# Optimization of pulse electric field-assisted protein extraction from lupine flour.

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## **Summary:**

The use of pulse electric field (PEF) for protein extraction (Box-Behnken; 3x1x15- 3 central points) from lupin has been optimized to obtain high-purity protein isolates.

# Introduction.

Present production abilities cannot meet the growing demands for proteins. Lupin is an interesting source with high protein content, but optimal protein extraction procedures are essential to obtain high-quality protein isolates. PEF-assisted is a prominent technology that produces membrane electroporation, increases permeability, and promotes mass transfer. Thus, this study optimized PEF parameters using a Box-Behnken experimental design to facilitate protein extraction from lupin flour.

#### Methods.

Lupin flour obtained from *Lupinus luteus* L. was used. The independent variables were the pulse width ( $x_1$ ; 20-60-100 µs), number of pulses ( $x_2$ ; 100-150-200 pulses), and voltage ( $x_3$ ; 5000-7500-10000 V), while the dependent variables were total yield ( $y_1$ ) and protein purity ( $y_2$ ). Response surface methodology (RSM) based on Box-Behnken design (3 factors and 3 levels;  $3^K$  BBD) with 15 experimental runs and three center points ( $3x_1x_15$ ) was used to obtain the optimal extraction conditions. For each run, 100 g of lupin flour was treated and the protein extraction was carried out using alkaline solubilization (pH 10.3), and isoelectric precipitation (pH 4.7). The lyophilized protein isolates were analyzed.

#### **Results.**

The experimental results showed that yield varied between 20.38% and 26.22%, while purity ranged from 87.14% to 89.28%. The regression model and ANOVA test were applied to determine the functional relationship for approximation and prediction of responses. The coefficients showed high model accuracy ( $R^2$ =0.6688 for yield and  $R^2$ =0.7363 for purity) and the lack of fit test was found to be non-significant, which corroborated the adequacy of the model in representing the experimental data outcomes for all variables.

The ANOVA results indicated that the number of pulses (linear and quadratic effects) had a significant effect on the yield extraction, while pulse width (linear and quadratic effects) and pulse width x number of pulses interaction influenced purity. The optimized extraction conditions were: pulse width = 24  $\mu$ s, number of pulses = 200, and voltage = 10,000V, obtaining 25.55% of total yield and 89.41% of purity (predicted values). The model was validated (predicted/experimental data-%RSD <10%)

### Significance.

PEF-assisted extraction (under optimized conditions) of lupin proteins results in a high yield and a purity close to 90%, which allows obtaining high-quality protein isolates.

