

## Variation of some chemical and functional properties of Bambara groundnut (*Voandzeia Subterranean* L. Thouars) during sort time storage

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### Abstract

The storage susceptibility of Bambara groundnut (B. G.) (*Voandzeia Subterranean* (L.) Thouars) to *Callosobruchus maculatus* and chemical and functional properties of 11 varieties from Far-North of Cameroon were investigated using standard analytical methods. Storage susceptibility shown that, after five months within treatment, *C. maculatus* destroy 10 to 50% of grains. The chemical characteristics of none attack grains of 11 varieties were range to 18.64 at 21.08%, 6.85 at 7.44%, 49.75 at 52.68% and to 6.05 at 7.55% respectively for protein, fat, starch and free carbohydrate. These chemical characteristics significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) decreases from attacks varieties. For the functional parameters, the none attacks grains was range of 130 at 135%, 19.15 at 20.91%, 18.20 at 21.13%, 2.76 at 3.21% and of 8.54 at 10.14% respectively for water capacity absorption, solubility index, gel length, ash and humidity. The results of this study indicated that storage susceptibility, chemical and functional properties of B. G. be dependant to the varieties.

**Keywords:** Bambara groundnuts; chemical composition; functional properties; storage susceptibility; *callosobruchus maculatus*.

**Practical Application:** Valorisation of the best varieties of Bambara groundnut from Far-North of Cameroon.

### 1 Introduction

Bambara groundnut (*Voandzeia Subterranean* (L.) Thouars) is an indigenous African crop that is now grown across the continent from Senegal to Kenya and from the Sahara to South Africa (Atiku et al., 2004). As the shortage of food continues to be a major problem of Africa, these legumes are being promoted more than before in order to help in combating malnutrition (Okafor & Nwabuko, 2003). The affordability of plant protein sources relative to that of animal origins has led to the intensified development of legume processing as a means of enhancing the availability, palatability and diversity of leguminous source of dietary protein. The seeds grow readily in all types of soil and have been described as poor man's crop (Barimalaa et al., 1994). Studies had revealed the detailed nutritional composition to be 16% crude protein, 9.7% moisture, 5.9% crude fat, 2.9% ash and 64.9% total carbohydrate (Aremu et al., 2006). It contains an appreciable amount of lysine and a minimum amount of trypsin and chymotrypsin as reported by Olanipekun et al. (2012).

Bambara groundnut is important to smallholders and their households because the beans are an important source of food security, being nutritious and high in protein in Africa and precisely in Northern Cameroon. Because, malnutrition contributes directly or indirectly to more than 60% of the then million child deaths each year (World Health Organization, 2002; Ijarotimi et al., 2009). The prevalence of malnutrition

increases dramatically from the age of 6 to 18 months as a result of poor feeding practices and low purchasing power that characterized many homes. Diets of developing countries are frequently deficient in macronutrients (protein, carbohydrates and fat), micronutrients or both (Brabin & Coulter, 2003). Although, in common with other legumes, Bambara is deficient in sulphur-containing amino acids (Azam-Ali et al., 2001; Mayes et al., 2012), some genotypes contain higher amounts of methionine and lysine than is found in other legumes (National Research Council, 2006; Kahane et al., 2013). Bambara groundnut is known to come in a variety of colors. Preliminary studies have identified more than eleven varieties of Far-North of the country (Ngamo et al., 2016). However, Chukwujindu et al. (2013) shown that the attributes like grain sources and coat color can contribute to the susceptibility of grains storage pests, and of cost to the nutritional value and chemical composition. Bambara groundnut it is cultivated throughout the north of Cameroon, and it is one of under valorized legumes. One of the main reasons for the low quantity of Bambara groundnuts in the consumer basket is the important loss observed in the culture and especially during postharvest storage (Kellouche & Soltan, 2004; Ayamdoe et al., 2013). Insects are major pests which qualitatively and quantitatively degrade these seeds during storage (Costa et al., 2006). *Callosobruchus maculatus* are the

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main pest of Bambara groundnut during storage, capable of destroying an entire stock before the expected storage period.

Given the diversity of its varieties, chemical and food compositions depend greatly. This can predispose grains to storage pests. This present research seeks to obtain baseline information on storage susceptibility to *C. maculatus* and to determine the proximate physicochemical characteristics and functional properties of 11 Bambara groundnut varieties from Far-North of Cameroon after five months storage in the aim to valorize the best one.

