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## Changes in the nutritional composition of Thai pangus (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*) pickle during storage at refrigeration temperature

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**Introduction**

Pickling is one of the oldest methods of preserving food material. Pickles have been of commercial importance in some developing countries like Korea, where pickles are made out of anchovies, shrimps, squid, oyster and sea urchin. Several workers have studied on the pickles prepared from different fish in India, namely fresh water fish (Chattopadhyay *et al.*, 1985), low cost marine fish (Vijayan *et al.*, 1989), clams (Yellappa and Chandrasekharan 1989), blood clam (Gupta and Basu, 1985), edible oyster and chunk (Sugumar *et al.*, 1994). Jawahar and Shetty (1994) did a detailed study on the preparation of pickles from crustaceans.

Striped catfish or sutchi catfish (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*) is native to the Mekong (Vietnam, Lao Peoples Democratic Republic and Cambodia), Chao Phraya and Mae Klong (Thailand) rivers and also the Ayeyawady basin in Myanmar (Burma). Vietnam dominates production within the native range. The fish is imported by Bangladesh government in 1990 (Sarker, 2000). Thus, the fish is exotic in Bangladesh and locally known as Thai pangus. It was proved that the climate, water and soil conditions of Bangladesh are suitable for Thai pangus production (Ahmed and Hasan, 2007). In addition, the fish can be stocked at a much higher density in culture ponds compared to other species (Ali *et al.*, 2005). In recent years, Thai pangus culture is rapidly increasing in Bangladesh because of simple culture method, high growth rate and high adaptability

under stressed condition. But in the peak season, the market price of these fishes often decline due to abundance of their production. The fish would serve as an adequate source of raw material for fish pickle that may provide a good taste and nutrition to the young and outgoing people in cheaper price. A number of studies had been done on the relation between changed in fish muscle and storage time-temperature. Pawar *et al.* (2013) evaluated shelf-life of fish cutlet prepared from catla (*Catla catla*) stored at -18°C. Result showed a slight reduction in moisture and protein content during 6 months storage period whereas lipid and ash content increased in the same samples. pH value of fish cutlet also slightly increased (from 6.5 to 6.79) throughout the storage period. Roopma *et al.* (2013) investigated the effect of frozen storage on the proximate, biochemical and microbial profile of the muscle of silurid cat fish. Result showed that proximate composition decreased significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) with increase in the duration of frozen period. Total Plate Count (TPC) and pH of fish muscle increased gradually in the study with the increased period of storage at frozen temperature.

So far in Bangladesh there is no literature on the development of pickle from Thai pangus and on the nutritional quality changes of the product at refrigeration temperature (5° to 8°C). Considering these facts, the present study was conducted to develop pickle from Thai pangus and to know changes in nutritional composition, pH and bacterial load of this product at this

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low temperature. The outcomes of this research might help processors to determine optimum processing and storage conditions for pickle prepared from Thai pangus in order to ensure products of premium quality.

## Materials and Methods

### Duration of the Study

The present study was conducted from April to June 2013 (From January to March, 2013 was trial period), in the laboratories of Fisheries Technology Department of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh.

### Sources of Samples

The samples (Thai pangus; *Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*) were collected from Kamal- Ranjit (KR) market of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh in fresh condition. These were immediately transported to the Fish Processing laboratory of Fisheries Technology Department.

### Preparation of Fish Pickle

**Ingredients for Fish Pickle:** Fish pickle was prepared from the collected fish according to the method described below. Standard recipe for the preparation of pickle and condiment are given in the following Table.

**Table 1. Standard Recipe for Fish Pickle Preparation**

Ingredient name	Amount	Ingredient name	Amount
Fish muscle	500g	Vinegar	50ml
Chili powder	20g	Black pepper	2g
Turmeric powder	2g	<i>Pachforon</i>	5g
Cumin	10g	Sugar	50g
Onion	20g	Salt	30g
Garlic	80g	Tomato sauce	30g
Ginger	10g	Tamarind	20g
Cloves	2g	Sodium benzoate	1g
Mustard oil	150ml		

