

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE** 

# **Evaluation of the influence of different cooking pot types on the metallic elements content in edible chicken tissues by MIP OES**

Avaliação da influência do tipo de panela empregado para cocção sobre os teores de elementos metálicos em carne de frango por MIP OES

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# Abstract

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This work describes the analysis of different chicken tissues (gizzard, heart, and liver) both raw and cooked with seasonings in different types of cooking pots (iron pot, , aluminum pot and hammered aluminum pot) commonly used in Brazil. The samples were decomposed using microwave-assisted digestion with diluted nitric acid; and the contents of Al, Ca, Cu, Fe, Mn and Ni were determined using Microwave Induced Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometry (MIP OES). The Fe content was also determined by Flame Atomic Absorption Spectrometry, and the comparison showed good accuracy of the method. The limits of quantification were below 0.011 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, showing adequate detectability. Cooking in the different pots increased the ash and protein contents as well as decreased the moisture content. Box-plot and Principal Components Analysis showed that Ca and Fe contents present the largest variations in the samples, followed by Al and moisture. The variables Al, Cu, Mn, Ni, ash, and protein presented similar behavior after cooking in all different pots. In addition, liver cooked in both iron and hammered aluminum pots presented similar Fe contents, while gizzard and heart showed similar Ca contents.

Keywords: Chicken meat; Iron pot; Hammered aluminum pot; Aluminum pot; Metals; MIP OES.

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# Resumo

Este trabalho descreve a análise de tecidos comestíveis de frango como coração, fígado e moela, crus e cozidos com temperos em diferentes panelas (panela de ferro, panela de alumínio e panela de alumínio batido) comumente utilizadas no Brasil. A digestão ácida assistida por radiação micro-ondas, com utilização de ácido nítrico diluído, foi empregada para decomposição das amostras. Os teores dos elementos metálicos Al, Ca, Cu, Fe, Mn e Ni foram determinados por Espectrometria de Emissão Óptica com Plasma Induzido por Micro-ondas. A comparação dos teores de Fe obtidos também por Espectrometria de Absorção Atômica em Chama mostrou uma boa exatidão do método. Os limites de quantificação para os analitos avaliados ficaram abaixo de 0,011 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, mostrando detectabilidade adequada. As cocções das amostras nas diferentes panelas utilizadas promoveram um aumento dos teores de cinzas e proteínas e uma diminuição dos teores de umidade. A Análise de Componentes Principais e os diagramas de caixa mostraram que as variáveis Ca e Fe apresentaram as maiores variações entre as amostras, seguidas pelas variáveis Al e umidade. As variáveis Al, Cu, Mn, Ni, cinzas e proteínas apresentaram comportamento semelhante após a cocção nos três tipos de panela empregados. A amostra de fígado cozida tanto na panela de ferro quanto na panela de alumínio batido apresentou teores similares de Fe, enquanto as amostras de coração e moela apresentaram teores similares de Ca após cocção nas mesmas panelas.

**Palavras-chave:** Carne de frango; Panela de ferro; Panela de alumínio batido; Panela de alumínio; Metais; MIP OES.

## **1** Introduction

Chicken meat is an important source of different and substantial nutrients such as proteins, vitamins, and minerals (Food and Agricutlure Organization of the United Nations, 2014). In addition, chicken meat has lower fat content than other types of meat, being adequate for a healthy diet (Menezes et al., 2018). Besides, chicken meat plays an important role in Brazilian agriculture and economy with high exportation rates (Associação Brasileira de Proteína Animal, 2016); its many uses in different meals and processed products include pâté, sausage and others (Souza et al., 2013).

The protein quality of chicken meat, as well as its nutritional value, can be influenced by thermal treatments applied to it (Deb-Choudhury et al., 2014; He et al., 2010; Menezes et al., 2018; Quintaes et al., 2004; Wen et al., 2015). Cooking processes are employed to improve digestibility, palatability, as well as to inhibit pathogen growth (Park & Brittin, 2000; Perelló et al., 2008). Thermal treatments applied to protein-rich food can cause changes in proteins structure as well as changes in food's pH, and its water retention ability.

