



## Production of crispy bread snacks containing chicken meat and chicken meat powder

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### ABSTRACT

Chicken meat in two different forms (chicken meat and chicken meat powder) were added into white flour and whole wheat blend baguette bread formulations for protein enrichment and finally developing new and healthy snacks. The chicken meat and powder levels were 10% for white flour baguette, and 15% for whole wheat blend. The dried baguette samples were packaged under 100% N<sub>2</sub>, and physical, chemical, microbiological and sensorial properties were evaluated during 3 months of storage. Protein content of chicken meat powder added samples were found statistically higher than chicken meat added samples. Hardness of the snacks was significantly affected from type of chicken meat, such as values were higher for chicken meat added samples than chicken meat powder added samples. Lipid oxidation of the snacks was determined by TBA analysis, and TBA value for whole wheat mixture snack with 15% of chicken meat was the highest among all during storage. The highest overall acceptance score was obtained from white flour snack with 10% chicken meat. There was no coliform bacteria detected during storage and the results of yeast-mold count and aerobic plate count of snacks remained between the quantitative ranges.

**Key words:** baguette, chicken meat, quality, snack, storage.

### INTRODUCTION

Snack foods usually evoke negative images and recognized as unhealthy with its low nutritional value and high energy density. Deep fried, extruded or baked, but high fat containing snack foods, such as potato chips, doughnuts, popcorn, cookies, crackers, cakes are the biggest offenders of these negative images, however, fruit leathers, nuts, cereal bars are some of the healthier alternatives for appropriate snacking. Food scientists are currently studying in developing and designing

new food products by using enrichment techniques to meet daily macro and micronutrient intake, as well as balancing the energy intake. Especially for prevention of protein malnutrition related diseases- which is evident in children-, some researchers have developed snacks either with the addition of functional ingredients to existing formula or creating completely new snacks from these ingredients (Katayama and Wilson 2008, Cho and Rizvi 2010, Erbas 2010, Awoyale et al. 2011, Ktenioudaki et al. 2012, Paraman et al. 2012). In these studies, mostly plant-based protein sources such as okara, lupin seed flour, brewer's (distillers') spent grain were

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used to increase the protein content. But nutritional quality and availability of plant-based proteins are quite low compared to animal-based proteins. Animal-based proteins from eggs, milk, meat and fish are considered as complete proteins because of their favorable balance of essential amino acids. Various alternatives for fortification or enrichment of foods, especially bread have been described in previous studies (Bojňanská et al. 2012, Okafor et al. 2012, Waters et al. 2012, Indrani et al. 2015). Madenci and Bilgiçli (2014) used whey protein concentrate powder and buttermilk powder in leavened and unleavened flat bread dough at different levels (0, 4 and 8%). They pointed out that the protein content of the flat breads increased up to 14.6% with whey protein concentrate powder usage. Significant increments were also observed in ash and mineral (Ca, K, Mg and P) contents of the leavened/unleavened flat bread with utilization of 8% whey protein concentrate powder or buttermilk powder. Bastos et al. (2014) studied on the effect of fish filleting residues for the enrichment of wheat bread. As a result of the study, they reported that addition of fish processing residue to breads is a possible way to provide essential nutrients to the population through a well-accepted, accessible, and low-cost product. Also food process by-products such as brewer's spent grain can be utilized for bread enrichment with its high level of essential amino acid composition (Waters et al. 2012).

Among these protein sources, chicken meat has a favorable nutritional value; lower in total lipid and higher in total protein content than beef (USDA 2014), as well as lower price compared to the other alternatives. But due to the highly perishable character and short shelf life of the chicken meat, researchers remain distant from this valuable source in the enrichment studies. Cakmak et al. (2013) used chicken meat and chicken meat powder for enrichment of white and whole wheat pan breads. The protein contents of breads were increased up to 18.70% with maximum level

of enrichment. Therefore the authors have been encouraged for increasing the shelf life of these breads by drying.

Drying or dehydration process is described as the removal of the water, which is normally present in foodstuff by applying heat (Brennan 2006). This is a major process in food preservation, because the water activity is as low as no microbiological activity can occur and any deterioration is reduced to a minimum (Toledo 2007). In developing healthy snacks, the drying process is frequently employed to decrease the moisture into less favorable levels for reducing physical, chemical or microbiological deteriorations.

Processing conditions, products nature (moisture content, physicochemical properties etc.), packaging material and storage conditions influence the shelf life of the food products (Galic et al. 2009). Especially degradation in main quality indices of foods might limit the shelf life, and hence the products become unacceptable or harmful to consumer (Sousa-Gallagher et al. 2011). In order to extend the shelf life of foods, either laminated packaging materials are used or deterioration mechanism is delayed by modifying the atmosphere within the package. Modified atmosphere packaging (MAP) removes the natural air of the packaging area and replaces it with an inert gas or special combination of gasses (Emblem 2000, Spencer 2005). With this replacement, product quality of foods will be better, and shelf life will be longer than the previous condition (Ucherek 2001).