**Fish Pickle Preparation Procedure:** The fishes were thoroughly washed with tap water to remove contaminants on the skin. Then the fishes were cut into small pieces (approx. 1 cm<sup>3</sup>) using sharp knife and washed with tap water in the laboratory to remove bloods and other contaminants. The pieces were marinated with salt, chili powder and turmeric powder then kept at room temperature (around 32°C) for 30 minutes. The pieces of fish were fried in mustard

oil/soybean oil till the fish pieces turn to brown in color. After fraying fish pieces were removed from heating and kept at room temperature (around 32°C). Onion, garlic and ginger paste were fried till the paste become light brown in color. Required amount of cumin powder, pachforon, cloves, salt, sugar, and vinegar were added to mixed masala paste under frying. Fried fish pieces were added to the mixed masala paste and heated till vinegar absorbed. At the end tomato sauce, tamarind mixed water and sodium benzoate were added to the fish-masala mixture. After completion of cooking pickle was cooled at room temperature (around 32°C) and packed in glass bottles. During packing care was taken so that there was layer of oil over the contents in the bottles.

### Sample Storage:

Prepared pickle samples were stored at refrigeration temperature (5° to 8°C) in 12 glass bottles for around 70 days. Each of the bottles contained 300g pickle. Among these 12 bottles- pickle prepared from dorsal muscle with mustard oil were stored in 3 bottles, pickle prepared from dorsal muscle with soybean oil were stored in another 3 bottles. Pickle prepared from whole fish muscle also stored in 3 + 3 separate bottles for mustard oil and soybean oil.

### Quality Analysis

Initially weekly then analysis of the samples were done at each 15 days for 60 days at refrigeration temperature (5° to 8°C). Triplicate samples were taken to carry out the experiment. Proximate composition (moisture, protein, lipid and ash) of fish pickle were tested according to the standard methods described by Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC, 2005).

### Determination of pH value

pH was measured at room temperature following the method described by AOAC (2005). At first accurately 5g sample was taken and homogenously mixed in 50 ml distilled water. pH was measured using an electronic pH meter (HANNA pH 211 Microprocessor pH Meter) with a glass electrode using expandable scale.

### Determination of APC

The colonies units (CFU) were counted under a Quebec dark field colony counter (Leica, Buffalo, NY, USA) equipped with a guide plate ruled in square centimeters. Plates containing 30-300 colonies were used to calculate bacterial load using following formula:

$$\text{APC (CFI / g)} = \frac{\text{No. of colonies on petridish} \times \text{Dilution factor} \times \text{Vol. of stock solution} \times 10}{\text{Wt. of pickle or condiment sample}}$$

### Sensory evaluation

A panel of nine persons of teachers and students of the Department of Fisheries Technology provided the sensory assessments of the products (Nowsad *et al.*, 2000). Sensory evaluation of the fish pickle was conducted according to the grade 9 = Like extremely,

8 = Like very much, 7 = Like moderately, 6 = Like slightly, 5 = Neither like nor dislike, 4 = Dislike slightly, 3 = Dislike moderately, 2 = Dislike very much, 1 = Dislike extremely. Chewiness/Rubberiness were defined as the amount of effort the panelist had to exert in chewing to prepare the sample for swallowing. Color and flavor were evaluated organoleptically.

### Statistical Analysis

One-way analysis of variance and the general linear model using Windows for SPSS 9.0 were used to analyze the data. The Duncan's New Multiple Range Test (DMRT) was used to find the significant differences between storage periods.

## Results

### Biochemical Composition of Fresh Fish

The fish collected from the Kamal-Ranjit market of Bangladesh Agricultural University were fresh and many of them were in live condition. The initial chemical composition of fresh fish samples are shown in the Table 2.

**Table 2. Proximate Composition (average value) of the Fresh Thai pangus (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*) Muscle**

Parameters	Results (%)
Moisture	78.61 ± 0.76
Protein	13.92 ± 0.62
Lipid	4.93 ± 0.12
Ash	2.25 ± 0.06

### Changes in the Protein Content of Fish Pickle

Changes in the protein content of fish pickle during storage period of 60 days at refrigeration temperature (5°C to 8°C) are shown in Table 3. Initial protein content was 13.92% in fish muscle. After preparing fish pickle with dorsal muscle using different spices it reached to 19.47% (pickle prepared using mustard oil), 16.15% (prepared using soybean oil) and for pickle with whole fish it reached to 19.07% (pickle prepared using mustard oil), 16.62% (prepared using soybean oil) which remained in acceptable condition even after 60 days of storage. Percent protein content decreased to 17.75, 17.14 and 16.82 on 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days of storage at this temperature for the pickle prepared with dorsal muscle (Table 3) using mustard oil whereas the values obtained 17.91, 18.76 and 19.41 for the pickle prepared using soybean oil. On the other hand, the percent protein content declined to 18.06, 17.55 and 17.06 in the pickle prepared with whole fish muscle using mustard oil at 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days of storage. On the storage of 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days the values obtained 18.01, 18.33 and 18.52, respectively (Table 3) for the pickle prepared with whole fish muscle using soybean oil indicating a very slower rate of change in the nutritional composition at low temperature.

