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7 Dear Lanari:

8

9 It is a pleasure to let you know that your manuscript "The impact of
10 moisture sorption properties on the color and bioactives
11 concentrations of black currant-yerba mate instant drinks" has been
12 accepted for publication in the next forthcoming issue of Journal of
13 Berry Research.

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18 Thank you for submitting your work to JBR and I hope you will consider
19 again JBR as a possible tool to communicate your scientific results in
20 the near future.

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22 Sincerely,

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27

1 **The impact of moisture sorption properties on the color and bioactives**

2 **concentrations of black currant-yerba mate instant drinks**

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12 **Abbreviations**

YM	Yerba mate
BC	black currant
MD ₁₀	Maltodextrin Dextrose Equivalent 10
d.m.	Dry matter
a _w	Water activity
RH	Relative humidity
Wc	Equilibrium moisture content (kg H ₂ O (kg d.m) ⁻¹)
Wm	Equilibrium monolayer moisture content (kg H ₂ O (kg d.m) ⁻¹)
Xs	Security water contents; Caurie model (kg H ₂ O (kg d.m) ⁻¹)
q ₀	Net isosteric heat of the first water molecule (kJ mol ⁻¹)
A / B	Halsey and Oswin models constants
%E	Mean relative deviation modulus
K _{GAB} / C _{GAB}	GAB model constants
v	Caurie model constant
T	Absolute temperature (K).
T _{hm}	Harmonic mean temperature (K)
T _β	Isokinetic temperature (K)
R	Universal gas constant (0.008314 kJ mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹)
q _{stn}	Net isosteric heat (kJ mol ⁻¹)
Q _{st}	Total heat of sorption (kJ mol ⁻¹)
ΔH _{vap}	Free water's latent heat of vaporization (kJ mol ⁻¹)
ΔS _d	Differential entropy (kJ mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹)
ΔG _β	Free energy (kJ mol ⁻¹) at T _β
TP	Total phenolic content (mg gallic acid equivalents (g d.m (dry matter)) ⁻¹)

MAC	Monomeric anthocyanin content (mg cyanidin-3-glucoside equivalents (g d.m.) ⁻¹)
L*, a*, b*	CIELab color coordinate
ΔE*	Total color difference
SI	saturation index
HA	hue angle
AA	Ascorbic acid content (mg AA (100 g d.m.) ⁻¹)

1

1 **Abstract**

2 **BACKGROUND:** Black currant (BC) and yerba mate (YM) have high contents of
3 polyphenolic antioxidants beneficial for health. Obtaining freeze-dried BC/YM instant
4 drinks can be a means for providing their advantages to consumers. However, their high
5 sugar contents make them very hygroscopic causing undesirable changes in color and
6 bioactives concentration.

7 **OBJECTIVE:** To solve this problem it is necessary to determine the powder's
8 sorption properties and the temperature/relative humidity's (RH) influence on their
9 color and polyphenol, ascorbic acid and anthocyanins's concentrations.

10 **METHODS:** We analyzed the sorption isotherms of freeze-dried
11 YMI/BC/maltodextrin/sugar powder at 10/20/40°C and compared them with those from
12 YM/maltodextrin.

13 **RESULTS:** Of all models tested (Caurie, GAB, Halsey, Oswin) GAB was the best.
14 Monolayer moisture values (W_m) were $\leq 0.1 \text{ kg H}_2\text{O (kg d.m.)}^{-1}$ indicating good
15 stability. Due to its higher sugar content, BC/YM powders were more hygroscopic and
16 with higher exothermic isosteric sorption heat (Q_{st}) than YM powders. Q_{st} and
17 differential entropy decreased exponentially with increasing moisture levels. Within the
18 experimental conditions, isokinetic theory indicated that the whole sorption process was
19 enthalpy controlled. Temperature and RH strongly modified BC/YM's color and
20 ascorbic acid and monomeric anthocyanins concentrations. At all temperatures,
21 optimum levels of these properties required $RH \leq 33\%$. To achieve maximum
22 physicochemical quality and stability the powder's moisture content must be $\leq W_m$, in
23 this case, RH dropped to 9% (10°C) and 11.3% (20°C/40°C).

24 **Keywords:** Black currant; Yerba mate; sorption properties, anthocyanins, ascorbic acid,
25 color.

26

1 **1. Introduction**

2 Black currant (*Ribes nigrum*; BC) is an excellent source of antioxidants [1] with a wide
3 range of health benefits including antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-carcinogenic and
4 neuroprotective activities, vision improvement and induction of apoptosis [2, 3, 4]. BC
5 has a particularly high content of phenolic compounds and anthocyanins and is the
6 richest source of vitamin C among all berry fruit species [5].

7

8 Yerba mate (*Ilex paraguariensis*; YM), a native plant from South America, has a high
9 content of polyphenols and flavonoids with antioxidant and hepatoprotective properties
10 [6], as well as the capacity to improve the cardiovascular [7] and central nervous
11 systems [8]. Moreover, its high caffeine content makes it a good ingredient for the
12 preparation of natural energy drinks.

13 Consumption of yerba mate infusions alone or combined with juices is popular in
14 Argentina, Brasil and Uruguay. Producing a beverage combining mate infusions with
15 black currant juice can be a simple and effective mean for providing their health
16 benefits to many consumers.

17 Drying is one of the most common methods used for preserving fruit juices; dried juices
18 have several advantages compared to the fresh product, including, reduced
19 transportation and distribution's costs, extended shelf life at room temperatures and
20 overall convenience. They can be consumed as final products per se or used as
21 ingredients or additives (colorants or flavoring agents) in other foods. In the case of
22 yerba mate infusions, the dried product can also be used as an ingredient in energy
23 drinks.

1 Black currant is a highly perishable, thermally sensitive seasonal product therefore; a
2 drying technique like freeze-drying can be applied to minimize the loss of its nutritional
3 and sensory properties.

4 Drying or freeze-drying fruit juices or other products with high sugar content presents
5 technical difficulties, the low glass transition temperature of some components (low
6 molecular weight sugars and organic acids) and their high hygroscopicity causes
7 stickiness, collapse and flow problems during processing and storage [9]. Although the
8 addition of carrier agents like maltodextrin before drying can help to reduce this
9 problem, to obtain powders with optimum quality and stability during storage the
10 moisture sorption properties of the powder must be considered [10].

11 Moisture sorption isotherms describe the relationship between water activity and
12 equilibrium moisture content of a particular food at specified pressures and
13 temperatures. They are important for calculating the moisture level corresponding to
14 optimum food stability [11] and other thermodynamic functions like the isosteric heat of
15 sorption, the differential entropy and the mechanisms that control the sorption process
16 [10]. These properties are used in the design, modeling and optimization of the drying
17 process as well as for predicting the powder's stability and quality during packaging and
18 storage [12]. Variation of heat of sorption with moisture provides valuable information
19 for energy requirements calculations and knowledge of the extent of the water/solid vs
20 water/water interaction.

21 Color and color stability are key factors in consumers' acceptability of berry juices [1].

22 In addition, Tuorilla and Cardello [13] reported that providing information regarding the
23 health benefits of certain food product may increase its acceptance and facilitate its
24 marketing.

1 The attractive red color of the black currant juice is mainly due to the presence of
2 anthocyanins; these compounds, as well as ascorbic acid and the polyphenols are the
3 most important antioxidants in this drink and their stability is highly affected by
4 temperature and the powder's humidity content [14]. Therefore, to obtain a high quality
5 instant drink based on YM and BC juice a thorough analysis of the color, polyphenol,
6 ascorbic acid and anthocyanins relationship with temperature and the moisture sorption
7 capacity of the powders is needed.

