

1 **Physicochemical and functional properties of pectin extracted from**  
2 **the edible portions of jackfruit at different stages of maturity**

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14 **Declaration of interest:** None

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26  
27 **Abstract**

## 28 **BACKGROUND**

29 The physico chemical and functional properties of pectin (JFP) extracted from edible  
30 portions (including pericarp and seed) of raw jackfruit (underutilized tropical fruit), at  
31 four different maturity stages (referred to as stage-I, II, III, and IV), were  
32 characterized in terms of extraction yields, chemical composition, molecular weight,  
33 functional and antioxidant properties to evaluate its applicability foods.

## 34 **RESULT**

35 Yield of JFP increased from 9.7 to 21.5% with fruit maturity, accompanied by an  
36 increase in the galacturonic acid content (50.1, 57.1, 63.6 and 65.2%) for stages I-IV  
37 respectively. The molecular weight increased from 147 kDa in stage-I to 169 kDa in  
38 stage-III, but decreased to 114 kDa in stage-IV, probably due to cell wall degradation  
39 during maturation. JFP was of the high-methoxyl type and the degree of  
40 esterification (DE) increased from 65% to 87% with fruit maturity. **The functional**  
41 **properties of JFP were similar or better than those reported for commercial apple**  
42 **pectin, thus** highlighting its potential as food additive. Although the phenolics and  
43 flavonoids content of JFP decreased with fruit maturity, their antioxidant capacity  
44 increased, **which may be correlated with the increased content of galacturonic acid**  
45 **upon fruit development.** Gels prepared from JFP showed viscoelastic behavior.  
46 Depending on maturity stage in which they were obtained, different gelation behavior  
47 was seen.

## 48 **CONCLUSION**

49 The study confirmed the potential of pectin extracted from edible parts of jackfruit as  
50 a promising source of high-quality gelling pectin with antioxidant properties, for food  
51 applications.

52 Keywords: jackfruit; high-methoxyl pectin; galacturonic acid; degree of esterification;

53 antioxidant activity

54

## 55 **1. Introduction**

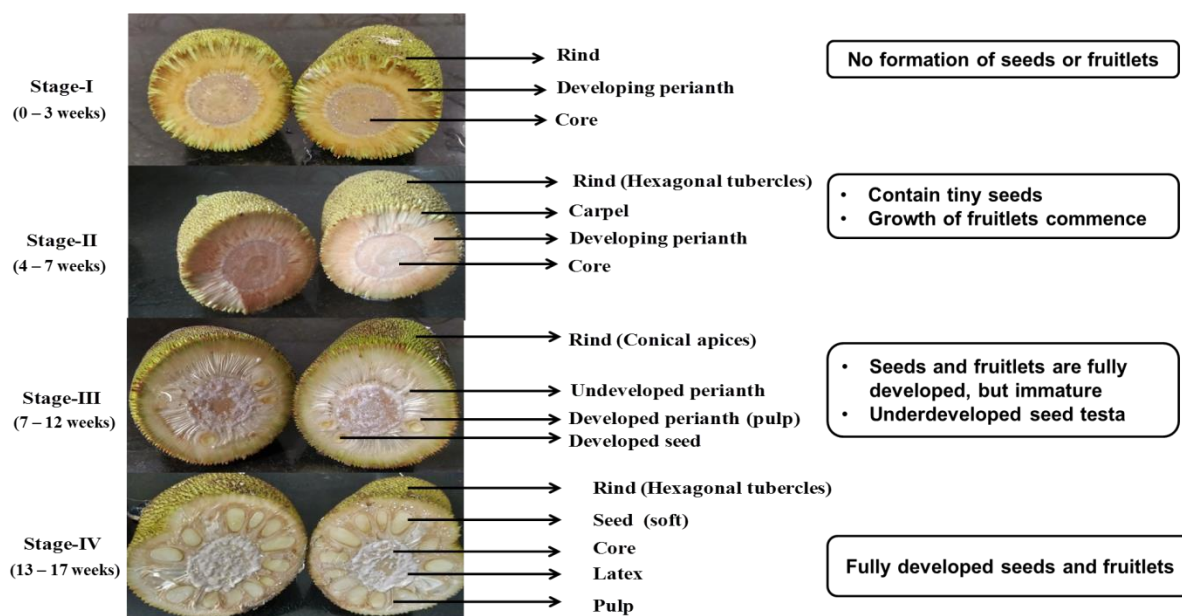
56 Pectin belongs to the family of structural polysaccharides found in the primary cell  
57 walls and middle lamellae of higher plants. These polysaccharides include  
58 homogalacturonan (HG), rhamnogalacturonan I (RG-I), rhamnogalacturonan II (RG-  
59 II), xylogalacturonan (XGA) and apiogalacturonan (AGA). This heterogeneous  
60 structure of pectin confers them with interesting properties for many different  
61 applications, especially it has been used for many years as a gelling agent (in jams,  
62 jellies, marmalades, preserves and bakery fillings), thickening agent (in sauces,  
63 ketchup, and flavored syrups), texturizing agent (in fruit-flavored milk desserts),  
64 stabilizer (yogurts and milk drinks) and emulsifying agent (cod liver oil, ice-cream) in  
65 the food industry.<sup>1</sup> Currently, the primary sources of commercial pectin are apple  
66 pomace and peel of citrus fruits such as oranges, lemons, and grapefruits. In order  
67 to lower the production costs and meet the growing demand, alternative cheaper  
68 sources are being sought. However, obtaining pectin with similar composition and  
69 functional properties as the commercially available pectin is a challenging task and,  
70 thus, alternative sources need to be explored.

71 Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*) is a tropical fruit indigenous to many parts of  
72 Southeast Asia. Despite its high nutritional value and numerous health benefits,  
73 jackfruit remains underutilized due to insufficient post-harvest processing facilities  
74 and loopholes in the supply chain.<sup>2</sup> Approximately 60% of the whole jackfruit is either  
75 discarded as waste or used as cattle feed thus considerably reducing its commercial  
76 value.<sup>3</sup> An early study indicated that jackfruit is a rich source of pectin. Different parts  
77 of the jackfruit such as seeds, kernel, and pericarp were reported to contain 21-25%,  
78 23-28%, and 25-30% of pectin, respectively.<sup>4</sup> Recent studies have focused on the  
79 isolation of pectin from jackfruit seed and waste, including rind and peel.<sup>5,6</sup> However,

80 extraction of pectin from edible portions of the jackfruit (including the fleshy pericarp  
81 and seed) has not been attempted.

82 Tender jackfruits are known to evolve through four maturity stages (Fig. 1). Besides  
83 the various physicochemical changes, the fruit hardness significantly varies with  
84 progress in fruit maturity. It decreases from 8052 g in immature fruits to 840 g in fully  
85 ripe fruits. The reduction in fruit hardness has been attributed to changes in the  
86 pectin content of jackfruit through the different maturity stages.<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, a  
87 comprehensive investigation on the relationship between fruit maturity and the  
88 physicochemical and functional properties of pectin is still lacking. Therefore, in the  
89 present study is designed on the hypothesis that the physico-chemical and functional  
90 properties of the pectin from jackfruit depends on the fruit maturity and therefore its  
91 application in foods determined by the maturity stage at which the pectin is  
92 extracted.

