



**UNIVERSIDADE ESTADUAL DE MARINGÁ**  
**CENTRO DE CIÊNCIAS AGRÁRIAS**  
**Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciência de Alimentos**

**INOVAÇÃO NA BIOTECNOLOGIA MEDIANTE APLICAÇÃO DE  
PROTEASES COMERCIAIS E ENZIMA RECOMBINANTE**

**THAMARA THAIANE DA SILVA CROZATTI**

Maringá  
2023

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Tese apresentada ao programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciência de Alimentos da Universidade Estadual de Maringá e ao Projeto de Doutorado em Inovação do CNPq, como parte dos requisitos para obtenção do título de doutor em Ciência de Alimentos.

Maringá

2023

Dados Internacionais de Catalogação-na-Publicação (CIP)  
(Biblioteca Central - UEM, Maringá - PR, Brasil)

C954i

Crozatti, Thamara Thaianne da Silva

Inovação na biotecnologia mediante aplicação de proteases comerciais e enzima recombinante / Thamara Thaianne da Silva Crozatti. -- Maringá, PR, 2023.  
98 f.: il. color., figs., tabs.

Orientadora: Profa. Dra. Graciette Matioli.

Tese (Doutorado) - Universidade Estadual de Maringá, Centro de Ciências Agrárias, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciência de Alimentos, 2023.

1. Hidrólise enzimática. 2. Farelo de soja. 3. Enzimas comerciais. 4. Ciclodextrinas. 5. Enzima recombinante. I. Matioli, Graciette, orient. II. Universidade Estadual de Maringá. Centro de Ciências Agrárias. Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciência de Alimentos. III. Título.

CDD 23.ed. 660.634

Marinalva Aparecida Spolon Almeida - 9/1094

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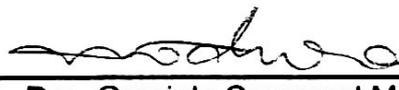
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Orientadora**

Maringá – 2023

**Orientadora**

Profa. Dra. Graciette Matioli

## **BIOGRAFIA**

Thamara Thaianne da Silva Crozzati, filha de Paulo Cleber da Silva e Olinda Aparecida dos Santos da Silva, nasceu em São Paulo - SP, no dia 06 de janeiro de 1994. Concluiu o ensino médio no Colégio Haya, em Osasco – SP. Possui graduação em Engenharia de Alimentos pela Universidade Estadual de Maringá, campus Maringá (2017), e mestrado em Ciência de Alimentos pela mesma universidade (2019). Possui especialização em Ciência e Tecnologia de Alimentos pela Universidade Federal de Pelotas (2022).

Em 2014, ingressou ao Laboratório de Biotecnologia Enzimática, pertencente ao Departamento de Farmácia da Universidade Estadual de Maringá, onde participou de Projetos de Iniciação Científica, sob orientação da Profa. Dra. Graciette Matioli. Têm experiência na área de biotecnologia, com ênfase em biotecnologia enzimática, corantes naturais, peptídeos bioativos e resíduos industriais. Atualmente, é aluna regular do Programa de Doutorado em Inovação (DAI) do CNPq junto ao Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciência de Alimentos da Universidade Estadual de Maringá também sob orientação da Profa. Dra. Graciette Matioli.

***Dedico***

*À minha família, por sempre acreditar e ser a maior riqueza e força da minha vida...*

*“Acima de tudo se cumbram de amor,  
que é o vínculo perfeito.”*

*(Colossenses 3:14)*

## AGRADECIMENTOS

Primeiramente gostaria de agradecer a Deus, por me mostrar que com amor e fé tudo é possível. Sua luz e preceitos são responsáveis por guiar todos os meus passos e fortalecer diariamente meu coração e minha esperança.

Ao meu esposo João André por ser meu grande amor, melhor amigo, maior incentivador e por me impulsionar ser uma pessoa melhor todos os dias. Sem seu apoio e companheirismo essa caminhada seria muito mais difícil. Nossa família sempre será a razão de tudo.

Aos meus pais que nunca deixam de apoiar e acreditar nos sonhos de seus filhos. Sempre serão os grandes mestres da minha vida e terão para sempre o meu amor incondicional.

Aos meus irmãos, Bruna e Rodrigo, que nunca deixaram de me incentivar. A minha sogra, Dilma e suas irmãs (Denise, Darci, Dalila e Dalgisa), por todo amor e carinho, incentivo, ensinamentos e principalmente por fortalecerem a minha fé.

À minha orientadora Profa. Dra. Graciete Matioli, pelas oportunidades, ensinamentos, aprendizados, paciência e sobretudo amizade. Suas pegadas estarão para sempre comigo e me faltam palavras para agradecer toda sua contribuição na minha formação profissional e pessoal.

Ao Prof. Dr. Eduardo César Meirer e todos os integrantes do Laboratório de Espectrometria de Massas da Universidade Federal do Paraná, campus Jandaia do Sul, por abrir as portas do laboratório e me fazer sentir em casa, pela confiança e tantos ensinamentos. Que sorte a minha encontrar de pessoas de bem e bom coração nessa trajetória.

A todos os colegas que estão e já fizeram parte de Laboratório de Biotecnologia Enzimática e, atualmente, em especial para Juliana Miyoshi, Júlia Rosa, Paula Laurentis e Luciana Koga. Todos os momentos vividos contribuíram para que essa jornada fosse mais leve. Obrigada por toda ajuda, carinho e companhia constante e tão especial.

À empresa BRF e ao supervisor José Maluf por aceitar esse desafio e por todo suporte oferecido para o desenvolvimento desse estudo.

Agradeço, também, aos órgãos financiadores CNPq, CAPES e Fundação Araucária pelo suporte financeiro durante toda minha caminhada científica.

Por último, mas não menos importante, ao meu amigão Teddy, sua companhia preenche meu coração e completa nossa família.

## APRESENTAÇÃO

Esta pesquisa foi desenvolvida com o apoio de uma equipe multidisciplinar por meio de parcerias estabelecidas entre o Laboratório de Biotecnologia Enzimática (DFA-UEM), empresa BRF S.A., Laboratório de Espectometria de Massas (UFPR) e Laboratório de Bioquímica de Procariotos (DBQ -UEM).

A presente tese de doutorado está apresentada na forma de dois artigos científicos:

- AUTORES:** Thamara Thaianne da Silva Crozatti, Juliana Harumi Miyoshi, Angélica Priscila Parussolo Tonin, Larissa Fonseca Tomazini, Marco Aurélio Schuler Oliveira, Jose Uebi Maluf, Eduardo Cesar Meurer e Graciette Matioli.

**TÍTULO:** Obtaining of bioactive di and tripeptides from enzymatic hydrolysis of Soybean meal and its protein isolate using Alcalase® and Neutrase®

**REVISTA:** International Journal of Food Science and Technology.

Artigo publicado (Fator de Impacto 3,612 – Qualis A2).
- AUTORES:** Thamara Thaianne da Silva Crozatti, Paula Vitória Larentis, Vanderson Carvalho Fenelon, Juliana Harumi Miyoshi, Júlia Rosa de Brito, Giovanna da Silva Salinas, Beatriz de Oliveira Mazzotti, Giovanni Cesar Teles, Quirino Alves de Lima Neto e Graciette Matioli

**TÍTULO:** Challenges and alternatives for the production of cyclodextrins from the CGTase enzyme from recombinant *Bacillus subtilis* WB800.

**REVISTA:** Food Science and Technology.

Artigo publicado (Fator de Impacto 2,602 – Qualis B1).

## RESUMO GERAL

Inovação esta aliada ao processo de transformação e criação de um novo produto, ideia ou serviço, de forma que o mesmo seja entregue a sociedade e legitimado pelo seu valor. Nesse contexto, o Programa de Doutorado Acadêmico em Inovação (DAI) refere-se a uma iniciativa do Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq) para que os Programas de Pós-Graduação possam fomentar projetos de interação com empresas por meio de suas teses. Considerando o exposto acima, esta tese teve como foco a inovação em biotecnologia enzimática e está apresentada na forma de dois artigos científicos.

### **ARTIGO 1 - Obtenção de di e tripeptídeos bioativos a partir da hidrólise enzimática do farelo de soja e seu isolado protéico utilizando Alcalase® e Neutrase®**

**INTRODUÇÃO.** Peptídeos bioativos são cadeias curtas de aminoácidos unidas por ligações peptídicas. Possui especial interesse devido sua alta bioatividade e, principalmente, a suas propriedades funcionais. Portanto, trata-se de compostos que atendem as demandas do mercado moderno, o qual que está cada vez mais interessado na seleção de alimentos de maior qualidade e que possam estar aliados a promoção de saúde.

Peptídeos bioativos podem ser obtidos a partir de diferentes métodos, com destaque especial para os processos de hidrólises enzimáticas, que são vantajosos para o setor alimentício, especialmente por apresentar vantagens como maior controle do grau de quebra da proteína, baixo custo e por ser uma potente ferramenta de liberação de peptídeos biologicamente ativos. O maior número de peptídeos isolados é proveniente de fontes animais e vegetais e a proteína de soja tem se evidenciado uma fonte rica de peptídeos bioativos. Assim, o uso de subprodutos provenientes do processamento da soja também pode ser uma alternativa próspera para o desenvolvimento de alimentos ricos em propriedades bioativas tanto para consumo humano quanto animal.

**OBJETIVOS.** Considerando o interesse na obtenção de compostos bioativos com significativa bioatividade e propriedade funcionais, o presente trabalho objetivou aplicar proteases comerciais para obtenção de di e tripeptídeos bioativos provenientes de subprodutos da soja e, por consequência, agregar maior valor aos mesmos.

**MATERIAL E MÉTODOS.** O farelo de soja desengordurado (SM) foi fornecido pela empresa BRF S.A. Foi realizada a análise de composição centesimal do SM. Foi preparado o isolado de proteína de soja (SPI), o qual foi obtido por extração aquosa a partir do SM. As hidrólises enzimáticas do SM e do SPI foram realizadas isoladamente com as enzimas comerciais Alcalase® (pH 8 a 55 °C) (SMA e SPIA) e Neutrase® (pH 7 a 50 °C) (SMN e SPIN) com 10 mg para 1% substrato (m/m) por 4 h. O rendimento dos hidrolisados (%) foi calculado pela razão da massa do hidrolisado obtida e a massa inicial do SM (g) e SPI (g).

Foi determinado o teor de proteína bruta pelo método de Kjeldahl e foi mensurado o grau de hidrólise das reações utilizando reagente OPA a 340 nm. Foi realizado eletroforese de proteína em gel de poliacrilamida desnaturante (SDS-PAGE) e determinado a atividade antioxidante dos hidrolisados pelos métodos de atividade sequestrante de radicas DPPH e ABTS.

A identificação de peptídeos bioativos foi realizada pela técnica de rápida absorção por LC-MS/MS utilizando um sistema inovador, que consiste no rastreamento rápido de moléculas protonadas de di e tripeptídeos, baseado na perda neutra (NL) de 46 Da, sem necessidade de pré-tratamento ou separação cromatográfica demorada.

**RESULTADOS E DISCUSSÃO.** A análise da composição centesimal realizada no MS revelou um teor de proteína total bastante elevado ( $49,31 \pm 0,06\%$ ), o que indica que o subproduto é uma fonte promissora de peptídeos bioativos. Os valores dos rendimentos obtidos na preparação do SPI e nas hidrólises foram: SPI  $22,99 \pm 0,23\%$ ; SMA  $16,80 \pm 0,10\%$ ; SMN  $16,40 \pm 0,30\%$ ; SPIA  $22,10 \pm 1,00\%$  e SPIN  $22,94 \pm 0,23\%$ , destacando-se maior eficiência nos hidrolisados SPI do que nos hidrolisados SM.

Os resultados do teor de proteína bruta determinados para SPI e hidrolisados foram:  $102,6 \pm 3,62\%$  para SPI;  $71,8 \pm 1,43\%$  para o hidrolisado de SMA;  $74,5 \pm 1,04\%$  para SMN;  $98,8 \pm 0,33\%$  para SPIA e  $99,7 \pm 0,34\%$  para SPIN. Tais resultados se mostraram satisfatórios, pois um produto comercial de isolado de proteína de soja deve conter no mínimo 90% de proteína. Para a hidrólise realizada no SM, foi observado um teor de proteína bruta acima de 70%, o que sugere que a hidrólise também foi eficaz neste caso. Os resultados obtidos na análise de grau de hidrólise revelaram uso da enzima Alcalase® apresentou melhores resultados ( $16,72 \pm 0,25\%$  e  $12,59 \pm 0,80\%$  para SMA e SPIA, respectivamente) em comparação com a enzima Neutrase® ( $8,45 \pm 0,62\%$  para SMN e  $1,29 \pm 0,28\%$  para SPIN), o que indica que a enzima com alta atividade proteolítica pode ter influenciado o comprimento da cadeia peptídica e aumentado a quantidade de aminoácidos livres. O SDS-PAGE revelou que ambos os tratamentos enzimáticos resultaram em peptídeos com massas menores que 25 KDa. A atividade sequestrante de radicais DPPH e ABTS revelaram que a hidrólise realizada com Alcalase® e Neutrase® melhorou a atividade antioxidante de SM e SPI, mas o SPI se destacou por apresentar maior atividade antioxidante ( $406,33 \pm 0,22 \mu\text{ mol de TE/mg de amostra}$ ) do que SM e seus hidrolisados.

A análise de LC-MS/MS exibiu que a aplicação do processo de hidrólise com a protease comercial Alcalase® no SM promoveu a obtenção de 19 peptídeos (16 di e 03 e tripeptídeos). O hidrolisado SPIA gerou 27 dipeptídeos e 24 tripeptídeos. O emprego das proteases comerciais gerou peptídeos com bioatividades que corresponderam principalmente à atividade inibitória da ECA, à atividade inibitória da dipeptidil peptidase IV (DPP-IV), atividade antioxidante, ação estimulante e atividade inibitória da renina.

**CONCLUSÕES.** O processo de hidrólise da proteína de soja com Alcalase® proporcionou a obtenção de proteínas com cadeias mais curtas, características de peptídeos com propriedades bioativas. A hidrólise de SM e SPI potencializou significativamente a capacidade antioxidante da proteína de soja, principalmente com o uso de Alcalase®. O sistema inovador utilizado para a identificação de di e tripeptídeos por LC-MS/MS foi eficiente para o estudo de subprodutos da soja e identificou um número significativo de di e tripeptídeos, que apresentaram seqüências de bioatividades antioxidantes, anti-hipertensivas e antidiabéticas. Assim, a aplicação de processos biotecnológicos realizados com enzimas comerciais pode ser uma alternativa promissora para melhorar as características tecnológicas e funcionais do subproduto do farelo de soja.

**Palavras-chave:** Farelo de soja, hidrólise enzimática, di-peptidos, tri-peptidos, bioatividades.

## **ARTIGO 2 - Desafios e alternativas para a produção de ciclodextrinas a partir da enzima CGTase de *Bacillus subtilis* WB800 recombinante.**

**INTRODUÇÃO.** As ciclodextrinas (CDs) são oligossacarídeos cíclicos obtidas a partir da reação de transglicosilação do amido, a qual é catalisada pela enzima ciclomaltodextrina glucanotransferase (CGTase). Devido a característica apolar da cavidade as CDs possuem a capacidade de encapsular inúmeras moléculas. Embora apresente alta aplicabilidade o custo de produção das CDs é alto, e seu rendimento é baixo. Nesse contexto, é significativamente relevante avaliar novas alternativas biotecnológicas de otimização da produção de CDs.