8 The objectives of this study were (a) to determine and model the adsorption isotherms
9 of freeze-dried black currant juice combined with yerba mate extracts at 3 temperatures
10 (10 °C, 20 °C and 40°C); (b) to calculate the isosteric heat of sorption and the
11 differential entropy, (c) to determine the mechanism that controls the moisture sorption
12 process and (d) to analyze the relationship between moisture sorption capacity, color
13 and total polyphenols, anthocyanins and ascorbic acid contents

14

15 **2. Materials and Methods**

16 2.1 Raw materials and beverage preparation

17 Figure 1 describes the process followed for the beverages preparation. To prepare the
18 freeze-dried yerba mate infusion, 60g /L of commercial yerba mate leaves (*Ilex*
19 *paraguariensis* St Hil; La Unión Suave, Est. Las Marias SAIC, Gob. Virasoro,
20 Argentina) were extracted at 100°C for 15 min, decanted for 15 min at 25°C and
21 filtered. A fraction of the filtrate (3°Brix; pH 5.5) was mixed with 15% w/v
22 Maltodextrin Dextrose Equivalent 10 (MD; Productos de Maíz S.A., Buenos Aires,
23 Argentina) and freeze dried at room temperature with a FIC L1-1-E300-CRT freeze
24 dryer (Buenos Aires, Argentina) operated with a freezing plate at -35 °C and a vacuum
25 below 100 µm.

1 The organic ripe black currant berries (*Ribes nigrum* cv. Silvergieter;) provided by
2 Chacras Cuyen, (El Bolson, Chubut, Argentina) were harvested during January 2012
3 and stored at - 20°C for 270 days. 24 h before the beverage preparation, the fruit was
4 defrosted and processed in an industrial fruit pulper (Filter net pore diameter: 2 mm).
5 The pulp (BC; 40°Brix; pH 3.21) was mixed with the yerba mate filtrate in a 3:1 ratio,
6 MD (15% w/v) and passion fruit aroma (0.01% w/w) and freeze-dried in the same
7 conditions as the YMI. After freeze-drying the powders were homogenized with sugar
8 (4.95%) and a commercial diet sweetener (0.05%; Ciclamate 5700mg/100g; Sacarin
9 2000 mg/Dextrose).

10

11 2.2 Water sorption isotherms

12 The adsorption isotherms of the YM and BC/YM freeze-dried powders were determined
13 with the static gravimetric method [15, 16] at 10°C, 20°C and 40°C. The powder
14 samples (in triplicate) were placed in hermetic containers filled with saturated solutions
15 of different salts that provided environments with a constant relative humidity (RH)
16 (*LiCl* (11.3%); *CH₃COOK* (23.4%); *MgCl₂* (33%); *K₂CO₃* (43.2%); *Mg(NO₃)₂* (54.4%)
17 *and NaCl* (76%)) and were kept in a temperature-controlled chamber. The samples were
18 weighed every 3 days until reaching equilibrium (difference between 2 consecutive
19 weights < ± 0.003g), the equilibration period lasted 2 to 3 weeks. At this point, the
20 equilibrated sample's water activity (a_w) can be considered equal to the corresponding
21 RH/100 [17].

22

23

24

25

1 2.3 Water activity and moisture content analysis

2 The water activity was measured at 25°C in an AquaLab serie 3 (Decagon Device,
3 Pullman, Washington, USA), calibrated with the saline solutions used for the sorption
4 experiments.

5 The moisture content was analyzed gravimetrically with the AOAC method [18]. The
6 lyophilized samples were dried in a vacuum oven (Sanjor serie SL DB; Buenos Aires,
7 Argentina) at 105 ± 1°C until constant weight. Both assays were done in triplicate.

8

9 2.4 Mathematical modelling of the water sorption isotherm and statistical

10 comparisons

11 The relationship between the equilibrium moisture content (W_c) and the a_w of the
12 powder drinks was predicted using 2 (Caurie; Halsey and Oswin) and 3 parameters
13 (Guggenheim-Anderson-de Boer (GAB)) models commonly used for food (Table 1,
14 [10]). In these equations, W_c , W_m and X_s represent the equilibrium monolayer and
15 security water contents respectively while C , K , A and B are all dimensionless constants
16 present in the different models [10].

17 The parameters were estimated using nonlinear regression analysis with the OriginPro v
18 8.0 (OriginLab Corp., Northhampton, MA USA) and Systat 12 (Systat Software Inc;
19 San Jose, CA USA) softwares. The selection of the most appropriate model was based
20 on its goodness of fit, evaluated with the mean relative deviation modulus (%E) defined
21 by Eqn. (5) [17].

22
$$\%E = \frac{100}{N} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{|W_c - W_{pc}|}{W_c} \quad (5)$$

23

24 W_c and W_{pc} represent the experimental and predicted equilibrium moisture levels
25 ($\text{kg H}_2\text{O} (\text{kg d.m})^{-1}$ (dry matter)) respectively and “N” the number of observations.

1 Lomauro et al. [17] reported that for practical purposes %E<10 can be considered as
2 indicative of a good fit.

3 In the case of the GAB equation, Lewicki [19] concluded that for a good description of
4 sigmoidal type isotherms and to assure that the difference between the true and
5 predicted Wm results is less than $\pm 15\%$, the K_{GAB} and C_{GAB} values must comply with:
6 $0.24 < K_{GAB} \leq 1$ and $5.67 \leq C_{GAB} \leq \infty$.

7

8 2.5 Thermodynamic properties

9 The net isosteric heat or differential enthalpy of sorption (q_{stn} ; kJ mol^{-1}), the total heat of
10 sorption (Q_{st} , kJ mol^{-1}) and the differential entropy (ΔS_d ; $\text{kJ mol}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$) were calculated
11 from the equilibrium data using the following equations [20].

$$12 \quad \ln a_w |_{W_c} = \frac{\Delta S_d}{R} - \frac{q_{stn}}{RT} \quad (6)$$

$$13 \quad Q_{st} = q_{stn} + \Delta H_{vap} \quad (7)$$

14 a_w represents the predicted water activity value for a specific equilibrium moisture
15 content (W_c); ΔH_{vap} is the free water's latent heat of vaporization calculated at the
16 average temperature between 283 and 313K (298K; $44.05 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$), R the universal gas
17 constant ($0.008314 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$) and T the absolute temperature (K).

18 q_{stn} and ΔS_d were calculated from the slope ($-q_{stn}/R$) and the intercept ($\Delta S_d/R$) of the
19 $\ln(a_w)$ vs $1/T$ plot (Eq 6) at each W_c .

20 The relationship between q_{stn} or Q_{st} and the equilibrium moisture content was
21 determined with the empirical equation proposed by Tsami et al. [21] (Eqn. (8)).

$$22 \quad q_{stn} = q_0 e^{\left(\frac{-W_c}{W_0}\right)} \quad (8)$$

$$23 \quad Q_{st} = q_0 e^{\left(\frac{-W_c}{W_0}\right)} + \Delta H_{vap} \quad (9)$$

1 q_0 represents the net isosteric heat (kJ mol^{-1}) of the first water molecule and W_0 the
 2 characteristic moisture content of the food material ($\text{kg water (kg d.m)}^{-1}$ (dry matter)).
 3 Eqns. (6), (8) and (9) parameters were determined by regression analysis with the
 4 OriginPro v 8.0 and the Systat 12 software.

5

6 2.6 Enthalpy-entropy compensation theory

7 The enthalpy-entropy compensation theory proposes a linear relationship between q_{stn}
 8 and ΔS_d according to Eq. (10) [22].

$$9 \quad q_{\text{stn}} = \Delta S_d T_\beta + \Delta G_\beta \quad (10)$$

10 T_β is the isokinetic temperature (K) and represents the temperature at which all reactions
 11 proceed at the same rate and ΔG_β is the free energy (kJ mol^{-1}) at T_β . Both parameters
 12 were estimated by fitting Eqn. 10 to the q_{stn} and ΔS_d results calculated previously.

