

Physico Chemical, Antioxidant and Pasting Properties of Pre-heated Purple Sweet Potato Flour

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Abstract: Purple sweet potatoes contain anthocyanins which could function as a natural food colorant, and an antioxidant. One of the problems in handling the fresh roots is their susceptibility during storage, and to extend their uses, fresh purple sweet potato could be processed into flour. However, during flouring process, the properties of the purple sweet potato may undergo some changes such as partial gelatinization of the starch and discolorization. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to investigate the effect of pre-heating treatment during flouring process on degree of gelatinization, the anthocyanin content, the antioxidant activity and the total phenolic content of heat treated purple sweet potato flour. Other objectives were to observed the changes in the starch properties such as rheological properties, granular appearance of the heat treated- purple sweet potato flour. Pre-heating treatment of purple sweet potato flour was prepared by heating grated purple sweet potato in a single rotary drum cooker at 90°C for 15, 30, 45, 60 and 75 min, followed by drying in a cabinet dryer at 60°C for 8 h. The results showed the longer pre-heating time at 90°C had caused increase in the degree of gelatinization, increase in total phenolic and anthocyanin retention. In addition, differences in gelatinization temperature, maximum viscosity, paste stability and retrogradation, and differences in scanning electron microscope (SEM) of granular appearance were also observed. The overall results indicated that pre-heating treatment can be used for modifying the physical, chemical and rheological properties to suit various applications and preserving functional properties of purple sweet potato flour.

Keywords: Anthocyanin, Antioxidant, Phenolic, Pre-heating Treatment, Purple Sweet Potato Flour, SEM

1. Introduction

Sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas* (L.) Lam), a fairly drought-tolerant crop, is widely grown throughout the world, primarily in the tropics and subtropics. In addition, it has various skin and flesh color from white to yellow, orange, light purple to deep purple. Sweet potato ranks the sixth most important crops after rice, wheat, potatoes, maize and cassava. Globally, the annual sweet potato production accounts up to more than 105 million metric tons [1]. In Indonesia, the trend with respect to utilization of sweet potato is changing from domestic consumption to use in various commercial products such as flour, starch, pectin, and dietary

fiber [2]. Purple sweet potatoes (PSP) contain relatively high acylated anthocyanins, with mainly cyanidin or peonidin as the aglycone [3]. It is suggested that anthocyanins, as natural pigments, may provide beneficial health effects. Studies proved anthocyanin provide physiological functions such as antihyperglycemic [4], antiinflammatory and anticarcinogenic [5] and antioxidant [6].

Truong et al [7] reported the anthocyanin content of many purple-flesh sweet potato genotypes were between 0-210 mg/100 fresh weight. These contents were lower than those from black currant and blueberries (322-476mg/fw), but comparable with those from grapes (27-120/100 g fw), plum (19-124mg/100g fw), eggplant (86 mg/100 g fw), and red radishes (100 mg/100 g fw) as reported by Wu et al [8 Wu].

Therefore many purple-flesh sweet potato genotypes fall in the middle of the spectrum of the high anthocyanin fruits and vegetables [7]. Anthocyanins from purple sweet potato have been known for its health effect. Kano *et al.* [9] reported anthocyanins from purple-fleshed sweet potato have shown a stronger free radical scavenging activity than those from red cabbage, grape skin, elderberry, purple corn and ascorbic acid.

In developing countries, sweet potatoes are often found to be rotten before they reach consumers due to improper storage conditions. Storage of fresh sweet potatoes require a controlled temperature (13-15°C) and the relative humidity between 85-95% [10], those conditions are hard to achieved. One way to avoid losses due to improper handling, sweet potato can be converted into flour that has a longer shelf life and is ready for use.

Although anthocyanins from purple sweet are stable, transforming fresh purple sweet potato into flour may reduce the intensity of purple color of the flour. The discoloration of the flour could be caused by the degradation of anthocyanins due to peroxidase (POX) activity. POX is considered the major enzyme responsible for anthocyanin degradation in fruits and vegetables [11]. POX activity in purple sweet potato was higher than that found in purple corn cob (136 units/g dry basis, and 27 units/g dry basis respectively) [12].

In addition to discoloration of the flour, the use of purple sweet potato flour as raw material for various food products is still limited. This partly due to the fact that native starch is susceptible to high temperature, and extreme pH condition [13]. Therefore native starch content in purple sweet potato needs to be modified chemically or physically in order to widen the starch applications in various products and also to preserve anthocyanin from degradation. In this paper we reported study on physicochemical, functional, and rheological properties of physically modified purple sweet potato flour processed through pre-heating treatment.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Materials

Folin-Ciocalteu reagent and 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) were obtained from Sigma (St. Louis, MO, USA), other reagents were purchased from commercial sources.

Local variety purple sweet potatoes (PSP), harvested 120 days after planting, were obtained from Seedling Farm, Agriculture Training Center Lampung.

