Textural and Microstructural Properties of Set Yoghurt Produced from Goat Milk Treated by Homogenization and Thermosonication

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ABSTRACT

Thermosonication (TS) prior to conventionally heated (95°C for 10 min) goat milk (GM) (at an ultrasound frequency of 20 kHz and output power 4000 W, from 5 to 15 min) effected the preparation of yoghurts with microstructure and texture properties superior to those of control yoghurt samples produced from homogenization milk (HM) before heated at the same temperature. Thermosonication altered the secondary structure of the protein which decreased β-sheet content and increased the amount of α-helix structure leading to increase the hydrophobicity. As well as in thermosonication milk (TSM) samples, the percentage of β-sheet structures inversely correlated with the exposure of hydrophobic regions of the protein (r = 0.79; r = 0.84), while the percentage of α-helix structure positively correlated to the increase in the surface hydrophobicity (r = 0.61; r = 0.92) for GM and cow milk (CM) samples, respectively. Moreover, there were no significant aggregates observed in TS samples compared to the homogenized, before heating. Texture profile and microstructure analysis showed that the yoghurt produced from the thermosonication milk samples had higher firmness, adhesiveness, and deluxe network structure than those induced from the homogenized milk samples.

Keywords: thermosonication; goat milk; set yoghurt; hydrophobicity; secondary structure; texture profile; microstructure.

INTRODUCTION

Goat milk products are becoming increasingly popular for consumers because of the nutritional and therapeutic value that are superior to bovine milk (Slačanac et al., 2010). Yoghurt is a widespread milk product manufactures with lactic acid fermentation of milk by addition of a starter culture (El-Zahar, 2009). Whereas, yoghurt prepared from goat milk had higher nutrients compared to that prepared from cow milk (Eissa et al., 2010).

The important step in manufacture the yoghurt containing fat is homogenization. Whereas, the homogenization process could reduce the fat globule size leads to prevent fat separation (creaming) during the fermentation, decreases whey separation, and improves consistency. Besides, ultrasonic treatment could reduce the fat globule size as smaller than those obtained by conventional homogenization (Wu et al., 2001; Erkaya et al., 2015). The significantly reduced size of the fat globules causes casein and some whey proteins to be absorbed onto the surface of the globules, allowing the fat droplets to mix and interact with the protein network that forms upon acidification. (Lucey et al., 1988; Titapiccolo et al., 2011).

As known, thermal treatment of milk is an important processing for the preparation of acid gel or Yoghurt since it greatly influences the physical properties and microstructure of the curd. Moreover, to achieve a good textural quality and stability in the commercial production of set type yoghurt a relatively firm (eg. 90 – 95°C for 10 min) before inoculation, which heat treatment of milk can lead to extensive denaturation of whey proteins milk, is required (Riener et al., 2010). For acid gel formation is consist from two-step as a protein denaturation and hydrophobic coagulation. While the hydrophobic regions of protein molecules are in the original state inside and exposed to the outside by heat denaturation ( Kohyama et al., 1995). (Kohyama et al., 1995; Morand et al., 2012) suggested that, the
hydrophobic interaction fundamentally plays a role in the acid gel structure formation.

However, heat treatment is the most common methods for preserving food products, thermosonication could be applied as a substitutional process to heat treatment. Thermosonication at a frequency of 35 kHz induced positive effect on the improving sensory properties, increasing the viscosity and consistency coefficient while decreasing the serum separation of the acidic milk drink (Erkaya et al., 2015). Homogenized milk by ultrasound (frequency 20 kHz, amplitude 150–750 W) caused diminution of the fat globules size, denaturation of whey proteins and the formation of protein molecule aggregates (Sfakianakis et al., 2014).

