

# THERMOPHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF JACKFRUIT PULP AFFECTED BY CHANGES IN MOISTURE CONTENT AND TEMPERATURE

MICHELLE A. SOUZA<sup>1</sup>, RENATA C.F. BONOMO<sup>2,4</sup>, RAFAEL C.I. FONTAN<sup>2</sup>,  
LUIS ANTONIO MINIM<sup>3</sup> and JANE SÉLIA DOS REIS COIMBRA<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica da Bahia  
Porto Seguro, BA, Brazil*

<sup>2</sup>*Universidade Estadual do Sudoeste da Bahia  
Department of Rural and Animal Technology  
Engineering Process Laboratory  
Praça Primavera  
Itapetinga, BA, Brazil*

<sup>3</sup>*Universidade Federal de Viçosa  
Department of Food Technology  
Av. P. H. Rolfs, s/n, Campus Universitário  
Viçosa, MG, Brazil*

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## ABSTRACT

*Thermophysical properties of jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus* L.) pulp affected by temperature and moisture content were analyzed. Density ( $\rho$ ), heat capacity ( $c_p$ ) and thermal diffusivity ( $\alpha$ ) were experimentally determined at moisture content between 65% m/m and 95% m/m, and temperatures between 5 and 85°C. Then, thermal conductivity was calculated from experimental results of thermal diffusivity, specific heat and density. The empirical models for each property as a function of moisture content and temperature were obtained ( $R^2 \geq 0.90$ ). Estimated equations were fitted to the experimental data for density and specific heat, and the accuracy of those equations was checked.*

## PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

The design of juice concentrate plants needs thermophysical parameters. Information about tropical and exotic fruits, such as jackfruit, is insufficient,

<sup>4</sup> Corresponding author. TEL: +55-77-3261-8659; FAX: +55-77-3261-8601; EMAIL: bonomorf@pq.cnpq.br

and much specific information is still unknown. The knowledge of how temperature and moisture content affect properties such as density, specific heat, thermal diffusivity and thermal conductivity will enable the development, adaptation and optimization of more efficient specific equipment for processing jackfruit.

## INTRODUCTION

Jackfruit belongs to Moraceae family, and it is widely distributed among countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia. In Brazil, there is a large area occupied by the fruit from north to southeastern regions of the country, especially in humid regions of tropical forests. It is a fruit rich in carbohydrates, considered energetic. In its composition, it contains calcium, phosphorus, iron and vitamins of B complex, especially B2 vitamin (riboflavin) and B5 vitamin (niacin) (Jagadeesh *et al.* 2007). Vitamin content and some volatile compounds contribute to its very peculiar flavor (Rahman *et al.* 1999).

Adequate manufacturing process, proper design of concentrate plants and appropriate evaluation of their performance will facilitate optimization of quality parameters of the concentrate juices. The plant efficiency is obtained from physical properties of both the raw material and the products (Zuritz *et al.* 2005).

According to Coimbra *et al.* (2006), density ( $\rho$ ), heat capacity ( $c_p$ ), thermal conductivity ( $k$ ) and thermal diffusivity ( $\alpha$ ) are the major thermophysical properties required for evaluating, designing and modeling heat transfer processes, such as refrigeration, freezing, heating or drying.

Tansakul and Chaisawang (2006) recommended that empirical models of thermal properties developed for each specific food material should give a more accurate prediction. However, several researches have evaluated the existence of models for similar products in order to check their applicability to predict their thermophysical properties because of the importance of using valid equations resulting in time, money and material savings (Becker and Fricke 1999; Muniz *et al.* 2006).

Studies of thermophysical properties have been reported for many juices (Aguado and Ibarz 1988; Ramos and Ibarz 1998; Cepeda and Villarán 1999; Zainal *et al.* 2000; Azoubel *et al.* 2005; Shamsudin *et al.* 2005; Zuritz *et al.* 2005; Magerramov *et al.* 2007). However, the majority of available fruit data are focused on subtropical ones, leaving a lack of published information regarding thermal properties of tropical fruits and their products, such as juices and pulps (Azoubel *et al.* 2005).

