

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21323/2618-9771-2026-9-1-98-105>



Received 23.08.2025

Accepted in revised 15.03.2026

Accepted for publication 18.03.2026

© Siminiuc R., Turcanu, D., 2026

Available online at <https://www.fsjour.com/jour>

Original scientific article

Open access

FRESH ELDERBERRY OR SPINACH PURÉES AS DUAL NATURAL COLOUR AND EARLY TEXTURE MODULATORS IN SORGHUM GLUTEN-FREE BREAD

Rodica Siminiuc*, Dinu Turcanu

Technical University of Moldova, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

KEYWORDS:

acceptability, clean-label, consumer test, principal component analysis, texture profile analysis

ABSTRACT

Gluten-free breads typically exhibit rapid firming and limited natural color diversity, which issues are usually addressed through multiple additives. This study evaluated the properties of adding fresh elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) and spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*) purées (15–35 %, flour basis) as multifunctional ingredients for sorghum (*Sorghum oryzoidum*) gluten-free bread. Nine bread recipes were analysed for their instrumental texture, crumb CIELAB color, sensory profile, and consumer acceptability at 6 h and 24 h post-baking. At 6 h, bread with added spinach puree at 35 % achieved wheat-like softness, while bread with added elderberry puree increased crumb firmness. After 24 h, all breads firmed, but bread with added 35 % of spinach puree remained substantially softer than the sorghum reference sample. Elderberry purée shifted crumb color towards red-violet hues, spinach puree did it towards green-yellow hues, while the variants of bread with added spinach showed the lowest 24 h color change ($\Delta E^*ab < 3.5$). Consumer scores were consistently high (≥ 7.0 on day 1), with 35 % elderberry-enriched bread which retained the highest liking rating after 24 h. These findings demonstrate that fresh plant purées can expand natural colours diversity and attenuate early firming in gluten-free bread, supporting their application as clean-label alternatives to the conventional additives.

FUNDING: This work was supported by the National Agency for Research and Development (NARD), Republic of Moldova, through the research project "Exploratory analysis of food security in the Republic of Moldova based on metrics of sustainable and nutritional quality (SNUQ) of food products" (grant No. 23.70105.5107.05), implemented at the Technical University of Moldova.

Поступила 23.08.2025

Поступила после рецензирования 15.03.2026

Принята в печать 18.03.2026

© Симениук Р. И., Цуркану Д. Н., 2026

<https://www.fsjour.com/jour>

Научная статья

Открытый доступ

ПЮРЕ ИЗ СВЕЖИХ ЯГОД БУЗИНЫ ИЛИ ПЮРЕ ИЗ ШПИНАТА КАК ДВОЙНОЙ НАТУРАЛЬНЫЙ КРАСИТЕЛЬ И МОДУЛЯТОРЫ КОНСИСТЕНЦИИ СОРГОВОГО БЕЗГЛЮТЕНОВОГО ХЛЕБА НА РАННИХ СРОКАХ ПОСЛЕ ВЫПЕЧКИ

Симениук Р. И.*, Цуркану Д. Н.

Технический Университет Молдовы, Кишинев, Республика Молдова

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: АННОТАЦИЯ

приемлемость, природные ингредиенты, подпадающие под определение «чистая этикетка», потребительская оценка, анализ основных компонентов, анализ профиля консистенции

Безглютеновый хлеб обычно быстро черствеет и имеет ограниченное разнообразие природных цветов, что, как правило, исправляется многочисленными добавками. В этой статье оцениваются свойства пюре из свежих ягод бузины (*Sambucus nigra*) и шпината (*Spinacia oleracea*) (15–35 % от количества муки), примененных в качестве многофункциональных ингредиентов для безглютенового хлеба, выпеченного из сорго (*Sorghum oryzoidum*). Был проведен анализ девяти рецептов, где инструментально оценивалась консистенция, цвет мякиша по шкале цвета CIELAB, профиль органолептических свойств и уровень потребительской приемлемости через 6 и 24 часа после выпечки. Через 6 часов хлеб с добавлением шпината в количестве 35 % достиг уровня мягкости, сравнимого с пшеничным хлебом, в то время как добавленная бузина повысила черствость мякиша. Через 24 часа все виды хлеба зачерствели, но хлеб, испеченный с добавлением шпината в количестве 35 %, оставался значительно мягче, нежели контрольный образец, выпеченный из сорго. Пюре из ягод бузины изменило цвет хлебного мякиша в сторону красно-фиолетовых оттенков, пюре из шпината — в сторону зелено-желтого оттенка, при этом варианты рецепта с добавленным шпинатом показали наименьшее изменение цвета через 24 часа ($\Delta E^*ab < 3,5$). Потребительские оценки были неизменно высокими ($\geq 7,0$ в первый день), при этом хлеб с добавлением 35 % бузины сохранил наивысшую оценку и через 24 часа. Эти результаты показывают, что применение пюре из свежих растительных материалов способно расширить естественное разнообразие цвета и уменьшить преждевременное черствение безглютенового хлеба, что подтверждает целесообразность их применения в качестве альтернативы традиционным добавкам, подпадающим под определение «чистая этикетка».

