



Optimization of emulsifying effectiveness of phytosterol in milk using span as emulsifiers by orthogonal experimental design

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to investigate effect of four emulsifiers including Span 20, Span 40, Span 60 and Span 80 on emulsifying effectiveness of phytosterol in milk through single factor and orthogonal experimental design to get the best emulsification conditions. The concentrations of four emulsifiers were all 0.2%, 0.3%, 0.4%, 0.5%, 0.6% and 0.7%. The optimal emulsified conditions showed as follows: the optimal concentrations of Span 20, Span 40, Span 60 and Span 80 were 0.35%, 0.50%, 0.60% and 0.45%, respectively, the emulsification R reached 1.022 ± 0.0015 under the conditions mentioned above.

Keywords: orthogonal experimental design; phytosterol; emulsifier; Span; emulsifying effectiveness.

INTRODUCTION

Phytosterols (Plant sterols) such as campesterol, β -sitosterol, and stigmasterol mainly derived from vegetable oils, cereals, nuts, seeds, fruits, and vegetables. They are 28- or 29-carbon alcohols and resemble cholesterol in vertebrates in terms of both function (stabilization of phospholipid bilayers in plant cell membranes) and structure (steroid nucleus, 3 β -hydroxyl group, 5, 6 double bond) [1-3]. More than 200 different types of phytosterols have been identified in plants [4-8]. In general, vegetable oils and products derived from oil are regarded as the richest natural sources of sterols, followed by cereals, cereal-based products and nuts [9]. Plant sterols have proved to lower serum total, low density lipoproteins (LDL)-cholesterol concentration and protect against cardiovascular diseases, besides above effects, phytosterols have other important pharmacological properties, such as anti-atherosclerotic, anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidative activities, so the free or esterified phytosterols have been incorporated into a variety of commercial foods including spreads, milk, orange juice, and yoghurt over the past 15 years [10-17].

Phytosterols were approved as GRAS (Generally Recognized As Safe) by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in margarines and spreads in 1999. In September 2000, the FDA also issued an interim rule that allows health-claims labeling of foods containing phytosterol [18-19]. But Phytosterol is fat-soluble materials and is difficult to be mixed with the water-soluble material, which limits its application. Emulsification can improve the water-solubility of phytosterol and expand its application scope [20]. The purpose of the present work was to study effect of four emulsifiers including Span 20, Span 40, Span 60 and Span 80 on emulsifying effectiveness of phytosterol in milk by single factor and orthogonal experimental design.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Materials

Four emulsifiers including Span 20 (sorbitan monolaurate), Span 40 (sorbitan- monopalmitate), Span 60(sorbitan mono stearate) and Span 80 (Sorbitan Monooleate) were bought from LSB Biochemical Co. (Xi'an, China); fresh milk was bought from a local farmer (Weiyang district, Xi'an, China); phytosterol was kindly supplied from from Xi'an Oriental Dairy Co. (Xi'an, China).

Preparation of emulsion

For the preparation of the emulsified milk containing phytosterols, a certain amount of emulsifier and phytosterols were accurately weighted and added into to fresh milk served in a beaker, a magnetic stirrer (Model 78-1, Jiangsu Zhengji Instruments Co., Ltd, JinTan, China) was used to stir fresh milk containing emulsifier and phytosterols and then the emulsification R was determined.

Determination of emulsifying properties of the emulsion

After emulsifiers, phytosterols and fresh milk were stirred for 10min at 70°C by a magnetic stirrer, the absorbance A_1 of the sample was determined at a wavelength of 678 nm. The absorbance A_2 of the sample was determined at a wavelength of 678 nm again after the sample was stand at room temperature for 24 h. The emulsification R (A_2/A_1) was used to predict emulsion stability of product, and the larger the R value, the better the stability of the emulsified system.

