

Evaluation of radical Scavenging of peptides after *in vitro* digests of chicken protein

Gema Nieto Martínez

Table of contents

1	Introduction
2	Hypothesis
3	Objectives
4	Methodology
5	Results
6	Conclusion

1

Introduction

Major food protein sources

Animal protein sources ~ 20%:

- Meat, collagen, plasma
- Milk, caseins, whey proteins
- Eggs, fish, marine invertebrates

Oilseeds~ 16%:

- Soy bean
- Sunflower
- Rapeseed/canola
- Flaxseed
- Other oilseeds



Plant protein sources ~ 80%:

- Favabeans
- Peas, other legumes

Cereal proteins/grains:~ 57%

Wheat, barley, rye, rice, maize

- Other, e.g. quinoa

Other proteins ~ 1%:

- Algae
- Microbial/single cell

Protein functionalities in food

1. TECHNOLOGICAL FUNCTIONALITY

- Solubility, Water holding,
- Gelling, Foaming,
- Emulsifying capacity

2. SENSORY QUALITY

- Color
- Texture & juiciness
- Flavour

3. PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS

- Nutrition – amino acids
- Antinutritional and toxic compounds
- Enzyme inhibitors
- allergy, substrate for toxic compounds
- Health promoting compounds

Substrate for bioactive peptides

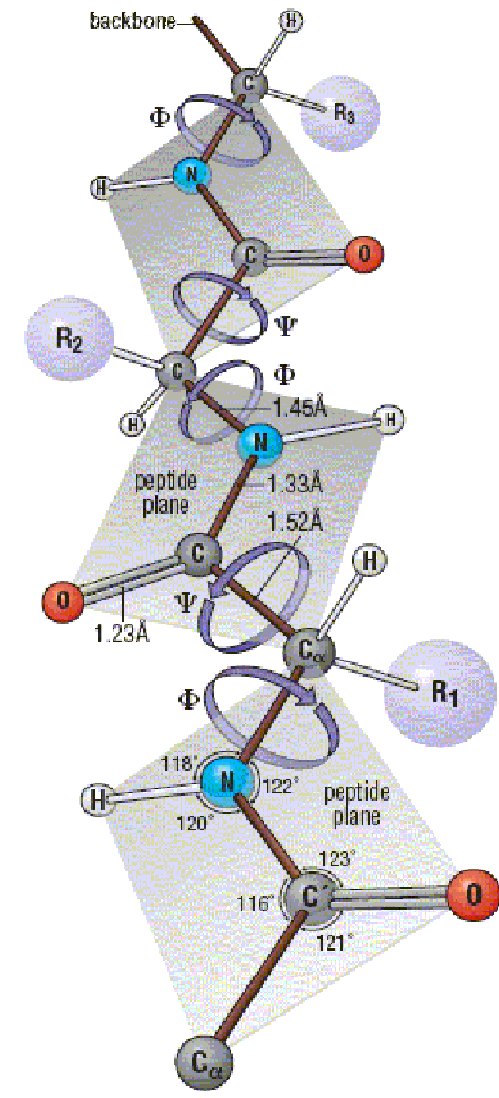


PEPTIDE

The word “peptide” comes from the Greek term “πεπτός” *peptós*, “small digestibles”

Peptides are short polymers of amino acids linked by peptide bonds.

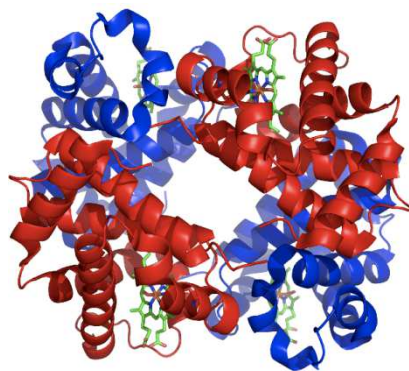
One or more polypeptide subunits constitute a protein molecule.



