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1 **Highlights**

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- Natureseal[®] prevented browning of fresh-cut potatoes during 9-day storage at 4 °C.
 - Green tea extract helped in maintaining membrane integrity of sliced potatoes.
 - Both solutions increased the antioxidant activity of the samples.
 - Ultrasound (35 or 130 kHz) did not enhance the effects solutions had per se.
 - No impact in dry matter, sugar content or natural microbiota was observed.

8 **Combination of sonication with anti-browning treatments as a strategy to increase the shelf-**
9 **life of fresh-cut potato (cv. Monalisa)**

10 *Antibrowning treatments for fresh-cut potato*

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22 The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author
23 upon reasonable request.

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25

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30 **Abstract**

31 Two antioxidant solutions, a patented mixture based on vitamin C and other compounds
32 (Natureseal[®], MV) and green tea extract (GT), were proposed to prevent browning in sliced
33 potatoes. Combination with ultrasound (US) at two frequencies (35 and 130 kHz) was also
34 evaluated, but no significant enhancement of the effects was detected with US. In MV-treated
35 samples, respiration rate and dry matter (19.7 %) were higher than they were in the control
36 (CK) (17.3 %) or GT-treated samples (16.8 %). Neither membrane integrity nor
37 malondialdehyde content were significantly affected by the addition of MV or GT, but in MV-
38 samples the antioxidant activity was increased 6-fold at the beginning of the storage (39.1
39 mmol ascorbic acid equivalents/kg), but decreased after 9 days. A yellowish coloration on the
40 surface of GT samples was observed ($L^*a^*b^*$ values being 68.3, -6.4, and 25.3, respectively),
41 attributed to the coloration of the tea concentrate. In the conditions studied, GT was not able
42 to delay browning in potato slices. Contrarily, MV solution preserved the original colour of the
43 sliced potatoes (69.6, -6.7, 27.7 for $L^*a^*b^*$, respectively) during the 9-day storage at 4 °C.

44

45 **Keywords:**

46 Sliced potato, antioxidant, shelf-life, green tea, ultrasound

47

48 **Novelty impact statement**

49 Sulphites are used as an additive to maintain food colour, shelf-life and prevent the growth of
50 fungi or bacteria. The study proves the efficacy of vitamin C to substitute sulphites in
51 preservation and browning prevention of fresh-cut potatoes, preventing, in turn, the allergenic
52 responses sulphites may cause to the consumers.

53 1. Introduction

54 Potatoes are the most important tuber crop in the world and they hold the third place in the
55 rank of important human consumption crops (Torero, 2018). In addition to their low-fat
56 content, potatoes also supply dietary fibres, carbohydrates and high-quality proteins and
57 minerals (Seijo-Rodríguez, Escuredo, Rodríguez-Flores, & Seijo-Coello, 2018). As an outcome of
58 consumers' lifestyle changes, and in response to their demand for fresh, healthy and easy-to-
59 prepare vegetables, a wide assortment of minimally processed fruits and vegetables have been
60 developed, including sliced potatoes (Ramos, Miller, Brandão, Teixeira, & Silva, 2013).

61 The different culinary methods that exist for potatoes make these sliced potatoes a good
62 product to be sold as ready-to-cook, but they have two main drawbacks: processing operations
63 - peeling, cutting - may add susceptibility to quality deterioration and shelf-life is averagely
64 limited to 5-7 days (Ierna, Rizzarelli, Malvuccio, & Rapisarda, 2017). It is known that once cut,
65 potatoes undergo colour changes, induced by the formation of intensely coloured products, as
66 a result of enzymatic browning (Mareček et al., 2013). For decades, sulphites have been added
67 to prevent colour deterioration. However, this may lead to reactions in sensitive consumers, so
68 certain products such as ascorbic acid have been incorporated and recently, other compounds
69 have been commercially developed. One example is Natureseal®, based on organic acids,
70 vitamins and minerals, which claims to maintain the product colour during storage. Green tea
71 extract has also been suggested for this purpose; due to its antioxidant capacity it has been
72 reported to inhibit polyphenol oxidase (PPO) activity, which is the enzyme behind the
73 browning reactions (Nirmal & Benjakul, 2011; Soysal, 2009).

74 On the other hand, ultrasound technology has been explored as a potential technology to
75 induce an enhancement in the penetration of the antioxidant solutions in the vegetable tissue,
76 and hence, increase their effect (Nicolau-Lapeña et al., 2019b). This effect is attributed to the
77 cavitation bubbles created by the sonic waves. Their asymmetric implosions generate
78 microjets in the direction of the solid surface, which can affect mass transfer, enhancing the
79 penetration on the fruit surface (Carcel et al., 2012).

80 The aim of this study was to investigate a method consisting of a combination of antioxidant
81 solutions and US technology to reduce the mechanisms that shorten sliced potato shelf-life.
82 The paper focuses on this patented mixture of vitamins and minerals (primarily based on
83 vitamin C) and green tea extract, which were proposed as antioxidant solutions. The effect of
84 antioxidant treatments, combined or not with ultrasonication, was evaluated by
85 physicochemical, microbiological, enzymatic and nutritional parameters during cold storage.

86 **2. Materials and methods**

87 **2.1. Materials**

88 Potatoes (cv. Monalisa) were purchased from a local supermarket. Natureseal® (mixture of
89 vitamins and minerals, based on vitamin C and sulphite free) was kindly provided by Eurotech
90 (Barcelona, Spain) and green tea was acquired from a local provider.

91 Peptone, plate count agar (PCA), and dichloran rose bengale chloramphenicol agar (DRBC),
92 were obtained from Biokar Diagnostics (Allonne, France).

93 Ascorbic, and gallic acids, 2,4,6-tris(2-pyridyl)-s-triazine (TPTZ), 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl
94 (DPPH), sodium carbonate, 2-thiobarbituric acid (TBA), trichloroacetic acid (TCA), polyvinyl
95 pyrrolidone (PVPP), cystein, pyrocatechol, and guayacol were acquired from Sigma-Aldrich
96 (Steinheim, Germany). Sodium hypochlorite, peroxide hydrogen, methanol, sodium chloride,
97 potassium chloride, ferric chloride hexahydrate and Folin Ciocalteu's reagent were procured
98 from Panreac (Llinars del Vallès, Spain).

99 **2.2. Methods**

100 **2.2.1. Experimental design**

101 Potatoes were processed and sliced as described below, and two solutions were used in order
102 to delay surface browning during storage and to increase shelf-life. Natureseal® 7.5 % (w:v)
103 (MV) and green tea 5 % (w:v) (GT) were used as potential antioxidants and enzyme inhibitors
104 (Supplementary material 1), according to previous studies (Bobo, 2014). Tap water was used as
105 a control (CK). Ultrasounds (US) at two frequencies, 35 or 130 kHz, were applied with the
106 intention of increasing the penetration of the two solutions into the potato slice. A non-
107 sonicated trial was carried out in order to ascertain whether ultrasound had an enhancing
108 influence on the anti-browning effect of each solution (NS, GT or CK). In total, 9 treatments
109 were carried out: CK with or without 35 or 130 kHz US (CK-0, CK-35, CK-130), and the same for
110 MV (MV-0, MV-35, MV-130) and GT (GT-0, GT-35, GT-130).

111 Once processed, trays containing the sliced potatoes were stored at 4 °C. Sampling was done
112 on days 0, 2, 4, 7, and 9 (D0, D2, D4, D7, D9). Some determinations were made in the fresh
113 product, including respiration rate, color, total aerobic mesophylls (TAM), total aerobic
114 psychrophiles (TAP), yeasts and molds (Y&M), dry matter and membrane integrity. Aliquots of
115 samples for each treatment were frozen with liquid nitrogen, milled using a MINIMOKA GR-
116 020 grinder (Taurus Group, Barcelona, Spain) and stored at -80 °C for further biochemical
117 analysis, which included antioxidant activity, total phenolic compounds (TPC),
118 malondialdehyde (MDA) content and free sugar content.

119 **2.2.2. Preparation and characterisation of antioxidant solutions**

120 MV solution was prepared to reach a final concentration of 7.5 % (w:v) diluting the commercial
121 product in distilled water. GT solution was prepared from a green tea concentrate brewed in
122 the ratio of 1:6 (GT: water; w:v), which was prepared with distilled water at 75 °C and
123 sonicated for 10 min, 75 kHz, continuous, 20 % power, to enhance antioxidant extraction (Das
124 & Eun, 2018). After filtration and centrifugation to eliminate suspended solids, the extract was
125 diluted to a final concentration of 5 % as Bobo (2014) established as the optimal concentration

126 to inhibit potato PPO. The solution was kept at 4 °C until assay. To characterise the potential
127 efficacy of both solutions, the antioxidant activity was determined by DPPH· assay, explained in
128 section 2.2.10 and the ability to inhibit PPO activity was determined with a microplate
129 colorimetric method, as described in section 2.2.12.

