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**EFEITO DAS CONDIÇÕES DE FERMENTAÇÃO E DA ESTOCAGEM NA
QUALIDADE DE SUCO PROBIÓTICO DE CACAU**

IMPERATRIZ

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Trabalho de conclusão de curso
apresentado ao Curso de Engenharia de
Alimentos da Universidade Federal do
Maranhão – UFMA, como requisito
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A Deus por me guiar até aqui. A minha mae Aparecida, ao meu pai Antonio por sempre me colocarem em suas orações

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SUMÁRIO

RESUMO	9
1. Introdução.....	10
2. Materiais e Métodos	12
2.1 Condições de fermentação do suco de cacau probiótico	12
2.2 Estocagem do suco de cacau probiótico	13
2.3 Determinação das contagens de células viáveis	13
2.4 Análise de pH.....	14
2.5 Determinação de açúcares e ácidos orgânicos	14
2.6 Compostos fenólicos e atividade antioxidante no suco de cacau	15
2.7 Análise estatística.....	16
3. Resultados e Discussão	16
3.1 Condições de fermentação do suco de cacau probiótico	16
3.2 Ácidos orgânicos e compostos fenólicos totais e atividade antioxidante no suco de cacau durante a fermentação	19
3.3 Estabilidade do suco de cacau probiótico adicionado de sacarose ou sucralose	22
4. Conclusão	24
REFERÊNCIAS	25

Efeito das condições de fermentação e da estocagem na qualidade de suco probiótico de cacau

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RESUMO

O objetivo desse trabalho foi produzir um suco probiótico a partir da polpa de cacau. Além disso, foi avaliado o efeito da sucralose como substituto do açúcar durante o armazenamento a 4 °C por 42 dias. Assim, foram realizadas as análises de contagens de células viáveis do microorganismo probiótico *Lactobacillus casei*, de açúcares, ácido láctico, pH, compostos fenólicos e atividade antioxidante. Os resultados permitiram obter as condições ótimas para a produção de suco probiótico que foram pH inicial de 6,2, temperatura de fermentação de 33 °C e 12 h de fermentação. Durante a fermentação, a glicose foi o principal carboidrato consumido. As concentrações de ácido ascórbico e ácido cítrico foram mantidas e os compostos fenólicos e a atividade antioxidante (medida pelos métodos ABTS e DPPH) aumentaram durante a fermentação. Durante o armazenamento, a viabilidade do suco adoçado com açúcar aumentou como resultado do uso deste como substrato. A adição de sucralose manteve a viabilidade dentro dos limites necessários para exercer saúde benéfica até 42 dias. O teor de compostos fenólicos e a atividade antioxidante durante o armazenamento foram maiores nas amostras fermentadas quando comparados com a amostra não fermentada. Portanto, o suco de cacau é uma matriz viável para produção de suco probiótico, havendo a manutenção da viabilidade do microorganismo ao longo da vida de prateleira. Além disso, a sucralose mostrou potencial para uso em alimentos funcionais de baixa caloria.

Palavras-chave: *Lactobacillus casei*; sucralose; atividade antioxidante; frutas exóticas.

1. Introdução

A demanda por alimentos funcionais está aumentando entre os consumidores. Conseqüentemente, várias pesquisas tem sido realizadas com o intuito de elaborar alimentos probióticos de diferentes fontes, como frutas e legumes (Panda et al., 2017). Esses substratos têm a vantagem de já conterem nutrientes benéficos, como minerais, vitaminas, fibras e antioxidantes, além de ter um sabor agradável apreciado por todas as faixas etárias. No entanto, a adaptação dos microorganismos probióticos nas matrizes vegetais é complexa, sendo dependente da linhagem do microorganismo e da composição desses alimentos (Pereira, & Rodrigues, 2018).

Neste contexto, a polpa de cacau (*Theobroma cacao* L.) pode ser uma alternativa para a produção de suco probiótico. O cacau é mundialmente conhecido como matéria-prima de chocolate. No entanto, o processamento gera quantidades significativas de subprodutos, como casca e polpa. A polpa consiste em uma camada mucilaginosa branca e doce encontrada em torno das sementes individuais da fruta. Na composição da polpa de cacau, 82–87% corresponde a umidade, 10–15% a açúcares, 2–3% a pentoses, 1–3% a ácido cítrico e 1–1,5% a pectina. Além disso, proteínas, aminoácidos, vitaminas (principalmente vitamina C) e minerais também estão presentes, sendo esta polpa um meio rico para o crescimento microbiano. Essa polpa pode ser usada para produção de geleias ou sucos, que podem ser usados para o desenvolvimento de bebidas fermentadas, como o vinho de cacau e outros produtos (Souza, Moreira, Sarmiento e Costa, 2018; Duarte et al., 2010; Schwan, & Wheals, 2004).

Pesquisas sobre alternativas de uso da polpa de cacau tem sido estudadas com o objetivo de minimizar as perdas de produção, aumentar a renda dos agricultores e introduzir novos produtos no mercado. Estudos como o de Duarte et al. (2010) produziram um vinho de frutas a partir da polpa de cacau. Puerari, Teixeira e Freitas (2012) produziram

um suco fermentado de cacau usando *kefir*. Esses autores concluíram que a bebida é um produto alternativo e com valor nutricional. Contudo, não existem relatos de bebida probiótica a partir do suco de cacau.

