*, 2017).

O teste de cinética de multiplicação bacteriana *in vitro* é mais preciso quando comparado à CIB para analisar a eficiência de antimicrobianos, pois revela se os efeitos deletérios sofridos pelos microrganismos são dependentes do tempo ou da concentração (ARHIN *et al.*, 2009; PFALLER; SHEEHAN; REX, 2004). Neste teste, ao avaliar a ação das nanocápsulas em concentrações letais verificou-se que ambas formulações (CMNP e FMNP) foram eficientes para inibir os dois microrganismos após 2 horas de contato. Para *L. monocytogenes* ambas nanopartículas mantiveram as contagens abaixo do limite de detecção do método até o final do experimento. Entretanto, para *Salmonella* em contato com FMNP houve retomada do crescimento do microrganismo após 24 horas de ensaio, atingindo contagem de 2,8 log UFC/mL após 48 horas enquanto que para CMNP este microrganismo se manteve abaixo do limite de detecção do método durante todo o período. A melhor atividade antimicrobiana das CMNP contra *Salmonella* possivelmente é devido às grandes quantidades de planteose presentes na mucilagem de chia, um carboidrato que já demonstrou possuir ação bactericida contra enterobactérias (BRUNO-BARCENA; AZCARATE-PERIL, 2015; SHOAF *et al.*, 2006).

Ao avaliar a ação de carvacrol livre em concentrações de CIB observou-se que tanto com 0,25 horas como em 48 horas de tratamento houve inibição abaixo do limite de detecção do método para todos os microrganismos avaliados. Portanto, o artigo 1 mostrou que carvacrol encapsulado em nanocápsulas de mucilagem de chia e linhaça apresentam potencial para o desenvolvimento de um conservante alternativo capaz de inibir microrganismos de importância em alimentos, especialmente *Salmonella* e *L. monocytogenes*.

Após 2 horas de contato CMNP e FMNP em concentração CIB inibiram *Salmonella* e *L. monocytogenes* abaixo do limite de detecção do método (< 2 log UFC/mL), entretanto CMNP

manteve os níveis de *Salmonella* abaixo de 2 log UFC/mL até o final do experimento (48 horas), enquanto para FMNP contra o mesmo microrganismo houve retomada no crescimento após 24 horas. Desta maneira, CMNP foram selecionadas para aplicação nos demais experimentos desta tese.

No artigo 2 determinou-se a Concentração de Inativação Bactericida (CIB) de carvacrol encapsulado em nanocápsulas de mucilagem de chia (CMNP) e emulsão de carvacrol (CE) contra um coquetel de *Salmonella enterica* em caldo de galinha elaborado em laboratório. Também avaliou-se a cinética de crescimento/sobrevivência microbiana do mesmo coquetel inoculado artificialmente em carne de frango, além do efeito dos tratamentos antimicrobianos sobre a cor e textura das amostras após os tratamentos antimicrobianos.

Os antimicrobianos CMNP e CE demonstraram atividade inibitória contra coquetéis de *Salmonella* em caldo de galinha (artigo 2) e BHI (artigo 1). Entretanto, os valores de CIB determinados para CMNP (0,92 mg/mL) e CE (1,77 mg/mL) foram maiores quando o teste foi realizado com caldo de galinha em comparação com BHI. Além disso, CMNP apresentou valores CIB mais baixos do que CE para ambos os caldos, demonstrando que a nanoencapsulação aumentou a ação antimicrobiana do carvacrol.

No teste de cinética de crescimento/sobrevivência microbiana as contagens viáveis de *Salmonella* em amostras de frango foram monitoradas durante 72 horas de contato com diferentes soluções antimicrobianas: nanocápsulas de chia não carregadas com carvacrol (UCMN), CMNP e CE, conforme demonstrado na figura 1 do artigo 2.

As CMNP proporcionaram as maiores reduções de *Salmonella* ao longo das 72 horas, alcançando reduções próximas de 2 log UFC/g durante todo o teste. Este resultado sugere que as nanocápsulas promoveram a libertação controlada do carvacrol, mecanismo esperado quando as nanocápsulas são aplicadas em alimentos (CHARLES *et al.*, 2022; HAJIBONABI *et al.*, 2023; NIZA *et al.*, 2020). No entanto, quando comparado com o teste de cinética de multiplicação bacteriana *in vitro* utilizando caldo BHI, realizado no artigo 1, tornam-se evidentes as diferenças nos resultados apresentados. No teste anterior, a CMNP reduziu a população de *Salmonella* para contagens abaixo do limite de detecção da técnica (< 2 log UFC/mL) a partir de 2 horas até o final do teste (48 h), demonstrando que a presença de matéria orgânica diminui a eficácia dos antimicrobianos. A concentração de óleos essenciais e seus compostos necessária para inibir patógenos em matrizes alimentares é geralmente mais elevada do que a concentração necessária em testes laboratoriais utilizando meios de cultura (PORTER; MOREY; MONU, 2020). Este comportamento deve-se possivelmente à presença de gorduras e proteínas, que podem atuar como um escudo protetor para as bactérias, impedindo o contato

com os antimicrobianos e diminuindo sua eficácia (MOON; WAITE-CUSIC; HUANG, E., 2020).