130 **2.2.3. Potato processing**

131 Potatoes were washed with tap water at 4 ± 1 °C, disinfected in a 200 mg/L chlorine solution
132 (pH 6.5) for 2 min in a ratio of 1:3 potato: solution (w:v), and rinsed with tap water for 2 min in
133 the same proportion. After peeling using potato abrasive peeler PI-20 (Sammic, Spain) for 1.5
134 min, potatoes were cut into 5 mm width slices with automatic slicer Robot-Coupe CL-50 Ultra
135 (Bourgogne, France). Excess of water was removed for 40 s using a centrifuge Marrodan
136 PR47248 (Navarra, Spain). Then, slices were immersed in glass pots containing the treatment
137 solutions – tap water (CK), 7.5 % Natureseal® (MV) and 5 % green tea (GT) – in a ratio of 1:2
138 potato: solution (w:v) and agitated for 2 min. When required, continuous mode, 100 % power,
139 35 or 130 kHz US was applied simultaneously to the immersion. After treatment, the slices
140 were manually centrifuged to drain the excess water for 40 s, and approximately 100 ± 2 g of
141 product drained were placed in 350-cm³ polypropylene trays and sealed with polypropylene
142 film with an O₂ permeability of 110 cm³ /m² · day · atm at 23 °C (film PP with a line of holes of
143 100 µm each and 100 mm apart from each other). The packaged product was stored at in a
144 refrigerated chamber at 4 °C and 95 % relative humidity.

145 **2.2.4. Respiration rate and analysis of internal gas composition**

146 Respiration rate (RR) of potato slices was determined immediately after the processing. For
147 this, 100 ± 2 g of sliced potatoes were put inside a hermetic plastic pot and stored at 4 °C.
148 After 4 and 24 h, O₂ and CO₂ concentrations were measured using headspace gas analyser
149 CheckMate 3 (Dansensor, Spain). Respiration rate was calculated following Equation 1.

150

$$151 \quad \text{RR } (\mu\text{mol} / \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}) = \frac{[\text{CO}_2]_f - [\text{CO}_2]_i \cdot (V_t - V_0) \cdot 0.01}{W \cdot (t_f - t_0)} \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

152

153 where $[\text{CO}_2]_f - [\text{CO}_2]_i$ is the change in concentration between measurements (moles of gas
154 using the equivalence at standard conditions of 1 mole equals 22.4 L), V_t is the total volume of
155 the container (600 mL), V_0 is the volume of the potatoes (mL), $t_f - t_i$ is the time difference
156 between measurements (s), and W is the weight of the potatoes in the container (kg).

157 Evolution of internal gas composition in sample trays was followed by measuring O₂ and CO₂
158 concentration on each storage day (D).

159 **2.2.5. Colour analysis**

160 The surface colour of 4 slices per tray and per treatment was measured (n=12) on three
161 random places of the surface of each slice by using a CR-200 Minolta Chroma Meter (Minolta,
162 INC., Tokyo, Japan). Color was measured as CIE $L^* a^* b^*$ coordinates, using a D65 illuminant
163 and 10° observer angle. Chroma and Hue value were calculated by using Equation 3, and
164 Equation 4, respectively (McGuire, 1992).

165

$$\text{Chroma} = (a^{*2} + b^{*2})^{1/2} \quad \text{Eq. 3}$$

166
$$\text{Hue angle} = \tan^{-1} (b^*/a^*) \quad \text{Eq. 4}$$

167 **2.2.6. Microbial quality**

168 To study the evolution of alternative microbiota, 10 ± 1 g of sliced potatoes were placed in a
 169 sterile filter bag (80 mL BagPage®, Interscience BagSystem, Saint Nom, France) and diluted
 170 with buffered peptone water 1:10 (w:v). It was mashed in a paddle blender (MiniMix,
 171 Interscience, France) for 2 min at 9 strokes/s. Aliquots of the mixture were serially diluted on
 172 saline peptone and plated in duplicate on PCA for total aerobic mesophylls (TAM) and total
 173 aerobic psychrophiles (TAP) and on Dichloran-rose bengal chloramphenicol (DRBC) for yeasts
 174 and molds (Y&M). Plates were incubated at 30 ± 1 °C for 3 days for TAM, at 4 ± 1 °C for 10 days
 175 for TAP and at 25 ± 1 °C for 3 to 5 days for Y&M. Three repetitions were made for each
 176 treatment. Results were expressed as log CFU/g and the detection limit was 5 CFU/g.

177 **2.2.7. Dry matter**

178 Dry matter of samples was calculated using Equation 3 after drying dice of 5 mm³ for 24 h at
 179 105 °C until a constant weight.

180
$$\% \text{ dry matter} = (\text{dry weight} / \text{fresh weight}) \cdot 100 \quad \text{Eq. 3}$$

181 **2.2.8. Membrane permeability**

182 Membrane permeability was expressed as electrical conductivity as previously reported by Liu
 183 et al. (2019) with some modifications. Briefly, a 12 mm diameter circle per slice was cut and
 184 washed with distilled water three times. Two slices per tray and in triplicate (n=6) were
 185 determined per each treatment. The circles were dried using filter paper and immersed in 30
 186 mL of boiling distilled water for 15 min. After removing slices, the water was cooled down and
 187 its electrical conductivity was measured using a conductimeter Testo 240 (Tarragona, Spain),
 188 and the results expressed as mS / m.

189 **2.2.9. Malondialdehyde (MDA) content**

190 Determinations of MDA content in potato slices were carried out employing the supernatant
 191 obtained from a mixture of 1.0 ± 0.1 g with 8 mL 0.1 % TCA (w:v), followed by homogenisation
 192 for 10 min (Multivortex V-32, BioSan) and a centrifugation at $20,000 \times g$ for 10 min at 20 °C.
 193 For the reaction, 0.5 mL of the extracts were transferred to 1.5 mL of 20 % TCA (w:v) and to 0.5
 194 % TBA (w:v) in 20 % TCA. Tubes were incubated for 30 min in a thermal plate at 90 °C, and the
 195 reaction was stopped by immersing the tubes in ice for 5 min. Absorbance at 532 and 600 nm
 196 were read using GENESYS™ 10S UV-Vis spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, MA,
 197 USA). Four replicates were determined for each treatment, only at D0 and D9, and MDA
 198 content, expressed as $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ (in FW basis) was calculated following Equation 4.

199
$$\text{MDA content } (\mu\text{mol} / \text{kg}) = (2 \cdot (m + V) \cdot (\Delta\text{Abs}_{\text{TBA}} - \Delta\text{Abs}_{\text{TCA}}) / (m \cdot b \cdot E) \quad \text{Eq. 4}$$

200 where m is the mass of the sample (kg), V is the extract volume (mL), $\Delta\text{Abs}_{\text{TBA}}$ is the difference
 201 between absorbance at 532 and 600 nm for samples that reacted with 0.5 % TBA in 20 % TCA.
 202 $\Delta\text{Abs}_{\text{TCA}}$ is for samples mixed with 20 % TCA, b is the optical distance and E is the MDA
 203 extinction coefficient ($15.5 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-1}$).

204 **2.2.10. Reducing sugar content**

205 Total reducing sugars, including, D-glucose and D-fructose, were determined on frozen slices
206 (n=4). Reducing sugar content was determined spectrophotometrically with PowerWave HT
207 (Biotek, Vermont, United States), following the instructions of the Kit 12819 from Biosystems
208 (Barcelona, Spain) and expressed in g/kg FW.

209 **2.2.11. Antioxidant activity (AC)**

210 Antioxidant activity of the frozen samples was assessed using two methods: ferric reducing
211 antioxidant power (FRAP) and DPPH· scavenging activity assays, as described previously in
212 Nicolau-Lapeña et al. (2019a). Standard curves were prepared with ascorbic acid (AA) for both
213 methods, and processed the same as with the samples. Results were expressed as AA
214 equivalents (AAE) in mmol / kg (DW basis). Four repetitions were measured for each treatment
215 (n=4).

216 **2.2.12. Total phenolic content (TPC)**

217 The TPC was determined by the Folin-Ciocalteu method, as described previously in Nicolau-
218 Lapeña et al. (2019a). Standard curve with gallic acid (GA) was prepared, and results were
219 expressed as GA equivalents (GAE) in mmol / kg (DW basis). Four repetitions were measured
220 for each treatment (n=4).

221 **2.2.13. Polyphenol oxidase (PPO) and peroxidase (POD) enzymatic activity**

222 The enzymatic extraction was carried out by mixing 5.0 ± 0.5 g of the frozen product with 0.5 g
223 PVPP and 10 mL 0.1 M phosphate buffer solution pH 6 (PBS) with 0.05 mM cysteine in an
224 ultraturrax Ultra-turrax[®] Tube drive P control (IKA, Staufen, Germany) for 1.5 min at 5,000
225 rpm. After filtration and centrifugation at $20,000 \times g$ for 10 min at 4 °C, supernatant was
226 maintained in ice. The supernatant was the crude extract.

227 The capacity of MV and GT solutions to inhibit potato PPO activity (%) was determined *in vitro*
228 by microplate assay. For this, 65 µL of each antioxidant were poured into different wells,
229 and 65 µL of potato crude extract were added to them. As a control (to calculate the 100 %
230 enzymatic activity), 65 µL of distilled water were poured into different wells and mixed with 65
231 µL of potato crude extract. Then, 65 µL of 0.2 M pyrocatechol in PBS were added. After 10 min
232 of incubation at 37 °C, absorbance was read at 400 nm. Inhibition was expressed as a
233 percentage of potato PPO inhibition (Bobo, 2014; Masuda et al., 2005).

234 To evaluate the effect of the treatments and US in potato PPO y POD activity *in vivo* (in food
235 matrix), the following analyses were also done:

236 **PPO activity determination** was carried out by adding 20 µL of the sample to 300 µL of 0.2 M
237 pyrocatechol in PBS. Absorbance at 400 nm was read every 9 s for 3 min using a microplate
238 spectrophotometer.

239 **POD activity determination** was carried out by adding 20 µL of the sample to 200 µL of 10 mM
240 guayacol solution in PBS and 100 µL of 10 mM H₂O₂ solution in PBS. Absorbance at 470 nm was
241 read every 9 s for 10 min using the same spectrophotometer.