### Changes in the Lipid Content of Fish Pickle

During storage period of 60 days the changes in the percent lipid content of fish pickle at refrigeration temperature (5°C to 8°C) are shown in Table 4. The initial lipid content of fresh fish was 4.93%. After preparing fish pickle with dorsal muscle adding different spices it reached to 7.57% (pickle prepared using mustard oil), 10.28% (prepared using soybean oil) and for pickle with whole fish it reached to 22.59% (pickle prepared using mustard oil), 25.58% (prepared using

soybean oil) which remained in acceptable condition even after 60 days of storage. Percent lipid content decreased to 6.69, 6.51 and 6.40 on 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days of storage at this temperature for the pickle prepared with dorsal muscle (Table 4) using mustard oil whereas the values obtained 8.68, 8.30 and 8.79 for the pickle prepared using soybean oil. On the other hand, the percent lipid content declined to 20.93, 20.54 and 20.17 in the pickle prepared with whole fish muscle using mustard oil at 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days of storage. At the storage of 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days the values obtained 24.42, 24.09 and 23.77, respectively for the pickle prepared with whole fish muscle using soybean oil (Table 4).

### Changes in the Moisture Content of Fish Pickle

Changes in the moisture content of fish pickle during storage period of 60 days at refrigeration temperature (5°C to 8°C) are shown in Table 5. Initial moisture content was 78.61% in fish body. After preparing fish pickle with dorsal muscle adding different spices it decreased to 57.25% (pickle prepared using mustard oil), 51.41% (prepared using soybean oil) and for pickle with whole fish it reached to 56.69% (pickle prepared using mustard oil), 51.81% (prepared using soybean oil). Percent protein content decreased to 56.36, 54.26 and 51.06 on 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days of storage at this temperature for the pickle prepared with dorsal muscle (Table 5) using mustard oil whereas the values obtained 51.14, 52.64 and 53.84 for the pickle prepared using soybean oil. On the other hand, the percent protein content declined to 56.52, 54.82 and 52.71 in the pickle prepared with whole fish muscle using mustard oil at 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days of storage. On the storage of 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days the values obtained 51.53, 53.23 and 54.13, respectively (Table 5) for the pickle prepared with whole fish muscle using soybean oil.

### Changes in the Ash Content of Fish Pickle

During storage period of 60 days the changes in the percent lipid content of fish pickle during at refrigeration temperature (5°C to 8°C) are shown in Table 6. The initial ash content of fresh fish was 2.25%. After preparing fish pickle with dorsal muscle adding different spices it increased to 4.31% (pickle prepared using mustard oil), 4.21% (prepared using soybean oil) and for pickle with whole fish it reached to 4.25% (pickle prepared using mustard oil), 4.36% (prepared using soybean oil). Percent lipid content reached to 4.49, 4.79 and 4.88 on 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days of storage at this temperature for the pickle prepared with dorsal muscle (Table 6) using mustard oil whereas the values obtained 4.45, 4.51 and 4.57 for the pickle prepared using soybean oil. On the other hand, the percent lipid content increased to 5.43, 6.06 and 6.47 in the pickle prepared with whole fish muscle using mustard oil at 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days of storage. At the storage of 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days the values obtained 6.34, 6.79 and 7.14, respectively for the pickle prepared with whole fish muscle using soybean oil (Table 6).

**Table 3. Changes in the Protein Content (%) of Fish Pickle (Dorsal and Whole Fish Muscle) during Storage Period of 60 days at Refrigeration Temperature (5°C to 8°C)**

Days	Protein Content (%)			
	Dorsal Muscle		Whole Fish Muscle	
	Mustard oil	Soybean oil	Mustard oil	Soybean oil
0	19.47 ± 0.19	16.15 ± 0.49	19.07 ± 0.26	16.62 ± 0.42
7	19.16 ± 0.28	16.71 ± 0.35	18.79 ± 0.19	17.07 ± 0.32
15	18.60 ± 0.16	17.41 ± 0.33	18.48 ± 0.31	17.62 ± 0.14
30	17.75 ± 0.33	17.91 ± 0.18	18.06 ± 0.15	18.01 ± 0.22
45	17.14 ± 0.21	18.76 ± 0.21	17.55 ± 0.13	18.33 ± 0.17
60	16.82 ± 0.23	19.41 ± 0.28	17.06 ± 0.49	18.52 ± 0.14