**OBJETIVOS.** Avaliar estratégias de produção de CDs a partir da CGTase do *B. subtilis* WB800 recombinante utilizando sistema contínuo de produção associado a ultrafiltração para enzima semipurificada e purificada, e meios de produção alternativos para a enzima bruta.

**MATERIAL E MÉTODOS.** Para a produção da *B. subtilis* CGTase recombinante, foi utilizado o meio 2xYT, suplementado com canamicina (25 µg/mL) e incubado a 30 °C, a 100 rpm, por 5 dias. Os meios alternativos utilizados foram: meio para produção de moléculas de CDs apenas com adição da enzima (meio 1A) e apenas com a presença do microrganismo (meio 1B), e o meio 2xYT apenas com adição da enzima (meio 2A) e somente com a presença do microrganismo (meio 2B). Os meios foram suplementados com canamicina e adicionados de amido de milho e, posteriormente, incubados a 30 °C e 50 °C, 100 rpm, por 5 dias. Alíquotas de 5 mL foram coletadas a cada 24 horas para análise cromatográfica.

**RESULTADOS E DISCUSSÃO.** A enzima de CGTase de *B. subtilis* WB800 recombinante exibiu baixa atividade enzimática (1,60 µmol de β-CD/min/mL), possivelmente devido interferência na sua estabilidade estrutural durante o armazenamento. A 30 °C, o tempo de 48 h foi o que apresentou maior produção de CDs, principalmente β-CD, com destaque para o meio 2xYT, independente da presença do microrganismo ou apenas da enzima (13,26 e 15,06 mmol/L de β-CD, respectivamente). Contudo, foi a 50 °C que a produção de CDs foi mais competente, sendo a produção de β-CD a mais eficiente (média de 15 mmol/L). Em todos os ensaios foi possível observar que a concentração de β-CD começou a diminuir progressivamente, principalmente no meio contendo o microrganismo (meio 1A). Esse evento pode estar relacionado ao fato de o microrganismo estar produzindo outras enzimas que atuam na degradação da CGTase recombinante ou, ainda, devido à possibilidade do microrganismo consumir as CDs ao longo do tempo.

**CONCLUSÕES.** Meios alternativos acrescidos de amido de milho mostraram-se uma estratégia interessante para a produção de β-CD, que atualmente é a CD mais utilizada e disponível comercialmente. Além disso, a utilização da enzima sem purificação é uma alternativa promissora, pois contribui para a redução de custos e etapas na produção de CDs, podendo favorecer sua aplicação industrial.

**Palavras-chave:** Ciclodextrinas, CGTase recombinante, Sistema Contínuo, Ultrafiltração.

## GENERAL ABSTRACT

Innovation is allied to the process of transformation and creation of a new product, idea or service, so that it is delivered to society and legitimized by its value. In this context, the Academic Doctorate Program in Innovation (DAI) refers to an initiative of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) so that Graduate Programs can promote interaction projects with companies through their theses. Considering the above, this thesis focused on innovation in enzyme biotechnology and is presented in the form of two scientific articles.

### **ARTICLE 1 - Obtaining bioactive di and tripeptides from the enzymatic hydrolysis of soybean meal and its protein isolate using Alcalase® and Neutrase®**

**INTRODUCTION.** Bioactive peptides are short chains of amino acids joined by peptide bonds. It is of special interest due to its high bioactivity and, mainly, its functional properties. Therefore, these are compounds that meet the demands of the modern market, which is increasingly interested in the selection of higher quality foods that may be allied to health promotion.

Bioactive peptides can be obtained from different methods, with special emphasis on enzymatic hydrolysis processes, which are advantageous for the food sector, especially because they have advantages such as greater control of the degree of protein breakdown, low cost and because it is a potent biologically active peptide release tool. The largest number of isolated peptides comes from animal and vegetable sources and soy protein has proven to be a rich source of bioactive peptides. Thus, the use of by-products from soybean processing can also be a prosperous alternative for the development of foods rich in bioactive properties for both human and animal consumption.

**AIMS.** Considering the interest in obtaining bioactive compounds with significant bioactivity and functional properties, this work aimed to apply commercial proteases to obtain bioactive di and tripeptides from soy by-products and, consequently, add greater value to them.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS.** The defatted soybean meal (SM) was provided by the company BRF S.A. SM centesimal composition analysis was performed. Soy protein isolate (SPI) was prepared, which was obtained by aqueous extraction from SM. The enzymatic hydrolysis of SM and SPI were performed separately with the commercial enzymes Alcalase® (pH 8 at 55 °C) (SMA and SPIA) and Neutrase® (pH 7 at 50 °C) (SMN and SPIN) with 10 mg for 1% substrate (w/w) for 4 h. The hydrolyzate yield (%) was calculated by the ratio of the hydrolyzate mass obtained and the initial mass of SM (g) and SPI (g).

The crude protein content was determined by the Kjeldahl method and the degree of hydrolysis of the reactions was measured using OPA reagent at 340 nm. Protein electrophoresis was performed on a denaturing polyacrylamide gel (SDS-PAGE) and the antioxidant activity of the hydrolysates was determined by the DPPH and ABTS radical scavenger activity methods.

The identification of bioactive peptides was carried out by the rapid absorption technique by LC-MS/MS using an innovative system, which consists of the rapid tracking of protonated molecules of di and tripeptides, based on the neutral loss (NL) of

46 Da, without the need for time-consuming pretreatment or chromatographic separation.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.** Analysis of the centesimal composition performed on MS revealed a very high total protein content ( $49.31 \pm 0.06\%$ ), which indicates that the by-product is a promising source of bioactive peptides. The yield values obtained in the preparation of the SPI and in the hydrolysis were: SPI  $22.99 \pm 0.23\%$ ; SMA  $16.80 \pm 0.10\%$ ; NMS  $16.40 \pm 0.30\%$ ; SPIA  $22.10 \pm 1.00\%$  and SPIN  $22.94 \pm 0.23\%$ , highlighting greater efficiency in SPI hydrolysates than in SM hydrolysates.

The results of crude protein content determined for SPI and hydrolysates were:  $102.6 \pm 3.62\%$  for SPI;  $71.8 \pm 1.43\%$  for SMA hydrolyzate;  $74.5 \pm 1.04\%$  for NMS;  $98.8 \pm 0.33\%$  for SPIA and  $99.7 \pm 0.34\%$  for SPIN. Such results were satisfactory, as a commercial product of soy protein isolate must contain at least 90% protein. For the hydrolysis performed in the SM, a crude protein content above 70% was observed, which suggests that the hydrolysis was also effective in this case. The results obtained in the analysis of the degree of hydrolysis revealed that the use of the enzyme Alcalase® presented better results ( $16.72 \pm 0.25\%$  and  $12.59 \pm 0.80\%$  for SMA and SPIA, respectively) in comparison with the enzyme Neutrase® ( $8.45 \pm 0.62\%$  for SMN and  $1.29 \pm 0.28\%$  for SPIN), which indicates that the enzyme with high proteolytic activity may have influenced the length of the peptide chain and increased the amount of free amino acids. SDS-PAGE revealed that both enzymatic treatments resulted in peptides with masses less than 25 kDa. The scavenging activity of DPPH and ABTS radicals revealed that hydrolysis performed with Alcalase® and Neutrase® improved the antioxidant activity of SM and SPI, but SPI stood out for presenting greater antioxidant activity ( $406, 33 \pm 0.22 \mu\text{mol TE/mg}$  of sample) than SM and its hydrolysates.

The LC-MS/MS analysis showed that the application of the hydrolysis process with the commercial protease Alcalase® in the SM promoted the obtaining of 19 peptides (16 di and 03 and tripeptides). SPIA hydrolyzate generated 27 dipeptides and 24 tripeptides. The use of commercial proteases generated peptides with bioactivities that corresponded mainly to ACE inhibitory activity, dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DPP-IV) inhibitory activity, antioxidant activity, stimulating action and renin inhibitory activity.

**CONCLUSIONS.** The hydrolysis process of soy protein with Alcalase® provided proteins with shorter chains, characteristics of peptides with bioactive properties. The hydrolysis of SM and SPI significantly potentiated the antioxidant capacity of soy protein, mainly with the use of Alcalase®. The innovative system used for the identification of di and tripeptides by LC-MS/MS was efficient for the study of soybean by-products and identified a significant number of di and tripeptides, which presented sequences of antioxidant, antihypertensive and antidiabetic bioactivities. Thus, the application of biotechnological processes carried out with commercial enzymes can be a promising alternative to improve the technological and functional characteristics of the soybean meal by-product.

**Keywords:** Soybean meal, enzymatic hydrolysis, dipeptides, tripeptides, bioactivities.

## **ARTICLE 2 - Challenges and alternatives for the production of cyclodextrins from the recombinant *Bacillus subtilis* WB800 CGTase enzyme.**

**INTRODUCTION.** Cyclodextrins (CDs) are cyclic oligosaccharides obtained from the starch transglycosylation reaction, which is catalyzed by the enzyme cyclomaltoextrin glucanotransferase (CGTase). Due to the non-polar characteristic of the cavity, CDs have the capacity to encapsulate countless molecules. Although it has high applicability, the production cost of CDs is high, and its yield is low. In this context, it is significantly relevant to evaluate new biotechnological alternatives for optimizing CD production.

**AIMS.** Evaluate CD production strategies from recombinant *B. subtilis* WB800 CGTase using a continuous production system associated with ultrafiltration for semipurified and purified enzyme, and alternative production means for the crude enzyme.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS.** For the production of recombinant *B. subtilis* CGTase, 2xYT medium was used, supplemented with kanamycin (25 µg/mL) and incubated at 30 °C, at 100 rpm, for 5 days. The alternative medium used were: medium for the production of CD molecules with only the addition of the enzyme (medium 1A) and only with the presence of the microorganism (medium 1B), and the 2xYT medium with only the addition of the enzyme (medium 2A) and only with the presence of the microorganism (medium 2B). The media were supplemented with kanamycin and corn starch and subsequently incubated at 30 °C and 50 °C, 100 rpm, for 5 days. Aliquots of 5 mL were collected every 24 hours for chromatographic analysis.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.** The recombinant *B. subtilis* WB800 CGTase enzyme exhibited low enzymatic activity (1.60 µmol β-CD/min/mL), possibly due to interference in its structural stability during storage. At 30 °C, the time of 48 h showed the highest production of CDs, mainly β-CD, with emphasis on the 2xYT medium, regardless of the presence of the microorganism or just the enzyme (13.26 and 15.06 mmol/ L of β-CD, respectively). However, it was at 50 °C that the production of CDs was more competent, with the production of β-CD being the most efficient (average of 15 mmol/L). In all assays, it was possible to observe that the concentration of β-CD began to progressively decrease, mainly in the medium containing the microorganism (medium 1A). This event may be related to the fact that the microorganism is producing other enzymes that act in the degradation of the recombinant CGTase or, even, due to the possibility of the microorganism consuming the CDs over time.

**CONCLUSIONS.** Alternative medium added with corn starch proved to be an interesting strategy for the production of β-CD, which is currently the most widely used and commercially available CD. In addition, the use of the enzyme without purification is a promising alternative, as it contributes to the reduction of costs and steps in the production of CDs, which may favor its industrial application.

**Keywords:** Cyclodextrins, CGTase recombinant, Continuous System, Ultrafiltration.

## ARTICLE 1

**Obtaining of bioactive di and tripeptides from enzymatic hydrolysis of Soybean meal and its protein isolate using Alcalase® and Neutrase®**

**Running title: Obtaining di-tripeptides from soybean meal**

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23 **Abstract**

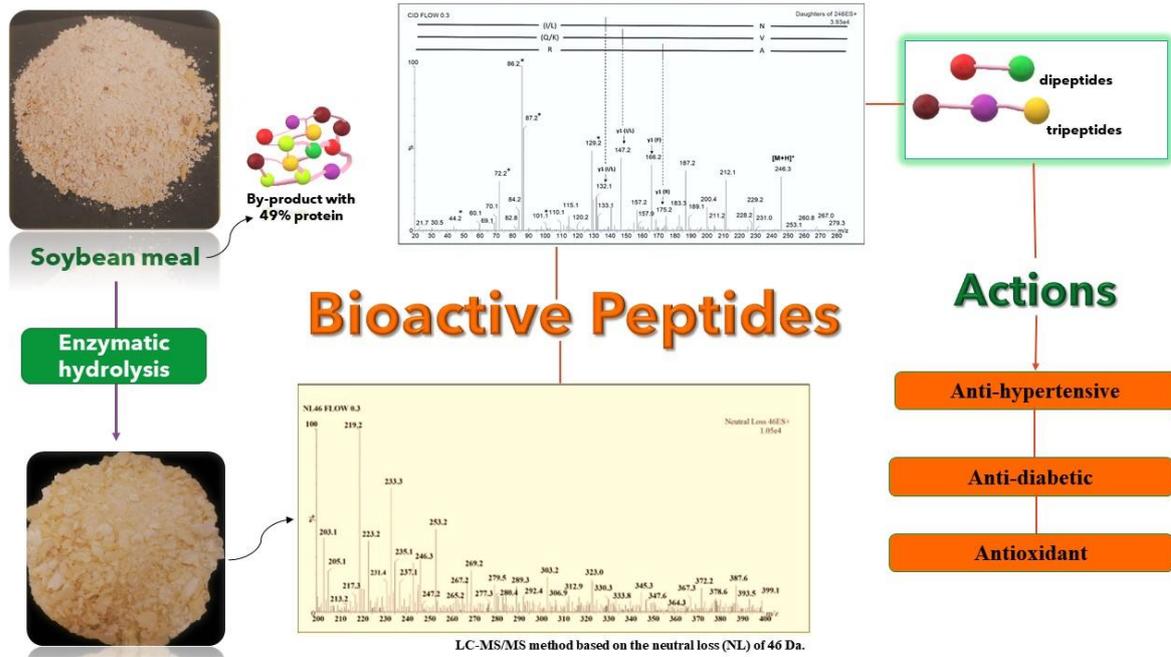
24 The obtaining of bioactive di and tripeptides using Alcalase® and Neutrase® enzymes  
25 in the hydrolysis of soybean meal (SM) and its protein isolate (SPI) was evaluated. An  
26 innovative system by fast LC-MS/MS neutral loss screening and *de novo* sequencing  
27 was used to identify bioactive peptides. Soy protein characterization, gel  
28 electrophoresis, and antioxidant activity of the obtained peptides were performed.  
29 Results achieved showed that the use of Alcalase® and SPI preparation potentiated the  
30 peptide breaking bonds and favored the obtainment of bioactive peptides. The  
31 antioxidant activity of tested samples was significantly improved with enzymatic  
32 hydrolysis. LC-MS/MS analyses identified 19 peptides in SM and 51 in SPI, all  
33 obtained after hydrolysis with Alcalase® and, according to BIOPEP, with relevant  
34 bioactivities and expressive functional potential. Therefore, it is suggested that bioactive  
35 peptides achieved in this study can enable the development of new ingredients and  
36 provide greater added value to soy by-products.