242 Their enzymatic activities (PPO and POD) were calculated based on the linear portion of the
243 plotted curve. Four replicates were done, and results were expressed as the increment in
244 optical density ($\Delta OD 10^6$) / kg · s (in protein basis).

245 **2.3.Statistical analysis**

246 All data were checked for significant differences by applying analysis of variance test (ANOVA).
247 The criterion for statistical significance was $p < 0.05$. When significant differences were
248 observed, Tukey's Honest Significant Difference (HSD) of the means was applied. Correlations
249 between parameters were calculated by linear regression R-square. Principal components
250 analysis (PCA) was carried out to obtain correlations among all the parameters studied at D0
251 (immediately after the treatment) and D9 (after 9 days of storage) (Section 3.9 of the results).
252 All statistical analyses were carried on using JMP 13 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, USA).

253 3. Results and discussion

254 3.1. Antioxidant solution characterisation

255 Antioxidant activities of the proposed solutions MV and GT were determined by DPPH-
256 inhibition assay, and MV solution antioxidant activity was found to be 3.8-fold higher than GT
257 solution. Moreover, PPO inhibition was higher for MV solution than it was for GT solution,
258 being 95.7 and 71.5 %, respectively. Despite the MV solution showing an inherent higher
259 potential in *in vitro* studies, the two solutions were applied to the potato at the following
260 concentrations: MV was prepared following the manufacturer's indications, and GT was
261 prepared at 5 % according to Bobo (2014), as a higher concentration could have affected the
262 sensorial properties of the samples negatively.

263 3.2. Respiration rate and O₂ and CO₂ concentrations during storage

264 Respiration rate (RR) of sliced potatoes averaged 1.8 ± 0.1 , 2.8 ± 0.3 , and 2.4 ± 0.1 $\mu\text{mol CO}_2 /$
265 $\text{kg} \cdot \text{s}$, for CK, MV, and GT treatments, respectively. These values are in agreement with the
266 literature data for potatoes (Fennir et al., 2003).

267 US application involves cell wall disruption and it may imply certain stress. However, no
268 significant differences were observed in RR between sliced potatoes regardless the sonication
269 conditions. Regarding changes in the internal atmosphere (Data not shown), potato slices
270 treated with MV showed significant changes in O₂ (12.7 ± 1.2 , 6.0 ± 0.7 , 2.1 ± 1.3 , and 1.0 ± 0.9
271 % at D2, D4, D7, and D9, respectively) and CO₂ (5.7 ± 0.4 , 12.2 ± 0.6 , 17.1 ± 0.6 , and 18.2 ± 1.0
272 % at D2, D4, D7, and D9, respectively) concentrations, respectively. Despite the low
273 concentrations of O₂ present inside the package, the holes performed in the film prevented
274 anaerobic conditions. Moreover, absence of fermentation odours was checked when packages
275 were opened. Contrarily, in GT and CK samples O₂ and CO₂ exchange was slower. In CK
276 samples, the internal O₂ (14.3 ± 0.4 , 11.1 ± 0.5 , $10.2 \pm 0.$, and 9.7 ± 0.7 % at D2, D4, D7, and D9,
277 respectively) and CO₂ (3.6 ± 0.2 , 6.8 ± 0.3 , 8.6 ± 0.2 , and 10.1 ± 0.5 % at D2, D4, D7, and D9,
278 respectively) in CK samples changed gradually and achieved balance at D9. Regarding GT
279 potatoes, composition balance in trays was reached between D4 and D7, and composition in
280 O₂ (13.6 ± 0.3 , 10.8 ± 0.3 , 6.8 ± 1.5 , 6.9 ± 1.0 %, at D2, D4, D7, and D9, respectively) and CO₂
281 (3.9 ± 0.2 , 7.1 ± 0.2 , 9.8 ± 0.8 , and 10.8 ± 0.7 %, at D2, D4, D7, and D9, respectively) reached a
282 balance between D4 and D7. The stability values reached in gas composition inside the trays
283 with CK and GT treated potatoes were close to the recommendations given by Farber et al.
284 (2003), who established that percentages of 1-3 % O₂ and 6-9 % CO₂ were optimal for potato
285 storage. This internal gas combination is reported to be the most suitable for products like
286 tubercles, in order to maintain quality and delay the processes that typically degrade the
287 product, such as colour alterations, changes in texture or microbial growth. Petri et al. (2008)
288 reported that immersion in ascorbic acid solutions (0.5 %) decreased the RR of fresh-cut
289 potato by scavenging oxygen, which affected the enzymes of the oxidative phosphorylation
290 pathway. The differences between samples from GT or CK treatments and MV behaviour could
291 be explained in part by the different pH values of the solutions and their effect on the potato
292 metabolism. It is suggested that ascorbic acid content in MV and the pH of the solution (3.2)
293 could be related to the higher RR of these samples. The stress posed by immersion of MV
294 samples in such acidic solution could have quickened their metabolic and respiration processes
295 (Tudela, Espín, & Gil, 2002).

296 3.3. Microbial quality evolution

297 The evaluation of epiphytic microbiota in potato slices revealed that populations of Y&M were
298 below the detection limit for all the antioxidants and US frequencies used, both immediately
299 after the treatments and during storage. Populations of TAM and TAP in the sliced product
300 before the treatments were 2.2 ± 0.1 and 1.8 ± 0.3 log CFU / g, respectively. After the
301 treatments (Figure 1), populations were maintained in CK samples, whereas MV treatment
302 showed a slight sanitizing effect. Conversely, after GT application, populations increased in the
303 same numbers for both TAM and TAP. For all the treatments and days, a strong correlation
304 was observed ($0.7293 - 0.8879 R^2$) between TAM and TAP counts – except for MV-35 and MV-
305 130 treatments. A bacteriostatic effect of MV was patent mostly against TAP, maintaining such
306 populations below 1.84 ± 0.6 and 2.4 ± 0.6 log CFU / g for MV-35 and MV-130, respectively. A
307 possible explanation of this effect involves the low pH of the MV solution (2.6 ± 0.2) and the
308 subsequent acidification of the surface of sliced potatoes. At such pH conditions, that are
309 lower than the growth range of most TAM (between 4.2–7.5), most microorganisms common
310 in food products are not able to grow (Ray, 2004). Few reports have been found regarding
311 antimicrobial activity of MV, as it is described as an antioxidant product and it is therefore
312 used for this purpose. *Salmonella enterica* was not found on fresh-cut cantaloupes washed
313 with hot water (76 °C) for 3 min with MV 8.5 % (w/v) during the 21 days of study (Alicea,
314 Annous, Mendez, Burke, & Orellana, 2018). In CK-0, a growth was observed during storage,
315 and counts at D9 were 4.5 ± 0.5 log CFU / g. No significant differences were observed when
316 comparing US application, either at 35 or at 130 kHz. A similar growth trend was detected in
317 potato slices treated with GT, achieving values averaging 4.0 ± 0.5 log CFU / g for both TAM
318 and TAP. The antimicrobial characteristics of GT extract in food have been previously described
319 (Perumalla and Hettiarachchy, 2011). However, in this study and at concentrations used, GT
320 did not exert a significant effect against epiphytic microbiota.

321 3.4. Dry matter and reducing sugar content

322 Dry matter and reducing sugar content are important parameters of potato quality, as they are
323 used as reference values for further processing, especially frying (Wayumba et al., 2019).
324 Figure 2 presents the results obtained for these two parameters at D0 and D9. Sugar content
325 was only evaluated at the beginning and the end of the storage, and dry matter values did not
326 present practical differences between samples or days during storage. At the end of the
327 storage, dry matter was maintained at 17.3 ± 1.1 , 19.7 ± 1.2 , and 16.8 ± 1.6 % for each
328 treatment (CK, MV and GT, respectively), and differences between sonication conditions were
329 not significant. Dry matter was slightly higher in samples in which MV was applied, possibly
330 because of the higher concentration in soluble solids of the MV solution. Reducing sugar
331 content did not significantly differ between treatments, but it was affected by storage time.
332 While reducing sugars at D0 were under 8.2 ± 0.5 g / kg (except for MV 130 in which values of
333 9.3 ± 0.1 g / kg were determined), at D9 there was an increase ranging from 1.2- to 1.8-fold of
334 their initial sugar content, which reached values between 10.6 ± 0.4 to 12.1 ± 0.3 g / kg.
335 Storage at temperatures lower than 4 °C or higher than 8 °C is related to sugar accumulation
336 or sweetening for sprout, respectively (Medeiros Vinci et al., 2012).

337 3.5. Malondialdehyde (MDA) content and membrane integrity

338 Slicing operations may affect membrane integrity of cell tissue, and subsequent oxidative
339 damages may occur. MDA is a product of lipid peroxidation in plant membranes and indicates

340 the deterioration of the metabolism of plant cells (Møller, Jensen, & Hansson, 2007). For this,
341 it is a good indicator of the degree of oxidative stress of the plant cell (Hodges et al., 2004),
342 and electrical conductivity is usually correlated with the integrity of the cell membrane
343 (Jiankang et al., 2007). In the present study, initial values of MDA content ranged from $14.7 \pm$
344 1.2 to 21.7 ± 0.6 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ (Figure 3). No pattern was observed involving antioxidant solutions
345 and US frequencies that can explain variations in initial content. After 9-day storage, MV
346 treated potatoes showed a higher increase in MDA values, when compared to CK and GT.
347 Contrary to what Liu et al. (2019) reported, there was a sharp rise in the conductivity of CK
348 treated potatoes, even though conductivity immediately after the processing was lower in
349 these samples (Figure 3). The treatments MV-35, and GT-35 helped in maintaining membrane
350 conductivity below 100 mS/m), which can be related with a better maintenance of membrane
351 integrity when using this frequency (35 kHz) in combination of both antioxidants.