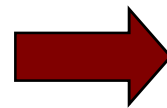
BIOACTIVE PEPTIDE

Peptides with a **biological activity** in addition to the nutritional value

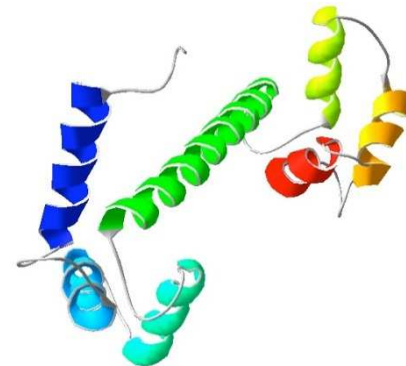
Sequences of amino acids which are **inactive** within the original protein but which display specific properties once they are released by enzymatic hydrolysis



Native protein molecule



Enzymatic hydrolysis



BIOACTIVE PEPTIDES

Food protein substrates for bioactive peptides

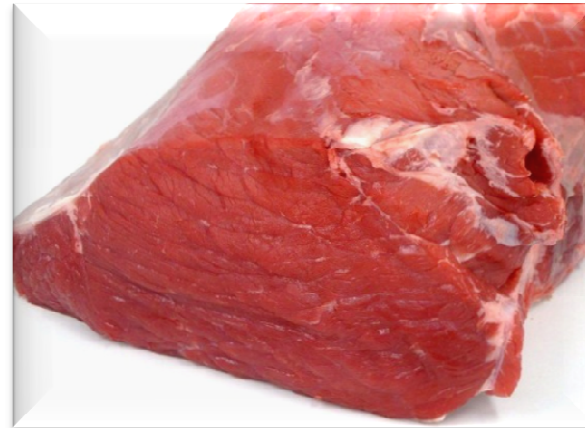
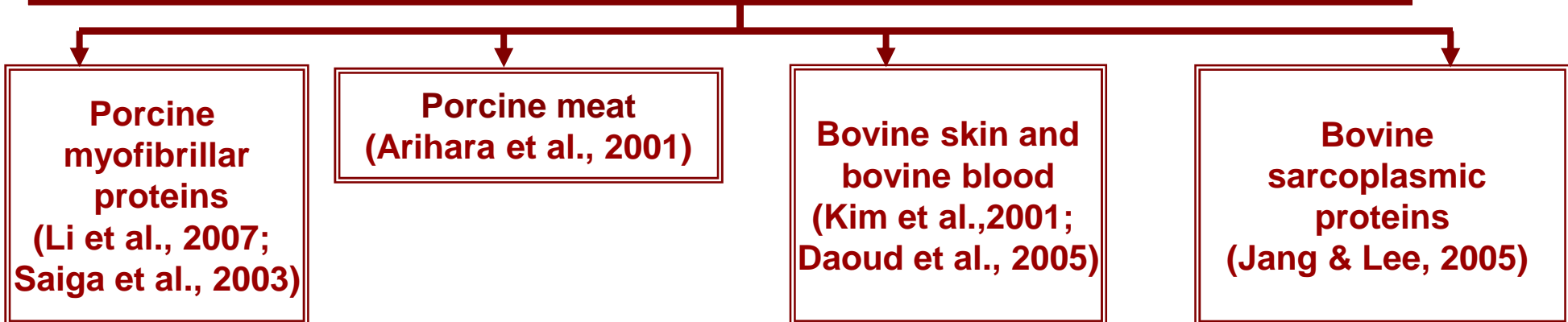
- 1. Plant protein sources:** soy protein, cereal protein, rice, pea protein, barley, sunflower meal, flaxseed.
- 2. Other proteins:** algae.
- 3. Animal protein sources:**
 - Milk protein, eggs, fish protein, marine invertebrates.
 - **Meat:** muscle (porcine, chicken muscle) beef sarcoplasmic proteins, haemoglobin, plasma (porcine, bovine)



The **production of peptides** through **hydrolytic reactions** seems to be the most promising technique to form proteinaceous antioxidants since peptides have substantially higher antioxidant activity than intact proteins.

While hydrolyzed proteins have good **antioxidant activity**, it is still not well-understood how the composition of peptides influences their ability to inhibit lipid oxidation.

