# DEVELOPMENT AND STORAGE OF GINGER (Zingiber officinale) BLEND WITH LIME (Citrus aurantifolia) READY-TO-SERVE (RTS) FUNCTIONAL BEVERAGE, SWEETENED BY PALMYRA SUGAR CANDY.

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#### ABSTRACT

In this modern world, there has been growing recognition of the key role of foods and beverages in disease hindrance and treatment. Thus, the production and consumption of functional beverages has gained much importance as they provide a health benefit apart the basic nutritional functions. Therefore, a study was conducted to develop a functional RTS beverage by exploiting the medicinal, nutritional and organoleptic properties of ginger juice, lime juice and palmyra sugar candy.

Local and Chinese varieties of ginger rhizomes were taken and their physico-chemical and organoleptic parameters were analysed to select the best variety of ginger for RTS beverage formulation. Considering the findings of several preliminary studies, six formulations of the functional RTS blends were prepared by blending different percentages of ginger juice and lime juice including a control (where only ginger juice was added). The freshly prepared formulations were subjected to physico-chemical and sensory analysis and most preferred formulations (four formulations including a control) were selected for storage studies. The formulations were stored at 30°C room temperature and 70-75% of RH for 12 weeks. Physico-chemical parameters such as pH, TSS, titrable acidity, ascorbic acid content and total sugar, organoleptic qualities such as colour, aroma, pungency, taste and overall acceptability and microbial analysis (total plate count) were analysed after formulation and during storage period.

The study on comparison of physico-chemical and sensory qualities of selected varieties of ginger rhizomes revealed that Local variety was more preferred than the Chinese variety. The nutritional analysis of the freshly prepared RTS beverage shown increasing trend in titrable acidity (from 0.22 to 0.52%, as % of citric acid), TSS (from

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12.6 to 16.8 °Brix), ascorbic acid content (from 12.4 to 56.9 mg/100 ml) and total sugar (from 16.6 to 20.39%) with increase in lime juice extract from 2 to 10%. The pH was reduced when lime juice concentration is increased. Seven point hedonic scale was used to evaluate the organoleptic characters. According to Friedman's test, the mean scores for all the assessed sensory characters varied significantly (p<0.05) in the freshly made RTS beverages formulations.

The declining trends in pH, TSS and ascorbic acid and an increasing trend in titrable acidity and total sugar was noted with advancement of storage period of 12 weeks. The results of chemical analysis showed that, there were significance differences (p<0.05) between the tested formulations. The sensory analysis also showed that there were significant differences (p<0.05) for organoleptic characters between RTS beverage formulations. The highest overall acceptability was observed in formulation with 12% of ginger juice with 8% of lime juice and the all formulations were microbiologically safe for consumption.

Based on the results of physico-chemical characteristics, sensory attributes and microbial test, the RTS functional beverage with 12% of ginger juice with 8% of lime juice was selected as best formulation and could be stored for 12 weeks without any significant changes in the quality characteristics.

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