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This paper must be cited as:

Mariola Sansano Tomás; Castelló Gómez, ML.; Heredia Gutiérrez, AB.; Andrés Grau, AM. (2016). Protective effect of chitosan on acrylamide formation in model and batter systems. *Food Hydrocolloids*. 60:1-6. doi:10.1016/j.foodhyd.2016.03.017



The final publication is available at

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodhyd.2016.03.017>

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Additional Information

1 PROTECTIVE EFFECT OF CHITOSAN ON ACRYLAMIDE FORMATION IN MODEL
2 AND BATTER SYSTEMS

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8 **Abstract**

9 In recent years high contents of acrylamide, a potentially carcinogenic substance, have been
10 found in a wide range of fried and baked foods. For this reason, the health authorities together
11 with the food industry have carried out research to find ways to minimize the presence of
12 acrylamide during food processing. The addition of chitosan may be an excellent alternative for
13 achieving this goal because due to their richness in amino groups, they would interfere with the
14 Maillard reaction that unleashes the formation of acrylamide. The main aims of this study were
15 to analyze the addition of different concentrations of chitosan in model systems as a new way of
16 mitigating generation of acrylamide during frying processes, while evaluating the influence of
17 pH, reducing sugars (glucose and fructose) present in the system and frying temperature, and to
18 determine the functionality of adding chitosan in fried batter systems. The results showed that
19 chitosan is capable of inhibiting the formation of acrylamide in model systems and in fried
20 batters. In model systems, a reduction in acrylamide ranging from 49 to 85 % was achieved for
21 1% of chitosan, the maximum inhibition taking place in asparagine-fructose model systems and
22 the lowest in asparagine-glucose model systems. In fried batter, acrylamide was mitigated by 59
23 ± 6 % with a chitosan concentration of 0.27% in batter formulations. Double concentrations of
24 chitosan (0.54 %) did not considerably improve the inhibition capacity.

25

26 *Keywords:* Acrylamide, Chitosan, Model systems, Batter systems

27

28 **1. Introduction**

29 It is well-known that food processing can improve nutrition, quality and safety. However,
30 toxic substances such as acrylamide can sometimes be formed through the interaction of
31 food compounds, from natural and added ingredient. According to some epidemiological
32 studies, acrylamide is potentially carcinogenic compound for humans (IARC, 1994), not
33 only due to its consumption, but also to its role as a precursor in the development of other
34 compounds during hepatic metabolism such as glycidamide (Blank, 2005). Acrylamide is
35 mainly used in industrial processes used to make paper, dyes, plastics and treating drinking
36 water. However, it can also be present in small amounts in food packaging, some adhesives
37 and cigarette smoke (Rudel, Ackerman, Attfield, & Brody, 2014). Acrylamide was also
38 found to be formed in some starchy foods, especially potato products, during high-
39 temperature cooking and under low moisture conditions, such as frying, baking and roasting,
40 formation being lower in protein-rich foods (Tareke, Rydberg, Karlsson, Eriksson, &
41 Tornqvist, 2002). Acrylamide is formed during Maillard reactions, and mainly between the
42 reaction of asparagine and reducing sugars at high temperatures (Mottram, Wedzicha, &
43 Dodson, 2002; Stadler et al., 2002; Becalski, Lau, Lewis, & Seaman, 2003). Several studies
44 have proven the importance of temperature, time, levels of precursors, pH, nature of the
45 matrix, etc. on acrylamide formation in food. Consequently, a wide range of strategies have
46 been developed in the last decade to reduce the final content of acrylamide in model systems
47 and foods processed at high temperatures. Some strategies based on controlling processing
48 conditions such as time and temperature (Tareke et al., 2002), as well as frying in low
49 pressure conditions or novel frying techniques, such as, microwave or air frying have
50 achieved a significant inhibition of acrylamide formation (Troncoso & Pedreschi, 2009;
51 Barutcu, Sahin, & Sumnu, 2009; Sansano, Juan-Borrás, Escriche, Andrés, & Heredia, 2015).
52 It is also advantageous to apply treatments before frying, such as blanching, or soaking the

53 food products in acids, vitamins, cations or amino acids in order to reduce acrylamide
54 precursors, and to interfere with and modify Maillard reactions triggering acrylamide
55 formation (Pedreschi, Kaack, & Granby, 2004, Jung, Choi, & Ju, 2003, Zeng et al., 2009,
56 Gökmen & Şenyuva, 2007, Rydberg et al., 2003).