Generation bioactive peptides from meat



Release of bioactive peptides from proteins

Fermentation in food

- Microorganisms/proteolytic enzymes, e.g. yogurt and cheese

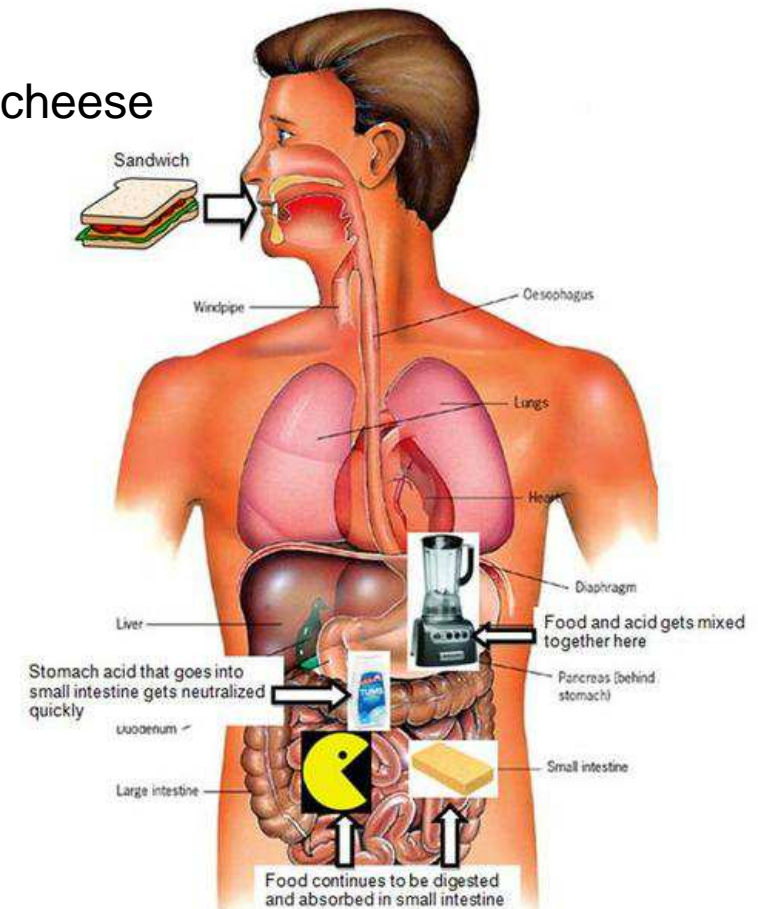
Hydrolysis of protein preparations *in vitro*

- Digestive enzymes (pepsin, trypsin, chymotrypsin)
- Microbial enzymes (thermolysin, proteinase K)
- Plant enzymes (papain)

During digestion *in vivo*

- Digestive enzymes (pepsin, trypsin, chymotrypsin)

Genetic engineering



Proteolytic enzymes in the digestive system

Stomach (pH 1.5-5)

- Pepsin

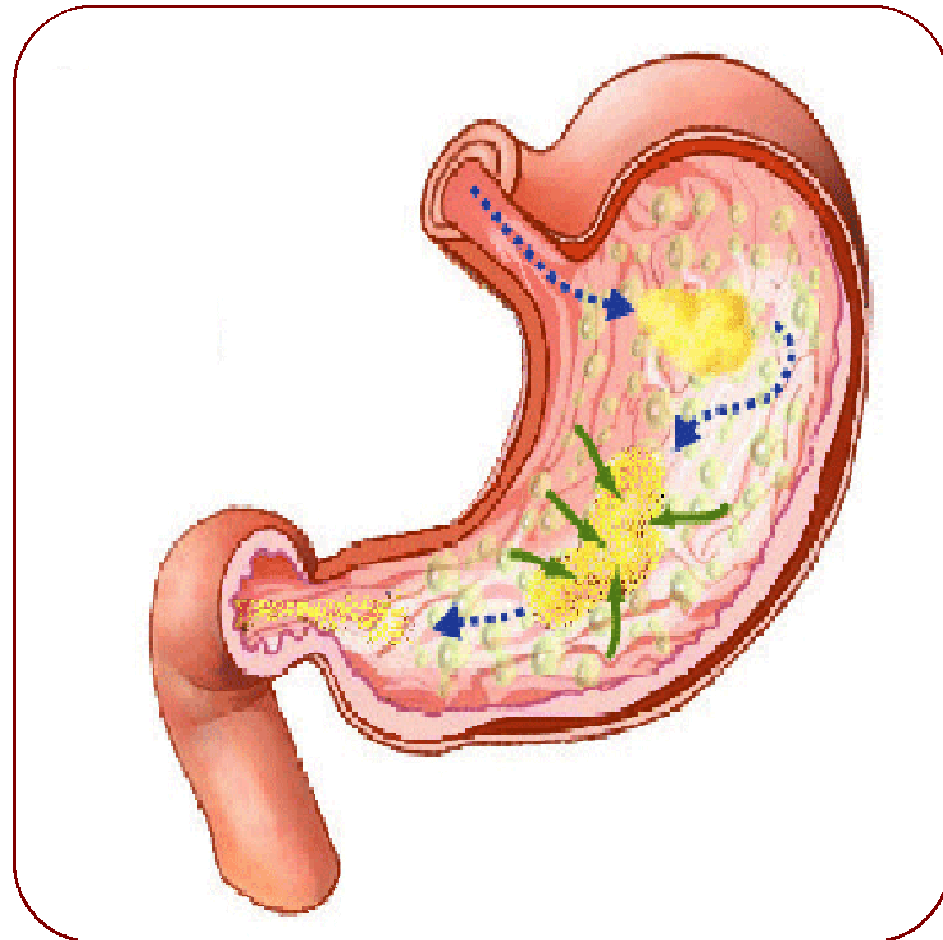
Duodenum (pH 5.7-6.4)

