

Original Research Article

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Physiochemical Characteristics of Buffalo Milk Samples Available in Four Districts of Chhattisgarh, India

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ABSTRACT

The present study was designed to see quality of raw buffalo milk in four districts of Chhattisgarh and the effect of different location, stage of lactation and parity on milk components of buffaloes. Total 112 milk samples were collected, comprised of four different districts and from lactation stage (early, mid and late) and from varying parity of (1, 2, 3 and 4 above) for the study. Overall milk fat, solid not fat (SNF), protein, lactose, density, freezing point and ash were observed to be 6.50 ± 0.05 , 8.88 ± 0.03 , 3.71 ± 0.03 , 4.90 ± 0.06 , 1.030 ± 0.002 , -0.534 ± 0.002 and $0.81\pm 0.004\%$, respectively. Durg districts reported highest for milk at and SNF than other districts. Mean fat content was in FSSAI prescribed level but SNF content is recorded below FSSAI level. Stage of lactation had also significant effect on milk components; milk fat and protein percent increased significantly with the advancement of lactation stage significantly ($P<0.05$). Milk fat during early, mid and late lactation was 6.31 ± 0.09 , 6.55 ± 0.07 and $6.61\pm 0.09\%$; protein was 3.61 ± 0.05 , 3.65 ± 0.05 and $3.83\pm 0.06\%$ respectively ($P<0.05$). Milk fat and protein levels were more in advance parities indicating significant effect of parity on milk composition. Data on levels of milk constituents varying over the lactation stages, parities and correlation between milk constituents in buffaloes were important phenotype indices for developing genomic selection programme in buffaloes.

Keywords

Buffalo, Lactose,
SNF, Correlation

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Introduction

Milk is one of the most important foods of human beings. It is universally recognized as a complete diet due to its essential

components like proteins, lactose, milk fat, minerals and vitamins in a highly digestible form and is recommended as compulsory part of daily diet for the expectant mothers as well as growing children (Javaid *et al.*, 2009). The

minimum standards for market milks are fixed for fat and SNF contents to ensure quality milk supply to the consumers and to prevent adulteration of milk. Unfortunately, due to unorganized and nonregulated marketing system, the quality of milk is hardly maintained at consumer level. Addition of water and ice is common which affects the physical as well as chemical quality of milk by altering the proportion of different constituents.

All most all nutrients are also richer in buffalo milk (high content of fat, lactose, protein and ash percent) hence getting more attention and fetches higher price compared to cow milk (Abd El-Salam and El-Shibiny, 2011). In India, milk price is generally fixed based on fat content together with volume. Hence, while procuring milk from farmers in cooperatives, milk was tested for fat percent. However, with the advancement of technology and availability of cost effective milk analyzer, now-a-days it is also possible to measure other milk components such as protein, lactose, ash, SNF and TS (Ravikala *et al.*, 2014). Milk composition is considered as an important attribute essential for dairy farmers to maintain raw milk worth, dairy industries to produce better quality products (Malek dos Reis *et al.*, 2013). Although, several factors affect milk composition in buffaloes, stage of lactation and seasonal availability of nutrition play crucial role (Ravikala *et al.*, 2014) and subsequently affect the milk products' quality. Thus, a large segment of population is deprived of the consumption of energetic milk.

Milk supply in Chhattisgarh takes place through different marketing channels i.e. direct sellers, milk collection centers, milk vendor shops and hotels and dairy farms from the surrounding areas, and is based on unorganized marketing system. Thus keeping this in view, the present study present study

was designed to know the compositional quality of buffalo raw milk in four districts of Chhattisgarh.

Materials and Methods

The study was carried out at College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Chhattisgarh Kamdhenu University, Durg, Chhattisgarh, India. A total of 112 buffalo milk collected that were in different parity and stage of lactation were collected from the livestock owners and dairy unit of Durg, Rajnandgaon, Raipur and Balod districts of Chhattisgarh. About 50 ml of milk sample were collected in aseptic conditions randomly without any known bias. The milk samples were analyzed various traits of milk composition content by by LactoStar SN 3510. The stage of lactation is recorded and was grouped into early, mid and late lactations. Parity on the test day (i.e. order of lactation) was also considered as one of the factors influencing milk composition.

Statistical analysis

A multivariate analysis (Johnson and Wichern 2002) of variance was performed to observe pair wise mean differences in milk composition over different sources of variation i.e. district, parity and stage of lactation using Duncan multiple range test, difference was considered as significant if $p < 0.05$ and the results were presented as Mean \pm SE.

