1	Oxidation stability of muscle with quercetin and rosemary during thermal		
2	and high-pressure gelation		
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10			

11 Abstract

12 The antioxidant activity of quercetin and rosemary extracts were studied in 13 minced fish and in the subsequent treatments to gelation. Both extracts showed 14 antioxidant capacity after processing as it may be deduced from FRAP 15 (reducing capacity) and DPPH (antiradical scavenging) results. The rosemary 16 extract protected more noticeably from lipid oxidation; whereas protein oxidation 17 was prevented by both antioxidants, being quercetin the most efficient 18 antioxidant in those batches subjected to thermal treatment for gel formation 19 (cook and microwave).

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Key words: antioxidant activity, protein and lipid oxidation, rosemary, quercetin
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24 Introduction

There has been an increasing interest in the consumption of restructured minced products in the last years. However, several factors may alter their quality during processing. One of the main factors influencing seafood stability is the oxidation of the different muscle components, due to either the storage conditions or the processing to which minced fish is subjected to obtain and guarantee a safe final product.

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In this sense, a rapid lipid oxidation is frequently observed and a decline in 32 33 acceptability has been associated with a rise in 2-thiobarbituric acid (TBA) 34 values. However, there are scarcely references about the oxidation of proteins. 35 Formation of carbonyl groups in proteins has been widely used as a measure of 36 oxidation (Srinivasan & Hultin, 1995). Protein oxidation may occur more rapidly 37 than lipid oxidation in biological systems as muscle (Davies & Golberg, 1987; 38 Srinivisan & Hultin, 1995), since protein is within the aqueous phase where 39 many radicals are formed (Soyer & Hultin, 2000). Davies (1986), and Srinivasan and Hultin (2000), described the sequence of changes in proteins as following. 40 41 Firstly, free radicals react with side chains of proteins, producing protein free 42 radicals. Secondly, these free radicals may react with molecular oxygen to form 43 peroxy radicals, which in turn can capture hydrogen from another molecule 44 yielding hydrogen hydroperoxides. Finally, these protein hydroperoxides may 45 break down, being the carbonyl groups one of the resulting products. Furthermore, protein radicals could react with susceptible lipids enhancing the 46 47 rate of lipid oxidation, but they could also serve to scavenge free radicals and

thus show an antioxidant activity with respect to the lipids (Soyer & Hultin,2000).

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51 Synthetic antioxidants, such as butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA) and butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), and α -tocopherol have been used to prevent lipid 52 53 oxidation in raw and cook mince (Montero, Gómez-Guillén & Borderías, 1996; Weilmeier & Regestein, 2004). However, the test of antioxidants from natural 54 55 sources for controlling oxidation is receiving considerable attention. Synthetic antioxidants have been widely used in the restructured mince industry (fish and 56 57 meat), but consumers concern about safety led this industry to find natural 58 sources of antioxidants.

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60 The application of plant extracts to prevent fish oxidative rancidity has been 61 studied in certain fish products like fillets (Weilmeier & Regestein, 2004; 62 Aubourg, Lugasi, Hovari, Piñeiro, Lebovics, & Jaloczi, 2004), mince gels 63 (Pérez-Mateos, Gómez-Guillén, Hurtado, Solas & Montero, 2002) and emulsions (Frankel, Huang & Aeschbach, 1996). Processing for mince 64 extraction, preparation of batter and mainly cooking, make necessary the 65 addition of antioxidants to avoid the oxidative rancidity. Regarding this subject 66 67 quercetin and rosemary extracts are some of the most used natural antioxidants. 68

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Moreover it is important to consider the bio-availability of these antioxidants in the final product. Several *in vitro* techniques are used for this purpose. Two of the most widely used techniques are the measure of the antioxidant activity by FRAP and DPPH• assays. FRAP (the ferric reducing/antioxidant power) assay,
measures the reducing ability of the antioxidant (Benzie & Strain, 1996);
whereas DPPH• determination evaluates the antioxidant ability to scanvege a
free synthetic radical (2,2-diphenyl-1-picryhydrazyl DPPH•) (Brand-Williams,
Cuvelier & Berset, 1995; Sánchez-Moreno, Larrauri & Saura-Calixto, 1998).