The objectives of this work were to: (1) determine the physicochemical characteristics of jackfruit pulp such as proximate analysis, pH, titratable

acidity and soluble solids; (2) investigate the effects of temperature (5–85C) and moisture content (65–95% m/m) on thermophysical properties of jackfruit pulp, providing experimental data about an unexplored tropical fruit pulp; and (3) propose simpler models in order to predict its properties.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Sample Preparation

Jackfruit pulps of seven different moisture content values were prepared from fruits at medium maturity. The initial moisture content values were equal to 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95% (m/m) wet basis. Jackfruits were first washed using tap water, cut, and their pulp was manually removed, homogenized mechanically and stored under –10C. The moisture content of the integral pulp was 75% m/m. The 80, 85, 90, 95% (m/m) pulps were made by reconstituting the original pulp using distilled water. The concentration of jackfruit pulp was carried out in a rotary evaporator, in which the evaporation chamber under vacuum conditions was rotating at a constant speed in water bath at 60C. The solutions were concentrated until reaching moisture content equal to 65 and 70% (m/m).

### Proximate, Physicochemical and Statistical Analysis

Integral jackfruit pulp was used in the proximate analysis. The analysis included protein, fat, ash, moisture and fiber. Water content and fat content were measured using the oven method and the Soxhlet method, respectively. Determination of fiber in jackfruit pulp was based on the method used by AOAC (1996). The Kjeldahl method was used for protein determination. For ash content, the sample was first dried in an oven at 100C before being transferred to a muffle furnace at 550C until acquiring a white or light gray ash. The samples of jackfruit pulp were characterized by the following physicochemical determinations: soluble solids concentration (ATAGO refractometer, Atago, Bellevue, WA) and pH (QUIMIS pH meter, São Paulo, Brazil). The carbohydrate determination was made by difference. These procedures were repeated three times.

Statistical analyses were performed using SAEG v.8.1 statistical software (Ribeiro Júnior 2001). The suitability of models was evaluated by values of determination coefficient ( $R^2$ ), level of significance ( $p$ ) and residual analysis.

### Thermophysical Properties

**Density.** Density of jackfruit pulp at different temperatures (5–85C) and concentrations (65–95% m/m) was determined in triplicate by weighing in an

analytical balance, accuracy of  $\pm 0.0001$  g (model AG200, Gehaka, São Paulo, Brazil), the pulp inside a standard volumetric pycnometer (Constenla *et al.* 1989). Sample temperature varied by thermostatic bath stabilization, accuracy of  $\pm 0.01$ C (model Q214S2, QUIMIS). The pycnometer of 25 mL was previously calibrated with distilled water at each temperature. The density of jackfruit pulp was calculated using Eq. (1).

$$\rho = \rho_w \cdot \frac{(m_s - m_v)}{(m_w - m_v)} \quad (1)$$

**Specific Heat (Cp).** In order to determine the specific heat of jackfruit pulp, a method of mixtures with the analyses was conducted six times. This method, despite existent errors ( $\sim 10\%$ ), is very simple and has been extensively used to determine the specific heat of foodstuffs (Hwang and Hayakawa 1979; Rapusas and Driscoll 1995; Omobuwajo *et al.* 2000; Oyelade *et al.* 2005; Muniz *et al.* 2006; Razavi and Taghizadeh 2007; Fontan *et al.*, in press).

The used calorimeter consists of a thermal glass bottle of double walls isolated with a 20 cm thick of polystyrene layer and a thermocouple of copper–constantan (model Penta, Full Gauge, São Paulo, Brazil; accuracy of  $\pm 0.1$ C) inserted in it.

To determine the specific heat of the samples, first was determined heat capacity of the calorimeter. The calorimeter was half filled with cold distilled water (12C) and left at rest until it reached thermal equilibrium. Then, the volume of the calorimeter was completed with warm distilled water (45C), left at rest until it reached thermal equilibrium. This procedure was conducted 10 times. Then, heat capacity was calculated as proposed by Eq. (2a), turning the specific heat of the samples possible to determine (Eq. 2b).

The calibrated calorimeter was filled with cold water (12C) and left until it reached thermal equilibrium. Then, a sample mass (around 45 g) at 45C in a polyethylene bag was inserted in the calorimeter, and left at rest until it reached thermal equilibrium. The specific heat of the sample was determined as proposed by Eq. (2b) (Fontan *et al.*, in press).

$$C_{cal} = \frac{m_h \cdot c_w \cdot (T_h - T_{eq}) - m_c \cdot c_w \cdot (T_{eq} - T_c)}{(T_{eq} - T_c)} \quad (2a)$$

$$c_p = \frac{(c_w \cdot m_w + C_{cal})(T_{eq} - T_0)}{m_s (T_s - T_{eq})} \quad (2b)$$