352 **3.6. Antioxidant capacity (AC) and total phenolic content (TPC)**

353 AC was calculated by the methods of DPPH \cdot and FRAP. As a strong correlation has been found
354 between the two variables ($R^2 = 0.9622$), only DPPH \cdot results are shown in Figure 4, which also
355 presents TPC results. Initial AC and TPC values of CK potatoes averaged 5.5 ± 1.0 and 1.7 ± 0.1
356 mmol / kg, respectively. These values differ to what was observed by Serpen and Gökmen
357 (2009) and Albishi et al. (2013). Variations were attributed to differences in potato cultivars,
358 the maturity of the tubers or previous storage conditions (Seijo-Rodríguez et al., 2018).
359 Statistical differences were found between MV treated potatoes and the other treatments
360 (initial AC and TPC contents in such samples was significantly higher), but regarding US
361 conditions, no differences were observed. Initial AC and TPC values in MV samples averaged
362 39.1 ± 1.1 and 3.8 ± 0.4 mmol/kg, respectively. GT treated potatoes did not reach such levels
363 of AC, the values (averaging at the beginning of the storage 6.6 ± 0.8 mmol/kg) being 6 times
364 lower than they were for MV. Differences in TPC figures were mainly attributed to an
365 overestimation of TPC in MV samples rather than biological variances. In fact, MV is primarily
366 composed of organic acids, including ascorbic acid, which is a reducing compound (non-
367 phenolic antioxidant) that also reduces the Folin Ciocalteu reagent to form a blue colouring
368 alkaline pH (Lester et al., 2012). A decrease in TPC values for MV treatments was observed for
369 all US treatments, which could also be attributed to the reduction of ascorbic acid present in
370 MV to dehydroascorbic acid during time, reducing, in turn, the interferences caused in Folin-
371 Ciocalteu method. For CK and GT samples, AC and TPC values were well maintained during
372 storage.

373 **3.7. Colour**

374 Colour of potatoes was expressed by *Chroma and Hue angle* (Table 1). MV treated potatoes
375 were clearer and brighter to eyesight (Supplementary material 2). Luminosity (L^*), which is not
376 represented in Chroma and Hue angle calculations, is also presented (Table 1). In general, L^*
377 values, did not show statistical differences between MV and CK samples, which averaged 69.5
378 ± 0.5 (Table 1) indicating that no significant differences throughout storage were observed in
379 luminosity of the samples. Chroma of MV (28.1 – 28.9) was slightly higher than it was in CK and
380 GT samples (26.1-28.1). The Hue angle indicates the simple colour in a 360 ° space (McGuire,
381 1992). Initial Hue angle of sliced potatoes ranged from 165.7 to 166.4, and no remarkable
382 differences were observed between treatments. During storage, in the case of potatoes
383 treated with GT, Hue angle increased at day 2 to 171.8 to 174.4, and these values were
384 maintained higher than those presented by MV and CK. When Hue and Chroma varied, this

385 was mainly attributed to variations in a^* values (Table 1), whereas b^* values were maintained
386 (26.1 ± 1.1). At the beginning, a^* values ranged from -6.3 ± 0.2 to -6.9 ± 0.1 , there was
387 homogeneity between all the treatments and no differences in a^* values were found between
388 US conditions. These values increased during storage, separating in two marked groups at D4.
389 On one hand, CK and MV, in which the a^* change was slight, averaged -4.5 ± 0.4 . The Hue
390 angle in this samples was relatively well maintained until D7, in which it ranged from 166.7 to
391 167.1). On the other, GT, in which a significant increase in a^* occurred, reaching -3.2 ± 0.4 ,
392 turned into a more brownish colour, rather than yellow-green. As can be seen in the photos
393 (Supplementary material 2) and also reflected in the lower luminosity and higher a^* values of
394 the samples, GT slices acquired a brownish colour. That was attributed to the natural
395 pigmentation of the green tea solution that imbibed on the potato slice surface and remained
396 slightly visible on it. As aforementioned, the composition of the patented antioxidant is based
397 mainly on ascorbic acid, which has already been used successfully in potato slices to prevent
398 browning by Abubakr (2016). Ierna et al. (2017) also applied a mix of ascorbic acid and citric
399 acid on fresh-cut potatoes, preventing the browning until 9-day of storage. The proposed
400 mechanism involves the acids, that could have reverted the oxidized quinones and their
401 derivatives into phenolic substances, preventing their subsequent polymerization to form
402 brownish melanoid pigments (Li et al., 2017). Regarding green tea, it is rich in polyphenols
403 (including catechins, teaflavins and tearubigines), substances that can possess strong
404 antioxidant properties (Amarowicz & Shahidi, 2003) and have been reported to inhibit PPO
405 activity, and further browning in fruits (e.g. in apple and apple juice up to 96% when using 3
406 g/L)(Klimczak and Gliszczynska-Świgło, 2017; Soysal, 2009). Even so, in the present study, GT
407 solution was not able to control browning in potato slices in the conditions established.

408 **3.8. Polyphenol oxidase (PPO) and peroxidase (POD) activity**

409 Initial values of PPO activity ranged between 461.9 ± 32.5 and $855.5 \pm 56.4 \Delta OD 10^6 / kg \cdot s$
410 (Figure 5). The higher values presented in PPO activity of GT samples were attributed to the
411 increased content of phenolic compounds after the addition of GT, which act as a substrate for
412 PPO (Tsouvaltzis and Brecht, 2017). MV treated samples showed the lowest PPO activity,
413 which started ranging between 461.9 ± 32.5 and $763.5 \pm 45.5 \Delta OD 10^6 / kg \cdot s$ at D0, and ended
414 ranging from 236.2 ± 10.7 to 312.1 ± 29.4 at D9. This could be explained by the bonding of the
415 organic acids in MV with the phenolic compounds or with PPO, thus creating inactive
416 complexes. The acids that are present in MV could also contribute to a pH decrease, making
417 PPO less effective in its suboptimal pH (Tsouvaltzis and Brecht, 2017).

418 POD activity at D0 ranged between $5,696.1 \pm 323.6$ and $8,443.0 \pm 821.6 \Delta OD 10^6 / kg \cdot s$. A
419 clear effect of antioxidants or US conditions could not be identified. Even though initial
420 activities were significantly different between the samples, a general decrease of such values
421 was observed during storage, making POD activities homogeneous in all samples at the end of
422 the 9-day storage. The initial higher values of POD and PPO activity in GT-130, and also in PPO
423 in MV-130, could be attributed to the sonication and the subsequent liberation of the enzymes
424 (O'Donnell, Tiwari, Bourke, & Cullen, 2010). The posterior decrease could be explained by the
425 effect of MV – by means of pH decrease - and GT – for its antioxidant compounds – as
426 explained before.

427 3.9.Overall view

428 A Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was performed in order to provide an overall view of the
429 effects that the different treatments, CK, MV, and GT, and the different US conditions applied,
430 0, 35, or 130 kHz, relating all the studied variables. In both PCAs, D0 and D9, scores were
431 distributed similarly. There was one separated group, formed by MV samples, and another two
432 groups that overlap, CK and GT.

433 At D0 (Supplementary material, 3A), the sum of variability explained by principal component 1
434 (PC1) and principal component 2 (PC2) was 73.4 %. MV samples were located in one side of
435 the PC1, and CK and GT samples were located in the other side of the PC1, in two groups that
436 had an intersection, meaning that a similar trend was found in those samples. MV samples
437 were characterized by a high dry matter content and high antioxidant activity expressed as
438 DPPH· inhibition and FRAP. A direct connection between membrane conductivity and MDA
439 content in PC1 was also observable, as the more stressed and disrupted the potato tissue was,
440 the higher those values were. An indirect relationship was found between these parameters
441 and TAP and TAM counts, which were higher for GT and CK samples. Variances found between
442 MV and GT could be attributed to the differences of both antioxidants. MV solution is mainly
443 composed of ascorbic acid, whose antimicrobial effects relay on the free radicals formation
444 during autoxidation of the acid (Tajkarimi and Ibrahim, 2011), and on the low pH, that makes it
445 difficult for bacteria to survive as it alters some metabolic cycles (Angós, Vírseada, & Fernández,
446 2008). GT extract consists mainly of phenolic compounds, which basically interact with
447 membrane-dependent processes (cell signaling cycle, arachidonic acid metabolism, cell
448 proliferation, apoptosis and mitochondrial functionality) (Taylor, Hamilton-Miller, & Stapleton,
449 2005).

