

1 DETERMINATION OF CRITICAL LEVELS OF RESIDUAL OXYGEN TO MINIMIZE  
2 DISCOLORATION OF SLICED PACKAGED NORWEGIAN SALAMI UNDER LIGHT  
3 DISPLAY

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11 Abstract

12 Discoloration of sliced packaged salami is contributing to rejection of the product, food waste  
13 and economical loss. A combination of residual O<sub>2</sub> in the headspace of packages and light is  
14 causing photooxidation and deterioration of colour. The aim of this study was to establish  
15 maximum tolerable concentrations of residual O<sub>2</sub> in packages of salami slices with 100 % N<sub>2</sub>  
16 under light display at 4 and 20 °C. Salami sausages had variable inherent O<sub>2</sub> consumption  
17 rate. Storage of salami in 1 % O<sub>2</sub> in darkness did not induce discoloration. The upper limits  
18 for O<sub>2</sub> for avoiding discoloration under light were variable in the range 0.1 – 1.0 %, depending  
19 on temperature and type of salami. Display at 20 °C increased the rate of O<sub>2</sub> depletion  
20 compared to 4 °C. To minimize discoloration, sliced and packaged salami should be stored in  
21 darkness at approximately 20 °C until the level of residual O<sub>2</sub> is reduced below a critical limit.

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## 31 1. Introduction

32 Dry-cured fermented sausages of salami type are widely produced in Europe and other parts  
33 of the world. Salami usually contains pork and occasionally other meats, as well as pork fat,  
34 sodium chloride, curing agents like nitrite and nitrate, reducing agents like ascorbic acid and  
35 ascorbate, spices, carbohydrates and starter cultures (Toldrá, 2002). The process of  
36 fermentation, ripening and drying of the sausages results in a weight loss of more than 30 %  
37 (Cevoli, Fabbri, Tabanelli, Montanari, Gardini, Lanciotti, & Guarnieri, 2014). The red to pink  
38 colour of salami is produced by nitric monoxide binding to the muscle pigment myoglobin,  
39 forming nitrosylmyoglobin, and is stabilized by reduction of the pH in the sausage (Møller &  
40 Skibsted, 2002). Sliced, packaged salami is prone to discoloration. Discolored salami and  
41 other meat products are contributing to undesirable food waste and lower commercial value  
42 at retail.

43 The discoloration of sliced, packaged salami is usually caused by the combination of residual  
44 O<sub>2</sub> in the packages and light exposure at display. Photooxidation of nitrosylmyoglobin comes  
45 from harmful light both in the ultraviolet and visible areas (Møller & Skibsted, 2002). Sliced,  
46 dry-cured Milano-type sausages were packaged in vacuum or 100 % N<sub>2</sub> and exposed to light  
47 and temperatures typical for retail display for 60 days (Zanardi, Dorigoni, Badiani, &  
48 Chizzolini, 2002). The vacuum packaged sausages were less red than those in N<sub>2</sub> at the end  
49 of display, probably due to higher residual O<sub>2</sub> levels in the vacuum packages, but specific O<sub>2</sub>  
50 concentrations were not established. Furthermore, Spanish dry fermented sausages of  
51 Salchichón type were slightly less red in vacuum than 20 % CO<sub>2</sub>/ 80 % N<sub>2</sub>, but only by a 0.5  
52 a\* redness value (Rubio, Martínez, García-Cachán, Rovira, & Jaime, 2008). It seems like the  
53 level of residual O<sub>2</sub> in the headspace of the packages was not clarified.

54 The O<sub>2</sub> level in the headspace of the packages is a combination of several factors: residual  
55 O<sub>2</sub> level at time of packaging influenced by packaging machinery and operation, O<sub>2</sub> barrier  
56 properties of the packaging materials and oxygen consumption due to microbiological growth  
57 (Møller, Jakobsen, Weber, Martinussen, & Bertelsen, 2003). The O<sub>2</sub> barrier property of the  
58 packaging film is crucial for the access of O<sub>2</sub> to the product. Sliced, vacuum packaged salami  
59 was analysed for colour changes in films with O<sub>2</sub> transmission rates of 1, 11, 30, 72 and 90  
60 ml/ m<sup>2</sup>/ 24 hrs at 23 °C and 0 % RH, respectively (Yen, Brown, Dick, & Acton, 1988). Films  
61 with 30 ml or higher O<sub>2</sub> transmission rates resulted in less redness and more discoloration at  
62 light display, and the discoloration increased with longer light display, up to 8 weeks. In this  
63 study, no change in redness occurred with any of these films under dark storage. The level of  
64 residual O<sub>2</sub> in the headspace of salami packaged in modified atmospheres is reduced due to