Design of experiment

An orthogonal $L_9 (3^4)$ experimental design was used for optimization the emulsifying effectiveness of phytosterol in milk using Span 20, Span 40, Span 60 and Span 80 as emulsifiers. In the study, emulsification was accomplished with 40 ml fresh milk. Nine emulsifications were carried out at Span 20 of 0.25, 0.30 and 0.35%, Span 40 of 0.45, 0.50 and 0.55%, Span 60 of 0.55, 0.60 and 0.65%, Span 80 of 0.45, 0.50 and 0.55% on the basis of the single-factor experimental. Table 1 showed the emulsification conditions for emulsifying effectiveness of phytosterol in milk using Span as emulsifiers.

Table 1 Factors and levels for orthogonal experimental design

Variable	Level		
	1	2	3
A. Span 20 (%)	0.25	0.30	0.35
B. Span 40 (%)	0.45	0.50	0.55
C. Span 60 (%)	0.55	0.60	0.65
D. Span 80 (%)	0.45	0.50	0.55

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Effect of four emulsifiers on emulsifying effectiveness of phytosterol in milk

Four emulsifiers including Span 20, Span 40, Span 60 and Span 80 were added to fresh milk at the concentrations of 0.20%, 0.30%, 0.40%, 0.50%, 0.60% and 0.70%, respectively. phytosterol was added to above milk at 0.5%(w/v) and stirred for 10min at 70°C by the magnetic stirrer, the results were shown in Figure1.

As be shown in Fig. 1, with the increasing concentration of four emulsifiers, the emulsification R all first increased and then decreased. The emulsification R of Span 20 first increased from 0.977 at 0.20% to 0.992 at 0.30% then decreased to 0.982 at 0.70%, the maximum emulsification R of Span 20 was 0.992 at 0.30%. The emulsification R of Span 40 first increased from 0.986 at 0.20% to 0.988 at 0.50% then decreased to 0.981 at 0.70%, the maximum emulsification R of Span 40 was 0.988 at 0.50%. The emulsification R of Span 60 first increased from 0.965 at 0.20% to 0.982 at 0.60% then decreased to 0.975 at 0.70%, the maximum emulsification R of Span 60 was 0.982 at 0.60%. The emulsification R of Span 80 first increased from 0.971 at 0.20% to 0.981 at 0.50% then decreased to 0.971 at 0.70%, the maximum emulsification R of Span 80 was 0.981 at 0.50%. So the favorable concentrations of Span 20, Span 40, Span 60 and Span 80 were 0.40%, 0.40, 0.20 and 0.20% for emulsifying effectiveness of phytosterol adding to cow milk, respectively.

Optimization of the emulsification conditions for phytosterol in milk

Optimization of the suitable emulsification conditions for the phytosterol adding to milk can be carried out by using an experimental design. In the present study, all selected factors were examined using an orthogonal $L_9 (3^4)$ experimental

design. The total evaluation index was used to analysis by statistical method. The results of orthogonal experimental and extreme difference analysis were presented in Table 2. The analysis of variance was performed by Orthogonal design Assistant II 3.1 and the result was listed in Table 2.