93 Thus, in the present study, jackfruits from different maturity stages were used for  
94 pectin extraction. The extraction yields, chemical composition, molecular weight and  
95 functional properties of the jackfruit pectin (JFP) were evaluated as a function of the  
96 fruit maturity. Specifically, amongst the functional properties studied, the rheological  
97 properties of extracted pectins were explored, given their relevance for their practical  
98 application as a texturizing agent.<sup>8</sup>



100 **Figure 1. Different maturity stages of jackfruit.**

101 **2. Materials and Methods**

102 **2.1. Materials**

103 Jackfruits at different maturity stages were collected from trees in the campus of  
 104 CSIR-NIIST (Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India). Commercial pectin (CAS No 9000-  
 105 69-5, DE 65-70%) was purchased from Himedia, India. Acetone, sodium chloride,  
 106 sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, potassium acetate, methanol, trifluoroacetic  
 107 acid (TFA), and Folin-Ciocalteu reagent were purchased from Sisco Research  
 108 Laboratories (SRL) Pvt. Ltd. (Mumbai, India). Hydrochloric acid was acquired from  
 109 Ranbaxy Fine Chemicals Limited (Mumbai, India). Orthophosphoric acid, aluminum  
 110 chloride, gallic acid, quercetin, ascorbic acid, ABTS and DPPH were obtained from  
 111 Merck India (Mumbai, India). All the reagents were of the analytical grade.

112 **2.2. Pectin extraction**

113 Jackfruits from the four different maturity stages (stage I–IV) were pre-processed to  
 114 remove the outer rind. The edible part of the fruit, including the pericarp and seed,

115 was cut into small pieces, blanched and dried in a Refrigeration Adsorption  
116 Dehumidified Drier (RADD) at 50 °C, until a constant **weight was reached and**  
117 **powdered using a laboratory mill (Retsch Laboratory Mill, Germany).** The jackfruit  
118 powder thus obtained was passed through a sieve of mesh size 50 mm and stored in  
119 an air-tight container until further processing. For the extraction of JFP, the protocol  
120 described by Ranganna, 2002 was followed after slight modifications.<sup>9</sup>  
121 (Supplementary material; Section 1.1)

## 122 **2.3. Compositional analysis**

### 123 **2.3.1. Moisture content**

124 Moisture content was determined by gravimetric analysis.<sup>10</sup> Pectin sample (1 g) was  
125 accurately weighed and heated to 50 °C in a hot air oven until a constant weight was  
126 attained. The analysis was performed in duplicate.

### 127 **2.3.2. Protein**

128 Crude protein content in JFP samples was calculated based on the determination of  
129 nitrogen content in the sample and then using a conversion factor to convert it to  
130 protein content. (Supplementary material; Section 1.2)

### 131 **2.3.3. Ash**

132 1 g of pectin was incinerated at 550°C in a muffle furnace, overnight. The ash thus  
133 obtained was weighed after cooling in a desiccator.<sup>10</sup>

### 134 **2.3.4. Monosaccharide and galacturonic acid content**

135 The JFP samples were hydrolyzed at 120 °C for 3 h using trifluoroacetic acid (TFA;  
136 2M). Subsequently, the hydrolysates **were centrifuged at** 3000xg for 15 min and then  
137 vacuum-dried to remove the TFA. The dried residue was dissolved in deionized  
138 water **and centrifuged** at 3000xg for 15 min.<sup>11</sup> The aqueous solutions of pectin

139 hydrolysate (5 mg/mL), standard monosaccharides (0.25 – 2.5 mg/mL), and  
140 standard galacturonic acid (0.25 – 2.5 mg/mL) in deionized water were filtered  
141 through a 0.22 micron PTFE filter before injecting them into the HPLC device.  
142 (Supplementary material; Section 1.3)

### 143 **2.3.5. Degree of esterification (DE)**

144 The degree of esterification (DE) of JFP was calculated according to the titrimetric  
145 method described by Ranganna, 2002.<sup>9</sup>

## 146 **2.4. Structural characterization**

### 147 **2.4.1. Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectroscopy**

148 IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Alpha-E FTIR spectrometer (Bruker Optics  
149 Inc., Ettlingen, Germany), using attenuated total reflection (ATR). The spectra were  
150 obtained in a wavelength range between 600 and 4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  by averaging 24 scans  
151 at a resolution of 4  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>12</sup> The degree of esterification was confirmed using FTIR  
152 data following the method Duan et al (2022)<sup>13</sup> with slight modifications.

### 153 **2.4.2. Determination of molecular weight by Matrix-Assisted Laser 154 Desorption/Ionization Time-of-Flight (MALDI TOF-TOF)**

155 The mass spectra of JFP samples were acquired in the positive ion mode over a  
156 mass-to-charge ratio (m/z) range of 150–2000 Da using a Bruker – auto flex speed  
157 MALDI-TOF TOF MS/MS analyzer, by following the procedure of Bermúdez-Oria,  
158 Rodríguez-Gutiérrez, Fernández-Prior, Vioque & Fernández-Bolaños, 2019, with  
159 slight modifications.<sup>14</sup>

160 The instrument was operated at an accelerating voltage of 26.45 kV with an extra  
161 voltage of 13.399 kV. Each spectrum was generated by accumulating data from  
162 1000 to 2000 laser shots. The matrix solution of jackfruit pectin was prepared in 10



163 mg/mL ACN:H<sub>2</sub>O:TFA (50:47.5:2.5) (v/v/v) in the presence of sodium trifluoroacetate  
164 (based on Bermúdez-Oria, Rodríguez-Gutiérrez, Fernández-Prior, Vioque &  
165 Fernández-Bolaños, 2019, with slight modifications).<sup>14</sup>

166 Molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) was directly estimated from the  $m/z$  ratio using the following  
167 equation.

$$168 \quad M_w = n(y - 1) \quad (4)$$

169 In the above equation,  $n$  is the charge state of ion given by,

$$170 \quad n = \frac{x-1}{y-x} \quad (5)$$

171 Where  $x$  is the lower  $m/z$  value for the  $n+1$  ion state, and  $y$  is the higher  $m/z$  value for  
172 the  $n+$  ion state for two ions in series for a polymer of molecular weight  $M_w$ <sup>15-17</sup>

## 173 **2.5. Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC)**

174 The thermal behavior of jackfruit pectins was evaluated in comparison with that of  
175 commercial pectin, by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), using the  
176 methodology of Wang et al. (2016).<sup>18</sup> DSC measurements were carried out using a  
177 differential scanning calorimeter (DSC Q2000, TA Instruments, USA). 5 mg of pectin  
178 sample were directly weighed into an aluminum pan and duly sealed by pressure. An  
179 empty aluminum pan was used as a reference. The reference and sample were then  
180 subjected to a linear temperature increase from 30 °C to 250 °C at a constant  
181 heating rate of 10 °C/min, under an inert atmosphere maintained by a constant flow  
182 of nitrogen at 50 mL/min.

## 183 **2.6. Functional properties of jackfruit pectin**

### 184 **2.6.1 Water holding capacity and oil holding capacity**

185 Briefly, 0.1 g of jackfruit pectin sample was added to a previously weighed centrifuge  
186 tube. Then, the sample was soaked in 10 mL of distilled water/sunflower oil and  
187 incubated for 24 h at 37 °C. After incubation, the suspension was centrifuged at  
188 14000 rpm for 10 min. The excess water/oil was decanted, and the tubes were  
189 inverted for 1 h at room temperature. For the calculation of WHC, the residues after  
190 hydration and decanting were dried at 105 °C until constant weight was obtained.  
191 For the estimation of OHC, the tubes were weighed to determine the weight of  
192 residue after oil absorption.<sup>19</sup> Then, the water and oil holding capacities were  
193 calculated as follows:

*Water holding capacity (g/g)*

$$= \frac{\text{Weight of hydrated residue} - \text{Weight of dry residue}}{\text{Weight of dry residue}} \quad (6)$$

*Oil holding capacity (g/g)*

$$= \frac{\text{Weight of residue after oil absorption} - \text{Weight of sample before oil absorption}}{\text{Weight of sample before oil absorption}} \quad (7)$$

194

### 195 **2.6.2 Swelling capacity**

196 0.2 g of sample were added to 10 mL of distilled water in a graduated tube and  
197 incubated for 18 h.<sup>20</sup> The final volume of the swollen sample was measured, and the  
198 swelling capacity was calculated as:

$$\text{Swelling capacity (mL/g)} = \frac{\text{Volume of swollen sample}}{\text{Initial weight of sample}} \quad (8)$$

### 199 **2.6.3 Oscillatory shear rheology**

200 Solutions were prepared from 6% (w/v) aqueous dispersions of JFP samples. For  
201 solution preparation, the pectin powder was dissolved in distilled water at 75°C under  
202 constant stirring for 15 min. Subsequently, the prepared solution was transferred

203 onto the rheometer plate. Rheological tests were performed by small-amplitude  
204 oscillatory shear using a strain-controlled rheometer (MCR 102, Anton Paar GmbH,  
205 Germany) equipped with a Peltier-thermostated surface (20 °C). A cone-plate  
206 geometry (40 mm diameter, 2° angle, and 53 µm gap) was used for the  
207 measurement of material properties.