O<sub>2</sub> consumption by added and inherent bacteria in the product, mainly lactic acid bacteria. A study of O<sub>2</sub> levels of sliced, dry-cured sausages during storage in N<sub>2</sub> showed that the reduction of detrimental O<sub>2</sub> was faster at 22 than 4 °C, with initial O<sub>2</sub> concentrations of 8 – 14 % over 120 days storage (Scetar, Kovacic, Kurek, & Galic, 2013). In Norway, sliced salami is mostly packaged in modified atmospheres and displayed under light either in chill cabinets or at room temperatures. Cooked ham differs from dry cured sausages by having much lower total bacterial counts, at least early after packaging. Previously, the O<sub>2</sub> headspace levels for initiating discoloration of sliced, cooked ham with nitrite under light display have been set to 0.1 - 0.2 % O<sub>2</sub>, partly depending on the headspace volume. (Møller, Jensen, Olsen, Skibsted, & Bertelsen, 2000; Larsen, Westad, Sørheim, & Nilsen, 2006). To our knowledge, such a critical level for residual O<sub>2</sub> in the headspace for modified atmosphere packaged sliced salami has not yet been established.

The purpose of this study was to determine the maximum levels of residual O<sub>2</sub> in the headspace of N<sub>2</sub> atmospheres to avoid discoloration of sliced Norwegian type salami displayed under light at 4 and 20 °C. The study comprised two types of commercial salami sausages, however, without investigating processing factors of the salamis in this study.

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Products for the experiment

Sausages from two batches of dry fermented salami were supplied by two Norwegian meat companies, and called A and B for this study. The recipes for both sausage types contain meat of pork and beef, pork fat, sodium chloride, spices, garlic, sodium nitrite, sodium ascorbate (A only), rosmarin extract (B only), carbohydrates and starter cultures. The sausages were stuffed in 85 wide mm synthetic casings, and weighed approximately 4 kg each after drying. Salami A consisted of 35 % fat, 21 % protein, 6 % sodium chloride and 38 % water. Salami B consisted of 35 % fat, 18 % protein, 5 % sodium chloride and 41 % water. The sausages A and B were sliced and packaged approximately 1 and 2 months after completed production, respectively.

### 2.2. Experimental set-up

In a first small experiment, packages with sliced salami were injected with air to obtain 1.0 % O<sub>2</sub> in the headspace, and then the reduction of residual O<sub>2</sub> was followed for 7 days. The

experiment included salami sausages A and B, and was performed under light display and in darkness, both at 4 and 20 °C, amounting to 8 x 4 replicates = 32 samples in total.

The second main experiment was a full factorial setup of the experimental factors, including type of salami (A and B), O<sub>2</sub> level (0, 0.10, 0.25, 0.40, 0.75, 1.0 and 20.95 %) and temperature (4 and 20 °C). The concentrations of O<sub>2</sub> were chosen to mimic common levels at packaging (0.1 – 0.4 %), elevated levels by malfunction of packaging (0.75 and 1.0 %) and complete leakage (21 %). All samples were subjected to light, and in addition, the 1 % samples were stored in darkness for comparison. Three replicates were made of each experimental condition, amounting to 32 x 3 = 96 samples in total. Instrumental colour analysis was performed on all samples at day 1, 2, 4 and 7, and visual colour evaluation on one of the replicates at days 1, 2 and 4.

### 2.3. Slicing, packaging and light display

All these operations took place at the Nofima pilot plant. The sausages were sliced on a Bizerba VS12D machine (Bizerba, Balingen, Germany). The slices were 1.0 mm thick and weighed ca. 5 g. Two stacks with 14 slices each were used for one package, yielding ca. 140 g of sausage per package. The holding time for the stacks from slicing to completed packaging was approximately 45 minutes at 18 – 20 °C.

Packaging was performed on a Multivac R145 thermoforming machine (Multivac, Wolfertschwenden, Germany). The black base film was of type Multipet 450 and the transparent top film of type Biaxer 65 XX HFP AFM (both Wipac, Nastola Finland) with O<sub>2</sub> transmission rates of 10 and 5 ml/ m<sup>2</sup> · day, 1 atm at 23 °C and 50 % RH, respectively. The base film was formed into trays 21.5 cm long, 10.8 cm wide and 1.8 cm high. The slices were packaged in 100 % N<sub>2</sub> (AGA, Oslo, Norway). The gas to product or sausage volume ratio (G:P) was approximately 2 to 1. After packaging, the levels of residual O<sub>2</sub> in headspaces were 0.1 – 0.4 %. All packages with salami slices were first stored in darkness at 4 °C for 14 days to allow for complete removal of residual O<sub>2</sub> from the headspaces. To obtain packages with elevated levels of O<sub>2</sub> in the headspace, variable volumes of air were then injected into the packages using syringes with needles through self-sealing septas of type 644209 (Dansensor, Ringsted, Denmark). Packages with air or 20.95 % O<sub>2</sub> were punctured once with a needle. The light display trial started within one hour after supply of air. Storage time for sufficient removal of O<sub>2</sub> and level of injection of air for suitable O<sub>2</sub> concentrations were established through pre-trials.