**Thermal Diffusivity.** For determining thermal diffusivity, the adapted method of Dickerson (1965) was applied using a metallic capsule of stainless steel (3.8 cm in diameter, 25.5 cm in height and 1.0 mm in thickness) with two copper–constantan thermocouples, one in the external surface of the capsule and the at the center; and a cinematic bath, accuracy of 0.1C (model MA185, Marconi, São Paulo, Brazil). In order to calculate the thermal diffusivity of the sample, the following equation was used:

$$\alpha = \frac{A \cdot R^2}{4 \cdot (T_{EXT} - T_{INT})} \quad (3)$$

**Thermal Conductivity.** Thermal conductivity values to jackfruit pulp under studied temperatures were obtained using correlation among density, thermal diffusivity and specific heat (Eq. 4). This correlation is very common to determine thermal diffusivity values once thermal conductivity values are experimentally obtained (Szczesniak 1983; Telis-Romero *et al.* 1998; Belibagli *et al.* 2003; Tansakul and Chaisawang 2006; Marcotte *et al.* 2008). Because thermal diffusivity values were determined by adopting an experimental method in this study, the correlation was used to calculate thermal conductivity values.

$$k = \alpha \cdot \rho \cdot c_p \quad (4)$$

## Experimental Design

In order to study the effect of temperature and moisture content on thermophysical properties of jackfruit pulp, a series of experiments was set up. To determine the effect on density, it was conducted a  $9 \times 7$  factorial scheme experiment, in which nine levels were given to temperature (5, 15, 25, 35, 45, 55, 65 75 and 85C) and seven levels to moisture content (65, 70, 75 80, 85, 90, 95%, all m/m in humid base) set up in an entirely casual design (ECD).

A  $9 \times 5$  factorial scheme experiment was set up for experimental determination of thermal diffusivity, with the same temperatures mentioned and five levels given to moisture content (70, 80, 85, 90, 95%, in humid basis) at the ECD. Density and thermal diffusivity determination analyses were realized in three repetitions with triplicate each one.

To the specific heat study, seven levels for moisture content were analyzed (the same levels used to density) at the ECD, with three repetitions in six replicates each one.

The obtained results were analyzed by analysis of variance with a 5% of probability by Fisher test and regression analysis by the parameter significance

(Student's test,  $P < 0.05$ ), residual analysis and determination coefficient ( $R^2$ ). All statistical analyses were conducted in the statistical software SAEG, v.8.1 (Ribeiro Júnior 2001).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Proximate and Physicochemical Analysis

Table 1 shows experimental values for proximate and physicochemical analysis of jackfruit pulp. It can be observed a large value of carbohydrate and soluble solids. It is clear that the solid content of the jackfruit pulp consists of carbohydrates predominantly. The pulp also presents high ash content, being a potential source of energy and minerals to human nutrition. The values of pH, soluble solids and titrable acidity shown in Table 1 are in good agreement with those obtained by Rahman *et al.* (1999) and Jagadeesh *et al.* (2007).

### Thermophysical Properties

**Density.** As indicated, experimental density values were correlated with temperature ( $T$ ) and moisture content ( $X_w$ ) by multiple linear regression. The results of statistical analyses showed that the second-order polynomial equation is the best to express density as a function of temperature and moisture content (Eq. 5).

$$P = 1,843.680 - 15.810X_w + 0.077X_w^2 - 0.09T - 0.010T^2 \quad R^2 = 0.97 \quad (5)$$

The density of jackfruit pulp decreased as temperature and moisture content increased (Fig. 1). Temperature changes may influence density

TABLE 1.  
RESULTS OF APROXIMATE AND PHYSICOCHEMICAL  
ANALYSIS OF JACKFRUIT PULP

pH	4.82 ± 0.00
Soluble solids (°Brix)	23.00 ± 0.01
Titrable acidity (% citric acid)	1.04 ± 0.01
Moisture content (%)	75.39 ± 0.08
Carbohydrate (%)	19.63 ± 0.15
Protein (%)	0.77 ± 0.08
Fat (%)	0.30 ± 0.01
Fiber (%)	0.20 ± 0.02
Ash (%)	3.71 ± 0.58

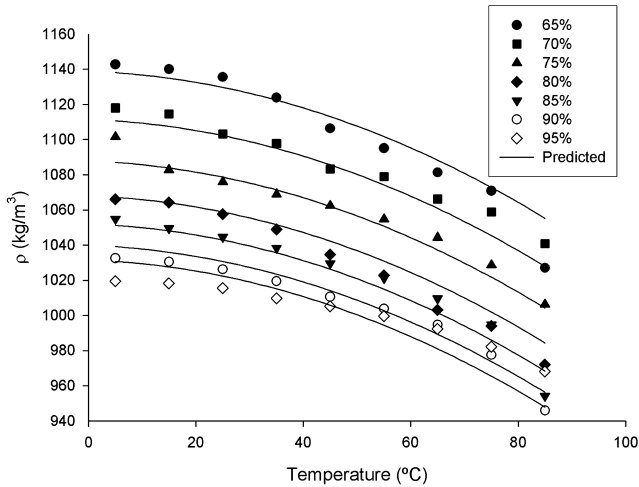


FIG. 1. EFFECTS OF TEMPERATURE AND MOISTURE CONTENT ON DENSITY OF JACKFRUIT PULP

because of the thermal expansion of a solution composed of several components. According to Constenla *et al.* (1989), solid concentration of mixtures directly affects this property.