The aim of this study was to produce healthy snacks with addition of chicken meat powder and chicken meat for protein enrichment, and determine the physical, chemical, and microbiological quality characteristics of these snacks during three months of storage at room temperature (~25°C) in a special laminated package. The formulation of the baguette breads was optimized in the previous study of the authors (Cakmak et al. 2013), and this study is

focused on production of dried protein enriched snacks.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### MATERIALS

Commercial white wheat flour type 650 (moisture: 11.94%, protein: 12.13%, on dry basis) and whole wheat flour 650 (moisture: 9.80%, protein: 10.39%, on dry basis) was obtained from Yuksel Tezcan Gida A.S. (Turkey). The chicken meat powder (CMP) and whole chicken meat (CM) were supplied from Banvit A.S. (Turkey) and Keskinoglu A.S. (Turkey), respectively. EMCE gluten plusP<sup>®</sup> (contents: glucose oxidase, pea protein, wheat flour, anti-caking agent) baking improver (ABP Mühlenchemie A.S., Turkey) were blended with dry ingredients to enhance the bread structure and improve the specific volume. Compressed yeast, salt, spices (tomato powder, red pepper powder, coriander powder, thyme, cumin and black pepper) and virgin olive oil were purchased from a local market in Izmir.

### PRODUCTION OF ENRICHED BAGUETTE BREADS

Chicken meat used in the study was first boiled in tap water until its cold point temperature exceeded 70°C. Then the skin of whole chicken was removed and the chicken thigh and breast meat was deboned and grounded into small pieces in a blender (Waring Blender, USA). The chicken meat powder (salt free) was kindly supplied by Banvit A.S. (Turkey). This product is a commercially available industrial product mainly used in instant soups and it is produced by auto-claving and drying of deboned and granulated chicken meat according to the information obtained from the supplier.

Baguette bread production was optimized using the traditional French baguette processing (Baardseth et al. 2000) with slight modifications in final proofing period and baking condition. The addition of chicken meat powder and chicken meat

(0-10-15-20-25-30%) to bread formulations were evaluated by a series of sensory analyses in the previous study of authors (Cakmak et al. 2013). Formulations with 10% and 15% enrichments for white flour baguettes and whole wheat blend baguettes respectively, were used for snack production. These baguette breads were flavored with 1% spice mix (22.5% tomato powder, 17.5% red pepper powder, 17.5% coriander powder, 15% thyme, 15% cumin and 12.5% black pepper) and 2% virgin olive oil to increase the general perception of further production of snacks. Formulation of baguette breads was given in Table I. As can be seen in this table, whole wheat flour was mixed with 30% (w/w) of white flour to enhance the final texture of baguettes. Also 0.3% (w/w) EMCE gluten plusP<sup>®</sup> baking improver (ABP Mühlenchemie A.S., Turkey) was used in both white flour and whole wheat blend baguette dough formulations. To improve the flavour of the dried snacks, previously blended 1% spice mix and 2% virgin olive oil were incorporated into all baguette dough formulations. All the dry ingredients given in Table I -including chicken meat powder or chicken meat- were first mixed and then these mixed ingredients were again mixed with an adequate quantity of water, which was determined according to the farinograph water absorption levels at 500 BU, and kneaded in a spiral mixer (ISM-10, Inoksan, Turkey) to get dough of a moderately stiff consistency. The dough was then placed in a fermentation chamber (FGM 100, Inoksan, Turkey) for 30 min at 30°C and 75% relative humidity. After manual aeration of the dough for 1 minute, they were divided into 400 g portions and moulded into baking pans and allowed to rest in the same fermentation chamber for 45 min. Following the final proofing period, the baguettes were baked at the temperature range which was set automatically decreasing from 250°C to 220°C in a preheated rotary oven (FD-200, Fimak, Turkey) for 15 min and to avoid dryness of the bread crusts, steam was injected for the first 30 s of baking.

**TABLE I**  
**Enriched baguette bread formulations.**

Ingredients (g)	T-10CMP	T-10CM	W-15CMP	W-15CM
White flour	900	900	255	255
Whole wheat flour	-	-	595	595
Chicken meat powder	100	-	150	-
Chicken meat	-	100	-	150
Yeast	27.0	27.0	25.5	25.5
Salt	10.8	10.8	10.2	10.2
Baking improver	2.70	2.70	2.55	2.55
Spice mix	9.0	9.0	8.5	8.5
Virgin olive oil	18	18	17	17
Water*	680	540	825	605

T; white flour, W; whole wheat flour blend, CMP; chicken meat powder, CM; chicken meat.

\*Determined from farinograph at 500 BU.

Baguettes were subjected to a 4 hour cooling period at room temperature before drying. All the baguette breads were produced twice (30 breads for each production) and the cooled baguettes were stored at -25°C until drying was performed.