Em sucos de frutas, as bactérias ácido lácticas (LAB) podem metabolizar os compostos fenólicos dependendo da matriz alimentar e da cepa do microorganismo (Filanino, Bai, Di Cagno, Gobbetti, & Michael, 2015; Pereira et al., 2017; Valero -Cases, Nuncio-Jáuregui, & Frutos, 2017). Em pesquisa realizada por Pereira, Almeida, De Jesus, Costa e Rodrigues (2013) foi observado que o microorganismo probiótico *Lactobacillus casei* teve um efeito conservante na concentração de compostos fenólicos do suco de caju durante o armazenamento refrigerado por 42 dias, conferindo mais benefícios nutricionais a este alimento funcional.

No entanto, manter a viabilidade das LAB durante o armazenamento em suco de frutas é um desafio, especialmente em temperatura de refrigeração. Nualkaekul, Cook, Khutoryanskiy e Charalampopoulos (2013) relataram que em suco de romã, *L. plantarum* perderam sua viabilidade com 28 dias de armazenamento a 4 °C e *Bifidobacterium longum* perderam em 7 dias. No suco de cereja, as duas linhagens de microorganismos perderam sua viabilidade no prazo de 7 dias. Por outro lado, Nematollahi, Sohrabvandi, Mortazavian e Jazaeri (2016) obtiveram um aumento da viabilidade de *L. casei* TD4 em suco de cereja durante 28 dias de armazenamento sob refrigeração.

Paralelamente, produtos de reduzido valor calórico com adição de adoçantes como substitutos do açúcar tem aumentado no mercado. Segundo Esmerino et al. (2013), pouco se sabe sobre a influência desses compostos na viabilidade das bactérias probióticas utilizadas em alimentos funcionais. Além disso, a maioria das pesquisas com adoçantes adicionados como substitutos da sacarose usa produtos de base láctea, chocolates e bebidas à base de trigo. Portanto, há pouca informação sobre o uso de adoçantes em sucos de

frutas probióticos (Angelov, Gotcheva, Kuncheva, & Hristozova, 2006; Basyigit, Kuleasan, & Karahan, 2006; Esmerino et al., 2013; Nebesny, Zyzelewicz, Motyl, & Libudzisz, 2007).

Assim, o objetivo deste trabalho foi avaliar o suco de cacau como veículo do microorganismo probiótico *Lactobacillus casei*, bem como o efeito do açúcar e da sucralose durante o armazenamento.

2. Materiais e Métodos

2.1 Condições de fermentação do suco de cacau probiótico

Primeiramente, as polpas de cacau foram obtidas no mercado local da cidade de Imperatriz-MA e o suco foi preparado pela diluição da polpa em água potável. O teor de polpa foi ajustado para 34% (p/v). Para fermentação, foi utilizada uma cepa de *Lactobacillus casei* NRRL B-442 que foi ativada a 37 °C em caldo De Man, Rogosa e Sharpe (MRS) (específico para o crescimento de *Lactobacillus*) (Himedia, Índia). A cepa foi obtida da Coleção Bacteriana de Cultura (Culture Collection, Departamento de Agricultura dos Estados Unidos, Peoria, IL, EUA).

As condições ótimas de fermentação foram avaliadas por meio de experimento rotacional composto central, variando o pH inicial e a temperatura de fermentação de 4,29 a 7,11 e 10,44 a 41,44 °C, respectivamente (Tabela 1). Para isso, 11 erlenmeyers contendo suco de cacau foram inoculados com 7,00 Log UFC/ mL de *L. casei*, que é a contagem mínima recomendada para os microorganismos probióticos exercerem seus efeitos benéficos (Nualkaekul, & Charalampopoulos, 2011). Durante 24 h, as fermentações foram realizadas estaticamente em estufa incubadora nas diferentes temperaturas do delineamento experimental. Após 24 h, as análises de viabilidade (contagem de células viáveis) foram realizadas. Os resultados foram analisados pela Metodologia da Superfície de Resposta para obter as condições ótimas de pH inicial e temperatura de fermentação.

Após obter essas condições (pH inicial de 6,2 e temperatura de fermentação de 33 °C), o suco de cacau foi produzido e inoculado com 7,00 Log UFC/ mL de *L. casei* e medidas de viabilidade e pH foram realizadas a cada 2 h, durante 24 h para determinar o melhor tempo de fermentação. A cada 2 h amostras foram colhidas para serem determinadas quanto a açúcares (glicose e frutose), ácidos orgânicos, compostos fenólicos e atividade antioxidante. Esse experimento foi realizado em triplicata.

2.2 Estocagem do suco de cacau probiótico

Após a fermentação de acordo com as condições pré-estabelecidas acima, o suco de cacau foi dividido em duas partes. Em uma parte, foi adicionado açúcar (9,7% p/v) e na outra metade o adoçante sucralose (0,48% p/v - concentração com poder adoçante semelhante a 9,7% de açúcar). As amostras adoçadas de suco de cacau probiótico (80 mL) foram acondicionadas em recipientes de vidro estéreis de cor âmbar (100 mL) com tampa de rosca. O *headspace* dos recipientes foi de 20 mL e as amostras foram armazenadas a 4 °C por 42 dias. As determinações de contagens viáveis de células, pH, compostos fenólicos e atividade antioxidante foram realizadas antes do armazenamento e em intervalos de 7 dias, durante os 42 dias. Uma amostra de suco de cacau não fermentado foi armazenada nas mesmas condições (controle) para comparar com o teor de compostos fenólicos totais e atividade antioxidante.