13 Krug et al. [23] concluded that a linear chemical compensation pattern also requires that
 14 T_β must be different from the harmonic mean temperature (T_{hm}) defined as:

$$15 \quad T_{\text{hm}} = \frac{n}{\sum_{i=1}^n (1/T_i)} \quad (11)$$

16 $n = \text{total isotherms number}$

17 An approximate $(1-\alpha)100\%$ confidence interval for T_β was calculated using equations

18 (12), (13) and (14) [24]

$$19 \quad T_\beta = \hat{T}_\beta \pm t_{m-2, \alpha/2} \sqrt{\text{Var}(\hat{T}_\beta)} \quad (12)$$

$$20 \quad \hat{T}_\beta = \frac{\sum[(q_{\text{stn}})_T - (\overline{q_{\text{stn}}})_T][(\Delta S_d)_T - (\overline{\Delta S_d})_T]}{\sum[(\Delta S_d)_T - (\overline{\Delta S_d})_T]^2} \quad (13)$$

$$21 \quad \text{Var}(\hat{T}_\beta) = \frac{\sum[(q_{\text{stn}})_T - \Delta G_\beta - T_\beta (\Delta S_d)_T]^2}{(m-2) \sum[(\Delta S_d)_T - (\overline{\Delta S_d})_T]^2} \quad (14)$$

22 m is the number of $q_{\text{stn}}/\Delta S$ data pairs, t_m is the t(Student) at $(m-2)$ degrees of freedom,

23 $(\overline{q_{\text{stn}}})$ and $(\overline{\Delta S_d})$ are the mean values of q_{stn} (kJ mol^{-1}) and the differential entropy (kJ

24 $\text{mol}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$).

2.7 Total polyphenols and monomeric anthocyanins contents

The total phenolic content of the extracts (TP; mg GAE (gallic acid equivalents) (g d.m. (dry matter))⁻¹ was assessed with the Folin-Ciocalteu method reported by Schlesier et al. [25], using a UVmini-1240 UV-Vis Spectrophotometer (Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Japan).

The monomeric anthocyanin (MAC) content of the BC/YM powder was determined with the pH differential method [26]. The monomeric anthocyanins were extracted with ethanol: HCl 0.1N (85:15). After diluting the extracts with buffer to achieve an appropriate concentration range, the absorbancies were read at 520 (λ_{\max}) and 700 nm with a spectrophotometer U-1900 (HITACHI, Japan).

$$A = (A_{\lambda_{\text{vis-max}}} - A_{\lambda_{700}})_{\text{pH } 1.0} - (A_{\lambda_{\text{vis-max}}} - A_{\lambda_{700}})_{\text{pH } 4.5} \quad (15)$$

$$\text{MAC (mg L}^{-1}\text{)} = (A * \text{MW} * \text{DF} * 1000) / (\epsilon * 1) \quad (16)$$

MAC was expressed as mg CyGE (cyanidin-3-glucoside equivalents) (g d.m.)⁻¹; molecular weight (MW) = 449.2 g mol⁻¹; extinction coefficient (ϵ) = 26900 L cm⁻¹ mol⁻¹; DF = dilution factor [26].

2.8 Color analysis

Color was measured on triplicate samples with a Minolta CR-400 Chroma Meter (Minolta, Osaka, Japan), each value was the average of 9 measurements on duplicate samples.

Color was expressed by CIE L* (lightness), a* (redness), b* (yellowness), saturation index (SI) and hue angle (HA). [27] SI, a measure of color intensity, was computed as:

$$\text{SI} = \sqrt{(a^{*2} + b^{*2})} \quad (17)$$

HA represents the psychometric hue and was calculated as:

$$\text{HA} = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{b^*}{a^*} \right) \quad (18)$$

1 An increase in HA towards more positive values or a reduction to more negative
2 indicated an enhancement in yellowness or blueness respectively.

3 The total color difference (ΔE^*) with respect to the samples color coordinates before
4 equilibration ($L^*_0, a^*_0; b^*_0$) was determined with equation (19) [27]:

5

$$6 \quad \Delta E^* = \sqrt{((L^*_0 - L^*)^2 + (a^*_0 - a^*)^2 + (b^*_0 - b^*)^2)} \quad (19)$$

7

8 2.9 Ascorbic acid analysis

9 To analyze moisture sorption's influence on the ascorbic acid (AA) content, , the
10 equilibrated samples (0.5 g) were extracted with an aqueous solution of metaphosphoric
11 acid (HPO_3 ; 50 g L^{-1} ; Carlo Erba S.A, BCN, España) followed by centrifugation at 2000
12 rpm (Rolco CM 2036, Buenos Aires, Argentina).

13 AA concentration was determined by high performance liquid chromatography
14 (Waters, model R-414, Milford, MA, USA). The method consisted of an isocratic
15 elution procedure with UV-Visible detection at 245 nm using AA (Food grade,
16 Parafarm) as external standard. Before injection, the extracts were filtered with a pre-
17 filter and a 0.45 μm millipore membrane.

18 Separations were carried out on a 5 mm RP C18 column of 150 mm - 4.6 mm
19 (Symmetry, Waters, Dublin, Ireland) at 25°C. The mobile phase was a mixture of 5 g L^{-1}
20 HPO_3 metaphosphoric acid–acetonitrile (93:7) [28] with a flow rate = 1 mL min^{-1} . To
21 prevent the loss of AA, standard solutions and extracted samples were protected from
22 light.

23 Quantitation was performed by comparing the chromatographic peak area with that of
24 the external standard. The calibration curve was plotted in the concentration range of
25 0.5–200 mg L^{-1} and based on a 10-point calibration.

1

2 2.10 Statistical Analysis.

3 The effect of temperature and water activity on the color, TP, ascorbic acid and
4 anthocyanins content was analyzed using the SYSTAT 12 and Infostat (v. 2013)
5 software. Significant differences among means were determined by analysis of variance
6 followed by pairwise comparisons with the Tuckey test. P values < 0.05 were
7 considered statistically significant.

8

9 3. Results and Discussion

10 3.1 Moisture sorption isotherms

11 The initial a_w and moisture content values of the freeze-dried beverages were 0.089 and
12 $0.0354 \text{ kg H}_2\text{O (kg d.m)}^{-1}$ for the BC/YM and 0.065 and $0.0216 \text{ kg H}_2\text{O (kg d.m)}^{-1}$ for
13 the YM. Figs 2 (a) and (b) show the a_w influence on the BC/YM and YM powder
14 drinks' equilibrium moisture content (W_c ; $\text{kg H}_2\text{O (kg d.m)}^{-1}$) at 10°C, 20°C and 40°C.

15 A comparison between the YM and BC/YM isotherms indicated that the incorporation
16 of BC and commercial sucrose significantly increased ($P < 0.05$) the powder's
17 hygroscopicity, the effect was particularly strong for a_w between 0.54 and 0.76 where
18 the $W_c^{BC/YM}$ levels were 35-40% higher. This behavior was expected as sugars are well
19 known humectants [29]; similar results had been reported in high sugar content products
20 like pineapple pulp [12], blueberry [10] and orange juice [30] powders.