During cooking process, the food is in contact with the pot and all the cookware used, thus migration of metallic elements may occur. The migration of metals from the cookware may be considered adequate when there are deficiencies in the diet, such as in some cases of anemia. On the other hand, this scene may also be of concern since the migration of both essential and toxic elements can randomly occur (Liao et al., 2018; Park & Brittin, 2000; Perelló et al., 2008; Quintaes et al., 2004). Furthermore, the cooking of food may result in chemical changes such as weight gain or water losses, color alterations and texture changes due to denaturation of proteins (Silva et al., 2017; Goran et al., 2016).

Some authors reported the effect of thermal processing, such as freezing, storage under refrigeration, and different forms of cooking on food (Silva et al., 2017; Ferreira et al., 2007; Rosa et al., 2006). Most of these studies monitor changes in the nutritional composition of the samples by determining fat and protein modifications, for example. However, few works focused on the mineral element contents in meat after different thermal treatments (Ferreira et al., 2007; Gokhale & Mahoney, 2014; Goran et al., 2016; He et al., 2010; Liao et al., 2018; Menezes et al., 2018; Perelló et al., 2008; Rosa et al., 2006), showing that the type of thermal processing may influence the metals concentrations in the samples, either increasing or decreasing their contents (Nunes et al., 2013). However, samples in those studies were cooked without seasonings and spices, differing from the usual home cooking. Additionally, the authors did not explore whether different

cooking pots types influence both nutritional and metallic contents in the food. These approaches may provide new results and information to the field.

Metallic determinations in different samples is usually made by spectrometric techniques (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1999) such as Flame Atomic Absorption Spectrometry (F AAS), Graphite Furnace Atomic Absorption Spectrometry (GF AAS), Inductively Coupled Plasma-Atomic Emission Spectrometry (ICP OES) and Microwave Induced Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometry (MIP OES), which is a novel plasma technique for multi-element analysis. MIP OES has many advantages compared to flame-based spectrometric methods (F AAS and F AES). Its plasma is sustained by N<sub>2</sub>, which can be extracted from air using an N2 generator, improving the safety since no flammable gases and their cylinders are required. On the other hand, higher plasma temperatures compared to flame and graphite furnace allows carbide formation or refractive element determination. Therefore, MIP OES is a cheap, practical, fast, and environmental friendly technique recently employed for multi-element determination in different food matrices, including vinegars (Ozbek et al., 2016), cheese and other dairy products (Diniz et al., 2017; Ozbek & Akman, 2016b; Williams et al., 2017), in addition to bread (Ozbek & Akman, 2016a) and beer (Leão et al., 2018).

In this context, this work aimed to study the effect of different cooking pots on the contents of some nutritional components, such as moisture, protein and ash in chicken meat, as well as to evaluate whether metallic leaching (Al, Ca, Cu, Fe, Mn, and Ni) from different cookware can be observed in chicken meat samples after a microwave-assisted acid digestion.

## 2 Materials and methods

#### 2.1 Apparatus and reagents

All materials were washed with a neutral soap (Prolab), soaked in 10% (m/v) nitric acid for 24 hours and then rinsed with deionized water prior to use. Ultrapure water was obtained using a Milli-Q System (Millipore, Bedford, MA, USA).

A 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup> of a multielement standard solution for MIP OES containing Al, Ca, Cu, Fe, Mn and Ni (Sigma Aldrich, Germany) was used to prepare standard solutions for the MIP OES determinations. The calibration range employed for all analytes was 0.50 to 5.0 mg L<sup>-1</sup>. For F AAS determinations, a 1,000 mg L<sup>-1</sup> of a Fe solution (Qhemis High Purity, Jundiai, SP, Brazil) was used to prepare standard solutions with concentrations between 0.5 and 4.0 mg L<sup>-1</sup>. The samples were accurately weighted using an analytical balance (ME 204, Metler Toledo, Columbus, OH, USA).

A microwave oven from Berghof (model SpeedWave Four, Eningen, BW, Germany) was used for the acid digestion employing  $HNO_3$  65% m/v P.A. (Vetec, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil), for total metals determination.

