



## Research Article

# ANALYSIS SOME CHEMICAL AND MICROBIOLOGICAL PROPERTIES OF (AL-ZHAZHI) CHEESE AT THE COUNTRYSIDE OF SORAN CITY IN KURDISTAN-NORTH IRAQ

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### ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was to analysis chemical traits and microbiological content in Al-zhazhi cheese; collected from different place in soran city-Kurdistan-north Iraq The study also included the effect of storage freeze for 30 days on the quality of Al-zhazhi cheese. The average values of the chemical analysis were protein 23.80%, fat 20.95%, moisture 54.17%, total solid 45.72%, acidity 0.18% and PH4.73, that study found that some changes in chemical properties after storage all parameter were increased, whereas moisture content 46.52% was decreased after storage. Also there were significant ( $p < 0.01$ ), ( $p < 0.05$ ) changes in acidity 0.32% and PH 3.61 before and after storage. Regarding microbial content, it was noticed that there is some relations between storage and microbial content. the total aerobic bacteria was  $1.98 \times 10^5$  cfu/g significantly decreased after storage. *Staphylococcus aureus* was totally disappoint in some samples were as increased in some other sample. Furthermore, Psychrotrophic bacteria was  $2.72 \times 10^3$  cfu/g significantly increased after storage ( $p < 0.01$ ), ( $p < 0.05$ ). In addition, this result showed that the chemical properties that conformity for each analysis data after storage during freeze. However, high rate of *Staphylococcus aureus* and Psychrotrophic in (Al-zhazhi) sample, after storage during freeze suggesting a lack of sanitary conditions during production. Assess time of storage especially during freeze significantly ( $P < 0.01$ ) ( $P < 0.05$ ), affected the analysis of chemical and microbiological properties on (Al-zhazhi) cheese.

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## INTRODUCTION

It is considered one of the Kurdish semi-soft cheeses in Kurdistan North Iraq and other places in Kurdistan. It is called Aushari cheese and also locally known as Al-zhazhi. The cheese is characterized by having a special taste and special hot flavor by consumers. The type of cheese is made particularly by local people in the villages who have large herds of sheep and goats and large quantity of milk (Al-Rekabi, 1981). Soft Cheese is the first dairy products that have emerged since the dawn of history, record Aaragiwn of the ancient Sumerians and Alabablin as evidenced by the cheese industry on the walls of their temples before more than 300 years as well as is the case in the temples of the pharaohs in Egypt before more than 4000 years. Also Turkey is about 15 million, 1 million and 518 thousand tons/year, Consumption of milk and other dairy products is associated with numerous health benefits, most consumed dairy products in Turkey (Kamber, 2008).

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Cheese food item contain a lot of protein and a good source of vitamins and calcium ready Increasing demand globally for nutritional value the ability to save for a long time and good ability for digestible So is the food item is very suitable (Kosikowski, 1983) (Meyer, 1973) (El-shibinyet *al.* 1984). Al-zhazhi cheese one of the types of soft cheese that is most often consumed cheeses in rural parts of Turkey (Kamber, 2008) and these cheeses are often manufactured in family corporations according to traditional methods, however, it is produced in well-equipped factories, as well (Bakirci *et al.*, 2008); (Kamber, 2008). This cheeses product from cow, sheep or goat's milk by acidification of milk or yoghurt in Turkey, Pesta Al-aushari cheese curd take place by heating of yoghurt, so this cheese aroma is so different from milk curd (F. Durluet *al.*, 2013). In the countryside of Erbil and Duhok, cheese are made from raw milk of goats, sheep or mixed one. It's held like balls until it becomes a cheese. Then it's transferred into special equipment's to discard the excess. Then some salt added and left for a while to be stored later. Cheese has been stored in sheep or goats skin during the early, which was added some herbals as a preserves. Some time it was stored in caves or digged holes, this shows that the storage was differ with location as well as time. Most women in the countryside are