21 In agreement with Al-Muhtaseb et al. [31] temperature increase reduced the equilibrium
22 moisture content in both samples, Ferrari et al. [32] and Mosquera et al. [11] reported
23 similar results working with spray dried blackberry or freeze-dried strawberry powders
24 respectively. Pahlevanzadeh and Yazdani [33] suggested that the temperature rise

1 enhanced the kinetic energy associated with the water molecules resulting in a reduction
2 of the attractive forces H₂O/sorbent and consequently in lower hygroscopicity levels.
3 The parameters obtained from the regression analysis of the different models (GAB;
4 Caurie; Halsey and Oswin), the determination coefficient (R²) and the mean relative
5 deviation modulus (%E) for BC/YM and YM are presented in Table 3. The GAB
6 equation was the only one that satisfied [17] Lomauro et al.(1985) conclusions
7 regarding goodness of fit criteria (E% < 10 and highest R²) for the complete a_w and
8 temperature ranges. Additionally, the K_{GAB} and C_{GAB} values of the YM and BC/YM
9 also fulfilled Lewicki's (1997) [19] recommendations (Sec. 2.4), therefore this model
10 was considered the most appropriate for all the thermodynamic properties analysis.
11 The experimental and predicted results (GAB equation) of the adsorption isotherms at
12 the 3 working temperatures for the a) YM and b) BC/YM powders are presented in
13 Figs. 2(a) and (b).
14 Monolayer moisture contents are of particular importance as they represent the moisture
15 level corresponding to optimum food stability [11]; Labuza [34] concluded that W_m
16 levels higher than 0.1 kg H₂O (kg d.m)⁻¹ may compromise food stability. Results
17 showed that for all temperatures, the predicted W_m values of the YM and BC/YM
18 samples were equal or less than that limit (Table 3) hence, the powders' stability could
19 be considered good.
20 Temperature increase reduced the monolayer moisture concentration of both beverages
21 (Table 3), Vega-Gálvez et al.[10] and Perez-Alonso et al. [35] working with blueberries
22 or pure MD, respectively, reported a similar effect, conversely, studies done with
23 vacuum-dried lemon juice [36] or freeze-dried pineapple pulp [37] using 18% MD as a
24 carrier did not show a clear trend.

1 At 10°C or 20°C, the YM's W_m values were higher than those from the BC/YM
2 samples, however, this difference was not significant ($P>0.05$) in the 40°C isotherms.
3 The BC/YM monolayer moisture content results at 20°C and 40°C were lower than
4 those reported by Perez-Alonso, et al. [35], for pure MD₁₀ (0.07-0.073 kg H₂O (kg d.m.)⁻¹)
5 ¹) and by Gabas et al. [12], and Carvalho et al. [38], for vacuum dried persimmon or
6 pineapple with 18% d.m MD₁₀ (0.06-0.069 kg H₂O (kg d.m.)⁻¹) at the same temperatures

7 3.2 Thermodynamic properties

8 The net differential isosteric heat of sorption (q_{stn}), the differential heat of sorption and
9 the differential entropy were estimated with equations (6), (7) and (8) and the
10 equilibrium moisture concentrations predicted from the GAB model (Eqn. 1). In
11 accordance with previous publications [12, 10] , we detected a strong reduction in Q_{st}
12 with increasing W_c levels in both samples (Fig 3) that were satisfactorily fitted with
13 Eqn.(9) ($R^2= 0.998$; [21]). For all the W_c range tested, $Q_{st}^{BC/YM}$ was more negative than
14 Q_{st}^{YM} indicating that water binding in the BC/YM powders was stronger than in the
15 YM. This is probably due to the greater concentration of sugars rich in free hydroxyl
16 groups (capable of forming strong hydrogen bonds) in BC/YM than in the YM powders.
17 Increasing W_c from 0.059 to 0.1 kg H₂O (kg d.m.)⁻¹ reduced the isosteric heat of both
18 samples 4 to 5 times. This was expected since the range corresponded to the monolayers
19 moisture contents of the powders (Table 3) and in these conditions the binding energy
20 between sorbate and sorbent is very high [20]. The predicted Q_{st} results at the estimated
21 W_m values were:

- 22 • BC/YM: 93.82 (0.041 kg H₂O (kg d.m.)⁻¹), 74.23, (0.056 kg H₂O (kg d.m.)⁻¹)
23 and 67.95 kJ mol⁻¹ (0.063 kg H₂O (kg d.m.)⁻¹)
- 24 • YM: 103.51 (0.039 kg H₂O (kg d.m.)⁻¹), 66.12 (0.064 kg H₂O (kg d.m.)⁻¹) and
25 47.52 kJ mol⁻¹ (0.104 kg H₂O (kg d.m.)⁻¹)

1 The values between parentheses corresponded to the BC/YM and YM monolayer
2 moisture levels (Table 3).

3 A further increase in moisture content (0.1 to 0.15 kg H₂O (kg d.m.)⁻¹) diminished the
4 Q_{st} of both samples,, although it was still higher than ΔH_{vap}, indicating that the energy
5 sorbate/sorbent is greater than the energy between water molecules therefore new layers
6 of water molecules are formed in the powder's surface (multilayer sorption).

7 Results from Fig. 3 showed that at Wc contents between 0.18-0.3 kg H₂O (kg d.m.)⁻¹,
8 Q_{st}^{BC/YM} reached an asymptotic level similar to ΔH_{vap} therefore it could be considered as
9 the limit of bound water [39, 21] for this sample. In the case of the YM powders, Q_{st}
10 was similar to ΔH_{vap} at 0.15 kg H₂O (kg d.m.)⁻¹.

11 Table 4 presented the net isosteric heat of the first water molecule (q₀; kJ mol⁻¹) and the
12 characteristic moisture content of the food material (W₀; kg water (kg d.m.)⁻¹).

13 The differential entropy (ΔS_d; kJ mol⁻¹ K⁻¹) was calculated from Eqn. (6) using the Wc
14 values predicted by the GAB equation (see Section 2.4). The relationship between ΔS_d
15 and Wc was satisfactorily modeled (R² = 0.996) with Eqn. (15) using the SigmaPlot
16 software (Systat Inc; Fig.4.)

$$17 \quad \Delta S_d = a^{(-bW_c)} \quad (15)$$

18 The YM and BC/YM “a” and “b” parameters and their respective coefficients of
19 determination (R²) are presented in Table 4.

20 To test the applicability of the isokinetic theory to the moisture sorption process of the
21 YM and BC/YM powders, Eqn. (10) (See Section 2.6) was fitted to their respective q_{stn}
22 and ΔS_d values (Fig. 5).

23 Table 4 shows the isokinetic temperature (T_β), the free energy (ΔG_β) and the
24 determination coefficient (R²) values calculated by regression analysis for both samples.

1 Validity of the theory requires that T_{β} must be significantly different from the harmonic
2 mean temperature (T_{hm}) calculated with Eqn. 11 [23]. The isokinetic temperatures and
3 their 95% confidence intervals of the YM and BC/YM powders were 329.99 ± 0.70 K
4 and 339.99 ± 0.02 K significantly different ($P < 0.05$) from the harmonic mean
5 temperature (301.52 K) used in this study. This fact combined with the high degrees of
6 linearity ($R^2 > 0.999$) obtained confirms the existence of $q_{stn}/\Delta S_d$ compensation; hence
7 the isokinetic theory is a valid mean for describing the water sorption mechanism in
8 both samples within the experimental conditions used.

9 The YM and BC/YM samples presented only one line of compensation each (Fig 5),
10 indicating that there is no change of mechanism in the whole moisture and temperature
11 ranges studied. According to Leffler [40] if $T_{\beta} > T_{hm}$, the process is enthalpy driven
12 whereas in the opposite situation ($T_{\beta} < T_{hm}$) it is entropy controlled. Since our results
13 comply with the former condition the process can be considered to be enthalpy driven
14 i.e. the moisture sorption mechanism is controlled by the energy interactions related to
15 the chemical composition of the YM and BC/YM powders. Beristain et al. [22] reached
16 similar conclusions regarding the sorption process of dried figs, currants, apricots,
17 plums and raisins.

18

19 3.3 Temperature and relative humidity effects on ascorbic acid, total
20 polyphenols and monomeric anthocyanins concentrations and the color of the BC/YM
21 powders

22 The water activity, TP, MAC and color of the BC/YM powders before equilibration
23 were:

24 $a_w = 0.089$ TP = 33.56 mg GAE/g d.m MAC = 354.02 mg CyGE g d.m⁻¹

25 $L^* = 52.46$; $a^* = 21.57$; $b^* = -2.83$; SI = 21.76; HA = -0.13°

1 Equilibration diminished TP by 20% - 33%. Statistical analysis of the
2 temperature/relative humidity influence on total polyphenol (TP) contents (Table 5)
3 demonstrated that at each temperature, TP was not affected by RH ($P > 0.05$). In
4 addition, no significant effect ($P > 0.05$) was detected by increasing the temperature at a
5 given RH value.