## 2 Materials and methods

### 2.1 Insects rearing

A culture of *C. maculatus* adults used for study was obtained from naturally infested stores Bambara groundnut. The culture was maintained and reared in the laboratory ( $31.48 \pm 2.88$  °C and  $58.56 \pm 6.78\%$  relative humidity) on the dry Bambara groundnut in the breeding bottle covered with pieced of muslin cloth. The muslin cloths were held in place with a rubber band to allow good aeration and to prevent the escape of insects. Insects were placed at 25 couples in one-liter jars containing 1kg of untreated Bambara groundnut brought at the Maroua-Kodek market. This phase lasted for 30 days to allow the emergence of new adults. After this operation, the Bambara groundnut contained in the different jars were screened; adult weevils were removed and breeding continued with eggs infested Bambara groundnut. This second phase lasted 30 days and 3 days emergence insects were used to infest Bambara groundnut of different treatments.

### 2.2 Collection of Bambara groundnut samples and observation

Bambara groundnut samples were obtained from Maroua-Kodek marked in the Far-North region of Cameroon, during a prospection. Different Bambara groundnut grain lots with four distinct colors or mix color: red, brown, black, and cream-colored were collected for these marked. Eleven varieties sample based on morphological descriptors (shape, color, shape and color of the hilum, ...) as described by Ngamo et al. (2016) have been put in 100g batches of 500 ml glass jars capacities closed by ventilated lids. Before storage, Bambara groundnut grains were stored for 7 days at 4 °C, at the end to eliminate any form of insects. Inside each batch, grain sample was infested with 10 *Callosobruchus maculatus* (5 female and 5 males). Three repetitions of each variety are made.

The constituted pots were stored for 5 months at  $35.38 \pm 3.56$  °C and  $58.78 \pm 4.08\%$  relative humidity. After 5 months of storage, the grains were sieved using a Xinxiang Tongxin made sieves with 3 mm diameters and weight per batch was obtained using a Kern made balance (precision 1/1000 g).

### 2.3 Chemical and functional analysis of Bambara groundnut parameters before and after storage

The chemical characteristics and functional properties analyzes were conducted before and after 5 months of storage to the uninfested and infested Bambara groundnut. The grains were reduced to flour before analysis.

### 2.4 Proportioning of Bambara groundnuts starch

The proportioning of starch was carried out using the method described by Ewers modified (International Bureau for Analytical Studies, 1978). With regard to the infested Bambara groundnut samples, the percentage of starch contained in bore flour produced according to the dry matter at the period of insects attacks were evaluated and removed from the starch value of concerned sample. Hence the quantity of starch contained in attacks grains will be expressed by the formula describe by Goudoum et al. (2012).

### 2.5 Proteins

The protein content was given according to the Kjeldahl method of the total nitrogen determination (Association of Official Analytical Chemists, 1990).

### 2.6 Lipids

The evaluation of oxidation state was made according to the AOAC method (Association of Official Analytical Chemists, 2000).

### 2.7 Sugars

Sugars were extracted and proportioned by Fischer & Stein method (Fisher & Stein, 1961).

### 2.8 Water absorption capacity

The determination of the water absorption capacity was performed by the method of Adebowale et al. (2005).

### 2.9 Solubility index

The solubility index (IS) in water is calculated using the Anderson et al. method. (Anderson et al., 1969).

### 2.10 Gel length

The gel length was determined by the method developed by Cagampang et al. (1973).

### 2.11 Ash content

Ash content was determined by AOAC (Association of Official Analytical Chemists, 2000) method.

### 2.12 Moisture

The hot air oven method, AOAC (Association of Official Analytical Chemists, 2000) was used for moisture determination. The samples were dried in a hot air oven (Memmert) at 130 °C for 1 h to constant weights.

### 2.13 Statistical analysis

The results obtained from the evaluation of chemical characteristics and functional properties of Bambara groundnut grains during storage were analyzed with analysis of variance

(ANOVA) using the software Xlstat 2014. The average values were classified using Duncan Multiple Test with the same software.

### 3 Results and discussion

#### 3.1 Analysis of the attack rate of Bambara groundnuts

It appears from the Table 1 that unprotected and infected Bambara groundnut grains are subjected to the action of insects with a significant rate ( $p < 0.01$ ) between different varieties. CM/EN/DW/07 variety is the most attacked (49.3%) followed by CM/EN/DW/03 (40.19%), CM/EN/DW/01 (39.5%) and CM/EN/DW/27 (37.66%). Other varieties have an attack rate which is around 10%. Regarding the colors, it appears from this study that Bambara groundnuts having a light color are most damaged by *C. maculatus* attack.