able to make cheese as they inherited from their ancestors. (Dalalyet *al.*, 1976). Moreover, there are other factors in the cheese industry, including moisture content, fat content, acidity and PH. The moisture content in terms of the importance of maintaining the quality of a food industry, high moisture will work on microbiology undesirable growth which determine the quality of food products including processed cheese (Kosikowski, 1982). The influence of freezing on chemical properties of white cheese samples during freeze period for days, that observed the decrease of moisture content and high fat content with acidity (El-shibinyet *al.* 1984) (Alichandiset *al.*, 1981). Al-zhazhi is important dairy products because they have low fat or non-fat contained excess amounts of casein and whey proteins and cheap products of low revenues for people. In general Al-zhazhi (Cokelek) and lor cheeses are very similar in appearance to each other; although they are completely different from each other. It is obtained by heat treatment from acidified whole-fat milk or medium-skimmed milk while Al-zhazhi contains casein and serum proteins in its structure because of the applied heat treatment to milk. This cheese is produced in various ways and called different names in some parts of Turkey. Example, it is known as "Al-zhazhi" or "Aushari" in south of Iraq and "Cokelek" in North of Turkey with other different names "Eksimik" in Western Anatolia, "Trakya" in the Black Sea, and "SütKoptu", "Akkatik", "Kesik", "Torak", "Urda" or "SütKirmasi" in parts of the Mediterranean and Eastern Anatolia (Tarakçiet *al.*, 2003), (Kamber and Çelik, 2007).

There are several types of cheeses having various structure, shape and taste due to numerous factors especially in our country which is the centre of East and West Culture. Many factors affect the cheese variety. The type of the milk (cow's, sheep's and goat's milk cheese), the method of clotting (acid, coagulating enzyme cheese), the process in which whether milk is exposed to heating process or not (raw or pasteurized cheese), its fat ratio (whole, low-fat, non-fat), its structure (very hard, hard, soft cheese), its salt ratio (salted, unsalted cheese), its additives (several herbs and spices, salts for melting and cheese made by supporting its mould growth) and its ripening period (fresh, semi-ripened and ripened cheese) (Üçüncüet *al.*, 2004) (Durluet *al.*, 2007). The aim of this study was analysis some chemical and microbiological contents of Al-zhazhi cheese samples from different village places around in soran city and to assess their freezing effects on cheese (Al-zhazhi).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Materials

It was obtained models of Soft Cheese (AL-ZHAZHI) 10 samples (250 g) were randomly collected between (November 2015 till February 2016), from different village's Soran city. The samples were transported in sterile plastic bags to the laboratory under aseptic and refrigerated conditions to conduct of chemical and microbiological analysis was performed within 2 to 4 hours of purchase.

### (AL-ZHAZHI) manufacture

Al-zhazhi raw material is different from that another soft cheese. It is obtained by boiling of milk, yogurt (drink yogurt),

its production method is easy and it has a low salt proportion. There are various Al-zhazhi they are those having regional characteristics. The samples were collected from different local places around soran territory; this old and traditional method for making Al-zhazhi cheese was followed.

Firstly, after make yogurt from goat and sheep the milk. The milk was then shaking to separate the cream from butter milk, the buttermilk was heated heat to approximately (45-46), within a quarter of an hour and salted until clotting aggregated and the aggregated part was slitter and lor crud was made, according to traditional custom and habits. Secondly, they are added different herbs (Be Zaw, Kurada, Kangir) mixed with it and then they are kept and stored in animal skins (goat skin) in cool or low temperature places and then buried (underground) or sometimes transported to caves for a certain period (60-70) days to complete (Al-zhazhi) called this type of soft cheese it is most consumed dairy products and famous in the villages of Kurdistan northern Iraq.

### Chemical Procedure

Protein content was determined by using keldahl according to the method of (AOAC, 1990). Total solids (TS) were determined by the according method (AOAC, 1990). Fat content was measured by the Gerber method (AOAC, 1984). The moisture content in the samples drying in a way that electric oven type (Mommert) and PH-meter, pH values according method (Ling, 1956). Determine acidity by using the calibration alkali (0.1 NaOH) (AOAC, 1990).