57 Hydrocolloids are hydrophilic polymers that modify the functional properties of food
58 systems, such as thickening, gelling and emulsifying properties (Saha & Bhattacharya,
59 2010). Some studies have tested the use of hydrocolloids to control moisture diffusion and
60 consequently, oil absorption during frying. Lower contents of fat were obtained when
61 including hydrocolloids such as soy protein isolate, whey protein isolate, methylcellulose
62 and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose as an edible film coating before frying (Albert & Mittal,
63 2002; Balasubramaniam, Chinnan, Mallikarjunan, & Phillips, 1997) or, what seems to be
64 most effective, introducing them as an ingredient in batter formulation (Holownia, Chinnan,
65 Erickson, & Mallikarjunan, 2000; Sanz, Salvador, & Fiszman, 2004). Zeng et al. (2010)
66 tested some hydrocolloids (agar, alginic acid, carrageenan, carob gum, gelatin, hydroxyprpyl
67 distarch phosphate, pectin and xanthan gum) in acrylamide formation in model and real
68 systems. They found positive results mainly for pectin and alginic acid, but these
69 hydrocolloids did not significantly change the water content of the fried potatoes strips.
70 Therefore, they are unlikely to modulate the formation of acrylamide due to their property of
71 water retention. These authors suggested that the formation of surface coatings might also
72 modulate heat transfer from the surrounding oil to the product.

73 Among the different hydrocolloids, chitosan, a polycationic polymer and waste product from
74 the sea food processing industry, is an abundant natural resource that has, as yet, not been
75 fully utilized. The advantages of this polymer include availability, low cost, high
76 biocompatibility, biodegradability and ease of chemical modification. Chitosan has many
77 applications in several sectors because of its multiple properties: it is not digestible by

78 humans, so it is considered to be a dietary fiber; which binds lipids and helps in reducing
79 cholesterol (Muzzarelli, 1996), and it is protective, fungistatic and antibacterial (El Ghaouth,
80 Arul, Ponnappalam, & Boulet, 1991; Tsai & Su, 1999). Moreover, chitosan is a molecule
81 which is rich in amino groups, this being the main characteristic leading to our hypothesis:
82 amino groups of chitosan would compete with amino groups of asparagine to bind to
83 carbonyl group of reducing sugars and thus, would modulate acrylamide generation
84 (Lindsay & Jang, 2005). If this hypothesis is confirmed chitosan would be proven to have
85 another function: protecting against acrylamide formation. The main purpose of this study
86 was to analyze the addition of chitosan as a way to mitigate the generation of acrylamide
87 during frying processes in model systems and fried batter systems. The effect of pH of the
88 reaction, the type of reducing sugars (glucose and/or fructose) present in the model system
89 and the temperature were also evaluated.

90

91 **2. Materials and methods**

92 *2.1. Chemicals and consumables*

93 Asparagine, glucose and fructose were purchased from Sigma-Adrich Company (St.
94 Louis, MO, USA). Chitosan (Poly (D-glucosamine)*Deacetylated chitin) was also
95 purchased from Sigma- Adrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). Chitosan was used in coarse
96 ground flakes and powder, presented a deacetylation degree superior to 75% with a high
97 molecular weight (lot: MKBH5816V). Formic acid, acetonitrile and magnesium sulfate
98 were purchased from VWR-Prolabo (Fontenay-sous-Bois, France), methanol and
99 hexane were obtained from Panreac (Barcelona, Spain). Acrylamide standard (> 99%)
100 was purchased from Merk (Darmstadt, Germany), sodium chloride was obtained from
101 Scharlab (Barcelona, Spain) and Primary secondary amine (PSA) was purchased from
102 Supelco (Bellefonte, USA). Double distilled water was prepared for chromatographic