The materials used for the samples cooking were: a stove (Atlas, Instrutherm, São Paulo, SP, Brazil), liquefied gas (Supergasbras, model P13, Betim, MG, Brazil), infrared digital thermometer (Instrutherm, TI 860, São Paulo, SP, Brazil), garlic (Oishii, São Paulo, SP, Brazil), table salt (Cisne, Cabo Frio, RJ, Brazil), soybean oil (Soya, Rio Grande, RS, Brazil), wooden spoon and cooking pots made of iron, aluminum and hammered aluminum bought at a local grocery store.

For Fe determinations by F AAS, a Thermo Scientific atomic absorption spectrometer, model SOLAAR M5 (Thermo Scientific, China) equipped with deuterium background correction were used. A Fe hollow cathode lamp was employed as radiation source (248.3 nm) with 10 mA of electric current. The other instrumental conditions were optimized by using a standard solution in HNO<sub>3</sub> media. Such conditions corresponded to a bandpass of 0.2 nm, burner height of 7.0 cm and a gas mixture of air/C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> rate:  $1.2 \text{ L} \text{ min}^{-1}$ ). For the measurements of Al, Ca, Cu, Fe, Mn and Ni, an atomic emission spectrometer with microwave-induced plasma, model MIP 4200 (Agilent Technologies, Melbourne, Australia), equipped with

a double-pass cyclonic chamber and an inert flow blurring nebulizer (OneNeb) was employed. The nitrogen used to generate the plasma was supplied by an air compressor from Agilent (4107 Nitrogen Generator, Melbourne, Australia). The plasma gas flow rate was 20.0 L min<sup>-1</sup> and the nebulization gas flow rate was 1.5 L min<sup>-1</sup>. Instrumental parameters such as nebulizer gas pressure and viewing position were automatically optimized, for each analyte separately, using the instrument software (MP Expert). The instrumental parameters employed by MIP OES analysis, such as wavelength, plasma viewing position and nebulizer flow are listed in Table 1.

Element	Wavelength (nm)	Plasma Viewing Position (mm)	Nebulizer flow (L min <sup>-1</sup> )
Al	396.152	-10	1.00
Ca	393.366	10	0.60
Cu	324.754	0	0.60
Fe	371.993	0	0.75
Mn	403.076	0	0.85
Ni	352.424	0	0.60

Table 1. MIP OES instrumenta	l parameters emplo	yed to determine Al, Ca,	Cu, Fe, Mn and Ni ir	n chicken meat samples.
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Sample Acquirement and Cooking Methods.

Chicken meat samples acquired for this work included gizzard, heart, and liver. Amounts of 1,000 g of each kind of tissue were acquired from two different local stores, totaling 2,000 g for each sample. Then, the samples were separated into two different groups: raw and cooked (c.a. 200.0 g employing the different cooking pots).

The cooking pots were bought exclusively for this study and the selected types were *iron pot (P1)*, *aluminum pot (P2)* and *hammered aluminum pot (P3)*, which are common types of pots used in Brazil. The cookware was washed with water and neutral soap before use. The iron cooking pot required an additional step before its use and was performed as described in the literature (Campos et al., 2018). The samples were labeled with codes as follow: Gizzard raw and cooked on P1, P2, and P3: GR, GP1, GP2, and GP3, respectively; Heart raw and cooked on P1, P2, and P3: HR, HP1, HP2, and HP3, respectively; Liver raw and cooked on P1, P2, and P3: LR, LP1, LP2, and LP3, respectively.

A domestic cooking procedure, using seasonings and spices such as table salt and garlic, was simulated in the laboratory under controlled conditions as reported in previous work (Campos et al., 2018). The metal content was also measured in blank solutions (N=2) containing both the spices and the water employed for the cooking procedures.

These solutions were used to measure background concentrations of the analytes. Both raw and cooked samples were dried in a vacuum oven at  $(70 \pm 1)$  °C for 72 h, milled, placed in decontaminating plastic flasks and frozen at approximately -50 °C. All cookware was washed with neutral soap and dried at room temperature between the cooking of the samples. The use of abrasive products was also avoided. All procedures were made in authentic duplicates.