#### DRYING OF SAMPLES AND PACKAGING FOR STORAGE

Baguette samples from each of the two production batches were rested for two hours at room conditions for thawing. Then all baguettes were sliced into the thickness of 5 mm with an electric slicer (Bosch Spot, Germany) prior to drying as shown in Figure 1. Samples were dried in a

convection oven (Inoksan FBE 010, Turkey) at 170, 190 and 210°C until the weight remains constant, in order to decide the drying temperature to be applied for snack production for storage trials. Dried baguette slices are shown in Figures 2 and 3. T-10CMP, T-10CM and W-15CMP snacks reached the constant weight at 190°C at 22 min of drying, while W-15CM snack reached the constant weight at 28 min. Baguette slices dried at 170°C have a harder texture compared to samples dried at higher temperatures because of its longer drying time (34-36 min), and baguette slices dried at 210°C have darker color compared to other samples as shown



**(a)**

**(b)**

**Figure 1** - Images of baked baguette bread (a), and sliced baguette (b).



in Figures 2 and 3. Therefore drying temperature of 190°C has been selected for snack production. After drying of baguette bread slices, samples were cooled at room temperature and 200±10 g of snack packaged under the modified atmospheric conditions (100% N<sub>2</sub>) with a special laminated packaging material to improve light, moisture and oxygen barrier properties for preventing oxidation in snacks as well as protecting snacks against mechanical damages (crushing, breaking etc.). This packaging material has an opaque lacquered PET (12µ) on the upper layer, metalized OPP (20 µ) in the middle layer and PE-EVA-PE (58 µ) mixture at the inner layer. According to the information given by package manufacturer; the oxygen permeability of the package was 110 cc/24h.m<sup>2</sup>.atm (referring to the standard of ASTM D-1434), the nitrogen permeability was 35 cc/24h.m<sup>2</sup>.atm (referring to the standard of ASTM D-1434), and the water vapor permeability was 7 g/24h.m<sup>2</sup> (referring to the standard of ASTM E-96-66), respectively. The packaged snack samples were stored at room

temperature (~25°C) and analyses were carried out for three months with 15 days of intervals.

#### ANALYSIS OF DRIED ENRICHED BAGUETTE SLICES

Moisture, protein, ash and fat content of the snacks was determined according to approved methods of AACCI (AACCI 2010a, b, c, e). Water activity was measured with Testo AG400 (Germany) water activity measurement device with a ±0.001 sensitivity. The protein, ash and total fat content analysis were only performed on the first day of storage, since those values might change due to the fluctuations in moisture content. Three packed snacks were randomly selected for each snack type, and all analyses were performed at least triplicate and the results were given as the mean value.

Color of snack samples was measured according to Hunter L, a, b color scale using ColorFlex colorimeter (HunterLab, Reston, Virginia, USA) where L is a measure of brightness (0: black, 100: white), +a/-a is a measure of redness/greenness, and +b/-b is yellowness/blueness. Total

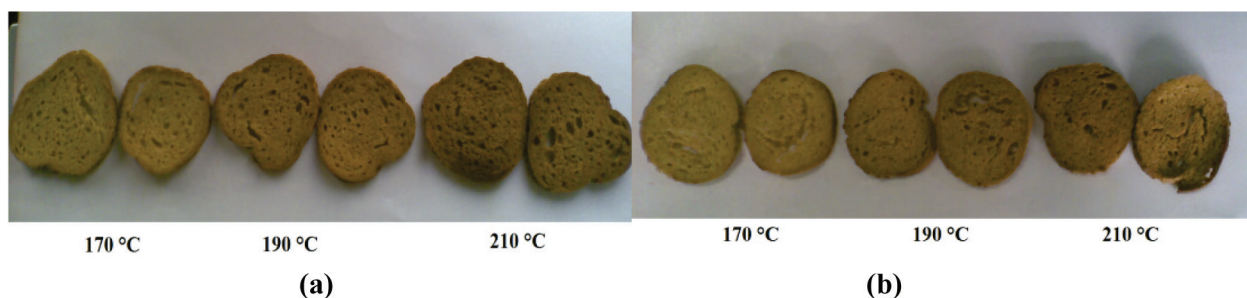


Figure 2 - Images of T-10CMP (a), and T-10CM (b) snacks.

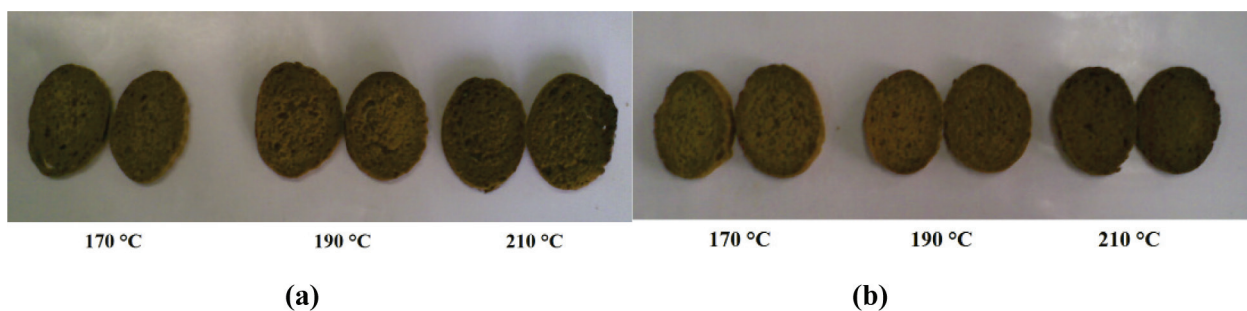


Figure 3 - Images of W-15CMP (a), and W-15CM (b) snacks.

color difference ( $\Delta E$ ) was calculated according to following formula;

$$\Delta E = \sqrt{(\Delta L)^2 + (\Delta a)^2 + (\Delta b)^2} \quad (1)$$

The pH of the snacks was analyzed according to approved method of AACCI by using pH meter (pH537; WTW GmbH, Weilheim, Germany) having  $\pm 0.01$  sensitivity (AACCI 2010d). The snack was manually ground in a mortar and 10 g of ground sample was put in a 100 ml beaker. The pH of distilled water was adjusted to pH 7, and this water was added into the beaker containing 10 g of sample until 100 ml, and after continuous stirring for 5 min the pH was read.