450 At D9 (Supplementary material, 3B), the sum of variability explained by PC1 and PC2 was 74.1
451 %. Groups were distributed similarly to D0. Gas concentration appeared to be a significant
452 variable, and related with TAM and TAP counts. Indeed, a reduced O₂ pressure in the package
453 acts as a reducer of metabolism rate of microorganisms (Zahra et al., 2016). As happened in
454 D0, GT was positively related to a higher a* value, indicating a more brownish colour, given by
455 the solution. Also, MV was characterized by high antioxidant values expressed by DPPH·
456 inhibition, and higher content in dry matter, which was attributed to the organic acids present
457 in the solution. High L* values also correlated with MV samples, which verified that MV could
458 maintain potato slices brighter after the 9-day storage. As a general rule, the more O₂
459 concentration in contact with the surface of potatoes, the more polyphenols will be oxidized
460 by PPO and converted into brownish molecules that will change the colour of the samples
461 (Deng, Yang, Capanoglu, Cao, & Xiao, 2018). However, some authors discussed the direct
462 implication of the main components that are usually related to browning: PPO, POD, hydrogen
463 peroxide, ascorbic acid content, and initial phenolics content as well as total and individual
464 phenolics accumulation. According to Cantos et al. (2002), none of these parameters per
465 separate was able to fully explain the browning behavior of fresh-cut potatoes. Moreover, they
466 suggested that to completely understand the possible limiting factors in the development of
467 browning in fresh-cut potatoes, more studies involving other important aspects (lipid
468 composition, calcium content, protease activity, agronomic practices, etc.) are required.

469 **4. Conclusions**

470 In this study, two anti-browning solutions, were evaluated to prevent browning and prolong
471 the shelf-life of packaged fresh-cut potatoes stored at 4 °C. The effect of ultrasound in
472 increasing the penetration of the antioxidant in the potato tissue could not be elucidated.

473 Despite the *in vitro* efficacy of green tea (GT) in decreasing polyphenol oxidation activity, its
474 performance *in vivo* was affected by the surface darkening of potato caused by the coloration
475 of the antioxidant solution *per se*. Moreover, no significant improvement in microbial counts,
476 antioxidant activity, or reducing sugars, was observed when compared to the control.

477 Conversely, the visual quality of potatoes immersed in a commercial mix of vitamins and
478 minerals (MV) was acceptable after 9 days of storage, for no browning had developed.
479 Antioxidant capacity and total phenolic content values were higher in MV samples than in the
480 control samples. Furthermore, this treatment was able to exert a higher control on the
481 psychrophilic microorganisms, which otherwise, could grow at 4 °C. Overall, NatureSeal®
482 proved to be a good product to prevent sliced potato deterioration.

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486 **Conflict of interests**

487 The authors declare no conflict of interests.

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Table 1. Time evolution of L* and a* values, and Hue angle and Chroma values of potatoes processed with antioxidants combined with US, expressed as the mean of 10 replicates \pm standard deviation. Different lowercase letters mean significant differences (p -value < 0.05) between treatments in the same D, and different capital letters mean significant differences (p -value < 0.05) between days within the same treatment.

L*					
Treatment	D0	D2	D4	D7	D9
CK-0	69.8 \pm 1.3 ^{aA}	70.1 \pm 0.6 ^{aA}	71.4 \pm 0.6 ^{aA}	69.1 \pm 0.8 ^{aA}	69.7 \pm 2.1 ^{aA}
CK-35	70.4 \pm 1.8 ^{aA}	71.2 \pm 0.9 ^{aA}	71.1 \pm 0.7 ^{aA}	70.0 \pm 1.3 ^{aA}	69.4 \pm 0.7 ^{aA}
CK-130	69.3 \pm 0.2 ^{aA}	69.3 \pm 0.5 ^{aA}	70.5 \pm 0.9 ^{aA}	69.8 \pm 1.2 ^{aA}	69.9 \pm 1.9 ^{aA}
NS-0	69.6 \pm 0.6 ^{aA}	67.8 \pm 1.1 ^{bA}	70.8 \pm 1.2 ^{aA}	68.4 \pm 2.4 ^{aA}	70.9 \pm 0.9 ^{aA}
NS-35	69.0 \pm 0.3 ^{aA}	66.8 \pm 0.8 ^{bB}	69.1 \pm 0.9 ^{aA}	68.8 \pm 1.2 ^{aAB}	70.2 \pm 0.4 ^{aA}
NS-130	69.6 \pm 0.7 ^{aA}	66.8 \pm 1.2 ^{bB}	70.4 \pm 1.2 ^{aA}	70.2 \pm 0.8 ^{aA}	70.1 \pm 0.5 ^{aA}
GT-0	68.3 \pm 1.5 ^{bA}	67.8 \pm 1.0 ^{bA}	68.5 \pm 0.5 ^{bA}	67.5 \pm 1.2 ^{aA}	67.6 \pm 1.4 ^{bA}
GT-35	67.6 \pm 1.3 ^{bA}	68.2 \pm 1.2 ^{bA}	69.6 \pm 0.4 ^{bA}	68.6 \pm 1.1 ^{aA}	66.6 \pm 2.4 ^{bA}
GT-130	68.2 \pm 0.8 ^{bA}	68.0 \pm 1.5 ^{bA}	67.6 \pm 1.7 ^{bA}	67.6 \pm 2.3 ^{aA}	68.2 \pm 0.9 ^{bA}
a*					
Treatment	D0	D2	D4	D7	D9
CK-0	-6.5 \pm 0.2 ^{abcA}	-5.9 \pm 0.1 ^{cdAB}	-5.4 \pm 0.4 ^{bABC}	-5.1 \pm 0.2 ^{bBC}	-4.5 \pm 0.9 ^{bC}
CK-35	-6.9 \pm 0.1 ^{bA}	-6.3 \pm 0.3 ^{cdeB}	-5.2 \pm 0.2 ^{bC}	-5.6 \pm 0.2 ^{bC}	-4.2 \pm 0.2 ^{bD}
CK-130	-6.5 \pm 0.1 ^{abcA}	-5.7 \pm 0.1 ^{cAB}	-5.1 \pm 0.2 ^{bBC}	-5.3 \pm 0.4 ^{bBC}	-4.7 \pm 0.7 ^{bC}
NS-0	-6.9 \pm 0.1 ^{bA}	-6.9 \pm 0.1 ^{eA}	-6.8 \pm 0.3 ^{cA}	-5.9 \pm 0.6 ^{bB}	-4.0 \pm 0.1 ^{bC}
NS-35	-6.8 \pm 0.2 ^{bcA}	-6.5 \pm 0.1 ^{eAB}	-6.4 \pm 0.1 ^{cAB}	-5.9 \pm 0.1 ^{bAB}	-4.9 \pm 0.6 ^{bC}
NS-130	-6.7 \pm 0.1 ^{abcA}	-6.6 \pm 0.1 ^{deA}	-6.7 \pm 0.3 ^{cA}	-5.9 \pm 0.6 ^{bAB}	-5.0 \pm 0.4 ^{bB}
GT-0	-6.4 \pm 0.2 ^{abA}	-2.5 \pm 0.4 ^{abC}	-3.4 \pm 0.4 ^{aB}	-3.7 \pm 0.4 ^{aB}	-3.7 \pm 0.1 ^{aD}
GT-35	-6.3 \pm 0.2 ^{aA}	-3.7 \pm 0.3 ^{bBC}	-3.8 \pm 0.3 ^{aB}	-3.6 \pm 0.1 ^{aBC}	-2.9 \pm 0.4 ^{aC}
GT-130	-6.5 \pm 0.3 ^{abcA}	-3.9 \pm 0.5 ^{bB}	-3.5 \pm 0.4 ^{aB}	-3.6 \pm 0.6 ^{aB}	-2.9 \pm 0.4 ^{aB}

Treatment	Hue D0	D2	D4	D7	D9
CK-0	165.9 ± 0.1 ^{abA}	166.8 ± 0.4 ^{cA}	168.2 ± 0.4 ^{aA}	168.1 ± 0.4 ^{aA}	170.8 ± 1.9 ^{aB}
CK-35	165.7 ± 0.1 ^{bA}	166.6 ± 0.8 ^{cdAB}	168.1 ± 0.6 ^{aC}	167.4 ± 0.2 ^{aBC}	170.6 ± 0.4 ^{aD}
CK-130	165.7 ± 0.2 ^{bA}	166.8 ± 0.1 ^{cAB}	168.3 ± 0.3 ^{aBC}	167.7 ± 0.3 ^{aABC}	169.6 ± 1.7 ^{aC}
MV-0	166.2 ± 0.3 ^{abA}	165.2 ± 0.3 ^{deA}	166.5 ± 0.1 ^{bA}	166.7 ± 0.5 ^{aA}	173.8 ± 0.4 ^{aA}
MV-35	166.0 ± 0.1 ^{abA}	164.7 ± 0.2 ^{dE}	166.2 ± 0.2 ^{bA}	166.7 ± 0.7 ^{aA}	169.3 ± 1.6 ^{aB}
MV-130	166.4 ± 0.2 ^{aB}	164.8 ± 0.3 ^{dE}	166.1 ± 0.2 ^{bAB}	167.1 ± 0.5 ^{aB}	168.7 ± 1.0 ^{aC}
GT-0	165.8 ± 0.2 ^{bA}	174.4 ± 0.7 ^{aD}	172.9 ± 0.5 ^{cC}	171.9 ± 0.7 ^{bc}	170.0 ± 0.2 ^{aB}
GT-35	166.1 ± 0.2 ^{abA}	172.3 ± 0.4 ^{bB}	172.4 ± 0.6 ^{cB}	172.2 ± 0.5 ^{bB}	173.8 ± 0.6 ^{aC}
GT-130	165.8 ± 0.2 ^{bA}	171.8 ± 0.7 ^{bB}	172.6 ± 0.6 ^{cBC}	172.2 ± 0.9 ^{bB}	174.1 ± 0.6 ^{aC}