37

38 **Keywords:** Soybean meal, enzymatic hydrolysis, dipeptides, tripeptides, bioactivities.

39

# 40 Graphical Abstract



41

42

## 43 1. INTRODUCTION

44 The demand for higher nutritional and sensory quality food products has  
45 increased significantly and, based on this scenario, the valuation of the food with  
46 functional ingredients also increases, among which bioactive peptides stand out.

47 Bioactive peptides are short-chain amino acid fragments joined by peptide  
48 bonds, which can vary between two and twenty amino acid segments (Hartmann &  
49 Meisel, 2007; Li-Chain, 2015). Nowadays, more than 4372 bioactive peptides already  
50 identified are available in the literature, which may come from sources such as plants,  
51 and animals, among others (Minkiewicz, Iwaniak & Darewicz, 2019).

52 The heightened interest in peptides is associated with their high bioactivity and,  
53 above all, their functional properties and health promotion (Coscueta et al., 2016; Liu et  
54 al., 2020). Such organic compounds can be obtained by different chemical processes,  
55 such as hydrolysis processes, fermentation methods, among others, which consist of  
56 breaking the protein into smaller pieces to modify the protein structures and improve its  
57 functional characteristics (Shen et al., 2020).

58 Enzymatic hydrolysis processes are highly beneficial to the food industry,  
59 especially because it has advantages, such as greater control of protein breakdown  
60 degree, low cost, among others (Sight et al., 2014). In this context, the use of different  
61 proteases is highlighted, which are classified into endopeptidases and exopeptidases,  
62 such as Alcalase®, Neutrase®, papain, trypsin, etc. (Liu et al., 2020; Tascias-Pascacio  
63 et al., 2020).

64 The largest number of isolated peptides comes from animal sources such as  
65 milk protein and dairy products (Hartmann and Meisel, 2007; Sigh et al., 2014).  
66 However, some vegetable sources have been expanding and showing up in recent years,  
67 such as soy protein, that in addition to exhibits one of the most important production

68 chains in the world agribusiness, standing out mainly in soybeans, bran, and oil  
69 production, presents, together with its by-products, a rich source of bioactive peptides  
70 (Gorçuc et al., 2020; Coscueta et al., 2019).

71 Different analytical methods are used to evaluate hydrolyzed proteins  
72 containing three or more amino acid residues. However, the techniques commonly used  
73 to investigate the smallest peptides (di- or tri-) have the disadvantage of time-  
74 consuming sample preparation and the need for chromatographic fractionation. Liquid  
75 chromatography (LC) coupled with tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) has been  
76 frequently selected for the identification of biopeptides in complex mixtures (Poliseli et  
77 al., 2021).

78 To the best of authors' knowledge, there is no previously published work  
79 presenting the process of enzymatic hydrolysis that can be used to obtain di and  
80 tripeptides directly from soybean meal without the previous need to obtain its protein  
81 isolate. Nor is the author's knowledge of published works that describe an LC-MS/MS  
82 system for rapid screening of protonated di and tripeptide molecules from soybean meal  
83 and its protein isolate based on the neutral loss (NL) of 46 Da, without the need for  
84 time-consuming pretreatment or chromatographic separation.

85 Thus, this work aimed to evaluate the use of commercial enzymes to obtain di  
86 and tripeptides directly from soybean meal and, in addition, to identify tri- and  
87 dipeptides in soybean meal and its protein isolate by fast LC-MS/MS neutral loss  
88 screening and *de novo* sequencing.

89

## 90 **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

91

### 92 **2.1. Materials**

93 The defatted soybean meal was supplied by the BRFoods Company (Brazil).  
94 Alcalase® 2.5 L and Neutrase® 0.8 L were purchased from Novozymes Latin America  
95 Ltda. 6-Hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-carboxylic acid (Trolox), 2,2'-azinobis  
96 (3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) (ABTS), 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl  
97 (DPPH), and HPLC-grade Acetonitrile were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Brazil  
98 Ltda. Deionized water was obtained using a Milli-Q system (Millipore, Billerica, MA).  
99 All other reagents used were of degree of analytical purity.

100

## 101 **2.2. Analysis of the centesimal composition of soybean meal (SM)**

102 Proximate composition analysis of soybean meal (SM) was performed at the  
103 Food Analysis Laboratory of the State University of Londrina (Londrina - PR)  
104 according to the methods proposed by the AOAC (2016). Carbohydrates, lipids,  
105 proteins, ash, and moisture analyzes were performed.

106

## 107 **2.3. Preparation of Soy Protein Isolate (SPI)**

108 Soy protein isolate (SPI) was obtained by aqueous extraction from defatted  
109 soybean meal (SM), as proposed by Coscueta et al. (2016), with modifications. A  
110 solution containing soybean meal and distilled water in a 1:10 ratio, respectively, with  
111 an initial pH equal to 8.5 was added to a jacketed glass reactor. The solution was heated  
112 to 70 °C for 60 min. After heat treatment, the extract was centrifuged at 2379 xg for 45  
113 min and the protein was precipitated by acidification with HCl (1 N) until reaching pH  
114 4.5. The insoluble portion was centrifuged at 2379 xg for 30 min and the precipitate was  
115 lyophilized at -50°C for approximately 36-48 h and stored at -4 °C until use. The SPI  
116 yield obtained (%) was calculated by the ratio of the initial mass of the SM (g) and the  
117 final mass of the SPI (g).

118

#### 119 **2.4. Enzymatic hydrolysis of SM and SPI**

120 The enzymatic hydrolysis of SM and SPI were carried out as proposed by Shen  
121 et al. (2020), with modifications (Figure S1). Initially, a complete hydration process was  
122 applied in the SM and SPI, in which 4% of the sample (m/m) was suspended in distilled  
123 water and kept under stirring at room temperature for 2 h. Afterward, the samples were  
124 stored at 4 °C for 12 h, followed by the hydrolysis process.

125 The hydrolysis was carried out in a jacketed glass reactor using two commercial  
126 enzymes separately: Alcalase® (pH 8 at 55 °C) and Neutralse® (pH 7 at 50 °C). The  
127 amount of applied enzyme in each assay was 10 mg for 1% substrate (w/w) and the  
128 reaction time was 4 h. The enzymes were inactivated by heat treatment at 100 °C for 10  
129 min, and the supernatant was separated by centrifugation at 2379 xg for 45 min at 20  
130 °C. The hydrolysates obtained were lyophilized and stored at -10 °C. The yield of  
131 hydrolysates (%) was calculated by the hydrolyzate mass ratio obtained and the initial  
132 mass of SM (g) and SPI (g).

133

#### 134 **2.5. Determination of crude protein**

135 Crude protein content was determined by Kjeldahl method according to AOAC  
136 (2016), using a nitrogen analyzer (Luca Model -74, São Paulo, BR) and a conversion  
137 factor of nitrogen to protein equal to 6.25.

138

#### 139 **2.6. Determinations of degree of hydrolysis**

140 The degree of hydrolysis (DH) of SM and SPI were determined as described by  
141 Nielsen, Petersen, and Dambmann (2001), with modifications. Each tube containing  
142 400 µl of the standard, blank (distilled water) and sample was added with 3.0 mL of

143 OPA reagent and reacting solutions for 2 min. Absorbance was then read at 340 nm.  
144 The %DH was calculated following the equations reported by Adler-Nissen (1984).

145

## 146 **2.7. Gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE)**

147 Protein electrophoresis in denaturing polyacrylamide gel (SDS-PAGE) were  
148 performed on all hydrolysates, according to the protocol described by Laemmli (1970).  
149 The concentration of separating gel was 12% (m/v) and of the stacking gel was 4%.  
150 Electrophoresis were performed in a vertical system following the manufacturer's  
151 instructions (Bio-Rad). Samples were mixed with sample buffer (2% SDS, 10%  
152 glycerol, 0.01% bromophenol blue, 0.0625M Tris-HCl pH 6.8, 5%  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol)  
153 and boiled before the application. The running voltage ranged from 100 to 200 V using  
154 Laemmli buffer (3 g/L Tris-base, 14 g/L Glycine, and 1 g/L SDS). After  
155 electrophoresis, gel proteins were stained with Coomassie Blue R-250 dye and  
156 decolourised in a solution with 50% (v/v) methanol and 10% (v/v) acetic acid.

157

## 158 **2.8. Antioxidant activity**

159 The antioxidant activity of protein hydrolysates was evaluated by root  
160 scavenging activity DPPH and ABTS methods. The DPPH analysis was performed as  
161 described by Li, Du and Ma (2011), with modifications. A stock solution of DPPH  
162 6,25,10<sup>-5</sup> mol/L in methanol was prepared and, later, a working solution was prepared  
163 using water as a diluent, in which the absorbance of this solution at 517 nm was 0.700  $\pm$   
164 0, 02. A 25  $\mu$ L sample was used at a concentration of 1 mg/mL and 2000  $\mu$ L of the  
165 working solution, the pH of the sample was adjusted as appropriate to obtain complete  
166 dissolution of the sample. After standing for 30 minutes in the dark, readings were taken  
167 at 517 nm. The DPPH radical scavenging activity was performed in triplicate and then

168 compared to a standard curve made from the Trolox readings (200-2000  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ).  
169 Results were expressed as  $\mu\text{mol}$  of Trolox protein equivalent (TE) per mg of sample.

170 The ABTS radical scavenging activity was performed as proposed by Rufino et  
171 al. (2007), with modifications. A 7 mmol/L ABTS solution and a 140 mmol/L  
172 potassium persulfate solution were prepared. Subsequently, the solution was prepared  
173 using 5 mL of ABTS stock solution with 88  $\mu\text{L}$  of potassium persulfate solution and  
174 incubated for 16 h in the dark at room temperature. The resulting ABTS solution was  
175 diluted with water to an absorbance of  $0.70 \pm 0.02$  at 734 nm. 30  $\mu\text{L}$  of the sample were  
176 used (and it was diluted when necessary and the pH adjusted if it was necessary to  
177 obtain a complete dissolution of the sample) and 3 mL of the ABTS solution, which  
178 were left in the dark for 6 min. ABTS radical scavenging activity was determined in  
179 triplicate and then compared to a standard curve made from Trolox readings (200-2000  
180  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ). Results were expressed as  $\mu\text{mol}$  of Trolox protein equivalent (TE) in mg of  
181 sample.

182

### 183 **2.9. Sequential Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)**

184 The bioactive peptides of the hydrolysates were analyzed as described by  
185 Polisel et al. (2021), using a Quattro Premier XE triple-quadrupole mass spectrometer  
186 (Waters Corporation, Milford, MA, The USA) equipped with an electrospray ionization  
187 source, a Waters 515 pump and an XBridge (Waters) C18 3.5  $\mu\text{m}$  (4.6 x 50 mm)  
188 column. For sample preparation, 0.1 g of hydrolyzed was dissolved in 1 mL of 50 mM  
189 ammonium bicarbonate solution. The solution was mixed in vortex for 1 min and then  
190 the first dilution was carried out where 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of this solution was mixed with 900  $\mu\text{L}$   
191 of mobile phase acetonitrile: water: formic acid (70:30:0.1) (v/v/v) and was centrifuged  
192 at 3 xg for 10 min. The sample remained refrigerated at 4 °C for 60 min. Then, the

193 second dilution was performed, in which 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of the solution was mixed with 900  $\mu\text{L}$   
194 of mobile phase, followed by vortexing for 1 min. The diluted sample was injected into  
195 the reodyne valve of the LC-MS/MS system, the injection volume was 5  $\mu\text{L}$  and the  
196 analysis run time was 1 minute for each sample.

197 The LC-MS/MS (full scan and fragmentation) experiments were conducted  
198 using a conventional electrospray ionization source (ESI). The desolvation and source  
199 gas temperatures were 350  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  and 110  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , respectively. The electrospray source was  
200 operated in positive ionization mode (ESI +) at 4.0 kV. The cone voltage, collision  
201 energy, and collision gas pressure (argon) were 20 V, 15 V, and  $3.0 \times 10^{-3}$  Torr,  
202 respectively. The spectra obtained were interpreted as described by Cantú et al. (2008)  
203 and the amino acid sequence of the peptide's functionality contained in the  
204 fragmentation spectra were evaluated using the BIOPEP-UWM database.

205

## 206 **2.10. Statistical analysis**

207 The results obtained were evaluated by analysis of variance (ANOVA) and  
208 Tukey post-test ( $p < 0.05$ ) for comparison between samples, using Sisvar version 5.7  
209 (Build 91). All assays were performed in triplicate and results were reported as mean  $\pm$   
210 SD (standard deviation).

211

## 212 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

213

### 214 **3.1. Proximate composition of SM and protein yields in SPI and hydrolysates**

215 The proximate composition analysis performed in the SM resulted in the  
216 following values: carbohydrates  $35.71 \pm 0.02\%$ ; lipids  $0.56 \pm 0.03\%$ ; proteins  $49.31 \pm$   
217  $0.06\%$ ; ash  $6.16 \pm 0.04\%$  and humidity  $8.26 \pm 0.05\%$ .

218 Soybean meal represents a by-product of the oil extraction industry and stands  
219 out for being an interesting resource for the extraction of proteins of great applicability  
220 for the development of products aimed at human and animal food (Xing et al., 2018). In  
221 the present study, the total protein content observed was quite high (49.31%), which  
222 indicates that it is a promising source of bioactive peptides. Similar results of proximate  
223 composition were found by Orts et al. (2019), who studied the potential of soybean pulp  
224 (Okara) for extracting bioactive compounds and observed a protein content close to  
225 41%, and by Peng et al. (2020), who studied the functional potential of soy protein and  
226 found a total protein content for soy flour close to 37% and carbohydrate and ash  
227 content equal to 34.5% and 6.7%, respectively.

228 The values of the yields obtained in the preparation of the SPI and in the  
229 hydrolysis carried out with the enzymes Alcalase® and Neutrase® were: SPI  $22.99 \pm$   
230  $0.23\%$ ; SMA  $16.80 \pm 0.10\%$ ; SMN  $16.40 \pm 0.30\%$ ; SPIA  $22.10 \pm 1.00\%$  and SPIN  
231  $22.94 \pm 0.23\%$ . As expected, there was greater efficiency in the SPI hydrolyzates than in  
232 the SM hydrolysates, which may be related to the fact that the process of obtaining the  
233 SPI results in a purer material, without the presence of residues from the processing of  
234 crude soybeans.

235 Crude protein content results determined by Kjeldahl's methods for SPI and  
236 hydrolysates were:  $102.6 \pm 3.62\%$  for SPI;  $71.8 \pm 1.43\%$  for the SMA hydrolyzate;  $74.5$   
237  $\pm 1.04\%$  for SMN;  $98.8 \pm 0.33\%$  for SPIA and  $99.7 \pm 0.34\%$  for SPIN. Such results  
238 proved to be satisfactory, since a commercial soy protein isolate product must contain at  
239 least 90% protein (dry basis) (Huang et al., 2020).

