

Application of a Plackett-Burman Design for Screening Raw Materials Mainly Affecting the Properties of Mum (Thai Fermented Sausage)

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ABSTRACT

*The objective of this study was to screen the factors that play an important role on quality of Thai fermented sausage (Mum) by using the Plackett-Burman screening design. The studied factors included 5 ingredients for Mum production namely minced garlic, roasted rice powder, salt, ground glutinous rice and sodium nitrite and 4 starter culture species, *Pediococcus acidilactici* KK3, *Weissella cibaria* CM7, *Lactobacillus plantarum* subsp. *plantarum* CP1, and *L. plantarum* subsp. *plantarum* KK6. According to the experimental design, twelve treatments of Mum were produced and then analyzed for sensorial quality (color, odor, homogeneity, hardness, sourness, saltiness and overall acceptability), pH, total acidity and texture (shear force). The analysis showed that among various studied factors, salt, sodium nitrite and *P. acidilactici* KK3 were the main factors influencing Mum quality.*

Keywords: Fermented sausage, Ingredient, Mum, Plackett-Burman design, Quality of sausage, Starter culture

INTRODUCTION

Mum is a traditional fermented sausage mainly produced in northeastern region of Thailand. Its major compositions include minced meat and minced

liver of cow, pig or buffalo. Other ingredients are salt, saltpeter, garlic, roasted rice powder and sticky rice. The recipe and the processing conditions vary among the producers. Generally, ground meat and liver are mixed well prior to addition of other ingredients and then the mixture is stuffed in natural intestine or appendix. The sausage is then left to ferment at ambient temperature (25-30°C) for 2-3 days. During fermentation, lactic acid is produced by microorganisms found naturally in an environment. The final characteristics of the most acceptable Mum recipe have been reported with pH, lactic acid content, salt content and moisture content of 4.57, 1.23%, 1.63% and 52.72%, respectively (Cheijarern, 1988). Several fermented sausages such as Sucuk (Soyer et al., 2005), Nham (Jaichumjai et al., 2010), Salami (Coffey et al., 1998) and Chorizo (González-Fernández et al., 2003) produced by application of starter cultures have been studied. Nowadays, food industry increases their interest to manufacture sausages fermented by utilizing starter cultures due to rapid fermentation, producing safe products with consistent quality. To date, no researchers have studied the effects of utilizing starter culture in production of Mum, although a researcher (Maipueang, 1988) has isolated the lactic acid bacteria species and reported that *Pediococcus cerevisiae*, *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *L. brevis*, *Leuconostoc mesenteroides*, and *P. homari* were the main lactic acid bacteria grown during Mum fermentation. In addition, the optimum content of salt and glutinous rice (Cheijarern, 1988) and sodium nitrite and sodium ascorbate (Yordrak, 2003) for Mum production without starter culture inoculation has been studied. Therefore, optimum content of ingredients in Mum fermented by starter culture should be investigated. The product optimization has been carried out using a two-steps experimental design. The first step involves screening to investigate the critical control factors from many potential factors and the later step involves optimizing the level of those factors so that the product having the desirable quality is obtained (Joglekar and May, 1991). Plackett-Burman design is a well-known, quick and reliable statistical technique that enables the food researchers to solve the screening problem (Hu, 1999). It is partial factorial design, where large numbers of independent variables (N) are studied in small number of experiments (N+1). Although application of this design is impossible to measure the effects of interactions, this is not usually important in screening as the main objective is to isolate the important variables (Anderson, 1981). With Plackett-Burman design, Li et al. (2007) could identify that 5 culture components out of 17 had the significant effects on xylanase production. Modi and Maya (2008) were able to screen 11 potential ingredients to formulate the extended meat cubes while Phromraksa et al. (2003) concluded that only 3 major factors from 9 were the main factors affecting chemical, physical and sensory properties of Sai Krok Prew, a Thai fermented sausage. The objective of this study was to screen the factors including ingredients and type of lactic acid bacteria that mainly influenced

the quality of Mum, by using a Plackett-Burman design, for further study in optimizing formulation of Mum.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Raw materials preparation

Fresh pork hams were trimmed to remove all visible fat whereas pig livers were cooked in boiling water. Trimmed pork and cooked livers were minced separately in a food processor. The ratio of minced pork to minced liver was 5:1.

