



## *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Immobilisation in Sodium Alginate for Red Dragon Fruit Winemaking

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### Abstract

Red dragon fruit is rich in sugar, organic acids and minerals and other nutrients. It has good processing properties; it is used in the production of fruit juice, jam, and preserved fruit. Its economic value in local market is quite low. Making wine is not only converting the fruit into wine, but also improves its economic value of dragon fruit. Objective of this study focused on the effect of encapsulation of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* in sodium alginate complexed with calcium chloride in red dragon fruit wine fermentation. Different technical parameters such as sodium alginate concentration (2.0%, 4.0%, 6.0%, 8.0%, 10%), bead size (2mm, 4mm, 6mm, 8mm, 10mm), bead loading (5 g/100ml, 10 g/ 100ml, 15 g/100ml, 20 g/ 100ml, 25 g/ 100ml), initial total soluble solid (10, 12, 14, 16, 18°Brix), clarifying agent (gelatin, bentonite, wheat gluten, egg white, kieselsol and kaolin) in wine making. Results showed that the best wine quality based on ethanol content (19.38%v/v) and sensory score were recorded by encapsulation of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* in 6% sodium alginate, bead size 6mm, bead loading 20 g/ 100ml, initial soluble solid 16%, gelatin as clarifying agent.

**Keywords:** Dragon fruit, Sodium alginate, Calcium chloride, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, Encapsulation, gelatin, Wine.

### Introduction

Pitaya (*Hylocereus undatus*) is an exotic fruit also known as pitahaya, dragon fruit. Its production has become a lucrative industry in Vietnam in recent years. Pitaya (*Hylocereus undatus*) is an exotic non-climacteric fruit that reaches its best eating quality when harvested ripe, decreasing thereafter during storage [1]. *H. undatus* is a medium to large berry with red peel and green or red fleshy scales. The flesh is sweet and white with numerous tiny black seeds, and is consumed fresh or used for juice, jellies, marmalades, jams, jelly, wine, nectar and beverages [2, 5].

Red dragon fruits contain high levels of health-promoting betalains [6, 7]. Red dragon fruit or pitaya is well known in the fruit market as an excellent source of antioxidants and for its high content of nutrients, particularly potassium, as well as dietary fibre. Fermented products are one of the

popular functional food choices due to their good functional and nutritional properties [8]. The antioxidant potential and the chemical properties of pitaya fruit can contribute to maintaining a healthy diet [9]. Yeast immobilisation for the production of wine has some potential. A calcium alginate bead has been used to immobilize *S. cerevisiae* [10].

Calcium alginate is favored by its non-toxic characteristic. It involves a very simple gel entrapment method [11]. Some advantages of the yeast-immobilization systems include: high cell densities, product yield improvement, lowered risk of microbial contamination, better control and reproducibility of the processes, as well as reuse of the immobilization system for batch fermentations and continuous fermentation technologies [12]. Bottle-fermented sparkling wines were produced using *Saccharomyces*

*cerevisiae* immobilized within double-layer calcium-alginate beads or strands, and some factors affecting the leakage of viable cells from the gel into the wine during fermentation and aging were investigated [13]. The wine yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* was immobilized in sodium alginate beads as a biocatalyst in/for pomegranate wine making [14].

*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* was immobilized in sodium alginate beads to produce a biocatalyst for use in guava wine making [15]. One study prepared ionically cross-linked (with  $\text{CaCl}_2$ ) gellan particles with immobilized yeast cells for their use in repeated fermentation cycles of glucose [16]. The immobilization of yeast inside calcium alginate and  $\kappa$ -carrageenan gels extended the time of preliminary fermentation and reduced the degree of fermentation in samples with calcium alginate [17].

Application of immobilised yeast cells on single-layer Ca-alginate or double-layer alginatechitosan for mead production was assessed [18]. A study was carried out on encapsulation of wine yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) and its use in wine making compared to free yeast [19]. Influence of two yeast strains in free, bioimmobilized or immobilized with alginate forms on the aromatic profile of long aged sparkling wines was examined [20].