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This study investigated the *in vitro* bio-availability and the effects of quercetin and rosemary extracts to prevent lipid and protein oxidation in mince fish muscle, as well as in subsequent treatments such as homogenization to form a batter and gelation induced by both, heat (traditional and microwave) and high pressure.

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85 Material and methods

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87 Samples preparation.

Atlantic mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) used in this study were caught at the Cantabrian coast and kept at 4 °C for 48 h. Fish (14 Kg) were headed, gutted and washed. Skin and bones were removed with a deboning machine with a pore of 3 mm (Baader 694, Lübeck, Germany).

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93 Proximate analyses of mince were performed according to Association of 94 Official Analytical Chemists procedures (1989): moisture (method 24003), ash 95 (method 1821), and protein (method 24024). Crude fat was determined 96 following the method of Bligh and Dyer (1959). Proximate analyses were: total 97 protein 17.95 % \pm 0.53, moisture 76.85 % \pm 0.16, total fat 3.78 % \pm 0.09, and 98 ash 0.96 % \pm 0.01.

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The mince was divided in three batches: minced muscle (M), mince muscle plus 0.3 % of quercetin extract (MQ) and mince muscle plus 0.6 % of rosemary extract (MR). The natural antioxidants quercetin and rosemary extract (Altaquímica. Barcelona, Spain) were added in these proportions to get antioxidant activity according to preliminary trials. Both ingredients were blended up to a homogeneous distribution.

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107 The batch consisted of minced muscle was divided in four sub-batches. Three 108 of them were placed in a refrigerated vacuum homogenizer (Stephan UM5, 109 Stephan u. Söhne GmbH & Co., Germany), and ground for 1 min at high speed. 110 Sodium chloride (2 % w/w) (Panreac, Montplet & Esteban S.A., Barcelona, 111 Spain) was added and homogenized for 3 min at slow speed. Quercetin extract 112 (0.3 %) was added to the first sub-batch (sol Q) with crushed ice to give the 113 required final moisture (77 %), whereas rosemary extract (0.6%) was added to 114 the second one (sol R). No antioxidant extract was added to the third sub-batch 115 (sol). The homogenate was beaten slowly for 5 min under vacuum, with the 116 temperature being maintained below 10 °C.

117

Protein, fat and moisture of sol and gel formulation were calculated from the proximate analyses carried out on the mince. Mince plus sodium chloride (*sol* and gel formulation) were 77.54 % water, 16.55 % protein and 3.39 % fat; *sol* and gel formulation with quercetin were 77.27 % water, 16.25 % protein and 3.31 % fat; and *sol* and gel formulation with rosemary were 77.28 % water,
16.00 % protein and 3.25 % fat.

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125 Gel forming treatments.

126 Homogenates with sodium chloride were stuffed into flexible plastic casing 127 (Krehalon Soplaril, Barcelona, Spain) of 40 µm thickness and 3.5 cm diameter. 128 Conventional thermal treatment was used for gel formation (90 °C / 50 min) 129 (TQ; TR). High pressure treatments were performed in a high pressure pilot unit 130 (ACB 665, Gec Alsthom, Nantes, France), where the temperature of immersion 131 medium (distilled water) was controlled via a thermocouple with a programmed 132 thermostatization equipment (model IA/2230 AC, INMASA, Barcelona, Spain). 133 The pressure was increased by 2,5 MPa/s. The high pressure treatments 134 applied were 300 MPa / 25 °C / 15 min (P25Q, P25R) and 300 MPa / 5-7 °C / 135 15 min (P7Q, P7R). A microwave treatment was also tested to obtain the gels, 136 consisted of 700 W during 90 sec (45 sec on one side and it was turn over 45 137 sec) (mwQ, mwR); where water was used to cover the bottom of plate.