2.3 Determinação das contagens de células viáveis

Para contagem das células viáveis, as amostras foram diluídas com água peptonada através de diluições seriadas até 10^{-6} . Depois, alíquotas de 0,1 mL de cada diluição foram plaqueadas (em triplicata) em placas contendo Ágar De Man, Rogosa e Sharpe (MRS) (Himedia, Índia) usando o método de *spread plate* (Pereira et al., 2017). As placas

foram incubadas sob condições aeróbias durante 72 horas a 37 °C e as contagens de células viáveis foram expressas como unidades formadoras de colônias (UFC) por mL.

2.4 Análise de pH

O pH do suco de cacau foi determinado em triplicata por medição direta utilizando potenciômetro (Biotech mPa-210).

2.5 Determinação de açúcares e ácidos orgânicos

Os açúcares e ácidos orgânicos foram detectados e quantificados por meio de cromatografia líquida de alta eficiência (HPLC) de acordo com (Pereira et al., 2017). Foi utilizado um sistema LC Infinity 1260 (Agilent Technologies, EUA) equipado com um sistema de bombas quaternárias, detectores UV-DAD e RI. Para determinação de açúcares, os sucos de cacau foram tratados com metanol para remover sacarídeos de alto peso molecular. O volume de injeção foi de 20 µL. Os açúcares foram separados em coluna Supelcogel Ca (300 x 7,8 mm) (Supelco Analytical) termostaticada a 80 °C. A eluição isocrática foi realizada com água deionizada como fase móvel por 40 min (vazão de 0,5 mL/ min).

Para determinação de ácidos orgânicos, o suco de cacau foi filtrado, usando pré-filtros de fibra de vidro AP25 de 13 mm de diâmetro (Merck Millipore Ltd.) e limpos com cartucho C-18 SPE, seguido de filtração com membrana de acetato de éster de celulose (0,45 µm, 13 mm de diâmetro). Os ácidos orgânicos foram separados em coluna Aminex HPX-87H (300 × 7,8 mm) (Bio-Rad) a 50 °C. A eluição isocrática foi realizada com ácido sulfúrico 0,01 M em água deionizada como fase móvel por 30 min a 0,6 mL/ min. O detector UV-DAD monitorado a 210 nm foi usado para detectar os ácidos orgânicos.

2.6 Compostos fenólicos e atividade antioxidante no suco de cacau

Primeiramente, foi preparado o extrato, partindo de 2 g de suco de cacau. Para a preparação do extrato, foram adicionados 5 mL de solução de metanol/ água a 50% (v/v) a 2 g de amostra. A mistura foi mantida durante 60 min temperatura ambiente (25 °C) e depois centrifugada a 25000 x g durante 30 min. Depois, adicionou-se 5 mL de solução de acetona/ água a 70% (v/v). Manteve-se a mistura durante 60 min à temperatura ambiente (25 °C) e depois centrifugou-se novamente nas mesmas condições descritas anteriormente. Os sobrenadantes foram coletados em um balão volumétrico de 25 mL, e o volume foi completado com água destilada e usado para as determinações de compostos fenólicos e de capacidade antioxidante (Larrauri, Rupérez, & Saura-Calixto, 1997).

O conteúdo fenólico total foi quantificado de acordo com Singleton e Rossi (1965). Para a determinação, 0,5 mL do extrato (ou água para branco) foi misturado com 0,5 mL da solução de Folin-Ciocalteu e 1 mL de solução de carbonato de sódio a 20% (p/v). Após 30 min de reação, a leitura foi realizada a 765 nm em espectrofotômetro (Biospectro, SP-220, Curitiba, Brasil). O ácido gálico foi utilizado como padrão.

A atividade antioxidante foi avaliada pelos métodos DPPH e ABTS. Para o método com o radical livre DPPH, alíquotas de 30 µL de suco de cacau foram adicionadas a 1200 µL de solução de DPPH (0,06 mM). A absorvância foi medida a 515 nm após 30 min (Brand-Williams, Cuvelier, & Berset, 1995). Para o método ABTS, o radical ABTS foi produzido através da reação com a solução estoque de ABTS (7 mM) com persulfato de potássio (140 mM). O radical ABTS⁺ foi diluído com etanol até uma absorvância de 0,700 a 734 nm. Alíquotas de 30 µL do suco de cacau diluído foram misturadas a 3000 µL do radical ABTS⁺ e a absorvância foi tomada após 6 min. Trolox foi o padrão

antioxidante. Os resultados de dois métodos foram expressos como atividade antioxidante equivalente ao Trolox por mL (Re et al., 1999).

2.7 Análise estatística

O software estatística versão 7.0 (StatSoft, EUA) foi utilizado para construir o delineamento experimental, o gráfico de viabilidade de resposta superficial e otimizar os parâmetros de processamento de suco de cacau probiótico.

3. Resultados e Discussão

3.1 Condições de fermentação do suco de cacau probiótico

A Tabela 1 mostra os resultados do crescimento de *L. casei* de acordo com os ensaios do delineamento experimental. Observou-se um aumento da viabilidade em todos os ensaios, uma vez que foi inoculado 7,00 log UFC/ mL e após 24 h de fermentação, foram observadas maiores contagens de células viáveis. Em estudo anterior utilizando cupuaçu, Pereira et al. (2017) obtiveram resultados semelhantes e concluíram que o fruto era uma boa matriz para a produção de bebida probiótica. Os resultados semelhantes aos obtidos no presente estudo podem estar relacionados a ambos os frutos pertencerem à mesma família *Theobroma*.