103 use (Milli-Q, Millipore Corp., Bedford, MA). All chemicals used were analytical grade,
104 and those used for chromatographic analysis were HPLC grade. To test the effect of
105 chitosan in a real system, a commercial formulation was used (Yolanda, Murcia, Spain).
106 This formulation consists of wheat and rice flours, an acidity regulator (E-334), bulking
107 agent (E-500ii) and coloring (E-160b). Moisture and ash contents (11.5% and 1.8%,
108 respectively) were measured using AACC methods (1995), protein and fat contents
109 (10.0% and 1.4%, respectively) were supplied by manufacturers, and particle size (78.0
110 μm) was analyzed with the Mastersizer 2000 (Malvern Instruments, Germany) coupled
111 with the Scirocco 2000 module for dry measurement.

112 *2.2. Preparation of reaction mixtures for pyrolysis*

113 In order to confirm our hypothesis, we carried out chemical model reactions following
114 the method proposed by Gökmen and Şenyuva (2007) with some minor modifications.
115 The reaction was carried out using a 25mL threaded Pyrex tube which contained 5 μmol
116 of asparagine and 5 μmol of reducing sugars, and 100 μl of acid lactic solution on
117 which chitosan was previously dissolved at 0, 0.5 or 1%. Eighteen different model
118 systems were formulated depending on the type of sugar used: glucose, fructose or an
119 equimolecular mixture of both; the pH (4 and 5) and the concentration of chitosan (0,
120 0.5 and 1%).

121 The samples were placed in an oil bath previously preheated at the two temperatures
122 tested (150 and 180°C) and the total heating time for the samples was 30 minutes. After
123 the reaction time, the tubes were immediately cooled in an ice-water bath for 5 minutes.

124 *2.3. Preparation of batters systems for frying*

125 Batter formulations consisted of the commercial formulation with chitosan solutions (at
126 0, 0.5 and 1%) at pH=4 with 2.5% of salt in a water-to-dry-mix proportion of 1.2/1. The
127 final chitosan contents in the formulations were 0, 0.27 and 0.54% respectively. Batter

128 samples were kept for at least 30 minutes at room temperature before frying. The frying
129 step was carried out in a commercial deep-fat fryer with a capacity of 2 L (model: FM
130 6720 Ideal 2000 Professional, Solac) at $180\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$. Samples ($11.5 \pm 0.1\text{g}$) were placed in
131 an aluminum cylindrical instrument and then introduced in the fryer in order to obtain
132 homogenous ring shaped fried samples (height: $11\pm 1\text{mm}$; outer diameter= $65\text{mm}\pm 2$ and
133 inner diameter= $25\pm 1\text{mm}$). Triplicate samples ($n = 3$) were fried for 2, 4 and 7 minutes
134 for the three formulations tested. The excess oil was removed with paper on both sides
135 for 20 seconds after taking the samples out of the fryer.

136 *2.4. Analysis of acrylamide*

137 *2.4.1. Extraction of acrylamide from pyrolysates (model systems)*

138 Two mL of Mili-Q water were added to the pyrolysates obtained and tubes were agitated
139 in a vortex for 1 minute. The tube content was filtered ($0.22\ \mu\text{m}$ Nylon filters) and
140 transferred to a vial for the following acrylamide content determination, studied in
141 triplicate ($n=3$).

142 *2.4.2. Extraction of acrylamide from the fried batter systems*

143 The acrylamide content was determined by means of dispersive solid phase extraction
144 (QuEChERS) according to Mastovska and Lehotay (2006) with some modifications.
145 The standard addition was used rather than the traditional calibration curve in order to
146 remove the matrix effect, fortifying at five different levels (10, 20, 50, 100 and $300\ \mu\text{g}$
147 kg^{-1}), with six replicates for each level ($n=6$). Fried batter systems were subjected to a
148 previous acrylamide extraction as follows: three samples were ground in a blender and a
149 sub-sample (1 g) was placed in a 50mL Falcon tube, following which 5 mL of n-hexane
150 were added. The tube was shaken in a vortex for 30 seconds, after which 10 ml
151 bidistilled water, 10 mL acetonitrile, 4 g MgSO_4 and 0.5 g NaCl were added and stirred
152 in the vortex for one minute. The suspension was then centrifuged at 2026 RCF

153 (Centronic BL II (Selecta, Spain)) for 5 minutes, following which the hexane layer
154 (upper phase) was discarded. 1mL of the acetonitrile phase, containing the acrylamide,
155 was then transferred to a 2 mL polypropylene tube containing 50 mg PSA and 150 mg
156 MgSO₄, and stirred for 30 seconds. The homogenate was centrifuged at 2697 RCF
157 (Labofuge 200 (Heraeus, Germany)) for 1 minute and the supernatant was transferred to
158 a vial for acrylamide analysis.