ФИНАНСИРОВАНИЕ: Данная статья была выполнена при поддержке Национального агентства по исследованиям и разработкам (NARD) Республики Молдова в рамках исследовательского проекта «Исследовательский анализ продовольственной безопасности в Республике Молдова на основе показателей экологической чистоты и питательной ценности (SNUQ) пищевых продуктов» (грант № 23.70105.5107.05), реализуемого в Техническом университете Молдовы.

FOR CITATION: Siminiuc, R., Turcanu, D. (2026). Fresh elderberry or spinach purées as dual natural colour and early texture modulators in sorghum gluten-free bread. *Food Systems*, 9(1), 98–105. <https://doi.org/10.21323/2618-9771-2026-9-1-98-105>

ДЛЯ ЦИТИРОВАНИЯ: Симениук, Р. И., Цуркану, Д. Н. (2026). Пюре из свежих ягод бузины или пюре из шпината как двойной натуральный краситель и модуляторы консистенции соргового безглютенового хлеба на ранних сроках после выпечки. *Пищевые системы*, 9(1), 98–105. <https://doi.org/10.21323/2618-9771-2026-9-1-98-105>

REFERENCES

1. Fact.MR. (2025). Gluten-free Bread Market (2025–2035): Gluten-free Bread Market Size and Share Forecast Outlook 2025 to 2035 (Food and Beverage No. FACT647MR; p. 170). Fact.MR. Retrieved from <https://www.factmr.com/report/647/gluten-free-bread-market/> Accessed June 17, 2025.
2. Siminiuc, R., Turcanu, D. (2023). Technological approaches applied in the design of gluten-free bakery products. *Czech Journal of Food Sciences*, 41(3), 155–172. <https://doi.org/10.17221/180/2022-CJFS>
3. Cappelli, A., Oliva, N., Cini, E. (2020). A systematic review of gluten-free dough and bread: Dough rheology, bread characteristics, and improvement strategies. *Applied Sciences*, 10(18), Article 6559. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app10186559>
4. Celiac Disease Statistics. (2022). Celiac Disease and Gluten – Free statistic and facts. Retrieved from <https://www.goglutenfreely.com/ceeliac-disease-and-gluten-free-statistics/> Accessed June 17, 2025.
5. Peñalver, R., Ros, G., Nieto, G. (2023). Development of gluten-free functional bread adapted to the nutritional requirements of celiac patients. *Fermentation*, 9(7), Article 631. <https://doi.org/10.3390/fermentation9070631>
6. Siminiuc, R., Turcanu, D. (2022). Food security of people with celiac disease in the Republic of Moldova through prism of public policies. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 10, Article 961827. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2022.961827>
7. Fratelli, C., Santos, F. G., Muniz, D. G., Habu, S., Braga, A. R. C., Capriles, V. D. (2021). Psyllium improves the quality and shelf life of gluten-free bread. *Foods*, 10(5), Article 954. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods10050954>
8. Liu, X., Mu, T., Sun, H., Zhang, M., Chen, J., Fauconnier, M. L. (2019). Effect of ingredients on the quality of gluten-free steamed bread based on potato flour. *Journal of Food Science and Technology*, 56(6), 2863–2875. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13197-019-03730-9>
9. Torres-Pérez, R., Martínez-García, E., Siguero-Tudela, M. M., García-Segovia, P., Martínez-Monzó, J., Igual, M. (2024). Enhancing gluten-free bread production: impact of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, psyllium husk fiber, and xanthan gum on dough characteristics and bread quality. *Foods*, 13(11), Article 1691. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods13111691>
10. Zhang, J., Zhu, Q., Cheng, L., Kang, J., Liu, H., Zhang, L. et al. (2025). Enhancing gluten-free dough and bread properties using xanthan gum and its trifluoroacetic acid hydrolytes. *Food Hydrocolloids*, 164, Article 111204. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodhyd.2025.111204>
11. Kajzer, M., Diowksz, A. (2021). The clean label concept: Novel approaches in gluten-free breadmaking. *Applied Sciences*, 11(13), Article 6129. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app11136129>
12. Quinte, L., Valderrama, I., Best, I. (2025). Evaluation of the effect of improvers: Psyllium and xanthan gum in bread loaf with partial replacement of quinoa flour. *Foods*, 14(3), Article 418. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods14030418>
13. Saeed Omer, S. H., Hong, J., Zheng, X., Khashaba, R. (2023). Sorghum flour and sorghum flour enriched bread: Characterizations, challenges, and potential improvements. *Foods*, 12(23), Article 4221. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods12234221>
14. Rumler, R., Bender, D., Marti, A., Biber, S., Schoenlechner, R. (2024). Investigating the impact of sorghum variety and type of flour on chemical, functional, rheological and baking properties. *Journal of Cereal Science*, 116, Article 103881. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcs.2024.103881>
15. Siminiuc, R., Coşciug, L., Popescu, L., Bulgaru, V. (2012). The effect of dehulling and thermal treatment on the protein fractions in sorghum (*Sorghum oryzoidum*) grains. *The Annals of the University Dunarea de Jos of Galati. Fascicle VI-Food Technology*, 36(1), 97–103.
16. dos Reis Gallo, L. R., Reis, C. E. G., Mendonça, M. A., da Silva, V. S. N., Pacheco, M. T. B., Botelho, R. B. A. (2021). Impact of gluten-free sorghum bread genotypes on glycemic and antioxidant responses in healthy adults. *Foods*, 10(10), Article 2256. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods10102256>
17. Roşca, I., Palancean, A., Onica, E. (2019). Particularităţile creşterii, dezvoltării şi cultivării plantelor de *Sambucus Nigra* L. în Republica Moldova. *Journal of Botany*, XI(1(18)), 76–82. [Roşca, I., Palancean, A., Onica, E. (2019). Peculiarities of growth, development and cultivation of *Sambucus Nigra* L. in the Republic of Moldova. *Journal of Botany*, XI(1(18)), 76–82. (In Romanian)]
18. Seymenska, D., Teneva, D., Nikolova, I., Benbassat, N., Denev, P. (2024). In vivo anti-inflammatory and antinociceptive activities of black elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.) Fruit and Flower Extracts. *Pharmaceuticals*, 17(4), Article 409. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ph17040409>