Steamed glutinous rice was rinsed through drinking water to remove the sticky layer. Garlic was peeled and dry glutinous rice was roasted at $175 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ for 1 min in a pan. The above ingredients were ground separately in a blender. Salt (sodium chloride) and sodium nitrite were weighed and mixed together.

Starter cultures preparation

Starter cultures employed in this study were *P. acidilactici* KK3, *Weissella cibaria* CM7, *L. plantarum* subsp. *plantarum* CP1, and *L. plantarum* subsp. *plantarum* KK6. They were obtained from Traditional Food Research and Development Unit, Science and Technology Research Institute, Chiang Mai University. The obtained starter culture was activated in Lactobacillus de Man, Rogosa and Sharpe (MRS) broth (Difco Laboratories, USA.) at 30°C for 24 h. A loopful of cultured broth was streaked onto Lactobacillus MRS agar (Difco Laboratories, USA.) and incubated at 30°C for 24 h. Then a single colony was taken by a loop to streak on the MRS slant and stored at 4°C until use. A loop of culture from MRS slant was taken into 5 mL MRS broth and incubated at 30°C for 24 h, to obtain starter culture 9 Log cfu/mL .

Mum preparation

Minced pork was mixed with minced liver for 1 min using a mixer (Model 5K5SS, Kitchen Aid, USA). The mixture of salt and sodium nitrite was added and mixed for 1 min. Ground glutinous rice and ground garlic were added and mixed for 1 min. Roasted rice powder was added and mixed for 1 min. Finally, starter cultures were added into the meat mixture and mixed for 1 min. The mixture was then stuffed into 2.3-cm diameter collagen casings (Nippi casing, Nippi Incorporated, Japan) and tied with thread at 15 cm intervals. Mums were fermented in an incubator at 30°C for 72 h.

pH analysis

Mum (10 g) was blended with 100 g distilled water and pH was measured using a digital pH meter (Orion: Model 520A, USA), according to AOAC (2000). The analysis was conducted in triplicate.

Total acidity analysis

Total acidity was determined as percentage of lactic acid by titrating with 0.1 N NaOH, using phenolphthalein as an indicator AOAC (2000). The analysis was carried out in 3 replications.

Shear force analysis

Mum sausages were cut into slices of 1 cm thickness and then cooked in a microwave (LG Electronic : Model MS-2342C, China) at 800 watt for 1 min. Texture of cooked Mums was measured using an Instron universal testing machine (Model 5565, USA), controlled by computer with Warner Bratzler blade, equipped with a load cell of 5 kg at a crosshead speed of 200 mm/min. Maximum force to cut sample (shear force) was the measured parameter. The analysis was performed in 3 replications.

Organoleptic analysis

Mum was sliced to 1.0 cm thickness. The slices of Mum were cooked in a microwave (LG Electronic : Model MS-2342C, China) at 800 watt for 1 min. The ideal ratio profile technique was used for development of the final product in terms of optimal organoleptic quality. Sensory panel of 15 members were asked to score the sensory characteristics of samples i.e. color, homogeneity, sourness, saltiness, odor, hardness and overall acceptability in comparison to their ideal product characteristics. These attributes were then used as dependent variables. An ideal ratio score of 1 indicates that the attribute is at the ideal level therefore no improvement needed for that attribute whereas a ratio score less than 1 indicates that the intensity of that attribute is lower than ideal level and a ratio score higher than 1 means that the intensity of attribute is higher than ideal level (Cooper et al., 1989).

Experimental design

The Plackett-Burman design was used for investigating the main variables affecting the quality of Mum. Owing to 9 input variables (minced garlic, roasted rice powder, salt, ground glutinous rice, sodium nitrite, *P. acidilactici* KK3, *L. plantarum* CP1, *L. plantarum* KK6 and *Weissella cibaria* CM7), the Plackett-Burman matrix of 12 treatments (Hu, 1999) was used in this study and it provided 2 dummy variables from which the error was estimated (Table 1). Each variable represented at 2 levels, high and low, which were denoted by +1 and -1, respectively. The quantity of each variable at high level and low level is presented in Table 2. To obtain each starter culture 6 Log cfu/g, the prepared starter culture in MRS broth was pipetted 1 mL per 1 kg of minced pork. Twelve treatments were fully randomized so that no 'order' bias would be introduced.