É importante ressaltar que, no presente estudo foi utilizado o suco de cacau como único meio de fermentação, sem adição de qualquer agente de proteção de microorganismos, como já foi feito em estudos anteriores com outros sucos (Dimitrovski, Velickova, Langerholc, Winkelhausen, & E, 2015; Nualkaekul, Lenton, Cook, Khutoryanskiy, & Charalampopoulos, 2012; Roy et al., 2016). Assim, garantiu-se que o suco de cacau era a única matéria-prima que regulava o crescimento e o metabolismo das bactérias

probióticas. Portanto, a polpa de cacau é uma boa alternativa para a produção de alimentos probióticos.

De acordo com os efeitos estimados, o pH inicial e a temperatura de fermentação afetaram a viabilidade de *L. casei*, sendo estatisticamente significativa com 95% de nível de confiança. Os dados apresentados na Tabela 1 foram ajustados ao modelo quadrático de viabilidade dado na Eq. (1). O modelo foi estatisticamente significativo com 95% de nível de confiança, uma vez que o valor de F calculado (42,45) foi superior ao valor de F tabelado ($F_{5,5} = 5,05$). Além disso, obteve-se alto coeficiente de correlação ($R^2 = 0,98$).

Viabilidade (log UFC/ mL) = $-5,78 + 3,72 \text{ pH} - 0,28 \text{ pH}^2 + 0,22 \text{ T} - 0,002 \text{ T}^2 - 0,008 \text{ pH.T}$

T (1)

Onde T temperatura de fermentação (° C) e pH valores de pH inicial.

Fig. 1 apresenta o gráfico de superfície construído usando a Eq. (1). O aumento do pH inicial e da temperatura de fermentação proporcionou um aumento na viabilidade de *L. casei* à medida que o pH inicial e a temperatura foram elevados até atingir 6,2 e 33 °C, respectivamente. O ponto ótimo para viabilidade de *L. casei* NRRL B-442, numericamente obtido através do ponto crítico da Equação 2 (derivada igual a zero), foi obtido em pH 6,2 e temperatura de fermentação de 33 °C.

O pH inicial ótimo (6,2) obtido no presente estudo está de acordo com o reportado por Swain et al. (2014), que relataram que os lactobacilos preferem condições relativamente ácidas, com pH variando de 5,5 a 6,5, em virtude da produção de ácido lático como principal catabólito.

Para temperatura, pesquisas têm mostrado que o crescimento e a funcionalidade das bactérias lácticas aumentam entre 30 e 37 °C. Pereira et al. (2017) e Garcia et al. (2013) observaram que, no cupuaçu e no suco de abacaxi sonicado, a temperatura de 30 e 31 °C, respectivamente, proporcionaram maior crescimento de *L. casei*. Enitan, Adeyemo e Ogunbanwo (2011) observaram que as temperaturas de 30 e 37 °C foram mais efetivas na produção de peróxido de hidrogênio. Assim, a temperatura de 33 °C, obtida no presente estudo, proporcionou maior crescimento de *L. casei*, bem como maior preservação do suco de cacau. Isso seria uma vantagem para o uso dessa temperatura, pois tal composto tem atividade inibitória contra outros microorganismos, incluindo os patogênicos.

As condições estabelecidas de pH inicial (6,2) e temperatura (33 °C) para o crescimento de *L. casei* foram utilizadas para a avaliação do tempo de fermentação. De acordo com a Figura 2, o crescimento de *L. casei* foi lento no início do processamento. Após 8 h de fermentação, o microorganismo aumentou mais de um ciclo logarítmico. A viabilidade aumentou até 24 horas de fermentação (Fig. 2). O pH reduziu ao longo do tempo de fermentação, atingindo $3,77 \pm 0,00$ às 24 h (dados não mostrados) devido ao aumento do teor de ácido láctico de $4,38 \pm 0,00$ g/L (Fig. 2). Com 12 h de fermentação, o pH do suco de cacau foi de $4,32 \pm 0,01$ (dados não mostrados), estando abaixo de 4,5. O pH abaixo de 4,5 inibe o crescimento de microorganismos patogênicos e deteriorantes, prolongando a vida útil dos alimentos (Panda, Swain, Singh & Ray, 2013). Assim, o tempo de 12 h foi escolhido por garantir a estabilidade microbiológica do suco. Além disso, a fermentação mais prolongada pode proporcionar menor aceitação do produto pelo aumento da acidez decorrente da maior produção de ácido láctico. Puerari et al. (2012) que obtiveram valores de acidez variando entre 1,0 e 5,5 g/L de ácido láctico em bebidas de cacau fermentadas por 72 h com *kefir*. Os autores relataram que os consumidores rejeitaram a bebida com 5,5 g/L de ácido láctico. Assim, 12 horas foi o tempo de fermentação escolhido para

produção do suco probiótico de cacau, onde as taxas de ácido láctico estão próximos 2,0, não deixando um sabor desagradável no suco.

A glicose foi o principal carboidrato consumido durante a fermentação, tendo uma redução de 23,18%. A frutose quase não variou ($49,16 \pm 0,66$ a $50,60 \pm 0,35$ g/ L) (Figura 3). Resultados semelhantes foram obtidos por Guergoletto, Mauro e Garcia (2017) em polpa de juçara (*Euterpe edulis*) fermentada com *L. plantarum*. Esses autores reportaram que *L. plantarum* utilizou apenas glicose presente no fruto. Hashemi et al. (2017) também observaram uma redução de cerca de 26% na concentração de glicose em suco de limão doce fermentado (*Citrus limetta*) usando *L. plantarum* durante 48 h de fermentação. Segundo Mousavi, Mousavi, Razavi e Kiani (2011), a fermentação de açúcares por microorganismos sofre influência da cepa de microorganismo, tempo de fermentação e matriz alimentar utilizada.