Treatment	Chroma D0	D2	D4	D7	D9
CK-0	26.9 ± 0.9 ^{abA}	25.7 ± 1.1 ^{cA}	26.5 ± 0.7 ^{aA}	24.6 ± 1.1 ^{aA}	28.0 ± 0.5 ^{aB}
CK-35	28.1 ± 0.7 ^{bA}	27.0 ± 0.4 ^{cdAB}	26.0 ± 0.3 ^{aC}	25.7 ± 1.2 ^{aBC}	25.6 ± 0.7 ^{aD}
CK-130	26.5 ± 0.8 ^{bA}	25.0 ± 0.3 ^{cAB}	25.3 ± 0.8 ^{aBC}	24.8 ± 1.6 ^{aABC}	26.1 ± 0.8 ^{aC}
MV-0	28.9 ± 1.1 ^{abA}	27.0 ± 1.0 ^{deA}	29.0 ± 1.0 ^{bA}	25.6 ± 1.7 ^{aA}	25.2 ± 1.1 ^{aA}
MV-35	28.1 ± 0.3 ^{abA}	24.9 ± 0.2 ^{eA}	27.0 ± 0.7 ^{bA}	25.7 ± 1.7 ^{aA}	26.4 ± 1.2 ^{aB}
MV-130	28.5 ± 0.8 ^{aB}	25.3 ± 0.9 ^{eA}	28.1 ± 1.6 ^{bAB}	26.8 ± 1.8 ^{aB}	25.6 ± 0.4 ^{aC}
GT-0	26.1 ± 0.8 ^{bA}	24.8 ± 1.2 ^{aD}	27.3 ± 1.5 ^{cC}	26.0 ± 0.6 ^{bc}	27.5 ± 0.4 ^{aB}
GT-35	26.2 ± 1.3 ^{abA}	27.1 ± 0.6 ^{bB}	28.2 ± 0.2 ^{cB}	26.6 ± 1.3 ^{bB}	27.0 ± 1.4 ^{aC}
GT-130	26.4 ± 0.3 ^{bA}	26.5 ± 1.5 ^{bB}	27.2 ± 1.3 ^{cBC}	26.2 ± 1.8 ^{bB}	27.8 ± 1.3 ^{aC}

Figure 1. Microbial counts (log CFU / g) of total aerobic mesophylls (TAM, ■), total aerobic psychrophiles (TAP, ▣), of control (CK, **A**), mix of vitamins (MV, **B**), and green tea (GT, **C**) without ultrasound 0 kHz (**1**) or with ultrasound at 35 kHz (**2**) or 130 kHz (**3**). Values are the mean ± standard deviation (n=3). Different lowercase letters mean significant differences between treatments on the same day ($p < 0.05$). Different capital letters mean significant differences between days within the same treatment ($p < 0.5$).

Figure 2. Reducing sugars (g / kg, in FW basis) (**A**) and dry matter (%) (**B**) at day 0 (■) and day 9 (▣). Values are the mean ± standard deviation (n=3). Different lowercase letters mean significant differences between treatments on the same day ($p < 0.05$). Different capital letters mean significant differences between days within the same treatment ($p < 0.5$).

Figure 3. Malonildihaldeyide content (MDA, $\mu\text{mol} / \text{kg}$) (**bars**) and conductivity (mS / m) (**lines**) of control (CK, **A**), mix of vitamins (MV, **B**), and green tea (GT, **C**) without ultrasound 0 kHz (**1**) or with ultrasound at 35 kHz (**2**) or 130 kHz (**3**). Values are the mean ± standard deviation (n=4). Different lowercase letters mean significant differences between treatments on the same day ($p < 0.05$). Different capital letters mean significant differences between days within the same treatment ($p < 0.5$).

Figure 4. Antioxidant capacity (ascorbic acid equivalents, mmol / kg, in DW basis) (**bars**) and total phenolic content (gallic acid equivalents, mmol kg^{-1} , in DW basis) (**lines**) of control (CK, **A**), mix of vitamins (MV, **B**), and green tea (GT, **C**) without ultrasound 0 kHz (**1**) or with ultrasound at 35 kHz (**2**) or 130 kHz (**3**). Values are the mean ± standard deviation (n=4). Different lowercase letters mean significant differences between treatments on the same day ($p < 0.05$). Different capital letters mean significant differences between days within the same treatment ($p < 0.5$).

Figure 5. Polyphenol oxidase (PPO, **A**) and peroxidase (POD, **B**) activities in potato ($\Delta\text{OD } 10^3 / \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}$, in protein basis) of (CK, 1), mix of vitamins (MV, 2), and green tea (GT, 3) combined with US at 0 kHz (■), 35 kHz (▣), 130 kHz (▢). Values are the mean ± standard deviation (n=4). Different lowercase letters mean significant differences between treatments on the same day ($p < 0.05$). Different capital letters mean significant differences between days within the same treatment ($p < 0.5$).

Supplementary material 1. Experimental design

Supplementary material 2. Images of the fresh-cut potatoes in control (CK), with mix of vitamins (MV) or green tea (GT) with or without ultrasound at 35 or 130 kHz, during storage at 4 °C for 9 days (D0, D2, D4, D7, D9).

Supplementary material 3. Principal component analysis of the relationship between variables studied, at day 0 (**A**) and day 9 (**B**).