There was little report on production of dragon fruit wine. One research project was performed to produce dragon fruit wine [21]. There was not any research mentioned to the application of immobilized yeast in calcium-alginate bead for dragon fruit wine making. Therefore, objective of this study focused on the effectiveness of encapsulation of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* in sodium alginate complexed with calcium chloride in red dragon fruit wine fermentation.

## Materials and Method

### Material

Dragon fruit were collected from Tien Giang province, Vietnam. After collecting, they must be conveyed to laboratory within 8 hours for experiments. They were washed under tap water to remove foreign matters. Fruits were sliced and peeled to collect pulp ready for juice extraction. Distilled water was added for juice preparation. Sucrose was added in different levels to achieve the right

total soluble solid. 5% metabisulfite was added to the must to sterilize and prevent contamination. The fermentation was conducted in 250 ml flasks. Aseptic sampling for monitoring fermentation was performed using a syringe-type system. Besides dragon fruit we also used another material during the research such as sodium alginate,  $\text{CaCl}_2$ , *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, potassium metabisulphate, sucrose, gelatin. Potassium metabisulphate was used in dragon fruit juice to sanitize before fermentation.

## Researching Procedure

### Effect of Alginate Concentration in Yeast Immobilization during Dragon Fruit Wine Making

Different alginate solutions (2.0%, 4.0%, 6.0%, 8.0%, 10%) were prepared. To each 50 ml alginate solution with different alginate concentration, 50 ml of cell suspension containing 2 g/L of yeast cells was added. The suspension was dropped by syringe into calcium chloride solution (5%), which resulted in Ca-alginate beads. Each cell bead has diameter 4mm. Anaerobic fermentation was carried with 15 gram of immobilized beads and 100 ml of dragon fruit must for winemaking. Total soluble solids (TSS, °Brix) and ethanol (%v/v) were observed during 15 days by 3 day-intervals.

### Effect of Cell Bead Size in Yeast Immobilization during Dragon Fruit Wine Making

To each 50 ml alginate solution 6%, 50 ml of cell suspension containing 2 g/L of yeast cells was added. The suspension was dropped by syringe into calcium chloride solution (5%), which resulted in Ca-alginate beads. Different cell bead size (2mm, 4mm, 6mm, 8mm, 10mm) were examined. Anaerobic fermentation was carried with 15 gram of immobilized beads and 100 ml of dragon fruit must for winemaking. Total soluble solids (TSS, °Brix) and ethanol (%v/v) were observed during 15 days by 3 day-intervals.

### Effect of Cell Bead Loading during Dragon Fruit Wine Making

Cell loading was varied between of 5 g/100ml to 25 g/mL with 6 mm bead diameter and 6 % sodium alginate concentration for fermentation. Immobilized alginate beads were washed three times with 100 ml of distilled water. Then 5 g, 10 g, 15 g, 20 g, 25 g of beads were mixed with 100 ml of dragon

fruit juice and subjected to anaerobic fermentation. Total soluble solids (TSS, °Brix) and ethanol (%v/v) were observed during 15 days by 3 day-interval.

### Effect of Initial Total Soluble Solid during Dragon Fruit Wine Making

Cell loading was 15 g/100ml with 6 mm bead diameter prepared from 6 % sodium alginate concentration for fermentation. Immobilized alginate beads were washed three times with 100 ml of distilled water. Different initial total soluble solid (10, 12, 14, 16, 18°Brix) were investigated. Total soluble solids (TSS, °Brix) and ethanol (%v/v) were observed during 15 days by 3 day-interval.

### Effect Clarifying Agent in Wine Storage

After the final fermentation process, wines are fined to remove particles that may cause the wine to brown or lose color and heat-unstable proteins. Gelatin, bentonite, wheat gluten, egg white, kieselsol and kaolin slurry was prepared as clarifying agents by dispensing 25g of each clarifier (Gelatin, bentonite, wheat gluten, egg white, kieselsol and kaolin) in 475 ml of boiling water and allowed to mix for 3 minutes to form slurry separately such that, the resultant mixture was very smooth and free of lumps. They were then assessed individually as clarifiers by adding 10ml of each slurry to 1000 ml of the wine samples. Clarity of the wine samples was determined using sensory evaluation.