The light display was standardised to approximately 930 lux continuously at the surface of the salami slices for up to 7 days, both at 4 and 20 °C. The fluorescent lamps at 4 °C were

Natura de luxe L36W/76 (Osram, Munich, Germany) and at 20 °C Auralight T5 Supreme HO 49W/830 (Auralight International AB, Karlskrona, Sweden) both typically used for illumination of meat products in display cabinets and from ceilings in food shops in Norway. The light intensity simulating retail conditions was obtained by adjusting the distance between the light sources and the salami surfaces. The packages under light display were rotated on days 1, 3 and 5 to expose the different samples to nearly uniform levels of light.

#### 2.4. Analyses

The concentration of O<sub>2</sub> in the headspace of the packages was obtained with a Dansensor Checkmate 3 instrument (Dansensor, Ringsted, Denmark) by the use of a small vacuum pump and a needle inserted through self-sealing septas (Dansensor), withdrawing 7 ml of gas. All packages were analyzed at days 0, 4 and 7 of display, while spot tests were performed on days 1 and 2.

Instrumental values (L\* - lightness, a\* - redness and b\* - yellowness) were obtained with a Minolta Chroma Meter CR-400 (Konica Minolta, Inc., Tokyo, Japan) with a 8 mm viewing port, 2° viewer angle and illuminant D<sub>65</sub>. The instrument was calibrated against a white tile (L\* = 97.16, a\* = 0.25 and b\* = 2.09). The samples were measured in intact packages at the product surface through the transparent film. The instrumental colour measurements were performed in four replicates on all samples.

Visual colour evaluation was performed by a 6 member trained panel. The colour of the salami slice surfaces was assessed on a scale of 1 = very red, 2 = slightly red, 3 = slightly brown, 4 = moderately brown and 5 = very brown, adapted from AMSA (2012). Additional standard samples exhibiting scores of 1 and 5 were used at all sampling days as examples for the assessors. During the evaluation, the samples were randomly displayed under PlusLux 3000 warm white light (Thorn, Durham, England) with a light intensity of 1600 lux at the salami surfaces.

Fading of the sausages was analyzed on a Foss XDS Opti Probe Analyzer Reflection and Immersion instrument (Foss NIRSystems Inc., Laurel, Maryland, USA). Spectra of 400 – 700 nm with 10 nm intervals were measured in samples from one replicate at day 4 of display directly through the top film of intact packages. The ratio 650/570 nm expressed the degree of fading of cured meat products with scale ca. 1.1 = no cured colour, ca. 1.6 = moderate fading, 1.7 - 2.0 = noticeable cured colour and 2.2 - 2.6 = excellent cured colour (AMSA, 2012).

pH was measured directly in the sausages with an Ingold Xerolyt electrode (Mettler-Toledo, Greifensee, Switzerland). Water activity of the sausages was analysed at 25 °C with an AquaLab CX-2 instrument (Decagon Devices Inc., Pullman, Washington, USA).

## 2.5. Statistics

The colour parameters were evaluated by a fixed-effects ANOVA model with main effects type of salami, temperature, O<sub>2</sub> level and days of storage. All two-factor interactions were also included in the ANOVA model. The samples with 21 % O<sub>2</sub> and the samples stored in darkness were kept out of the ANOVA analysis, but included in the figures for comparison. The analysis was performed in MATLAB (R2014b, The Mathworks, Inc., Natick, MA, USA, at [www.mathworks.com](http://www.mathworks.com)).

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1. Consumption rate for residual O<sub>2</sub>

A fast consumption of initial residual O<sub>2</sub> by the salami sausages is of importance for avoiding later light induced discoloration. As shown for both salamis type A and B, the reduction in concentration of headspace O<sub>2</sub> from the initial 1.0 % was faster at 20 than 4 °C, and faster in light than in darkness at the lowest temperature (Fig. 1 i and ii). These findings are in agreement with a study of dry cured sausage packaged in N<sub>2</sub> and which had a faster removal of residual O<sub>2</sub> at 22 than 4 °C (Scetar et al., 2013). A higher rate of O<sub>2</sub> consumption under light than in darkness is consistent with results from a similar study of cooked cured sausage (Böhner, Hösl, Rieblinger, & Danzl, 2014), demonstrating O<sub>2</sub> consumption by photooxidative reactions.