208 Initially, amplitude sweep tests were done to ascertain the linear viscoelastic range  
209 (LVR) of the JFP gel samples. Then, the mechanical spectra of the gels prepared  
210 from stage-I and stage-II pectin samples were obtained by frequency sweeps from  
211 0.01 to 10 Hz at 0.4% strain (set based on the LVR established from the amplitude  
212 sweep tests done previously; data not shown) and 20°C. The mechanical spectra of  
213 gels prepared from Stage-III and Stage-IV pectin samples were obtained by  
214 frequency sweep from 0.01 to 10 Hz at 0.7% strain (set based on the LVR  
215 established from the amplitude sweep tests; data not shown) and 20 °C.

216 The gel point ( $T_{gel}$ ) of JFP samples was determined from temperature ramps. Freshly  
217 prepared hot pectin solutions were loaded onto the rheometer, which plate was  
218 pre-heated at 80°C. The pectin solutions were heated from 20 °C to 80 °C, at 0.2  
219 °C/min. After that, a controlled cooling step from 80 to 20 °C was carried out at 1  
220 °C/min and a fixed frequency of 1 Hz. The strain was set at 0.4% for stage-I and  
221 stage-II pectin gels and 0.7% for stage-III and stage-IV pectin gels (set based on the  
222 LVR).

## 223 **2.7 Total phenolic content (TPC), total flavonoids content (TFC) and** 224 **antioxidant activity**

### 225 **2.7.1 TPC and TFC**

226 Folin-Ciocalteu method was used to obtain the total phenolic content (TPC) in the  
227 JFP samples, with gallic acid as standard. Different concentrations of the samples in  
228 methanol were prepared in a total volume of 750  $\mu\text{L}$ . To this solution, 80  $\mu\text{L}$  of Folin's  
229 reagent and 200  $\mu\text{L}$  of 7.5% sodium carbonate solution were added. The solution  
230 was kept in the dark for 90 minutes, and then the absorbance was measured at 750  
231  $\text{nm}^{21}$ . The total phenolic content of JFP was expressed as milligrams of gallic acid  
232 equivalent per gram of pectin (mg GAE/g pectin).

233 The total flavonoid content (TFC) was estimated by following the aluminum chloride  
234 colorimetric method, with quercetin as standard.<sup>21</sup> Different concentrations of the  
235 samples were mixed with 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of 10% aluminum chloride, 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of 1M potassium  
236 acetate, and 280  $\mu\text{L}$  of distilled water. The mixture was incubated for 40 min at room  
237 temperature ( $27 \pm 3$  °C), and its absorbance was read at 415 nm against blank using  
238 a multimode reader (Synergy BioTek, BioTek Instruments, Inc., Mumbai, India). TFC  
239 was expressed as milligram Quercetin equivalent per gram of pectin (mg QE/g  
240 pectin).

#### 241 **2.7.2. 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) and ABTS radical scavenging** 242 **activity**

243 Approximately, 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of 0.2 mM DPPH solution were added to 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of pectin  
244 solutions at different concentrations. The sample was mixed well and allowed to  
245 stand for 30 min in an amber-colored 96 well plate. The absorbance of the reaction  
246 mixture was measured at 517 nm against a blank, using a multimode reader  
247 (Synergy BioTek, BioTek Instruments, Inc., Mumbai, India). Gallic acid was used as  
248 the standard.<sup>21</sup> Percentage inhibition of DPPH was calculated using the below  
249 equation.

$$\% \text{ Inhibition of DPPH} = \frac{(\text{Absorbance of control} - \text{Absorbance of sample}) \times 100}{\text{Absorbance of control}} \quad (9)$$

250 ABTS•+ radical cation (2,2'-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) was  
251 produced by reacting 7 mmol/L ABTS in water (ABTS stock solution) with 2.45  
252 mmol/L solution of potassium persulfate, stored at room temperature for 12 h. The  
253 ABTS•+ solution was then diluted by phosphate buffer to an absorbance of 0.70 at  
254 wavelength 734 nm. Pectin solution (2 mL) with different concentration were added  
255 into 4 mL ABTS•+. Then the mixtures were placed in the dark at room temperature  
256 for 10 min, the absorbance of the mixtures were recorded at 734 nm. Ascorbic acid  
257 was used as a positive control <sup>12</sup> The ABTS•+ scavenging activity was calculated  
258 using the same formula as DPPH radical scavenging activity calculation.

## 259 **2.8. Statistics**

260 The means of all the parameters were examined for significance by one-way  
261 analysis of variance (ANOVA) at a confidence level of 95%, using the MS-Excel Data  
262 Analysis Toolpak add-in (Microsoft Excel, MS Office 2010, USA).

## 263 **3. Results and discussion**

### 264 **3.1. Extraction yield of pectin**

265 The extraction yields of pectin obtained from jackfruits at four different maturity levels  
266 are compiled in Table 1. An increase in pectin yield from 9.7 to 21.5% was observed  
267 with the progress in fruit maturity. The above range of pectin yield is comparable to  
268 that reported in other studies that involved pectin extraction from different parts of  
269 jackfruit using sodium hexametaphosphate: jackfruit waste: 22.5% <sup>22</sup>, jackfruit rinds  
270 and cores: 14.81%.<sup>23</sup> The higher yield from sodium hexametaphosphate may be  
271 attributed to its ability for cell wall disruption, thus enhancing extraction rates. Pectins  
272 are physically bound to the middle lamella of plant cells through metallic cations,

273 specifically divalent cations. Being a sequestering agent, sodium  
 274 hexametaphosphate can readily bind these cations and aid in releasing the pectins  
 275 from cell walls.<sup>24</sup>

276 The increase in pectin yield with the maturity level was also reported in the case of  
 277 banana pulp, wherein it increased from 0.37% at maturity stage-V to 0.66% in stage-  
 278 VII.<sup>25</sup> The reason for increase in pectin yield may be the conversion of water-  
 279 insoluble protopectin to water-soluble pectin during fruit maturation.<sup>26</sup> Yet another  
 280 reason for the higher pectin yield could be that stage-I jackfruit did not contain seeds,  
 281 as mentioned earlier. But, the stage-IV fruits had seeds which were reported to  
 282 contain about 25% of pectin.<sup>4</sup>

### 283 **3.2. Composition of jackfruit pectin**

284 A comparison between the moisture content, protein content and ash content of  
 285 Jackfruit pectin against those of pectin derived from other sources and their variation  
 286 with fruit maturity are discussed in Section 1. of Supplementary Material.