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139 Antioxidant activity

The ferric reducing/antioxidant power (FRAP) assay was used as a measure of the reducing ability of gels following the method Benzie and Strain (1996). It is based on the increase in absorbance at 595 nm due to the formation of the complex tripiridiltriazine (TPTZ)-Fe(II) in the presence of tissue reducing agents. Absorbance was read at 4 and 30 min. The parameter Equivalent concentration 1 or EC₁ was defined as the concentration of antioxidant having a ferric-TPTZ reducing ability equivalent to that of 1 mmol/L FeSO₄.7H₂O EC₁ was calculated as the concentration of antioxidant giving an absorbance increase in the FRAP
assay equivalent to the theoretical absorbance value of a 1 mmol/L
concentration of Fe(II) solution, determined using the corresponding regression
equation.

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152 Free Radical Scavenging Measurement.

153 The anti-radical capacity of the sample extracts and pure compounds (quercetin 154 and rosemary), was estimated according to the procedure reported by Brand-155 Williams et al. (1995), slightly modified by Sánchez-Moreno et al. (1998). 156 Samples were thawed and the extracts were obtained by homogenizing 10 g of 157 each one with 50 mL of methanol (Omni-mixer, Type OM, Ivan Sorvall, Inc, 158 Norwalk Conn., USA) during 2 min (setting 6) in a bath containing water and 159 ice. Afterwards, the extracts were filtered under vacuum. The data is reported 160 as EC₅₀, which is the concentration of antioxidant required for 50 % scavenging 161 of DPPH• radical. The specified time (T_{EC50}) is the time needed to reach a 162 steady state at the concentration corresponding to EC_{50} .

163

164 **Protein oxidation**.

Determination of *carbonil radical* was performed following the method described
by Srinivisan and Hultin, 1995. Results were expressed as nmol per mg protein.

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168 Lipid oxidation

TBA index (thiobarbituric acid) was determined following the method of Vyncke
(1970), incubating at 90 °C for 40 min. Results were expressed as μmol
malonaldehyde per 100 g of sample (muscle or gel, respectively).

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173 Statistical analysis

Two-way analysis of variance was run. The computer program used was the Statgraphics Plus (Rockville, MD, USA) statistical program. Pairwise comparison of the differences between means was performed using Duncan's test with confidence intervals set for a level of significance of $p \le 0.05$.

178

179 **Results and discussion**

180 Preliminary trials showed that it was necessary to use rosemary extract in 181 double concentration than guercetin in order to obtain a similar range of 182 antioxidant activity. In the present study the antioxidant capacity of different 183 batches of minced muscle, sol and gels containing quercetin (0.3 %) and 184 rosemary (0.6 %) extracts, measured by ferric reducing/antioxidant power assay 185 (FRAP), is shown in Figure 1. It was noticeable the high FRAP values 186 corresponding to the samples which contained guercetin, compared to those 187 including rosemary, despite the latter being in double concentration. Mince 188 muscle (M) and mince muscle homogenized with NaCl (2 %) to form a batter 189 (sol) did not show any ability as reductants. However, both muscle and sol 190 containing either quercetin or rosemary showed this ability, being considerably 191 higher ($p \le 0.05$) in those samples with quercetin. The sol with quercetin (sol Q) 192 sample showed a significantly lower activity than muscle with quercetin (MQ), 193 when FRAP index was measured after 30 min reaction. This was probably due 194 to the prooxidant effect of NaCl solubilized in the muscle, as it has been 195 previously described (Andersen & Skibsted, 1991; Kanner, Harrel & Jafe, 1991). 196 No decrease was found in the reducing ability when sol with antioxidants was

197 subjected to gelation by conventional heat treatment. Furthermore, a slight but 198 significant increase was found in FRAP values ($p \le 0.05$) corresponding to gets 199 induced by high pressure at 7 °C and, specially, at 25 °C, containing both 200 quercetin and rosemary. It seems that high pressure as treatment for gel 201 induction may promote the antioxidant activity. This could be due to either a 202 direct or indirect effect on antioxidants (rosemary and guercetin). High pressure 203 may lead to reduce the interactions between these antioxidants and muscle 204 compounds, giving a higher availability of the antioxidant molecules to hinder 205 oxidation phenomena. Furthermore, it is known that high pressure itself has a 206 lipid prooxidant effect, which may be diminished by the addition of certain antioxidants like rosemary extract (Pérez-Mateos et al., 2002). Microwave 207 208 treatments led to similar FRAP values to those found in case of batters and gels 209 obtained by conventional heat treatment for both antioxidants. The pure 210 guercetin extract at 0.3 % showed a similar reducing ability to that described for 211 MQ, mean while pure rosemary extract at 0.6 % showed about 6 times higher 212 ability than M R. The loss of activity observed for rosemary extract in muscle 213 and gel could be due to its role in lipid oxidation, which consequently involves a 214 reduction in the bio-availability of this antioxidant. It has been reported that 215 rosemary extract reduces the lipid oxidation in gels induced by heat and high 216 pressure (Pérez-Mateos et al., 2002).