6 Fig 6 showed the MAC relationship with temperature and relative humidity. Results
7 showed that although initially MAC (40°C) values were the highest ($P < 0.05$),
8 increasing RH beyond 33% had an extremely negative impact on MAC(40°C)'s
9 stability, at RH = 54% and 76%, MAC(40°C) dropped to 54 % and 8.6% of their
10 original values respectively. In contrast, for $11\% \leq RH < 54\%$, no losses ($P > 0.05$)
11 were detected in the samples kept at 10°C / 20°C; nevertheless, the effects of enhancing
12 RH to 76 % were as detrimental as those observed at 40°C

13 Figure 7 shows the ascorbic acid / RH relationship of the BC/YM powders at 10°C,
14 20°C and 40°C. In comparison with the fresh pulp, processing and equilibration at the
15 selected temperatures resulted in 80-83% losses in AA content.

16 **Temperature and relative humidity had a significant effect ($P > 0.05$) on the ascorbic**
17 **acid concentration (Fig. 7)** In accordance with Sablani et al. [41], AA retention
18 diminished with increasing temperatures; for $23\% \leq RH \leq 76\%$, the ranking was:

$$19 \quad AA(10^\circ\text{C}) = AA(20^\circ\text{C}) \gg AA(40^\circ\text{C}) \quad (P < 0.05)$$

20 At 10°C and 20°C and RH between 11- 54%, AA remained stable; on the other hand,
21 at 40°C, increasing RH to 23% caused an AA loss of 37%, additional RH increments up
22 to 54% did not affect AA(40°C) At all temperatures, AA concentration in samples
23 equilibrated to 76%RH, fell to a minimum level of 99.58 mg AA (100 g d.m.)⁻¹.

24 **Figure 8A, B and C show the L*, SI and HA relationship with temperature and relative**
25 **humidity. For RH ranging from 11% to 43%, the lightness (Fig. 8A) values at 10°C and**

1 20°C were constant ($P > 0.05$), further increments in RH to 54% enhanced L^* by 8%
2 ($P < 0.05$). In the case of powders kept at 40°C, no effect ($P > 0.05$) was detected for RH
3 between 11% - 33%, nevertheless at 43% RH the lightness levels were 7.7 % greater.
4 Equilibrating with relative humidity's between 11% - 54% enhanced L^* 5.8% to 14.2%,
5 in contrast, using 76% RH was extremely damaging; the lightness dropped 25% - 35%
6 compared with the samples before equilibration.

7 Within each temperature, RH variations between 11% - 54% did not influence ($P >$
8 0.05) the saturation index (SI) levels (Fig 8B); additionally, the temperature factor was
9 significant only at 40°C ($P < 0.05$), SI values at 10°C and 20°C were 7 % higher than
10 those at 40°C indicating a drop in color vividness in the latter temperature. At 76%
11 relative humidity, the saturation indexes at all temperatures fell to 10% of their levels
12 before equilibration.

13 Humidity increments from 11% to 54% did not modify HA at 10°C or 20°C
14 nevertheless, when the temperature was raised to 40°C, the upper limit of the RH range
15 corresponding to constant HA fell to 33% (Fig. 8C). At 76%RH, HA(10°C) diminished
16 ($P < 0.05$) from -5.65° to -29.32° indicating a shift towards a greater blue input.
17 HA(20°C) did not change ($P > 0.05$) and HA(40°C) increased ($P < 0.05$) from 5.79° to
18 40.26° which means a higher contribution of yellow. These differences could be
19 explained considering that although for all temperatures b^* (76%RH) values indicated
20 an increment in yellowness ($P < 0.05$; data not shown), in the resulting HAs this effect
21 was overcompensated (10°C) or suppressed (20°C) by their corresponding a^* values.

22 Comparison of Figs. 8A, B, C and Fig. 6 showed that within 285.76 - 299.94 mg CyGE
23 (g d.m.)⁻¹ at 10°C/20°C and 347.72 - 335.25 mg CyGE (g d.m.)⁻¹ at 40°C, L^* , SI and
24 HA were independent of RH. Lowering MAC levels down to 30 - 60 mg CyGE (g
25 d.m.)⁻¹ resulted in undesirable alterations in the 3 color parameters.

1 Relative humidity's influence was also strong in other powder's properties like caking
2 and agglomeration. Visual observation of the BC/YM samples showed that enhancing
3 RH values to 33% did not produce any noticeable stickiness, collapse or caking
4 formation at any of the temperatures used in the current study. However at 43.2%RH,
5 slight degrees of stickiness and caking were detected that increased with temperature, in
6 addition, at 76%RH water sorption was so high that the sample behaved like a leather.
7 In conclusion, to obtain the best results regarding the color, MAC and ascorbic acid
8 contents at the selected temperatures, the BC/YM powders must be kept at relative
9 humidities equal or less than 33%. However several reports [11, 34] recommended the
10 use of $W_c = W_m$ as a condition for obtaining maximum food stability; in this case, the
11 RH values calculated with the GAB model (Eqn 1) were: $RH(10^\circ C) = 9\%$ and
12 $RH(20^\circ C / 40^\circ C) = 11.31\%$.

13

14 **4. Conclusions**

15 Comparison of the goodness of fit of the Caurie; Halsey, Oswin and GAB models
16 indicated that that the latter one was the best for predicting the equilibrium moisture
17 content of the YM and BC/YM samples at all the temperatures and water activities
18 tested. The K_{GAB} and C_{GAB} estimated by regression analysis allowed an appropriate
19 description of the YM and BC/YM isotherms and assured differences between the true
20 and predicted W_m results lower than $\pm 15\%$.

21 Due to their greater content of sugars, the BC/YM freeze-dried powders were more
22 hygroscopic than the YM, the effect was particularly noticeable at a_w ranging 0.54 -
23 0.76, where the W_c^{YMBC} levels were 35 - 40% higher. This difference in the formulation
24 also affected the differential isosteric heat of sorption; $Q_{st}^{BC/YM}$ was more negative than

1 Q_{st}^{YM} indicating that water binding in the BC/YM powders was stronger than in the
2 YM.

3 The Q_{st} and ΔS_d dependence with moisture levels were modeled with empirical
4 exponential equations. Q_{st} reached an asymptotic level similar to ΔH_{vap} at 0.15 kg H₂O
5 (kg d.m.)⁻¹ and 0.18 - 0.3 kg H₂O (kg d.m.)⁻¹ for the YM and BC/YM samples
6 respectively.

7 Within the experimental conditions used, the isokinetic theory is a suitable mean for
8 describing the water sorption mechanism in both samples, results suggested that this
9 process occurs by enthalpy controlled mechanisms.

10 Temperature and water activity had a strong impact in the powders color as well as in
11 their ascorbic acid and monomeric anthocyanins concentrations. To obtain a product
12 with optimum properties at the selected temperatures samples must be exposed to RH ≤
13 33%. However, maximum quality and stability of food powders requires that $W_c \leq W_m$
14 which corresponds to relative humidity values of 9% (10°C) and 11.31% (20°C /
15 40°C).

16

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1 **Table 1.** Sorption models for predicting moisture sorption isotherms.

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Model	Equation	Parameters
GAB	$W_c = \frac{W_m K C a_w}{(1 - K a_w)(1 - K a_w + C K a_w)} \quad (1)$	<p>W_m, monolayer moisture content C: constant related to monolayer sorption heat. K: constant related to multilayer sorption heat.</p>
OSWIN	$W_c = A \left[\frac{a_w}{(1 - a_w)} \right]^B \quad (2)$	A / B: constants
HALSEY	$W_c = \left[\frac{A}{\ln(1/a_w)} \right]^{\frac{1}{B}} \quad (3)$	
CAURIE	$W_c = \exp \left[a_w * \ln(v) - \frac{1}{4.5 * X_s} \right] \quad (4)$	<p>V: constant X_s: Security water content</p>

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Table 2. Equilibrium moisture content (kg H₂O (kg d.m)⁻¹) of freeze-dried YM (yerba mate) and BC/YM (yerba mate/black currant) powders at 10, 20 y 40°C.