287 **Table 1. Yield and composition of jackfruit pectin**

	Stage-I	Stage-II	Stage-III	Stage-IV
Yield (%)	9.7 ± 0.2 <sup>a</sup>	16.1 ± 0.2 <sup>b</sup>	16.5 ± 0.2 <sup>b</sup>	21.5 ± 0.5 <sup>c</sup>
Moisture (% w.b)	6.8 ± 0.1 <sup>a</sup>	7.0 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>	7.5 ± 0.1 <sup>a</sup>	9.9 ± 0.1 <sup>b</sup>
Protein (%)	4.4 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>	4.6 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>	4.6 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>	4.3 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>
Ash (%)	13.3 ± 0.1 <sup>a</sup>	8.0 ± 0.1 <sup>b</sup>	4.9 ± 0.03 <sup>c</sup>	4.4 ± 0.02 <sup>c</sup>

288 Values with different letters are significantly different (P < 0.05) from each other

#### 289 **3.2.1. Galacturonic acid and monosaccharide composition**

290 Table 2 compiles the galacturonic acid (GalA) and monosaccharide composition of  
 291 the pectins obtained from the various maturity stages. The GalA content of pectins  
 292 obtained from stage I-IV jackfruits ranged from 50 to 65% (Table 2) and it increased

293 with fruit development. This may be ascribed to the degradation of water-insoluble  
294 pectic substances by polygalacturonase, which leads to the release of water-soluble  
295 galacturonic acids during fruit development.<sup>27</sup> Moreover, GalA is an important  
296 parameter that determines the suitability of pectin for different applications (ex. use  
297 in jams and jellies etc.). Its value should not be less than 65% for pectin to be used  
298 as food additives or for pharmaceutical applications.<sup>28</sup> Therefore, the purity and  
299 suitability for food applications was higher for pectin derived from stage-IV jackfruits.  
300 Apart from galacturonic acid, the major neutral sugars present in the jackfruit pectin  
301 were galactose, arabinose and rhamnose (cf. Table 2). Pectin is a  
302 heteropolysaccharide with  $\alpha$ -(1-4)-linked linear homogalacturonic units alternated  
303 with two types of highly branched rhamnogalacturonan regions, RGI and RGII. RG-I  
304 region is substituted with side chains of arabinan, galactan, and arabinogalactan  
305 units whereas RG-II, that forms a minor component of pectin, includes (1 $\rightarrow$ 4) linked  
306 D-galactosyluronic residues, branched with eleven different monosaccharides.<sup>1</sup> The  
307 presence of residual glucose in pectin even after the acidic and alcoholic washing  
308 during pectin extraction process can be correlated with the presence of glucan linked  
309 to pectin.<sup>29</sup> Pectin is reported to be covalently bound to the other cell-wall  
310 polysaccharides such as xyloglucan, arabino glucan etc.<sup>30</sup> Basu et al., reported  
311 that glucans are responsible for the presence of glucose in pectin.<sup>31</sup> Therefore, the  
312 higher value of glucose in the present study may be correlated with the presence of  
313 glucan as reported by these authors.

314 The degree of esterification (DE) of pectins derived from jackfruits at different  
315 maturity levels is also included in Table 2, which ranged between 65% and 87%. The  
316 degree of esterification that was calculated using FTIR (Fig 2) followed similar trend  
317 of 67.78, 80.48, 83.61 and 86.10% respectively for JFP stage I-IV. Therefore,

318 irrespective of its maturity level, jackfruit pectin can be categorized as high-methoxyl  
 319 pectin. Similarly, freeze-dried pectin prepared from jackfruit waste was also found to  
 320 be of the high methoxyl type (DE =  $63.9 \pm 2.4\%$ ).<sup>23</sup>

321 **Table 2. Monosaccharide composition of jackfruit pectin.**

322

Pectin sample	Monosaccharide composition (%)				Galacturonic acid (%)*	DE (%)
	Glucose	Arabinose	Rhamnose	Galactose		
Stage-I JFP	$0.59 \pm 0.05^a$	$1.04 \pm 0.00^a$	$1.06 \pm 0.15^a$	$4.08 \pm 0.09^a$	$50.05 \pm 0.07^a$	$64.5 \pm 0.49^a$
Stage-II JFP	$1.45 \pm 0.09^b$	$1.03 \pm 0.05^a$	$3.62 \pm 0.15^b$	$8.17 \pm 0.00^b$	$57.11 \pm 0.13^b$	$76.7 \pm 0.63^b$
Stage-III JFP	$7.04 \pm 0.08^c$	$1.39 \pm 0.00^b$	$2.57 \pm 0.09^c$	$6.49 \pm 0.05^c$	$63.56 \pm 0.05^c$	$80.0 \pm 0.82^c$
Stage-IV JFP	$9.33 \pm 0.00^d$	$1.10 \pm 0.07^a$	$2.68 \pm 0.00^c$	$5.45 \pm 0.00^d$	$65.21 \pm 0.09^d$	$86.7 \pm 0.56^d$

323

\*The fact that the sum does not amount to 100% is connected with the presence of unidentified substances.

324

The difference in values between the different maturity stages for all the parameters were statistically significant, with  $P$ -value < 0.05.

325

326

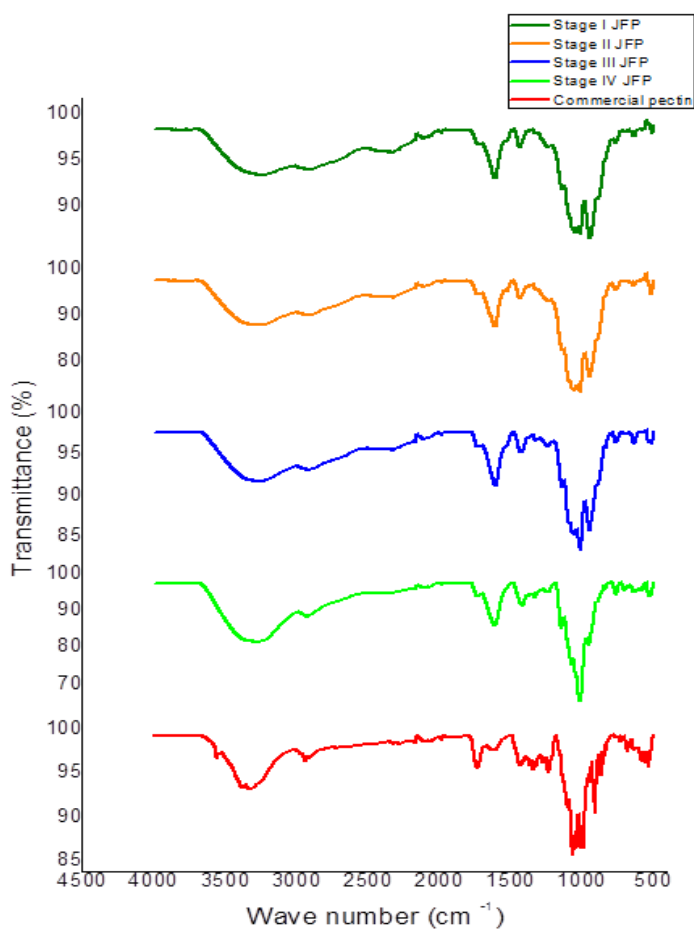
### 327 3.3. Structure and molecular weight

328 FTIR analysis of JFP samples was carried out to confirm proper pectin extraction by  
 329 identifying the characteristic spectral peaks from the pectin backbone and was  
 330 compared with that of commercial pectin. Fig. 2 shows the FTIR spectra of jackfruit  
 331 pectin and commercial pectin samples. As it can be seen, both JFP and commercial  
 332 pectin exhibited the characteristic peaks of pectin. The broad peak at  $3300 \text{ cm}^{-1}$   
 333 corresponds to the O–H stretching vibrations, and the peak at  $2900 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  is related to  
 334 the C–H stretching vibrations of CH, CH<sub>2</sub>, and CH<sub>3</sub> groups. The peak at  $1750 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  
 335 corresponding to esterified carboxyl groups (C=O stretching vibration of methyl-  
 336 esterified carboxyl), is typical of high-methoxyl pectin.<sup>32</sup> As inferred from the FTIR  
 337 spectra of JFP (Fig. 2), the presence of an intense spectral band at  $1750 \text{ cm}^{-1}$   
 338 confirms the titrimetry-determined JFP as high-methoxyl pectin. Moreover, the  
 339 spectral range between  $1200$  and  $800 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  is deemed as the 'fingerprint' region of  
 340 polysaccharides<sup>32</sup>, wherein the spectral region  $1200$ – $950 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  depicts the highly



341 coupled modes of polysaccharide backbones<sup>33</sup> and the deformation of C-O stretch,  
342 the ring mode and the distortion of C-O-H, C-C-H, and O-C-H in the side groups.<sup>34</sup>  
343 The fingerprint region described above was present in the IR spectra of all the JFP  
344 samples. The band at 1540–1560 cm<sup>-1</sup>, corresponding to the amide groups, indicate  
345 the presence of protein.

