

SIMULTANEOUS DETERMINATION OF B-GROUP VITAMINS IN ENRICHED COOKIES

Tânia da Silveira Agostini-Costa

EMBRAPA, CP 3761, Fortaleza-CE, Brazil

Rodrigo Scherer, Cláudia Hoffmann Kowalski, Marcelo Alexandre Prado and Helena Teixeira Godoy*

Departamento de Ciência de Alimentos, Faculdade de Engenharia de Alimentos, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, CP 6121, 13083 – 970 Campinas-SP, Brazil

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The objective of this research was to determine the levels of enrichment of vitamins B₁, B₂, B₆ and B₃ in different types and brands of enriched cookies. The chromatographic separation was performed in a C18 column with gradient elution and UV detection at 254 and 287 nm. The results show that only 5 of the 24 brands evaluated are in accordance with the Brazilian legislation with respect to the vitamin content declared on the labels. However, consumption of approximately 100-150 g of most of the brands supplies the recommended dietary intake for children and adults of the vitamins evaluated.

Keywords: thiamin; riboflavin; fortified foods.

INTRODUCTION

Vitamins are organic compounds, found in small amounts in foods, designated as nutrients because they cannot be synthesized by the body and are required to support health and well being. Vitamins catalyze numerous biochemical reactions. They are not direct sources of energy, however facilitate energy metabolism.¹

In developed countries, food fortification has proven an effective and low-cost way to increase the micronutrient supply and reduce the consequences of micronutrient deficiencies. Faber² evaluated the nutrient composition of complementary foods consumed by 6-12 month-old South African infants. The author concludes that the infants who consumed fortified infant products, such as cereals ready-to-eat, canned baby foods and formula milk powder, had significantly higher intakes of calcium, iron, zinc, vitamin A, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, vitamin B₆, vitamin B₁₂ and vitamin C than infants who did not consume any fortified products. The riboflavin and folate status have a significantly increase by use of multinutrient fortified beverages in children (age 6-11 years).³ Tucker *et al.*⁴ assessed the effect of breakfast cereal fortified with folic acid, vitamin B₆, and vitamin B₁₂ on vitamin and homocysteine status. Group of volunteers, consumption of 1 cup fortified breakfast cereal daily significantly increased B vitamin and decreased homocysteine concentrations, in agreement with Robertson *et al.*⁵

Although a great variety of enriched foods with vitamin B complex are available on the Brazilian market, the tremendous diversity of types and brands of vitamin enriched cookies makes them one the main vehicles of these vitamins, especially when one considers the level of consumption.⁶ So, the levels of fortification must be agreement with the specific legislation, besides the amount vitamin added by producers must be agreement with the declared values on the package. However, the Brazilian consumption data of enriched foods are unknown.

Some industrial processes used in the production of enriched foods may affect the levels of nutrients in the final product, especially vitamins, due the low stability. No measurable loss of thiamin (B₁) has been observed during the production and baking of loaves, and

losses during storage of these products are minimal. However, it is extensively destroyed during the baking of cookies, due the great surface area and to the high pH value, which is a result of substitution of the yeast by soda.⁷ Which a view to stability, thiamin mononitrate has been the form of the vitamin most widely used to enrich cereal derivatives. Thiamin is especially heat-labile, while folic acid, pyridoxine (B₆) and particularly riboflavin (B₂) are highly light sensitive, which can be a problem in the case of transparent packages, the increasing with increased temperature and pH.⁸ However, the conventional heating of milk produces destruction of vitamin B₁ in milk.⁹ Bell and White¹⁰ reported that the glass transition effects (mobility considerations, collapse) have a larger effect on thiamin stability than water activity, which should be recognized during the development of fortified food products. Niacin (B₃) is one the most stable vitamins, and, as a function of alkaline treatment, such as that used in tortilhas and cookies there is an increase in niacin assimilation, probably due the hydrolysis of bound niacin during baking.¹¹ In pork roasts, the vitamin B₁ and vitamin B₆ declined significantly, by 14% and 21% respectively, during 3 h of warm-holding.¹²

The determination of B-group vitamins in food products has been done by microbiological methods,^{13,14} by gas chromatography,¹⁵ by capillary isotachopheresis¹⁶ and HPLC.¹⁷⁻²⁴ The simple HPLC method developed by Agostini and Godoy²⁵ permits simultaneous determination of four vitamins (B₁, B₂, B₆ and two different forms of B₃) in enriched foods with speed, simplicity and versatility. So, the aim of this study was the simultaneous determination of vitamins B₁, B₂, B₆ and B₃ by HPLC in enriched cookies.