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It was observed that the reducing capacity was not stable with reaction time, but tended to increase from measure at 4 min up to 30 min in all the batches. This increase was about 20 % in samples including rosemary and 35 % - 40 % in those containing quercetin. These results are in accordance with data reported by Benzie and Strain (1996) for pure extract of phenolic compounds.
Considering these results, the increase observed in the reducing ability with
reaction time could be considered another parameter to define the antioxidant
capacity of a compound.

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227 The antioxidant activity measured by the scavenging of the synthetic radical 228 (2,2-diphenyl-1-picryhydrazyl DPPH•) is shown in table 1. EC₅₀ is the 229 concentration of antioxidant required for 50 % scavenging of DPPH• radical in a 230 period of time T_{EC50}. Short times and low concentrations are important to define 231 a good antioxidant activity. For quercetin and rosemary pure extracts EC₅₀ was 232 0.12 mg/mL and 0.9 mg/mL, whereas T_{EC50} was 4.5 min and 7.5 min, 233 respectively, indicating the higher *in vitro* antioxidant effect of quercetin extract. 234 Regarding this subject, it could be considered that quercetin and rosemary 235 extracts show a medium standard antioxidant activity, given that concentration 236 is quite low but time is not according with Sánchez-Moreno et al. (1998). These 237 authors classified the kinetic behaviour of different antioxidant compounds according to T_{EC50} values. Ascorbic acid was an example of rapid kinetic 238 239 behaviour since the time needed to achieve a steady state (T_{EC50}) was less than 240 5 minute. α -Tocopherol was classified as intermediate, with a T_{EC50} value within 241 the interval 5 - 30 minutes, and rutin was an example of slow kinetic behaviour 242 with higher T_{EC50} values.

243

When quercetin and rosemary extracts were blended with muscle (MQ and M R), they lost efficiency and the EC_{50} noticeably increased, being higher in case of MR. However, T_{EC50} values were similar for both, MQ and MR. The addition

247 of salt did not involve any change in EC₅₀, and sol R and sol Q showed similar 248 values to those described for MR and MQ, respectively. Nevertheless, sol Q 249 showed quite higher T_{EC50} values than MQ. The lost of antioxidant activity 250 observed with respect to pure extracts was probably due to the interaction 251 between antioxidant molecules and mince or sol constituents, respectively. The 252 antioxidant capacity in gels induced by conventional heat treatment was similar 253 to that found for both, mince muscle enriched with antioxidants and gels 254 induced by high pressure applied at moderate temperature (25 °C). However, 255 the gels induced by high pressure in cold conditions (7 °C) containing quercetin 256 showed increased EC_{50} values and thus, lower scavenging antioxidant capacity. 257 On the other hand, those gels obtained by microwave treatment showed the 258 best antioxidant capacity, which resulted similar to that found for pure rosemary 259 and quercetin extracts. It seems that the short time needed to obtain the 260 microwave gels promotes a rapid protein-protein interaction and, thus, is not 261 enough to establish any bond between muscle protein and antioxidant 262 molecules, remaining the latter more bio-available.

263

Although T_{EC50} values were lower in pure quercetin extract than in rosemary extract, the opposite behaviour was observed when these antioxidants were added to mince, *sol* or gel, finding the lowest T_{EC50} values in samples including rosemary. Nevertheless, according to the antioxidant kinetic classification defined by Sánchez-Moreno et al. (1998), an intermediate kinetic behaviour was found in most cases.