The present study was planned to investigate the influence of thermosonication processing (goat milk heated at 95°C for 10 min prior processed at an ultrasound frequency of 20 kHz and output power 4000 W, for 5, 10 and 15 min) on the fat globule size, and the protein secondary and tertiary structure of goat milk. Also, its influence on the water holding capacity (WHC), microstructural and textural properties of its yoghurt compared to yoghurt prepared from homogenized goat milk.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

1. **Milk samples**

Goat milk (GM) and cow milk (CM) were brought from the goat farm at Hebei province (China) and cow milk farm at Beijing province (China), respectively. Table 1 shows the chemical composition of GM, and CM, as analyzed by Beijing Dairy Cattle Center using Milko-Scan FT1 analyzer (Foss Electric, Denmark). Samples of milk were kept overnight at 4°C until use.

2. **Homogenization and thermosonication treatments**

The goat (HGM) and cow (HCM) milk samples were homogenized at a pressure of 20 MPa (AH100D, ATS industrial systems limited company, China) after heating to 65°C.

On the other hand, the thermosonication (TS) was processed by A 20 kHz horn-transducer ultrasound processing unit (Beijing, China). The processor was fitted with an ultrasonic probe with a titanium flat tip (14 mm diameter). The milk samples placed in the ultrasonic machine’s tank and the probe was placed at the center of the samples. Ultrasonic was performed at an output power of 3080 W and 25% amplitude for different time 5, 10 and 15 min in 3 s: 2 s work/rest cycles. During the sonication process, the probe’s temperature was adjusted to 60°C and maintained the temperature control of the samples at 60°C by circulation hot water around the container.

All the milk samples were heat treated at 95°C for 10 min then cooled down rapidly to 45°C.

3. **Processed milk samples measurements**

3.1. **Fluorescence spectroscopy**

The fluorometric assay was used to determine the surface hydrophobicity or fluorescence intensity of the thermosonicated and homogenized samples according to (Qi et al., 2015), with an ELISA-like spectrophotometer assay (spark 20 m multimode microplate reader from TECAN, Mannedorf, Switzerland). The excitation wavelengths (λex) were recorded from 290 nm to 360 nm; while the emission wavelength (λem) was 340 nm, and the bandwidths were 10/10. The fluorescence spectrum was recorded four times at 25°C.

3.2. **Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) analysis**

The changes in the secondary structure of proteins in the milk samples were assessed using the FTIR spectrum instrument (Model Tensor 27, Buruker Corporation, Germany), with an ATR crystal prism accessory. Measurements were performed by directly injecting 10 µL of the untreated and thermosonication samples on the lens of the ATR crystal’s surface. All measurements were carried out at four replicates at 25°C. The obtained results were used to analyze the amide I (1600-1700 cm⁻¹) peak positions according to (Barth, 2007). Peaks corresponding to α-helix were (1648-1660 cm⁻¹), β-sheets were (1610-1636 cm⁻¹) and (1682-1690 cm⁻¹), β-turns were (1661-1681 cm⁻¹), and random coils were (1637-1647 cm⁻¹). Peak fit software (version 4.12, SeaSolve Software Inc) was used to analyze the data.

3.3. **Gel electrophoresis**

Sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS–PAGE) under reducing condition was performed using (Bio-Rad-Mini-Protean tetra system Electrophoresis tank) according to (Ragab et al., 2019). The SDS–PAGE gel was scanned by the Alpha Ease FC gel imaging system (Alpha Inc., USA).

4. **Manufacture of set yoghurt**

Processed milk (2 L) was equilibrated at 45°C and inoculated with (0.2 % v/v) yoghurt starter culture freeze-dried (R-704-3332792, CHR-HANSEN, China) and mixed well. The mixture was stirred for 2 min and then incubated until the pH reached 4.6 (about 4 h). Finally, the fermentation was then stopped by refrigeration the samples to 4°C. All the yoghurt treatments (HGM, and HCM) as controls and experimental treatments (TSGM 5 min, TSGM 10 min, TSGM 15 min, and TSCM 15 min) were examined after one night at refrigeration temperature. Each trial was repeated three times.