EXPERIMENTAL

Twenty four types/brands of enriched biscuits were acquired, including 5 brands of maize flour cookies, 5 brands of milk cookies, 4 brands of corn flour cookies, 2 brands of coconut cookies and 8 brands of cream cookies with strawberry and chocolate fillings. The samples were bought in the city of Campinas (SP) with the exception of brand RC, which came from Fortaleza (CE). For each type of cookies 3 different lots were analyzed, and for each lot, the whole content of 3 packages was homogenized in a food multiprocessor.

*e-mail: helena@fea.unicamp.br

The fillings of the cream cookies were removed before homogenizing, however, the results were corrected back for the whole sample, considering the total weight. All determinations were carried out in duplicate. Immediately after to obtain the samples, it were kept in the refrigerator until the analysis. This way, the samples were protected against light and high temperature. After the analyses, the samples were stored in the refrigeration again, to allow the repetition if it was necessary.

The standards of thiamin mononitrate (vitamin B₁), riboflavin (vitamin B₂), pyridoxine hydrochloride (vitamin B₆), nicotinic acid (vitamin PP) and nicotinamide (vitamin PP) were provided by F. Hoffman-La Roche. The sodium salt of 1-hexanesulfonic acid, approx. 98%, was provided by Sigma. Methanol (Omnisolv) and acetonitrile, both of chromatographic grade, and triethylamine for synthesis, were obtained by Merck. All the other chemical reagents were of analytical grade and were obtained in the local market. The water used in the preparation of the mobile phases was purified in the Milli-Q system (Millipore). The mobile phases were filtered through Fluoropore filters (Millipore HAWP 0013) with 0.45 µm diameter pores, and degassed in an ultrasonic bath.

A Varian liquid chromatograph was used, equipped with a model 9010 ternary pump, a manual Rheodyne type injector with a 20 µL loop and a model 9065 polychromatic diode array detector. The system was coupled to a Varian integrator, model 4400. The analytical column used was a 150 x 4.6 mm, 5 µm Spherisorb ODS-2 column (Sigma-Aldrich) with a 5 µm ODS-1 guard column (Varian), packed in the laboratory.

Some precautions were done to avoid the enzyme degradation, such as protection against the light and high temperature, and speed in the conclusion of the analyses. The vitamin determinations were carried out according to Agostini and Godoy.²⁵ Between 4.0 and 5.0 g of previously homogenized sample were used for the vitamin extractions, carried out with 45 mL of 0.05 mol L⁻¹ sulfuric acid for 60 min in an ultrasonic bath. The clean up of the extract was effected by the addition of sufficient methanol to complete to 100 mL, followed by refrigeration for 60 min at -18 °C. The extract was then filtered first through common filter paper and then through Fluoropore filters with 0.50 µm pores (Millipore FHL P 01300), before injection into the equipment.

The vitamin separation was performed at room temperature at a flow rate of 0.7 mL min⁻¹ and with a gradient from 2% acetonitrile and 98% aqueous phase (hexanesulfonic acid – HSA 5 mmol L⁻¹; 0.15% triethylamine – TEA; adjusted to pH 2.8 with dilute H₂SO₄) at the start of the run to 3% acetonitrile and 97% aqueous phase after 3 min, followed by a linear gradient up to 2% acetonitrile, 41% aqueous phase and 57% methanol 20 min later. After returning to the initial conditions, the column was re-equilibrated for 20 min. The vitamins were detected by ultra violet absorption at 254 nm for the first 9 min, at 287 nm between 9 and 15 min and then at 254 nm again up to the end of the run at 20 min. Identification was by comparison of retention times using standards analyzed under identical conditions, co-chromatography and absorption spectra provided by the diode arrangement detector to the vitamins with specific spectrum. Quantification has been done by external standard curves with 6 concentration levels and were realized in triplicate. The concentration of standard solutions to vitamin were for: B₁ - 5.11, 20.44, 40.88, 61.32, 81.76 and 102.2 µg 100 mL⁻¹; B₂ - 3.99, 15.96, 31.92, 47.88, 63.84 and 79.8 µg 100 mL⁻¹; B₆ - 6.09, 24.36, 48.72, 73.08, 97.44 and 121.8 µg 100 mL⁻¹; nicotinamide - 50.75, 203, 406, 609, 812 and 1015 µg 100 mL⁻¹; and nicotinic acid - 11.67, 46.68, 93.36, 140.04, 186.72 and 233.4 µg 100 mL⁻¹. Tests for the recovery of standards were carried out in triplicate by spiking at five different concentration levels, using non-enriched maize flour cookies.