3.2 Ácidos orgânicos e compostos fenólicos totais e atividade antioxidante no suco de cacau durante a fermentação

Os ácidos orgânicos (ácidos ascórbico, cítrico e quínico) foram determinados por cromatografia líquida de alta eficiência ao longo das 24 h de fermentação. A concentração de ácido ascórbico foi mantida a $40,00 \pm 0,00$ mg/ L durante a fermentação (dados não mostrados). Segundo Panda et al. (2017), a vitamina C é solúvel em água, bem conhecida por suas propriedades nutricionais e benéficas para a saúde. Além disso, Chambial, Dwivedi, Shukla, John e Sharma (2013) relataram que essa vitamina é indispensável para o desenvolvimento e manutenção de tecidos conjuntivos, formação óssea, cicatrização de feridas e manutenção de gengivas saudáveis. Assim, a manutenção do teor ascórbico ao longo da fermentação é um resultado favorável da fermentação do suco de cacau. Panda

et al. (2017) relataram uma redução no teor de ácido ascórbico do suco de peras espinhosas (*Opuntia sp.*) ao longo da fermentação usando *Lactobacillus fermentum*.

A concentração de ácido cítrico foi quase a mesma por 24 h, variando de $2,77 \pm 0,00$ a $2,96 \pm 0,00$ g / L (dados não mostrados). Resultados semelhantes foram relatados por Xiong, Li, Guan, Peng e Xie (2014) na fermentação de chucrutes chineses utilizando *Leuconostoc mesenteroides* e *Lactococcus lactis*. Entretanto, esses autores observaram que *L. plantarum* e *L. casei* reduziram a concentração de ácido cítrico, sendo este composto consumido por microorganismos. Valero-Cases, e Frutos (2017), produzindo um suco misto de cenoura e laranja, observaram que os monossacarídeos e o ácido málico foram os substratos preferidos pelo *L. plantarum*, enquanto a sacarose e o ácido cítrico não foram metabolizados. Portanto, de acordo com estas pesquisas, o uso de ácido cítrico pode ser influenciado pelo tipo de cepa do microorganismo e pelo tipo de vegetal utilizado.

O ácido quínico reduziu de $1,64 \pm 0,00$ para $1,43 \pm 0,00$ g/ L (dados não mostrados). Este ácido é um composto fenólico e pesquisas mostraram que o *Lactobacillus* tem a capacidade de degradar esses compostos. Fritsch, Heinrich, Vogel e Toelstede (2016) também observaram uma redução deste ácido em girassois fermentados com bactérias lácticas. Pereira et al. (2017) reportaram uma redução de 58,73% no ácido quínico com 18 h de fermentação em suco de cupuaçu probiótico. No presente estudo, a redução foi menor (12,89%) com 24 h de fermentação. Embora a redução do ácido quínico tenha ocorrido, outros compostos fenólicos foram gerados e aumentaram a concentração destes compostos no produto fermentado.

Os compostos fenólicos aumentaram de $40,00 \pm 0,02$, no início da fermentação, para $49,63 \pm 0,04$ mg/ 100 mL, com 24 h de fermentação (dados não mostrados). Esse mesmo aumento foi observado para atividade antioxidante (Fig. 4). Valero-Cases,

Nuncio-Jauregui e Frutos (2017) avaliaram a influência da fermentação com bactérias lácticas e a digestão *in vitro* sobre a biotransformação de compostos fenólicos em sucos de romã. Esses autores também observaram um aumento nos compostos fenólicos, resultando na produção de dois novos derivados fenólicos (catequina e α -punicalagina). Além disso, observou-se que os sucos fermentados de romã aumentaram a bioacessibilidade dos compostos fenólicos, garantindo a sobrevivência das bactérias lácticas após a digestão gastrointestinal simulada, sugerindo um possível efeito prebiótico de compostos fenólicos sobre os microorganismos probióticos.

É importante enfatizar que os compostos fenólicos estão relacionados à defesa contra danos causados pela radiação ultravioleta ou por patógenos. Estudos epidemiológicos recomendam que o consumo prolongado de dietas ricas em fenólicos protege contra o desenvolvimento de cânceres, doenças cardiovasculares, diabetes, osteoporose e doenças neurodegenerativas (Pandey & Rizvi, 2009). Além disso, o pH mais baixo do suco de cacau devido à fermentação é conhecido por ser altamente favorável para a estabilidade dos compostos fenólicos, evitando a auto-oxidação (Panda, Sahu, Behera, & Ray, 2014). Assim, a fermentação do suco de cacau por *L. casei* é vantajosa porque aumenta a concentração desses compostos bioativos.