**Table 1: Effect of alginate concentration in yeast immobilization during dragon fruit wine making**

Alginate concentration (%)	2	4	6	8	10
Ethanol content (%v/v)	6.75±0.04 <sup>c</sup>	8.95±0.00 <sup>bc</sup>	13.21±0.02 <sup>a</sup>	11.43±0.04 <sup>ab</sup>	10.78±0.01 <sup>b</sup>
Sensory score	4.32±0.03 <sup>c</sup>	5.72±0.03 <sup>bc</sup>	6.14±0.01 <sup>a</sup>	6.04±0.02 <sup>ab</sup>	5.92±0.03 <sup>b</sup>

Note: the values were expressed as the mean of three repetitions; the same characters (denoted above), the difference between them was not significant ( $\alpha = 5\%$ )

Lower alginate concentration had the problem of cell leakage while the beads with higher alginate concentrations had the good mechanical properties as compared to the low concentrations. The increase in the Na-alginate concentration results in denser structure. Thus, higher alginate concentration decreases the pore size in the bead. It results in more retardation of substrate molecule i.e., increase in internal mass transfer resistance and decrease in effective diffusivity of the substrate molecule

### Physico-chemical, Sensory and Statistical Analysis

Total soluble solid (°Brix) was examined by refractometer. Ethanol (%v/v) content in wine was analyzed by HPLC system. Sensory score was evaluated by a group of panelist using 9 point-Hedonic scale. Clarity of the wine samples was determined at a seven-day interval for a period of 28 days using sensory evaluation. Twenty five (25) ml of each sample were dispensed without agitation of flasks to evaluate the clarity by sensory score. The experiments were run in triplicate with three different lots of samples. Statistical analysis was performed by the Stat graphics Centurion XVI.

### Result & Discussion

#### Effect of Alginate Concentration in Yeast Immobilization during Dragon Fruit Wine Making

Na-alginate and CaCl<sub>2</sub> reacts and forms the Ca-alginate gels. This gel involves formation of a porous structure in the beads. Application of immobilized yeast in wine production decreased the fermentation time in comparison with the free cell. The sugar uptake rate of the immobilized yeast was always higher than that of the free yeast [15]. In our present study, different alginate solutions (2.0%, 4.0%, 6.0%, 8.0%, 10%) were prepared. Our results were noted in Table 1.

and thus resulting in lower rates of fermentation [15].

#### Effect of Cell Bead Size in Yeast Immobilization during Dragon Fruit Wine Making

As the diameter of the bead is increased, the substrate molecule has to travel more to reach the center of the bead [15]. In our present study, different bead size (2mm, 4mm, 6mm, 8mm, 10mm) were examined. Our results were noted in Table 2.

**Table 2: Effect of of cell bead size (mm) in yeast immobilization during dragon fruit wine making**

Bead size (mm)	2	4	6	8	10
Ethanol content (%v/v)	8.63±0.01 <sup>c</sup>	13.21±0.02 <sup>bc</sup>	16.05±0.03 <sup>a</sup>	15.74±0.01 <sup>ab</sup>	14.88±0.03 <sup>b</sup>
Sensory score	5.91±0.00 <sup>c</sup>	6.14±0.01 <sup>bc</sup>	7.59±0.02 <sup>a</sup>	6.97±0.05 <sup>ab</sup>	7.31±0.02 <sup>b</sup>

Note: the values were expressed as the mean of three repetitions; the same characters (denoted above), the difference between them was not significant ( $\alpha = 5\%$ )

### Effect of Cell Bead Loading during Dragon Fruit Wine Making

The bioactive compounds ( fatty acids, phytosterols, betacyanins and acetic acid) and other aspects (physical, microbiological, chemical and nutritional properties) of fermented

liquid dragon fruit (*Hylocereus polyrhizus*) without and with pasteurization were examined. Heat treatment (75°C for 15 s) may have exerted a favourable effect on the concentration of these bioactive compounds [22]. In our present study, different bead loading (5, 10, 15, 20, 25 g/100ml) were examined. Our results were noted in Table 3.

