#### QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF POTASSIM SORBATE IN PROCESSED FOODS

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#### Processed meats

 such as bacon, sausages and ham— do cause cancer , according to the World Health Organization(WHO).



## What is Potassium Sorbate(C6H7KO2)?

- It is a preservative.
  - ---preserve food from mold and bacteria.
- It is in processed foods.
   <example>ham, cheese, sausage, boiled fish paste
- Nitrite + Potassium Sorbate
   → a Carcinogen





#### Is it safe for humans?



Goal To do a quantitative analysis of potassium sorbate in processed foods

# Method

• Cutting food

Making a test solution

• Colorimetric analysis



This is our result of the amount of potassium sorbate in 10 g food Experimental Value Actual Value

boiled fish paste





0.74 mg





# Why???



• Colorimetric analysis

We tried 3 method for extracting potassium sorbate ( $C_6H_7KO_2$ ).

#### The methods were

- 1. Evaporation
- 2. The cut size of boiled fish paste
- 3. pH

#### **Evaporation 1**

## Does potassium sorbate(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>7</sub>KO<sub>2</sub>) evaporate by heating on extraction ?



#### How to make the test solution

- 1. Dice 10g of food.
- 2. Put it into 25 mL of water.
- 3. Warm the beaker in hot water at 60 °C.
- 4. Scoop up the clear layer at the top.This is the test solution.





#### Method

# Measure the peak wavelength of the spectrum.(→252 nm) And measure absorbance of 252 nm.





spectrometer

#### **Result 1** Absorbance at 252 nm

	ABS
pure water	0.00
pure water	0.02
potassium sorbate	1.72
potassium sorbate	1.74

#### **Consideration 1**

- We think the concentration of potassium sorbate rises because water evaporates from heating.
- Potassium sorbate doesn't evaporate.



#### the cut size of boiled fish paste 2

Does the cut size of boiled fish paste affect the extraction of potassium sorbate?





extract heating 60°C 20 minutes colorimetric analysis

## Colorimetric Analysis: Reagent A(an oxidizer)



#### Mixture by volume for 1:1

# Colorimetric Analysis: Reagent B(Color fixative)



## Colorimetric Analysis: Final step

①2 mL of a test solution + Reagent A(a oxidizer) → boiled for 5 minutes at 60 °C

②The solution + Reagent B(Color fixative)
→ boiled for 10 minutes at 60 °C

**③**After that, measure absorbance of 532 nm.

#### **Result 2**

#### Absorbance at 532 nm

	ABS
Pure water	0.00
5 mm <sup>3</sup>	2.39
10 mm <sup>3</sup>	2.35
mash	2.01

Abs of Mash is lower than the 5 mm<sup>3</sup> cubes.

#### **Discussion 2**

•Mash can't extract potassium sorbate as well as 5 mm<sup>3</sup>.

•We think there is a best cut size of boiled fish paste for extracting potassium sorbate.

#### Discussion: 5mm<sup>3</sup> and 10mm<sup>3</sup> potassium sorbate extraction



#### Discussion: mash and 5mm<sup>3</sup> potassium sorbate extraction





5mm<sup>3</sup>

#### pH 3

# Does pH affect extraction of potassium sorbate?





# Iow pH ---> Decomposed molecules decrease. Absorbance is lower.

# high pH ---> Decomposed molecules increase. Absorbance is higher.

# Method 3 pure water 22.5 mL buffer solution 2.5 mL boiled fish paste(5mm<sup>3</sup>) 10 g

extract heating 60°C 20 minutes

colorimetric analysis

#### **Result 3**

#### Absorbance at 532 nm

	1 <sup>st</sup> time	2 <sup>nd</sup> time	
	1/10		
pH 4.1	0.30	0.45	
pH 6.82	0.26	0.36	
pH 9.18	0.27	0.38	
Steamed fish paste and Pure water (pH 6.5)	0.34	0.49	
Pure water	0.00	0.00	

#### **Consideration 3**

There is little difference because of pH.

 $\rightarrow$ pH doesn't affect the extraction.

#### Conclusion

HeatingSize

• pH

Do not affect extraction of potassium sorbate very much.

#### Future work

•Reconsider extraction method of Potassium Sorbate.

•Do ultraviolet quantitative analysis.

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