Segundo Jilani, Cilla, Barbera e Hamdi (2015), durante a fermentação, diferentes transformações (epimerização, degradação, oxidação e hidrólise) podem ocorrer nos compostos fenólicos dos sucos, alterando seus metabólitos. Assim, é necessário utilizar diferentes métodos para fornecer uma estimativa da capacidade antioxidante. Valero-Cases, Nuncio-Jauregui e Frutos (2017) relataram que os sucos de romã fermentados com *Lactobacillus acidophilus* e *Bifidobacterium longum subsp. infantis* aumentaram a atividade antioxidante quando medida pelo método de DPPH. No entanto, esses autores não observaram alterações quando utilizado o método de ABTS, sugerindo que o método

ABTS não era sensível. No presente estudo, os dois métodos utilizados (DPPH e ABTS) foram sensíveis para detectar o aumento da atividade antioxidante (Fig. 4).

3.3 Estabilidade do suco de cacau probiótico adicionado de sacarose ou sucralose

A contagem de células viáveis do suco de cacau probiótico com adição de açúcar aumentou de $8,76 \pm 0,05$ Log UFC/ mL, no início da estocagem para $8,99 \pm 0,02$ Log UFC/ mL, no 21º dia de armazenamento a 4 °C. A partir do dia 28, houve redução da contagem de células viáveis atingindo $7,52 \pm 0,01$ log UFC/ mL com 42 dias. No suco de cacau probiótico com adição de sucralose, houve redução da viabilidade de $8,76 \pm 0,05$ Log UFC/ mL, no início do armazenamento para $7,05 \pm 0,04$ Log UFC/ mL com 42 dias (Fig. 5). A contagem de células viáveis de suco de cacau probiótico com açúcar foi ligeiramente maior do que o suco com sucralose durante o armazenamento. Esses valores mais elevados podem estar relacionados ao uso do açúcar como substrato pelo *L. casei* durante o armazenamento. Pereira, Almeida, De Jesus, Costa e Rodrigues (2013) avaliaram o efeito do armazenamento refrigerado por 42 dias de suco de caju probiótico adoçado e não adoçado com açúcar. Esses autores observaram maior viabilidade nas amostras adoçadas e atribuíram esse resultado à adição de açúcar. Como o açúcar é um composto fermentável, o aumento das contagens microbianas era esperado, o que não foi observado no suco adoçado com sucralose (que não é fermentável).

Antunes et al. (2009) avaliaram o efeito do armazenamento por 28 dias em leite probiótico adicionado de açúcar e sucralose. Esses autores reportaram que as contagens de células viáveis diminuíram de um a dois ciclos logarítmicos durante o armazenamento, principalmente nas amostras adicionadas de sucralose. No presente estudo, também foi observada diminuição da viabilidade, sendo maior para o suco com sucralose. É

importante ressaltar que nos resultados aqui obtidos houve uma diminuição de apenas um ciclo logarítmico nas duas amostras.

Segundo Nualkaekul e Charalampopoulos (2011), para sobreviver ao efeito adverso do trato gastrintestinal e atingir o intestino em número suficiente, os microorganismos probióticos precisam estar presentes em uma concentração de pelo menos 7,00 log UFC/ mL no produto no fim do prazo de validade. Assim, apesar da redução observada na viabilidade de *L. casei* durante o armazenamento, ao final de 42 dias, a viabilidade microbiana permaneceu acima do limite mínimo (7,00 log UFC/ mL) para exercer os efeitos benéficos à saúde.

Com base nos resultados apresentados, a adição de sucralose no suco de cacau probiótico manteve a viabilidade das bactérias probióticas dentro de limites necessários para exercer os benefícios a saúde por até 42 dias, confirmando o potencial deste adoçante para uso em alimentos funcionais de baixo valor calórico. Outros estudos também relataram que os adoçantes mantiveram a viabilidade microbiana dentro dos limites desejáveis para exercer os efeitos benéficos a saúde em outros alimentos, como bebidas à base de trigo (Angelov, Gotcheva, Kuncheva, & Hristozova, 2006), chocolates (Nebesny, Zyzelewicz, Motyl, & Libudzisz, 2007). e queijo *petit suisse* (Esmerino et al., 2013).

O pH do suco de cacau probiótico adicionado de açúcar diminuiu durante o armazenamento, e o pH do suco adicionado de sucralose permaneceu constante (Fig. 5). Os resultados apresentados estão de acordo com os apresentados por Shahabbaspour, Mortazavian, Pourahmad, Moghimi e Sohrabvandi (2013) que relataram um aumento na contagem de *L. casei* até 21 dias de armazenamento sob refrigeração e redução do pH. Estes autores atribuíram este declínio no pH à fermentação continuada (pós-fermentação) pelas bactérias lácticas durante o armazenamento refrigerado. Assim, os resultados das amostras com açúcar indicaram que o *L. casei* foi capaz de produzir ácido mesmo a baixas

temperaturas. Como a pós-fermentação não foi observada nas amostras adoçadas com sucralose, o pH constante era esperado.

Os compostos fenólicos e a atividade antioxidante, realizadas nas amostras controle e fermentadas, reduziram durante o armazenamento. A redução foi maior no suco não fermentado (37,50%) quando comparado aos fermentados (23,58 e 29,12%, para o suco de cacau probiótico com adição de açúcar e sucralose, respectivamente). Portanto, neste estudo, a fermentação com *L. casei* preservou os compostos fenólicos do suco de cacau. A atividade antioxidante medida pelos métodos ABTS e DPPH apresentou uma tendência semelhante aos dos compostos fenólicos, havendo uma correlação positiva entre o conteúdo de fenólicos e a atividade antioxidante (Fig. 6).