5. **Texture Profile Analysis (TPA)**

Texture Profile Analysis was performed on set type
yoghurt samples using the texture analyzer TA-HD plus (Stable Micro Systems Ltd., Godalming, UK). The TPA parameters as well as firmness (g), adhesiveness (g s), cohesiveness, springiness (mm), gumminess (g) and chewiness (g. mm) values were calculated from the obtained profiles using the software provided by Stable Microsystems. The cylindrical aluminum probe (P/36R; 36mm DIA, aluminium radiused AACC) was used at a speed of 2.0 mm s\(^{-1}\) and a depth of 10 mm into the samples. The test was assayed on samples at 4°C that were kept in the refrigerator one night before testing. Each sample was measured for 3 replicates.

6. Water Holding Capacity (WHC %)

The water holding capacity was determined in triplicate after 50-mL plastic tubes containing 20 mL of yoghurt were centrifuged at 3000 \(\times\) g for 10 min.

\[
\text{WHC} \% = \frac{(\text{yoghurt weight} - \text{weight of supernatant released})}{\text{yoghurt weight}} \times 100.
\]

7. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM)

SEM was performed to observe the changes in the gel microstructure according to (Ragab et al., 2020). Drained yoghurt samples obtained after centrifugation at 4000xg for 10 min were cut into small pellets. That pellets fixed by 2.5 g/100 g glutaraldehyde in a 0.02 mol/L sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.2) for 3 h at 7°C. After that the segments were postfixed with 1% osmium acid for 2 h, and then dried using a Leica CPD 030 CO2 critical point dryer. The dried and fractured segments were mounted on aluminum SEM stubs, using a carbon-based tape and coated with gold in a DC sputter coater (HITACHI MC1000). Photomicrographs were recorded at \(\times\) 2000 magnification. Typical micrographs representing each yoghurt sample are present.

8. Statistical analysis

All tests were carried out in triplicates, and each value represents the mean of three readings; whiles the error bars represent the standard deviations. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was conducted using the software statistical analysis systems (SAS), version 9.3 for Windows (SAS Institute Inc., city, USA). The probability level of 5% (\(\alpha = 0.05\)) was used to indicate the significance, using LSD procedure.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Change in secondary, tertiary structures and SDS-PAGE of processed milk samples

1.1. Fluorescence spectroscopy

The fluorescence intensity scan with ELISA technique, as the near-UV spectrum of a protein, was used to determine the rigidity of the amino acids of phenylalanine, tyrosine, and tryptophan. Those amino acids are often fluorescent when excited by UV light, referred to the changes in the protein tertiary structure (including the protein subunits dissociated or expansion of peptide chains) (Kelly and Price, 2000). Even the goat milk has a differential arrangement of the phosphate groups compared to cow milk (Domagała, 2012; Delgado et al., 2017). Fig. 1 elucidated the changes in the fluorescence intensity during thermosonication treatment with time variations and homogenized milk samples. The fluorescence intensity scan for the goat and milk samples were ranged between (3500 – 4000 au, and 2500 – 2790 au), Respectively (Fig.1).

Fig. 1. Changes in the fluorescence intensity of homogenized and thermosonication goat milk (a) and cow milk (b).
On the other hand, thermosonication milk samples (TSM) showed an increase in the fluorescence intensity compared with the controls (HGM and HCM). Hu et al. (2013) reported similar results about the cavitation phenomenon of the ultrasonic which has longer ultrasonic times (>20 min) increased of the hydrophobicity of soybean protein isolate after heat denaturation treatment. Dependent in our previous study, our results suggested that the thermosonication treatment induced the destruction of partial hydrophobic interactions of the protein molecules which exhibited of hydrophobic domains previously buried in the interior (exposure to the aqueous medium of initially buried amino acid groups) of the protein molecules. Furthermore, hydrophobic interactions of neutral protein molecules can become more preponderant to encourage the aggregation and lead to formation of more compact aggregates (Kohyama et al., 1995). Morand et al. (2012) founded that the high surface hydrophobicity of the whey protein complexes, or model milk influenced the microstructure of the acid gels which gave earlier and firmer.

1.2. Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) analysis

Fig. 2 shows the thorough FTIR spectra (400–4000 cm⁻¹) of the TSM and HM samples while amide I (1600–1700 cm⁻¹) of the FTIR spectra region has been marked. The peak position changes in amide I revealed that the secondary structure had been altered.