\*mean value ± standard deviation of 3 individual measurement

**Table 4. Changes in the Lipid Content (%) of Fish Pickle (Dorsal and Whole Fish Muscle) during Storage Period of 60 days at Refrigeration Temperature (5° to 8°C)**

Days	Lipid Content (%)			
	Dorsal Muscle		Whole Fish Muscle	
	Mustard oil	Soybean oil	Mustard oil	Soybean oil
0	7.57±0.29	10.28±0.14	22.59 ± 0.13	25.58 ± 0.08
7	7.32±0.11	9.93±0.19	22.09 ± 0.08	25.20 ± 0.07
15	6.97±0.09	9.24±0.03	21.34 ± 0.11	24.78 ± 0.14
30	6.69±0.13	8.68±0.21	20.93 ± 0.15	24.42 ± 0.21
45	6.51±0.08	8.30±0.17	20.54 ± 0.07	24.09 ± 0.09
60	6.40±0.06	8.79±0.07	20.17 ± 0.21	23.77 ± 0.11

\*mean value ± standard deviation of 3 individual measurement

**Table 5. Changes in the Moisture Content (%) of Fish Pickle (Dorsal and Whole Fish Muscle) during Storage Period of 60 days at Refrigeration Temperature (5°C to 8°C)**

Days	Moisture Content (%)			
	Dorsal Muscle		Whole Fish Muscle	
	Mustard oil	Soybean oil	Mustard oil	Soybean oil
0	57.25 ± 1.20	51.41 ± 0.87	56.69 ± 0.69	51.81 ± 0.75
7	49.09 ± 0.88	50.00 ± 0.72	48.25 ± 0.53	50.66 ± 0.78
15	52.71 ± 0.72	49.81 ± 0.95	50.48 ± 0.74	49.46 ± 0.74
30	56.36 ± 0.75	51.14 ± 0.55	56.52 ± 0.66	51.53 ± 0.59
45	54.26 ± 0.81	52.64 ± 0.77	54.82 ± 0.77	53.23 ± 0.66
60	51.06 ± 0.69	53.84 ± 0.85	52.71 ± 0.81	54.13 ± 0.61

\*mean value ± standard deviation of 3 individual measurement

**Table 6. Changes in the Ash Content (%) of Fish Pickle (Dorsal and Whole Fish Muscle) during Storage Period of 60 days at Refrigeration Temperature (5°C to 8°C)**

Days	Ash Content (%)			
	Dorsal Muscle		Whole Fish Muscle	
	Mustard oil	Soybean oil	Mustard oil	Soybean oil
0	4.31 ± 0.07	4.21 ± 0.09	4.25 ± 0.11	4.36 ± 0.07
7	4.42 ± 0.03	4.28 ± 0.08	4.81 ± 0.09	5.13 ± 0.05
15	4.45 ± 0.06	4.37 ± 0.03	4.92 ± 0.07	5.75 ± 0.03
30	4.49 ± 0.04	4.45 ± 0.07	5.43 ± 0.03	6.34 ± 0.02
45	4.79 ± 0.10	4.51 ± 0.02	6.06 ± 0.06	6.79 ± 0.12
60	4.88 ± 0.16	4.57 ± 0.07	6.47 ± 0.10	7.14 ± 0.09

\*mean value ± standard deviation of 3 individual measurement

### Changes in the pH Value of Fish Pickle

The changes in the pH value of fish pickle during storage period of 60 days at refrigeration temperature (5°C to 8°C) are shown in Table 7. After preparing fish pickle with dorsal muscle with on 1<sup>st</sup> day pH value obtained 4.54 (pickle prepared using mustard oil), 4.91 (prepared using soybean oil) and for pickle with whole fish it was 4.60 (pickle prepared using mustard oil), 4.43 (prepared using soybean oil). The pH value decreased to 4.28, 4.25 and 4.19 on 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days of storage at this temperature for the pickle prepared with dorsal muscle (Table 7) using mustard oil whereas the values obtained 4.47, 4.26 and 4.16 for the pickle prepared using soybean oil. On the other hand, the pH value obtained 4.41, 4.32 and 4.21 in the pickle prepared with whole fish muscle using mustard oil at 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days of storage. On the storage of 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days the values declined to 4.21, 4.18 and 4.05, respectively (Table 7) for the pickle prepared with whole fish muscle using soybean oil.