159 2.4.3. *LC/MS/MS analysis*

160 The acrylamide analysis was performed with an Agilent 1200 Series HPLC system
161 coupled to an Agilent 6410 triple quadrupole mass spectrometer (Agilent Technologies
162 Inc., CA, USA) with an electrospray type ionization source. The column used in this
163 study was a Zorbax Eclipse XDB C-18 (2.1mmx50mm, 1.8µm). The mobile phase used
164 consisted of 2.5% methanol/ 97.5% of 0.1% formic acid (A) and methanol (B). The
165 elution gradient was as follows: 0-3 min 100% of A; 3.1-3.5 min 70% A; 3.6 min 100%
166 A, with 1 min post-time to equilibrate the column. The column oven temperature was
167 set at 30°C, the flow was maintained at 0.4 mL/minute and the injection volume was
168 10µL. The electrospray was operated in positive ion mode. The conditions used in the
169 ionization source were: 350°C at 12 L/min for the drying gas (N₂), a nebulizer pressure
170 of 40 psi and a capillary voltage of 4000 V. Identification and quantification of
171 acrylamide in the samples was performed using the multiple reaction monitoring mode
172 (MRM), and the ion m/z 72 > 27 and m/z 72 > 55.2 were studied respectively.

173 2.5. *Water content determination*

174 Water content was analyzed by vacuum drying at 60°C until constant weight was
175 achieved (20.103, AOAC, 1980).

176 2.6. *Statistical analysis*

177 Statistical analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed by Statgraphics Centurion to
178 estimate the effect of process variables (pH, reaction temperature and time, reducing
179 sugars and chitosan content) on the obtained results. Evaluations were based on 95 and
180 99% significance levels.

181

182

183 **3. Results and discussion**

184 *3.1. Effect of chitosan on acrylamide formation in model systems*

185 The acrylamide content generated in model systems formulated with glucose, fructose and
186 the equimolecular mixture of both sugars are shown in Figure 1. In all cases the higher the
187 percentage of chitosan, the lesser the amount of acrylamide produced. Temperature was an
188 important factor, considering that at 150°C the acrylamide content grows gradually with
189 heating time, but at 180°C, after 10-15 minutes the amount of acrylamide generally reaches
190 the maximum value and starts to decrease lightly with treatment time, likely due to
191 polymerization (Stadler et al., 2004). The statistical analysis revealed that except pH, all the
192 factors considered in this study (type of reducing sugars present in the system, the reaction
193 time, the % of chitosan and the temperature) have a significant influence on acrylamide
194 formation (Table 1). As the pH was not a significant factor, Figure 1 only includes results at
195 pH 4. According to the F-Ratio values, the temperature and the percentage of chitosan are
196 the most significant factors, as well as the interaction between them. Time is also a
197 significant element, as has been proven in many studies, as well as the temperature and their
198 interaction (Gertz & Klostermann, 2002).

199 The potential of generating acrylamide from suitable precursors has mainly been attributed
200 to the concentration of asparagine, which directly provides the backbone of the acrylamide
201 molecule. However, there is some indication in literature that the type of sugar, or in general

202 the carbonyl compound, may significantly affect the final amount of acrylamide generated
203 through the Maillard reaction. Some authors have speculated on the role of physical
204 properties of precursors and suggested that the melting point of sugars is a possible
205 parameter to consider (Stadler et al., 2004).

206 In figure 2, differences in acrylamide content depending on the type of reducing sugar in the
207 system can be appreciated. Higher amounts of acrylamide were produced with fructose than
208 with glucose. Other authors have stated that mixtures with fructose generate acrylamide
209 earlier, meaning at a lower temperature, than those containing glucose (at about 125 and
210 140°C, respectively), which means the final content of acrylamide was higher with fructose
211 than with glucose (Robert et al., 2004).