**Table 3: Effect of cell bead loading during dragon fruit wine making**

Bead loading (g/ 100ml)	5	10	15	20	25
Ethanol content (%v/v)	13.74±0.01 <sup>c</sup>	14.83±0.00 <sup>bc</sup>	16.05±0.03 <sup>b</sup>	17.42±0.03 <sup>a</sup>	17.50±0.03 <sup>a</sup>
Sensory score	7.06±0.03 <sup>c</sup>	7.22±0.02 <sup>bc</sup>	7.59±0.02 <sup>b</sup>	8.04±0.00 <sup>a</sup>	8.09±0.04 <sup>a</sup>

Note: the values were expressed as the mean of three repetitions; the same characters (denoted above), the difference between them was not significant ( $\alpha = 5\%$ )

### Effect of Initial Total Soluble Solid during Dragon Fruit Wine Making

Sugar is an important nutrient and influence the flavor of wine, it has a direct relationship of the degree of fermentation and is an

important precursor of wine aroma, directly affect the taste and quality of fruit wine [23]. In our present study, different initial total soluble solid (10, 12, 14, 16, 18 °Brix) were examined. Our results were noted in Table 4.

**Table 4: Effect of initial total soluble solid during dragon fruit wine making**

Initial total soluble solid (°Brix)	10	12	14	16	18
Ethanol content (%v/v)	17.42±0.03 <sup>c</sup>	18.42±0.01 <sup>b</sup>	18.95±0.01 <sup>ab</sup>	19.38±0.04 <sup>a</sup>	17.75±0.02 <sup>bc</sup>
Sensory score	8.04±0.00 <sup>c</sup>	8.27±0.03 <sup>b</sup>	8.45±0.02 <sup>ab</sup>	8.69±0.00 <sup>a</sup>	8.12±0.03 <sup>bc</sup>

Note: the values were expressed as the mean of three repetitions; the same characters (denoted above), the difference between them was not significant ( $\alpha = 5\%$ )

### Effect of Clarifying Agent

After ethanol fermentation, wine becomes a colloidal solution and suspension. Natural sedimentation, centrifugation, and clarification with continuous alluviation filtration do not protect wines against colloidal haze. Clarifying wine is an essential quality attribute that is recognized and valued by consumers. Fining can improve wine stability in a number of ways and

improve wine from an organoleptic point of view. Besides having a clarifying effect, fining leads to changes in the polyphenolic structure of wines. In our present study, different clarifying agents (Gelatin, bentonite, wheat gluten, egg white, kieselsol and kaolin) were examined. Our results were noted in Table 5. From table 5, we could clearly see that gelatin would be the best option for wine fining.

**Table 5: Effect of clarifying agent during dragon fruit wine fining**

Clarifying agent	gelatin	bentonite	wheat gluten	egg white	kieselsol	kaolin
Sensory score	8.69±0.00 <sup>a</sup>	8.29±0.01 <sup>bc</sup>	8.37±0.00 <sup>b</sup>	8.19±0.02 <sup>c</sup>	8.20±0.03 <sup>c</sup>	8.50±0.04 <sup>ab</sup>

Note: the values were expressed as the mean of three repetitions; the same characters (denoted above), the difference between them was not significant ( $\alpha = 5\%$ )

Wheat gluten was used as clarifying agent of musts and white wines [24]. One study compared the effectiveness of gelatin and kaolin in clarifying wine variously produced from locally available fruits (pawpaw, pineapple, cashew and banana). Gelatin was a better clarifier than kaolin [25].

## Conclusion

Red pitaya (*Hylocereus polyrhizus*) is a member of the family Cactaceae. The ripened fruit has an attractive purple-red peel and

flesh which is delicate and juicy with small black seeds well-dispersed. Red pitaya flesh was rich in fiber, vitamins, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, phytochemicals, polyphenols and antioxidants exhibiting higher antioxidant activities. We have successfully investigated several technical parameters in dragon fruit wine making by yeast immobilization. From this approach, the added value of this fruit could be improved. Vietnamese farmers would have better chance to increase their income from this product.

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