The mechanism of protection given by an antioxidant was postulated to occur at the initial stage and more effectively during the propagation stage of oxidation in case of peroxy radical (ROO•) scavengers such as phenolic compounds. The peroxy radicals formed are intercepted or inhibited by a free radical acceptor (phenolic structure), stopping the chain reaction as a consequence (Basaga, Tekkaya & Acikel, 1997).

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Since the antioxidants used in the present study are chiefly phenol based compounds, the determination of radical scavenging capacity should be an adequate method to evaluate the antioxidant ability of the pure rosemary and quercetin extracts. However, it is possible that some interactions with lipids and proteins take place when these antioxidants are blended with mince muscle and, as a result of this, they partially loose its scavenger capacity.

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285 The reducing ability of these polyphenols (quercetin and rosemary) seems to be 286 a more important factor to dictate the antioxidant activity than the free-radical-287 scavenging capacity, given that differences were less noticeable in the latter. 288 Each method mentioned above measures the ability of the antioxidants in 289 different steps of the oxidative chain, and thus the mechanism of antioxidative 290 action is different. The ability of monomeric phenolic compounds as antioxidants 291 depends on both, the degree of hydroxylation and the extent of conjugation 292 (Hodnick, Milosevljevic, Nelson & Pardini, 1988). However, there are not studies 293 to evaluate the remaining antioxidant activity in a substrate like mince fish and 294 the products obtained after gelation. Regarding this subject, it is necessary to 295 take into account possible interactions between antioxidant molecules and 296 mince compounds that influence the bio-availability of the antioxidants.
297 Quercetin extract seems to be more bio-available than rosemary extract when
298 included into a fish gel matrix.

299

300 The carbonyl groups content, measured as an index of protein oxidation, is 301 shown in figure 2. The addition of guercetin to mince muscle slightly increased 302 $(p \le 0.05)$ the carbonyl groups content. This result seems to be in conflict with 303 the antioxidant properties of the quercetin extract. It could be possible that, as a 304 consequence of the interactions that may take place between quercetin and 305 protein, new susceptible to oxidation sites arose in proteins. The solubilization 306 of protein with sodium chloride gave rise to a noticeable increase in carbonyl 307 groups level, despite having a lower content of protein (1.5 %). This effect has 308 been previously reported in other studies (Karastogiannidou, 1999). The native 309 structure of the protein is often the most stable conformation, and a chemical 310 change in the side groups may probably lead to a partial loss of stability (Hultin, 311 1986). Both extracts, quercetin and especially rosemary, acted as antioxidants 312 and decreased the carbonyl groups content in sol samples. No differences in 313 carbonyl groups content were found between gels induced by conventional heat 314 or microwave treatment, respectively. However, the presence of guercetin 315 extract gave rise to noticeable lower levels of carbonyl groups. Furthermore, it 316 seems that high pressure treatment promoted the formation of carbonyl groups 317 in spite of the addition of rosemary or quercetin extract, although levels were 318 higher in those gels including rosemary, mainly when high pressure was applied 319 at moderate temperature (25 °C). The high pressure induced protein oxidation 320 more than thermal treatments. Quercetin extract seems to be more effective

when the gel networks are formed by thermal treatments rather than by highpressure treatment.

323

Formation of thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) is shown in figure 325 3. The addition of antioxidant extracts to mince muscle did not substantially 326 modify the lipid oxidation level, probably because a slight blending did not 327 induce oxidation.

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329 However, the homogenization of minced muscle with salt caused a two-fold increase in lipid oxidation ($p \le 0.05$), despite the fat content in M was slightly 330 331 lower than in sol. It is known that sodium chloride has a prooxidant effect, 332 speeding up the formation of TBARS (Karastogiannidou, 1999). The inclusion of 333 antioxidants in the formula led to a decrease in TBARS values ($p \le 0.05$), 334 especially in case of rosemary. Conventional thermal treatment significantly 335 decreased the oxidation level found in *sol* and mince samples ($p \le 0.05$), 336 probably because there was a slight variation in formula, mainly in protein 337 content (2.17 % lower). In addition, lipids may interact covalently with proteins 338 upon gelling, leading to a considerable reduction of the amount of available TBA 339 reactive substances. The high pressure gave rise to similar values at 7 °C and 340 25 °C respectively, for rosemary and quercetin, although rosemary was shown 341 more effective than quercetin extract. TBARS values for gels induced by 342 microwave treatment including both, quercetin and rosemary, were similar to 343 those described for gels induced by high pressure containing rosemary.