212 Figure 3 shows the inhibitory effect of chitosan on acrylamide formation. In fact, adding
213 0.5% of chitosan led to an inhibition of acrylamide formation (according to the control) of
214 52% and 65% at 180 and 150°C respectively, and 1% of chitosan, 75% and 76% at 180 and
215 150°C respectively. The influence of the temperature on acrylamide formation is well known
216 but when the interaction between the temperature and the concentration of chitosan was
217 analyzed, it can be observed that chitosan drastically reduces the influence of temperature on
218 the acrylamide formation. This seems to indicate that there is likely to be a reaction of
219 chitosan with reducing sugars at temperatures below acrylamide formation temperatures. In
220 spite of the small concentration of chitosan, the resulting inhibitory effect was significant,
221 ranging between 40% and 84% (results not shown) depending on the reducing sugar and the
222 treatment temperature. The protective effect of chitosan is very high as compared to the
223 results reported by Zeng et al., (2010) , who used other hydrocolloids in model systems and
224 in which at the concentration of 1% none of the hydrocolloids showed a significant
225 inhibition of the formation of acrylamide, although around 60% was achieved when 2% of
226 alginic acid and pectin were tested.

227 3.2. *Effect of chitosan on acrylamide formation in fried batter systems*

228 As evidenced in the model systems, the effect of chitosan on acrylamide inhibition was
229 observed in real systems. The results showed that the concentration of chitosan was again
230 the most significant factor followed by the frying time (F-ratio: 44.38 and 33.43,
231 respectively) and their interaction (chitosan %-frying time). The ability of chitosan to
232 compete with asparagine to bind to reducing sugars was quite significant even at low
233 concentration and no significant differences are found between using 0.27 or 0.54% of
234 chitosan at 2 and 4 minutes (Figure 4). At 7 minutes, which is above the optimum frying
235 time, the reduction in acrylamide formation was dependent on the percentage of chitosan,
236 being more effective at 0.54 than 0.27%. It is generally known that water content is a key
237 factor that has to be considerate in fried products in terms of acrylamide formation. Chitosan,
238 as a hydrocolloid, joins water, but water content of fried samples was not a significant
239 variable in acrylamide formation in this study. Chitosan did not significantly modified water
240 content of fried samples (p-value= 0.9725), but, as was expected, frying time was a
241 significant factor (p-value=0.0000, F-ratio=60.99). Values of percentage of moisture content
242 at 2, 4 and 7 minutes were 20 ± 2^a , 17 ± 2^b , 5.8 ± 1.9^c for control samples; 21 ± 3^a , 16.3 ± 0.6^b ,
243 4.5 ± 1.8^c when 0.27% of chitosan was added, and 22 ± 2^a , 16 ± 2^b , 4.4 ± 0.2^c for 0.54% of
244 chitosan.

245 Figure 5 shows that at similar heating times, $85\pm 9\%$ of reduction was the highest inhibitory
246 rate found in model systems when 1% of chitosan was present in the medium. In fried batter
247 systems the inhibition rate reached by adding chitosan to batter formulation was about
248 $60\pm 7\%$ regardless of the percentage of chitosan tested (0.27 and 0.54%). These are excellent
249 results as compared to other hydrocolloids tested in real foods, i.e., the maximum inhibitory
250 rate reported by Zeng et al. (2010) that tested the addition of different hydrocolloids to the
251 formulation of a cracker, was 43% when 5% of pectin was incorporated to the formula.

252 **4. Conclusion**

253 Adding small amounts of chitosan in model and fried batter systems has been proven to be a
254 new way to mitigate the generation of acrylamide. In fried batters, 0.27% of chitosan was
255 capable of reducing the content of acrylamide in the final product by 59% and in model
256 systems, the reduction depended largely on the reducing sugar tested, but to an even greater
257 extent, on the percentage of chitosan, especially when fructose was present in the medium
258 (up to 85%). The proposed mechanism of acrylamide reduction is based on the richness of
259 amino groups of chitosan, which compete with asparagine amino groups to bind carbonyls
260 (e.g. reducing sugars), the first stage of acrylamide formation. For this reason, chitosan has a
261 high potential to provide consumers with healthy food products (lower acrylamide content)
262 if it is incorporated into batters on a commercial scale.