A cor e firmeza das amostras de carne de frango após 72 horas de exposição aos tratamentos antimicrobianos UCMN, CMNP e CE foram também avaliados. Para caracterizar a cor de uma amostra no espaço de cor CIELAB são utilizados os parâmetros “L*” (indica luminosidade/escuridão), “a*” (a* negativo indica verde) e “b*” (b* positivo indica amarelo).

Em relação ao parâmetro “L*” foi observado que as amostras expostas a CMNP e UCMN durante 24 horas ou mais exibiram cores mais claras (maior L*) quando comparadas às amostras controle, enquanto as amostras expostas a CE não demonstraram diferenças significativas em relação ao controle durante as 72 horas de teste. O aumento no valor de “L*” pode ser resultado da destruição da estrutura proteica induzida pela degradação enzimática durante o período de armazenamento, resultando num aumento da dispersão da luz (IJAZ *et al.*, 2020). Além disso, esta mudança de cor pode ser devido à presença de carvacrol, que reduz a formação de metemoglobina, a forma oxidada da hemoglobina, conforme inibe o crescimento de microrganismos (WANG *et al.*, 2023).

Em relação ao parâmetro “a*” todas as amostras apresentaram tons ligeiramente esverdeados, ($a^* < 0$), porém visualmente não houve diferença entre as amostras.

Para finalizar a análise individual dos parâmetros de cor observou-se que todas as amostras apresentaram valores de “b*” negativos, ou seja, tons amarelados. Entretanto, as diferenças entre os valores de “b*” foram muito pequenas, visualmente imperceptíveis, tal como aconteceu com o parâmetro “a*”.

Os parâmetros “a*”, “b*” e “L*” individualmente são insuficientes para classificar a variação de cor das amostras como aceitável ou não aceitável, sendo necessária uma medida adicional, conhecida como Diferenças Totais de Cor (ΔE). De acordo com a classificação proposta por Chen & Majundar (2008), valores de ΔE entre 0 e 3 estão dentro da faixa aceitável, 3,1 a 6 são considerados razoavelmente diferentes e valores entre 6,1 e 12 são classificados como altamente diferentes. Todas as amostras apresentaram ΔE maior que 6,1, com grande variação de cor entre as amostras após os tratamentos, pelo que nenhuma das amostras apresentou uma variação de cor aceitável. Esta variação foi bastante perceptível porque as amostras ficaram brancas, semelhantes à cor do frango cozido.

A firmeza das amostras de frango foi avaliada através da determinação da força de cisalhamento Warner-Bratzler. Este teste avalia a força máxima relativa ao movimento da faca e a compressão necessária para cortar uma amostra de carne (NOVAKOVIĆ; TOMAŠEVIĆ, 2017).

As amostras expostas a todos os antimicrobianos a partir das 48 horas necessitaram maior força de cisalhamento aplicada para o corte, em comparação com as amostras expostas a 0,25 horas. Este aumento da força necessária é possivelmente causado pela perda de água das amostras para a chia, o material de parede das nanocápsulas aplicadas neste estudo. A chia é um vegetal com características altamente hidrofílicas, provenientes de proteínas e fibras, que contribuem para as suas propriedades emulsificantes, permitindo que a mucilagem de chia absorva até 23 vezes o seu peso em água (CAKMAK *et al.*, 2023; FERNANDES *et al.*, 2023; MUÑOZ; COBOS; *et al.*, 2012).

Houveram alterações nos parâmetros de cor e textura após todos os tratamentos aplicados, portanto podemos afirmar que CMNP, CE e UCMN não seriam adequados para aplicação em carne crua de frango destinada ao consumo *in natura*. No entanto, enfatizamos que esses resultados não impedem o uso da CMNP como ingrediente para aplicação em produtos processados, como *nuggets* e hambúrgueres de frango, que serão consumidos após o cozimento.