Salt/ a _w (RH/100) ^a	10°C		20°C		40°C	
	BC/YM*	YM*	BC/YM *	YM*	BC/YM *	YM*
LiCl (0.113) ^a	0.058±0.0004	0.029±0.0040	0.055 ±0.0006	0.043 ±0.0030	0.044±0.0005	0.020±0.0050
KCH ₃ COO (0.234) ^a	0.071±0.0005	0.062 ±0.0040	0.070 ±0.0010	0.059 ±0.0060	0.050±0.0020	0.043±0.0030
MgCl ₂ (0.33) ^a	0.089±0.0007	0.074 ±0.001	0.079 ±0.0008	0.068± 0.0070	0.059±0.0001	0.049±0.0060
K ₂ CO ₃ (0.432) ^a	0.102±0.0005	0.089 ±0.001	0.097 ±0.0087	0.09±0.003	0.071±0.0016	0.006±0.0010
Mg(NO ₃) ₂ (0.544) ^a	0.119±0.0029	0.104±0.0010	0.116 ±0.0003	0.100±0.0060	0.088±0.0008	0.007±0.0010
NaCl (0.760) ^a	0.222 ±0.0048	0.157±0.001	0.20 ±0.0120	0.154±0.001	0.195±0.0090	0.144±0.0010

^aRH relative humidity; Reported values correspond to the mean ± standard deviation of at least 3 replicates.

Table 3. Regression parameters and statistical tests (R^2 ; %E) of the equations used for modelling the BC/YM and YM sorption isotherms at **10°C**, **20 °C** and **40°C**.

Equations	Parameters	10°C		20°C		40 °C	
		BC/YM	YM	BC/YM	YM	BC/YM	YM
GAB	W_m	0.063	0.104	0.056	0.064	0.041	0.039
	K	0.946	0.560	0.95	0.822	1.04	0.971
	C	57.40	5.80	50.05	10.09	20	10.53
	R²	0.9919	0.9990	0.996	0.997	0.994	0.9957
	E%	2.64	3.96	4.42	5.69	4.22	9.12
Oswin	A	0.1222	0.0991	0.112	0.0961	0.089	0.0715
	B	0.488	0.425	0.477	0.457	0.637	0.587
	R²	0.969	0.97	0.956	0.982	0.927	0.976
	E%	8.59	10.79	9.47	6.04	17.33	10.89
Halsey	A	0.029	0.013	0.024	0.016	0.04	0.024
	B	1.48	1.70	1.50	1.578	1.16	1.246
	R²	0.991	0.930	0.977	0.970	0.963	0.979
	E%	4.03	16.65	5.26	9.85	11.78	13.11
Caurie	V	9.093	6.899	8.674	7.943	17.163	14.058
	Xs	0.069	0.061	0.068	0.059	0.058	0.050
	R²	0.977	0.948	0.961	0.972	0.937	0.969
	E%	6.99	14.82	7.89	9.04	15.61	13.53

Table 4. Regression parameters of the equations (8), (10) and (15) for freeze-dried YM and BC/YM.

Parameters	YM	BC/YM
q_0 (kJ mol ⁻¹)	326.97	195.14
W_0 (kg H ₂ O (kg d.m) ⁻¹)	0.023	0.03
R^2	0.973	0,991
a	1.31	0.68
b	48.80	36.47
R^2	0.998	0.996
T_β (K)	329.99	339.16
ΔG_β (kJ mol ⁻¹)	0.84	0.83
R^2	0.999	0.999

Table 5. Effect of temperature and relative humidity (RH) on the total polyphenol content of the **BC/YM** powders.

RH (%)	10°C	20°C	40°C
11.3	21.78 ± 0.91 ^{ab}	22.71 ± 0.20 ^{ab}	21.85 ± 3.23 ^{ab}
23.4	22.78 ± 1.52 ^{ab}	23.50 ± 0.10 ^{ab}	26.85 ± 1.82 ^{ab}
33.0	24.14 ± 5.86 ^{ab}	26.14 ± 3.43 ^{ab}	28.21 ± 4.95 ^b
43.2	26.57 ± 4.04 ^{ab}	25.07± 2.93 ^{ab}	31.00 ± 0.20 ^b
54.4	20.78 ± 0.30 ^{ab}	25.43± 4.24 ^{ab}	29.07 ± 0.71 ^b
76.0	17.14 ± 0.20 ^{ab}	23.21± 0.51 ^{ab}	24.43 ± 0.20 ^{ab}

Results are expressed as mean ± standard deviation of at least 2 replicates Means with different superscripts are significantly different (P < 0.05)

Figure captions

Fig. 1. Process followed for preparing the freeze-dried YM and BC/YM drinks.

Fig. 2. Temperature influence on the sorption isotherms of freeze-dried BC/YM (a) and YM (b) at 10, 20 and 40°C. The lines represent the equilibrium moisture contents predicted by the GAB model.

Fig. 3. Changes of the BC/YM and YM sorption heat with equilibrium moisture content. The lines represent the sorption heat predicted by Eqn. (9).

Fig. 4. Equilibrium moisture content effect on the differential entropy of the BC/YM and YM freeze dried drinks. The lines represent the differential entropy values predicted by the exponential equation.

Fig. 5. Enthalpy-entropy linear relationship for freeze-dried BC/YM and YM.

Fig. 6. Monomeric anthocyanins concentration (MAC) changes with temperature and relative humidity (%).

Fig. 7. Ascorbic acid (AA) content changes with relative humidity (%) and temperature

—○— 10 —□— 20 —△— 40 °C.

Fig.8 A, B, C. Lightness (L^* ; A), Saturation Index (SI; B) and Hue Angle (HA, °; C) dependence with temperature and relative humidity (%).

Fig. 1.