263 **Acknowledgements**

264 The authors would like to thank the Generalitat Valenciana (GV/2012/072) for the
265 financial support given to this investigation.

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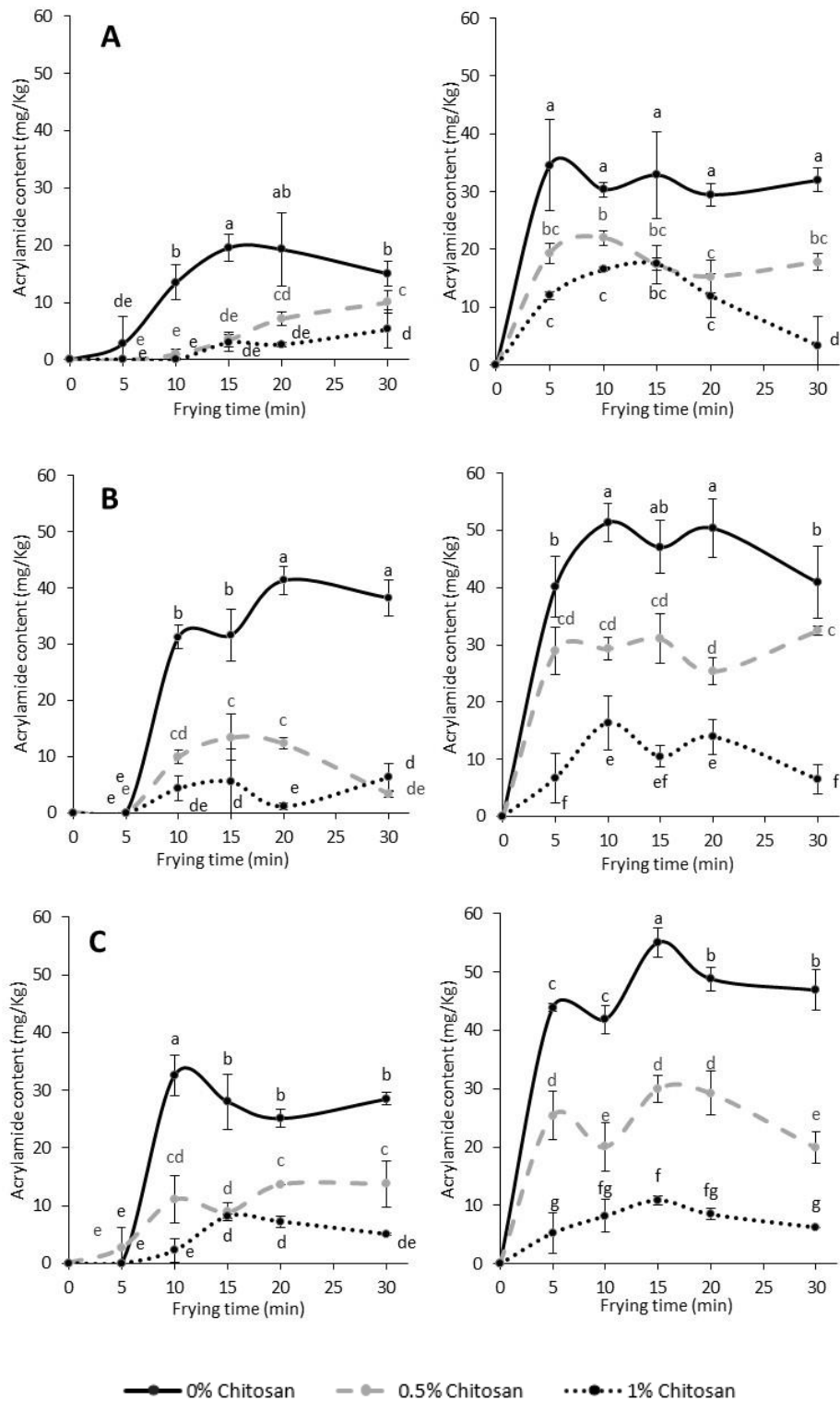
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353 strips. *Food Chemistry*, 116(1), 34–39.
- 354
- 355

356 **Table 1.** Multifactor ANOVA for Acrylamide content (mg/Kg) of main effects and their
 357 interactions in model systems.