Results and Discussion

Physico-chemical properties of milk

Milk fat percentage

Milk samples from Durg districts tested highest for fat percentage (6.68 ± 0.07) while that of Rajnandgaon was lowest (6.35 ± 0.10)

(Table 1). There was a significant difference ($P < 0.05$) in fat % among the study districts and the overall mean value of the fat ($6.50 \pm 0.05\%$) in the study districts which is higher than FSSAI prescribed value (6.0%). But about 30% of milk was found below the FSSAI recommended value. Parity and stage of lactation had significant effect on milk fat % (Table 1). The variation of milk fat percent remained within the normal range in buffaloes i.e. 5.3-9.0% (Abd El-Salam and El-Shibiny, 2011; Claeys *et al.*, 2014). The milk fat percent increased significantly from early lactation to late lactation which is in agreement with the report of Yadav *et al.*, (2013) and Patbandha *et al.*, (2016). However, Garaniya *et al.*, (2013) did not observe any difference statistically among different stages of lactation, though milk fat percent increased gradually with advancement of lactation. No specific trend is ascribed to change in level of milk Fat %. Increase in fat is associated with enhanced milk yield with advancing parity up to fourth and above parity.

Milk solids not fat percentage (SNF):

The overall average for SNF percentage was 8.88 ± 0.03 and the multivariate analysis of variance revealed that centre had very significant effect on SNF ($P < 0.05$) whereas stage of lactation had no significant effect on these parameters but parity has significant effect on the SNF content but trend was not specific. Mean SNF content of different districts are below the FSSAI prescribed except Durg district. However, Abd El-Salam and El-Shibiny (2011) reported milk SNF value as 8.3-10.4% in buffaloes and same being supported by our result. We did not observe any significant effect of season (Table 1) or stage of lactation on milk SNF content ($p > 0.05$). Patbandha *et al.*, (2016) reported similar findings however, Dubey *et al.*, (1997) reported effect of stage of lactation

on milk SNF level. Topographical peculiarities and difference in feed ingredients must have resulted in such a significant difference between districts. A proximate analysis of these feeds will reveal imbalances if any, which should be corrected.

Milk protein and lactose content

The milk protein percent varied from 3.58-3.87% between different districts (Table 1) and 3.61-3.83% during different stages of lactation which is in agreement with the previous report in buffaloes (Garaniya *et al.*, 2013). The protein percent in present study was in accordance with the findings of the Dubey *et al.*, (1997) and Yadav *et al.*, (2013) they reported protein percent in the buffaloes i.e. 3.5-3.8%. Milk protein levels vary significantly over the different parities. Increased protein level was recorded in third and above parities. Yadav *et al.*, (2013) also reported non-significant increase in milk protein percent with the advancement of parity but after seventh parity.

The mean lactose percent during different season, during different lactation stage and in different parity are depicted in Table 1 respectively. The overall milk lactose percent observed in the present study was found to be 4.90% which is in comparable range reported by Mahmood and Usman, 2010; Abd El-Salam and El-Shibiny, 2011; Ahmad *et al.*, 2013 in buffaloes. In the present study we observed a significant difference in lactose content of different districts but parity and stage of lactation had no significant effect on milk lactose %. Though previous studies observe effect of parity and lactation stage on lactose content of buffalo milk (Yadav *et al.*, 2013; Patbandha *et al.*, 2016). The lower lactose might be associated with higher somatic cell counts which is a indicator of mammary infection (Malek dos Reis *et al.*, 2013).

Table.1 Least square means (Mean ±SE) of milk constituents

Source	Number of Samples (N)	Fat (%)	SNF (%)	Protein (%)	Lactose (%)	Density (g/cm ³)	Freezing Point (°C)	Minerals (%)
District								
Durg	28	6.68 ^a ±0.07	9.07 ^a ±0.06	3.75 ^{ab} ±0.06	4.95 ^{ab} ±0.05	1.031 ^a ±0.0002	-0.523 ^c ±0.003	0.82 ^a ±0.006
Ranandgaon	28	6.35 ^b ±0.10	8.74 ^b ±0.06	3.64 ^b ±0.06	5.19 ^a ±0.18	1.029 ^b ±0.0004	-0.545 ^a ±0.004	0.79 ^b ±0.009
Raipur	28	6.53 ^{ab} ±0.11	8.79 ^b ±0.07	3.87 ^a ±0.08	4.82 ^b ±0.10	1.031 ^a ±0.0003	-0.539 ^{ab} ±0.005	0.80 ^{ab} ±0.009
Balod	28	6.44 ^{ab} ±0.12	8.92 ^{ab} ±0.07	3.58 ^b ±0.07	4.65 ^b ±0.11	1.030 ^a ±0.0003	-0.529 ^{bc} ±0.003	0.82 ^a ±0.005
Overall mean	112	6.50±0.05	8.88±0.03	3.71±0.03	4.90±0.06	1.030±0.0002	-0.534±0.002	0.81±0.004
Parity								
1	33	6.25 ^c ±0.08	8.72 ^b ±0.06	3.63 ^b ±0.05	4.98±0.17	1.030±0.0003	-0.536±0.003	0.81±0.008
2	32	6.63 ^{ab} ±0.08	8.94 ^a ±0.06	3.63 ^b ±0.06	4.79±0.10	1.030±0.0003	-0.533±0.004	0.80±0.008
3	24	6.43 ^{bc} ±0.10	8.90 ^{ab} ±0.08	3.74 ^{ab} ±0.06	4.88±0.08	1.030±0.0004	-0.529±0.003	0.81±0.008
4 and above	23	6.75 ^a ±0.15	9.00 ^a ±0.07	3.92 ^a ±0.10	4.98±0.08	1.030±0.0005	-0.538±0.005	0.80±0.009
Stages of lactation								
Early (5 to 90 days)	34	6.31 ^b ±0.09	8.84±0.06	3.61 ^b ±0.05	4.89±0.16	1.031±0.0003	-0.535±0.004	0.81±0.005
Mid (91 to 180 days)	33	6.55 ^{ab} ±0.07	8.85±0.06	3.65 ^b ±0.05	4.87±0.08	1.030±0.0004	-0.535±0.003	0.81±0.008
Late (above 181 days)	45	6.61 ^a ±0.09	8.93±0.05	3.83 ^a ±0.06	4.94±0.07	1.030±0.0004	-0.532±0.003	0.80±0.006