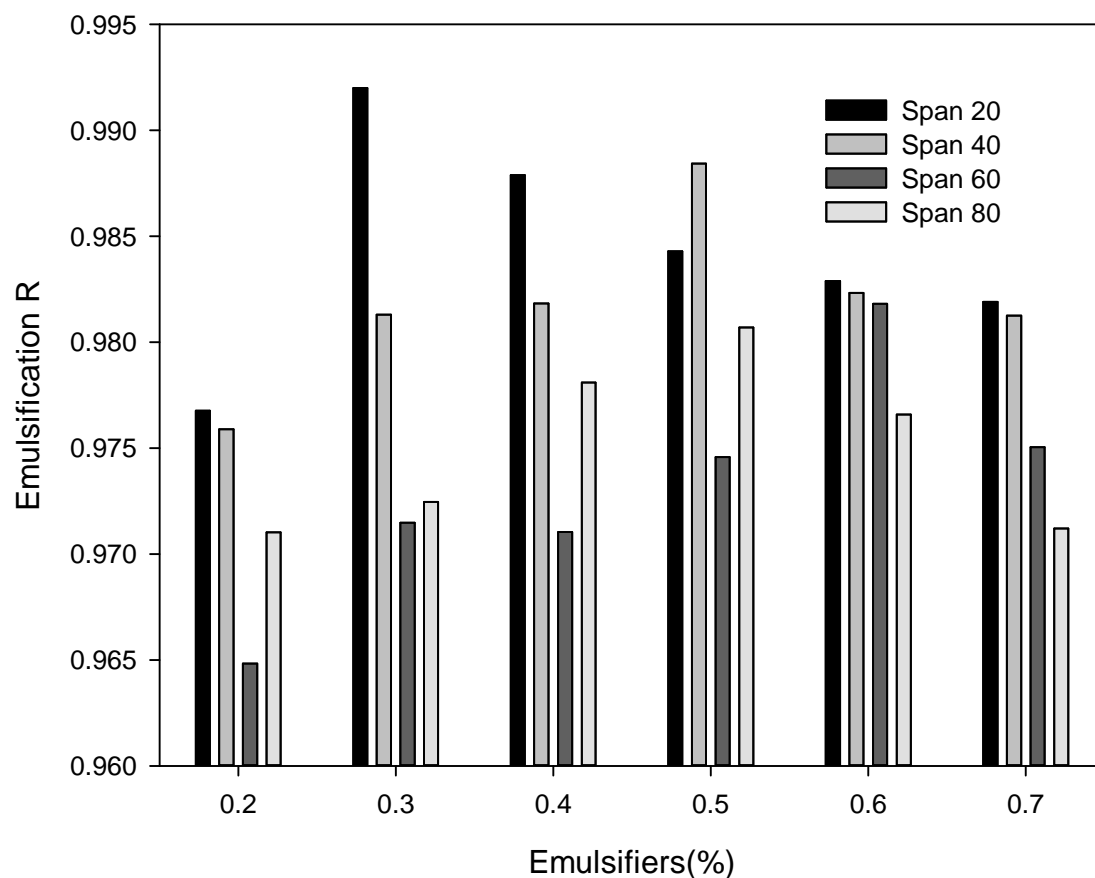


Fig.1 Effect of four emulsifiers on emulsifying effectiveness of phytosterol adding to milk

Table 2 Results and range analysis of orthogonal experimental [$L_9(3^4)$]

No.	A B C D				Emulsification R
	Span 20(%)	Span 40(%)	Span 60(%)	Span 80(%)	
1	1	1	1	1	0.722
2	1	2	2	2	0.975
3	1	3	3	3	0.893
4	2	1	2	3	0.974
5	2	2	3	1	1.008
6	2	3	1	2	0.866
7	3	1	3	2	0.965
8	3	2	1	3	0.943
9	3	3	2	1	1.016
K1	0.863	0.887	0.844	0.915	
K2	0.949	0.975	0.988	0.935	
K3	0.975	0.925	0.955	0.937	
R	0.112	0.088	0.144	0.022	

R refers to the result of extreme analysis.

The results of experiments presented in Table 2 indicated that the maximum emulsification R of phytosterol adding to milk was 1.016. However, we cannot select the best extraction conditions only based on these outcomes in Table 2, and a further orthogonal analysis was warranted. Thus, the K and R values were calculated and listed in Table 2. As seen from Table 2, we can find that the influence to the mean emulsification R decreases in the order: C > A > B > D according to the R values. The Span 60 was found to be the most important determinant of the emulsification R. In other words, the maximum emulsification R of phytosterol adding to milk was obtained when Span 20, Span 40, Span 60 and

Span 80 were 0.35%, 0.50%, 0.50% and 0.55% according to Fig.2, respectively. The analyses of variance of the results were shown in Table 3.