These result show sufficiently that attack of Bambara groundnut grains starts in the field and continues to storage where serious damage on the nutritional and agronomic quality is found. If no treatment is envisaged, the stock of Bambara groundnut will be destroyed in less than five months of storage (Ngamo et al., 2016). *C. maculatus* is the main pest, causing quantitative and qualitative damages to this legume. The greater voracity of *C. maculatus* was reported on several studies. Amevo et al. (2005). The color of the grain can influence sensibility of *C. maculatus*. Chukwujindu et al. (2013) report that, other attributes of seeds such as size, nutritional value, chemical composition and coat color are known to affect their resistance to insect attacks and contribute to the susceptibility of grains to the storage pests. These same authors shown that grains source and color affected oviposition and adult emergence counts of *C. maculatus*.

#### 3.2 Chemical composition of Bambara groundnuts before and after storage

The results of proximate chemical composition of Bambara groundnut are shown in Table 2. The result shows that protein, lipid, starch and carbohydrate varied with the storage period and varieties. The protein content also decreased significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) during storage of Bambara groundnut. The higher reduction of protein was observed with CM/EN/DW/01 for which protein pass to 21.08% for uninfected grain at 18.01%

for infected grain five months after. The fat content decreased after five months of storage. The fat content ranged from 6.62 to 6.35% for the higher variety contents after insects attacks (five month storage). The starch decreased significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) like a protein and lipid. The higher reduction of starch was observed with CM/EN/DW/07 for which starch passes of 52.07 for the uninfected grains at 44.26% for the infected one after five months, follow by the CM/EN/DW/03. For the sugar, any significant different ( $p > 0.05$ ) was observed between the Bambara groundnut varieties and storage period.

*C. maculatus* in the environment depreciated qualitatively grains leading to a starch loss as drilling flour. The study of Park et al. (2008) on millet shown that the percentage of starch of treated was high than attacks grains, but less than that described by FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1993) on traditional variety. Beti et al. (1995) showed that the reduction of the rate of oxidation of fatty acids is mainly due to the metabolic activity of insects, which would result in the acceleration of the loss of unsaturated fatty acids which do not support any temperature rise. This is explained by the fact that the infection increases the contact area for oxygen. Similar results of Bambara groundnut were detected by Chiwendu (2007), Yusuf et al. (2008) and Eltayeb et al. (2011) who showed that fat, protein, starch and free sugar were 6.0 to 7.3, 17.40 to 22.36, 53.1 to 55.65 and 6.5 to 8.0, respectively.

#### 3.3 Functional properties of Bambara groundnut

The results of proximate functional properties of Bambara groundnut are shown in Table 3. The result shows that capacity for water absorption (WCA), solubility index (SI) and gel length (GL) varied for the storage period and varieties. The WCA decreased significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) during storage of Bambara groundnuts for all the varieties except CM/EN/DW/14 for which any difference ( $p > 0.05$ ) was observed for the uninfected and infected grains. The SI also decreased after five months storage. The SI ranged from 20.62 to 17.82% for the higher varieties after five months storage. The GL decreased significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) like a WAC and SI, except for the CM/EN/DW/14, CM/EN/DW/09, CM/EN/DW/28 and CM/EN/DW/32 varieties for which any significant difference ( $p > 0.05$ ) were observed

**Table 1.** Evaluation of Bambara groundnut attacks rate after five months of conservation.

Color	Size	Varieties	Attack rates (%)
Red	Small	CM/EN/DW/14	11.68 ± 1.77c
Black with brown spots	Normal	CM/EN/DW/09	10.44 ± 1.41c
Black	Small	CM/EN/DW/28	12.95 ± 2.06c
Red with black spots	Small	CM/EN/DW/32	9.78 ± 1.40c
Brown with black spots	Normal	CM/EN/DW/21	12.79 ± 1.53c
Cream (petit)	Small	CM/EN/DW/03	40.19 ± 2.63b
Brown and cream	Normal	CM/EN/DW/20	13.12 ± 2.10c
Light Brown	Normal	CM/EN/DW/12	9.95 ± 1.49c
Light brown sorted brown	Small	CM/EN/DW/27	37.66 ± 2.04b
Cream with brown spots	Small	CM/EN/DW/07	49.3 ± 1.82a
Cream	Normal	CM/EN/DW/01	39.5 ± 3.77b

Averages followed by the same letter in the same column are not different significantly with  $P < 0.05$  (Test of Duncan).