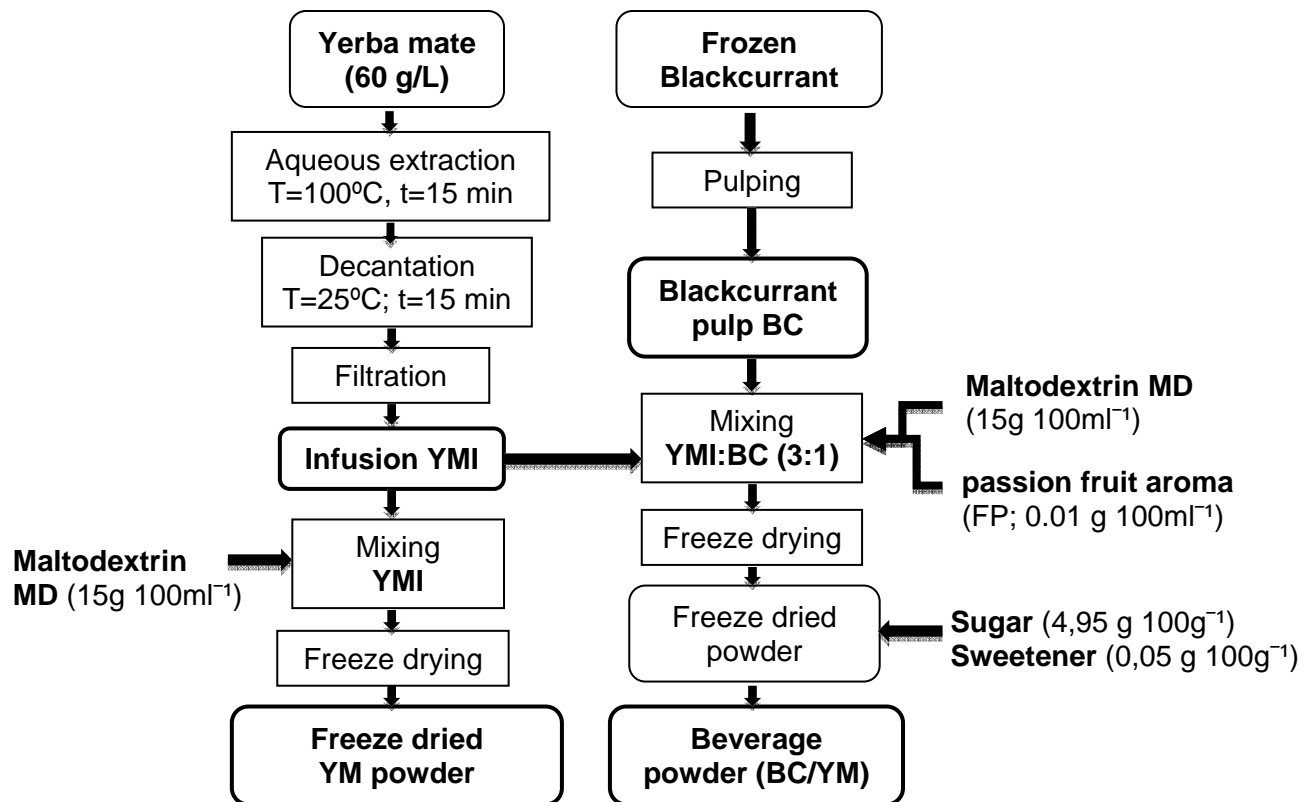


Fig. 2.

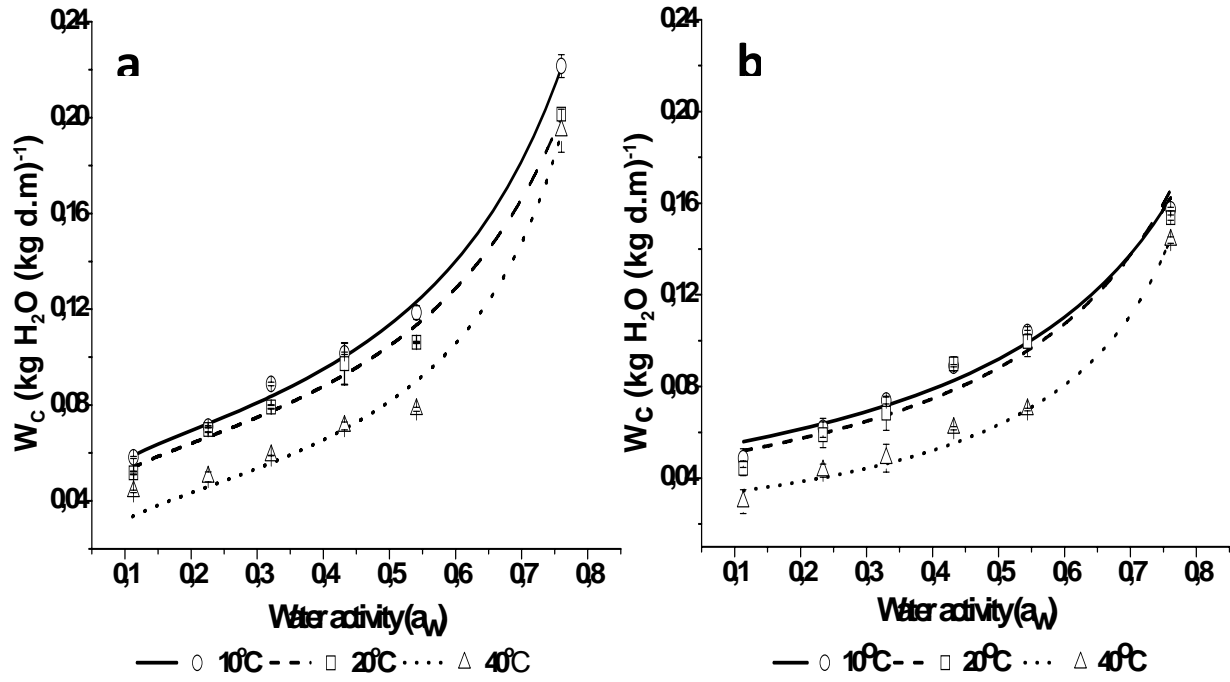


Fig. 3.

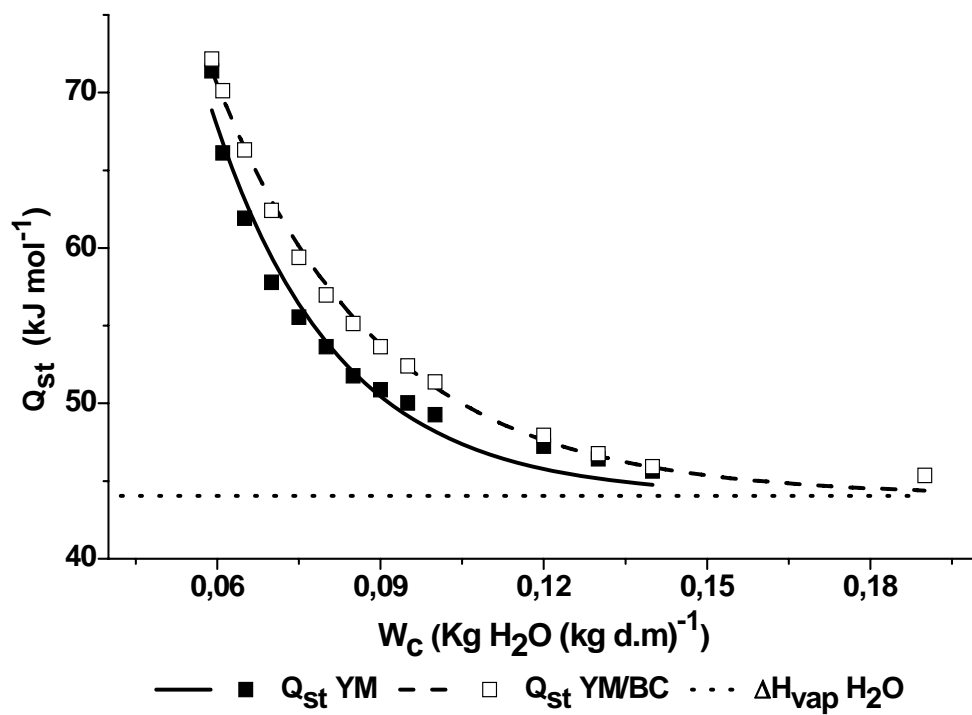


Fig. 4.