The rate of O<sub>2</sub> depletion was higher for salami A than B at 4 °C, meaning that salami A needed shorter time to reach a certain level of residual O<sub>2</sub> than salami B at this low temperature. The specific cause or causes for this difference in O<sub>2</sub> consumption rate between the two salamis are not known, because there are a number of differences in recipes and processes. Salamis A and B had a pH of 5.02 and 4.88 ( $p < 0.05$ ), and an  $a_w$  of 0.875 and 0.897 ( $p < 0.05$ ), respectively. Bacterial O<sub>2</sub> consumption is likely to contribute considerably to removal of O<sub>2</sub> in this system (Toldrá, 2002). Starter cultures added to Scandinavian-type fermented sausages varied in metabolic activity (Klingberg, Axelsson, Naterstad, Elsser, & Budde, 2005). In the present study, salamis A and B were used for the packaging test approximately 1 and 2 months after production, which could contribute to reduced bacterial activity and O<sub>2</sub> consumption for the latter salami.

The O<sub>2</sub> consumption in packages of salami is depending on the gas to meat ratio. In this experiment, the G:P ratio was relatively high at 2:1, where O<sub>2</sub> concentrations of 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8 and 1.0 % corresponded to O<sub>2</sub> headspace volumes of 0.56, 1.12, 1.68, 2.24 and 2.80 ml, respectively. With a low volume of O<sub>2</sub> the gas is removed faster, and the packages with salami can sooner be ready for light exposure. In a modelling of five factors contributing to the discoloration of cooked ham, the headspace to product volume was one of the crucial factors (Møller et al., 2003). Even with low percentages of residual O<sub>2</sub> in the headspace, but combined with high G:P ratios, there will be sufficient O<sub>2</sub> for colour deteriorating processes to take place. For the preservation of the preferred red colour of sliced cooked or dry cured meat products, it is beneficial to try to obtain low G:P ratios at the time of packaging.

### 3.2. Concentrations of initial residual O<sub>2</sub>

The main experiment consisted of 7 concentrations of O<sub>2</sub> that were obtained by injecting various volumes of air, except the samples with pure air, which were made by puncturing the packages. The average initial levels of 0, 0.10, 0.25, 0.40, 0.75, 1.0 and 20.95 % O<sub>2</sub> were reached with only minor deviations from targets, although with some variations within each O<sub>2</sub> group (Table 1).

### 3.3. Effects of residual O<sub>2</sub> on visual and instrumental colour

The ANOVA analysis of the main experiment demonstrated that the type of salami, A or B, explained much of L\* lightness (Table 2). Storage temperatures of 4 or 20 °C influenced the colour attributes, and most for a\* redness. Initial level of residual O<sub>2</sub> in the headspace explained a high degree of the variation in visual colour, a\* values and ratio 650/570 nm for fading. b\* yellowness was not influenced by level of residual O<sub>2</sub> or type of salami. The day of display, 1, 2, 4 and 7, had a bearing on b\*, but had almost no effect on visual colour, L\* and a\*.

The correlation between visual redness score and a\* instrumental redness values was high, with R<sup>2</sup> of 0.97 (Fig. 2). The panel for visual colour evaluation established a maximum score of 2, corresponding to an a\* value of 13.5, of which a noticeable difference in colour or slight discoloration was observed for both sausages, A and B.

The visual colour evaluation at day 4 of the experiment showed that in order to keep the salami at or below an acceptable score of 2, a higher level of initial residual O<sub>2</sub> under light could be tolerated at 20 than 4 °C (Fig. 3). In addition, salami A was more robust and could maintain an acceptable colour at higher levels of O<sub>2</sub> than salami B. Therefore, the specific requirements for maximum residual O<sub>2</sub> were variable, depending on the type salami and storage temperature. Approximate maximum O<sub>2</sub> level for salami A at 4 °C was 0.30 % and at

230 20 °C 1.0 %, while for salami B at 4 °C it was 0.15 % and at 20 °C 0.35 %. Samples of salami  
231 with 1.0 % O<sub>2</sub> stored in darkness were all red and had visual colour scores of approximately  
232 1.