- Trypsin
- Chymotrypsin
- Elastase

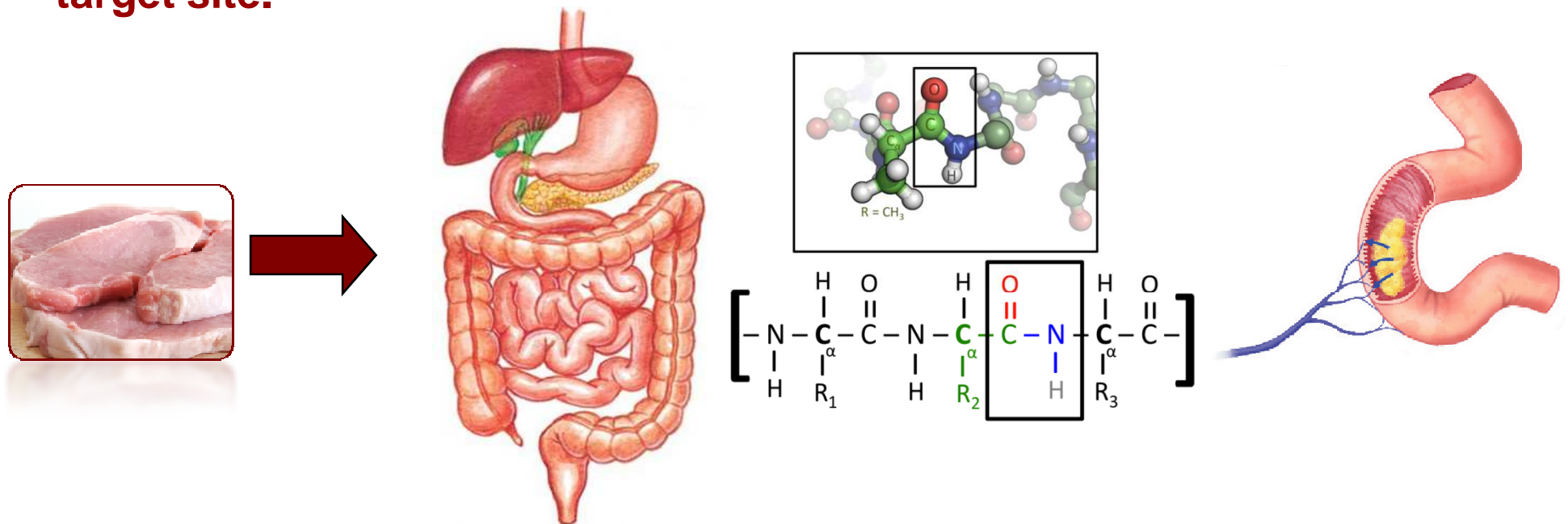
Jejunum (pH 7.4)

- Brush border peptidases
- Enterocyte peptidases

Ileum (pH 7.7)