To measure secondary products of lipid oxidation, TBA (thiobarbituric acid) was determined by using the distillation method of Tarladgis et al. (1960) with the modifications of Ke et al. (1977). The amount of TBA was given as mg malondialdehyde/ kg sample.

The hardness of the snacks was measured using TA-XT2i texture analyzer (TA-XT2i; Stable Micro Systems Ltd., Surrey, UK) using 30 kg load cell. Pre-test speed and test speed were 1 mm/s, while the post-test speed was 10 mm/s. Three-point bending test were applied to measure the maximum force (N), which is referred as hardness of the snacks and at least ten different samples was measured.

Aerobic plate count (APC) and yeast-mold count (YMC) were carried out in 0, 15, 30, 60, 75 and 90 days while coliform bacteria count determined at the beginning and at the end of the storage period as the microbiological analyses of snacks. 10 g of snack was weighed and transferred into 90 ml of 0.1% peptone water and homogenized for 1 min in a stomacher (Seward 400, UK). From  $10^{-1}$  dilution, other decimal dilutions were prepared. APC was determined by using pour plate method on plate count agar (PCA; Oxoid, Basingstoke, UK) after incubation at 30°C for 48 h as described

by FDA-BAM online (FDA 2001a). YMC was determined by using the spread plate method on acidified (pH: 3.5) potato dextrose agar (PDA; Oxoid, Basingstoke, UK). Plates were incubated at 25°C for 3-5 days and enumerated (FDA 2001b). Coliform bacteria were enumerated by double-layer pour plate method on violet red bile agar (VRBA, Oxoid, Basingstoke, UK) after incubation at 35°C for 18-24 h (FDA 2002). These analyses were carried out in triplicate.

Sensory analysis for overall acceptance was carried out using 51 randomly selected untrained panelists among the senior and graduate students of Ege University Food Engineering Department for determining the consumer preference of the snacks. Three-point hedonic scale; “-1 being dislike”, “0 being neither dislike nor like” and “+1 being like” was used (Altug and Elmaci 2005).

#### STATISTICAL ANALYSES

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was conducted using SPSS 16.0 software (SPSS Inc., USA) and calculated mean values were compared using Duncan post hoc multiple comparison test with a significance level of 99% ( $p < 0.01$ ) to evaluate the differences between samples. The sensory analysis was evaluated using one-way analysis of variance and Tukey post hoc multiple comparison test with a significance level of  $p < 0.01$ . The results of the microbiological analysis were evaluated using Duncan post hoc multiple comparison test with a significance level of  $p < 0.05$ .

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Snack samples were prepared from the baguette breads according to the formulation given in Table I. The snacks were evaluated in all quality aspects including physical, chemical, microbiological and sensorial characteristics for expressing the general structure. These new snacks were developed as an alternative to potato chips, crackers and other high-energy savory snacks. Average protein contents of

T-10CMP, T-10CM, W-15CMP and W-15CM were found as 18.69, 15.47, 21.16, and 17.59% on dry basis, respectively. Differences between the snacks from CMP and CM could be related to the difference in their compositions and production methods. The amount of chicken meat powder and chicken meat incorporated into baguette bread formulations were same, but the moisture content of CMP (2.2%) was quite lower compared to CM (64.64%). As a result, the protein content of CMP enriched snacks was found higher than CM enriched snacks. Those given protein contents were higher than potato chips, popcorn, rice cakes and corn-based extruded snacks (Table II) (USDA 2014). Average ash contents of T-10CMP, T-10CM, W-15CMP and W-15CM were found as 1.32, 1.17, 2.09, and 1.96% on dry basis, respectively. Ash contents of the samples produced from the whole wheat flour blend were found to be higher than those of white flour used samples. This difference was partially because the ash content of whole wheat flour was higher than white wheat flour as stated in the previous study of Cakmak et al. (2013). Higher ash content in bakery products, which is also an indicator of higher fiber content, is generally suggested for consumption due to their positive effects on health such as decreasing the risk of chronic diseases (diabetes, obesity, heart diseases, etc.). Total fat content of T-10CMP, T-10CM, W-15CMP and W-15CM

were 2.66, 1.04, 3.49, and 1.93% on dry basis, respectively. Fat content of snacks produced with CMP was comparably higher than the snacks with CM, and this could be attributed to the production and composition of CMP. Chicken skin was not removed during processing into CMP, and the fat coming from chicken skin, then increased total fat content of the CMP enriched snacks. Regular potato chips, popcorn, corn-based extruded snacks, reduced fat potato chips, and even plain rice cakes produced from brown rice had higher fat contents than the chicken meat powder and chicken meat enriched snacks (USDA 2014).