The experimental values of density presented a very strong dependence on moisture content, but they were less affected by temperature. Ramos and Ibarz (1998), studying density of peach and orange juices with concentrations ranged at 10–60°Brix, found experimental values near to values obtained at this work and also verifying a quadratic relationship with the concentration. Similar results were still obtained from other authors studying different fruits and their products, such as Japanese crabapple (*Malus floribunda*) juice (Cepeda and Villarán 1999) and apple juice (Constenla *et al.* 1989).

**Specific Heat.** In agreement with obtained experimental values, the specific heat varied from 2.70 to 3.92 kJ/kgC, as moisture content increased. Measurements of  $c_p$  of jackfruit pulp were not found in the literature. However, Telis-Romero *et al.* (1998) observed a similar behavior to specific heat of concentrated orange juice (34–73% of total solids), and the obtained values fall into the range reported for other fruits and their products, like juices and pulps (Choi and Okos 1986; Constenla *et al.* 1989; Zainal *et al.* 2000; Shamsudin *et al.* 2005).

The relationship between specific heat and moisture content can be presented as a straight line where the specific heat increased as moisture tenor increased (Fig. 2). The relationship can be expressed as shown in Eq. (6):

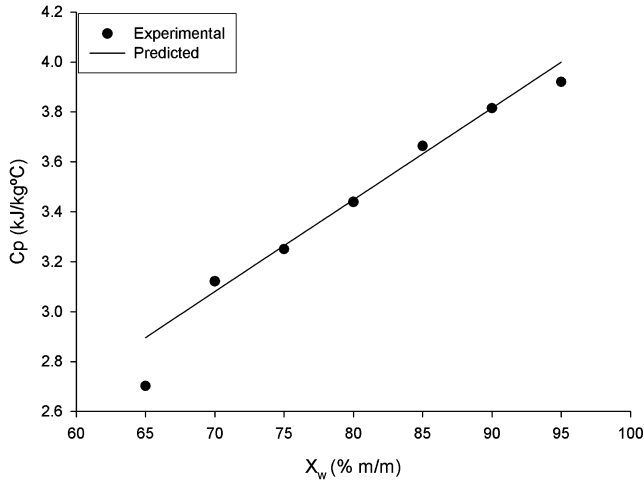


FIG. 2. EFFECTS OF MOISTURE CONTENT ON SPECIFIC HEAT OF JACKFRUIT PULP

$$c_p = 0.505 + 0.038X_w \quad R^2 = 0.94 \quad (6)$$

From the results, one can conclude that as moisture content increased, better becomes the prediction. As higher the value of moisture content, more  $c_p$  values approximated to the constant water  $c_p$  value. The effect of total solids is less important because the various components (fat, protein, sugars and ashes) exert minor influence if compared to water, because of its high concentration.

**Thermal Diffusivity and Thermal Conductivity.** The relationship between thermal diffusivity and thermal conductivity with moisture content and temperature was obtained by multiple linear regression. It can be expressed by Eqs. (11) and (12), respectively.

$$\alpha = 0.792 \times 10^{-8} - 0.732 \times 10^{-8}T + 0.591 \times 10^{-10}T^2 + 0.273 \times 10^{-8}X_w + 0.477 \times 10^{-10}TX_w \quad R^2 = 0.93 \quad (7)$$

$$k = -1.050 - 0.117 \times 10^{-1}T + 0.202 \times 10^{-3}T^2 + 0.232 \times 10^{-1}X_w \quad R^2 = 0.90 \quad (8)$$

Experimental results of thermal diffusivity ( $\alpha$ ), calculated results of thermal conductivity ( $k$ ) and the values obtained by the proposed models