#### 2.2 Proximate composition analysis

Some parameters of the chicken meat samples composition (raw and cooked) such as moisture, protein and ash contents were also evaluated based on official methods by Adolfo Lutz Institute of Brazil (Instituto Adolfo Lutz, 2008). Moisture content was determined by heating 2.000 g of each type of sample in a vacuum oven at 105 °C until obtaining a constant weight. The protein content was evaluated by using the Kjeldahl

method. To determine ash content, 1.000 g of the samples was placed in a muffle furnace and the incineration was performed at 550 °C for 5 h until constant weight. All the measurements were made in authentic duplicates (Instituto Adolfo Lutz, 2008).

### 2.3 Mineral determinations

Total contents of metallic elements (Al, Ca, Cu, Fe, Mn, and Ni) were determined in the samples, raw and cooked, after acid digestion with 6.00 mL of a 7 M solution of HNO<sub>3</sub> using a microwave oven. After the digestion procedure, the samples were transferred to a volumetric flask and the volume was brought up to 25.00 mL with deionized water. Some parameters of this digestion method, such as accuracy, precision, limits of detection and quantification, were previously evaluated for Fe (Campos et al., 2018). The accuracy (Thompson et al., 2002) was evaluated by the determination of Fe contents in the samples by the spectrometry techniques, F AAS and MIP OES. MIP OES was employed to determine the other mineral contents. All the measurements were made in authentic duplicates.

Principal component analysis (Campos et al., 2014; Jolliffe & Cadima, 2016) (PCA) was also performed to evaluate the mineral content and proximate composition profile of the data set, and to identify possible associations between the variables.

# **3 Results and discussion**

## 3.1 Proximate composition analysis

Table 2 shows the content of moisture, protein, and ash determined in both raw and cooked chicken samples.

Sample	Moisture <sup>a</sup> (%)	Protein <sup>a</sup> (% w/w)	Ash <sup>a</sup> (% w/w)
GR	$79\pm1$	$14 \pm 1$	$0.73\pm0.05$
GP1	$63 \pm 1$	$18 \pm 1$	$3.0\pm0.1$
GP2	$63 \pm 1$	$18 \pm 1$	$3.3 \pm 0.1$
GP3	$67 \pm 1$	$17 \pm 1$	$2.7 \pm 0.1$
HR	$70\pm3$	$13 \pm 1$	$0.85\pm0.07$
HP1	$52 \pm 1$	$15 \pm 1$	$2.8\pm0.1$
HP2	$57 \pm 1$	$14 \pm 1$	$2.5\pm0.1$
HP3	$53 \pm 1$	$17 \pm 1$	$2.7\pm0.1$
LR	$77 \pm 3$	$14 \pm 1$	$1.1 \pm 0.1$
LP1	57 ± 1	$18 \pm 1$	$3.1\pm0.1$
LP2	$63 \pm 1$	$18 \pm 1$	$2.5 \pm 0.4$
LP3	$59\pm1$	$20 \pm 1$	3.0 ± 0.1

Table 2.	Moisture	protein	and ash	contents	of the ray	w and	cooked	chicken	samples
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GR = Raw gizzard; GP1 = Gizzard cooked in *iron* (P1), GP2= Gizzard cooked in *aluminum* pot (P2). GP3= Gizzard cooked in *hammered aluminum* pot (P3). HR = Raw Heart; HP1 = Heart cooked in *iron* (P1), HP2= Heart cooked in *aluminum* pot (P2). HP3= Heart cooked in *hammered aluminum* pot (P3). LR = Raw liver; LP1 = Liver cooked in *iron* (P1), LP2= Liver cooked in *aluminum* pot (P2). HP3= Liver cooked in *hammered aluminum* pot (P3). a Expressed as Media ± Confidence Interval =  $\frac{t \times S}{\sqrt{N}}$ , S is the standard deviation, N is the number of replicates

and t is the Student parameter. ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ; n = 2).

The levels found for these compounds in LR and HR corroborate with previously reported data (Universidade Estadual de Campinas, 2011). From the best of our knowledge, for gizzard and all cooked samples there are no data reported in the literature. In this sense, the results presented in this study may be employed in the nutritional area.