**Table 1.** Plackett and Burman experimental design matrix.

Treatment	Input variables										
	Minced garlic	Roasted rice powder	Salt	Ground glutinous rice	Sodium nitrite	<i>P. acidilactici</i> KK3	<i>L. plantarum</i> subsp. <i>plantarum</i> CP1	<i>L. plantarum</i> subsp. <i>plantarum</i> KK6	<i>W. cibaria</i> CM7	Dummy variable	Dummy variable
1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	-1	+1	-1
2	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	-1	+1	-1	+1
3	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	-1	+1	-1	+1	+1
4	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	-1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-1
5	+1	+1	-1	-1	-1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-1	+1
6	+1	-1	-1	-1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1
7	-1	-1	-1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1
8	-1	-1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1
9	-1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1
10	+1	-1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	-1
11	-1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+	+	-1	-1	-1	+1
12	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1

Table 2. Quantity of 9 input variables at low and high level.

Variables	Quantity (based on minced pork)	
	Low level (-1)	High level (+1)
Ground garlic	10%	20%
Roasted rice powder	1%	5%
Salt	2%	4%
Ground glutinous rice	5%	10%
Sodium nitrite	0.010%	0.015%
<i>P. acidilactici</i> KK3	0 Log cfu/g	6 Log cfu/g
<i>L. plantarum</i> subsp. <i>plantarum</i> CP1	0 Log cfu/g	6 Log cfu/g
<i>L. plantarum</i> subsp. <i>plantarum</i> KK6	0 Log cfu/g	6 Log cfu/g
<i>W. cibaria</i> CM7	0 Log cfu/g	6 Log cfu/g

Data analysis

The effect of each input variable on each dependent variable was determined according to Wiriyacharee (2012) using the following equation;

$$\text{Effect of input variable} = \frac{\sum H}{6} - \frac{\sum L}{6}$$

where, H and L were the value of the dependent variable at high level and low level of the same input variable. When the sign was positive, the input variable directly related to value of the dependent variable and when the negative, the influence of input variable was inversely to value of the dependent variable. The above equation was also used to determine the effect of each dummy variable.

The effects of dummy variables were applied to test the real effect which resulted significantly from the input variables. This was performed by calculating standard error from the following equation (Wiriyacharee, 2012);

$$\text{Standard error of effect} = \sqrt{\sum d^2/n}$$

where, d is the dummy effect and n is the number of dummy effects.

Statistical significance of effect of each input variable was identified by using t value.

t value = Effect of input variable / Standard error of effect

Then, t value obtaining from this calculation was compared with t table at degree of freedom of 2 due to 2 dummy variables.

RESULTS

Table 3 presents pH, total acidity and shear force of Mum produced by different levels of each factors, 12 treatments. It was found that pH and total acidity varied from 5.21 to 5.83 and from 0.26 % to 0.33 %, respectively. Shear force of Mum 12 treatments was between 51.58 N and 57.03 N. The ideal ratio score on homogeneity, sourness, odor and overall acceptability of all Mums were less than 1 but that on hardness was higher than 1 (Table 4 and 5).

The resulting effects of input variables on dependent variables and significant levels were presented in Table 6 and 7. A *P*-value more than 0.20 indicated the insignificance of effect. All input variables did not affect significantly (*P*>0.2) on the ideal ratio score of hardness and overall acceptability of Mum (data not shown). The *W. cibaria* CM7 had no significant (*P*>0.2) effect on all qualities. The other eight input variables influenced significantly at least one quality. Total acidity was influenced significantly (*P*≤0.15) by four input variables whereas pH and shear force was affected significantly (*P*≤0.20 and *P*≤0.15, respectively) by only one input variable (Table 6). Among the sensory attributes, ideal ratio score of color was affected significantly by the most number

of input variables (6 variables) whereas that of saltiness was influenced significantly by 1 variable.

Table 3. pH, total acidity and shear force of Mum samples produced according to Plackett-Burman design.

