INTRODUCTION

Smoking of food products for storage is one of the oldest known food storage methods. It is applied to all kinds of meat and meat products, cheese and seafood including the crustaceans (Stolyhwo and Sikorski, 2005). Previously performed solely for protecting the product, smoking now also aims at offering the product to the consumers in different forms by changing the taste of the product (Varlet et al., 2007). The smoking process preserves fish by means of the synergistic action of different factors, such as salt incorporation. The principle of storage through smoking is to remove a certain part of the water that the fish contains and to prevent the development of microorganisms by ensuring the passage of bactericides in the smoke into the fish. These changes delay the microbiological and oxidative changes that lead to spoilage, extending the shelf-life of the processed fish (Cornu et al., 2006; Rizo et al., 2015). One of the processing technologies applied on the fish is smoking. Smoking technology and consumption of smoked products developed and became widespread in Japan and other Far Eastern countries, Canada, European Union (EU) countries and Scandinavian countries. In our country, consumption of smoked products is rather uncommon when compared to other countries and some enterprises perform smoking by using this technology and sell these products to foreign countries (Bilgin et al., 2007).

Rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss, Walbaum 1792), which is the most commonly farmed species in our country, is a delicious fish. Thus, this highly favored species is subjected to freezing or smoking processes in addition to fresh consumption.

In this study, differently sauced smoked fish were prepared by targeting an increase in the consumption of trout which has a considerable production potential and is a delicious fish. The impacts of the sauces used on the shelf life were studied by examining the chemical, microbiological and sensorial changes of these products.
MATERIALS AND METHODS

Fish material and treatments

The experimental material consisted of farmed rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) weighing 1.0 kg. After slaughter (gill cut and bleeding) fishes were eviscerated, cleaned and placed on ice (ice/fish, 1/3) into the strafor boxes and transported (4 °C) to the laboratory in one hour period. Study had 2 replicates and analyses had 3 parallels.

Preparation of smoked fish and storage conditions

Fish were processed as smoked. all fish were filleted and by hand to remove skin, bones, fins and visible adipose tissue In this study, flow diagram of the production of smoked fish is shown in Figure 1.

Chemical analyses

pH value of the samples was measured with a digital electronic pH meter (Thermo Scientific Orion 3-Star Benchtop, Cambridge, UK) (AOAC, 2002). TVB-N amounts in the products produced for the study were determined by the method reported by Varlik et al. (1993). TBA value was determined as described by Tarladgis et al. (1960). 10 g homogenized samples were washed into the distillation flask and 2 g magnesium oxide and a drop or two of antifoam solution were added. The contents were boiled and distilled into a 10 ml of 3 percent boric acid solution with added indicator in a 500 ml conical flask. After distillation, contents of the conical flask were titrated with 0.1N HCl (Schormüller, 1968).

Microbiological analyses

Each sample was first treated as follows: a sample (10 g) was taken from each fish fillet, placed aseptically into a stomacher bag (Seward Medical, Worthing, UK) containing 90 mL of 0.1% buffer peptone water, and the mixture was homogenized for 60 s using a Stomacher (Lab Blender 400, London, U.K.) at room temperature. For microbial enumeration, 0.1 mL samples of serially dilutions (1:10, diluent, 0.1% peptone water) of fish homogenates was spread onto plates of various agar materials. Total aerobic mesophiles was determined using plate count agar (PCA, Oxoid, CM325) after incubation at 30 °C for 72 h. Aerobic psychrophiles was counted using plate count agar (PCA, Merck 1.05463, Merck, KgaA Darmstat, Germany) after incubation for 7-10 days at 5 °C. Yeast and mold counts were determined using Potato Dextrose agar (PDA, Merck 1.10130). Yeast and mold were incubated at 22 °C for 3-5 days. All colonies were counted and the data were reported as colony forming units (log cfu g⁻¹) (Harrigan, 1998).

Sensorial evaluation

The attributes of trout (odor, color, appearance and overall acceptability) were evaluated by a panel of seven experienced panelists in the analysis days of sampling. Sensory evaluation was conducted in individual booths under controlled conditions of light, temperature and humidity. Sensory analysis was performed using the methods of (Altuğ Onoğur and Elmacı, 2011).

Panelists were asked to evaluate on a 5-point hedonic scale ranging from very poor (1) to very good (5) where: 1 – very poor, 2 – poor, 3 – normal, 4 – good and 5 – very good.