De acordo com Nematollahi, Sohrabvandi, Mortazavian e Jazaeri (2016), a diminuição da atividade antioxidante e do conteúdo fenólico pode ser resultante da presença de oxigênio dissolvido em amostras, o que resultou na oxidação de compostos fenólicos. Porto, Okina, Pimentel, Garcia e Prudencia (2018) avaliaram os compostos fenólicos e a atividade antioxidante pelos métodos ABTS e DPPH em suco misto probiótico de beterraba e laranja durante 28 dias de armazenamento refrigerado. Esses autores também relataram pequenas reduções nessas determinações e concluíram que o processamento e armazenamento dos sucos probióticos não aceleraram a destruição dos ácidos fenólicos, sendo esses resultados satisfatórios.

4. Conclusão

O suco de cacau é uma matriz viável para o crescimento do microorganismo probiótico *L. casei*, permitindo que as contagens de células viáveis (necessárias para exercer os efeitos benéficos à saúde) sejam mantidas por 42 dias sob condições refrigeradas (4 °C). O adoçante sucralose manteve a viabilidade das bactérias probióticas dentro de

limites necessários para exercer benefícios a saúde até 42 dias de armazenamento. A fermentação resultou em aumento dos compostos fenólicos, proporcionando um aumento na atividade antioxidante. No armazenamento, o suco de cacau probiótico preservou os compostos fenólicos e a atividade antioxidante durante a estocagem refrigerada por 42 dias, conferindo benefícios nutricionais a esse alimento funcional.

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Tabela 1 - Planejamento experimental e viabilidade de *Lactobacillus casei* NRRL B-442 no suco de cacau após 24 h de fermentação.

Ensaio	pH inicial	Temperatura de fermentação (°C)	Contagem de células viáveis (log UFC/mL)
1	4,70	15,00	7,80±0,09
2	4,70	37,00	8,83±0,07
3	6,70	15,00	8,56±0,16
4	6,70	37,00	9,25±0,06
5	4,29	26,00	7,96±0,08
6	7,11	26,00	9,00±0,06
7	5,70	10,44	7,76±0,02
8	5,70	41,44	9,09±0,04
9	5,70	26,00	9,18±0,06
10	5,70	26,00	9,03±0,11
11	5,70	26,00	9,14±0,12

Figura 1 - Gráfico de superfície da viabilidade de *Lactobacillus casei* NRRL B-442 (Log UFC/ mL) em suco de cacau em função do pH inicial e temperatura de fermentação (°C).

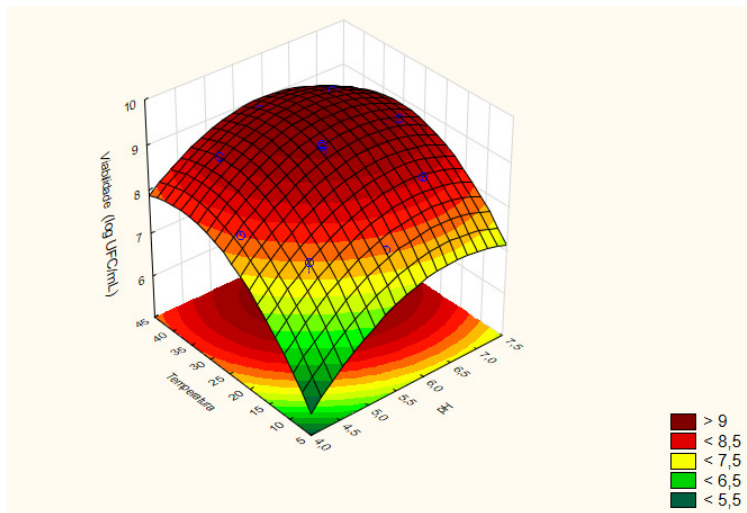


Figura 2 - Viabilidade (Log UFC/ mL) de *Lactobacillus casei* e ácido láctico em suco de cacau durante 24 h de fermentação.

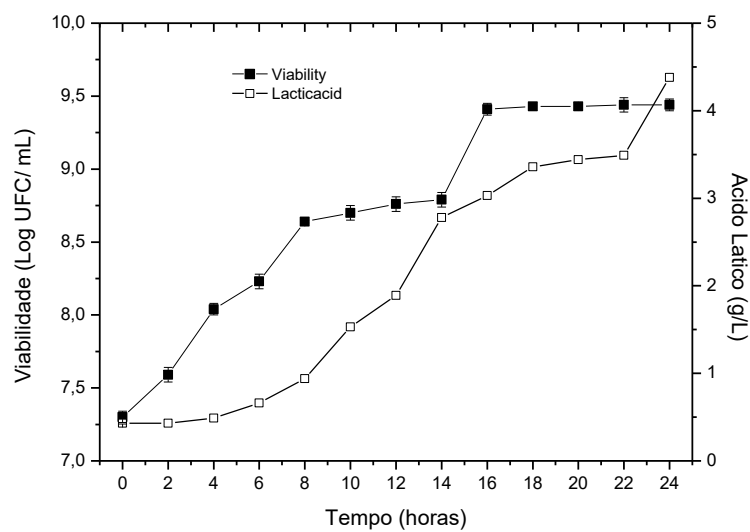


Figura 3 – Açúcares (em gramas por litro) em suco de cacau durante 24 h de fermentação.