### Microbiological analysis

Total number of aerobic bacteria, Using Nutrient agar Nutrient Agar, and incubated it at 37 °C for 48 hours (Colleeet *al.*, 1996). The Staphylococcus aureus period the storage period were enumerated according to (Stiles, 1977) and (Oxoid Manual, 1982). Psychotropic bacteria were enumerated on plate count agar (Plate count Agar) and incubated at 7°C ± 1°C for 10 days (A.P.H.A, 1985).

### Statistical analysis

All of the statistical calculation performed using SPSS statistical software and the obtained values were presented as the mean, standard error, standard deviation, minimum, and maximum and evolution of significance was performed by analysis of variance followed by spearman correlation between the some chemical and numbers of microorganism's properties of cheese (Al-zhazhi) samples before storage. The significance levels of P < 0.05, P < 0.01 were used for determining statistical difference. Colony counts were converted to log cfu g<sup>-1</sup> and means.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of Chemical composition of the Al-zhazhi samples before and after storage during freezing at 30 days are shown in Table 1 and Microbial analysis is presented in Table 2.

**Table 1. Results of the Chemical analysis of (AL-ZHAZHI) cheese after and before during freeze-storing at 30 days**

Storage Time	g/100 g Al-zhazhi of cheese (n=15)					
	Before storage	After storage at 30 days	Before storage	After storage at 30 days	Before storage	After storage at 30 days
Chemical Parameter	Mean± S.D	Mean ±S.D	Minimum	Minimum	Maximum	Maximum
Protein %	23.80± 1.67	26.59±1.32	21.56	24.50	26.41	28.20
Fat %	20.95± 2.01	24.01±2.25	18.05	20.35	24.52	27.00
Moisture %	54.17± 2.38	46.52±2.72	50.09	43.19	57.72	50.76
Total Solid %	45.72± 2.34	54.27±2.94	42.28	49.24	49.91	57.22
Acidity %	0.18± 0.06	0.32±0.03	0.11	0.29	0.28	0.39
PH	4.73± 0.23	3.61±0.41	4.30	2.92	4.99	3.98

**Table 1. Results of the Microbiological analysis of (AL-ZHAZHI) cheese after and before during freeze-storing at 30 days (log cfu g<sup>-1</sup>)**

Storage Time	g/100 g Al-zhazhi of cheese (n=15)					
	Before storage	After storage at 30 days	Before storage	After storage at 30 days	Before storage	After storage at 30 days
Microbial Parameter	Mean± S.D(cfu/g) <sup>a</sup>	Mean ±S.D(cfu/g) <sup>a</sup>	Minimum <sup>a</sup>	Minimum <sup>a</sup>	Maximum <sup>a</sup>	Maximum <sup>a</sup>
Total Aerobic bacteria <sup>a</sup>	2.80×10 <sup>5</sup> ±20.26×10 <sup>5</sup>	1.98×10 <sup>5</sup> ±17.94×10 <sup>5</sup>	4.4×10 <sup>4</sup>	4.0×10 <sup>4</sup>	4.8×10 <sup>5</sup>	3.9×10 <sup>5</sup>
Staphylococcus <sup>a</sup>	15.90×10 <sup>2</sup> ±14.7×10 <sup>2</sup>	1.21×10 <sup>2</sup> ±15.71×10 <sup>2</sup>	- <sup>b</sup>	- <sup>b</sup>	3.6×10 <sup>2</sup>	4.1×10 <sup>2</sup>
Psychotropic <sup>a</sup>	2.04×10 <sup>3</sup> ±15.10×10 <sup>3</sup>	2.72×10 <sup>3</sup> ±20.60×10 <sup>3</sup>	2.1×10 <sup>2</sup>	4.0×10 <sup>2</sup>	3.6×10 <sup>3</sup>	47×10 <sup>3</sup>