Statistical analysis

Experimental results were analyzed by Statistica 6.0 data analysis software by Statsoft, Inc, USA. *P*-values < 0.05 were regarded as significant (ANOVA).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The method shown a good linearity for the evaluated concentrations, the regression coefficient (*r*²) was 0.9973, 0.9982, 0.9986, 0.9992 and 0.9989 for vitamins B₁, B₂, B₆, nicotinamide and nicotinic acid, respectively. The chromatographic profiles of the vitaminic extracts of some of the cookie samples can be seen in Figure 1. The HPLC methodology used can rapidly separate and quantify all vitamins with high sensitivity and reliability. To certify for the absence of co-eluent, the degree of purity of each peak was observed from the purity parameter determined by the equipment (ratio between the absorbencies of each vitamin obtained at two different wavelengths). The parameter for purity obtained for the vitamins present in cookies analyzed, were compared with those of the standards, and the agreement between the values indicated that non-existence of co-eluent, confirming the good resolution of the system for separating the vitamins. The recovery rates for vitamins determined by HPLC in non-enriched maize flour cookies, varied between 96 and 114% for concentrations between 5 and 100 µg 100 mL⁻¹ of vitamins B₁, B₂ and B₆, and between 100 and 750 µg 100 mL⁻¹ of nicotinamide (ND). The rates varied between 75 and 88% for concentrations between 15 and 175 µg 100 mL⁻¹ of nicotinic acid (NA). These results were similar to the Mann *et al.*,²⁶ where the recovery data to vitamin B₆ varied between 81.4 and 98.0% (mean = 89.8%) in a collaborative study.

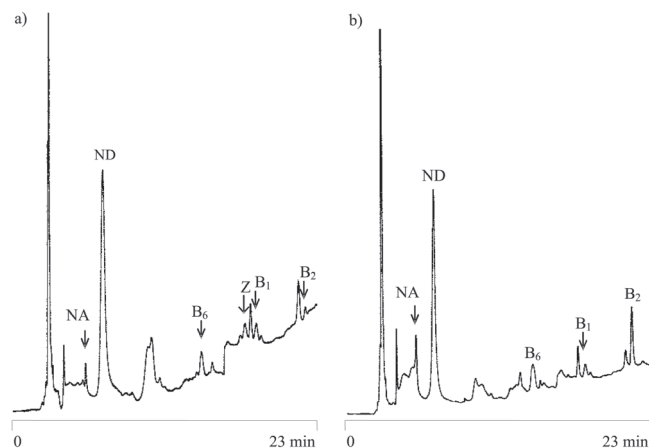


Figure 1. Chromatographic profile of the vitamins nicotinic acid (NA), nicotinamide (ND) B₆, B₁ and B₂ of (a) strawberry cookies NS; (b) coconut cookies BD. Column: ODS-2, 5 µm, 150 x 4.6 mm. Solvent: 2% acetonitrile and 98% aqueous phase (5 mmol L⁻¹ SHA; 0.15% TEA; pH 2.8 with 10% H₂SO₄) at the start of the run, 3% acetonitrile and 97% aqueous phase after 3 min.; 2% acetonitrile, 41% aqueous phase and 57% methanol after 23 min. Flow rate: 0.7 mL min⁻¹. Detection at 254 nm for the first 9 min., at 287 nm between 9 and 15 min and then at 254 nm again up the end of the run

Tables 1 to 6 show the vitamin levels determined in the different types of cookies. The most of the standard deviations (SD) was below of 1.0 and the higher SD was 2.3 to ND analysis in a NB sample. In chocolate cream cookies, an interferent, probably present in the cacao, hindered the determination of vitamin B₆. Arella *et al.*¹⁹ found similar results in a collaborative study to re-evaluate the chromatographic

method proposed as the official French method. With all the foodstuffs studied, the recovery rate of the method was always superior to 89%, except with the chocolate powder, for which it reduced to approximately 50% for vitamin B₁ and 75% for vitamin B₂.