Moisture content and water activity values of the samples during storage were given in Table III and Figure 4. Initial and final moisture contents of the samples were between 2.927 and 8.280%, while at the end of storage they were between 3.608 and 7.537%. The water activity of the samples was between 0.117 and 0.497. The lowest values were found for T-10CM and the highest values were found for W-15CM. As it was stated in the study of Ktenioudaki et al. (2012), physical changes started to occur when water activity is between 0.35 to 0.50. Only W-15CM within these limits, but those values were still unfavorable for microbial growth as can be seen in the microbiological analyses.

In snack foods, the main deterioration mechanisms are moisture uptake and oxidation,

**TABLE II**  
Nutritional composition of the snacks.

Snack	Protein (%)*	Fat (%)*	Moisture (%)	Reference
Potato chips, plain	6.51	34.62	1.86	USDA 2014
Popcorn, air popped	12.51	4.38	4.10	USDA 2014
Corn-based extruded chips, plain	6.24	33.72	1.07	USDA 2014
Reduced fat potato chips	7.17	21.01	1.00	USDA 2014
Rice cake, brown rice plain	8.71	2.97	5.80	USDA 2014
T-10CMP	18.69	2.66	4.10	This study
T-10CM	15.47	1.04	2.93	This study
W-15CMP	21.16	3.49	5.81	This study
W-15CM	17.59	1.93	8.28	This study

\*dry basis.

which causes loss of crispiness and creates rancid flavor (Kilcast and Subramaniam 2000), so determining the change in moisture and TBA has crucial importance for the final quality of the snacks. Amount of TBA is an indicator of lipid oxidation and it is found to be remained almost constant during 90 days storage as seen in Figure 5. The fat content of W-15CMP was the highest; however, the TBA value of W-15CM snack was the highest among all during storage. This could be due to long exposure time during drying at 190°C of W-15CM (28 min) than the other snacks (22 min). There was no rancid flavor detected by sensory panelists of this present study, as the threshold value for rancidity in meat was reported as 1-2 mg malondialdehyde/kg (Alkass et al. 2013).

pH values are given in Table III. The values for each sample were decreased during storage and were between 5.840-6.050 at the beginning of storage and between 5.480 and 5.780 at the end of storage. The final pH values were found to be lower than the initial values for all snacks depending on the storage time, but no significant difference was observed between almost all the snack types.

Hardness of the snacks was measured during 90 days, and the results are presented in Table IV.

The samples had a similar tendency during storage; however, the hardness of T-10CMP decreased significantly during this period ( $p<0.01$ ). Initial hardness value of W-15CMP was significantly the lowest among all ( $p<0.01$ ), while the final values for T-10 CMP hardness was the lowest ( $p<0.01$ ). W-15CM snack was comparably higher hardness values, depending on the denser structure of baguette bread before drying. So, all in all, the hardness values at the 45th and 60th days of the storage were higher than those other storage intervals. Hardness values of the snacks, even hardness of W-15CM, was quite lower compared to breadsticks given in the study of Ktenioudaki et al. (2012), and also the change of hardness during storage found to have similar tendency. In this study brewer's spent grain (BSG) was used at different percentages as a functional ingredient in breadsticks. Although BSG addition significantly increased protein contents, it was found that BSG addition affected baking characteristics such as structure and texture. During storage period the change in hardness of the snacks in our study had similarly

Total color difference ( $\Delta E$ ) was calculated by taking the initial values (day 0) as a control of each

TABLE III  
Moisture and pH of the snacks.

Storage period (days)	Moisture (%)				pH			
	T-10CMP	T-10CM	W-15CMP	W-15CM	T-10CMP	T-10CM	W-15CMP	W-15CM
0	4.095 <sup>c,B</sup>	2.927 <sup>b,A</sup>	5.813 <sup>d,C</sup>	8.280 <sup>e,D</sup>	5.88 <sup>d,A</sup>	5.84 <sup>e,A</sup>	5.90 <sup>e,A</sup>	6.05 <sup>d,B</sup>
15	4.293 <sup>d,B</sup>	3.153 <sup>c,A</sup>	5.793 <sup>d,C</sup>	7.197 <sup>a,D</sup>	5.85 <sup>d,A,B</sup>	5.79 <sup>d,A</sup>	5.93 <sup>c,d,B,C</sup>	5.99 <sup>c,C</sup>
30	4.258 <sup>d,B</sup>	3.299 <sup>d,A</sup>	5.370 <sup>c,C</sup>	7.521 <sup>b,D</sup>	5.97 <sup>e,A</sup>	5.92 <sup>f,A</sup>	5.96 <sup>d,A</sup>	6.11 <sup>e,B</sup>
45	3.808 <sup>a,B</sup>	2.761 <sup>a,A</sup>	4.574 <sup>a,C</sup>	7.835 <sup>c,D</sup>	5.39 <sup>a,A</sup>	5.36 <sup>a,A</sup>	5.51 <sup>a,B</sup>	5.65 <sup>a,C</sup>
60	4.143 <sup>c,B</sup>	2.915 <sup>b,A</sup>	4.846 <sup>b,C</sup>	8.147 <sup>d,D</sup>	5.42 <sup>a,B</sup>	5.34 <sup>a,A</sup>	5.53 <sup>a,C</sup>	5.69 <sup>a,D</sup>
75	4.415 <sup>c,B</sup>	3.335 <sup>d,A</sup>	6.116 <sup>e,C</sup>	8.168 <sup>f,D</sup>	5.76 <sup>c,B</sup>	5.69 <sup>e,A</sup>	5.90 <sup>e,C</sup>	6.01 <sup>e,d,D</sup>
90	3.994 <sup>b,B</sup>	3.608 <sup>c,A</sup>	5.077 <sup>b,C</sup>	7.537 <sup>b,D</sup>	5.52 <sup>b,A</sup>	5.49 <sup>b,A</sup>	5.65 <sup>b,B</sup>	5.78 <sup>b,C</sup>