a,cfu: colony forming unit

b,(-): Not detected

**Table 3. The Correlation between the some chemical and Microbial properties of (AL-ZHAZHI) samples before storage**

	Protein	Moisture	T.S	FAT	PH	Acidity	TAB	S.aureus	psychrotrophic
Protein	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moisture	-0.178	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T.S	0.154	-0.991(***)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
FAT	-0.425	0.194	-0.129	1	-	-	-	-	-
PH	-0.097	-0.273	0.365	0.076	1	-	-	-	-
Acidity	-0.046	0.446	-0.473	0.295	-0.816(**)	1	-	-	-
TAB	-0.349	-0.179	0.236	0.200	0.513	-0.430	1	-	-
S.aureus	0.145	-0.360	0.417	0.003	0.457	-0.274	-0.017	1	-
Psychrotrophic	-0.291	-0.089	0.143	0.198	0.454	-0.370	0.983(***)	-0.083	1

T.S=Total solid, TAB=Total aerobic bacteria, S=Staphylococcus, Cold-loving bacteria= Psychrotrophic

\*\*P&lt; 0.01

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

Number of Sample: 15

**Table 4. The Correlation between the some chemical and Microbial properties of (AL-ZHAZHI) samples after storage during 30 days**

	Protein	Moisture	T.S	FAT	PH	Acidity	TAB	S.aureus	psychrotrophic
Protein	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moisture	-0.058	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T.S	-0.155	-0.660(**)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
FAT	-0.390(**)	0.697(**)	-0.247	1	-	-	-	-	-
PH	-0.293(*)	0.256	-0.579(**)	0.122	1	-	-	-	-
Acidity	0.102	-0.151	0.389(**)	-0.049	-0.814(***)	1	-	-	-
TAB	-0.850(**)	-0.062	0.454(**)	0.418(**)	0.034	0.043	1	-	-
S.aureus	-0.773(**)	-0.607(**)	0.607(**)	-0.767(**)	-0.543(**)	0.692(**)	0.786(**)	1	-
psychrotrophic	-0.098	-0.155	-0.342(*)	0.184	0.203	0.059	-0.061	-0.286	1

T.S=Total solid, TAB=Total aerobic bacteria, S=Staphylococcus, Cold-loving bacteria= Psychrotrophic

\*P&lt; 0.05; \*\*P&lt; 0.01

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

Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Number of Sample: 15

As for the chemical analysis, it was the average moisture value of Al-zhazhi cheese increased before storage was found between 50.09 and 57.72, and value of Mean was 54.17± 2.38 in samples but after storage the average of moisture value was decreased to 43.19 and 50.76 of and value of mean was 54.17±2.38. This change or difference in moisture content during storage that is shown table 1 and 2 this decline may be due to the crystallization of water and separated from the rest of the components Al-zhazhi cheese when solvent. This result was agreement with (Alichandiset al., 1981) also this finding it was

higher than 40.31% was found by (Donia Suleiman et al., 2013). The Fat content of Al-zhazhi cheese before storage was found varying between 18.05 and 24.52 with an average value of Mean 20.95% in Al-zhazhi samples but after storage at 30 days the average of fat was increase of varying between 20.35 and 27.00 with an average value was 24.01±2.25 and that the gradual rise in the fat content after storage could be due to the decrease in moisture content (Table 1 and 2), this finding was agreement with (Filchakova et al. 1979) Also this study of the average fat was lower than 22.08 % that was found by