Statistical analysis

All measurements were accomplished in triplicate and the results are given as the mean and standard deviation. A one-way variance analysis (ANOVA) was applied by using the IBM-SPSS © 22 version software (Chicago, Illinois, USA) and the Duncan’s Multiple Range Test comparisons at P value of <0.05 were carried out to indicate significant differences (Özdamar, 2001).
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chemical, microbiological and sensory changes of the rainbow trout fillets smoked with different sauces during the storage are shown in Figure 2-3-4.

Chemical changes

In all groups of rainbow trout fillets smoked with different sauces during storage, pH values decreased at the beginning while different changes were observed in the subsequent days of the storage (Figure 2). In group A, pH value, which was 6.92, increased to 7.12 at the end of the storage. In group B, pH value, which was 6.84 at the beginning, continued declining during the storage and rose to 7.05 at the 35th day when spoilage was detected. In group C, pH value, which was 6.84 at the outset, did not change much in time and was determined as 6.92 at the 28th day. Also difference between pH values during storage determined relative to groups in the study was not found statistically significant (p>0.05). In group D, pH value, which was 6.90, first decreased and then increased to 7.20. It is reported that pH value increases during storage of the products, and this results from trimethylamine, ammoniac and other nitrous compounds which develop due to microorganism activities (Tokur et al., 2006). In the study conducted with smoked fillets, Ünal (1995) determined that pH value changed between 6.05 and 6.26 in the sample stored in fridge conditions. These values confirm that the changes in the pH values of the rainbow trout fillet samples, which were smoked with different sauces and stored at 4 ±0.5°C, are not significant. Bilgin et al. (2007) reported that the pH value of S. trutta macrostigma samples which were hot smoked and stored at 4.0 ±0.5°C was 6.290 ±0.010 at the end of storage. This value is similar to the values found in this study.

As to the TVB-N values of the smoked sauced trout fillets, it was detected that increases occurred when compared to the initial values and, as the highest increase, the sample with the sauce D reached 33.54 mg/100 g at the 42nd day. The group with the sauce A spoiled at the end of the 21st day and TVB-N value was determined as 33.32 mg/100 g. Group B spoiled at the end of the 35th day with TVB-N value of 34.25 mg/100 g while the group with the sauce C spoiled at the 28th day with a TVB-N value of 33.21 mg/100 g (Figure 2). Also difference between the TVB-N values during storage determined within groups in the study was found statistically significant (p<0.05). It was reported that the TVB-N value can increase in smoked fish during storage and fish cannot be consumed when it TVB-N value exceeds 35 mg (Varlık et al., 1993). Bilgin et al. (2007) reported that the TVB-N values of the fillets changed within a range from 13.968 to 34.378 mg/100 g during the storage period. These values show similarity to our values.

As for the TBA value which is the measure of rancidity and emerges due to the oxidation of fats in fisheries, 1-3 mg MA kg⁻¹ is defined as good quality while the range of 3-8 mg MA kg⁻¹ is defined as low quality. When it reaches 8 mg MA kg⁻¹, the product is defined as inconsumable (Köse and Erdem, 2001; Varlık et al., 2000). When TBA values were examined in our study, while TBA values differed from 1.67 to 2.26 mg MA kg⁻¹ in all groups at the beginning, they changed slightly during the storage period and TBA values were determined as 3.85 mg MA kg⁻¹ at the 21st day for the group A, 3.26 mg MA kg⁻¹ at the 35th day for the group B, 2.60 mg MA kg⁻¹ at the 28th day for the group C and 2.52 mg MA kg⁻¹ at the 42nd day for the group D, in which the latest spoilage was observed (Figure 2). According to the statistical assessments, difference between the control group and the groups in which sauces were used after the 2nd week was significant (p<0.05). In the groups where the sauce contained thyme, TBA values increased less than the other groups. This result can be explained with the antioxidant nature of thyme. Ünlüsayın et al. (2003) reported that the TBA values of C. auratus which were hot smoked and stored for 28 days at 4°C, increased. These results are parallel to our values. Salama and Khalafalla (1993) conducted a study on conger eel (A. vulgaris) and used two different salt concentrations as 7.5 % and 15 %. They examined the changes during storage after the samples were smoked. They reported that the TBA values displayed irregular changes and that the samples with higher salt concentrations spoiled less.
determined that the aerobic psychrophile number was far below the limit value of 6 log cfu g⁻¹. The number of psychrotrophic bacteria, which was 1 log cfu g⁻¹ at the beginning, did not show statistically significant differences among the groups and the storage days until the 14th day of the storage (Figure 3). At the 21st day of the storage, statistically significant differences were observed between the control group and the groups where thyme and garlic were added (p<0.05). In the control group, differences were observed between the 21st day and the other days. In the groups where the sauce contained thyme, differences of the days following the 21st day were significant.