240 For the enzymatic hydrolysis carried out directly in the SM, a crude protein  
241 content above 70% was observed, which suggests that the hydrolysis was also effective  
242 in this case, with the crude protein value of the SM obtained after hydrolysis being  
243 approximately 20% greater than the initial (49.31%).

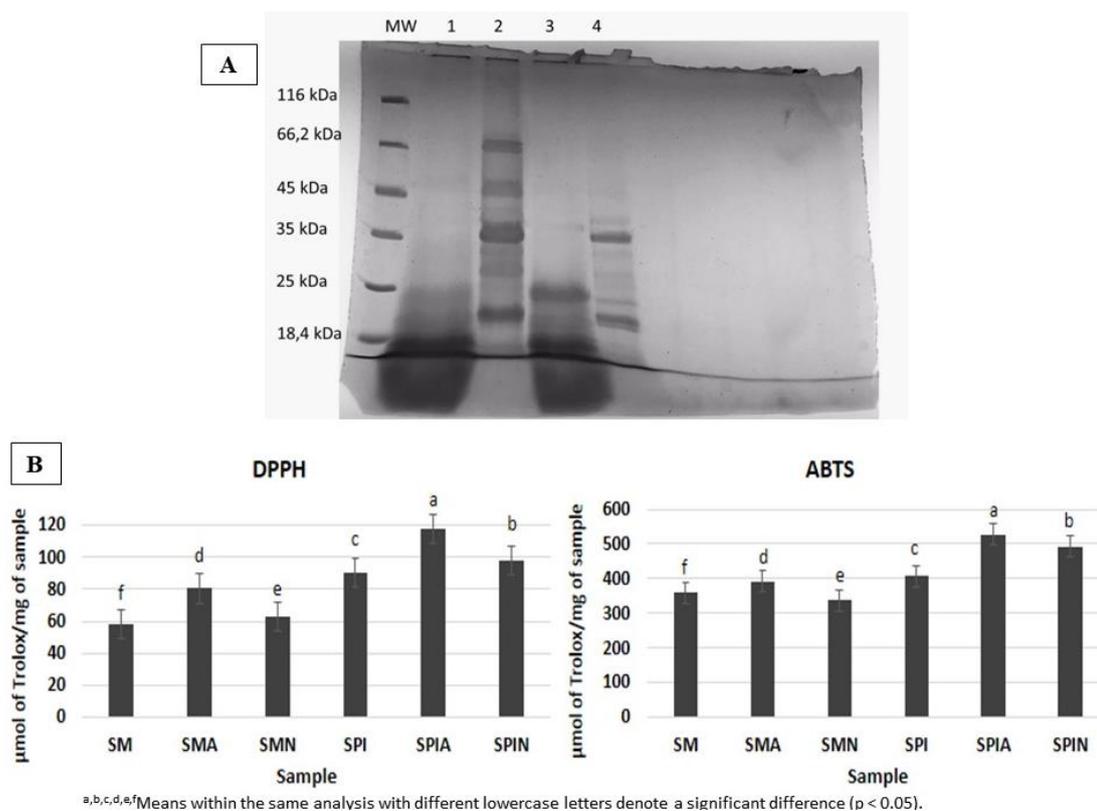
244 Protein hydrolysis can be measured in terms of the degree of hydrolysis (DH).  
245 DH is associated with amino acid composition and may imply the biological activity of

246 the peptides formed (Shahi et al., 2020). In the present study, the use of Alcalase®  
247 enzyme showed better DH results ( $16.72 \pm 0.25\%$  and  $12.59 \pm 0.80\%$  for SMA and  
248 SPIA, respectively) compared to Neutrase® enzyme ( $8.45 \pm 0.62\%$  for SMN and  $1.29 \pm$   
249  $0.28\%$  for SPIN), which suggests that the enzyme with high proteolytic activity may  
250 have influenced the peptide chain length and increased the amount of free amino acids.  
251 The DH in Alcalase® hydrolysates are similar to those presented by Chiang et al.  
252 (2006) for pepsin and trypsin, as well as those presented by Coscueta et al. (2016) for  
253 Corollasse PP. Although the use of Neutrase® has shown low DH, the application of  
254 hydrolysis directly in the SM can be an alternative for the food segment, as the acid  
255 hydrolysis of 8% leads to the release of bitter peptides (Coscueta et al., 2016). New  
256 studies must be carried out in order to improve the efficiency of the hydrolysis process  
257 with Alcalase® and Neutrase®.

### 258 **3.2. SDS-PAGE**

259 The figure 1A shows the gel electrophoresis results obtained for the proteins  
260 from each hydrolyzed material. For both SM and SPI, it was found that the hydrolysis  
261 performed with the commercial enzyme Alcalase® presented more intense bands at the  
262 end of the gel, which shows the presence of smaller protein fragments when compared  
263 to the hydrolysis performed with the enzyme Neutrase®. Nevertheless, the SDS-PAGE  
264 revealed that both enzymatic treatments resulted in peptides with masses smaller than  
265 25 KDa, being that many peptides with a mass lower than 18 KDa, the smaller marker  
266 used.

267



268

269 **Figure 1:** (A) Denaturing polyacrylamide gel (SDS-PAGE) obtained for samples  
 270 hydrolyzed with the enzymes Alcalase® and Neutrase® in soybean meal (1 and 3,  
 271 respectively) and protein isolate (2 and 4, respectively). (B): Antioxidant sequestration  
 272 activities of ABTS (A) and DPPH (B), in soybean meal (SM), in protein isolate (SPI),  
 273 and hydrolysates with the enzymes Alcalase® (SMA and SPIA) and Neutrase® (SMN  
 274 and SPIN).

275

276 The path covered in the gel by the peptides obtained with the hydrolysis by  
 277 Neutrase® showed well-distributed bands located in the region of higher molecular  
 278 weight. The peptides obtained with the hydrolysis with Alcalase® flowed more easily in  
 279 the gel and, therefore, the bands corresponded to the region of lower molecular weight.  
 280 Similar to the present study, Ahmadifard et al. (2016) evaluated the behavior of  
 281 commercial enzymes in soy protein and observed a greater hydrolysis potential of  
 282 Alcalase® enzyme compared to other evaluated enzymes, such as papain. The authors

283 also observed a greater number of bands in samples hydrolyzed for 30 min with  
284 Alcalase®, however, after increasing the hydrolysis time, these denser bands  
285 disappeared, highlighting only fragments of lower molecular weight. Coscueta et al.  
286 (2016), who used the Colorase PP enzyme, also identified denser bands at the end of the  
287 gel, characterizing a greater presence of small peptides.

288

### 289 **3.3. Antioxidant activity**

290

291 Figure 1B reveals the results obtained by analyzing ABTS and DPPH radical  
292 scavenging in SM, SPI, and hydrolysates with commercial proteases from them. The  
293 results obtained revealed that the hydrolysis performed with Alcalase® and Neutrase®  
294 improved the antioxidant activity of SM and SPI, but SPI stood out as it exhibited  
295 greater antioxidant activity ( $406, 33 \pm 0.22 \mu\text{mol}$  of TE/mg of sample) than SM and its  
296 hydrolysates SMA and SMN ( $329.66 \pm 0.19$ ;  $398.00 \pm 0.22$  and  $351, 33 \pm 0.20$ ,  
297 respectively). Regarding the application of enzymes, it is possible to suggest that the  
298 use of Alcalase® potentiated the antioxidant characteristics of the samples, with SPIA  
299 showing a better result ( $569.66 \pm 0.02 \mu\text{mol}$  of TE/mg of the sample). Similar behavior  
300 was evidenced for the DPPH radical, which also showed greater efficiency in the  
301 scavenging of free radicals for the SPIA sample ( $98 \pm 0.01 \mu\text{mol}$  of TE/mg of the  
302 sample). These results suggest that Alcalase®, being more efficient in breaking peptide  
303 bonds, contributed to obtaining proteins with simple structure and lower molecular  
304 weight, which have greater antioxidant capacity.

305 Shen et al. (2020) evaluated the formation and characterization of soy protein  
306 nanoparticles by enzymatic hydrolysis with the proteases Flavorzyme, Alcalase, and  
307 Protamex and observed a more pronounced antioxidant effect in the hydrolyzate with

308 Alcalase, which according to the authors, can be attributed to the progressive  
309 generation of polypeptides. Thus, the formation of peptides with significant antioxidant  
310 capacity, in addition to bringing health benefits, shows an interesting alternative for  
311 replacing artificial antioxidants in foods.

312 Finally, it is noteworthy that the application of the enzymatic hydrolysis  
313 process contributed to the better scavenging of ABTS and DPPH radicals. In both, a  
314 similar antioxidant behavior was observed, but the antioxidant activity in  $\mu\text{mol}$  of  
315 Trolox/mg of sample was significantly higher for the ABTS radical. The greater  
316 scavenging capacity of the ABTS radical compared to the DPPH radical may be related  
317 to the difference in the solubility of the radicals, since the DPPH radical has a certain  
318 limitation to mimic the role of hydrophilic antioxidants, as it presents dissolution  
319 barriers in aqueous solution, on the contrary of the ABTS radical that offers affinity  
320 with aqueous and organic solutions (Aloglu and Oner, 2011). Similar results were  
321 observed by Mukia et al. (2021) who evaluated the generation of antioxidant peptides  
322 from SPI obtained by the action of *Chryseobacterium* sp.

323

#### 324 **3.4. Mass spectrometry**

325 Liquid chromatography (LC) coupled with mass spectrometry (MS/MS) has  
326 proven to be a sensitive technique, commonly used for the determination of molecular  
327 weight and sequence of proteins and peptides, and for the identification of biopeptides  
328 in complex mixtures (Silveira et al., 2013). In the present study, the rapid LC-MS/MS  
329 method based on the neutral loss (NL) of 46 Da (CO and H<sub>2</sub>O or formic acid) was  
330 used, with the main objective of identifying di and tripeptides obtained from soy  
331 protein from enzymatic hydrolysis. The system used consists of rapid tracking (5 min)  
332 of protonated di and tripeptide molecules, in which there is a selective neutral loss

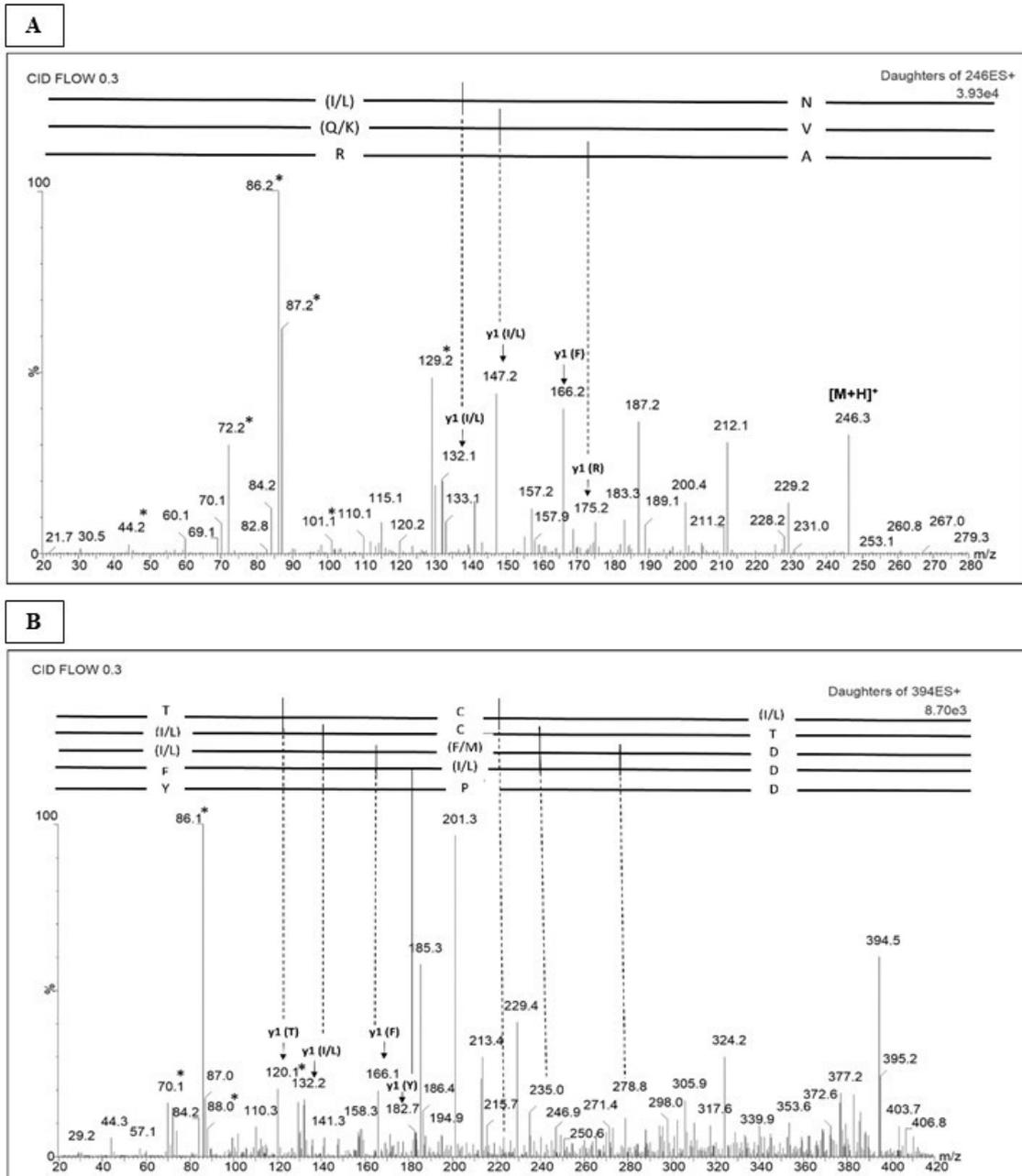
333 (NL) of 46 Da, due to the carboxylic acid portion, and also comprises the search for  
334 dissociation fragments collision-induced (CID) by *de novo* sequencing (Poseli et al.,  
335 2021).

336 Previously, full scan analyzes were performed on all hydrolyzed samples  
337 (SMA, SMN, SPIA, and SPIN). The spectra obtained in the hydrolysates with the  
338 Alcalase® enzyme showed better results, as they presented well-formed peaks in a  
339 short run time. On the other hand, the hydrolysates with Neutrase® enzyme did not  
340 present regular peaks, and, based on this interpretation, only the SMA and SPIA  
341 samples were selected for the fragmentation step. The results obtained are in agreement  
342 with those described by Tascias-Pascacio et al. (2020), who points out that the enzyme  
343 Alcalase is more efficient in releasing peptides.

344 Figure S2 (A and B) shows one of the full scan spectra obtained for the SMA  
345 and SPIA samples, in which the possible combinations of di and tri-peptides with  
346 sufficient intensity to fragment (absolute intensity close to 1000) were identified. The  
347 identification using the  $m/z$  ions for the SMA was: 203, 205, 219, 223, 231, 233, 235,  
348 237, 253, 263, 267, 279, 280, 281, 284, 303, 323, 331, 333, 345, 367, 372 and 387.  
349 Identification using the  $m/z$  ions for the SPIA was: 203, 215, 217, 219, 223, 231, 233,  
350 235, 237, 243, 246, 247, 253, 254, 263, 267, 269, 272, 279, 281, 292, 295, 297, 323,  
351 325, 328, 231, 344, 352, 355, 269, 371, 372, 382, 385, 388. Therefore, it is suggested  
352 that the SPIA sample was hydrolyzed in a more potent way than the SMA, due to the  
353 observation of a greater amount of  $m/z$  ions that characterize bioactive peptides for  
354 SPIA.