(Tarakçiet *et al.* 2003) and were higher, and were in agreement with data from (Kavazet *al.* 2012) and (Kirdaret *al.* 2012). This Protein values were finding before storage between 21.56 and 26.41 and the average of protein level was found as Mean  $\pm$  S.D 23.80 % but after storage the protein values was changed in some analysis and increase between 24.50 and 28.20 the average of protein level was found as Mean  $\pm$  S.D 26.59 this finding was agreement with 21.66 % by (Tarakçiet *al.* 2003) and were higher than with 17.9% reported by (Bahri PATIR *et al.* 2007) and also this was similar to that reported by (Kurt and Caglar, 1988) (16.91–31.16 g/100 g), but this study it was lower than the value (26.35–39.12 g/100 g) found by (Cakiret *al.*, 2009). It found between this study and previous studies that caused the discrepancy in cheese production of Al-zhazhi cheese. The average Total Solid (T.S) was found as 45.72  $\pm$  2.34 in the samples of Al-zhazhi the values were between 42.28 and 49.91. The total solid contents of the cheese samples during after storage by freezing at 30 days, the total solid values increased were between 49.24 and 57.22 and the average of total solid 54.27  $\pm$  2.94% in samples (Table 1). This finding was agreement with (Arzuet *al.*, 2012) similar results were obtained by (El-Owni and Hamid, 2008) This changes or increase in total solid contents could be due to continuous loss of moisture from the curd (Al-zhazhi) as a result of lactic acid developments which cause curd contraction. (Aly and Galal, 2002), (Abdol-Elsalame *al.*, 1993) However, that the increase in total solid could be due to salt absorption and / or water diffusion of some soluble components between brine and sample of cheese mixture.

This pH values before storage were between 4.30 and 4.99, the average pH was 4.73  $\pm$  0.23%. But after storage by freezing at 30 days, the PH values decreased were between 2.92 and 3.98, and the average PH was 3.61  $\pm$  0.41% in samples (table 1) it may reason could be due to the inhibition of bacteria activity during freezing because of separation of water and some dissolved materials during thawing this finding was agreement with (Alichandiset *al.* 1981) Similar deviations were reported by (Ates-Öksüztepe *et al.* 2007) And also this finding was lower than previously reported values as 4.87 from 25 samples of cokelek (Al-zhazhi) (Ağaoğlu *et al.* 1996). This can be explained by different quality of raw material used in production of Al-zhazhi cheese. The values acidity content of Al-zhazhi cheese samples before storage were between 0.11 and 0.28, the average of acidity was 0.18  $\pm$  0.06% but after storage The values acidity increased were between 0.29 and 0.39, and the average acidity was 0.32  $\pm$  0.03 in samples (Table 1). These studies were similar to those obtained from the studies of (Ates-Öksüztepe *et al.*, 2007), (Table 1). These findings are lower than the values reported by other researchers (Tarakçiet *al.*, 2003, (Ağaoğlu *et al.*, 1996), (Küçüköner *et al.*, 1998), such difference can occur due to the different raw material and the difference in production method.

The results of microbiological analyses of Al-zhazhi Cheese, (Table. 2) illustrates that the effect of freezing on the total number bacteria in Al-zhazhi cheese. It is obvious that the total number of bacteria growth was reduced after freeze-storing the cheese. It was the values total number of bacteria of Al-zhazhi samples before storage was 4.4  $\times 10^5$  cfu/g and 4.8  $\times 10^5$  cfu/g, the average of total number aerobic bacteria were 2.80  $\times 10^5$  cfu/g and then the value total number of bacteria was decreased after 30 days during storage to 3.9  $\times 10^5$  cfu/g and 4.0  $\times 10^5$  cfu/g, the average of total number aerobic bacteria were

1.98  $\times 10^5$  cfu/g, it can be seen that the inhibition of bacteria was not significant. This is due to the bacteria protection by fat and protein. This result were agreement with (Alichandiset *al.*, 1981) and this was similar to that reported by (Kavazet *al.*, 2012), but lower than those reported by (Kurt and Caglar, 1988). In this study Staphylococcus aureus was detected in 6 samples before storage of Al-zhazhi cheese but detected in 5 samples after 30 days during storage. The range of minimum values of Staphylococcus aureus before storage and after 30 days during storage was not detected. Because the results number of staphylococcus aureus showed that many of the sample were free from bacteria and the samples which contained bacteria the number of the bacteria was very low did not exceed 10<sup>2</sup> but the maximum values before storage and after 30 days during storage was 3.6  $\times 10^2$  cfu/g, and 4.1  $\times 10^2$  cfu/g, of Staphylococcus aureus, and then the average of Staphylococcus aureus decrease in from 15.90  $\times 10^2$  cfu to 1.21  $\times 10^2$  cfu Log cfu/g in sample (Table 2) it was recorded after storage 30-days of samples. This finding agreement with (Önganer and Kirbag, 2009) and this was similar by (Ayşe, 2012), Personal contamination and environment during production and storage may produce high counts of Staphylococcus aureus plays role in causing cheese spoilage.