Treatment	pH	Total acidity (%)	Shear force (N)
1	5.35±0.01	0.29±0.01	53.67±3.97
2	5.73±0.02	0.27±0.01	51.58±6.37
3	5.65±0.01	0.27±0.01	52.51±9.41
4	5.52±0.01	0.29±0.02	56.88±19.38
5	5.29±0.01	0.30±0.01	53.19±4.51
6	5.21±0.01	0.29±0.02	54.63±10.19
7	5.22±0.01	0.33±0.01	56.05±5.85
8	5.63±0.01	0.28±0.01	54.11±10.10
9	5.56±0.00	0.29±0.02	56.59±10.04
10	5.53±0.01	0.31±0.01	57.03±2.69
11	5.83±0.01	0.26±0.01	54.88±7.38
12	5.72±0.01	0.27±0.01	53.70±6.08

Note: Values are mean ± SD of 3 replications.

Table 4. Ideal ratio score of color, homogeneity, sourness and saltiness of Mum produced according to Plackett-Burman design.

Treatment	Color	Homogeneity	Sourness	Saltiness
1	0.92±0.17	0.73±0.23	0.70±0.28	0.96±0.31
2	0.96±0.15	0.87±0.11	0.79±0.32	1.25±0.23
3	1.01±0.19	0.75±0.18	0.79±0.33	1.30±0.19
4	1.04±0.20	0.70±0.18	0.79±0.31	1.15±0.37
5	0.86±0.23	0.67±0.21	0.78±0.32	0.90±0.29
6	0.89±0.18	0.78±0.16	0.72±0.30	0.76±0.29
7	0.89±0.21	0.76±0.17	0.74±0.25	0.88±0.24
8	0.89±0.26	0.78±0.20	0.77±0.33	0.96±0.20
9	1.00±0.17	0.76±0.16	0.77±0.28	0.99±0.38
10	0.82±0.31	0.68±0.17	0.84±0.33	1.21±0.15
11	1.04±0.23	0.73±0.18	0.75±0.28	1.27±0.24
12	0.88±0.18	0.75±0.21	0.71±0.28	0.91±0.32

Note: Values are mean ± SD of 3 replications.

Table 5. Ideal ratio scores of odor, hardness and overall acceptability of Mum12 treatments produced according to Plackett-Burman design.

Treatment	Odor	Hardness	Overall acceptability
1	0.88±0.29	1.26±0.18	0.49±0.18
2	0.92±0.20	1.21±0.08	0.49±0.14
3	0.97±0.19	1.27±0.15	0.43±0.17
4	0.91±0.22	1.31±0.21	0.41±0.15
5	0.89±0.19	1.22±0.08	0.45±0.17
6	0.90±0.14	1.26±0.13	0.49±0.20
7	0.89±0.21	1.20±0.06	0.56±0.13
8	0.81±0.15	1.24±0.10	0.48±0.17
9	0.91±0.12	1.26±0.09	0.44±0.15
10	0.95±0.17	1.22±0.08	0.42±0.20
11	0.85±0.16	1.22±0.07	0.50±0.17
12	0.84±0.19	1.19±0.05	0.48±0.23

Note: Values are mean ± SD of 3 replications.

Table 6. Effects and significance level of input variables of pH, total acidity and shear force of Mum.

Input variables	pH	Total acidity (%)	Shear force (N)
Ground garlic	-0.164	0.009	-0.143
Roasted rice power	0.026	-0.009	0.103
Salt	0.256a	-0.015b	-0.140
Ground glutinous rice	-0.026	0.011	0.007
Sodium nitrite	0.064	-0.015b	-0.650
<i>P. acidilactici</i> KK3	-0.090	0.015b	0.507
<i>L. plantarum</i> subsp. <i>plantarum</i> CP1	-0.084	0.015b	2.883b
<i>L. plantarum</i> subsp. <i>plantarum</i> KK6	-0.084	0.005	0.217
<i>W. cibaria</i> CM7	-0.056	0.011	0.330
Dummy	-0.180	0.009	0.147
Dummy	-0.064	-0.009	-1.523

Note: Letters a and b indicate significance level by t-test at 80% ($P \leq 0.20$) and 85% ($P \leq 0.15$), respectively.

Table 7. Effects and significance level of input variables on ideal ratio score of sensory properties of Mum.