355 Subsequently, new complete Collision Induced Dissociation (CID) MS/MS  
356 were performed in triplicate by *de novo* sequencing and all fragmentation spectra of  
357 each selected ion were acquired, where the interpretation of the mass spectra was

358 carried out by identifying the ammonium ion, from y1 ions (protonated amino acids of  
359 20 amino acid possibilities), from y2 ions (for tripeptides), from confirmatory amino  
360 acid residues, and b2 ions. Figure 2A shows one of the mass spectra obtained by the  
361 fragmentation step for the ion of  $m/z$  246 in the SPIA hydrolyzate. For this ion, four  
362 different y1 values were identified (I/L (132), Q/K (147), F (166), and R (175)), with  
363 only the N(I/L) di-peptide sequences being confirmed), V(I/L) and AR. Figure 2B  
364 shows one of the tripeptide identification spectra in the SPIA sample with an ion of  $m/z$   
365 394, where y1 Threonine (T - 120), Leucine, and Isoleucine (I/L - 132), Phenylalanine  
366 (F - 166), and Tyrosine (Y - 182). After the interpretations, the sequences of tri-  
367 peptides (I/L)CT, TC(I/L), D(F/M)(I/L), D(I/L)F, and DPY were confirmed.  
368



369

370 **Figure 2:** (A) Mass spectrum obtained and interpreted in the fragmentation step for *de*  
 371 *novo* sequencing for the m/z 246 ions of the SPIA protein. (\*) represents the confirming  
 372 amino acid ammonium ions. (B) Mass spectrum obtained and interpreted in the  
 373 fragmentation step for *de novo* sequencing for the m/z 394 ions of the SPIA protein. (\*)  
 374 represents the confirming amino acid ammonium ions.

375

376            Tables 1 and 2 present the fragmentation spectra interpretations performed for  
377 all *de novo* sequencing spectra, the di and tri-peptide identification results obtained for  
378 the SMA and SPIA samples, as well as their biological activities that were determined  
379 based on in the BIOPEP-UWM database (Minkiewicz, Iwaniak & Darewicz, 2019).

380 **Table 1:** Amino acid sequences of peptides identified by LC-MS/MS in SM hydrolyzate with Alcalase ®.

Sample	(M+H) <sup>+</sup>	y <sup>1</sup>	Ammonium Ion	b <sup>2</sup>	y <sup>2</sup>	Amino acid sequence	Biological activity*
	203	132 (I/L)	44 (A); 86 (I/L)	185	-	A(I/L)	ACE inhibitor.
	205	118 (V)	60 (S); 72 (V)	187	-	SV	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	219	120 (T)	72 (V); 74 (T)	201	-	VT	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	219	132 (I/L)	60 (S); 86 (I/L)	201	-	S(I/L)	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	231	132 (I/L)	72 (V); 86 (I/L)	213	-	V(I/L)	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor; Stimulating.
	233	132 (I/L)	74 (T); 86 (I/L)	215	-	T(I/L)	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	237	166 (F)	44 (A); 120 (F)	219	-	AF	ACE inhibitor; Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	253	156 (H)	70 (P); 110 (H)	235	-	PH	ACE inhibitor; Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
<b>SMA</b>	253	166 (F)	60 (S); 120 (F)	235	-	SF	ACE inhibitor; Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor; Renin inhibitor.
	263	116 (P)	70 (P); 120 (F)	-	-	FP	ACE inhibitor; Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	267	166 (F)	74 (T); 120 (F)	-	-	FT	Inibidor de renina.
	279	166 (F)	86 (I/L); 120 (F)	261	-	(I/L)F	ACE inhibitor.
	280	133 (N)	87 (N); 120 (F)	-	-	FN	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	281	166 (F)	120 (F)	263	-	DF	ACE inhibitor.
	281	182 (Y)	72 (V); 136 (Y)	-	-	YV	ACE inhibitor; Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	284	156 (H)	110 (H)	266	-	(Q/K)H	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	331	132 (I/L)	44 (A); 86 (I/L); 101 (Q/K)	200	203	(Q/K)A(I/L)	Antioxidant.
	372	120 (T)	88 (D); 74 (T); 110 (H)	253	235	HDT	-
	372	147 (Q/K)	70 (P); 101 (Q/K)	266	275	P(Q/K) (Q/K)	-

381           From the obtained results, it was observed that the application of the hydrolysis  
382 process with the commercial protease Alcalase® in the SM (Table 01) promoted the  
383 obtainment of 19 peptides (16 di and 03 and tri-peptides). The SPIA hydrolyzate  
384 (Table 02) generated 27 di-peptides and 24 tri-peptides, which confirms the hypothesis  
385 that, although the application of the hydrolysis process directly to the soybean meal is  
386 satisfactory, it was the SPI preparation that evidenced to be more efficient for obtaining  
387 bioactive peptides. In general, the results reveal the obtainment of a very significant  
388 number of di and tri-peptides, which is very promising, since shorter-chain peptides are  
389 characterized by exhibiting better biological activity and also by being absorbed with  
390 more ease and efficiency than free amino acids (Agrawal et al., 2016).

391 **Table 2:** Amino acid sequences of peptides identified by LC-MS/MS in SPI hydrolyzate with Alcalase ®.

Sample	(M+H) <sup>+</sup>	y <sup>1</sup>	Ammonium Ion	b <sup>2</sup>	y <sup>2</sup>	Amino acid sequence	Biological activity *
SPIA	203	132 (I/L)	44 (A); 86 (I/L)	185	-	A(I/L)	ACE inhibitor.
	217	118 (V)	72 (V)	199	-	VV	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	223	166 (F)	120 (F)	205	-	GF	ACE inhibitor; Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	231	132 (I/L)	72 (V); 86 (I/L)	213	-	V(I/L)	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor; Stimulating.
	233	120 (T)	74 (T); 86 (I/L)	-	-	(I/L)T	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	233	132 (I/L)	74 (T); 86 (I/L)	215	-	T(I/L)	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	235	120 (T)	74 (T); 102 (E)	-	-	ET	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	235	148 (E)	60 (S); 102 (3)	217	-	SE	Stimulating.
	237	166 (F)	44 (A); 102 (F)	219	-	AF	ACE inhibitor; Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	243	156 (H)	60 (S); 110 (H)	225	-	SH	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	246	132 (I/L)	87 (N); 86 (I/L)	-	-	N(I/L)	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	246	147 (Q/K)	72 (V); 101 (Q/K)	228	-	V(Q/K)	ACE inhibitor; Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	246	175 (R)	44 (A); 110 (H)	228	-	AR	ACE inhibitor.
	253	156 (H)	70 (P); 110 (H)	235	-	PH	ACE inhibitor; Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	253	166 (F)	60 (S); 120 (F)	235	-	SF	ACE inhibitor; Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor; Renin inhibitor.
	253	182 (Y)	44 (A); 136 (Y)	235	-	AY	ACE inhibitor; Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor; Antioxidant.
	263	150 (M)	86 (I/L); 104 (M)	245	-	(I/L)M	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	267	120 (I)	74(T); 120 (F)	-	-	FT	Renin inhibitor.
	267	166 (F)	74 (T); 120 (F)	249	-	TF	ACE inhibitor; Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor; Renin inhibitor.

	269	156 (H)	86 (I/L); 110 (H)	251	-	(I/L)H	ACE inhibitor.
	269	182 (Y)	60 (S); 136 (Y)	251	-	SY	ACE inhibitor; Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	279	166 (F)	86 (I/L); 120 (F)	261	-	(I/L)F	ACE inhibitor.
	281	166 (F)	88 (D); 120 (F)	263	-	DF	ACE inhibitor; ACE inhibitor;
	281	182 (Y)	72 (V); 136 (Y)	247	-	VY	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor; Antioxidant.
	292	205(W)	60 (S); 159 (W)	185	-	SW	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	295	166 (F)	102 (E); 120 (F)	277	-	EF	CaMPDE inhibitor; Renin inhibitor; Lipid-lowering.
	295	182 (Y)	86 (I/L); 136 (Y)	277	-	(I/L)Y	ACE inhibitor; Antioxidant.
<b>SPIA</b>	328	120 (T)	44 (A); 74 (T); 110 (H)	209	257	AHT	-
	328	120 (T)	44 (A); 74 (T); 110 (H)	209	191	HAT	-
	328	156 (H)	44 (A); 74 (T); 110 (H)	173	207	ATH	-
	328	156 (H)	44 (A); 74 (T); 101 (H)	173	227	TAH	-
	331	147 (Q/K)	86 (I/L); 44 (A); 101(Q/K)	185	218	(I/L)A(Q/K)	ACE inhibitor.
	344	132 (I/L)	70 (P); 88 (D); 86 (I/L)	213	229	DP(I/L)	-
	344	132 (I/L)	72 (V); 86 (I/L)	213	245	V(I/L)(I/L)	-
	344	132 (I/L)	72 (V); 86 (I/L)	213	231	(I/L)V(I/L)	ACE inhibitor.
	352	166 (F)	120 (F); 159 (W)	205	-	WF	Dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor.
	352	120 (T)	72 (T)	233	221	MTT	-
	372	156 (H)	86 (I/L); 110 (H)	217	269	C(I/L)H	-
	372	156 (H)	86 (I/L); 110 (H)	217	259	(I/L)CH	-
	382	120 (T)	120 (F)	263	283	(F/M)DT	-
	382	166 (F)	60 (S); 102 (E); 120 (F)	217	253	ESF	-
	382	166 (F)	120 (F)	217	281	TDF	-
	385	120 (T)	110 (H)	266	257	H(Q/K)T	-
	388	147 (Q/K)	86 (I/L); 101 (Q/K)	242	260	(Q/K)(I/L)(Q/K)	-
388	175 (R))	72 (V); 129 (R)	214	289	VNR	-	

	388	175(R)	72 (V); 129 (R)	214	274	NVR	-
	394	120 (T)	86 (I/L)	275	223	(I/L)CT	-
	394	132 (I/L)	86 (I/L)	263	235	TC(I/L)	-
<b>SPIA</b>	394	132 (I/L)	86 (I/L); 88 (D); 120 (F/M)	263	279	D(F/M)(I/L)	-
	394	166 (F)	86 (I/L); 120 (F/M)	229	279	D(I/L)F	-
	394	182 (Y)	70 (P); 136 (V)	213	279	DPY	-

392 \*Biological activity identified by the BIOPEP-UWM database (Minkiewicz, Iwaniak & Darewicz, 2019).

393 The use of commercial proteases is commonly related to the interest in  
394 obtaining antioxidant peptides (Mukia et al., 2021). However, from the identification of  
395 all peptide sequences obtained by the BIOPEP database, it was observed that the  
396 bioactivities presented by the peptides in this study corresponded mainly to the  
397 inhibitory activity of ACE, the inhibitory activity of dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DPP -IV),  
398 in addition to antioxidant activity, stimulating action and renin inhibitory activity  
399 (Table 2).

400 Other studies have also highlighted the effectiveness of soy peptides as ACE  
401 and dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitors (Gu and Wu, 2013; Coscueta et al.; 2019;  
402 Nongonierna et al., 2019). This property is very important for the production of high  
403 added value foods, which are especially associated with health promotion since the  
404 action of these peptides is directly related to the functionalities of antihypertensive and  
405 antidiabetic activity.

406 According to Sigh et al. (2014), ACE inhibitor peptides are responsible for  
407 blocking the first step of the renin-angiotensin system and interrupting the negative  
408 response effects of angiotensin II. Therefore, they are considered a useful therapy in the  
409 treatment of hypertension, and the presence of di- and tripeptides can further enhance  
410 their functionality, as the ACE active site is more suitable to accommodate short-chain  
411 peptides. The DPP-IV inhibiting enzyme, on the other hand, acts to increase insulin  
412 secretion, which enables better glycemic regulation and, consequently, proves to be  
413 efficient to act in the prevention and treatment of diabetes (Nongonierna et al., 2019).

414 Correlating the results of antioxidant activity achieved in this research with the  
415 bioactive peptides detected by LC-MS/MS, it is possible to suggest that the increase in  
416 free radical scavenging capacity may be related to the greater presence of di-peptides  
417 with antioxidant biological activity found at SPIA. In addition, the peptides formed

418 with antioxidant action presented in their structure the amino acid tyrosine ((I/L)Y,  
419 VY, and AY), which, according to other studies, contributes to improving the  
420 antioxidant activity of the peptide (Sompinit et al., 2020).

421

#### 422 **4. CONCLUSION**

423 The hydrolysis process of soy protein with Alcalase® provided the obtainment  
424 of proteins with shorter chains, characteristics of peptides with enhanced bioactive  
425 properties. SM and SPI hydrolysis significantly potentiated the antioxidant capacity of  
426 soy protein, specially with the use of Alcalase®, and the SMA and SPIA samples were  
427 hydrolyzed in a way more efficient. Therefore, the hypothesis that it is possible to obtain  
428 bioactive peptides directly from SM was confirmed.

429 The innovative system used for the identification of di and tripeptides by LC-  
430 MS/MS was efficient for the study of soybean by-products and identified a very  
431 expressive number of di and tripeptides, which showed sequences of antioxidant,  
432 antihypertensive and antidiabetic bioactivities.

433 That way, the application of biotechnological processes carried out with  
434 commercial enzymes can be a promising alternative to improve technological and  
435 functional characteristics of soybean meal protein and, consequently, enable its use in  
436 the development of better quality products and greater added value.

437

#### 438 **5. ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

439

440 The authors would like to thank the National Council for Science and  
441 Technological Development (CNPq - Process 141162/2019-8) for financial contribution  
442 and Supporting Scientific and Technological Development of the State of Paraná.