233 The a\* redness colour values at day 4 of display of the salamis A and B stored at 4 and 20  
234 °C are shown in Fig. 4 i. Data for a\* values at 1 and 2 days of light display showed a similar  
235 discoloration as for 4 days, but to a less degree, and slightly more at 7 days (results not  
236 shown). Increasing level of initial O<sub>2</sub> in the headspace of the packages reduced a\* values for  
237 both salamis and temperatures. The sausage controls with 0 % O<sub>2</sub> in light, as well as those  
238 with 1 % O<sub>2</sub> in darkness, both had high a\* values of approximately 16. Decreasing a\* values  
239 were measured for O<sub>2</sub> levels from 0.1 to 21 %, with ultimate a\* values as low as  
240 approximately 4. The most rapid decline in a\* was observed at 4 °C and for salami B. This  
241 high degree of discoloration can be linked to a slower reduction in residual O<sub>2</sub> levels in this  
242 type of samples (Fig. 1). To keep the sliced salami sausages above a critical a\* value of 13.5  
243 after 4 days storage, salami A at 4 °C needed to be below approximately 0.35 %, salami A at  
244 20 °C below 1.0 %, salami B at 4 °C below 0.10 % and salami B at 20 °C below 0.25 % at  
245 this sampling time. The limits for maximum acceptable residual O<sub>2</sub> were almost similar for the  
246 a\* values and visual colour evaluation (Fig. 3).

247 L\* lightness values were consistently 3 - 4 units higher for salami B than A ( $p < 0.01$ ) and 1 -  
248 2 units higher at 4 than 20 °C ( $p < 0.01$ ) (Fig. 4 ii). The lighter colour for sausage B could be  
249 due to fat properties or a higher fraction of pork versus beef in the recipe. The L\* values were  
250 not affected by level of initial O<sub>2</sub>, except increased values for samples in 21 % O<sub>2</sub>.

251 b\* yellowness values did not vary between the different treatments or types of salami in this  
252 experiment (results not shown).

253 The results for fading of the salami are shown in Fig. 5. The ratio 650/570 nm is expressing  
254 the degree of cured colour, with samples with high numbers having a red, typical cured  
255 colour (AMSA, 2012). Again, the samples stored at 20 °C and from sausage A were higher in  
256 650/570 nm values than those at 4 °C and from sausage B. Values at or above 2.2 with  
257 excellent cured colour were noted for salami A at both temperatures and salami B at 20 °C  
258 with 0 and 0.1 % O<sub>2</sub> in light and 1 % O<sub>2</sub> in darkness. Samples of salami B at 4 °C were  
259 considerably lower than salami A in 650/570 ratios at all O<sub>2</sub> levels with light, as well at 1.0 %  
260 O<sub>2</sub> in darkness ( $p < 0.05$ ). The results on fading for these salami B samples differed slightly  
261 from a\* values and visual colour scores, and indicates that changes in the pigment may have  
262 occurred, although not evident to the human eye.

263 3.4. Practical consequences for packaging of salami



One of the main experiences from this study is that for each sliced salami-type product in modified atmosphere packages it is important to learn the rate of reduction in residual O<sub>2</sub> in the headspace. The packages with salami should be stored in darkness until all residual O<sub>2</sub> is consumed, and then the packages can safely be displayed under light. The present study only addressed packaging and display factors, for example level of initial O<sub>2</sub> and storage temperature on the rate of O<sub>2</sub> consumption. To obtain a more complete understanding of the system, future studies should include processing factors like the type and activity of starter cultures, influence of raw materials and ingredients, and fermentation and drying processes.

For this shelf stable dry salami, a display temperature of approximately 20 °C favours a rapid O<sub>2</sub> consumption. In situations where the level of initial residual O<sub>2</sub> is too high, it is advisable to store the sliced salami packages at 20 °C in darkness, to facilitate a fast decline in O<sub>2</sub> levels before exposure to light takes place. The holding time to reach acceptable concentrations of residual O<sub>2</sub> depends on factors like initial O<sub>2</sub> level, G:P ratio and O<sub>2</sub> depletion rate, and should be determined by gas measurements. However, the temperature should not be increased much over 20 °C, where partial melting of fat from the salami can cause consumer rejection of the product, depending on the content of various fatty acids.

#### 4. Conclusions

The strategies for maintaining a red colour of sliced, packaged salami are two-fold: either shielding the sausage from light or ensuring that the concentration of residual O<sub>2</sub> comes below a critical level at the time the light exposure is starting. The present experiment demonstrates that the limit for maximum residual O<sub>2</sub> in the headspace of salami packages at the start of illumination should be in the range 0.1 to 1.0 % O<sub>2</sub>, and depending on the O<sub>2</sub> consuming activity of the sausages and the display temperature. The two batches of salami in this experiment were different in their ability to consume O<sub>2</sub> and hence the extent of discoloration. Possible causes for this difference have been indicated above, but more research is required on the mechanisms of O<sub>2</sub> consumption in a product like salami.