MAIN EFFECTS	<i>Df</i>	<i>F-Ratio</i>
pH	1	0.13 (NS)
Reducing Sugar	2	54.86**
Time (min)	5	175.00**
Chitosan (%)	2	618.45**
Temperature (°C)	1	624.55**
INTERACTIONS	<i>Df</i>	<i>F-Ratio</i>
pH- Reducing sugar	2	6.01**
pH- Time	5	4.18**
pH-Chitosan	2	4.43*
pH- Temperature	1	1.39 (NS)
Reducing sugar-Time	10	5.26**
Reducing sugar-Chitosan	4	17.61**
Reducing sugar-Temperature	2	2.56 (NS)
Time- Chitosan	10	29.79**
Time -Temperature	5	41.27**
Chitosan-temperature	2	77.67**

358 **Statistical significance $\geq 99\%$ (p-value ≤ 0.01); *Statistical
 359 significance $\geq 95\%$ (p-value ≤ 0.05); NS (not statistical significance, p-
 360 value > 0.05). Df: degrees of freedom

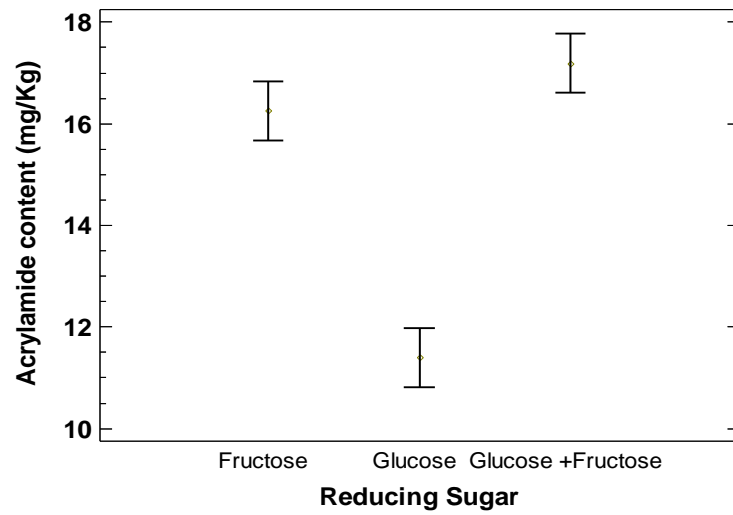
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365 **Figure 1.** Average acrylamide content (mg/Kg) generated in model systems with 0, 0.5 and 1% of
 366 chitosan, pH 4 at 150°C (left) and 180°C (right) after 5, 10, 15, 20 and 30 minutes of frying. (A)
 367 asparagine-glucose; (B) asparagine-fructose; (C) asparagine-glucose-fructose. Error bars represent
 368 standard deviations (n=3). Homogeneous groups are represented by the same letter.

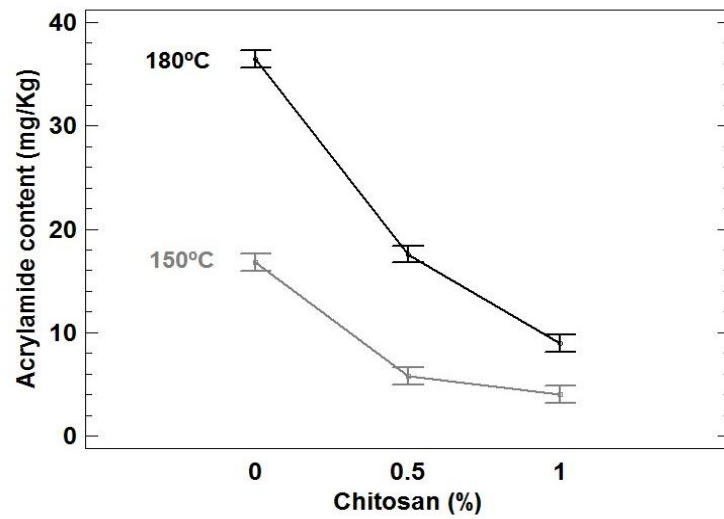


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370 **Figure 2.** Influence of the type of reducing sugars tested on acrylamide formation (mg/Kg) in model

371 systems. Error bars represent 95% LSD (Least significance difference).