Mean with different superscript within a column differed significantly from each other (p<0.05).

Table.2 Pearson correlation coefficients between different milk constituents in different districts; N=112

Variable	Fat	SNF	Protein	Lactose	Density	Minerals	Freezing Point
Fat	1	0.500 **	0.527 **	-0.186*	0.003	0.102	0.027
SNF		1	0.194*	-0.113	0.161	-0.023	0.083
Protein			1	0.052	0.122	0.032	0.013
Lactose				1	-0.125	-0.253**	-0.094
Density					1	0.062	0.086
Minerals						1	0.072
Freezing Point							1

** Pearson Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Milk density, ash content and freezing point

According to the study results, the mean density, ash content and freezing point of the raw milk samples from the buffalo were 1.030 ± 0.0002 , 0.81 ± 0.004 and -0.534 ± 0.002 °C respectively. The density value was lower than the findings of some previous research results (Padghan *et al.*, 2008; Braun and Preuss, 2008). The present results are similar to this standard. This value ($1029 \pm 0.056 \text{g/cm}^3$) is lower than findings of Francis *et al.* (1988) and similar to the results of Zaman *et al.* (2007) and Sahin *et al.*, (2014).

Recently, Abd El-Salam and El-Shibiny (2011) and Claeys *et al.*, (2014) reviewed the composition of buffalo milk and reported that ash content in milk varied between 0.71 to 0.85% and 8.0 to 9.0%, respectively which is agreement of the present findings. In this experiment, the average freezing point was determined as -0.55 °C in milk samples. Similarly Sahin *et al.*, (2014) reported that the buffalo milk freezing point was -0.52 to -0.56 °C. The density is mainly due to the water content present in the sample. Furthermore, it is a measure that provides information about the purity of the raw milk.

The freezing point of raw milk is an important feature to determine the amount of water added (Aydın *et al.*, 2010) as milk is more diluted, the freezing point will raise closer to zero. The stage of lactation and parity did not affect the milk density, ash content and freezing point in buffalo milk, but we observe a significant ($P < 0.05$) effect of different location on of these parameters. The results of the present investigation are in agreement with the findings of some researchers (Zaman *et al.*, 2007). However, Sahin *et al.*, (2014) reported that the stage of lactation and parity of buffalo milk density was significant.

Correlation coefficient between different milk constituents

In the present study, Table 2 shows correlation coefficients between different constituents of milk. In this study, highly significant ($P < 0.01$) correlation was observed between fat and SNF (0.500), fat and protein (0.527) but we observed a significant ($P < 0.01$) negative correlation between fat and lactose (-0.186). Correlation between SNF with protein (0.194) and lactose (0.113) were found to be positive and significant ($P < 0.05$) with protein. In between protein and lactose a non-significant positive correlation (0.052) was observed. Density of milk showing positive correlation with all the milk constituents except with lactose (-0.125). In respect of freezing point we observed a negative correlation with SNF and highly significant ($P < 0.01$) negative correlation with lactose content (0.253) except these all milk constituents showing positive correlation. Ash content of milk showing positive correlation with all the milk constituents except with lactose. Similarly Gâjailâ *et al.*, (2014) reported positive and highly significant correlation between fat and protein and a negative correlation between fat and lactose in buffalo milk. However Hamad *et al.*, (2014) reported a highly significant negative correlation between fat and SNF and protein content. These findings are suggested that selection for fat will automatically increase different constituents of milk.

In conclusion, results of the present study indicate that different location, stage of lactation and parity affect certain milk components in buffalo milk. Hormones like leptin etc. stimulate signals influencing hypothalamus, thus regulating appetite, feed intake and body metabolism in favor of milk production. Variation in milk component of different districts may be occur due to variation in management practices. The milk

fat composition is also influenced by feed types making different types of substrates available for synthesis of milk. It suggested that desirable composition of milk may be obtained from animals of appropriate physiological/lactation stage and parity fed with special feed ingredients, in the dairy production system. Genetic makeups of animals are also responsible for difference in milk composition so breeding between good animal is also essential for quality milk production.

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