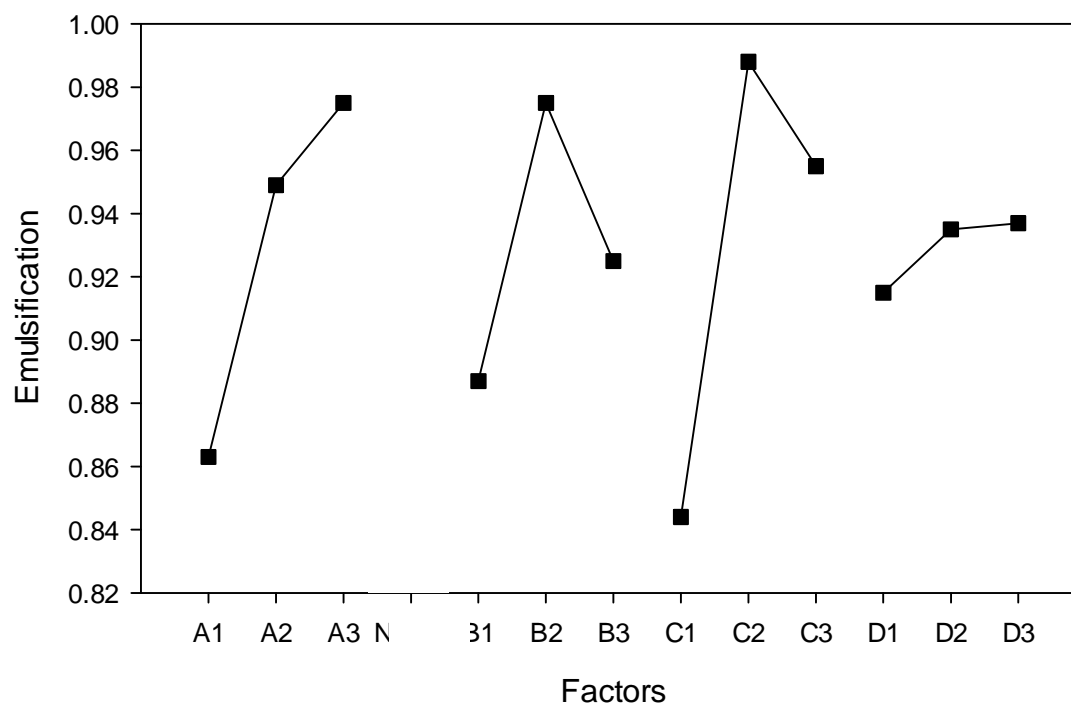


Fig.2 Trend of factors

Table 3 Analysis of variance for the orthogonal experimental design

Factors	SS	DF	F	Significance
A	0.020	2	20.000	**
B	0.012	2	12.000	*
C	0.034	2	34.000	**
D	0.001	2	1.000	
Error	0.001	2		

* $p < 0.10$; ** $p < 0.05$; $F_{0.1(2,2)} = 9.00$; $F_{0.05(2,2)} = 19.00$.

As be shown in Tab.3, the primary and secondary order of factors analyzed by variance analysis of was consistent with the intuitive analysis, Factor A (Span 20) and C (Span 60) were very significant, Factor B (Span 40) was significant and Factor D (Span 40) was not significant, So the optimal condition of emulsification for phytosterol in milk was $A_3B_2C_2D_1$, i.e. the concentration of Span 20, Span 40, Span 60 and Span 80 were 0.35%, 0.50%, 0.60% and 0.45%. The emulsification R reached 1.022 ± 0.0015 under condition mentioned above through verification test ($N=3$), which showed the experimental design was reasonable.

CONCLUSION

The optimal concentrations of Span 20, Span 40, Span 60 and Span 80 were 0.35%, 0.50%, 0.60% and 0.45% for emulsifying effectiveness of phytosterol in milk, respectively, the emulsification reached 1.022 ± 0.0015 under the conditions mentioned above. Span 20 and Span 60 were very significant ($p < 0.05$) and Span 40 is significant ($p < 0.10$), the experimental design was reasonable.

Acknowledgements

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