345 In general, the effectiveness of rosemary to prevent lipid oxidation was higher 346 than that shown by guercetin although it should be taken into account that the 347 former was added in double amount. Rosemary gave rise to a lower antioxidant 348 activity measured by FRAP when added to mince muscle, sol and gels, 349 although the pure rosemary extract presented higher FRAP values than pure 350 quercetin. Thus, it seems that rosemary may interact with lipids in a higher 351 degree, preventing them from oxidation. Quercetin and rosemary extracts 352 remained partially bio-available in the final gels. Rosemary gave rise to a higher 353 protection against lipid oxidation in gels induced by heat and high pressure 354 treatment, meanwhile guercetin seemed to be the most effective against 355 oxidation of proteins, mainly in gels induced by conventional heat treatment.

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450 **Legend of figures**

451

452 Figure 1. Total antioxidant activity by FRAP of different samples: mince (M), 453 mince with antioxidant (MQ and MR), batter or sol, sol with antioxidant (sol Q 454 and sol R), gel induced at cook temperature 90 °C (TQ and TR), gel induced at 455 300 MPa of high pressure/ 7 °C (P7Q and P7 R), gel induced at 300 MPa of 456 high pressure/ 25 °C (P25Q and P25 R) and gel induced by microwave (mwQ 457 and mwR). Different letters (a, b, c,..) indicate significant differences ($p \le 0.05$) 458 among samples, different letters (z, y, x) indicate significant differences ($p \le p$ 459 0.05) between times of measurement for the same sample.

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Figure 2. Carbonyl groups content (mol / gr protein) of different samples: mince (M), mince with antioxidant (MQ and MR), batter or *sol*, *sol* with antioxidants (*sol* Q and *sol* R), gel induced at cook temperature 90 °C (TQ and TR), gel induced at 300 MPa of high pressure/ 7 °C (P7 Q and P7R), gel induced at 300 MPa of high pressure/ 25 °C (P25 Q and P25R) and gel induced by microwave (mw Q and mwR). Different letters (a, b, c,..) indicate significant differences ($p \le$ 0.05) among samples.

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Figure 3. Thiobarbituric acid (TBA) index of different samples: mince (M), mince with antioxidant (MQ and MR), batter or *sol*, *sol* with antioxidant (*sol* Q and *sol* R), gel induced at cook temperature 90 °C (TQ and TR), gel induced at 300 MPa of high pressure/ 7 °C (P7 Q and P7R), gel induced at 300 MPa of high pressure/ 25°C (P25 Q and P25R) and gel induced by microwave (mw Q and

- 474 mwR). Different letters (a, b, c,..) indicate significant differences ($p \le 0.05$)
- 475 among samples.

477

Table 1. Total antioxidant activity by DPPH• of different samples mince (M), mince with antioxidant (MQ and MR), batter or *sol*, *sol* with antioxidant (*sol* Q and *sol* R), gel induced at cook temperature 90°C (TQ and TR), gel induced at 300 MPa of high pressure/ 7°C (P7 Q and P7R), gel induced at 300 MPa of high pressure/ 25°C (P25 Q and P25R) and gel induced by microwave (μ w Q and μ wR).

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	EC ₅₀ (mg/mL)	T _{EC50} (min)
Μ	nd	
MQ	0.24	5.0
MR	1.2	3.8
Sol	nd	
Sol Q	0.2	22
Sol R	1.05	3.3
TQ	0.26	3.6
TR	1.8	2.9
P7 Q	0.7	6.6
P7R	1.4	1.8
P25 Q	0.29	3.3
P25R	1.6	2.8
mwave Q	0.15	9.0
mwaveR	0.6	6.25

nd: not detectable





