3rd International Conference on

FOOD CHEMISTRY & NUTRITION

May 16-18, 2018 | Montreal, Canada

Borassus aethiopum mart mature fruits macro-composition, drying temperature effect on its pulp protein, fat, sugars, metabolizable energy and fatty acids profile

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The work aimed to study *Borassus aethiopum* Mart (Ba) dried pulp nutritional value for its incorporation in human and poultry diets. Firstly, the mature fruits' macro-composition was assessed. Secondly, the pulp was dried at 40, 50, 60, 70, and 80°C. Thereafter, analysis was performed for fat, protein, total sugars, Ca²+, P, Mg²+, and fatty acid profile monitoring. As a result, the fruits weighed 1,591.35±458.92, delivered 516.73±183, and 677.82±215.57 grams of pulp and seeds, respectively. Mainly, increasing heat adversely affected the outputs. Consequently, the fat results were 14.12a, 12.97b, 8.93c, 8.89c, and 5.56d%; protein contents were 11.64a, 10.15b, 8.97bc, 8.84bc, and 8.42c%; total sugar deliveries were 6.28a, 6.05a, 5.26b, 5.02bc, and 4.76c% (P<0.01). Thereafter, the metabolizable energies were 3,785.22ab; 3,834.28a; 3,616.62c; 3,667.03bc; and 3,608.33ckcal/kg. Additionally, Calcium (Ca²+) contents were 0.511c, 0.553bc, 0.695abc, 0.768ab, and 0.806a%, while phosphorus (P) mean was 0.172±0.009%, and the differences weren't significant (P<0.01). So, the Ca²+/P ratios were 2.794c, 3.043bc, 4.097ab, 4.711a, and 4.951a. Finally, fatty acids (FA) assessments revealed 22.33±1.11 saturated (SFA), 77.67±1.11 unsaturated (UFA), within which 67.59±1.68% were monounsaturated (MUFA). Interestingly, the rising heat depressed n-6/n-3 ratios that were 1.1, 1.1, 0.45 and 0.38, respectively at 40, 50, 70 and 80°C. In short, drying did not only enhance the product shelf life but it also improved the nutritional value. Thus, Ba mature fruits' pulp dried at 50 or 70°C is a very good functional food, with more than 66% MUFA, and energy source for human and poultry nutrition.

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