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341 Text to figures

342

343 Fig. 1.

344 The reduction in concentration of residual O<sub>2</sub> (%) in the headspace of packages with sliced  
 345 salami over 7 days storage in darkness (i) and light (ii). All packages were injected with air  
 346 volumes to 1.0 % O<sub>2</sub>. Symbols: x = 4 °C, 0 = 20 °C, unbroken line = salami type A, dotted line  
 347 = salami type B.

348

349 Fig. 2.

350 Correlation between visual colour score and a\* redness values for sliced packaged salami.  
 351 R<sup>2</sup> was 0.97. Scale for visual colour: 1 = very red, 2 = slightly red, 3 = slightly brown, 4 =  
 352 moderately brown and 5 = very brown. Acceptable colour above a\* of 13.5 and below visual  
 353 score of 2.

354

355 Fig. 3.

356 Visual colour score for sliced packaged salami at day 4 as affected by initial O<sub>2</sub> concentration  
357 in the headspace of packages. Scale for visual colour: 1 = very red, 2 = slightly red, 3 =  
358 slightly brown, 4 = moderately brown and 5 = very brown. Acceptable colour below a score of  
359 2. For symbols; see Fig. 1.

360

361 Fig. 4.

362 Instrumental colour for sliced packaged salami at day 4 as affected by initial O<sub>2</sub> concentration  
363 in the headspace of packages, and illustrated for a\* redness values (i) and L\* lightness  
364 values (ii). Acceptable colour above an a\* value of 13.5. For symbols; see Fig. 1.

365

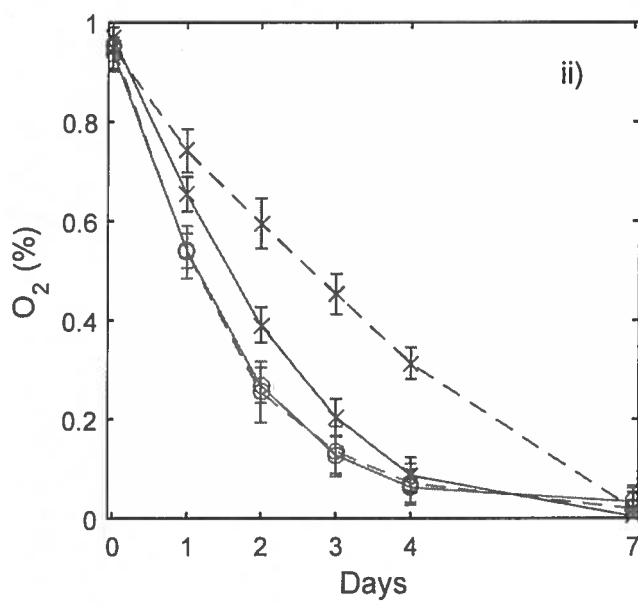
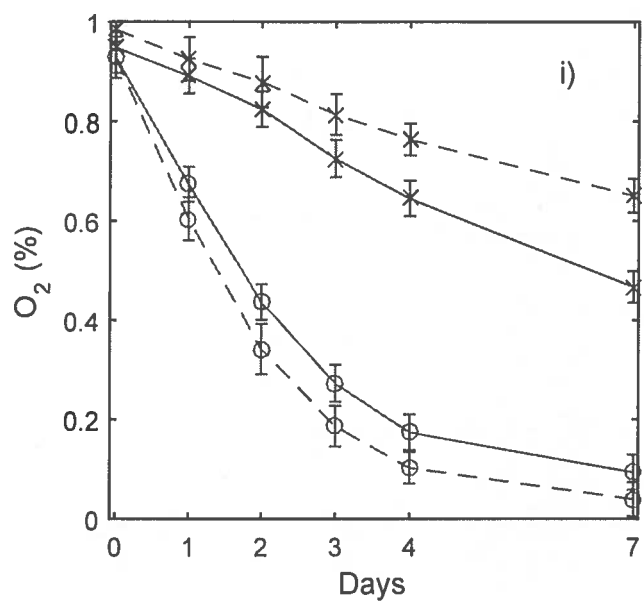
366 Fig. 5.