**Table 2.** Evaluation of some chemical characteristics of uninfected and infected Bambara groundnut after five months storage

Varieties	Protein		Fat		Starch		Free carbohydrate	
	Uninfected	Infected	Uninfected	Infected	Uninfected	Infected	Uninfected	Infected
CM/EN/DW/14	18.64 ± 2.15b	17.12 ± 2.65b	6.85 ± 1.34a	6.33 ± 3.12a	49.75 ± 4.65a	45.01 ± 4.35c	6.05 ± 1.75a	5.86 ± 2.15a
CM/EN/DW/09	19.1 ± 3.12a	17.05 ± 2.41b	7.08 ± 1.81a	6.81 ± 2.45a	50.86 ± 3.75a	46.32 ± 4.66b	6.58 ± 1.75a	6.33 ± 1.84a
CM/EN/DW/28	18.92 ± 2.75b	17.55 ± 3.21b	7.32 ± 1.68a	6.91 ± 2.55a	52.68 ± 2.41a	46.66 ± 3.78b	7.31 ± 2.01a	7.22 ± 1.77a
CM/EN/DW/32	19.58 ± 3.56a	17.51 ± 2.33b	7.51 ± 1.86a	7.44 ± 1.86a	51.56 ± 3.86a	47.26 ± 2.48b	7.25 ± 1.94a	7.23 ± 1.86a
CM/EN/DW/21	19.3 ± 1.84a	17.02 ± 2.47b	7.62 ± 1.77a	6.94 ± 2.15a	50.14 ± 2.15a	47.1 ± 2.84b	7.05 ± 1.76a	7.01 ± 2.07a
CM/EN/DW/03	20.83 ± 1.02a	18.89 ± 2.65b	8.35 ± 1.24a	6.54 ± 2.45b	52.05 ± 4.91a	44.92 ± 2.9c	7.06 ± 2.04a	6.21 ± 2.45a
CM/EN/DW/20	19.06 ± 2.14a	17.22 ± 2.65b	7.25 ± 1.32a	7.01 ± 1.92a	51.23 ± 3.75a	46.31 ± 3.12b	7.55 ± 1.86a	7.24 ± 1.64a
CM/EN/DW/12	20.65 ± 1.63a	17.52 ± 2.84b	7.35 ± 1.88a	7.31 ± 2.08a	50.77 ± 5.16a	46.05 ± 2.75b	7.34 ± 1.84a	7.18 ± 1.78a
CM/EN/DW/27	20.19 ± 1.47a	18.18 ± 2.47b	7.82 ± 1.64a	6.48 ± 2.37b	50.84 ± 4.75a	45.88 ± 3.45c	7.42 ± 1.75a	7.08 ± 2.05a
CM/EN/DW/07	19.75 ± 2.05a	16.71 ± 2.31b	8.62 ± 1.51a	6.35 ± 2.45b	52.07 ± 3.76a	44.26 ± 3.78c	7.51 ± 2.08a	6.88 ± 3.15a
CM/EN/DW/01	21.08 ± 1.07a	18.01 ± 2.61b	8.3 ± 1.72a	6.7 ± 2.86b	51.86 ± 4.51a	45.05 ± 3.45c	7.1 ± 2.61a	6.52 ± 2.86a

Averages followed by the same letter in the same column are not different significantly with  $P < 0.05$  (Test of Duncan).

**Table 3.** Evaluation of some functional properties of uninfected and infected Bambara groundnuts after five months storage.