Input variables	Color	Homogeneity	Sourness	Saltiness	Odor
Ground garlic	-0.037b	-0.017	0.015	-0.014	0.030a
Roasted rice power	0.090d	-0.047b	0.001	0.100	0.017
Salt	0.053c	0.010	0.051c	0.290d	0.017
Ground glutinous rice	0.000	0.023	0.019	0.106	0.053c
Sodium nitrite	0.033a	0.057c	-0.025	-0.026	-0.030a
<i>P. acidilactici</i> KK3	-0.060c	-0.043a	0.001	-0.030	-0.030a
<i>L. plantarum</i> subsp. <i>plantarum</i> CP1	0.027	-0.023	0.011	-0.004	0.017
<i>L. plantarum</i> subsp. <i>plantarum</i> KK6	-0.043b	-0.020	0.031a	-0.050	0.023
<i>W. cibaria</i> CM7	0.013	0.020	0.021	-0.046	-0.010
Dummy	0.013	0.007	-0.021	-0.086	0.000
Dummy	0.017	0.027	-0.001	0.030	0.020

Note: Letters a, b, c and d indicate significance level by t-test at 80% ($P \leq 0.20$), 85% ($P \leq 0.15$), 90% ($P \leq 0.10$) and 95% ($P \leq 0.05$), respectively.

DISCUSSION

The pH and total acidity values obtaining from experimental analysis in all Mum samples were higher and lower, respectively, than those reported by Vichitphan et al. (2008) who studied the chemical quality of commercial Mum (pH 5.02 and 1.66% total acidity) and by Metha and Sereepaowong (1998) who produced Mum from beef, liver, lung and heart (pH 4.49 and 2.95% total acidity). Shear force indicates the force to cut an object (Lu and Abbott, 2004). So far, shear force values of Mum have never been reported. However, shear force in the breakfast sausages and the pork sausages were 11.13 – 16.25 N (Yang et al., 2015) and 115 – 150 N (Barbut et al., 2016), respectively. It should be noted that shear force value required for Mum cutting was in between that of the breakfast sausages and the pork sausages.

To screen the important input variables (raw materials) for Mum production, the effects of each input variable affecting various properties of Mum were examined.

The minced garlic significantly affected ideal ratio score of two sensory attributes, color and odor (Table 7) but did not show a significant effect on chemical property and shear force values (Table 6). The high level of minced garlic caused a significantly ($P \leq 0.15$) lower ideal ratio score of color, indicating

a less color intensity in Mum. However, the high level led to more odor intensity in Mum, significantly ($P \leq 0.20$). Addition of more garlic resulting in stronger odor was also found previously in Mum (Metha and Sereepaowong, 1998). Garlic is used as a flavoring component in several fermented sausages (González-Fernández et al., 2003; Phromraksa et al., 2003; Soyer et al., 2005; Visessanguan et al., 2005). Allicin in garlic juice and the vapor are responsible for its flavor (Davidson and Taylor, 2007).

Only two attributes, color and homogeneity, were influenced significantly by level of roasted rice powder (Table 7). Mum samples obtained significantly ($P \leq 0.05$) higher in ideal ratio score of color when it was manufactured with high level of roasted rice powder. On the other hand, the high level of roasted rice powder rendered a significant ($P \leq 0.15$) decrease in ideal ratio score of homogeneity.

Salt was added to act as a curing agent in Mum production. Using high level of salt led to a significant ($P \leq 0.20$) increase in pH which corresponding to a significant ($P \leq 0.15$) decrease in total acidity (Table 6). A similar report was made, however, in the beef Mum where 2.5% salt resulted in higher pH and lower total acidity than that manufactured with 2.0% salt (Metha and Sereepaowong, 1998). It has been known that lactic acid bacteria are the major producers of lactic acid which is responsible for the decrease in pH and the increase in total acidity of the fermented meat product. Using higher salt level decreased lactic acid bacteria counts and increased pH of fermented sausages (Laranjo et al., 2015; Laranjo et al., 2016). It has been reported that low acidification rates were accompanied by slow lactic acid bacteria growth rates in fermented sausages (Aro et al., 2010). Microbial growth is inhibited by salt because sodium ions and chloride ions immobilize water molecules in food and microorganisms, resulting in lack of available water molecules for microorganisms' growth (Honikel, 2010).

Moreover, salt had a significant ($P \leq 0.05$) effect on saltiness of Mum. Ideal ratio score of saltiness was higher when salt content increased (Table 7). This indicates that Mum produced with high level of salt was saltier. It is important to note that ideal ratio scores of color and sourness were significantly ($P \leq 0.10$) higher when high level of salt was employed (Table 7). The effects of salt level on ideal ratio score of saltiness, color and sourness observed in this study were similar to those reported by Phromraksa et al. (2003).