### Changes in the Bacterial Load of Fish Pickle

Changes in bacterial load in fish pickle during storage period of 60 days at refrigeration temperature (5°C to 8°C) are shown in Table 8. After preparing fish pickle with dorsal muscle on 1<sup>st</sup> day the bacterial load was  $2.5 \times 10^3$  CFU/g (pickle prepared using mustard oil),  $5.0 \times 10^3$  (prepared using soybean oil) and for pickle with whole fish it was  $3.7 \times 10^5$  (pickle prepared using mustard

oil),  $4.2 \times 10^5$  (prepared using soybean oil). The bacterial load reached to  $6.2 \times 10^5$ ,  $7.5 \times 10^5$  and  $6.1 \times 10^6$  on 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days of storage at this temperature for the pickle prepared with dorsal muscle (Table 8) using mustard oil whereas the values obtained  $9.0 \times 10^5$ ,  $7.2 \times 10^6$  and  $9.5 \times 10^7$  for the pickle prepared using soybean oil. On the other hand, the bacterial load obtained  $6.7 \times 10^7$ ,  $7.2 \times 10^8$  and  $8.2 \times 10^8$  in the pickle prepared with whole fish muscle using mustard oil at 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days of storage. At the storage of 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days the values reached to  $7.2 \times 10^8$ ,  $8.4 \times 10^9$  and  $9.5 \times 10^8$ , respectively (Table 8) for the pickle prepared with whole fish muscle using soybean oil. The result showed that bacterial load is larger in the pickle prepared using soybean oil than that of prepared using mustard oil.

### Sensory Evaluation

The results of changes in sensory quality attributes of fish pickles during storage refrigeration temperature (5°C to 8°C) are shown in Table 9. The sensory attributes changed with the progress of storage period. The prepared pickles remained more or less in acceptable condition even after 60 days of storage though the muscle became littler harder with the lapse of time. Fish pickle prepared by using mustard oil was more accepted than soybean oil by panelists. They almost equally accepted the fish pickles prepared from both dorsal muscle and whole fish muscle.

**Table 7. Changes in pH value of Fish Pickle (Dorsal and Whole Fish Muscle) during Storage Period of 60 days at Refrigeration Temperature (5°C to 8°C)**

Days	pH Value			
	Dorsal Muscle		Whole Fish Muscle	
	Mustard oil	Soybean oil	Mustard oil	Soybean oil
0	4.54 ± 0.29	4.91 ± 0.03	4.60 ± 0.32	4.43 ± 0.07
7	4.41 ± 0.33	4.73 ± 0.25	4.54 ± 0.12	4.36 ± 0.09
15	4.30 ± 0.09	4.65 ± 0.08	4.51 ± 0.17	4.31 ± 0.18
30	4.28 ± 0.16	4.47 ± 0.03	4.41 ± 0.19	4.21 ± 0.27
45	4.25 ± 0.08	4.26 ± 0.08	4.32 ± 0.29	4.18 ± 0.25
60	4.19 ± 0.05	4.16 ± 0.03	4.21 ± 0.08	4.05 ± 0.33

\*mean value ± standard deviation of 3 individual measurement

**Table 8. Changes in Bacterial load (CFU/g) of Fish Pickle (Dorsal and whole Fish Muscle) during Storage Period of 60 days at Refrigeration Temperature (5° to 8°C)**

Days	Bacterial load (CFU/g)			
	Dorsal Muscle		Whole Fish Muscle	
	Mustard Oil	Soybean Oil	Mustard Oil	Soybean Oil
0	$2.5 \times 10^3$	$5.0 \times 10^3$	$3.7 \times 10^5$	$4.2 \times 10^5$
7	$4.0 \times 10^3$	$8.0 \times 10^4$	$4.2 \times 10^5$	$5.3 \times 10^7$
15	$5.0 \times 10^4$	$5.0 \times 10^5$	$5.2 \times 10^6$	$6.4 \times 10^8$
30	$6.2 \times 10^5$	$9.0 \times 10^5$	$6.7 \times 10^7$	$7.2 \times 10^8$
45	$7.5 \times 10^5$	$7.2 \times 10^6$	$7.2 \times 10^8$	$8.4 \times 10^8$
60	$6.1 \times 10^6$	$9.5 \times 10^7$	$8.2 \times 10^8$	$9.5 \times 10^8$