The percentage of amide I regions related to the secondary structure contents of the TSM, and HM samples are enumerated in Table 2. In general, the amounts of apparent β-sheet and α-helix were the most important type in the protein secondary structure observed. The protein secondary structural changes observed upon thermosonication time. As shown in Table 2, the β-sheet structure content was decreased in the TSM samples compared to the HM samples. Both the TSGM and TSCM samples were follow the same route for decreasing the β-sheet content and increasing the amount of α-helix structure (Table 2). For the TSGM samples, the β-sheet content steadily decreased significantly (p ≤ 0.05) to 38.88, 37.93 and 36.89 % for TSGM 5 min, TSGM 10 min and TSGM 15 min, respectively compared to the HGM sample (43.68 %). Furthermore, the β-sheet TSCM 15 min was significantly (p ≤ 0.05) decreased to 28.29 % respected to the HCM (37.46 %). Meanwhile, the amount of α-helix structures was significantly (p ≤ 0.05) increased in the TSGM samples with increase the duration up to 10 min, whereas there were no significant differences (p > 0.05) at TSGM 5 min. At TSCM 15 min, the α-helix content was increased to 29.98 %, higher than the control (HCM) that was 18.14 % (Table 2). The increasing in the α-helix contents was attributed to the partial unfolding of the α-helical region, induced by the ultrasound cavitation, while the β-sheet content was decreased compared with that in the homogenization milk samples.

The percentage of β-sheet structures inversely correlated with the exposure of hydrophobic regions of the protein (r = 0.79; r = 0.84) for GM and CM samples, respectively. (Fig. 3a & b). While, in thermosonication samples, the percentage of α-helix structure positively correlated to the increase in the surface hydrophobicity (r = 0.61; r = 0.92) for GM and CM samples (Fig. 3c&d). Our results were agree with Wang et al. (2014) who reported that the β-sheet structure was found permanently within the folded molecule and its partial loss indicates exposure of the hydrophobic group of protein that can induce an increase in surface hydrophobicity.
Table 1. Chemical analyses of milk.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milk</th>
<th>Protein (%)</th>
<th>Fat (%)</th>
<th>Lactose (%)</th>
<th>Total solid (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goat milk</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>3.69</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>12.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow milk</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>5.19</td>
<td>12.36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean values calculated from 3 independent replicates.

Table 2. Changes in the secondary structure of homogenized and thermosonication milk samples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items*</th>
<th>β-Sheet</th>
<th>α-Helix</th>
<th>Random coil</th>
<th>β-turn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HGM</td>
<td>43.68 ±0.04</td>
<td>14.51 ±1.25</td>
<td>17.21 ±1.4</td>
<td>24.61 ± 2.7ab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSGM 5 min</td>
<td>38.88 ±1.37</td>
<td>16.11 ±2.3</td>
<td>16.54 ±2.9b</td>
<td>27.46 ± 3.92a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSGM 10 min</td>
<td>37.93 ±0.22</td>
<td>18.13 ±0.12</td>
<td>20.58 ±0.09a</td>
<td>23.36 ±0.02b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSGM 15 min</td>
<td>36.89 ±0.09</td>
<td>18.14 ±0.17</td>
<td>20.54 ±0.01a</td>
<td>24.14 ±0.25ab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCM</td>
<td>37.46 ±1.6</td>
<td>18.14 ±0.13</td>
<td>20.34 ±0.14</td>
<td>24.07 ±1.33ab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSCM 15 min</td>
<td>28.29 ±0.02</td>
<td>29.98 ±0.03a</td>
<td>16.55 ±0.06b</td>
<td>25.18 ±0.01ab</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* HGM: homogenized goat milk; TSGM 5 min: thermosonication goat milk for 5 min; TSGM 10 min: thermosonication goat milk for 10 min; TSGM 15 min: thermosonication goat milk for 15 min; HCM: homogenized cow milk; TSCM 15 min: thermosonication cow milk for 15 min.