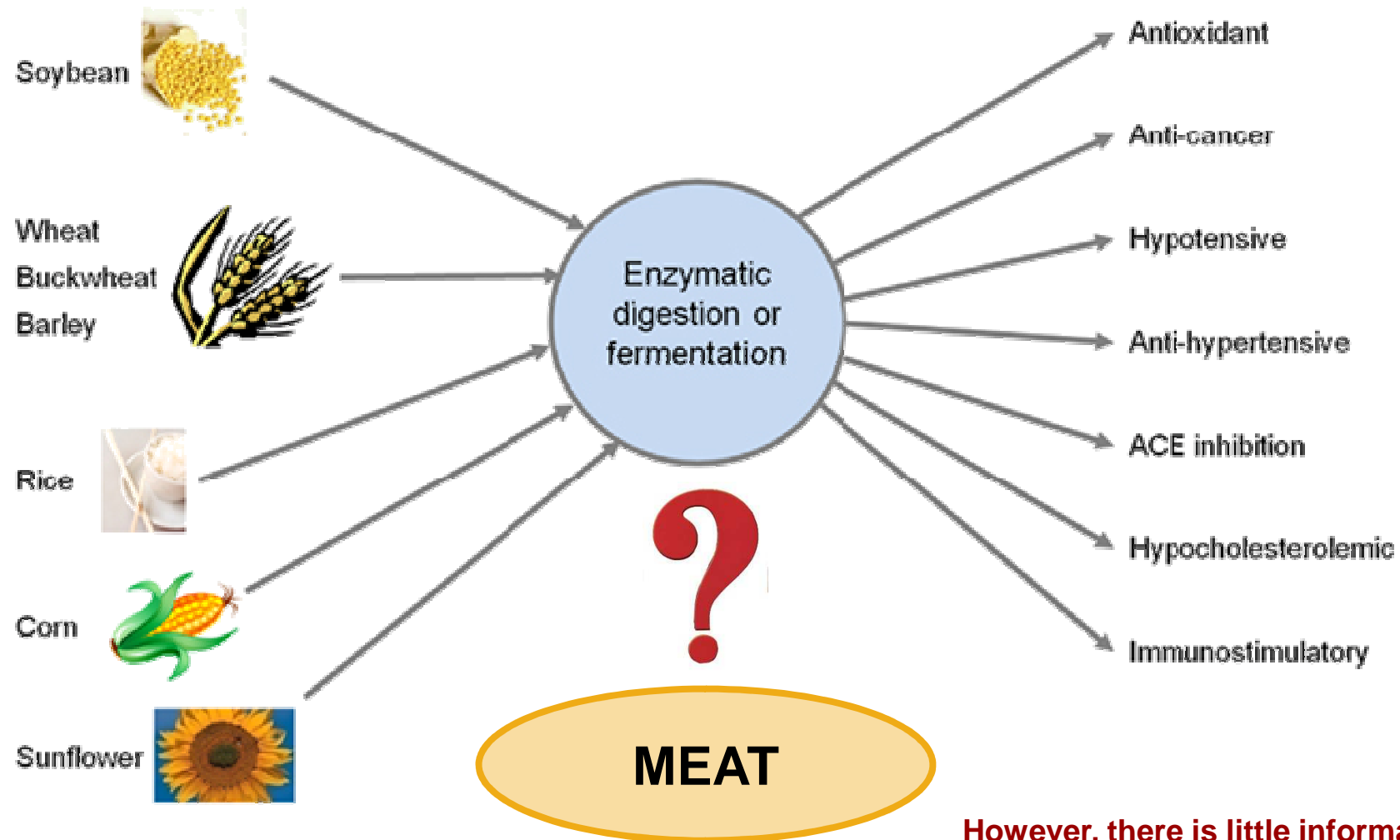


After digestion, bioactive peptides can be absorbed in the intestine and enter the blood stream directly, which ensures their bioavailability *in vivo* and a physiological effect at the target site.



Important role in metabolic regulation and modulation, suggesting their potential use as functional food ingredients for health promotion and disease risk reduction.

Types of bioactivity



However, there is little information about antioxidant peptides generated in meat.

Meat derived peptides have a myriad of **bioactive potential including:**

1. Antioxidant

2. Antimicrobial

3. ACE-I-inhibitory

4. Anti-thrombotic

5. Cytomodulatory functions

ACE: angiotensin I-converting enzyme

1. Antioxidant

IMPLICATED DISEASE STATES



Table 1. Antioxidant protein hydrolysates and peptides from muscle and by-products.

Amino acid sequence	Species	Source	Reference
D-S-G-V-T, I-E-A-E-G-E, D-A-Q-E-K-L-E, E-E-L-D-N-A-L-N, V-P-S-I-D-D-Q-E-E-L-M	Porcine	Muscle	Saiga et al. (2003)
D-L-Y-A, S-L-Y-A, V-W	Porcine	Muscle	Arihara (2006)
Q-G-A-R, L-Q-G-M, L-Q-G-M-Hyp, Hyl-C	Porcine	By-product	Li et al. (2007)
M-Q-I-F-V-K-T-L-T-G, D-L-S-D-G-E-Q-G-V-L	Venison	Muscle	Kim et al. (2009)
G-E-Hyp-G-P-Hyp-G-A-Hyp, G-P-Hyp-G-P-Hyp-G-P-Hyp-G, G-P-Hyp-G-P-Hyp-G-P-Hyp	Bovine	By-product	Kim et al. (2001)
P-S-K-Y-E-P-F-V	Grass carp	Muscle	Ren et al. (2008a)
-	Mackerel	Muscle	Wu et al. (2003)
-	Yellow stripe trevally	Muscle	Klompong et al. (2007)
N-A-D-P-G-L-N-G-L-E-G-L-A, N-G-L-E-G-L-K	Giant squid	Muscle	Rajapakse et al. (2005)

2

Hypothesis

Proteins in raw and processed foods can possess antioxidant peptide sequences and structural domains; the **active fragments** are released during the **GI digestion process**.