T-10CMP: 10% chicken meat powder enriched white flour baguette snack, T-10CM: 10% chicken meat enriched white flour baguette snack, W-15CMP: 15% chicken meat powder enriched whole wheat blend baguette snack, W-15CM: 15% chicken meat enriched whole wheat blend baguette snack.

<sup>a-f</sup> Mean values with different superscripts in the same column are significantly different ( $p<0.01$ ).

<sup>A-D</sup> Mean values with different superscripts in the same row are significantly different ( $p<0.01$ ).



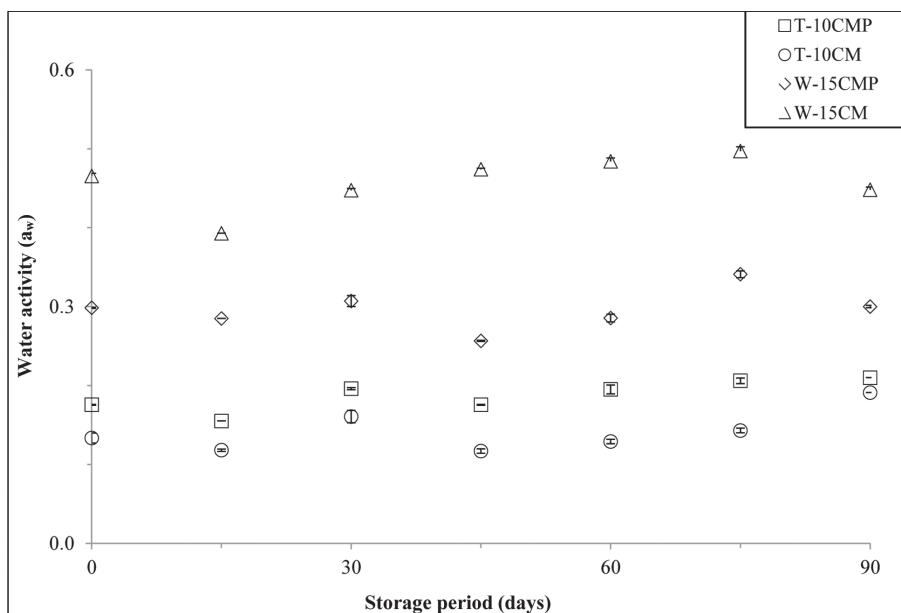


Figure 4 - Water activity values of enriched snacks.

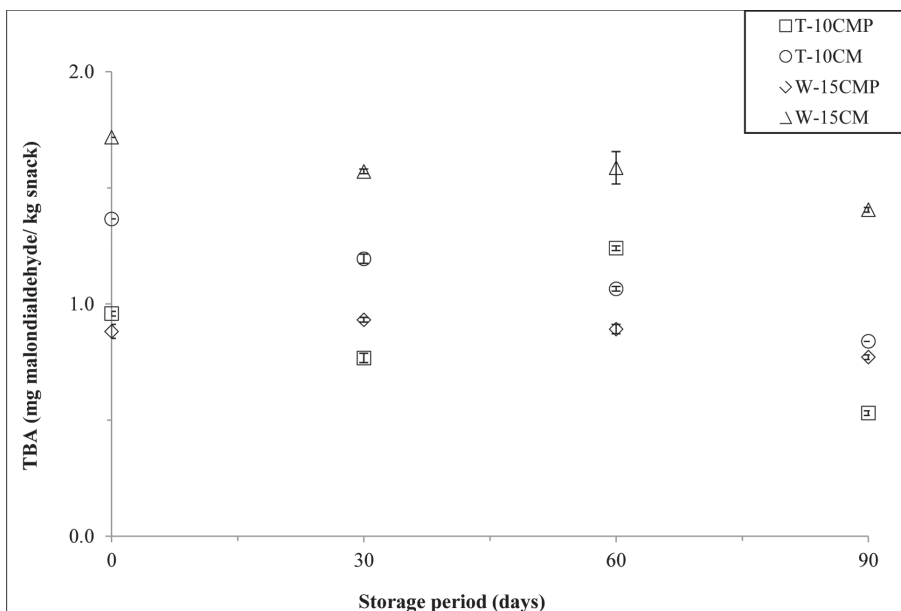


Figure 5 - TBA values of enriched snacks.

sample and they are shown in Table IV. The values were increased significantly ( $p < 0.01$ ) during 90 days, except T-10CM which was remained unchanged. The whiteness values for each sample did not differ significantly ( $p > 0.01$ ), but the redness and yellowness values changed significantly (results were not shown). W-15CMP sample had

comparably higher  $\Delta E$  values than the rest of the snacks during whole storage period.