The values are mean ±SD of determinations made in triplicates. Different letters indicate significant differences (P< 0.05) between the milk samples.

Fig. 3. Correlation between the hydrophobicity and β-sheet of the goat milk samples (a) and cow milk samples (b). And correlation between the hydrophobicity and α-helix content of the goat milk samples (c) and cow milk samples (d).
Moreover, those authors observed that there was no significant correlation between surface hydrophobicity and secondary structure of soybean protein isolate after heat treatments at 90°C. So, in our study, we suggested that the changes in the secondary structure of the milk protein resulted in the ultrasound cavitation. The higher amount of α-helix structure in skim milk in comparison to caseins could due to presence of well-structured whey proteins including α-la and β-lg (Mediwaththe et al., 2018).

On the other hand, the results of the random coil in the TSGM samples showed a significant increase after thermosonication time ≥ 10 min when compared to the HGM. The random coil content was increased from 17.21 % for HGM to 20.34 % for TSGM 15 min. The sonicated goat milk (at 20 kHz for 15 to 30 min) showed a significant increase in the random coil (Ragab et al., 2020). The opposite trend is shown in the TSCM samples at 15 min (16.55 %) which showed a significant decrease in the random coil compared to HCM (20.34 %). Whereas the reduction in the random coil content in the TSCM samples than the HCM, the values of β-turns content of the thermosonication milk samples showed an increment (Table 2). In general, the changes in the amount of random coil structure attributed to the β-turns content whether it was increased or decreased. Previous studies reported that the ultrasonic treatment could alter the secondary structure of the milk protein (Zhang et al., 2018; Ragab et al., 2020). Wang et al. (2014) suggested that heating caused an increase the amount of α-helix structure and decreased the β-sheet structure in soybean protein isolate samples compared with the untreated, that transformation from β-sheet to both α-helix and β-turn occurred in soybean protein isolate heat treated, leading to an increased surface hydrophobicity.

1.3. SDS–PAGE

SDS–PAGE was applied to demonstrate whether an increase in hydrophobicity could change the interaction between protein molecules and lead to the formation of molecular complexes or aggregates. Whereas there were no significant diminishes were observed in the bands of the SDS page for homogenized and thermosonicated milk samples (Fig. 4), the heat generated during thermosonication was insufficient to denature the whey proteins. Thus, the whey proteins denaturation of (α-la and β-lg) was resulted in the heat temperature of pasteurization at 95°C for 10 min for the milk sample and could associate with k-CN as showed a decrease in its bands of all the samples (Fig. 4). Those the whey proteins denaturation due to heating could associate not only with themselves but also with the k-CN to form bridges between the casein particles leading to a narrow pored casein network (Schorsch et al., 2001). Nguyen and Anema, (2010) found that the temperature of the skim milk was increased during ultrasonication treatment (22.5 kHz and an output power of 50 W) without temperature control to about 95°C after ≥15 min, significant denaturation of the whey proteins was observed on the samples for longer than 5 min, which stage the temperature was above 70°C. Even the conventional heating denatured almost 50% of the whey proteins; the ultrasonic treatment denatured only about 25% of the whey proteins (Riener et al., 2009).

![Fig. 4. SDS PAGE of raw, homogenized and thermosonication goat and cow milk samples.](image-url)
2. Physical properties and microstructure of set yoghurt samples

2.1. Texture Profile Analysis (TPA)

The results of TPA of the set yoghurt obtained from TSM, and HM samples are shown in Table 3. In general, yoghurt obtained from GM is characterized by lower texture values than the yoghurt induced from CM. One of the most important attributes for a set yoghurt quality is texture. As indicated in Table 3 yoghurt obtained from TSM samples was markedly higher firmness than the yoghurt of HM samples with mean values of 111, 130.6, 144.1 and 199.9 g for TSGM 5 min, TSGM 10 min, TSGM 15 min and TSCM 15 min, respectively compared to the HGM (99.7 g) and HCM (178.1 g). Nguyen and Anema, (2010) noted that the firmness was altered when skim milk was ultrasonically treated (without temperature control) prior to acidification to be higher than those prepared from skim milk that were only heated. According the casein micelles of GM are smaller, have a lower proportion of the αs1-casein and lower diameter of the fat globules, revealed the lower firmness than the yoghurt from CM samples (Delgado et al., 2017).