19. Seixas, N. L., Paula, V. B., Dias, T., Dias, L. G., Estevinho, L. M. (2025). The effect of incorporating fermented elderberries (*Sambucus nigra*) into bread: Quality, shelf life, and biological enhancement. *Foods*, 14(5), Article 724. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods14050724>
20. Derrien, M., Badr, A., Gosselin, A., Desjardins, Y., Angers, P. (2017). Optimization of a green process for the extraction of lutein and chlorophyll from spinach by-products using response surface methodology (RSM). *LWT – Food Science and Technology*, 79, 170–177. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lwt.2017.01.010>
21. Prasad, R. V., Dhital, S., Williamson, G., Barber, E. (2024). Nutrient composition, physical characteristics and sensory quality of spinach-enriched wheat bread. *Foods*, 13(15), Article 2401. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods13152401>
22. Onyango, C., Mutungi, C., Unbehend, G., Lindhauer, M. G. (2011). Modification of gluten-free sorghum batter and bread using maize, potato, cassava or rice starch. *LWT – Food Science and Technology*, 44(3), 681–686. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lwt.2010.09.006>
23. International Organization for Standardization. (2019). Colorimetry-Part 4: CIE 1976 $L^*a^*b^*$ colour space (ISO/CIE 11664–4:2019; 1st edn). International Organization for Standardization. Retrieved from <https://www.iso.org/standard/74166.html> Accessed June 17, 2025.
24. International Organization for Standardization. (2016). Sensory analysis – Methodology – General guidance for establishing a sensory profile (ISO 13299:2016; 2nd edn). International Organization for Standardization. Retrieved from <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:13299:ed-2:v1:en> Accessed June 17, 2025.
25. International Organization for Standardization. (2007). Sensory analysis – General guidance for the design of test rooms (ISO 8589:2007; 2nd edn). International Organization for Standardization. Retrieved from <https://www.iso.org/standard/36385.html> Accessed June 17, 2025.
26. International Organization for Standardization. (2020). Sensory analysis – Methodology – General guidance for conducting hedonic tests with consumers in a controlled area. Amendment 1 (ISO 11136:2014/Amd 1:2020; 1st edn). International Organization for Standardization. Retrieved from <https://www.iso.org/standard/75557.html> Accessed June 17, 2025.
27. International Organization for Standardization. (2014). Sensory analysis – Methodology – General guidance for conducting hedonic tests with consumers in a controlled area (ISO 11136:2014; 1st edn). Retrieved from <https://www.iso.org/standard/50125.html> Accessed June 17, 2025.
28. Smidová, Z., Rysová, J. (2022). Gluten-free bread and bakery products technology. *Foods*, 11(3), Article 480. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods11030480>
29. Culetu, A., Susman, I. E., Duta, D. E., Belc, N. (2021). Nutritional and functional properties of gluten-free flours. *Applied Sciences*, 11(14), Article 6283. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app11146283>
30. Gray, J. A., Bemiller, J. N. (2003). Bread staling: Molecular basis and control. *Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety*, 2(1), 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1541-4337.2003.tb00011.x>
31. Tóth, M., Kaszab, T., Meretei, A. (2022). Texture profile analysis and sensory evaluation of commercially available gluten-free bread samples. *European Food Research and Technology*, 248(6), 1447–1455. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00217-021-03944-2>
32. Domínguez, R., Pateiro, M., Muneke, P. E. S., Santos López, E. M., Rodríguez, J. A., Barros, L. et al. (2021). Potential use of elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L.) as natural colorant and antioxidant in the food industry. A review. *Foods*, 10(11), Article 2713. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods10112713>
33. Matos, M. E., Rosell, C. M. (2012). Relationship between instrumental parameters and sensory characteristics in gluten-free breads. *European Food Research and Technology*, 235(1), 107–117. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00217-012-1736-5>
34. Choi, Y. J. (2010). Analytical methodology for bread staling. *Journal of the Korean Society for Applied Biological Chemistry*, 53(4), 389–400. <https://doi.org/10.3839/jksabc.2010.061>
35. Matos, M. E., Rosell, C. M. (2015). Understanding gluten-free dough for reaching breads with physical quality and nutritional balance: Understanding gluten-free dough. *Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture*, 95(4), 653–661. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jsfa.6732>
36. Patras, A., Brunton, Nigel P., O'Donnell, C., Tiwari, B. K. (2010). Effect of thermal processing on anthocyanin stability in foods: Mechanisms and kinetics of degradation. *Trends in Food Science and Technology*, 21(1), 3–11. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tifs.2009.07.004>
37. Ghendov-Mosanu, A., Cristea, E., Patras, A., Sturza, R., Nicula, M. (2020). Rose Hips, a valuable source of antioxidants to improve gingerbread characteristics. *Molecules*, 25(23), Article 5659. <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules25235659>
38. Miglio, C., Chiavaro, E., Visconti, A., Fogliano, V., Pellegrini, N. (2008). Effects of different cooking methods on nutritional and physicochemical characteristics of selected vegetables. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 56(1), 139–147. <https://doi.org/10.1021/jf072304b>
39. Fadda, C., Sanguinetti, A. M., Del Caro, A., Collar, C., Piga, A. (2014). Bread staling: Updating the view. *Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety*, 13(4), 473–492. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1541-4337.12064>
40. Pagliarini, E., Laureati, M., Lavelli, V. (2010). Sensory evaluation of gluten-free breads assessed by a trained panel of celiac assessors. *European Food Research and Technology*, 231(1), 37–46. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00217-010-1249-z>