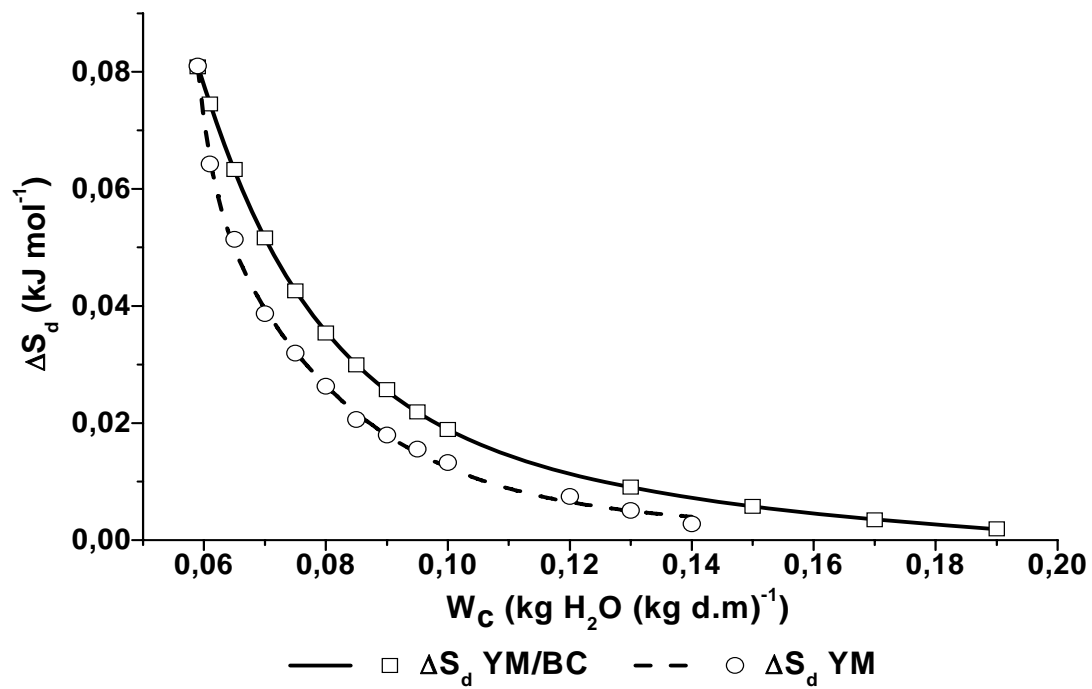


Fig. 5.

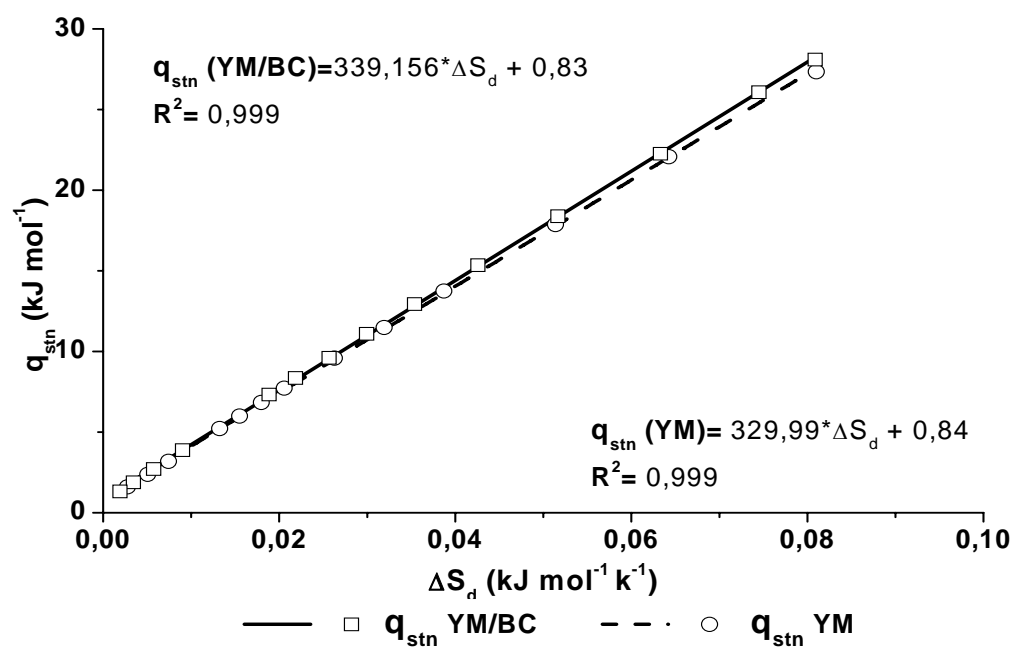


Fig. 6.

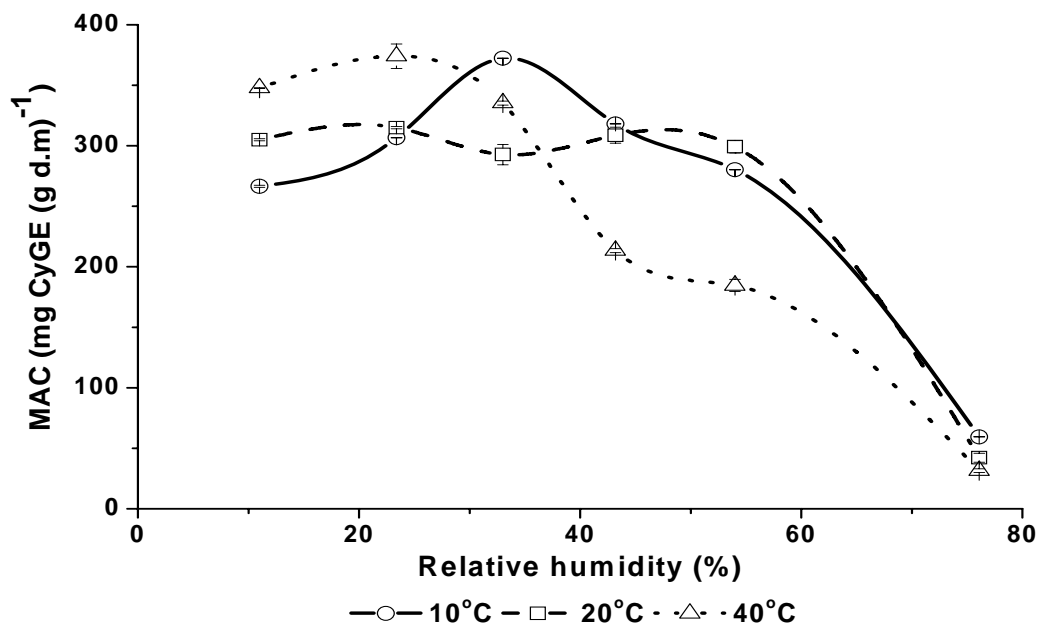


Fig. 7.

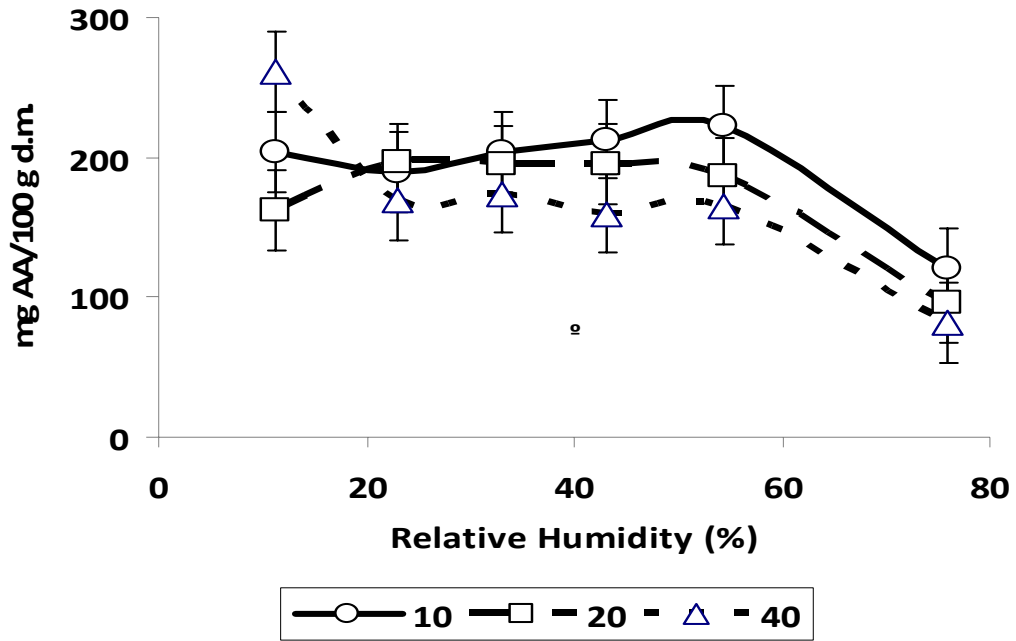


Fig. 8.