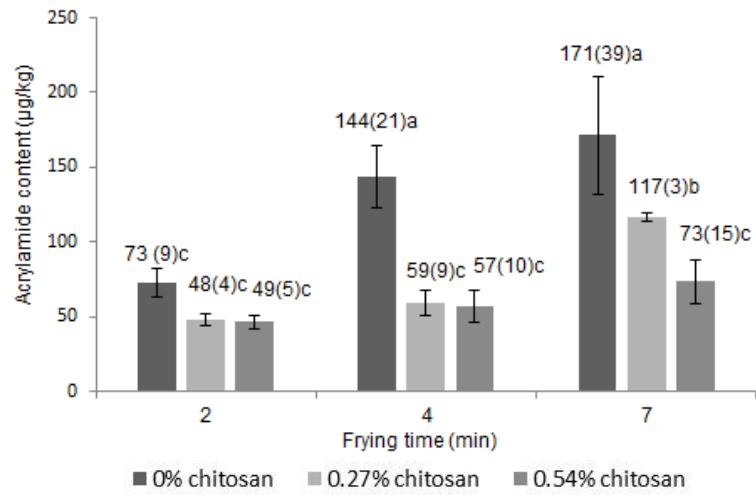
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374 **Figure 3.** Influence of process temperature (150 and 180°C) and chitosan content (0, 0.5 and 1%) on
375 acrylamide formation (mg/Kg) in model systems. Error bars represent 95% LSD (Least significance
376 difference).

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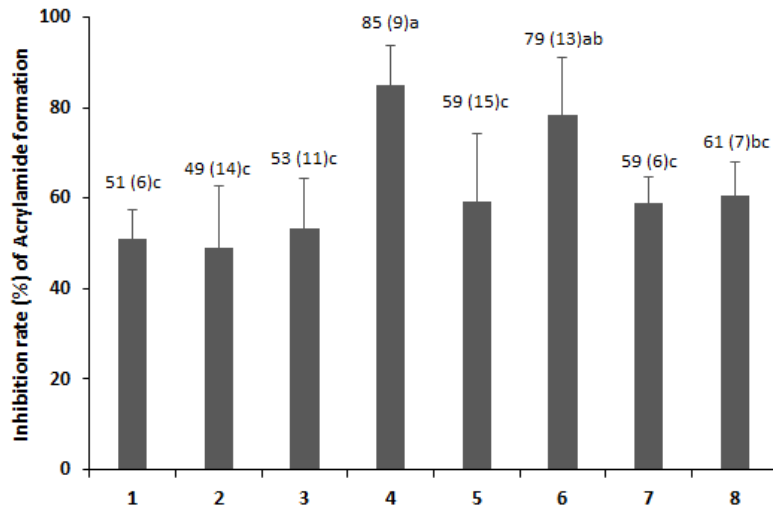
380 **Figure 4.** Acrylamide content (mean and standard deviation) in fried batter systems with 0, 0.27 and

381 0.54% of chitosan at 2, 4 and 7 minutes. Homogeneous groups are represented by the same letter.

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386 **Figure 5.** Inhibitory effect of chitosan (%) (mean and standard deviation (n=3)) on acrylamide
387 formation in model systems (after 5 minutes of reaction time) and fried batter systems (after 4
388 minutes of frying) at 180°C. X-axis legend: (1) (2) asparagine-glucose and 0.5 or 1% of chitosan; (3)
389 (4) asparagine-fructose and 0.5 or 1% of chitosan; (5) (6) asparagine-glucose-fructose and 0.5 or 1%
390 of chitosan; (7) (8) fried batters with 0.27 or 0.54% of chitosan. Homogeneous groups are
391 represented by the same letter.

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