The level of ground glutinous rice had a significant effect on only one dependent variable, odor (Table 7). Using high level of ground glutinous rice increased significantly ($P \leq 0.10$) ideal ratio score of odor to the ideal ratio (1.0). According to Table 6, increasing of glutinous rice level gave rise to elevation of total acidity of Mum. This was in agreement with Cheijarern (1988). It has been known that glutinous rice serves as carbon and energy sources for the lactic acid bacteria to grow and produce lactic acid in fermented Mum. The satisfactory odor of Mum when high level of glutinous rice was used might be due to higher formation of lactic acid which can enhance the growth of important

microorganisms involved with production of chemical compounds responsible for its odor and, at the same time, inhibited the spoilage microorganisms.

High level of sodium nitrite caused a significant ($P \leq 0.15$) reduction in total acidity of Mum (Table 6). The growth of lactic acid bacteria in dry fermented sausage was retarded, if the concentration of added nitrite was too high, however, reduction in added nitrite to the suitable concentration promoted the growth of lactic acid bacteria (Zeuthen, 1995; Kurt and Zorba, 2010). To the best of our knowledge, there is limit information relating the effect of sodium nitrite on total acidity of fermented sausage; previous researches only focused on other characteristics such as lactic acid bacteria counts and pH values. Within the first 4 days of Chorizo fermentation, lactic acid bacteria counts were not affected by the level of sodium nitrite (González and Díez, 2002). On the other hand, at day 6 and 8 of fermentation the lactic acid bacteria counts of sausages containing 50 ppm of sodium nitrite were higher than those of sausage with higher level of sodium nitrite (150 ppm) (González and Díez, 2002). In addition, there was an inverse relationship between sodium nitrite concentration and the counts of *Lactococcus lactis*, starter culture, in Salami (Scannell et al., 2001). Therefore, the high level of sodium nitrite in the present study might retard the growth of some lactic acid bacteria strains in Mum, resulting in less acid production as described above.

As expected, a positive relation between sodium nitrite level and ideal ratio score in color was observed with significance level of $P \leq 0.20$ as presented in Table 7. Phromraksa et al. (2003) observed a similar situation in Sai Krok Prew, a Thai fermented sausage. Nitrites in fermented sausage react with the heme moiety of myoglobin to facilitate the development of cured color (Zeuthen, 1995).

On the other hand, high level of sodium nitrite significantly ($P \leq 0.20$) decreased ideal ratio score of odor (Table 7), inferring the lowered intensity of odor in the sausage. The aroma of fermented sausages is a combination of several elements. Lactic acid, being the main acid produced during fermentation, contributes the tangy odor of fermented sausage (Cocconcelli and Fontana, 2010). Less concentration of total acidity as lactic acid when using high level of sodium nitrite (Table 6) might be a reason of the reduction of Mum odor. Moreover, the volatile compounds produced through proteolytic and lipolytic activities of staphylococci play an important role in aroma formation of fermented meat (Cocconcelli and Fontana, 2010). High level of sodium nitrite might not be the optimum level to the development of volatiles compounds leading to a lowered intensity of odor in the sausage. Finally, lipid oxidation derived compounds have been considered essential to the proper formation of flavor of cured meat products (Shahidi et al., 1986). Nitrite acts as antioxidant by sequestering oxygen in meat (Honikel, 2010) and its antioxidant effect in dry fermented sausage has been proven (Hospital et al., 2012). It is not surprising that lowered sensory ideal ratio score of odor in Mum produced with high sodium nitrite level. Nitrite may exert

antioxidant activity resulting in low development of desirable volatile compounds from lipid oxidation.

P. acidilactici KK3 affected significantly on ideal ratio score of color ($P \leq 0.10$), homogeneity ($P \leq 0.20$) and odor ($P \leq 0.20$) of Mum (Table 7). Ideal ratio score of these attributes increased when using low level of *P. acidilactici* KK3. The effect of *P. acidilactici* KK3 on odor of Mum in this study was opposite to the effect of *P. acidilactici* MA 18/5M in beef sausage because addition of *P. acidilactici* MA 18/5M had a positive effect on odor of the product (Slima et al., 2018).