For raw and cooked gizzard samples, the moisture contents ranged from 63% to 79% w/w, with a variation around 20%, while for protein contents the obtained ranged from 14% to 18% w/w, with a variation around 23%. It is noteworthy that the samples cooking, regardless of the type of the cooking pot used, reduced the moisture content as well as an increased of the protein content. According to literature, the increase of ash and protein contents after cooking may be justified by the incorporation of the cooking media to the meat, as observed in this study. In addition, the samples cooking reduced the moisture levels and increased the dry matter concentration (Gokoglu et al, 2004; Rosa et al., 2006) For these two parameters, the variations observed from samples of different cooking pots were small (< 7%). On other hand, we observed an increase of approximately 79% of the ash contents after the cooking of these samples; however, and a moderate difference (~18%) between the samples from different cooking pots. Similar behavior was observed for heart and liver samples.

## 3.2 Mineral determinations

The use of diluted nitric acid for samples decomposition in routine analysis increased safety and is compatible with green chemistry principles and multi-element analysis (Castro et al., 2009; Gonzalez et al., 2009; Nóbrega et al., 2012). Additionally, lower blank values can be observed, which may result in lower limits of quantification that is good for regulatory purposes or trace element determination. The efficiency of diluted nitric acid solutions for digestion of different samples is well explained in the literature (Castro et al., 2009; Gonzalez et al., 2009; Gonzalez et al., 2012). However, to our best knowledge, there is no application for chicken tissues digestions cooked in the different cooking pots as reported in this study.

Table 3 shows some performance parameters obtained by MIP OES, such as the curve equations, linearity expressed by  $R^2$  and the limits of detection (LOD) and quantification (LOQ).

Element	$\mathbf{R}^2$	LOD (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	LOQ (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )
Al	0.99180	0.054	0.18
Ca	0.99550	0.0033	0.011
Cu	0.99934	0.013	0.045
Fe	0.99949	0.16	0.52
Mn	0.99905	0.038	0.13
Ni	0.99938	0.079	0.26

Table 3. Curve equations, Linearity, and Limits of Detection (LOD) and Quantification (LOQ) by MIP OES.

 $R^2 = determination \ coefficient$ 

According to these parameters, this spectrometric technique showed good linearity (Barro Neto et al., 2007; Wood, 1999) since the  $R^2$  values are close to 1.000 for all analytes. Additionally, the values obtained for LOD and LOQ ranged between 0.0033 to 0.16 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> and from 0.011 to 0.52 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, that showed that the method has adequate detectability for the determination of the studied elements in chicken tissue samples.

To evaluate the accuracy of the method, the contents of Fe were also determined in the samples GR, GP1, HR, HP1, LR, and LP1, randomly selected. We used the Student's paired t-test to compare the concentrations

obtained by F AAS and MIP OES techniques and no evidence of significant statistical differences were observed at 95% of significance ( $t_{calculated} = 0.7393 < t_{table}(5; 0.025) = 2.571$ ) (Barro Neto et al., 2007; Thompson et al., 2002). These results are shown in Table 4.

Cl.	Fe content	<sup>a</sup> (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )
Sample	F AAS	MIP OES
GR	141 ± 11	$143 \pm 8$
GP1	$115 \pm 6$	$109 \pm 6$
HR	$120\pm8$	$138 \pm 2$
HP1	115 ± 1	$129 \pm 1$
LR	$338\pm15$	$321 \pm 9$
LP1	$365 \pm 10$	$464 \pm 2$

Table 4.	Fe concentration	ns in some	e chicken	meat samr	oles obta	ined by	Γ	AAS	and MIF	OES.
	r e concentratio.	ib in boint	o on one on	mout buin	JICD 0010	inica o j		1 11 10	and min	CLD.

GR = Raw gizzard; GP1 = Gizzard cooked in *iron* (P1), HR = Raw Heart; HP1 = Heart cooked in *iron* (P1), LR = Raw liver; LP1 = Liver cooked in *iron* (P1). <sup>a</sup>Expressed as Media ± Confidence Interval =  $\frac{t \times S}{\sqrt{N}}$ , S is the standard deviation, N is the number of replicates and t is the Student parameter. ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ; n = 2).

Since MIP OES is a multielemental technique (Diniz et al., 2017; Leão et al., 2018; Ozbek & Akman, 2016a, 2016b; Ozbek et al., 2016; Williams et al., 2017) and the results obtained for Fe in the samples were statistically comparable with those obtained by F AAS, this technique was considered adequate to determine not only Fe but also other metallic elements, which concentrations should be easier detectable by MIP OES than by F AAS.