346 The MALDI spectra of stage I-IV JFP are shown in Figs. S1 [a-d] (Supplementary  
347 information). The calculated molecular weights of stage I-IV pectin samples were  
348 147 kDa, 158 kDa, 169 kDa, and 114 kDa, respectively. The average molecular  
349 weight of pectin ranges from 50-150 kDa<sup>35</sup> and it has been observed to vary with the  
350 growth stage of the fruits.<sup>36,37</sup> Rahman et al. (1995)<sup>38</sup> studied the microscopic and  
351 chemical changes that occur during the ripening of jackfruit and found that high  
352 molecular weight material was very less in immature fruits (10-20 g per kg of jackfruit  
353 perianth dry matter) and the value increased with maturity (40-60 g per kg of jackfruit  
354 perianth dry matter). Accordingly, in this study, the molecular weight of JFP  
355 increased with maturity from stage I-III and reduced in that isolated from stage-IV  
356 fruits. The decrease in pectin molecular weight in the final maturity stage may be  
357 attributed to the cell wall degradation, a phenomenon that is typical of the fruit  
358 maturation process. During the above phenomenon, pectin is depolymerized by the  
359 action of pectolytic enzymes such as polygalacturonase. In other words, protopectin,  
360 the insoluble, high molecular weight parent pectin is converted into soluble  
361 polyuronides.<sup>39</sup> This reduces the content of high molecular-weight uronic acid  
362 polymer and increases the amount of low molecular-weight polymer in matured  
363 fruits.<sup>40,41</sup> However, the increase in  $M_w$  of pectin from stages I-III may be accredited  
364 to the initial rise in protopectin before attaining the physiological maturity.<sup>42</sup>



365

366 **Figure 2. FTIR spectra of stage I-IV jackfruit pectin samples and of commercial**  
 367 **pectin.**

368 **3.4. Thermal behavior**

369 DSC was performed to investigate the thermal behavior of jackfruit pectins. The DSC  
 370 thermograms of JFP and commercial pectin are shown in Fig. 3. From the DSC  
 371 thermograms, it could be observed that all the JFP samples showed two  
 372 endothermic peaks, the first one corresponding to the evaporation of adsorbed water  
 373 and the second one which could be ascribed to the melting temperature of pectin  
 374 (correlated to the loosening of intermolecular hydrogen bonds in crystalline pectin  
 375 structures). In contrast, the commercial pectin (CP) showed three endothermic  
 376 peaks, the two latter ones being much more defined, probably indicating a greater

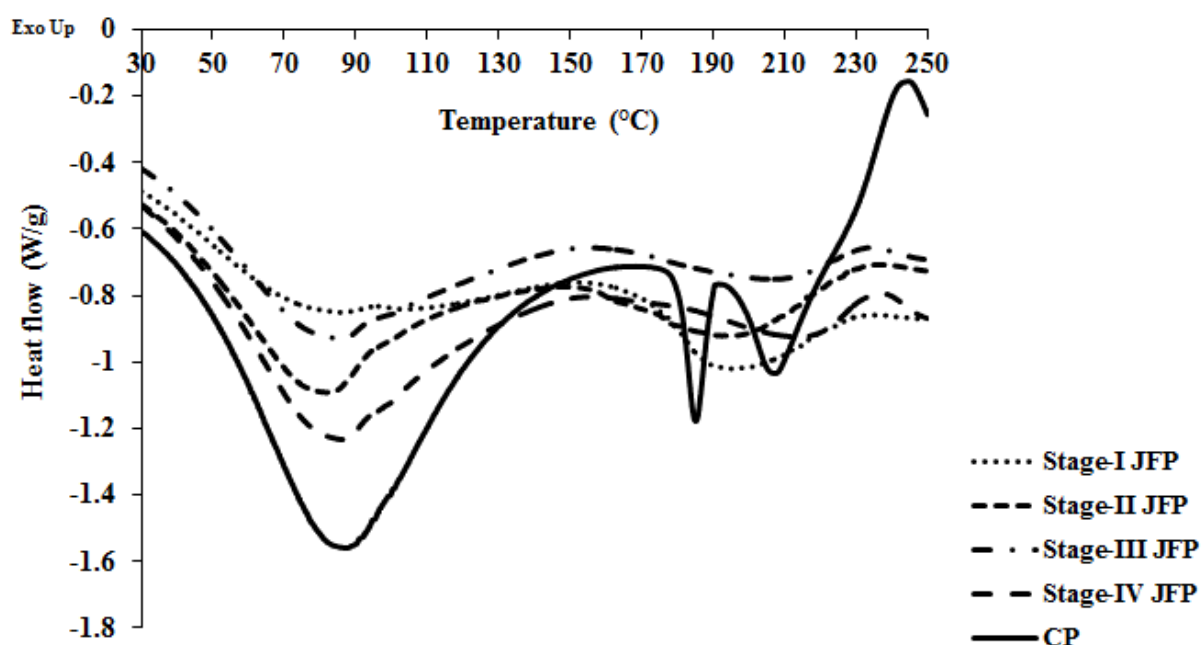
377 purity degree. Table 3 compiles the thermal parameters, i.e. the melting temperature  
378 ( $T_m$ ) and degradation temperature ( $T_d$ ), respectively. The degradation temperature  
379 was determined from the small exothermic pyrolysis peak.  $T_m$  values ranged from  
380 197 to 202°C for JFP samples while the two melting peaks from CP appeared at 184  
381 and 204°C, respectively. This may be attributed to the presence of proteins or other  
382 unknown substances as reported earlier<sup>43</sup>.

383 The melting peak from pectins has been normally ascribed to a conformational  
384 change from the more compact and partly crystalline state, in which the pectin  
385 chains are in the <sup>4</sup>C<sub>1</sub> conformation, to the amorphous and more stretched <sup>1</sup>C<sub>4</sub>  
386 conformation, which occurs because of the electrostatic repulsion of dissociated  
387 carboxyl groups when water is eliminated from the pectin structure. These  
388 endothermic peaks are usually observed just before the exothermic pectin  
389 degradation starts.<sup>44</sup> It is interesting to note that  $T_m$  values vary depending on the  
390 pectin source and extraction conditions, while the degradation temperature mainly  
391 depends on the pectin source.<sup>45</sup>

392 The  $T_m$  values for the stage-IV and stage-III jackfruit pectins and CP were  
393 significantly higher than those from the other pectins, which was indicative of their  
394 higher DE and galacturonic acid content that made the pectin molecules to tightly  
395 adsorb to water.<sup>46</sup> Stage-IV pectin showed the highest melting point (Table 3). Also,  
396 JFP exhibited higher melting point than pectins extracted from other sources. This  
397 indicates that the interactions via hydrogen bonds with water molecules of the  
398 galacturonan rings were stronger, which may have implications in the functional  
399 properties of the extracted pectins.<sup>18,45</sup>

400 The exothermic peak is caused by the degradation of pectin during the heating  
401 process.<sup>47</sup> The exothermic transition of all the JFP samples occurred at the same