443

**444 6. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

445 All authors declare no conflicts of interest.

446

**447 7. ETHICAL APPROVAL**

448 Ethical approval was not required for this research.

449

**450 8. DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT**

451 The data that support the findings of this study are available from the  
452 corresponding author upon request.

453

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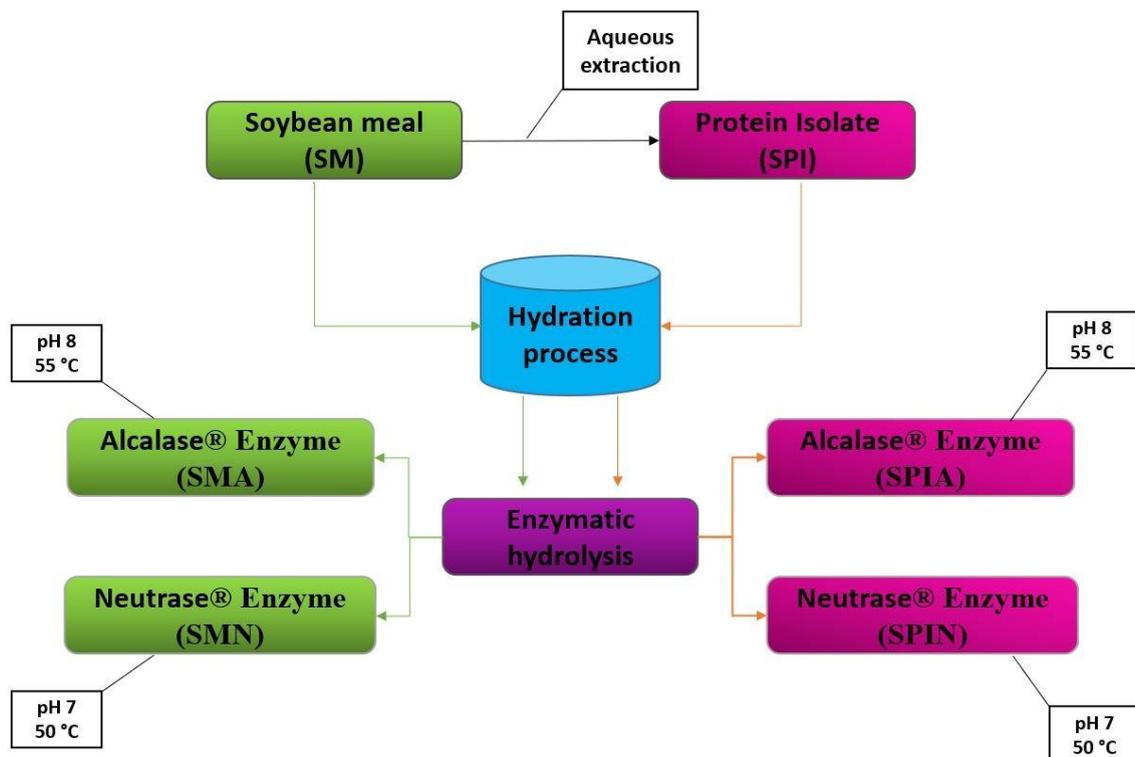
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## Supplementary Information - Figure Captions

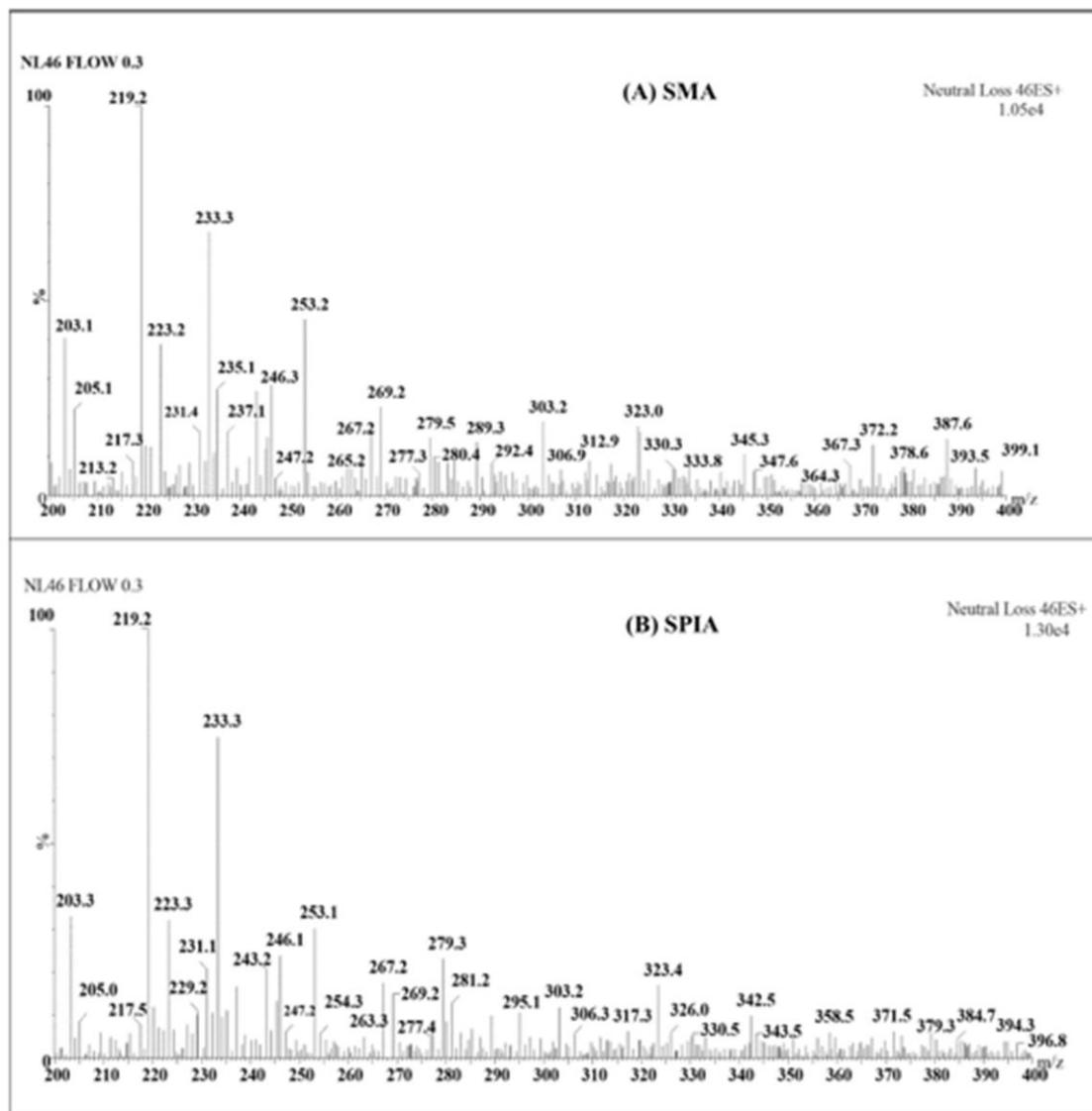
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596 **Figure S1:** Flowchart of enzymatic hydrolysis processes performed in soybean meal  
 597 (SM) and soybean protein isolate (SPI), using two commercial proteases, Alcalase® and  
 598 Neutrase® separately.



599

600 **Figure S2:** Liquid chromatography-mass spectrum (LC-MS/MS) for a 46 Da neutral loss  
 601 of (A) SM hydrolyzed with Alcalase® and (B) SPI hydrolyzed with Alcalase®.

## ARTICLE 2

**Challenges and alternatives for the production of cyclodextrins from the CGTase enzyme from recombinant *Bacillus subtilis* WB800.**

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636

637 **Relevance of the work:** This research presents strategies for obtaining cyclodextrins  
638 (CDs) from the recombinant CGTase enzyme, a continuous production system  
639 associated with ultrafiltration, and alternative means of production of CDs, aiming at the  
640 industrial application of the molecule.

641

#### 642 **Abstract**

643 Cyclodextrins (CDs) have the ability to encapsulate numerous molecules and have  
644 applicability in several industrial areas, however, their cost has made their use difficult.  
645 To seek alternatives that may enable the use of CDs, the present study evaluated the  
646 efficiency of the ultrafiltration process in a continuous system to produce CDs from the  
647 enzyme cyclomalto-dextrin glucoamylase (CGTase) from recombinant *Bacillus*  
648 *subtilis* WB800. The possibility of using the crude enzyme as an alternative means of  
649 producing CDs was also evaluated. All strategies evaluated in this research proved to be  
650 promising for the production of CDs, with the production of  $\beta$ -CD being the most  
651 efficient (average of 15 mmol/L) using crude recombinant enzyme and a temperature of  
652 50 °C. Therefore, the results obtained can contribute to the reduction of stages and costs  
653 of production of CDs, favoring their industrial application.

654

655 **Keywords:** Cyclodextrins, CGTase recombinant, Continuous System, Ultrafiltration.

656

657 **Practical Application:** This study presents innovative alternatives to produce  
658 cyclodextrins from the recombinant enzyme.

659

## 660 1. INTRODUCTION

661 *Cyclodextrins (CDs) are cyclic oligosaccharides with expressive applicability in several*  
662 *industrial segments, such as the food, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, chemical sectors,*  
663 *among others. CDs are formed by 6 ( $\alpha$ -CD), 7 ( $\beta$ -CD), and 8 ( $\gamma$ -CD) glucose units,*  
664 *joined by  $\alpha$ -1,4 glycosidic bonds, obtained from the transglycosylation reaction of*  
665 *starch, which is catalyzed by the enzyme cyclomaltodextrin glucanotransferase*  
666 *(CGTase) (Ogunbadejo & Al-Zuhair, 2021; Samamed et al., 2022).*

667 Due to the nonpolar characteristic of the CD cavity, inclusion complexes with a wide  
668 range of organic and inorganic molecules are capable of formation, modifying the  
669 physicochemical properties of the guest molecule, making it possible to increase its  
670 stability and solubility. (Del Valle, 2004; Brewster & Loftsson, 2007; Fenelon et al.,  
671 2015). Such skills explain the growing interest in the development of innovative  
672 biotechnological processes that can enable the industrial use of CDs (Astray et al., 2009;  
673 Cid-Samamed et al., 2022).

674 The research group of the present study obtained promising results when they evaluated  
675 the production of CDs from genetically modified bacteria and ultrafiltration systems.  
676 (Fenelon et al., 2018; Gimenez et al., 2019). Therefore, it is highly relevant to evaluate  
677 new biotechnological alternatives to optimize the production of CDs, especially in  
678 Brazil, which has substrate availability and still does not produce the molecule on an  
679 industrial scale.

680 In view of the above, the present study aimed to evaluate strategies for the production of  
681 CDs from the CGTase of the recombinant *B. subtilis* WB800, using a continuous  
682 production system associated with ultrafiltration for the semi-purified and purified  
683 enzyme, and alternative production means for the crude enzyme.

684

## 685 **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### 686 **2.1 Materials**

687 The materials used were ethanol, soluble starch, commercial corn starch, tryptone, yeast  
688 extract, sodium carbonate, sodium chloride, and agar.  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin and HPLC grade  
689 acetonitrile were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Ltda, São Paulo, Brazil. The antibiotics  
690 used were Kanamycin Sulfate and Hygromycin B., from *Streptomyces hygroscopicus*.  
691 All other reagents used were of analytical or chromatographic grade.

### 692 **2.2 Methods**

#### 693 **2.2.1 Cultivation and growth of the recombinant *B. subtilis* WB800 bacterium**

694 For the cultivation and growth of the bacteria, 2xYT medium (liquid and solid) was  
695 used, composed of 1.6% tryptone, 1% yeast extract and 0.5% NaCl and 1.5% agar for  
696 the solid medium, both supplemented with the antibiotics hygromycin (100  $\mu$ g/mL) and  
697 kanamycin (25  $\mu$ g/mL). *B. subtilis* WB800 containing the recombinant plasmid  
698 pWB980-CGTase was grown in a Petri dish containing 2xYT solid medium  
699 supplemented with kanamycin (25  $\mu$ g/ml) and hygromycin (100  $\mu$ g/ml) for 12 h at  
700 37°C. Then, an isolated colony was added to 5 mL of 2xYT liquid medium  
701 supplemented with antibiotics and placed in a shaker at 37 °C overnight at 100 rpm.  
702 Subsequently, a pre-inoculum (50 mL) was prepared, also supplemented with both  
703 antibiotics. In this pre-inoculum, 0.5 mL of the previously activated enzyme was added  
704 to the liquid medium, and it was incubated in a shaker at 37 °C for 24 h at 100 rpm.

#### 705 **2.2.2 Production means and obtaining the crude extract of recombinant CGTase**

706 For the production of recombinant *B. subtilis* CGTase, the methodology proposed by  
707 Fenelon et al. (2015) was used, with modifications. 2xYT medium supplemented with  
708 kanamycin (25 µg/mL) was used and 250 mL of liquid medium was prepared. 5 mL  
709 aliquots of the pre-inoculum were transferred to the production medium, which was  
710 incubated at 30 °C, at 100 rpm, for 5 days. 5 mL aliquots were collected every 24 hours  
711 to determine enzymatic activity. After the period of production of recombinant CGTase,  
712 the entire contents were centrifuged at 8,000 rpm, 4 °C for 10 min. The pellet composed  
713 of bacteria and insoluble compounds was discarded and a sample of the supernatant  
714 containing the enzyme was separated and named crude extract.

### 715 **2.2.3 Obtaining semipurified and purified recombinant CGTase**

716 The procedure for obtaining semi-purified recombinant CGTase was carried out through  
717 ultrafiltration processes, according to the methodology described by Fenelon et al.  
718 (2015). To obtain purified recombinant CGTase, the technique of biospecific affinity  
719 chromatography (CAB) was used, according to the methodology described by Moriwaki  
720 et al. (2009). An aliquot of each sample was used to determine the enzyme activity and  
721 protein concentration.

### 722 **2.2.4 CDs production assays by CGTase of recombinant *B. subtilis* WB800**

723 For the assays for the production of CDs by the CGTase of semi-purified and purified  
724 *B. subtilis* WB800, the reaction medium used was: substrate corn starch 5% (w/V),  
725 ethanol 10% (V/V), Tris-HCl 50 buffer mmol/L (pH 8.0) 20% (V/V), CaCl<sub>2</sub> solution 5  
726 mmol/L 10% (V/V) and purified water q.s.p. 100% (Fenelon et al., 2015). The media  
727 were previously sterilized in an autoclave at 121 °C for 15 min.

#### 728 **2.2.4.1 Production of CDs in a continuous ultrafiltration system with CGTase from** 729 **semipurified and purified recombinant *B. subtilis* WB800**

730 Production was carried out continuously with 5% corn starch (w/V) substrate, in the  
731 presence of 10% ethanol (V/V), in a glass jacketed reactor coupled to a Hollow Fiber  
732 TE-0198 ultrafiltration module equipped with 50,000 NMWL exclusion threshold  
733 column. This system provided a constant separation of the CDs and other inhibitory  
734 products formed in the reaction medium and, at the same time, the retention of the  
735 recombinant CGTase, which returned to the reactor. The system was operated with a  
736 volume of 800 mL of the reaction medium and followed the parameters optimized by  
737 Matioli et al. (2001). The pH was controlled and maintained at 8.0 and the temperature  
738 at 50 °C. The concentration of semi-purified and purified recombinant CGTase was  
739 adjusted to obtain 0.1 U/mL of reaction medium (Fenelon et al., 2018). After the first 12  
740 h of reaction, the continuous system was put into operation. Pump power was adjusted  
741 to 15%, resulting in an average flow of 4.5 mL/min, which was maintained until the  
742 drastic reduction of recombinant CGTase activity.

### 743 **2.2.5 Production of CDs in alternative media**

744 The production of CDs by the CGTase of *B. subtilis* WB800 was also studied using  
745 alternative media, which were evaluated to verify the efficiency of the recombinant  
746 CGTase in the production of CDs directly in the enzyme production step. The media  
747 used were: CD production media described in item 2.2.4 (medium 1A and 1B) and  
748 enzyme production media described in item 2.2.1, plus 5% corn starch substrate  
749 (medium 2A and 2B). All media were kanamycin supplements (25 µg/mL).