Deng et al. (1974) reported that aerobic psychrophile numbers in the smoked fish might increase slightly during storage.

When yeast and mold values were examined, while they were around 1.00 log cfu g⁻¹ in all groups at the beginning, they displayed slight increases in time. At the end of storage, they were determined as 1.65 log cfu g⁻¹; 1.69 log cfu g⁻¹; 1.65 log cfu g⁻¹; and 2.15 log cfu g⁻¹ in group A, group B, group C and group D where the latest spoilage was observed (Figure 3). Dondero et al. (2004) reported that yeast and mold values might increase slightly.

Microbiological determinations

When microbiological analyses of the trout fillets sauced and smoked in different ways were examined, increases in numbers of mesophilic psychrophile bacteria and yeast-mold were observed in all analysis groups depending on the storage duration (Figure 3).

While aerobic mesophiles were 2.10 log cfu g⁻¹ in group A at the outset, aerobic mesophile numbers were lower in the other groups. At the end of the storage period, aerobic mesophile numbers increased and reached 5.99 log cfu g⁻¹; 5.45 log cfu g⁻¹; 4.44 log cfu g⁻¹ and 5.23 log cfu g⁻¹ in group A, group B, group C and group D, respectively. In the control group, the differences among the storage days were found significant (p<0.05). Although aerobic mesophile numbers increased in the groups where sauces were used during the storage, these increases were not as high as in the control group (Figure 3). The differences between the control group and the groups where sauces were used was found to be statistically significant (p<0.05) while the difference between group C and group D at the 28th day was found significant (p<0.05). Dondero et al. (2004) reported that increases in aerobic mesophile numbers were associated with storage duration and temperature. Kolsarıcı and Özkaya (1998) reported that aerobic mesophile number of hot smoked trout samples was 4.32 log cfu g⁻¹ at the beginning of the storage while it was determined as 7.36 log cfu g⁻¹ at the end of storage at +4±1°C. These values are similar to our findings. Schulze (1985) reported that aerobic psychrophile number increased depending on the storage duration in trout samples which were smoked in whole and as fillets and stored at 4°C and 10°C.

The number of psychrotrophic bacteria can increase in the food products stored in the fridge conditions and may lead to food-related diseases. Some researchers have reported that there are pathogens frequently encountered in the smoked products stored in fridge conditions. In this study, it was determined that the aerobic psychrophile number was far below

![Figure 2](Image 2). The chemical changes of smoked rainbow trouts with different sauces

![Figure 3](Image 3). The changes of psychrophile number and mesophile number throughout the storage of trout fillets sauced and cooked in different ways.
Popular products. After all sensory assessments, it was concluded that the samples of the group A (Figure 4). Results of the sensory assessments conducted by Deng et al. (1974), Gökoglu and Varlık (1992) and Kolsanci and Özkanaya (1998) on the smoked fish are consistent with the findings of the present study.

**REFERENCES**


**Figure 3.** The microbiological changes of smoked rainbow trouts with different sauces

A: Olive oil B: Olive oil + Garlic C: Olive oil + Thyme D: Olive oil + Garlic + Thyme

**Sensory evaluation**

Rainbow trout fillets, which were smoked with different sauces, were assessed in terms of sensory changes during the storage period such as taste, smell and general acceptability and were scored between 1 and 5, and it was determined that they are highly popular products. After all sensory assessments, it was concluded that the samples of the group D were liked at most (p<0.01). The least favorite ones were the samples of the group A (Figure 4). Results of the sensory assessments conducted by Deng et al. (1974), Gökoglu and Varlık (1992) and Kolsanci and Özkanaya (1998) on the smoked fish are consistent with the findings of the present study.

**Figure 4.** Sensory changes of samples during storage

A: Olive oil B: Olive oil + Garlic C: Olive oil + Thyme D: Olive oil + Garlic + Thyme

As a result, the qualities of chemical, microbiological and sensorial of the smoked samples prepared in our study were examined. When the data obtained were evaluated, the shelf life was determined as 14 days for A, 28 days for B, 21 days for C and 35 days for D with sauces.
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