402 temperature (230°C), being slightly lower than that from CP ( $T_d$  of 240 °C) (Table 3).  
 403 Stability below 240 °C has been reported in citrus peel and apple pomace pectins.<sup>45</sup>  
 404 Thermal stability of pectin is of relevance to its application as an additive in food  
 405 products that can be processed at high temperature, such as cakes, bread and  
 406 pastries.<sup>48</sup> Therefore, pectin with high thermal stability is more useful in the food  
 407 industry. In the present study, the thermal analysis using DSC showed that JFP  
 408 possessed comparable thermal stability as the commercial pectin, indicating its  
 409 potential to replace CP in thermal food processing.<sup>18</sup>



410  
 411 **Figure 3. DSC thermograms of jackfruit pectins and commercial pectin.**

412 **Table 3. Thermal properties of jackfruit pectins determined by DSC**

	$T_m$ (°C)	$T_d$ (°C)
Stage-I JFP	196.7	230.1
Stage-II JFP	196.7	230.2
Stage-III JFP	202.4	230.1
Stage-IV JFP	202.4	230.1

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Commercial pectin	184; 204	240.6
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413

### 414 **3.5. Functional properties of jackfruit pectin**

#### 415 **3.5.1 Water holding capacity (WHC)**

416 Water-holding capacity (WHC) of the JFP samples was in the range of  
417 7-12 g water/g pectin (cf. Table 4). The increase in WHC of JFP samples from  
418 stage I-IV can be attributed to the increase in their uronic acid content with fruit  
419 maturity (Table 2).<sup>49</sup> However, there were no significant differences between the  
420 values of WHC between stage-III and stage-IV JFP samples. The WHC values of  
421 JFP samples were significantly higher compared to that of dragon fruit pectin (5.5 g  
422 water/g) and apple pectin (5.45 g water/g).<sup>50</sup> However, it was lower than that of citrus  
423 fruit pectins (37.8 - 43.7 g water/g pectin)<sup>51</sup> and sunflower pectin (57 g water/g  
424 organic material).<sup>52</sup>

#### 425 **3.5.2 Oil holding capacity (OHC) and swelling capacity (SC)**

426 The oil-holding capacity (OHC) and swelling capacity (SC) of pectin exhibited a  
427 similar trend as that observed for the WHC (cf. Table 4). The stage-III JFP sample  
428 showed the maximum OHC and SC. Even the minimum OHC of stage-I JFP (5.1 g  
429 oil/g sample) observed in this study was higher than that of apple pectin (2.96 g oil/g  
430 sample), citrus pectin (0.73 g oil/g sample), and dragon fruit peel pectin (1.24 g oil/g  
431 sample).<sup>50</sup> The oil sorption capacity of pectin is normally related to its DE and the  
432 subsequent increase in its hydrophobicity.<sup>53</sup> A combination of high WHC and OHC is  
433 an indication of good emulsifying properties and ability to promote the solubilization  
434 or dispersion of two immiscible liquids.<sup>54</sup> Similarly, even the lowest swelling capacity  
435 of stage-I JFP (11.3 mL/g) was higher than that of apple pectin (8.08 mL/g), citrus

436 pectin (5.98 mL/g) and dragon fruit peel pectin (6.97 mL/g).<sup>55</sup> These findings suggest  
 437 the potential of JFP for its application as a food additive.

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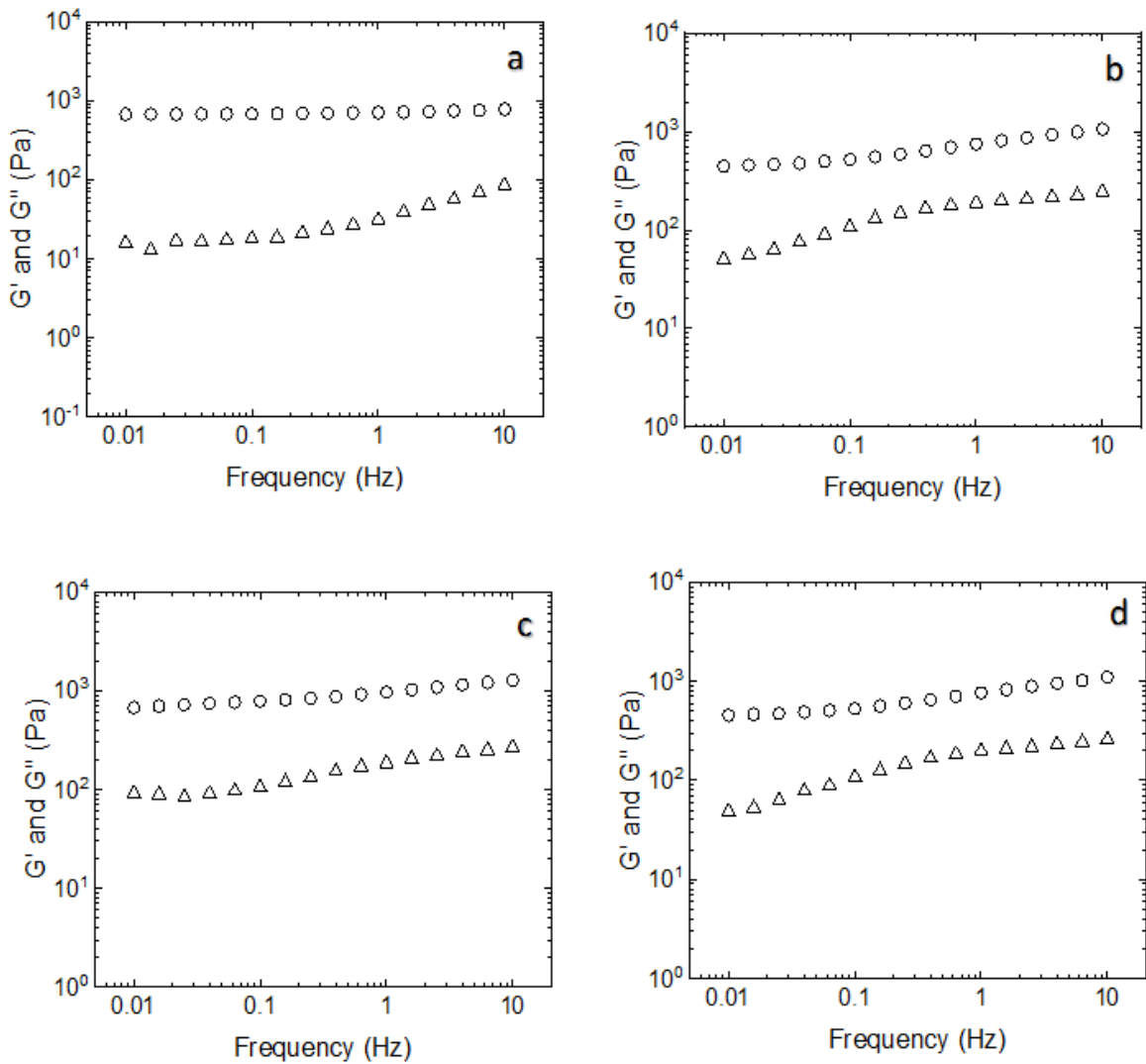
439 **Table 4. Functional properties of jackfruit pectin.**

Functional property	Stage-I	Stage-II	Stage-III	Stage-IV
Water holding capacity (g water/g pectin)	7.2 ± 0.2 <sup>a</sup>	11.1 ± 1.4 <sup>b</sup>	12.7 ± 1.04 <sup>c</sup>	12.21 ± 1.3 <sup>c</sup>
Oil holding capacity (g oil/g pectin)	5.1 ± 0.2 <sup>a</sup>	6.4 ± 0.1 <sup>b</sup>	8.1 ± 0.1 <sup>c</sup>	7.0 ± 0.1 <sup>b</sup>
Swelling capacity (mL/g)	11.3 ± 1.1 <sup>a</sup>	14.0 ± 0.7 <sup>b</sup>	21.8 ± 1.1 <sup>c</sup>	15.0 ± 0.7 <sup>d</sup>
$G'_{20^{\circ}C}$ (Pa)	723.7 <sup>a</sup>	726.9 <sup>b</sup>	943.5 <sup>c</sup>	737.2 <sup>d</sup>
Gel point (°C)	65.9 <sup>a</sup>	59.8 <sup>b</sup>	50.8 <sup>c</sup>	46.6 <sup>d</sup>