In respect of the other textural properties, yoghurt samples from TSM showed higher adhesiveness, cohesiveness, springiness, gumminess and chewiness than the homogenized. Nonetheless, in the case of the yoghurt obtained from TSGM for 15 min showed the highest increase in adhesiveness, springiness, gumminess, and chewiness compared to the HGM as the mean values of (189 vs. 74.6 g, 0.973 vs. 0.957 mm, 66.71 vs. 50.95 g and 61.55 vs. 47.82 g, mm), respectively (Table 3).

Similar observations were evident for the increasing in those texture parameters were showed the yoghurt from TSCM respected to the yoghurt from HCM. Whereas the adhesiveness, cohesiveness, gumminess, and chewiness of the yoghurt from TSCM 15 min were (350.9 vs. 202.6 g s, 0.39 vs. 0.34, 79.09 vs. 60.78 g and 78.05 vs. 57.92 g, mm), respectively while the springiness parameter was almost the same as in yoghurt from HCM (Table 3). Meanwhile, there was significant decrease in the cohesiveness values of the yoghurt from 0.51 to 0.46 for the yoghurt obtained from HGM and from TSGM 15 min samples, respectively. The cohesiveness indicates the ability of the product to hold together while, springiness relates to product deformation during storage and transportation. Therefore, the value of the springiness is very important for the quality of the product at the required level (Yildiz et al., 2015). Similar values of the cohesiveness for goat’s yoghurt supplemented with whey protein concentrate and cow’s yoghurt (Herrero and Requena, 2006).

Even gumminess is defined as the product of hardness or firmness and cohesiveness, yoghurt with high hardness value also had a high gumminess value (Table 3). The chewiness values of the yoghurt changed between (47.82 -78.05). Yagmur and Kose, (2019) reported that the chewiness value of the industrial yoghurt samples was in the range of 11.87 to 112.61.

2.2. Water Holding Capacity (WHC)

WHC is a critical parameter in yogurt manufacturing since it related with syneresis, which evidences the internal stability of the gel (Wu et al., 2001). The set yoghurt obtained from TSM resulted in a higher WHC than that obtained from HM samples (Fig. 5). However, in the yoghurt of TSGM samples, WHC was showed steadily increase up to 95 % in TSGM 15 min compared that was the yoghurt from HGM (89 %). Furthermore, the set yoghurt from TSCM 15 min was 85 % respected to the HCM (78 %) (Fig.5).

Table 3. Texture profile analysis parameters (mean ± SD) of intact acid gel samples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items*</th>
<th>Firmness (g)</th>
<th>Adhesiveness (g. s)</th>
<th>Cohesiveness</th>
<th>Springiness (mm)</th>
<th>Gumminess (g)</th>
<th>Chewiness (g. mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HGM</td>
<td>99.7± 3.54c</td>
<td>-74.6± 1.06a</td>
<td>0.51± 0.005a</td>
<td>0.957± 1.32b</td>
<td>50.9±1.33c</td>
<td>47.82±1.31a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSGM 5 min</td>
<td>111± 7.70c</td>
<td>-100± 0.87b</td>
<td>0.48± 0.002b</td>
<td>0.974±3.58a</td>
<td>54.0±3.58de</td>
<td>55.19±3.57d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSGM 10 min</td>
<td>130.6± 2.44d</td>
<td>-159± 0.12c</td>
<td>0.43±0.001d</td>
<td>0.969±1.07a</td>
<td>57.26±1.07d</td>
<td>55.99±0.71d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSGM 15 min</td>
<td>144.1± 5.81c</td>
<td>-189.7± 0.12d</td>
<td>0.46±0.150c</td>
<td>0.973±4.86b</td>
<td>66.71±4.86b</td>
<td>61.55±4.78b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCM</td>
<td>178.1± 9.52b</td>
<td>-202±0.47d</td>
<td>0.34±0.012f</td>
<td>0.968±1.13a</td>
<td>60.78±1.13c</td>
<td>57.92±1.30c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSCM 15 min</td>
<td>199.9± 0.001a</td>
<td>-350.9± 0.13c</td>
<td>0.39±0.001c</td>
<td>0.976±1.11a</td>
<td>79.09±0.11a</td>
<td>78.05±1.26a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* HGM: homogenized goat milk; TSGM 5 min: thermosonication goat milk for 5 min; TSGM 10 min: thermosonication goat milk for 10 min; TSGM 15 min: thermosonication goat milk for 15 min; HCM: homogenized cow milk, and TSCM 15 min: thermosonication cow milk for 15 min.
Fig. 5. Water holding capacity (WHC %) of the yoghurt produced from goat and cow milk samples.