All the different types of cookies of the NS brands presented 30% of the vitamin B₂ declared on the label. These low levels could be a result of degradation during the processing of the cookies. Penteado²⁷ report that the vitamin B₂ is very resistant to the heat and has been stable during the food cooking, however, the vitamin B₂ content may be reduced by light exposition. A chromatographic peak (Z), with a

retention time 4-5 min shorter than that of vitamin B₂ (Figure 1), detected only in biscuits of this brand, presented the same absorption spectrum profile as riboflavin, suggesting that it was a degradation product of vitamin B₂. By coincidence, the sum of the two peaks would provide the vitamin levels declared on the peak. The CR maize flour cookies presented 70% of the declared value for vitamin B₂. The coconut cookies of the brand BD presented vitamin levels approximately twice the amounts declared on the packages, while as the TD maize flour and RC milk cookies presented the vitamins B₁ and B₆ approximately twice of declared values.

Table 1. The concentrations of the B-group vitamins (mg 100g⁻¹) in enriched maize flour cookies

Brand/Lots		B ₁	B ₂	B ₆	NA	ND	B ₃
NS	Means ± SD	0.97 ± 0.11	0.28 ± 0.03	1.2 ± 0.3	1.7 ± 0.8	17.2 ± 1.4	18.9 ± 2.1
	Package*	0.60	0.90	1.20	—	—	11.00
RC	Means ± SD	0.54 ± 0.15	0.90 ± 0.06	1.4 ± 0.1	1.4 ± 0.4	10.2 ± 0.2	11.6 ± 0.3
	Package	0.60	0.90	1.20	—	—	11.00
IL	Means ± SD	0.93 ± 0.23	1.05 ± 0.11	1.1 ± 0.2	1.2 ± 0.4	12.3 ± 0.9	13.6 ± 0.9
	Package	0.96	1.08	1.20	—	—	10.40
CR	Means ± SD	1.03 ± 0.13	1.07 ± 0.14	1.3 ± 0.3	2.1 ± 0.3	11.9 ± 1.0	14.0 ± 0.9
	Package	1.04	1.43	1.22	—	—	13.54
TD	Means ± SD	1.23 ± 0.12	1.20 ± 0.16	1.9 ± 0.2	2.1 ± 0.2	13.1 ± 0.9	15.0 ± 0.3
	Package	0.60	1.08	1.02	—	—	12.06

Means of the three lots. B₁: thiamin; B₂: riboflavin; B₆: pyridoxine; NA: nicotinic acid; ND: nicotinamide; B₃ = NA+ND; SD: standard deviation; —: not declared. The coefficients of variation calculated for B₁, B₂ and ND are less than 5% and for NA and B₆ are less than 13%. * Declared values.

Table 2. The concentrations of the B-group vitamins (mg 100g⁻¹) in enriched corn flour cookies

Brand/Lots		B ₁	B ₂	B ₆	NA	ND	B ₃
NS	Means ± SD	0.86 ± 0.07	0.23 ± 0.05	1.3 ± 0.2	1.8 ± 0.1	15.1 ± 0.4	16.9 ± 0.3
	Package*	0.60	0.90	1.20	—	—	11.00
TR	Means ± SD	0.77 ± 0.29	1.06 ± 0.15	1.6 ± 0.1	1.5 ± 0.6	13.0 ± 0.7	14.6 ± 1.3
	Package	0.60	0.90	1.20	—	—	11.00
IL	Means ± SD	1.30 ± 0.18	1.14 ± 0.21	1.0 ± 0.2	1.3 ± 0.3	12.0 ± 2.0	13.3 ± 1.8
	Package	0.96	1.08	1.20	—	—	10.40
CR	Means ± SD	1.03 ± 0.14	1.22 ± 0.13	1.4 ± 0.5	1.8 ± 0.6	11.3 ± 1.0	13.1 ± 0.4
	Package	1.07	1.47	1.26	—	—	13.89

Means of the three lots. NA: nicotinic acid; ND: nicotinamide; PP vitamin = NA+ND; SD: standard deviation; —: not declared. The coefficients of variation calculated for B₁, B₂ and nicotinamide are less than 5% and for nicotinic acid and B₆ are less than 13%. * Declared values

Table 3. The concentrations of the B-group vitamins (mg 100g⁻¹) in enriched milk cookies