The average number of Psychrotrophic (Cold-loving bacteria) before storage were between 2.1  $\times 10^2$  cfu/g and 3.6  $\times 10^3$  cfu/g, the average of Psychrotrophic bacteria was 2.04  $\times 10^3$  cfu/g But after storage by freezing for 30 days, the number values of Psychrotrophic was increased to 4.0  $\times 10^2$  cfu/g and 47  $\times 10^3$  cfu/g, the average of Psychrotrophic bacteria was 2.72  $\times 10^3$  cfu/g, that is the high number of lipase-producing psychrotrophic bacteria may affect the levels of lypolysis in cheeses. This finding agreement with (Tarakçı *et al.*, 2003) (Tarakçiet *al.*, 2004) and this was difference by (Arzuet *al.*, 2012). The Pearson's correlation coefficient analyses between chemical and microbial before storage and after storage during 30 days in (Al-zhazhi) samples. There was a significant negative correlation between total solid and moisture  $r = -0.991$  ( $p < 0.01$ ), also a negative correlation was observed between acidity and PH  $r = -0.816$  ( $p < 0.01$ ) and significant positive correlation were between found Total aerobic bacteria and Psychrotrophic count  $r = 0.983$  ( $p < 0.01$ ), (Table.3).

However, the correlation coefficient analyses between chemical and microbial after storage during for 30 days in (Al-zhazhi) samples. There was a significant negative correlation between total solid and moisture content  $r = -0.660$  ( $p < 0.01$ ). A significant negative correlation was also found between fat and protein content  $r = -0.390$  ( $p < 0.01$ ), and observed a significant positive correlation was between fat and moisture  $r = -0.697$  ( $p < 0.01$ ), significant negative correlation were observed between PH and protein  $r = -0.293$  ( $p < 0.05$ ), also PH and total solid was significant positive correlation  $r = -0.579$  ( $p < 0.01$ ). There was a significant positive correlation was found between the acidity content and total solid  $r = -0.389$  ( $p < 0.01$ ), but a significant negative correlation was observed of acidity content with PH  $r = -0.814$  ( $p < 0.01$ ). The total aerobic bacteria were negatively correlated with protein  $r = -0.850$  ( $p < 0.01$ ), but a significant positive correlation was also observed between total aerobic bacteria and total solid and fat  $r = -0.454$  ( $p < 0.01$ ), and  $r = 0.418$  ( $p < 0.01$ ). A significant negative correlation was

found between S.aureus with (protein, moisture, fat and PH)  $r = -0.773(p<0.01)$ ,  $r = -0.607(p<0.01)$ ,  $r = -0.767(p<0.01)$  and  $r = -0.543(p<0.01)$ , respectively. Also the S.aureus with (total solid, acidity and total aerobic bacteria count) were observed positively correlated as  $r = -0.607(p<0.01)$ ,  $r = -0.692(p<0.01)$ , and  $r = -0.786(p<0.01)$ . A significant negative correlation was found between Psychrotrophic count and total solid content  $r = -0.342(p<0.05)$ . A big variation was observed between samples before storage and after storage by freezing for 30 days which could be related to the production and storage under condition not suitable for food microbiology and chemistry.

## Conclusion

These products Al-zhazhicheese are often the only dietary source of animal protein for people with high incomes in our country. In this study that observe was the chemical analyses properties that conformity 80% for each analysis data after storage during freeze. to some extent, the microbiological content of these products does not comply with criteria of the (WHO) because the presence of high rate of Staphylococcus aureus and Psychrotrophic (Al-zhazhi) sample, suggesting a lack of sanitary conditions during production.in addition to practicing good manufacturing Practices during Al-zhazhiproduction and storage, examples of which include proper chilling and packaging, enforcement of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) are required to ensure safety of these products.

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