No artigo 3 investigou-se a atividade antimicrobiana de carvacrol encapsulado em nanocápsulas de mucilagem de chia (CMNP) como sanitizante para repolho verde, comparando sua eficácia com emulsão de carvacrol (CE) e solução de cloro (CS) contra *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli* e *Listeria monocytogenes*. O tempo de aplicação para todos antimicrobianos foi de 15 minutos. As concentrações de CMNP e CE foram CIB e ½ CIB, sendo CIB determinado no artigo 1 e a concentração de CS foi de 200 ppm (BRASIL, 2009). Além da atividade antimicrobiana, foram também avaliadas as alterações na textura e na cor do repolho após os tratamentos de sanitização.

Dentre os três microrganismos, a maior redução bacteriana no repolho ocorreu para o coquetel de *Salmonella* (< 2 log UFC/mL), quando o CMNP foi aplicado na concentração CIB. Esse resultado está de acordo com as normas brasileiras e americanas sobre critérios microbiológicos para vegetais, que estabelecem a ausência de *Salmonella* (BRASIL, 2022b; NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MICROBIOLOGICAL CRITERIA FOR FOODS (NACMCF), 2015). Para CS a redução nas contagens de células viáveis foi de 1,36 log UFC/g, enquanto para CE a redução foi de 2 log UFC/g.

Para o coquetel de *E. coli*, o melhor tratamento de sanitização foi obtido com CMNP para ambas concentrações, CIB e ½ CIB, alcançando redução de ~3,5 log UFC/g. Esse resultado mostra que, mesmo que a contaminação inicial do coquetel de *E. coli* no repolho fosse alta (6 log UFC/mL), após a sanitização com CMNP, em ambas as concentrações, o repolho estaria adequado para o consumo, pois é permitida presença de no máximo 2 log UFC/g de *E. coli* em

frutas e hortaliças (BRASIL, 2022b; NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MICROBIOLOGICAL CRITERIA FOR FOODS (NACMCF), 2015).

Para *L. monocytogenes*, as maiores reduções microbianas (~2,8 log UFC/g) foram alcançadas nos tratamentos CS, CE e CMNP na concentração CIB, sem diferenças significativas ($p > 0.05$) entre eles. O tratamento com CMNP reduziu o nível de inóculo inicial (6 log UFC/mL) para níveis semelhantes aos obtidos com cloro, ou seja, numa situação real o repolho poderia ser consumido, desde que este alimento não fosse oferecido a pessoas pertencentes a grupos de risco (imunodeprimidos, grávidas e idosos).

Listeria monocytogenes é um agente patogênico capaz de crescer a temperaturas de refrigeração e de formar biofilmes na superfície das folhas (KANG; SONG, 2018), portanto a obtenção de um sanitizante capaz de reduzir os níveis de contaminação é um resultado muito positivo. É muito importante que os antimicrobianos sejam desenvolvidos para aplicação em repolho, porque nos últimos anos foram detectadas *L. monocytogenes* neste vegetal (U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, 2019, 2021; CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC), 2023).

Os consumidores usam a cor dos vegetais como um indicador crítico de vários aspectos do produto, incluindo sua segurança e qualidade (SCHIFFERSTEIN; WEHRLE; CARBON, 2019). Neste estudo, avaliou-se alterações na cor das folhas de repolho antes e depois dos tratamentos, bem como as diferenças de cor entre folhas tratadas com antimicrobianos e aquelas apenas lavadas com água (controle) para obter informações sobre o impacto dos tratamentos nos atributos de cor. Esta análise foi realizada usando o espaço de cor CIELAB, que avalia os parâmetros “L*” (claro/escuro), “a*” (negativo indica verde) e “b*” (positivo indica amarelo), e os resultados estão indicados na tabela 1 do artigo 3.

Comparando todos os tratamentos em relação ao parâmetro “L*” observou-se que as amostras submetidas a CMNP em concentração CIB apresentaram a cor mais clara (maior L*), enquanto as amostras submetidas a CS apresentaram a cor mais escura (menor L*). Em relação ao parâmetro "a*", observou-se que as amostras submetidas a todos os tratamentos apresentaram $a^* < 0$, portanto mantiveram a cor verde das folhas. Para concluir a análise dos parâmetros individuais, observamos a variação do parâmetro b*. Verificamos que todas as amostras submetidas a diferentes tratamentos exibiram valores de $b^* > 0$, indicando tons amarelados independentemente do tratamento aplicado.