Brand/Lots		B ₁	B ₂	B ₆	NA	ND	B ₃
BD	Means ± SD	0.98 ± 0.11	1.6 ± 0.2	1.7 ± 0.3	1.2 ± 0.7	14.8 ± 1.1	15.8 ± 0.7
	Package*	0.60	0.90	1.20	—	—	10.20
TR	Means ± SD	0.68 ± 0.08	0.97 ± 0.13	1.7 ± 0.2	1.6 ± 0.8	11.7 ± 0.8	13.3 ± 1.6
	Package	0.60	0.90	1.20	—	—	11.00
RC	Means ± SD	1.22 ± 0.09	1.10 ± 0.05	1.7 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.3	13.3 ± 0.7	14.2 ± 0.5
	Package	0.60	0.90	1.20	—	—	11.00
CR	Means ± SD	0.70 ± 0.16	1.40 ± 0.17	2.2 ± 0.1	0.8 ± 0.2	14.8 ± 0.8	15.6 ± 1.0
	Package	0.60	0.90	1.20	—	—	11.00
BL	Means ± SD	1.49 ± 0.1	1.23 ± 0.09	1.5 ± 0.2	1.2 ± 0.4	11.7 ± 0.8	12.9 ± 0.8
	Package	0.96	1.08	1.20	—	—	10.40

Means of the three lots. NA: nicotinic acid; ND: nicotinamide; PP vitamin = NA+ND; SD: standard deviation; —: not declared. The coefficients of variation calculated for B₁, B₂ and nicotinamide are less than 5% and for nicotinic acid and B₆ are less than 13%. * Declared values.

Table 4. The concentrations of the B-group vitamins (mg 100g⁻¹) in enriched coconut cookies

Brand/Lots		B ₁	B ₂	B ₆	NA	ND	B ₃
NS	Means ± SD	0.87 ± 0.3	0.30 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.8	14.3 ± 0.9	15.3 ± 1.3
	Package*	0.60	0.90	1.20	—	—	11.00
BD	Means ± SD	1.13 ± 0.4	1.82 ± 0.2	2.2 ± 0.2	1.7 ± 0.7	18.0 ± 1.1	19.66 ± 1.4
	Package	0.60	0.90	1.2	—	—	10.2

Means of the three lots. NA: nicotinic acid; ND: nicotinamide; PP vitamin = NA+ND; SD: standard deviation; —: not declared. The coefficients of variation calculated for B₁, B₂ and nicotinamide are less than 5% and for nicotinic acid and B₆ are less than 13%. * Declared values.

Table 5. The concentrations of the B-group vitamins (mg 100g⁻¹) in enriched chocolate cream cookies

Brand/Lots		B ₁	B ₂	B ₆	NA	ND	B ₃
CR	Means ± SD	0.85 ± 0.25	0.88 ± 0.08	—	0.7 ± 0.2	10.0 ± 0.2	10.7 ± 0.3
	Package*	0.60	0.90	1.20	—	11.00	—
NB	Means ± SD	0.77 ± 0.15	1.12 ± 0.14	1.13 ± 0.40	1.59 ± 0.16	18.3 ± 2.3	21.2 ± 0.5
	Package	0.8	0.9	1.3	—	—	12.0
RC	Means ± SD	0.82 ± 0.16	1.00 ± 0.07	1.5 ± 0.2	0.6 ± 0.2	11.1 ± 0.1	11.7 ± 0.1
	Package	0.60	0.90	1.20	—	—	11.0
CR	Means ± SD	0.91 ± 0.17	1.17 ± 0.07	1.6 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.4	13.3 ± 0.4	14.2 ± 0.8
	Package	0.60	0.90	1.20	—	—	11.0

Means of the three lots. NA: nicotinic acid; ND: nicotinamide; PP vitamin = NA+ND; SD: standard deviation; —: not declared. The coefficients of variation calculated for B₁, B₂ and nicotinamide are less than 5% and for nicotinic acid and B₆ are less than 13%. * Declared values.