**Table 9. Changes in Sensory Quality Attributes of Fish Pickle (Dorsal and Whole Fish Muscle) during Storage Period of 60 days at Refrigeration Temperature (5° to 8°C)**

Pickle Type	Storage period (Day)	Color	Flavor	Texture	General acceptability
Dorsal Muscle+ Mustard Oil	0	9	9	9	9
	7	9	8	9	9
	15	9	8	8	9
	30	8	8	8	8
	45	8	7	7	7
	60	8	7	7	7
Dorsal Muscle+ Soybean Oil	0	8	8	9	8
	7	8	7	7	8
	15	8	7	7	7
	30	7	7	7	7
	45	7	7	7	7
	60	7	6	6	7
Whole Fish Muscle+ Mustard Oil	0	9	9	9	9
	7	9	8	8	9
	15	8	8	8	9
	30	8	8	7	8
	45	8	7	7	8
	60	8	7	7	7
Whole Fish Muscle+ Soybean Oil	0	8	8	8	8
	7	8	7	7	8
	15	8	7	7	8
	30	8	7	6	7
	45	7	7	6	7
	60	7	6	6	7

**N.B** 9 = Like extremely, 8 = Like very much, 7 = Like moderately, 6 = Like slightly, 5 = Neither like nor dislike, 4 = Dislike slightly, 3 = Dislike moderately, 2 = Dislike very much, 1 = Dislike extremely.

## Discussion

The changes in the nutritional composition, pH and bacterial load in the pickles prepared both with dorsal and whole fish muscle either using mustard or soybean oil, occurred very slowly at refrigeration temperature (5–8°C). In this case, the texture of the pickles became harder and the taste changed. Sanni *et al.* (2002) studied microflora and chemical composition of momoni, a Ghanaian fermented fish condiment. Average values of  $5.8 \times 10^7$ – $4.1 \times 10^8$  CFU/g was obtained for the microbial count. The chemical constituents of fermented fish condiment were a moisture content of 50%, protein values of 16.8–21.9%, and a pH of above 6.0. Hossain *et al.* (2005) evaluated physicochemical changes in Thai pangus muscle during ice storage in an insulated box. Results showed that immediately after death the pH of fish muscle was around 7.0. After 14 days of storage, pH value decreased gradually to 5.98. Jezek and Buchtova (2011) monitored pH changes in frozen (-18°C) fish muscle. The pH of fresh fish muscle samples was calculated  $6.29 \pm 0.16$ . In the first three months of storage, pH decreased insignificantly to  $6.25 \pm 0.12$  and increased again to reach  $6.34 \pm 0.11$  by month six. After nine months, a significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) decrease in pH to  $6.22 \pm 0.10$  was observed. Gandotra *et al.* (2012) investigated the effect of low temperature (-12±2°C) preservation on the chemical and microbial profile of

fish muscle (*Labeorohita*). The study result revealed that- the proximate composition decreased significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) and the microbial count increased gradually throughout the storage period. A significant quality loss in fish muscle during frozen storage observed. Consequently, fish remain free from spoilage for longer duration. Aberoumand (2013) studied freezing impact on nutrient quality in some selected fresh fish muscle in Iran. The fishes were stored at -18°C and the study was conducted for a period of 60 days. Result showed that moisture, protein, lipid and ash content decreased during storage. The study concluded that frozen storage leads to a loss of nutrient quality in fishes during the processing. Sharaf (2013) studied the influence of freezing fish at -18°C in a domestic refrigerator on the biochemical composition of the muscles. The chemical analysis of the muscles of the studied fish recorded high values of protein, fat and ash contents and moisture for the fresh samples and there was a significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) decrease at the end of the eight weeks of freezing fish. The findings of all these studies more or less support the obtained results from the present study.

## Conclusion

At refrigeration temperature (5°C to 8°C) the quality of the pickles was cooperatively better and remained in acceptable condition even after 60 days of storage.

Moisture, protein, lipid and pH value decreased as days passed but the ash content increased. Deterioration rate was higher in the pickles prepared using soybean oil than the pickles prepared using mustard oil and also the pickle prepared with whole fish muscle. Therefore, at refrigeration temperature pickle may remain in acceptable condition more than 60 days.

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