The concentrations of the Al, Ca, Cu, Fe, Mn, and Ni obtained in the raw and cooked chicken samples are shown in Table 5.

Cl.		Concentration <sup>a</sup> (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )								
Sample	Al	Ca	Cu	Fe	Mn	Ni				
GR	$55 \pm 1$	$554\pm19$	$4.1\pm0.1$	$153\pm8$	$3.7\pm0.1$	$6.5\pm0.1$				
GP1	$1.2\pm0.2$	$331\pm19$	$4.4\pm0.3$	$109\pm 6$	$2.5\pm0.1$	$< \text{FOD}_p$				
GP2	< LOD	$263\pm7$	$4.2\pm0.2$	$87.4\pm7.0$	$1.8\pm0.1$	< LOD				
GP3	< LOD	$231\pm8$	$11 \pm 1$	$142\pm4$	$1.1\pm0.2$	< LOD				
HR	$52\pm1$	$459\pm15$	$10\pm1$	$138\pm2$	$2.5\pm0.5$	$6.3\pm 0.1$				
HP1	< LOD	$167\pm2$	$9.4\pm0.3$	$129\pm1$	$1.4 \pm 0.1$	< LOD				
HP2	< LOD	$145\pm23$	$10\pm1$	$120\pm 6$	$0.73\pm0.13$	< LOD				
HP3	< LOD	$188\pm4$	$11 \pm 1$	$122 \pm 11$	$0.80\pm0.04$	< LOD				
LR	$12 \pm 1$	$596\pm20$	$16 \pm 1$	$321\pm9$	$7.7\pm0.5$	< LOD				
LP1	< LOD	$326\pm21$	$14\pm1$	$464\pm2$	$9.9\pm0.1$	< LOD				
LP2	$3.8\pm0.9$	$211\pm16$	$12 \pm 1$	$224\pm 6$	$8.0\pm0.1$	< LOD				
LP3	$20\pm 2$	$304 \pm 22$	$13 \pm 1$	$313 \pm 3$	$8.6 \pm 0.3$	< LOD				

Table 5. Minerals concentrations in chicken meat samples obtained by MIP OES.

GR = Raw gizzard; GP1 = Gizzard cooked in *iron* (P1), GP2= Gizzard cooked in *aluminum* pot (P2). GP3= Gizzard cooked in *hammered aluminum* pot (P3). HR = Raw Heart; HP1 = Heart cooked in *iron* (P1), HP2= Heart cooked in *aluminum* pot (P2). HP3= Heart cooked in *hammered aluminum* pot (P3). LR = Raw liver; LP1 = Liver cooked in *iron* (P1), LP2= Liver cooked in *aluminum* pot (P2), LP3= Liver cooked

in hammered aluminum pot (P3). "Expressed as Media  $\pm$  Confidence Interval =  $\frac{t \times S}{\sqrt{N}}$ , S is the standard deviation, N is the number of replicates

and t is the Student parameter. ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ; n = 2). <sup>b</sup>LOD = Limit of detection. For Ni LOD = 0.079 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>.

The results for raw samples corroborates with other data previously reported (Franco, 1992; Universidade Estadual de Campinas, 2011). For gizzard samples, there is no data reported elsewhere, from the best of our knowledge. In general, we observed that the cooking process using different pots leads to more losses than increases of the metal elements determined in the chicken samples. Increases of Fe by cooking liver chicken may be noticed when using both iron and hammered aluminum pots.

During food cooking process, various reactions may change the food matrices. The use of different cooking methods including heat treatments and factors such as temperature, process duration and cooking medium cause chemical and physical changes that can modify the nutritional value of foods, mainly due to losses of vitamins and minerals. When food was cooked with water additions, water-soluble components can be lost by dissolution or leaching (Rosa et al., 2006).

Gerber, Scheeder and Wenk (Gerber et al., 2009) evaluated the effect of cooking on the levels of minerals, vitamins and fatty acids in beef, pork, and veal. In that study, the samples were grilled and cooked in water without the addition of seasonings. The authors observed an increase of around 16% of the total iron content and a decrease of 28% for calcium concentration. In both cases, the authors observed significant differences between the levels of these minerals found in raw pork samples and after the cooking methods.