Table 6. The concentrations of the B-group vitamins (mg 100g⁻¹) in enriched strawberry cream cookies

Brand/Lots		B ₁	B ₂	B ₆	NA	ND	B ₃
NS	Means ± SD	1.13 ± 0.08	0.32 ± 0.08	1.4 ± 0.3	0.8 ± 0.4	17.6 ± 2.2	18.5 ± 1.7
	Package*	0.60	0.90	1.20	—	11.00	—
TR	Means ± SD	0.68 ± 0.09	0.93 ± 0.16	1.4 ± 0.4	0.9 ± 0.1	11.0 ± 1.0	11.9 ± 1.0
	Package	0.60	0.90	1.20	—	—	11.00
IL	Means ± SD	0.93 ± 0.06	1.17 ± 0.03	1.3 ± 0.3	0.53 ± 0.11	11.8 ± 0.31	12.4 ± 0.3
	Package	0.96	1.08	1.20	—	—	10.4
BD	Means ± SD	0.73 ± 0.02	1.06 ± 0.13	1.2 ± 0.0	0.5 ± 0.3	11.0 ± 0.6	11.5 ± 0.8
	Package	0.60	0.90	1.20	—	—	10.2

Means of the three lots. NA: nicotinic acid; ND: nicotinamide; PP vitamin = NA+ND; SD: standard deviation; —: not declared. The coefficients of variation calculated for B₁, B₂ and nicotinamide are less than 5% and for nicotinic acid and B₆ are less than 13%. * Declared values.

The stability and concentration of B group vitamins (B₁, B₂, B₃, B₅ and B₆) was evaluated in isotonic beverages and power beverages, the amount of some vitamins was found 15 times above of the declared on the labels, even after the shelf life had been exceeded.²⁸ The vitamin A palmitate losses in corn flakes fortified after 6 – 8 week storage was more than 90% in all samples, and the presence of other vitamins B₁, B₆, B₁₂, C, and D reduced the loss of vitamin A, but the loss was still significant.²⁹ Albalá-Hurtado *et al.*³⁰ found only 50% of declared value to B₂ vitamin, and nicotinamide and B₆ vitamins were found above of the declared levels in infant milks. In other paper, the stability of vitamins E, A, B₁, B₂, B₆ and nicotinamide were evaluated in two forms of infant milks. The authors related that only vitamin A shows significant losses, however the final concentration was higher than the minimal set by Spanish legislation.³¹

The Brazilian legislation³² only admits a variation of the 20% more of the declared values on the package in relation of the nutrients and caloric value. So, only 5 (IL and RC maize flour; BD, IL and TR strawberry cream cookies) of the 24 brands evaluated are in

accordance with the Brazilian legislation, the other brands have one or more vitamin in disagreement with legislation values.

The recommended dietary intake (RDI) is the intake amount that is sufficient to meet the nutrient requirement for nearly all healthy individuals in a group. The RDI is expressed as a single value set separately for each sex and specific age group. The magnitude of the discrepancy from the RDI and the duration of the nutritional deficit determine whether adverse effects on health and well being occur. According to the Brazilian legislation,³³ the RDI to children's (7-10 ages) and adults, for the B₁, B₂, B₆ and B₃ vitamins are respectively, 1.0, 1.2, 1.4 and 13 mg, and 1.4, 1.6, 2.0 and 18 mg. So, approximately 100-150 g of the most brands supplies the RDI for children's and adults, except the vitamin B₂ in NS brand, which is necessary approximately 400 g.

No relation was observed between the vitamin levels and the different types of cookies analyzed. The various types of cookies of brand NS, TR and IL showed similar vitamin levels within the same brand. Of the BD and CR cookies, the cream biscuits presented the lowest vitamin levels. Total means of each vitamin determined in

the different types of cookies manufactured by the same industry, of which three or more enriched types of cookies were analyzed. These levels were significantly different ($P < 0.05$) only for vitamin B₂ in the brand NS, indicating that the different manufacturers presented similar levels of enrichment in their products.

CONCLUSION

The most of brands evaluated are in disagreement with the Brazilian legislation in relation of the vitamins declared values on the labels. The CR and NS brand cookies presented approximately 70 and 30% respectively of the levels of vitamin B₂ declared on their packages. The BD brand coconut cookies presented approximately double the declared amounts of vitamin. In chocolate cream cookies, the B₆ vitamin analysis was difficult by interference. Approximately 100-150 g of the most brands evaluated supply the Recommended Dietary Intakes (RDI) according to the Brazilian legislation. So, the enriched cookies evaluated are good source of B-group vitamins, and could be used in populations at risk for vitamin deficiencies, as know the high level of consumption these products, especially for children's. However, the quality control must be better in relation of the declared values on the labels.

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