Fig. 1

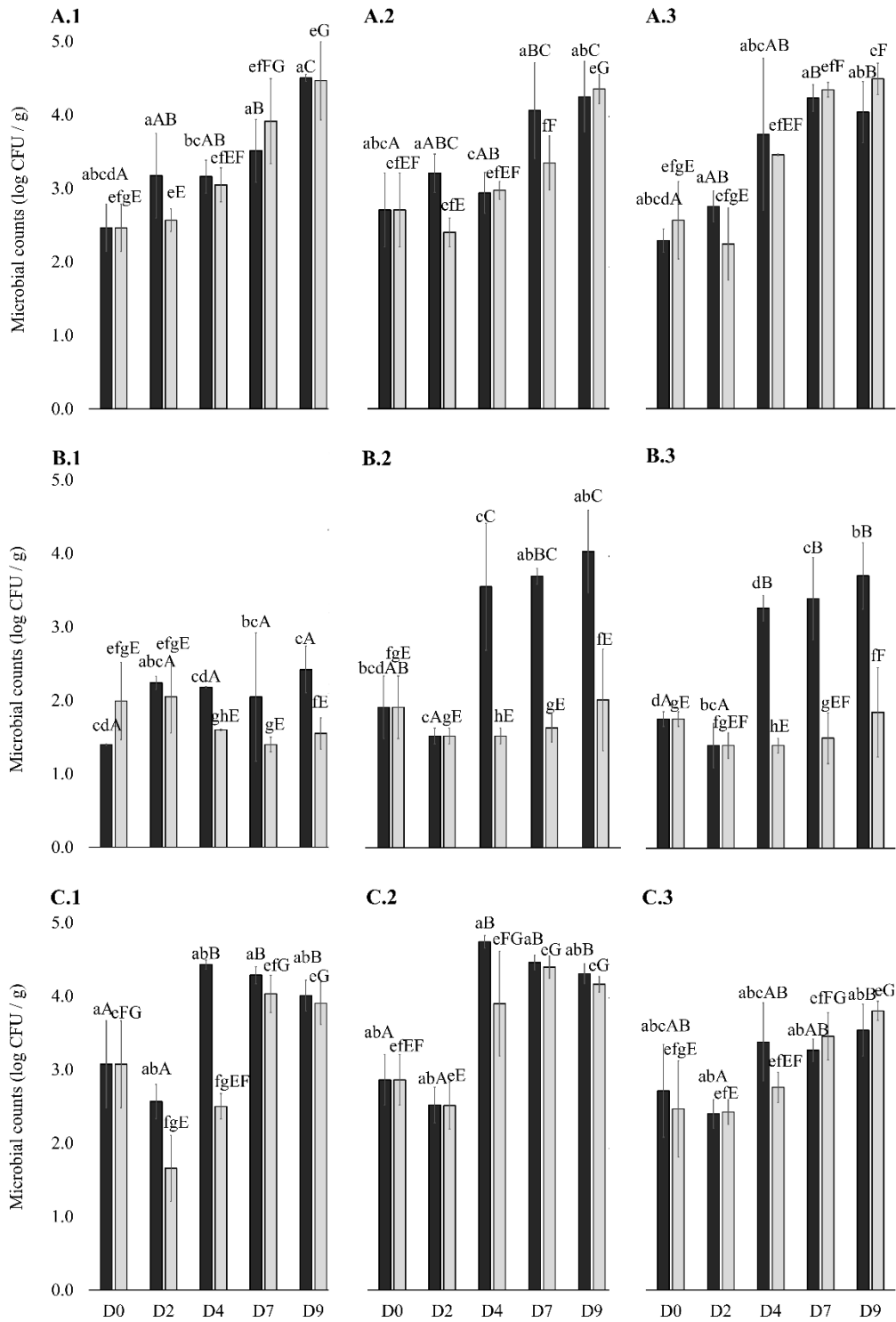


Fig 2

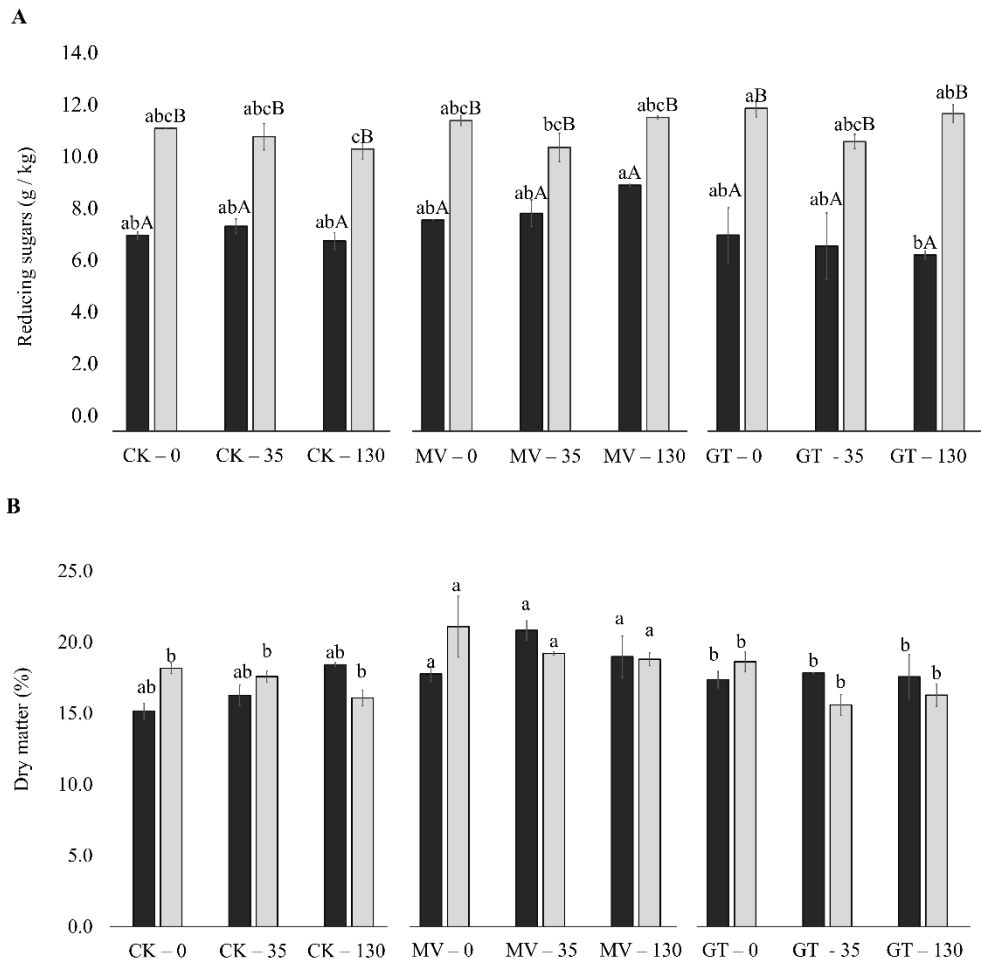


Fig. 3

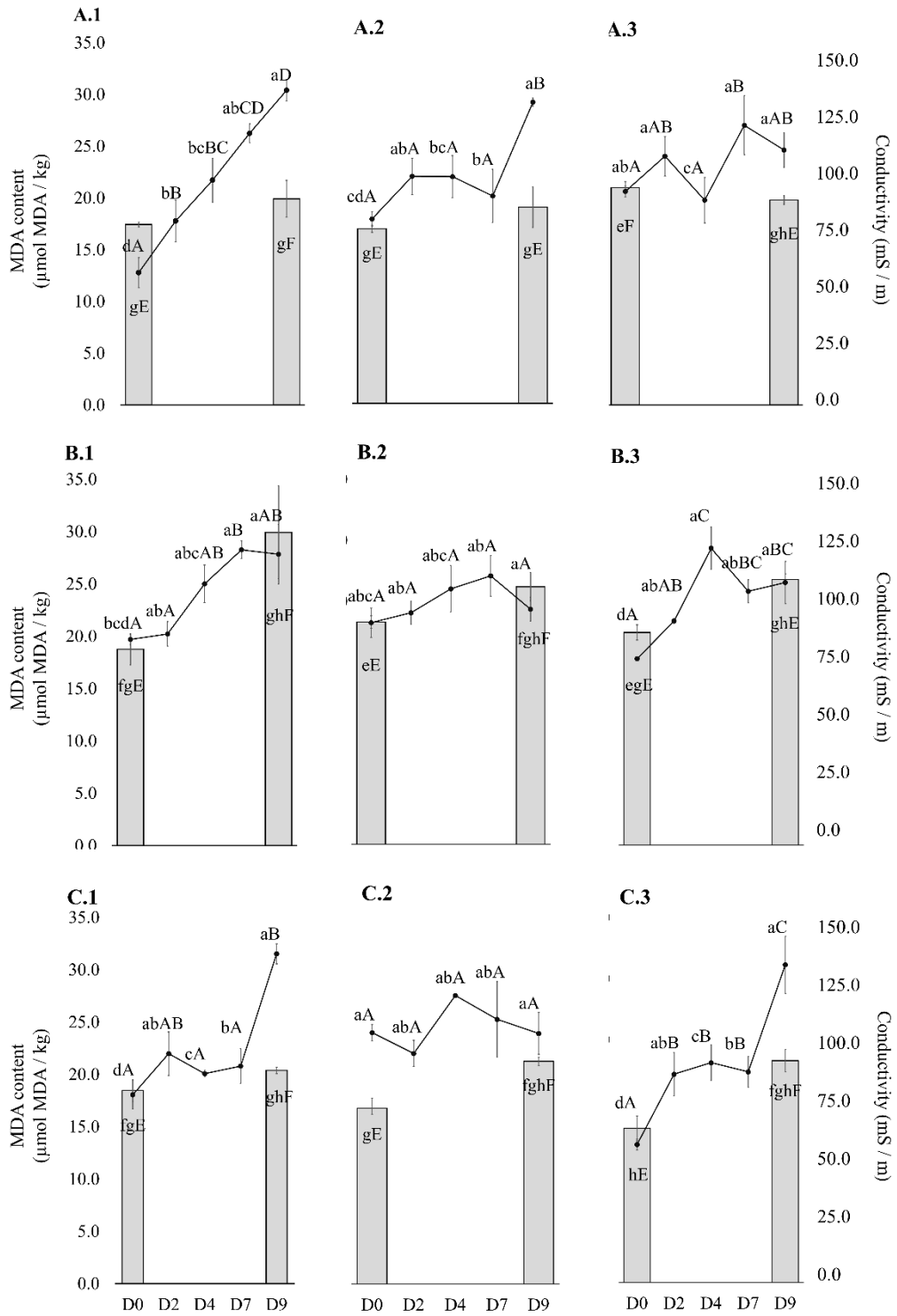


Fig 4

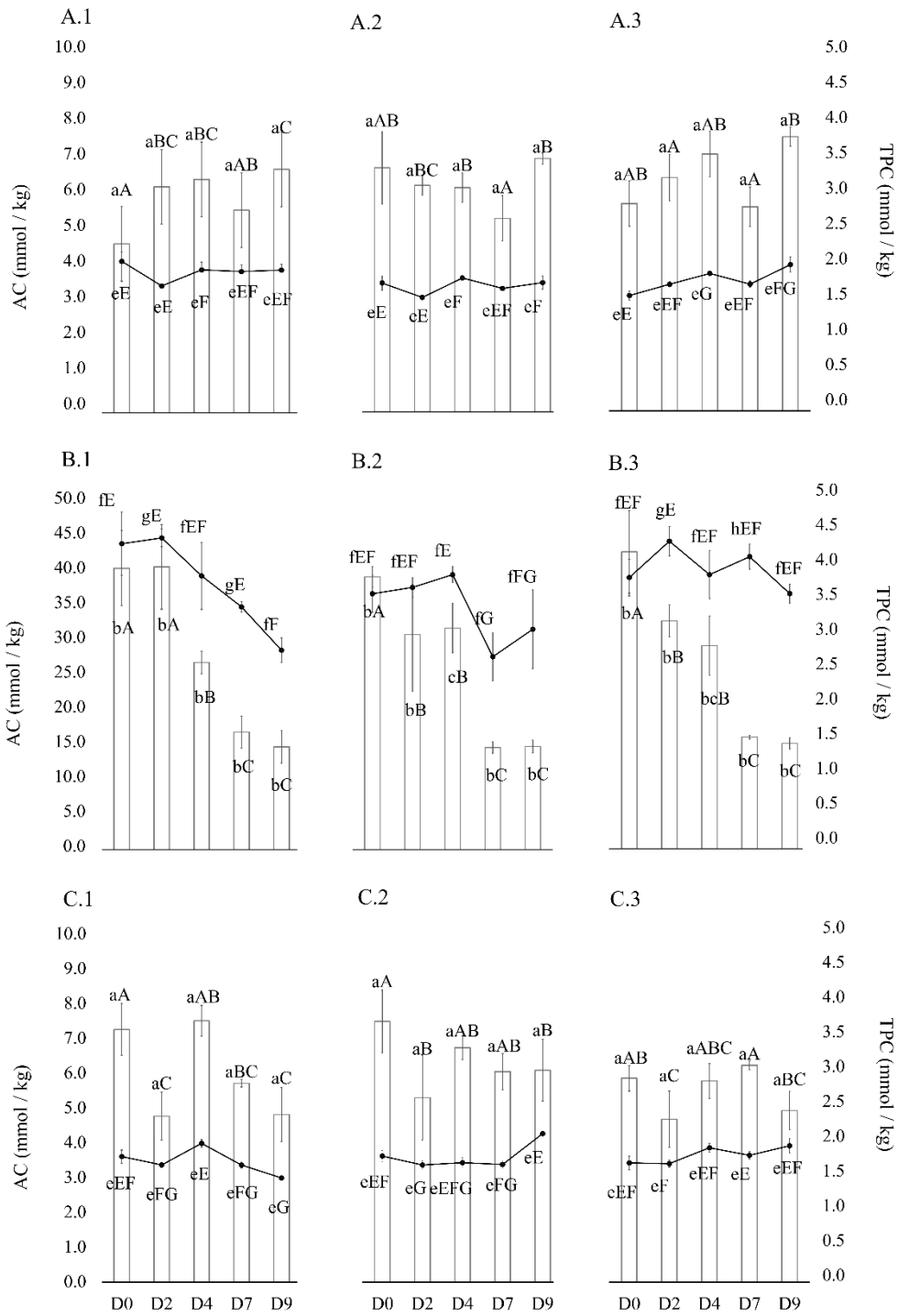