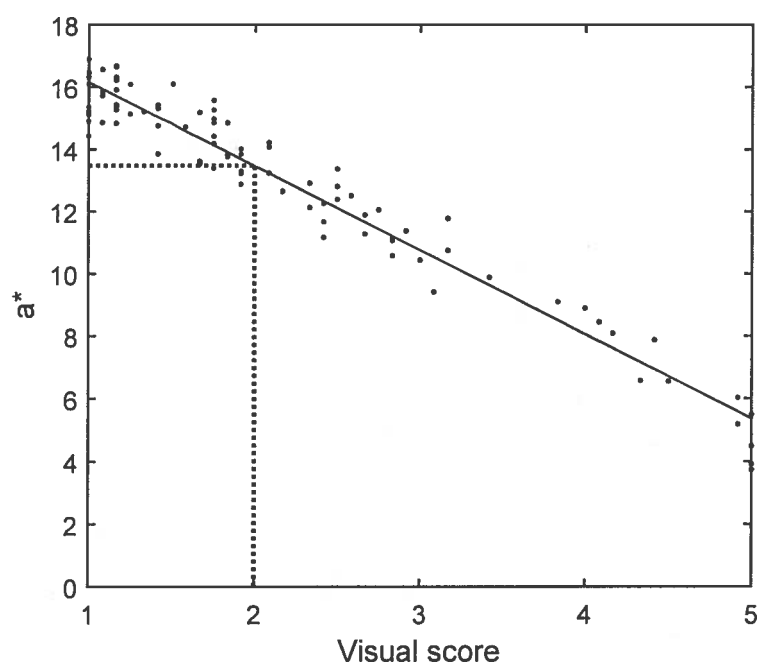
367 Fading by the ratio 650/570 nm for sliced packaged salami at day 4 as affected by initial O<sub>2</sub>  
368 concentration in the headspace of packages. Scale ca. 1.1 = no cured colour, ca. 1.6 =  
369 moderate fading, 1.7 - 2.0 = noticeable cured colour and 2.2 - 2.6 = excellent cured colour  
370 (AMSA, 2012). For symbols; see Fig. 1.