Similarmente ao que foi realizado com as amostras de frango no artigo 2, determinou-se as Diferenças Totais de Cor (ΔE), onde ΔE entre 0 e 3 estão dentro da faixa aceitável, 3,1 a

6 são considerados razoavelmente diferentes e valores entre 6,1 e 12 são classificados como altamente diferentes (CHEN & MAJUNDAR, 2008).

Dentre todas as amostras, apenas as tratadas com CMNP a ½ CIB apresentaram ΔE igual a 2,67, portanto com variação de cor aceitável. Por outro lado, o único tratamento cujas amostras exibiram uma variação de cor altamente diferentes (ΔE : 7,32) foi o tratamento que aplicou CE na concentração CIB. Estudos anteriores mostraram que o carvacrol não encapsulado pode causar impactos muito negativos na cor dos vegetais (CARDOSO *et al.*, 2023; YUAN; TEO; YUK, 2019; ZHANG, Z.; TAN; MCCLEMENTS, 2021).

Para todos os outros tratamentos, ΔE exibiu valores entre 3,1 e 6, ou seja, as amostras antes e após o tratamento são razoavelmente diferentes na cor, portanto, esses tratamentos são adequados para higienização de repolho.

CAPÍTULO 6 – CONCLUSÕES

6. CONCLUSÕES

De acordo com os resultados obtidos no presente estudo é possível concluir que:

- Carvacrol foi adequadamente encapsulado em nanocápsulas de mucilagem de chia e linhaça. Ambas formulações apresentaram tamanho adequado, baixo índice de polidispersidade e alta eficiência de encapsulação.
- As FMNP apresentaram menor tamanho do que as CMNP.
- A análise da CIB evidenciou a necessidade de empregar uma concentração mais elevada de carvacrol livre em comparação com a forma nanoencapsulada (CMNP e FMNP) para inativar *Salmonella* e *Listeria monocytogenes*.
- No teste de cinética de multiplicação *in vitro* as CMNP mostraram maior eficiência do que FMNP contra *Salmonella*, enquanto que para *L. monocytogenes* os resultados foram semelhantes para ambas nanopartículas.
- O tratamento com CMNP na carne de frango resultou em maiores reduções nas contagens de *Salmonella* (~2,0 log UFC/g) durante 72 horas de exposição quando comparados com UCMN e CE.
- CMNP apresentaram liberação controlada de carvacrol, gerando eficácia prolongada enquanto CE apresentou redução nas contagens dos microrganismos somente nas primeiras 6 horas de teste.
- UCMN mostrou eficácia moderada, com pequenas reduções (0,76 log UFC/g) somente durante o primeiro dia de armazenamento.
- Houve alterações significativas na cor das amostras de carne de frango quando expostas a todos os antimicrobianos.
- As amostras de frango demonstraram maior firmeza quando submetidas a uma exposição prolongada aos antimicrobianos.
- CMNP demonstra potencial para aplicação como ingrediente antimicrobiano em frango, desde que seja aplicada em alimentos processados como *nuggets*, hambúrgueres ou outros, onde a mudança de cor causada pelo tratamento antimicrobiano torna-se imperceptível devido às características do alimento.
- Para os três coquetéis microbianos (*Salmonella*, *E. coli* e *L. monocytogenes*) o antimicrobiano nanoencapsulado (CMNP) apresentou reduções superiores ou semelhantes às obtidas nos tratamentos com solução de cloro. Este fato realça o

potencial substancial do CMNP para aplicação como agente sanitizante em repolhos e possivelmente em outros vegetais folhosos.

- A sanitização de repolho com CMNP em concentração CIB resultou em maiores reduções nas contagens de *Salmonella* (4,12 log UFC/mL) e *E. coli* (3,77 log UFC/mL) em comparação com a sanitização com uma solução de cloro (200 ppm).
- Para *L. monocytogenes*, a redução obtida após a aplicação de CMNP em concentração CIB (2,71 log UFC/mL) foi semelhante à redução obtida quando a higienização foi feita com solução de cloro (200 ppm).
- Sanitização de repolho com CMNP em concentração CIB não causou mudanças significativas na cor e firmeza das amostras de repolho.
- CMNP apresenta potencial para ser usado como um composto alternativo para a higienização de repolho.
- A encapsulação de carvacrol em nanopartículas de mucilagem de chia demonstram potencial para uso como conservante de aplicação direta em alimentos ou sanitizante de vegetais, sendo necessários mais estudos e aprovação por órgãos regulamentadores para essas finalidades.

CAPÍTULO 7 – REFERÊNCIAS BIBLIOGRÁFICAS

7. REFERÊNCIAS BIBLIOGRÁFICAS

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