Even the yoghurt from GM samples showed higher WHC % than that from CM samples because of the protein and fat content in GM were higher than those in cow milk (Table 1). The yoghurt cultures prepared from thermosonication of milk (3.5 fat %) were markedly improved the WHC to 89 % compared to conventionally produced yoghurts (42 %) (Riener et al., 2009; Riener et al., 2010). Those authors also reported that the WHC was strongly influenced by the fat content. Whereas they showed an increase in WHC with the high level-fat in thermosonication treated yoghurt. Independent in our previous study (Ragab et al., 2019) we suggest that the main reason for increasing the water holding capacity attributed to ultrasound cavitation, which induced a reduction in the fat globules, subsequently total fat membrane surface area increased. Therefore, the increased amount of membrane included a lot of new-bonded casein, which would be hydrophilic. Besides, the changes in the secondary structure attributed to the cavitation forces of ultrasound-induced higher hydrophobicity of the proteins (Table 2 & Fig. 1). This explanation agrees with the research of Kinsella and Morr (1984); Wu et al. (2001); Morand et al. (2012).

2.3. Microstructure by SEM

The microstructures of yogurt gels made from TS and H milk samples are depicted in Fig. 6. SEM showed differences in the microstructure, the yoghurt of HM samples had much larger clusters of protein aggregates with bigger pores size mimicking the microstructure of honeycomb (Fig. 6a& e). However, yoghurt gels of thermosonication milk clearly showed a dense cross-linked network structures with a high level of interconnections and exhibited a lot of pores as smaller sizes throughout the structures (Fig. 6b, c, d & f).

The microstructure was found to be related to firmness and susceptibility to WHC. Similar types of microstructures were observed in gels made from TSGM and TSCM (Fig. 6b, c, d and Fig. 6 f), respectively. Indeed, heat treatment is classically employed in the manufacture of acid milk gels or yoghurt to improve its texture and microstructure. Hence, thermosonication beside the pasteurization can not only homogenize the fat globules but also can promote the functional properties of the protein leading to strengthening the structure of goat yoghurt or cow yoghurt. Riener et al. (2009) investigated the differences in the microstructure of yoghurt prepared from TSM which showed a honeycomb like network and exhibiting a more porous nature throughout the structure.

CONCLUSIONS

Our results demonstrated that the TS process on GM could alter the secondary structure of the protein, leading to enhance hydrophobicity. The applied TS treatments increased the α-helix and decreased the β-sheet structure content, which related to the changes in the hydrophobicity. Furthermore, TS could use as an alternative process to homogenization because of the positive effects on textural properties, microstructure, and WHC of the set yoghurt compared to those obtained from the HM. These improvements were particularly marked in the microstructure and textural properties of yoghurt from TSGM. Additionally, thermosonication may be a useful alternative to the use of texture modifying additives to enhance the quality of the yoghurt manufactured from GM.
Fig. 6. Scanning electron micrographs of set yoghurt obtained from goat and cow milk samples processed by homogenized (a) HGM, (e) HCM; and thermosonication (b) TSGM 5 min, (c) TSGM 10 min, (d) TSGM 15 min, (f) TSCM 15 min.
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