Reported **high-efficiency radical scavenging peptides** released through in vitro pepsin and pancreatin digestion include those from:

1. Casein (Hernandez-Ledesma, Amigo, Ramos, & Recio, 2004)
 1. A maize zein (Zhu, Chen, Tang, & Xiong, 2008)
 2. Oyster protein (*Crassostrea gigas*) (Qian, Jung, Byun, & Kim, 2008)
 3. Mussel protein (*Mytilus coruscus*) (Jung et al., 2007).
-

it is hypothesized that hydrolysis of **chicken protein** can release the peptide fragments capable of stabilising ROS and inhibiting lipid oxidation.

****The specific peptides or peptide fractions responsible for the antioxidant functions have not been elucidated.**

3

Objectives

In the present study, the ability of mixed as well as individual fractions of *in vitro* pepsin–pancreatin sequential digests of **chicken protein** to stabilise $\cdot\text{OH}$, DPPH and ABTS \cdot -radicals was investigated.

The **objective** was to identify the most effective antioxidant peptide fraction(s) from chicken meat *in vitro* digests.

4

Methodology

1. Initially, the digest with the highest radical scavenging capacity was fractionated by means of gel filtration.
 2. The ability to stabilise hydroxyl radical by each post-column fraction with Sephadex G-25 was subsequently examined
 3. And the prominent peptides in active fractions were sequenced by liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry (LC–MS/MS).
-

Chicken breast

Gastric digestion. Pepsin.
pH=1.8

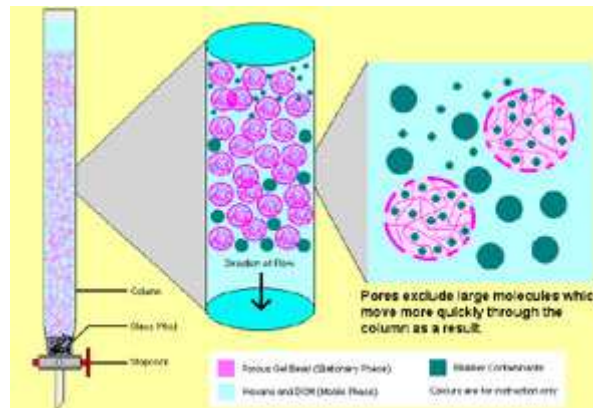
Gastric Intestinal
Digestion.
Pancreatin (pH= 7.5)
and bile salt used for
hydrolysis protein

Antioxidant activity assay:

- ABTS⁺-radical scavenging activity
- DPPH
- OH radicals.

Purification step techniques: Gel filtration chromatography

Figure 1. Experimental design for the generation and characterisation of bioactive peptides.



The 2 h pancreatin digest, which demonstrated the strongest activity against both radicals, was subjected to Sephadex G-25 gel filtration.

DPPH: is a stable free radical that shows maximum absorbance at 517 nm.

When DPPH radicals encounter a proton-donating substrate such as an antioxidant, the radicals would be scavenged and the absorbance is reduced.

The decrease in absorbance is taken as a measure for radical-scavenging activity and thus, antioxidant activity.



The filtered samples were separated and analyzed by HPLC–MS/MS

Then the **MS** and **MS/MS** scans were analyzed for Sherenga de novo sequencing and the probably peptides were listed.

Data were also compared with different NCBI nr databases with enzymatic digestion restriction.