Evaluation of sensorial acceptance in pilot scale, minimum of 50 panelists is recommended (Kilcast and Subramaniam 2000, Altug and Elmaci 2005). According to the results of the hedonic test, the highest overall acceptance score was found for

**TABLE IV**  
**Hardness and total color difference of the snacks.**

Storage period (days)	Hardness (N)				$\Delta E$ (total color difference)			
	T-10CMP	T-10CM	W-15CMP	W-15CM	T-10CMP	T-10CM	W-15CMP	W-15CM
0	9.297 <sup>c,C</sup>	8.195 <sup>b,B</sup>	5.772 <sup>a,A</sup>	8.367 <sup>a,B</sup>	-	-	-	-
15	7.489 <sup>a,b,A</sup>	7.593 <sup>b,A</sup>	7.858 <sup>b,A</sup>	7.628 <sup>a,A</sup>	1.952 <sup>b,C</sup>	1.550 <sup>b,A</sup>	2.970 <sup>c,D</sup>	1.700 <sup>b,B</sup>
30	7.886 <sup>b,A</sup>	7.401 <sup>b,A</sup>	7.724 <sup>b,A</sup>	17.341 <sup>c,B</sup>	3.210 <sup>c,D</sup>	2.885 <sup>d,C</sup>	1.898 <sup>a,B</sup>	1.150 <sup>a,A</sup>
45	11.351 <sup>d,A</sup>	13.913 <sup>d,A</sup>	13.818 <sup>d,A</sup>	20.820 <sup>d,B</sup>	2.035 <sup>b,C</sup>	1.295 <sup>a,B</sup>	3.483 <sup>d,D</sup>	1.118 <sup>a,A</sup>
60	11.670 <sup>d,A</sup>	10.070 <sup>c,A</sup>	11.850 <sup>c,A</sup>	24.354 <sup>e,B</sup>	3.320 <sup>d,D</sup>	2.130 <sup>c,B</sup>	2.005 <sup>a,A</sup>	2.598 <sup>c,C</sup>
75	7.112 <sup>a,b,A</sup>	5.495 <sup>a,A</sup>	10.627 <sup>c,B</sup>	11.935 <sup>b,B</sup>	1.458 <sup>a,B</sup>	1.303 <sup>a,A</sup>	2.583 <sup>b,C</sup>	2.938 <sup>d,D</sup>
90	6.776 <sup>a,A</sup>	7.926 <sup>b,A</sup>	7.923 <sup>b,A</sup>	12.822 <sup>b,B</sup>	4.430 <sup>e,B</sup>	1.543 <sup>b,A</sup>	6.628 <sup>c,D</sup>	5.650 <sup>e,C</sup>

T-10CMP: 10% chicken meat powder enriched white flour baguette snack, T-10CM: 10% chicken meat enriched white flour baguette snack, W-15CMP: 15% chicken meat powder enriched whole wheat blend baguette snack, W-15CM: 15% chicken meat enriched whole wheat blend baguette snack.

<sup>a-e</sup> Mean values with different superscripts in the same column are significantly different ( $p < 0.01$ ).

<sup>A-D</sup> Mean values with different superscripts in the same row are significantly different ( $p < 0.01$ ).

T-10CM, however the lowest score was obtained for W-15CM ( $p < 0.01$ ). The average scores of the snacks were -0.06, 0.47, -0.39 and -0.61 for T-10CMP, T-10CM, W-15CMP and W-15CM, respectively. Also all the scores were found statistically different from each other ( $p < 0.01$ ). The lower scores for the whole wheat blend snacks could be related with the consumer preferences and daily eating habits. The daily carbohydrate consumptions of young people are unfortunately still based on white flour bakery products.

The results of microbiological analyses of snacks are shown in Table V and VI. No significant differences were observed between the APCs of the snacks at the beginning and at the end of the storage ( $p > 0.05$ ), except the counts of W-15CM. The lowest APC was found in each group of snacks at day 60 during the storage period and the lowest APC was observed in W-15CM on each storage day except 90 days of storage. There were significant differences in the APCs of snacks at 0, 15, 30 and 75 days of the storage period ( $p < 0.05$ ) while no significant differences were found in the counts of snacks at 60 and 90 days of storage ( $p > 0.05$ ).

No significant differences were observed in YMCs of snacks during the storage period ( $p > 0.05$ )

except the counts of T-10CM. However, there were significant differences in the YMCs of snacks at the beginning, 15, 30 and 90 days of storage ( $p < 0.05$ ), whereas the differences in the counts at day 60 and 75 days of storage were not statistically significant ( $p > 0.05$ ).

No coliform bacteria were detected in the snacks both at the beginning (day 0) and at the end of the storage (day 90).

The main purpose of reducing water activity in food is to prevent or reduce the growth of vegetative cells and germination and outgrowth of spores of microorganisms. As water activity drops below 0.6, microbial growth stops (Gould 2000). The water activity values of cereals, crackers, sugar, salt, dry milk are approximately 0.10-0.20 while these values are less than 0.60 for noodles, honey, chocolate, dried egg (Ray and Bhunia 2013). The water activity values of the samples in the present study ranged from 0.117 to 0.497, these values remained at the levels which are insufficient for microbial growth during the storage period.