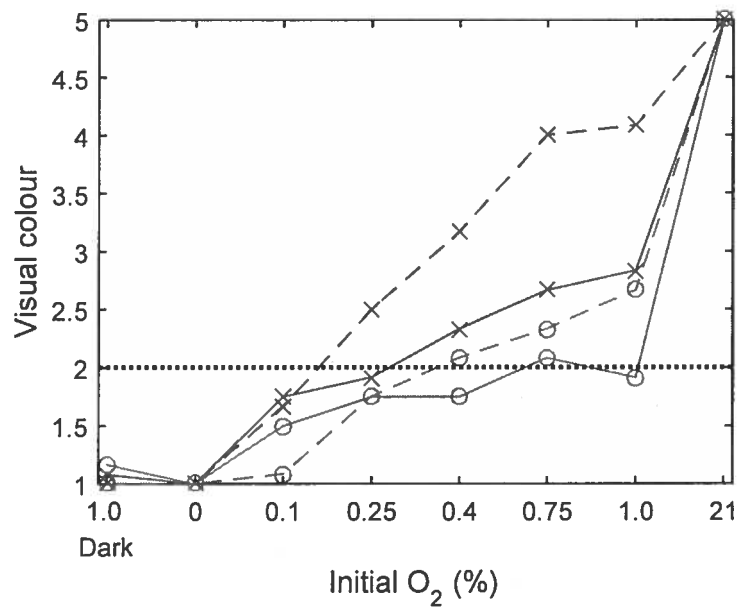
## Highlights

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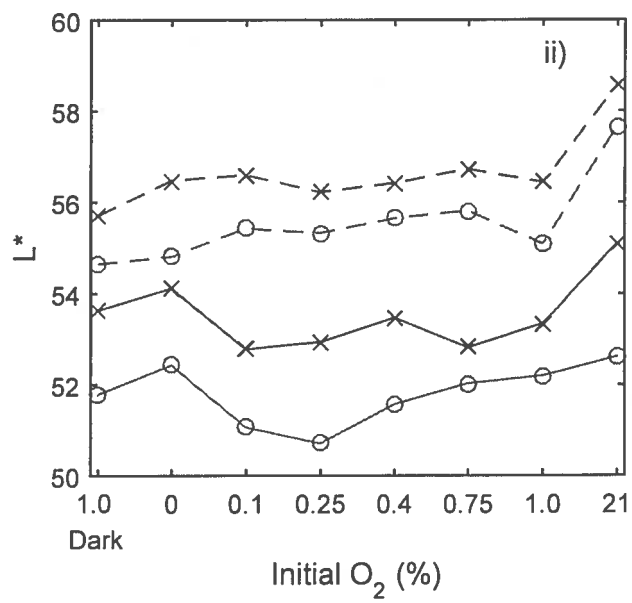
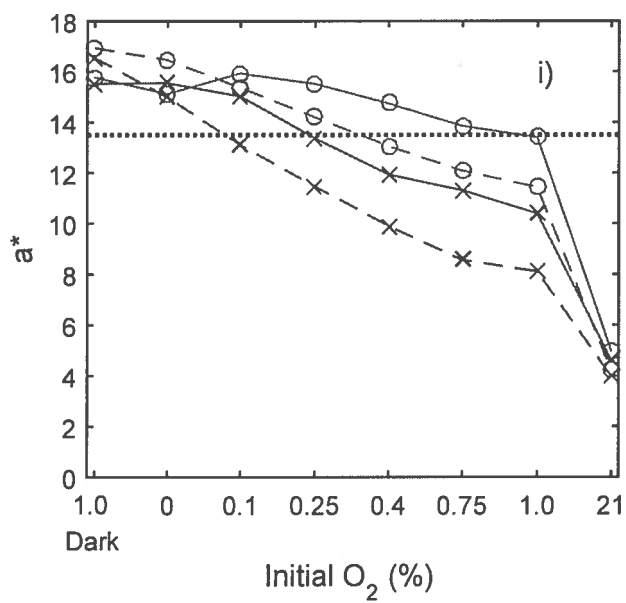
- Discoloration of salami occurs by a combination of residual O<sub>2</sub> and light
- Maximum O<sub>2</sub> headspace concentrations to avoid discoloration in light were 0.1-1.0 %
- Depletion of residual O<sub>2</sub> from headspace was faster at 20 than 4 °C
- Keep sliced packaged salami in darkness until residual O<sub>2</sub> has passed a critical level











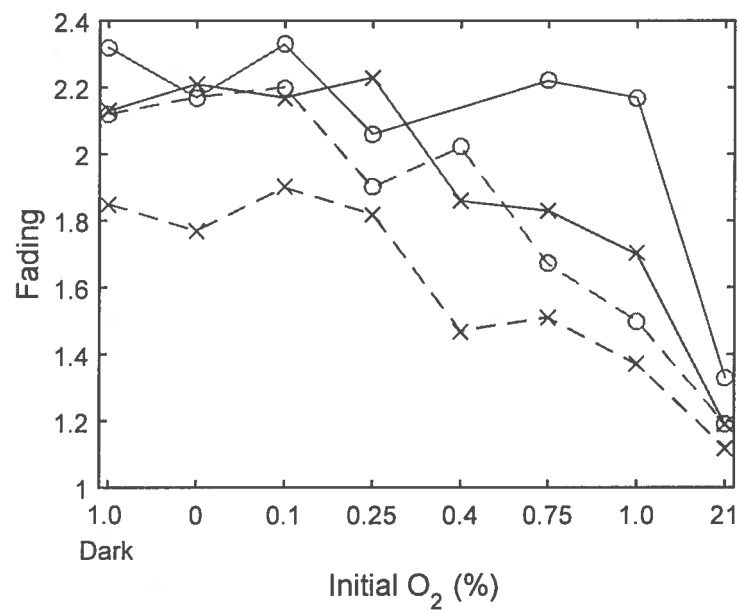


Table1

Concentrations of O<sub>2</sub> (%) at 45 minutes after injection of air in packages of sliced salami.

Target	Minimum	Maximum	Average
0	0.000	0.010	0.005
0.10	0.086	0.111	0.102
0.25	0.200	0.305	0.246
0.40	0.374	0.469	0.417
0.75	0.701	0.809	0.769
1,0	0.975	1.240	1.039
Air	-----	-----	20.95

Table 2

ANOVA analysis for visual evaluation and instrumental color measurements. The numbers are explained variances (%), and bold numbers are statistically significant at a 5 % level. The visual evaluation is based on day 1, 2 and 4, the instrumental colour values are based on day 1, 2, 4 and 7, and fading is based on day 4 only.

	Visual colour	L* lightness	a* redness	b* yellowness	Fading
Salami type	<b>9.6</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>9.6</b>	0.0	<b>15.3</b>
Temp	<b>12.7</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>9.0</b>
StartO <sub>2</sub>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>67.9</b>
Day	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>20.0</b>	
Salami type x Temp	<b>1.2</b>	0.1	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.3</b>	0.1
Salami type x StartO <sub>2</sub>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>12.7</b>	3.0
Salami type x Day	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	
Temp x StartO <sub>2</sub>	<b>5.1</b>	0.2	<b>3.7</b>	0.4	3.5
Temp x Day	0.5	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	
StartO <sub>2</sub> x Day	<b>2.6</b>	0.3	<b>1.3</b>	0.6	
Error	2.5	37.8	17.1	56.1	2.8
R <sup>2</sup> <sub>adj</sub>	0.95	0.61	0.82	0.41	0.86