Varieties	Water absorption capacity		Solubility index		Gel length		Ash		Humidity	
	Uninfected	Infected	Uninfected	Infected	Uninfected	Infected	Uninfected	Infected	Uninfected	Infected
CM/EN/DW/14	130 ± 4.62a	128.56 ± 4.4ba	19.15 ± 2.45a	18.32 ± 1.58a	18.2 ± 2.45a	17.01 ± 1.84a	3.21 ± 0.86a	3.31 ± 0.58a	9.25 ± 2.14a	10.31 ± 1.62a
CM/EN/DW/09	132.5 ± 3.45a	129.23 ± 3.25b	20.1 ± 1.88a	17.89 ± 2.54b	19.85 ± 2.07a	18.56 ± 1.45a	3.01 ± 0.45a	3.12 ± 0.47a	8.54 ± 2.18a	9.64 ± 1.86a
CM/EN/DW/28	131.35 ± 4.61a	129.47 ± 4.15b	20.35 ± 1.62a	19.24 ± 1.64a	20.12 ± 1.94a	19.02 ± 2.00a	2.94 ± 1.32a	3.01 ± 0.62a	9.84 ± 1.37a	10.21 ± 1.21a
CM/EN/DW/32	132.08 ± 3.45a	132.01 ± 3.15a	20.14 ± 1.42a	19.23 ± 1.89a	20 ± 1.65a	19.54 ± 1.26a	3.14 ± 0.92a	3 ± 0.5a	8.62 ± 1.66a	9.84 ± 1.25a
CM/EN/DW/21	135 ± 2.08a	131.1 ± 4.17b	20.91 ± 1.96a	18.91 ± 1.88b	20.31 ± 1.68a	17.65 ± 1.58b	2.93 ± 1.94a	3.14 ± 0.62a	8.54 ± 1.86a	8.94 ± 1.85a
CM/EN/DW/03	133.56 ± 3.14a	128.91 ± 3.15b	20.55 ± 1.75a	17.41 ± 1.75b	20.11 ± 1.91a	18.05 ± 2.04b	3.05 ± 1.04a	3 ± 0.5a	10.02 ± 1.58a	10.54 ± 1.05a
CM/EN/DW/20	133.84 ± 2.85a	130.64 ± 2.48b	20.84 ± 1.64a	18.06 ± 2.08b	20.35 ± 1.68a	17.51 ± 2.18b	3 ± 1.22a	3.21 ± 1.02a	9.81 ± 1.68a	10.61 ± 1.36a
CM/EN/DW/12	134.87 ± 3.08a	130.95 ± 2.94b	20.33 ± 1.71a	18.92 ± 2.11b	20.45 ± 1.92a	18.88 ± 2.45b	3.08 ± 1.35a	3.04 ± 0.65a	8.69 ± 2.15a	9.34 ± 1.84a
CM/EN/DW/27	134.21 ± 3.6 a	130.93 ± 2.81b	20.44 ± 1.95a	17.32 ± 2.14b	20.45 ± 1.84a	17.85 ± 1.17b	2.84 ± 1.37a	3.1 ± 0.48a	8.78 ± 2.83a	9.84 ± 1.92a
CM/EN/DW/7	135 ± 2.84a	130.84 ± 2.55b	20.67 ± 1.88a	17.86 ± 1.92b	21.13 ± 1.62a	17.86 ± 2.14b	2.76 ± 1.92a	2.95 ± 1.62a	9.88 ± 1.86a	10.05 ± 1.02a
CM/EN/DW/01	134.02 ± 3.06a	130.78 ± 2.48b	20.62 ± 1.64a	17.82 ± 1.62b	20.93 ± 1.93a	17.64 ± 1.89b	2.87 ± 1.33a	3.07 ± 0.47a	10.14 ± 1.24a	10.57 ± 1.32a

Averages followed by the same letter in the same column are not different significantly with  $P < 0.05$  (Test of Duncan).

after storage period. For the ash and humidity, any significant ( $p > 0.05$ ) different between the Bambara groundnut varieties and storage were observed.

The change of the gel strength, the water absorption capacity and the solubility index found to be due to the modification of the grains parameters such as pH and certain minerals such as calcium, by weevils droppings, and even by the presence of eggs in the middle (Goudoum et al., 2012). Schmidt et al. (1978) studies revealed a pH above 7.5 to 8.0 reduces the firmness of gels and increases from the addition of  $\text{CaCl}_2$  (with maximum firmness to 0.0011 million in  $\text{CaCl}_2$ ). This pH range, according to these authors decreases, however elasticity and water absorption capacity of the gels. Similarly, Dunkerly & Zadow (1984) showed that the firmness of the gels increases with decreasing the content of free calcium ions, ended the presence of disulfide reducing agents inhibits gelation (Hillier et al., 1980). Furthermore, the work of Noomhorm et al. (1997) on wheat, show an increase in the water absorption capacity with the storage period. According Badifu (2001), the addition of NaCl up to a certain threshold increases the water absorption capacity. Similar results of Bambara groundnut were detected by Eltayeb et al. (2011) who showed that water absorption capacity and solubility index were

high due to higher polar acid residues of proteins which have an affinity for water molecule. Study done by Ijarotimi et al. (2009) shown that, Bambara groundnut has a good functional properties that may be used as substitute for mane commercial weaning formula.

#### 4 Conclusion

It could be concluded that varieties from Far-North, chemical composition and functional properties affected the resistance to insect attacks, and contribute to the stability of grains. Chemical composition **and** the functional properties of Bambara groundnut **make** these seed an ideal raw leguminous for human nutritional supplementation. The Bambara groundnuts having a light color are the most attacked and have good nutritional and functional potential.

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