440 The difference in values between the different maturity stages for all the parameters were statistically significant, with  $P$ -  
 441  $value < 0.0$ . Values with different letters are significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) from each other

### 442 3.5.3 Rheological properties

443 Another functional attribute that was studied from the extracted pectins was their  
 444 gelling ability, being the gelation mechanism governed by their DE. To investigate  
 445 the rheological behavior of the jackfruit extracts, gels were prepared and subjected  
 446 to frequency sweeps at 20 °C. Representative curves for the pectin gels obtained  
 447 from differently matured jackfruits are shown in Figures 4[a-d]. The log-log  
 448 representation of the storage modulus ( $G'$ ) and the loss modulus ( $G''$ ) as a function  
 449 of frequency shows a gel-like behavior, with  $G' > G''$ . Except for the  $G'$  of stage-I  
 450 JFP (Fig. 4[a]) that showed a frequency-independent behavior, both the moduli ( $G'$   
 451 and  $G''$ ) of all the other pectin gels showed significant frequency dependence (Figs.  
 452 4[a-d]). Thus, it seems that JFP from stage-I was able to form better-structured  
 453 networks.



454

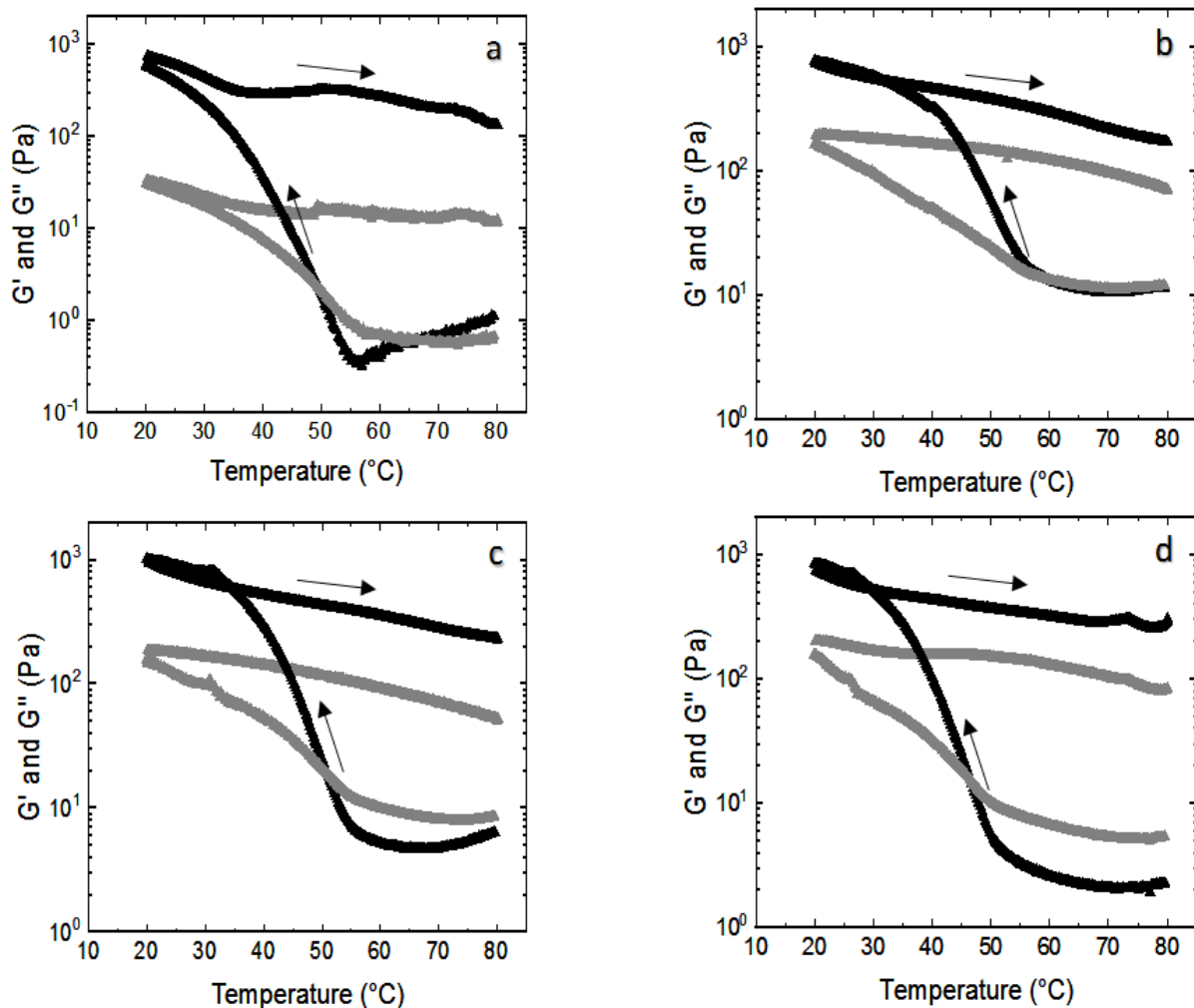
455 **Figure 4.  $G'$  (circles) and  $G''$  (triangles) as function of frequency for the gels**  
 456 **from aqueous solutions of jackfruit pectin obtained at different maturity**  
 457 **stages: (a) stage-I; (b) stage-II; (c) stage-III;(d) stage-IV.**

458 Fig. 5 [a-d] shows the characteristic plots of  $G'$  and  $G''$  versus temperature, obtained  
 459 from the small amplitude oscillatory measurements at constant frequency during  
 460 controlled cooling. The temperature dependence of both moduli for all the gel  
 461 samples is evident from the temperature sweep curves. The gel point ( $T_{gel}$ ) was  
 462 estimated from the crossover point between  $G'$  and  $G''$  and the obtained values are  
 463 listed in Table 4. As observed, the  $T_{gel}$  values significantly decreased from ca. 66 °C

464 to 47 °C with the maturity stage of jackfruit.  $T_{gel}$  bears a significant correlation with  
465 the degree of methylation (DE) of the pectin.<sup>55</sup> Accordingly, high-methoxyl pectin has  
466 been sub-classified into fast gelation pectin ( $T_{gel}$ : 75-85 °C); medium gelation pectin  
467 ( $T_{gel}$ : 55-75 °C) and slow gelation pectin ( $T_{gel}$ : 45-60 °C).<sup>51</sup> Thus, pectin derived from  
468 stage-I and stage-II jackfruits can be classified as medium gelation type, while that  
469 extracted from stage-III and stage-IV as slow gelation type. Consequently, JFP may  
470 find applications in jams and jellies and those gel-based products packed in large  
471 containers, for which the formation of homogeneous gels by avoiding premature  
472 gelation is critical, which would otherwise hinder the filling of packages.<sup>57</sup> After  
473 equilibration at 20 °C, the samples were heated to 75 °C. Fig. 5 shows a slightly  
474 decrease in the  $G'$  and  $G''$  values when increasing the temperature; nevertheless, no  
475 melting transition was observed. This confirms the non-reversible behavior of pectin  
476 gels, as previously reported.<sup>58</sup>

477 The  $G'$  values for the gels at 20°C, gathered in Table 4, indicate that the pectin  
478 extracted from stage I, II, and IV jackfruits formed gels with a very similar elastic  
479 behavior. In contrast, the pectin extracted from stage-III jackfruit formed slightly  
480 firmer gels. This can be related to the higher molecular weight of the latter, enabling  
481 the formation of a higher number of cross-linking points between the pectin chains.  
482 The temperature sweep test revealed that the JFP gels changed from a  
483 predominantly liquid-like structure ( $G' < G''$ ) to a typically gel-like structure ( $G' > G''$ )  
484 at the gel point.