5

Results

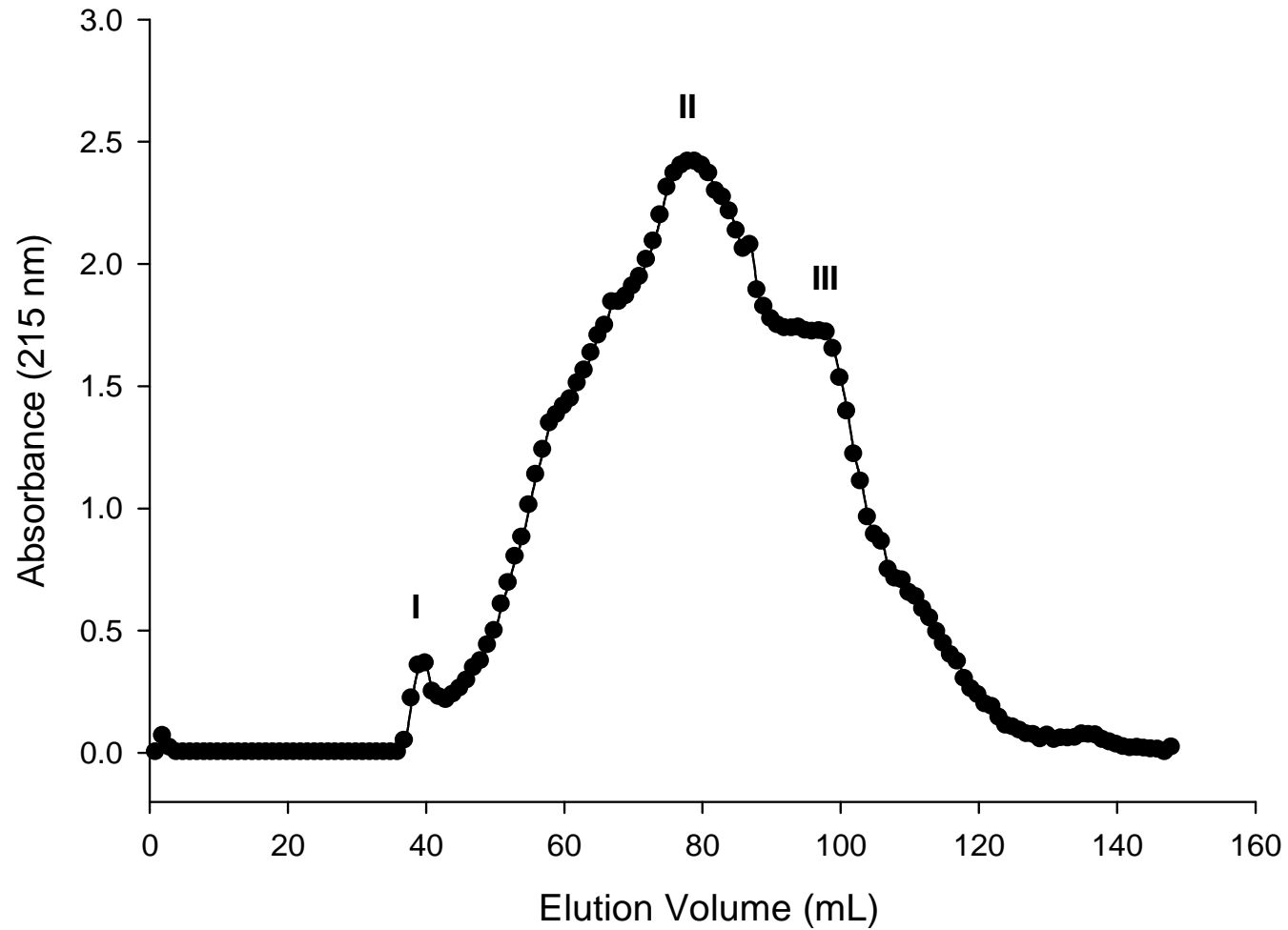


Figure 1. Sephadex G-25 gel filtration of the final in vitro digest (300 min total digestion time) of chicken meat (n = 3).

Of the three fractions collected, **fractions II** (734 Da) and **III** (730 Da) showed the highest DPPH, ABTS+ scavenging activity and were **30-32%** higher to mixed chicken protein digest ($P < 0.05$).

Fraction III was most effective in neutralising $\cdot\text{OH}$ and was **89%** more efficient ($P < 0.05$) than mixed chicken digest.

LC–MS/MS identified:

Fractions III: Ile, Glu, Cys, His, Val

Fractions II: Tyr, Val, Lys, Gln

Fractions I: Arg, Glu, Ser, Ile, Gly, Asp

to be the prominent peptides/ amino acid in these fractions.