AUTHOR INFORMATION		СВЕДЕНИЯ ОБ АВТОРАХ	
Affiliation		Принадлежность к организации	
Rodica Siminiuc , Doctor, Associate Professor, Department of Food and Nutrition, Technical University of Moldova bd. Ștefan cel Mare, 168, Chișinău, Moldova, MD-2004 E-mail: rodica.siminiuc@adm.utm.md ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4257-1840 * corresponding author		Симинюк Родика Ивановна — Доктор, профессор, Кафедра пищевых продуктов и питания, Технический Университет Молдовы Республика Молдова, Кишинев, бул. Штефан чел Маре, 168, MD-2004 E-mail: rodica.siminiuc@adm.utm.md ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4257-1840 * автор для контактов	
Dinu Țurcanu , Doctor, Associate Professor, Department of Food and Nutrition, Technical University of Moldova bd. Ștefan cel Mare, 168, Chișinău, Moldova, MD-2004 E-mail: dinu.turcanu@adm.utm.md ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5540-4246		Цуркану Дину Николаевич — доктор, профессор, Кафедра пищевых продуктов и питания, Технический Университет Молдовы Республика Молдова, Кишинев, бул. Штефан чел Маре, 168, MD-2004 E-mail: dinu.turcanu@adm.utm.md ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5540-4246	
Contribution		Критерии авторства	
Authors equally relevant to the writing of the manuscript, and equally responsible for plagiarism.		Авторы в равных долях имеют отношение к написанию рукописи и одинаково несут ответственность за плагиат.	
Conflict of interest		Конфликт интересов	
The authors declare no conflict of interest.		Авторы заявляют об отсутствии конфликта интересов.	