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**Figure 5. Temperature dependence of  $G'$  (black markers) and  $G''$  (grey markers) moduli of JFP gels during cooling and heating ramps of (a) stage-I JFP; (b) stage-II JFP; (c) stage-III JFP; (d) stage-IV JFP. Arrows indicate the direction of the temperature ramps.**

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### **3.5.4. Total phenolic and flavonoid content**

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The total phenolic content (TPC) and total flavonoid content (TFC) of JFP samples ranged between 21-62 mg GAE/g pectin and 30-47 mg QE/g pectin, respectively (Table 5). The TPC values of JFP were higher than those of pectin derived from eggplant calyx pectin (15.59 mg GAE/g pectin),<sup>11</sup> pistachio green hull pectin (18.18 mg GAE/g pectin),<sup>59</sup> pumpkin pectin (1.04 mg GAE/g pectin), citrus pectin (1.04 mg GAE/g pectin) and apple pectin (2.41 mg GAE/g pectin).<sup>60</sup> Similarly, the reported

497 TFC values of JFP were higher than the values found in pectin from *Cola milleni* peel  
498 (10.17 mg QE/g pectin), *Theobroma cacao* (cocoa) (14.07 mg QE/g pectin) and  
499 *Irvingia gabonensis* (wild mango) (5.94 mg QE/g pectin),<sup>61</sup> thus making this pectin of  
500 special interest as a food additive, because phenolic compounds and their related  
501 antioxidant capacity could provide benefits in terms of enhanced food preservation.  
502 Extraction of pectin from the whole jackfruit rather than seed or peel may be the  
503 reason behind the higher TPC and TFC of JFP than the values obtained in pectin  
504 derived from other sources. An earlier study has reported that the fresh seeds and  
505 flesh of jackfruit possess significant gallic acid equivalent phenolic content, which  
506 contributes to approximately 70% of the total antioxidant activity.<sup>62</sup> Phenolic and  
507 flavonoid contents in jackfruit pectin samples were found to decrease with maturity.

### 508 **3.5.5. Antioxidant activity**

509 Pectin is reported to exhibit antioxidant activity and the antioxidant potential of the  
510 extracted pectin was assessed in terms of DPPH and ABTS radical scavenging  
511 activity.

512 DPPH radical scavenging activity of jackfruit pectin increased with progress in fruit  
513 maturity (Table 5) and was higher than the commercial pectin. ABTS radical  
514 scavenging activity followed the order stage IV> stage III> stage II>CP> stage I. As  
515 can be seen, the antioxidant activities did not follow the same trend as that detected  
516 between total phenolic content and fruit maturity. Typically, in plant materials, the  
517 radical scavenging activity increases with the increase in the concentration of  
518 phenolic compounds.<sup>63, 64</sup> However, the unusual behavior observed in jackfruit pectin  
519 may be due to the presence of antioxidant constituents other than phenolics and  
520 flavonoids that are involved in inhibiting the radicals. It is reported that galacturonic  
521 acid demonstrate promising antioxidant activities.<sup>65, 66</sup> It was suggested that the

522 carboxyl group of the galacturonic acid might act as a hydrogen donating and  
 523 electron transfer agent facilitating radical scavenging potential.<sup>67</sup> Therefore, the  
 524 increase in galacturonic acid during maturation may be correlated with the increased  
 525 antioxidant activity. Gallic acid (IC<sub>50</sub> -1.4 µg/µL), apple pectin (IC<sub>50</sub> -2.75 mg/mL) and  
 526 citrus pectin (IC<sub>50</sub> -2.68 mg/mL) have been reported to have better DPPH activity  
 527 than the JFPs obtained in the present study. However, when compared to okra (IC<sub>50</sub>  
 528 -8.9 mg/mL) and acid extracted apple pectin (IC<sub>50</sub> -5.24 mg/mL), a better antioxidant  
 529 activity of JFPs was observed. When considering the antioxidant activity measured  
 530 through the ABTS radical scavenging assay, it was observed that JFP-IV  
 531 outperformed both citrus and okra pectin (IC<sub>50</sub> -3.33 mg/mL and 7.1 mg/mL,  
 532 respectively)<sup>68-70</sup>, although it was much lower than that of the standard ascorbic acid  
 533 employed (IC<sub>50</sub> - 14.14 µg/mL).

534 **Table 5. Total phenolic content, total flavonoid content and antioxidant**  
 535 **activities of jackfruit pectin at different stages of maturity**

Parameter	Stage-I	Stage-II	Stage-III	Stage-IV	Commercial pectin
TPC (mg GAE/g pectin)	62.4 ± 0.9 <sup>a</sup>	40.2 ± 1.0 <sup>b</sup>	30.3 ± 0.4 <sup>c</sup>	21.5 ± 0.2 <sup>d</sup>	30.7±0.4 <sup>c</sup>
TFC (mg QE/g pectin)	46.6 ± 0.4 <sup>a</sup>	41.9 ± 0.8 <sup>b</sup>	42.4 ± 0.7 <sup>b</sup>	30.4 ± 0.4 <sup>c</sup>	19.91±0.7 <sup>d</sup>
DPPH radical scavenging activity IC <sub>50</sub> (mg/mL)	23.29±0.07 <sup>a</sup>	12.2±0.05 <sup>b</sup>	4.88±0.05 <sup>c</sup>	3.62±0.02 <sup>d</sup>	9.01±0.11 <sup>e</sup>
ABTS radical scavenging activity IC <sub>50</sub> (mg/mL)	12.75±0.04 <sup>a</sup>	9.5±0.05 <sup>b</sup>	4.8±0.1 <sup>c</sup>	3.1±0.04 <sup>d</sup>	2.45±0.08 <sup>e</sup>

536 The difference in values between the different maturity stages for all the parameters were statistically significant, with *P*-  
 537 *value*<0.05s

538 Values with different letters are significantly different (*P* < 0.05) from each other

539

## 540 Conclusions

541 This study was aimed at determining the influence of physiological maturity of  
 542 jackfruits on the physicochemical and functional properties of pectin derived from  
 543 their edible portions. The findings of this study confirm the potential of the edible

544 parts of jackfruit (including the pericarp and seed) as an alternative source of high  
545 quality pectin. Greater pectin extraction yields were obtained from the more mature  
546 jackfruits, with a greater GalA content and DE. Irrespective of the maturity level, the  
547 pectin obtained from jackfruit was of the high-methoxyl type, which was inherently  
548 capable of forming strong viscoelastic gels with medium-to-slow gel setting behavior.  
549 Furthermore, pectin from jackfruit demonstrated substantial antioxidant activity,  
550 water holding capacity, oil holding capacity, and swelling capacity, all of which  
551 increased with the progress in fruit maturity. Pectin derived from stage-I and II are  
552 found to be medium gelation type whereas that from stage-III and IV are slow  
553 gelation type with non-reversible behavior which can found application in jams and  
554 jellies and as a thickening agent. Thus, the results suggest that edible parts of the  
555 jackfruit at all maturity levels are a potential source of gelling pectin for food  
556 applications and hence can be utilized to obtain a value-added product with  
557 demonstrated functionalities. The scope for future research exists for elucidating the  
558 biological activity of jackfruit pectin and its role as a food additive. Further studies are  
559 needed to understand the distribution of pectic and other non-cellulosic  
560 polysaccharides and the possible changes in the structure of pectic polysaccharides  
561 during fruit development.

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## 567 **Conflict of interest**

568 The authors claim no conflict of interest

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