In the study of Hozová et al. (1995), microbiological evaluation of the amaranth-based snacks (water activity 0.38) made of wheat flour, amaranth flour, sugar, fat, eggs, aromatic

**TABLE V**  
**Changes in APCs<sup>1</sup> (log cfu/g) of snacks during storage period.**

	Storage period (days)					
	0	15	30	60	75	90
T-10CMP	2.61±0.07 <sup>b,C</sup>	2.95±0.06 <sup>b,B</sup>	3.03±0.29 <sup>b,B</sup>	1.85±0.85 <sup>a,A</sup>	2.98±0.03 <sup>b,B</sup>	2.94±0.40 <sup>b,A</sup>
T-10CM	2.63±0.20 <sup>a,C</sup>	2.95±0.32 <sup>a,B</sup>	2.61±0.06 <sup>a,B</sup>	2.32±0.44 <sup>a,A</sup>	2.77±0.00 <sup>a,B</sup>	2.79±0.22 <sup>a,A</sup>
W-15CMP	2.35±0.09 <sup>b,B</sup>	2.43±0.08 <sup>b,A</sup>	2.82±0.15 <sup>c,B</sup>	1.90±0.20 <sup>a,A</sup>	2.42±0.02 <sup>b,A</sup>	2.33±0.31 <sup>b,A</sup>
W-15CM	2.08±0.06 <sup>b,A</sup>	2.36±0.30 <sup>bc,A</sup>	2.34±0.10 <sup>bc,A</sup>	1.09±0.09 <sup>a,A</sup>	2.29±0.02 <sup>bc,A</sup>	2.47±0.05 <sup>c,A</sup>

<sup>1</sup>: Each value is the arithmetic mean ± standard deviation of three samples.

<sup>a-c</sup> Mean values with different superscripts in the same row are significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ).

<sup>A-C</sup> Mean values with different superscripts in the same column are significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**TABLE VI**  
**Changes in YMCs<sup>1</sup> (log cfu/g) of snacks during storage period.**

	Storage period (days)					
	0	15	30	60	75	90
T-10CMP	2.80±0.10 <sup>a,C</sup>	3.05±0.05 <sup>a,C</sup>	3.06±0.11 <sup>a,C</sup>	2.96±0.36 <sup>a,A</sup>	3.05±0.15 <sup>a,A</sup>	2.87±0.47 <sup>a,BC</sup>
T-10CM	2.94±0.17 <sup>ab,C</sup>	3.17±0.15 <sup>b,C</sup>	2.65±0.05 <sup>a,B</sup>	3.09±0.35 <sup>b,A</sup>	2.96±0.05 <sup>ab,A</sup>	2.98±0.08 <sup>ab,C</sup>
W-15CMP	2.50±0.11 <sup>a,B</sup>	2.68±0.14 <sup>a,B</sup>	2.70±0.05 <sup>a,B</sup>	2.78±0.48 <sup>a,A</sup>	2.57±0.17 <sup>a,A</sup>	2.40±0.01 <sup>a,A</sup>
W-15CM	1.85±0.16 <sup>a,A</sup>	2.36±0.18 <sup>a,A</sup>	2.33±0.15 <sup>a,A</sup>	2.80±0.20 <sup>a,A</sup>	1.30±1.30 <sup>a,A</sup>	2.47±0.08 <sup>a,AB</sup>

<sup>1</sup>: Each value is the arithmetic mean ± standard deviation of three samples.

<sup>a-b</sup> Mean values with different superscripts in the same row are significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ).

<sup>A-C</sup> Mean values with different superscripts in the same column are significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ).

ingredients were performed. No coliform bacteria, yeasts and molds ascertained in the products, but APC was found to be  $1.4 \times 10^3$ /g in the sixth month of storage. Our results for APC almost complied with the results of the aforementioned authors' study. There is no specific regulation for chicken snacks in Turkish legislation. However, according to the microbial criteria in Regulation on Turkish Food Codex Microbiological Criteria (Anonymous 2011), for breakfast cereals, whole grain products, muesli, cornflakes, chips etc. grain-based products, coliform bacteria count and YMC must not exceed  $10^3$ /g and  $10^4$ /g, respectively. Quantitative ranges of molds, yeasts, APC, coliform bacteria were stated as  $<1 \cdot 10^3$ /g,  $<1 \cdot 10^2$ /g,  $<1 \cdot 10^2$ /g,  $<1 \cdot 10^2$ /g, respectively for the breakfast cereals and snack foods (Downes and Ito 2001). Ray and Bhunia (2013) stated in their study that breakfast cereals and pasta might contain APC of  $10^{2-3}$ /g, coliform of  $<10^{1-2}$ /g, and yeasts and molds of  $<10^{1-2}$ /g.

Considering the criteria in the literatures mentioned above, microbial counts of snacks in the present study remained between the quantitative ranges during the storage period.

## CONCLUSIONS

Depending on the results of the tested quality parameters (physical, chemical, sensorial and microbial analysis), newly developed snacks have shown promising results. These snacks were higher in protein and ash content and lower in total fat content compared to the most popular snack alternatives such as; potato chips, crackers and other commercially available high-energy savory snacks. Chicken meat powder and chicken meat having a favorable nutritional value; lower total lipid and higher protein content make these snacks more nutritious; however further studies can be done to improve sensorial properties of the snacks.

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