Menezes and co-workers (Menezes et al., 2018) also verified the influence of five different heat treatments on the total and bioaccessible contents of minerals and proteins in beef, pork, and chicken. Regarding total contents, baked chicken and pork samples showed the largest calcium losses, which can be related to the break of chemical bonds between Ca and degraded protein. In addition, they showed that heating might affect bioaccessible fractions of some minerals and proteins. Using infrared spectroscopy, they also showed that denaturation of protein was associated with the bioaccessible fractions reduction.

In this context, the profile of our results are compatible with other data presented in the literature and, from the best of our knowledge, there is no work regarding the effect of these type of cooking pots on the contents of metallic elements in these edible chicken tissues.

## 3.3 Statistical analysis

Box-plot with results from MIP OES and proximate composition analysis are shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3, for gizzard, heart and liver, respectively.



Figure 1. Box-plots with minerals and proximate composition analysis of gizzard.



Figure 2. Box-plots with minerals and proximate composition analysis of heart.



Figure 3. Box-plots with minerals and proximate composition analysis of liver.

By box-plots analysis, it can be noticed that Ca and Fe are the variables that present the largest variations around the averages for the three types of chicken tissues since they present the largest boxes. Next, Al and Moisture show a little variation around the average of data. On another hand, the variables Al, Cu, Mn, Ni, protein, and ash presented narrow concentration ranges, which may indicate a similar behavior for the different pots used.

Another approach employed to verify the influence of the cooking pot on the minerals concentrations in the chicken samples was an exploratory analysis by PCA, which is a chemometric tool based on a covariance model. We applied a correlation matrix of the contents (duplicates) of the variables (minerals and nutritional composition) and missing data (metals not detected) were replaced with zero (Ferreira, 2015; Barro Neto et al., 2007). The PCA obtained model showed a 99.41% explanation for the component's loadings PC1 (68.93%) and PC2 (30.48%) of the whole data variance. In Figure 4, four groups of samples can be observed in the *Scores* graphic (samples set) (a) and three groups can be seen in *Loadings* graphic (variables set) (b).



Figure 4. Scores (a) and Loadings (b) graphics obtained by PCA.

Analyzing these two plots combined, it can be observed that the LR sample (3, 4) is not influenced by the studied variables while the samples HR (1, 2) and GR (5, 6) are influenced by Ca, that is, these two types of raw chicken meat samples present a similar profile of Ca contents. Besides, the samples LP3 (15, 16) e LP1 (21, 22) are influenced by the variable Fe, in other words, the sample of liver cooked in the *iron* and in the *hammered aluminum* cooking pots present similar Fe concentrations. This result shows that these two types of cooking pots may provide similar levels of iron to this chicken tissue, and not only that one made of iron, as suggested by popular culture in Brazil (especially in Minas Gerais).

## **4** Conclusion

In this study, we applied a laboratory simulated domestic cooking procedure to evaluate the influence of different cooking pots on the concentrations of metallic elements and nutritional composition of some types of chicken samples, such as gizzard, heart and liver. The samples were cooked using spices and three types of cooking pots usually employed in Brazil: *iron pot*, aluminum and *hammered aluminum pot*.

Regarding mineral determinations, it was observed that samples cooked in different pots showed different rates of migration of some metals. For liver cooked in *hammered aluminum* pot, for example, there was an increase of 40% of the Al contents when compared to raw liver, while a decrease of this analyte contents was observed from gizzard and heart samples. Additionally, Ca and Fe are the variables with largest contents variations, followed by Al and moisture. By Principal Components Analysis, it was possible to know that liver cooked in both *iron* and *hammered aluminum* cooking pots present similar Fe concentrations while raw gizzard and heart showed similar Ca profiles.

Additionally, it was observed an increase of ash and protein contents after cooking in the different pots employed as well a reduction of moisture levels due to dry matter concentration increase.

In general, it was observed that the cooking in the different pots leads to more losses than increases of the metallic elements determined in the chicken samples. Increases of Fe by cooking liver chicken may be reach using both iron and hammered aluminum pots.

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