750 • **Medium 1A (with the presence of the microorganism):** 50 mL of the pre-inoculum  
751 **without centrifugation**, 5% corn starch substrate (w/V), 50 mmol/L Tris-HCl buffer  
752 (pH 8.0) 20% (V/ V), 5 mmol/L 10% CaCl<sub>2</sub> solution (V/V) and purified water q.s.p  
753 100%.

754 • **Medium 1B (only with the presence of the enzyme):** 50 mL of **centrifuged** pre-  
755 inoculum, 5% corn starch substrate (w/V), 50 mmol/L Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.0) 20%  
756 (V/ V), 5 mmol/L 10% CaCl<sub>2</sub> solution (V/V) and purified water q.s.p. 100%.

757 • **Medium 2A (with the presence of the microorganism):** 50 mL of pre-inoculum  
758 **without centrifugation**, 5% (w/v) corn starch substrate, 1.6% tryptone, 1% yeast  
759 extract, 0.5% NaCl and purified water q.s.p. 100%.

760 • **Meio 2B (only with the presence of the enzyme):** 50 mL of **centrifuged** pre-  
761 inoculum, 5% corn starch substrate (w/v), 1.6% tryptone, 1% yeast extract, 0.5% NaCl  
762 and purified water q.s.p. 100%.

763 For this evaluation, the tests were divided into two stages: 30 and 50 °C. All media were  
764 incubated in shakers at 100 rpm for 5 days. 5 mL aliquots were collected every 24 h for  
765 chromatographic analysis.

## 766 **2.3 Analytical methods**

### 767 **2.3.1 Determination of enzyme activity, determination of protein concentration,** 768 **and chromatographic determination of CDs**

769 The protein concentration of CGTase from *B. subtilis* WB800 was determined by the  
770 method of Bradford (1976). Enzyme activity was determined according to the  
771 production of  $\beta$ -CD, quantified in a spectrophotometer at 550 nm (Matioli et al., 1998).

772 The concentrations of  $\alpha$ -CD,  $\beta$ -CD, and  $\gamma$ -CD were determined by HPLC using a  
773 Waters 2695 liquid chromatograph (Milford, MA, USA) equipped with a Waters 2414  
774 refractive index detector and a Microsorb-MV 100 NH<sub>2</sub> column. Acetonitrile and water  
775 solution (60:40) were used as mobile phase and flow rate of 1 mL/min at room  
776 temperature. Standard solutions and samples were filtered using 0.45  $\mu$ m membrane.

777 Analytical curves were constructed for  $\alpha$ -CD,  $\beta$ -CD, and  $\gamma$ -CD in different concentration

778 ranges.

## 779 **2.4 Statistical analysis**

780 The assays were performed in triplicate and the results of enzymatic activity were  
781 evaluated using analysis of variance (ANOVA) at a 5% significance level.

782

## 783 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### 784 **3.1 Enzymatic activity of CGTase from recombinant *B. subtilis* WB800**

785 After 5 days of production, the enzymatic activity of the crude extract was determined,  
786 which resulted in 1.60  $\mu\text{mol}$  of  $\beta\text{-CD}/\text{min}/\text{mL}$ . Results of activities and total protein of  
787 semipurified and purified recombinant CGTases are described in Table 1.

788 **Table 1:** Enzyme activity, total protein, and specific activity of semipurified and  
789 purified recombinant CGTase.

<b>Fraction</b>	<b>Enzyme activity (<math>\mu\text{mol}</math> <math>\beta\text{-CD}/\text{min}/\text{mL}</math>)</b>	<b>Total Protein (<math>\text{mg}/\text{mL}</math>)</b>	<b>Specific Activity (<math>\text{U}/\text{mg}</math>)</b>
<b>Semipurified</b>	10,40 $\pm$ 0,02	4,31 $\pm$ 0,01	2,40 $\pm$ 0,04
<b>Purified</b>	8,90 $\pm$ 0,01	0,34 $\pm$ 0,03	25,62 $\pm$ 0,02

790

791 In the work carried out by Gimenez et al (2019), which used the same recombinant  
792 CGTase of the present research, the value of the enzymatic activity for the purified  
793 enzyme was 157.78  $\mu\text{mol}$  of  $\beta\text{-CD}/\text{min}/\text{mL}$ , and the specific enzymatic activity of  
794 114.92  $\text{U}/\text{mg}$ . Comparing the results of Gimenez et al. (2019) with the present study, it  
795 is possible to observe that the specific enzymatic activity, both for the semipurified and  
796 the purified enzyme, was significantly lower. Therefore, to verify the role of the

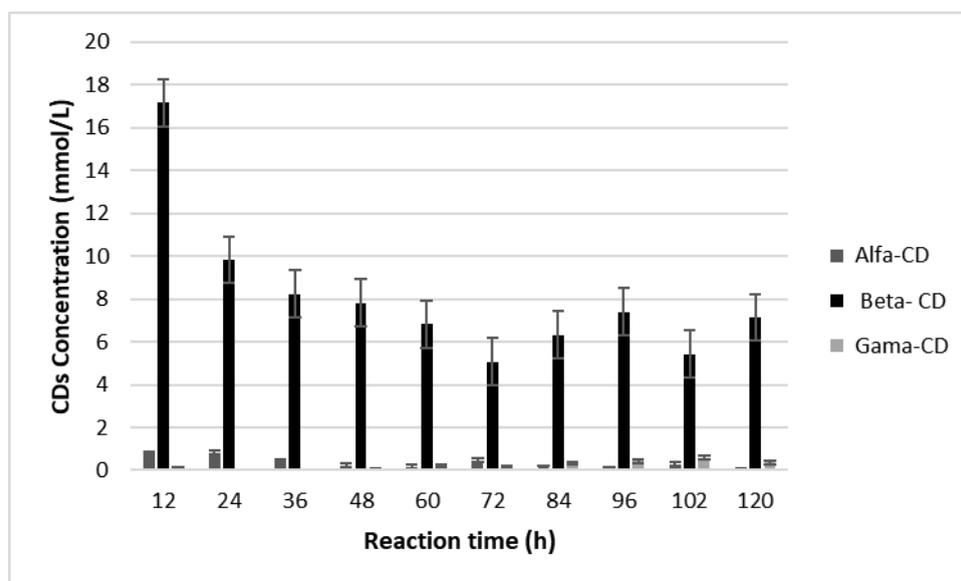
797 recombinant bacterium in the production of the enzyme, new assays of activation and  
798 growth of the recombinant *B. subtilis* WB800 microorganism were carried out and the  
799 results obtained were similar to those shown in Table 1, inferring that some elements  
800 may have negatively influenced the activity or in the process of secretion of the enzyme  
801 in the production medium.

802 Thus, and according to Zhao et al. (2020), the plasmid pWB980, the same one used in  
803 the present study, is a promising expression vector in *Bacillus* due to its high copy  
804 number and high stability. However, the low rate of transformation of recombinant  
805 plasmids in wild-type cells may limit their application. Furthermore, the authors  
806 describe that plasmid stability consists of structural and segregation stability. Thus, it is  
807 hypothesized that the plasmid used for the cloning of the recombinant *B. subtilis*  
808 WB800 bacterium may have suffered some interference in its structural stability during  
809 the storage time, implying the segregation structure of the recombinant enzyme.

### 810 **3.2 Production of CDs in continuous ultrafiltration system for 120 h**

811 The production of CDs using a continuous system associated with the ultrafiltration  
812 process was carried out from the semi-purified and purified enzymes. Continuous  
813 production was maintained for 120 h (5 days). Aliquots of the ultrafiltrate were  
814 collected every 12 hours to determine the concentration of CDs produced. The  
815 production of  $\beta$ -CD in the first 12 h, without ultrafiltration, was 17.16 mmol/L. After  
816 this period, the continuous process with ultrafiltration was started and, after 24 h, it was  
817 possible to observe a decrease in the concentration of CDs produced (9.83 mmol/L of  $\beta$ -  
818 CD). The production of CDs was approximately constant for 120 h, which was  
819 terminated with 7.14 mmol/L of  $\beta$ -CD (Figure 1).

820



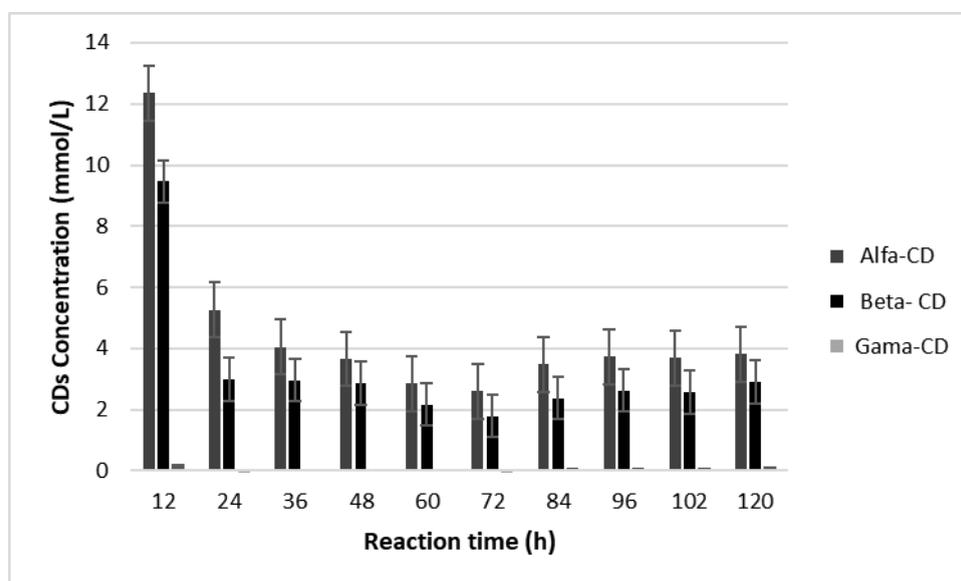
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822 **Figure 1:** Production of CDs in a continuous ultrafiltration system for 120 h, using  
 823 semi-purified recombinant CGTase, 5% (w/V) corn starch substrate, 10% (V/V)  
 824 ethanol, pH 8.0.

825 The production of  $\alpha$ -CD and  $\gamma$ -CD in the first 12 h was 0.78 mmol/L and 0.09 mmol/L,  
 826 respectively, and decreased throughout the 120 h of the assay. With the results obtained,  
 827 a greater selectivity was observed for the production of  $\beta$ -CD.

828 Figure 2 shows the production of CDs using the purified recombinant CGTase and,  
 829 unlike the production from the semi-purified enzyme, the 12 h batch showed more  
 830 significant production of  $\alpha$ -CD and  $\beta$ -CD, that is, 12.35 mmol /L and 9.46 mmol/L,  
 831 respectively. Similar behavior was verified in the other batches. It is possible to suggest  
 832 that the purification of the enzyme eliminates compounds that prevent or inhibit the  
 833 production of  $\alpha$ -CD by binding to the active site of the enzyme responsible for the  
 834 production of this CD. A reduction in the production of total CDs of around 30% was  
 835 also observed, while the expectation was the opposite. Therefore, it is possible to  
 836 suggest that compounds eliminated during purification may be important to maintain or

837 increase enzyme activity. Another viable possibility is to alter the protein structure of  
 838 the enzyme during purification.



839

840 **Figure 2:** Production of CDs in a continuous ultrafiltration system for 120 h, using  
 841 purified recombinant CGTase, 5% (w/V) corn starch substrate, 10% (V/V) ethanol, pH  
 842 8.0.

843 Koga et al. (2020) also used the ultrafiltration system with the commercial enzyme  
 844 Toruzyme® and evaluated the production of CDs in eight batches of 72 h. The authors  
 845 obtained a maximum production of  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -CD equal to 24.75 mmol/L, 20.59  
 846 mmol/L, and 1.66 mmol/L, in the first batch, and a production of 13.51 mmol/L of  $\alpha$ -  
 847 CD and 7.96 mmol/L of  $\beta$ -CD in the last batch. The Toruzyme® enzyme is marketed as  
 848 an  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -CGTase, that is, it produces similar amounts of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -CD, requiring a  
 849 subsequent process of separation of these CDs.

850 In view of the results obtained in the present study, it is possible to suggest that, even  
 851 with the low enzymatic activity observed previously (item 3.1), the continuous process  
 852 associated with ultrafiltration is a promising strategy for the production of CDs, since  
 853 the production of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -CD, although it decreased after 24 h of production, it was

854 constant throughout the 120 h of the assay, without the need to add more enzyme to the  
855 reaction medium during the time of production of the CDs. It is also worth noting that  
856 the use of a semi-purified enzyme, in addition to resulting in a more economical process  
857 because it does not have expenses with the purification of the enzyme, produces much  
858 more  $\beta$ -CD in relation to other CDs, not requiring separation and purification.

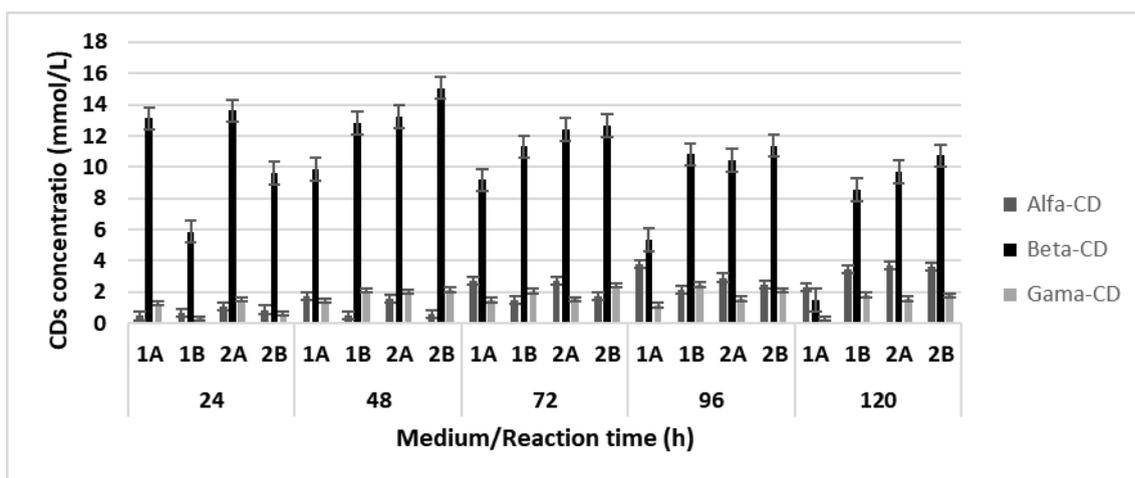
859

### 860 **3.3 Production of CDs in alternative media**

861 A new challenge for this research was to obtain CDs directly from the production  
862 medium of the recombinant CGTase enzyme. The media used were selected based on  
863 previous studies, which showed good results in the production of CDs and growth of the  
864 recombinant CGTase enzyme (Fenelon et al., 2015; Hao et al., 2017).

865 Research has also shown that corn starch is one of the most efficient substrates for the  
866 production of CDs (Fenelon et al., 2015). Therefore, to analyze the behavior of the  
867 bacteria in the production of CDs simultaneously with the step of obtaining the  
868 recombinant CGTase enzyme, 5% corn starch (w/v) substrate was added to all tested  
869 media. In addition, all media were supplemented with the antibiotic kanamycin (25  
870  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ), to provide selectivity, since only the recombinant bacterium is resistant to  
871 kanamycin.