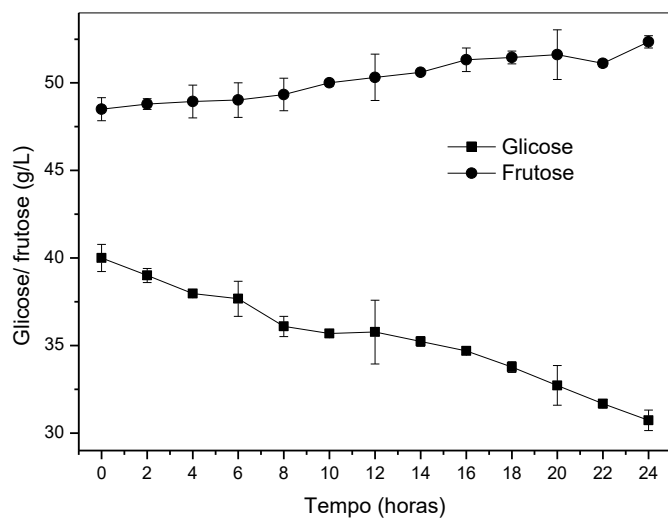


Figura 4 - Atividade antioxidante (AA) (micromolar de Trolox por mililitro) pelos métodos ABTS e DPPH em suco de cacau durante 24 h de fermentação.

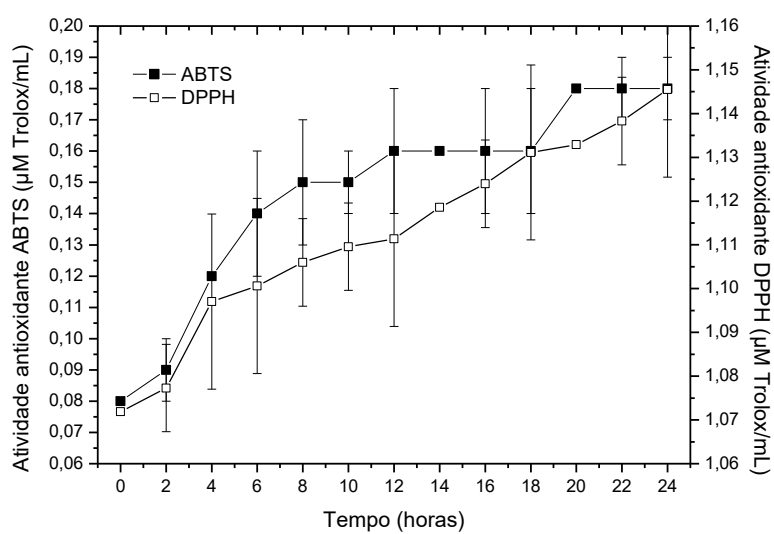


Figura 5 - Viabilidade de *L. casei* (em unidades formadoras de colônia por mililitro) e pH do suco de cacau fermentado adicionado de açúcar ou sucralose no início do armazenamento por 42 dias.

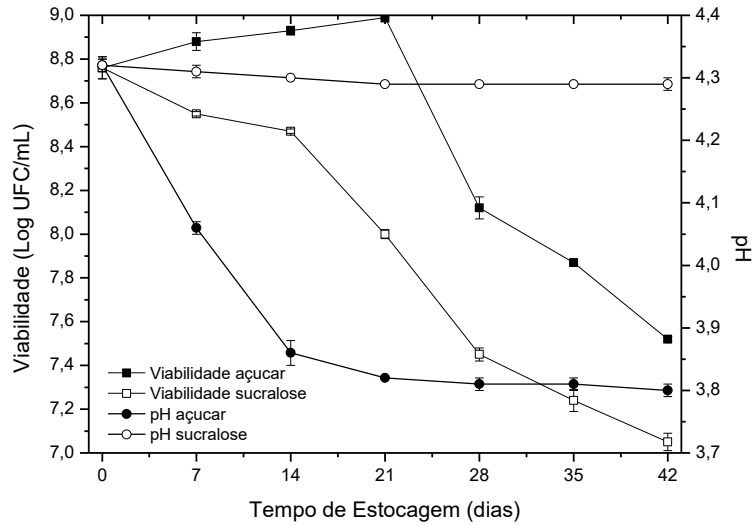
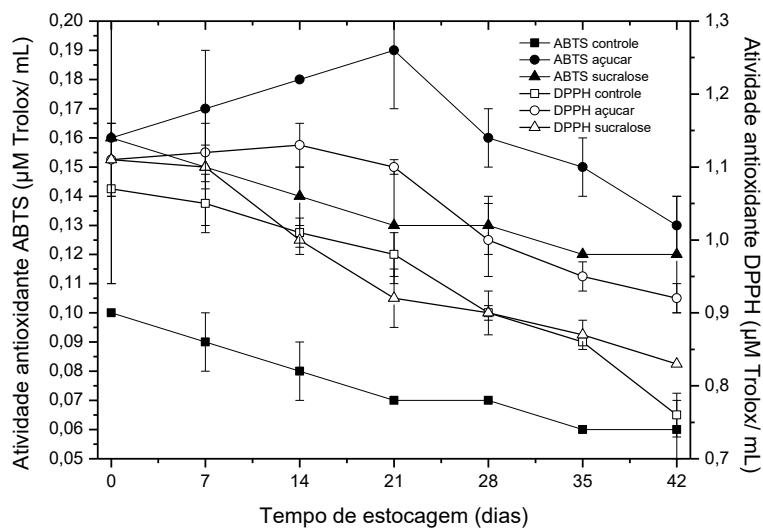


Figura 6 - Atividade antioxidante (AA) (micromolar de Trolox por mililitro) pelos métodos ABTS e DPPH de suco de cacau durante o armazenamento por 42 dias.





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