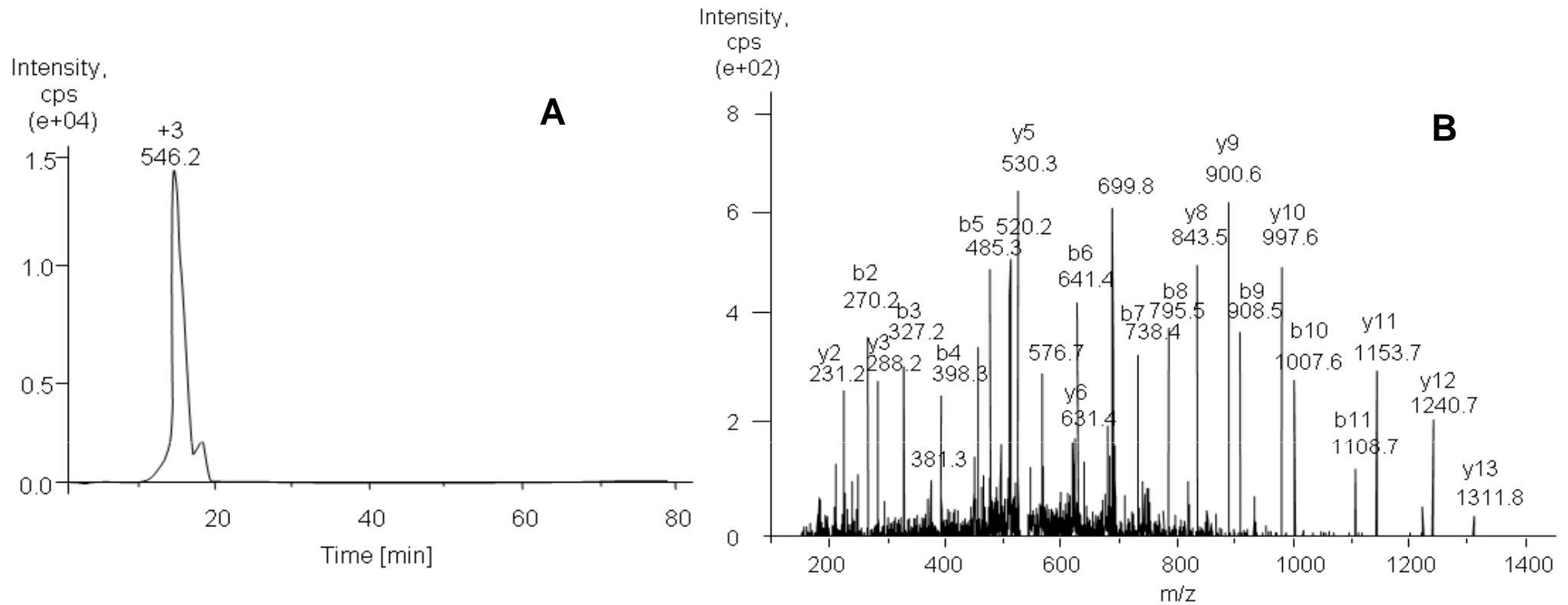


Figure 2. Extracted ion chromatogram (A) and tandem MS/MS spectrum (B) of the prominent peptide present in gel filtration Fraction I.

Proteins are unique antioxidants in that they can inhibit lipid oxidation through multiple pathways including:

- **Inactivation of reactive oxygen species**
 - **Scavenging free radicals**
 - **Chelation of prooxidative transition metals**
 - **Reduction of hydroperoxides**
 - **Alteration of the physical properties of food systems**
-

- Antioxidant peptides mostly contain below **20 amino acid** residues per molecule and molecular masses of less than 6000 Da (Sun *et al.*, 2004).
 - Also, the antioxidant activity of peptides is closely related to their aminoacid constituents, **sequence** (Grimble, 1994) as well as **hydrophobicity** (Chen *et al.*, 1998).
 - In addition to the presence of proper amino acids, their **correct positioning** in peptide sequence plays an important role in antioxidant activity of peptides (Rajapakse *et al.*, 2005)
-

Li, Han & Chen (2008) indicated that antioxidant activity of peptides of molecular mass of **500-1500 Da** is stronger than of peptides above **1500 Da** and peptides below **500 Da**.

On the other hand, antioxidant peptides with lower molecular weights have higher chance to cross the intestinal barrier and **exert biological effects** (Roberts et al.,1999).



Thus, peptides present in these collected fractions having molecular masses lower than **1700 Da** might have biological effect.

6

Conclusion

In conclusion, free radical scavenging activity of chicken protein was accentuated by *in vitro* digestion, especially after 2 h pancreatin digestion following the 1 h pepsin treatment.

On an equal weight concentration basis, fractions enriched with tetrameric peptides containing **Cysteine, Histidine** and **Valine** exhibited the strongest radical scavenging activity.

These short peptides are implicated in the protection of the upper digestive tract of humans from oxidative stresses and may partially explain why dietary protein promotes the health of the GI system.

Understanding the relationship between peptide composition and antioxidant activity could lead to the development of new class of:

- Extremely effective**
- Multifunctional**
- Generally recognized as safe (GRAS) antioxidants**

That could be used in many food applications, including the development of functional foods fortified with oxidatively unstable, yet healthy, unsaturated fatty acids.

Nevertheless, our study has to be considered as a preliminary study so, further research is needed to purify and characterise the peptides that can exert antioxidant activity *in vitro* and then, to determine potential *in vivo* antioxidant activity.



Thanks for your attention