872 Figure 3 presents the results obtained in the first step, which used an incubation  
873 temperature equal to 30 °C, which is the ideal temperature for the growth of the  
874 recombinant CGTase enzyme.



875

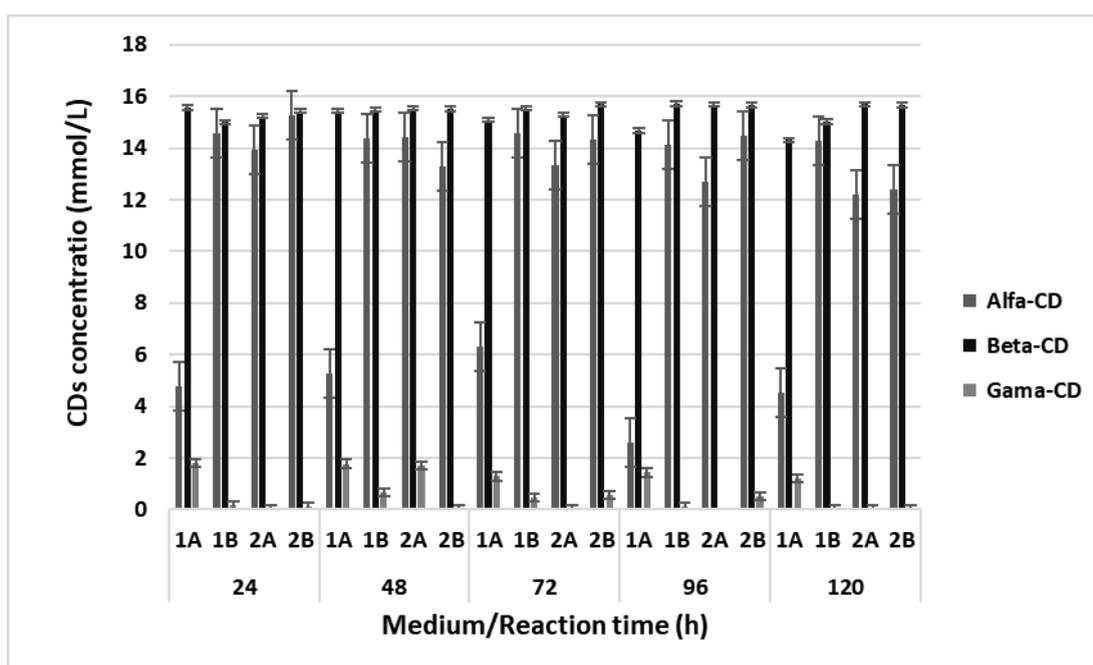
876 **Figure 3** - Chromatographic determination of CDs using CD production medium with  
 877 5% (w/v) corn starch substrate with microorganisms (1A medium) and enzyme only (1B  
 878 medium), and recombinant bacteria growth medium (2xYT) with the addition of 5% of  
 879 the starch substrate with microorganisms (2A medium) and only with enzyme (2B  
 880 medium). All media were incubated at 30°C, 100 rpm, for 5 days.

881 With the results obtained, it was verified that all the evaluated media showed  
 882 considerable production of CDs, even without the enzyme going through the semi-  
 883 purification and/or purification step. The 48 h time showed the highest production of  
 884 CDs, especially  $\beta$ -CD, especially in the 2xYT medium, regardless of the presence of the  
 885 microorganism or just the enzyme (13.26 and 15.06 mmol/L of  $\beta$ - CD, respectively).  
 886 Also, Gimenez and collaborators (2019) evaluated different means of production of  
 887 recombinant CGTase and observed that the 2xYT medium was the most efficient for the  
 888 growth of the bacteria and the production of the enzyme. Thus, the results obtained in  
 889 this research corroborate those obtained in previous research.

890 Furthermore, it was possible to observe that the concentration of  $\beta$ -CD began to  
 891 progressively decrease, especially in medium containing microorganisms (1A medium).  
 892 This event may be related to the fact that the microorganism is producing other enzymes  
 893 that act in the degradation of the recombinant CGTase or, still, due to the possibility of

894 the microorganism consuming the CDs over time. Similar behavior was observed by  
 895 Fenelon et al (2018), who evaluated the strategy of producing CDs in 12 h repetitive  
 896 batches with the semi-purified non-recombinant enzyme and observed a maximum  
 897 production value equal to 12.6 mmol/L in The first batch and the following batches  
 898 verified that the production of  $\beta$ -CD progressively decreased until reaching values  
 899 below 50% of the initial capacity. The authors also evaluated the continuous production  
 900 strategy with ultrafiltration and until 36 h the production of  $\beta$ -CDs remained high (15.3  
 901 mmol/L), however, the  $\beta$ -CD yield gradually decreased throughout the assay.

902 Figure 4 shows the results obtained when using an incubation temperature equal to 50  
 903 °C, which is the ideal temperature for the growth of the recombinant CGTase  
 904 enzyme.



905

906 **Figure 4** - Chromatographic determination of CDs using CD production medium with  
 907 5% (w/v) corn starch substrate with microorganisms (1A medium) and enzyme alone  
 908 (1B medium), and recombinant bacteria growth medium (2xYT) with the addition of

909 5% of the starch substrate with microorganisms (2A medium) and only with enzyme  
910 (2B medium). All media were incubated at 50 °C, 100 rpm, for 5 days.

911 The temperature of 50 °C was more efficient for the production of CDs, especially for  
912  $\beta$ -CD, which showed an average production of approximately 15 mmol/L throughout  
913 the entire assay. The production of  $\alpha$ -CD was also more significant compared to the  
914 previous trial. The CD production medium (Medium 1) showed a slight drop in CD  
915 yield, while the 2xYT medium maintained a continuous yield. In addition, and similar to  
916 the production at 30 °C, medium 1A was the one that showed the highest production of  
917  $\beta$ -CD at the initial time (24 h) and the one that showed the lowest yield in the final  
918 period (120 h), which it also suggests the production of other enzymes that may be  
919 degrading the produced CDs.

920 Gregolim et al (2019) evaluated optimal conditions for the production of CDs for  
921 CGTase from *B. subtilis* WB800 and compared it with the production of strain 37 of *B.*  
922 *firmus* and found that the catalytic properties of the recombinant CGTases were  
923 equivalent, that is, the yield of production was similar for the two lines. The authors  
924 showed a  $\beta$ -CD yield of approximately 13 mmol/L in 24 h of production, which is lower  
925 than that observed in the present study.

926

#### 927 **4. CONCLUSION**

928 Although the recombinant *B. subtilis* WB800 CGTase enzyme showed low enzymatic  
929 activity, possibly due to interference in its structural stability during storage, it was  
930 possible to conclude that the use of the continuous production system associated with  
931 the ultrafiltration process proved to be a beneficial alternative to optimize CD  
932 production. Alternative media plus corn starch was an interesting strategy, especially for

933 the production of  $\beta$ -CD, which is currently the most used and commercially available. In  
934 addition, the use of the crude enzyme is a promising alternative, as it contributes to the  
935 reduction of costs and steps in the production of CDs and, consequently, can favor its  
936 industrial application.

937

## 938 **5. ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

939 The authors are grateful for the support and financial contribution of Organs Brazilian  
940 agencies CAPES, CNPq, Fundação Araucária, AND Finep for the development of this  
941 study.

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**ANEXOS**

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1

Original article

### Obtaining of bioactive di- and tripeptides from enzymatic hydrolysis of soybean meal and its protein isolate using Alcalase® and Neutrase®

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(Received 24 January 2022; Accepted in revised form 24 May 2022)

**Summary** The obtaining of bioactive di- and tripeptides using Alcalase® and Neutrase® enzymes in the hydrolysis of soybean meal (SM) and its protein isolate (SPI) was evaluated. An innovative system by fast LC-MS/MS neutral loss screening and *de novo* sequencing was used to identify bioactive peptides. Soy protein characterisation, gel electrophoresis and antioxidant activity of the obtained peptides were performed. Results achieved showed that the use of Alcalase® and SPI preparation potentiated the peptide breaking bonds and favoured the obtainment of bioactive peptides. The antioxidant activity of tested samples was significantly improved with enzymatic hydrolysis. LC-MS/MS analyses identified nineteen peptides in SM and 51 in SPI, all obtained after hydrolysis with Alcalase® and, according to BIOPEP, with relevant bioactivities and expressive functional potential. Therefore, it is suggested that bioactive peptides achieved in this study can enable the development of new ingredients and provide greater added value to soy by-products.

**Keywords** Soybean meal, enzymatic hydrolysis, dipeptides, tripeptides, bioactivities.

## ANEXO 2: Regras da Revista

(International Journal of Food Science and Technology)

### 1. Author Guidelines

#### Author Guidelines

Content of Author Guidelines: 1. General, 2. Ethical Guidelines, 3. Submission of Manuscripts, 4. Manuscript Types Accepted, 5. Manuscript Format and Structure, 6. After Acceptance.

Relevant Documents: **Page Charge Form**

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Cochran, W.G., Cox, G.M. (1992).

*Experimental Designs*, 2nd edn. New York: Wiley.

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Draper, N.R., Smith, H. (1998). *Applied Regression Analysis*, 3rd edn. New York: Wiley.

Sokal, R.R., Rohlf, F.J. (1994) *Biometry*, 3rd edn. San Francisco: W.H. Freeman.

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#### General Papers

Chatfield, C. (1985). The initial examination of data. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society A*, **148**, 214-253

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 Subject: Food Science and Technology - Decision on Manuscript ID CTA-2022-1041.R1  
 To: <[gmatoli@uem.br](mailto:gmatoli@uem.br)>

07-Dec-2022

Dear Dr. Matioli:

It is a pleasure to accept your manuscript entitled "Challenges and alternatives for the production of cyclodextrins from the CGTase enzyme from recombinant *Bacillus subtilis* WB800" in its current form for publication in the Food Science and Technology. The comments of the reviewer(s) who reviewed your manuscript are included at the foot of this letter.

Thank you for your fine contribution. On behalf of the Editors of the Food Science and Technology, we look forward to your continued contributions to the Journal.

Sincerely,  
 Dr. Adriano Cruz  
 Editor-in-Chief, Food Science and Technology  
[adriano.cruz@ifrrj.edu.br](mailto:adriano.cruz@ifrrj.edu.br)

Original Article  
 Food Science and Technology

ISSN 0101-2061 (Print)  
 ISSN 1678-457X (Online)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1590/fst.104122>



### Challenges and alternatives for the production of cyclodextrins from the CGTase enzyme from recombinant *Bacillus subtilis* WB800

Thamara Thaiane da Silva CROZATTI<sup>1</sup>, Paula Vitória LARENTIS<sup>2</sup>, Vanderson Carvalho FENELON<sup>3</sup>,  
 Juliana Harumi MIYOSHI<sup>3</sup>, Júlia Rosa de BRITO<sup>4</sup>, Giovanna da Silva SALINAS<sup>5</sup>, Beatriz de Oliveira MAZZOTTI<sup>2</sup>,  
 Giovanni Cesar TELES<sup>1</sup>, Quirino Alves de LIMA NETO<sup>5</sup>, Graciete MATIOLI<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>

#### Abstract

Cyclodextrins (CDs) have the ability to encapsulate numerous molecules and have applicability in several industrial areas, however, their cost has made their use difficult. To seek alternatives that may enable the use of DCs, the present study evaluated the efficiency of the ultrafiltration process in a continuous system to produce CDs from the enzyme cyclomaltodextrin glucoamyltransferase (CGTase) from recombinant *Bacillus subtilis* WB800. The possibility of using the crude enzyme as an alternative means of producing CDs was also evaluated. All strategies evaluated in this research proved to be promising for the production of CDs, with the production of  $\beta$ -CD being the most efficient (average of 15 mmol/L) using crude recombinant enzyme and a temperature of 50 °C. Therefore, the results obtained can contribute to the reduction of stages and costs of production of CDs, favoring their industrial application.

**Keywords:** cyclodextrins; CGTase recombinant; continuous system; ultrafiltration.

**Practical Application:** This study presents innovative alternatives to produce cyclodextrins from the recombinant enzyme.

## ANEXO 4: Regras da Revista (Food Science and Technology)

### 1. Sobre o jornal

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#### Informação básica

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Seu título abreviado é **Food Sci. Technol (Campinas)**, que deve ser utilizado em bibliografias, notas de rodapé e referências e legendas bibliográficas.

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### Exemplos de estilo para referências:

#### Livros

Baccan, N., Aleixo, LM, Stein, E., & Godinho, OES (1995). *Introdução à semimicroanálise qualitativa* (6. ed.). Campinas: EduCamp. Universidade Estadual de Campinas - UNICAMP. (2006). *Tabela brasileira de composição de alimentos - TACO* (versão 2, 2. ed.). Campinas: UNICAMP/NEPA.

**Capítulo de livro**  
Sgarbieri, VC (1987). Composição e valor nutritivo do feijão *Phaseolus vulgaris* L. In EA Bulisani (Ed.), *Feijão: fatores de produção e qualidade* (cap. 5; pp. 257-326). Campinas: Fundação Cargill.

**Artigos de periódicos**  
Versantvoort, CH, Oomen, AG, Van de Kamp, E., Rompelberg, CJ e Sips, AJ (2005). Aplicabilidade de um modelo de digestão in vitro na avaliação da bioacessibilidade de micotoxinas de alimentos. *Food and Chemical Toxicology*, 43 (1), 31-40.

Sillick, TJ, & Schutte, NS (2006). A inteligência emocional e a auto-estima medeiam entre o amor parental precoce percebido e a felicidade adulta. *E-Journal of Applied Psychology*, 2 (2), 38-48. Recuperado de <http://ojs.lib.swin.edu.au/index.php/ejap>

**Trabalho eletrônico (e-work)**  
Richardson, ML (2000). *Abordagens para diagnóstico diferencial em imagem musculoesquelética* (versão 2.0). Seattle: Escola de Medicina da Universidade de Washington. Obtido em <http://www.rad.washington.edu/mskbook/index.html>

#### Legislação

Brasil, Ministério da Educação e Cultura. (2010). *Institui a Política Nacional de Resíduos Sólidos; altera a Lei nº 9.605, de 12 de fevereiro de 1998; e dá outras providências* (Lei nº 12.305, de 2 de agosto de 2010). Diário Oficial da República Federativa do Brasil.

**Teses e Dissertações**  
Fazio, MLS (2006). *Qualidade microbiológica e ocorrência de leveduras em polpas congeladas de frutas* (Dissertação de mestrado). Universidade Estadual Paulista, São José do Rio Preto.

**Artigos previamente apresentados em conferências científicas**  
 Sutopo, W., Nur Bahagia, S., Cakravastia, A., & Arisamadhi, TMA (2008). Um Modelo de Estoque Regulador para Estabilização de Preços de Commodities em Tempo Limitado de Fornecimento e Consumo Contínuo. Nos *Anais da 9ª Conferência de Sistemas de Gerenciamento e Engenharia Industrial da Ásia-Pacífico (APIEMS)*, Bali, Indonésia.

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