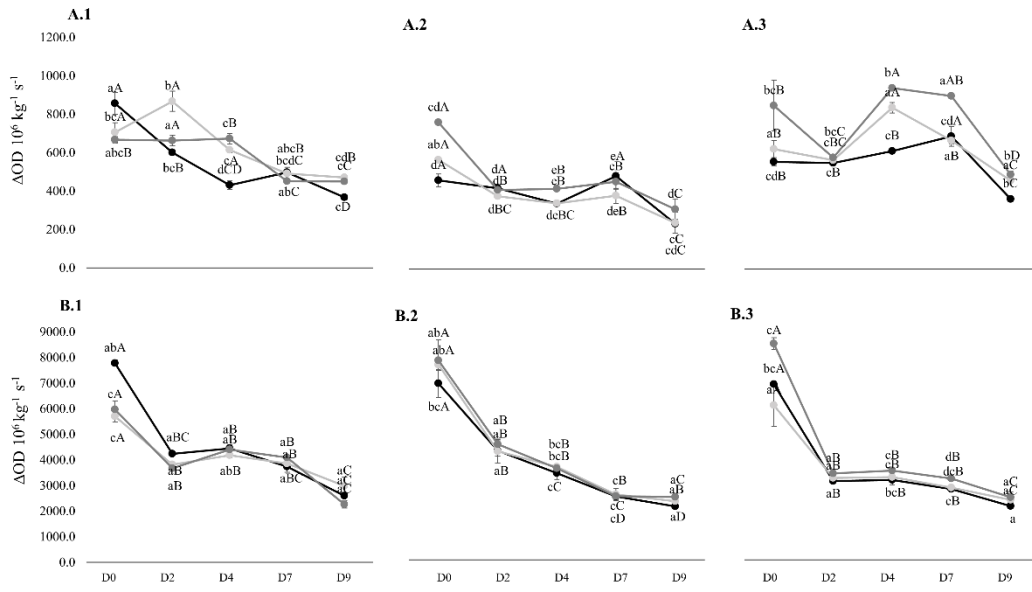
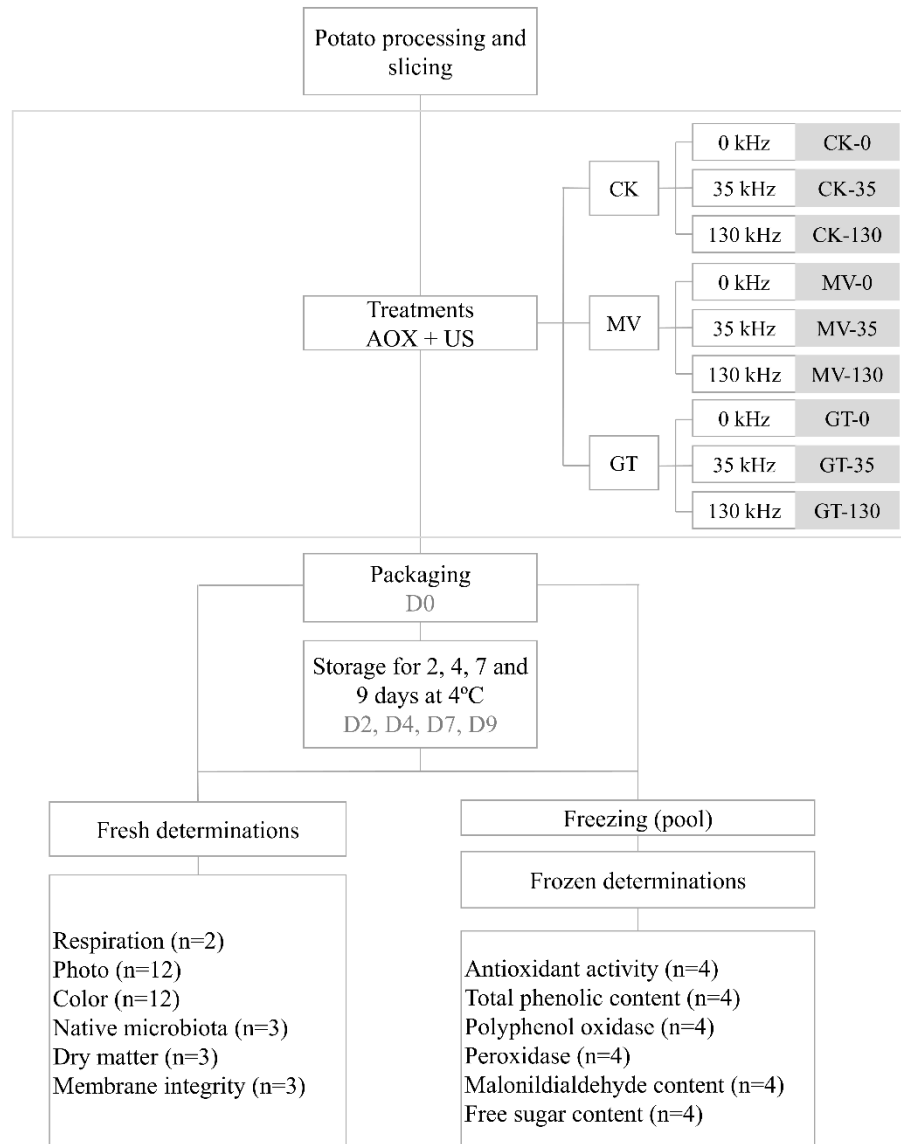
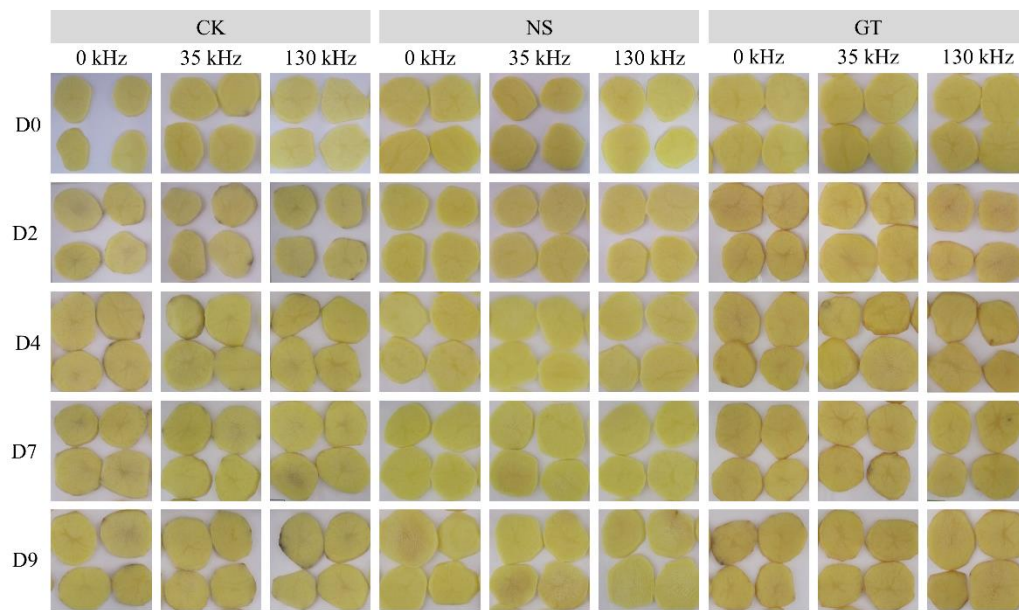


Fig 5

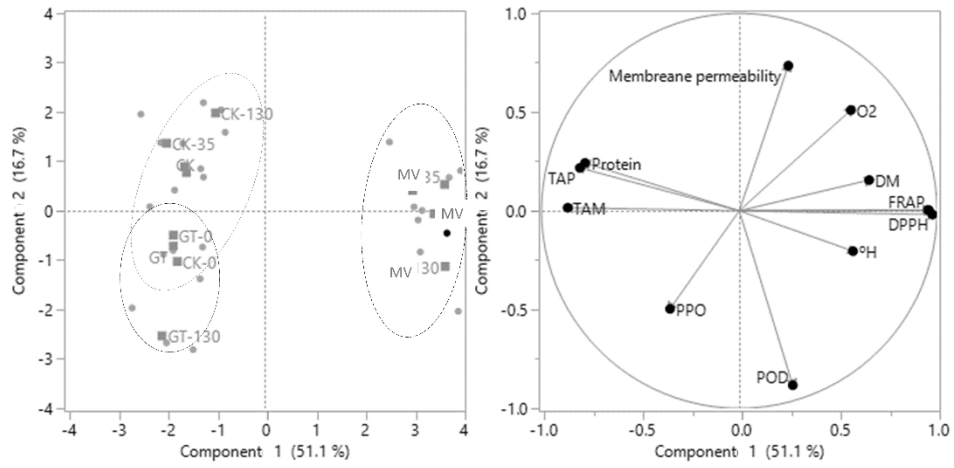




Supl 2



A



B