As expected, adding *P. acidilactici* KK3 at high level resulted in significantly ($P \leq 0.15$) higher total acidity than the low level usage (Table 6). It has been known that *Pediococcus* produces lactic acid and thus is used as starter culture for acidification fermented sausage (Jessen, 1995). Som Fug, a Thai fermented fish, inoculated with *P. acidilactici* as starter exhibited significantly higher total acidity than Som Fug without added starter culture (Riebroy et al., 2008).

Similarly, Mum produced with high level of *L. plantarum* subsp. *plantarum* CP1 had significantly higher total acidity than Mum produced without the addition of this starter culture (Table 6). *L. plantarum* is used as starter culture for meat fermentation and ferments available carbohydrates to organic acid, primarily lactic acid (Cocconcelli and Fontana, 2010). Som Fug inoculated with *L. plantarum* as starter exhibited significantly higher total acidity than Som Fug without added this starter culture (Riebroy et al., 2008).

Likewise, the samples added with high level of *L. plantarum* subsp. *plantarum* CP1 led to a significantly ($P \leq 0.15$) higher shear force compared to Mum manufactured without addition of this starter culture (Table 6). High shear force indicates the high consistency or cohesion of Mum. Lactic acid production causing pH of fermented meat approaches isoelectric point where protein coagulation and water holding capacity reduction take place, resulting in a consistency fermented meat (Toldrá et al., 2001). Thus, the greater lactic acid production in Mum processed with high level of *L. plantarum* subsp. *plantarum* CP1 possibly increased shear force of Mum.

Table 7 shows that low level of *L. plantarum* subsp. *plantarum* KK6 significantly ($P \leq 0.15$) increased color ratio score of Mum. However, there were no significant differences in the instrument color parameters between Nham fermented with the addition of *L. plantarum* BCC 9546 as starter culture and Nham naturally fermented (no added starter culture) (Luxananil et al., 2009). Mum produced with high level of *L. plantarum* subsp. *plantarum* KK6 had significantly ($P \leq 0.20$) higher ideal ratio score of sourness, indicating a greater sourness, than Mum produced without the addition of this starter culture (Table 7). The greater sourness in Mum might result from the higher production of total acidity when addition of this starter culture in Mum (Table 6).

To determine the major factors (ingredients and starter cultures) that affect quality of Mum by using the Plackett-Burman design, the number of quality influenced significantly by each factor was considered from Tables 6 and 7. It was found that salt significantly influenced the higher number of quality i.e. color, sourness, saltiness, pH and total acidity. Sodium nitrite and *P. acidilactici* KK3 showed significant effects on color, homogeneity, odor and total acidity. The other factors such as ground garlic, roasted rice powder, ground glutinous rice, *L. plantarum* subsp. *plantarum* CP1 and *L. plantarum* subsp. *plantarum* KK6 showed statistically significant effect on two or less quality. Therefore, it can be concluded that salt, sodium nitrite and *P. acidilactici* KK3 were the main variables affecting quality of Mum, while ground garlic, roasted rice powder, ground glutinous rice, *L. plantarum* subsp. *plantarum* CP1 and *L. plantarum* subsp. *plantarum* KK6 were the minor influencing variables. On the other hand, *W. cibaria* CM7 was an insignificant factor influencing Mum quality.

Plackett-Burman design is the primary tool to identify the effects of various inputs but cannot be used to optimize the level of each variable. Therefore, further steps for Mum production should emphasize on optimal investigation of salt, sodium nitrite and *P. acidilactici* KK3 in order to obtain the most acceptable Mum recipe.

CONCLUSION

The present study involved the use of Plackett-Burman design to screen the significant factors affecting sensory quality, pH, total acidity and shear force of Mum. It was found that 8 factors from 9 showed significant effects on properties of Mum. However, only salt, sodium nitrite and *P. acidilactici* KK3 were the most important variables affecting properties of Mum. Salt exhibited negative effect on total acidity and positive effect on ideal ratio of saltiness, color and sourness and pH of Mum. High level of sodium nitrite caused a reduction in total acidity and ideal ratio score of odor but it increased ideal ratio of color and homogeneity. Finally, addition of *P. acidilactici* KK3 in Mum production resulted in higher formation of total acidity but reduced ideal ratio score of color, homogeneity and odor.

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