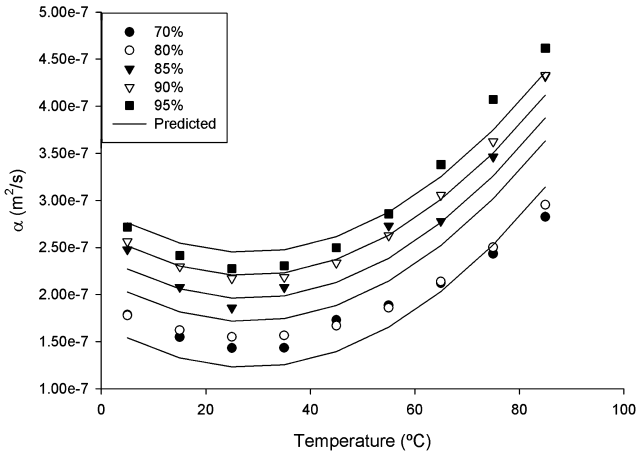


FIG. 3. EFFECTS OF TEMPERATURE AND MOISTURE CONTENT ON THERMAL DIFFUSIVITY OF JACKFRUIT PULP

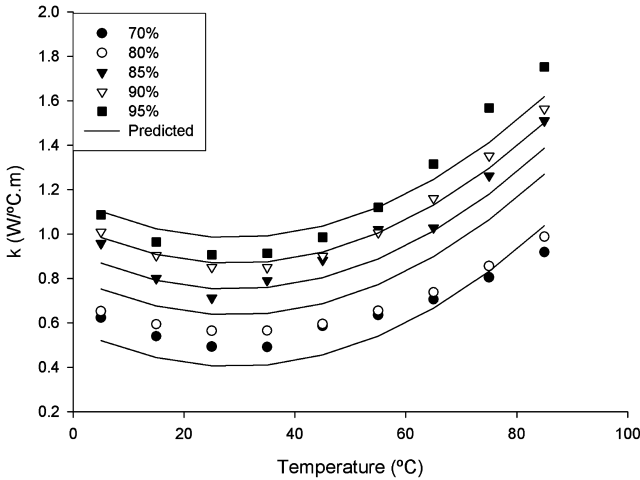


FIG. 4. EFFECTS OF TEMPERATURE AND MOISTURE CONTENT ON THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY OF JACKFRUIT PULP

(Eqs. 7 and 8) at the selected temperature levels ranging from 5 to 85°C for the moisture content are shown in Figs. 3 and 4, respectively. These properties heavily depended of moisture content values. According to Azoubel *et al.* (2005), as water fraction of fruit juices increased, the thermal properties of

fruit juices increased because if compared with thermal conductivity and thermal diffusivity of the solids present in the juice, the values of these properties for pure water are higher.

Telis-Romero *et al.* (1998), studying the effects of temperature and concentration on thermal diffusivity and thermal conductivity of concentrated orange juice (34–73% of solids), verifying an increase on both properties with the reduction of solid content and elevation of temperature. Similar behavior was observed by Azoubel *et al.* (2005) studying cashew juice with soluble solid content at 5–25°Brix. Zainal *et al.* (2000) verified that thermal conductivity of pink guava juice decreases with an elevation of solids content. The same behavior was observed at this work when the results were compared with these authors.

## CONCLUSION

Jackfruit pulp is rich in carbohydrates and ashes, which is a potential source of energy and minerals to human nutrition. Its processing is essential to improve its consumption, mainly in urban centers. Moisture content and temperature under studied ranges affected significantly the thermophysical properties (i.e., density, thermal conductivity, specific heat and thermal diffusivity) of jackfruit pulp. Density decreased as temperature and moisture content increased. Thermal diffusivity and thermal conductivity were positively affected by an increase of moisture content and temperature above 30°C, while specific heat increased as moisture content increased. Simple models were fitted, explaining adequately the studied properties.

## NOMENCLATURE

$A$	rate to increase temperature (C/s)
$c_p$	specific heat (J/kg/C)
$c_w$	specific heat of water (J/kg/C)
$C_{cal}$	heat capacity of calorimeter (J/C)
$k$	thermal conductivity (W/m/C)
$m_h$	mass of hot water
$m_c$	mass of cold water
$m_v$	pycnometer mass (kg)
$m_s$	sample mass (kg)
$m_w$	mass of water (kg)
$R$	internal radius of the capsule (m)
$T$	temperature (C)

$T_c$	calorimeter + cold water temperature (C)
$T_h$	hot water temperature (C)
$T_0$	calorimeter + initial temperature of water(C)
$T_e$	external temperature of the capsule (C)
$T_i$	internal temperature of the capsule (C)
$T_s$	initial temperature of the sample (C)
$T_{eq}$	equilibrium temperature (C)
$X_w$	water mass fraction (dimensionless)

### Greek letters

$\alpha$	thermal diffusivity (m <sup>2</sup> /s)
$\rho$	density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
$\rho_w$	density of water (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )

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