2.2. Preparation of Preheating Treatment of Purple Sweet Potato Flour

Freshly harvested PSP were washed under running tap water and grated using a food chopper. The grated PSP was heated in an electric oven equipped with a single rotary drum at 90°C for 0, 15, 30, 45, 60, and 75 min depending on the treatment applied. The heated PSP were dried in an oven (Mettler) at 60°C for 8 hrs to achieve moisture content of 10%. The dry grated PSP was ground using a hammer mill (FCT Z500, Ramesia) and sieved to pass 80

mesh sieve, stored in a sealed plastic bag until further analysis.

2.3. Preparation of PSP Flour Extracts

Samples of native PSP flour and preheated PSP flour (200 g) were macerated in 800 ml of pure 96% ethanol for 24 h at 4°C in the dark room, then filtered through Whatman No. 42 filter paper. The remaining residues were washed with 400 ml of ethanol, both filtrates were collected as the crude extract filtrate. The ethanol in the crude extract was evaporated by the rotary evaporator (0.1 MPa, 40°C) until the volume was 500 mL, kept in a dark brown bottle and stored at -20°C until further analysis.

2.4. Degree of Gelatinization

The degree of gelatinization was determined using the amylose-iodine binding method according to Birch and Priestley [14] and Baks *et al.* [15] with minor modifications. A sample (0.04 g), freeze-dried, was dissolved in 50 ml of 0.15 M KOH and the solution was mixed using a vortex for 15 min. The solution was centrifuged (10 min, 3000 g) using a Beckman centrifuge to remove the insoluble part of the sample. After centrifugation, 1 ml of the supernatant was taken and neutralized with 9 ml 0.017 M HCl. Subsequently, 0.1 ml iodine reagent (1 g iodine and 4 g potassium iodide in 100 ml water) was added to form a blue complex with the dissolved amylose present in the sample. The absorbance was read at 25°C and 600 nm (A_1). Another 0.04 g freeze dried sample was dissolved in 50 ml of 0.40 M KOH to dissolve all the amylose presents in the sample completely, and centrifuged (10 min, 3000 g) using a Beckman centrifuge. One ml supernatant was taken and neutralized with 0.045 M HCl. After adding 0.1 ml iodine reagent, the absorbance was read at 25°C and 600 nm (A_2). The ratio A_1 (0.15 M KOH)/ A_2 (0.40 M KOH) was used as a measure for the degree of gelatinization of the sample.

2.5. Determination of Total Phenolic Content

The total phenolic content in PSP flour extract was determined by colorimetry method using Folin-Ciocalteu reagent assay as modified from Singleton and Rossi [16]. PSP flour extract (1ml) was mixed with 1ml of Folin-Ciocalteu's phenol reagent and allowed to react for 3 minutes. Then, 0.8ml of 7.5% (w/v) sodium carbonate was added. The mixture was agitated and allowed to stand for further 30 minutes in the dark. The absorbance of PSP flour extracts and a prepared blank were measured at 765 nm using GENESYS UV-Visible spectrophotometer. The concentration of total phenolic compounds of preheat-treated PSP flour extracts was expressed as mg of tannic acid equivalents (TAE) per g dry weight of PSP flour using linear equation developed from tannic acid standard curved.

2.6 Total Anthocyanin

Total anthocyanin content was determined using the colorimetric pH-differential method described by Lee *et al.*

[17] using two buffer systems: potassium chloride buffer, pH 1.0 (0.025 mol/L) (125 mL of 0.2 mol/L KCl and 375 of 0.2 mol/L HCl) and sodium acetate buffer, pH 4.5 (0.4 mol/L) (400 mL of 1 mol/L sodium acetate, 240 mL of 1 mol/L HCl and 360 mL of water) with minor modification. One mL of extracted PSP flour was diluted in 4 mL of each buffer to achieve the absorbance readings at 520 nm or at 700 nm between 0.2 and 0.8. The diluted samples were allowed to stand for 15 min at the dark room before the absorbance was read at 520 and 700 nm using a GENESYS UV-Visible spectrophotometer, with distilled water used as the blank.

Anthocyanin pigment concentration is expressed as cyanidin-3-glucoside equivalents as follows:

$$\text{Anthocyanin pigment (cyanidin - 3 - glucoside equivalents mg/L)} = 100 - \frac{A \times MW \times DF \times 1000}{\epsilon \times l} \quad (1)$$

Where:

A is the absorbance of the sample calculated as: $(A_{520} - A_{700})_{\text{pH 1.0}} - (A_{520} - A_{700})_{\text{pH 4.5}}$

MW is the molecular weight for cyanidin - 3- glucoside (449.2g/mol).

DF = is the dilution factor

ϵ is the molar absorbance of cyanidin-3-glucoside (26900L/(cm x mol))

l is cell path length (1 cm), and

1000 is the conversion factor from g to mg

2.7. DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) Radical Scavenging Assay of PSP Flour

DPPH radical-scavenging activity of preheated PSP flour was determined using method described by Chung et al. [18] with minor modifications. Two μL of the anthocyanins extracted from the flour (as described in above procedure) were mixed with 2.0 mL of 2×10^{-4} M DPPH in ethanol. The mixture was shaken vigorously and left in the dark at 25°C for 30 min. The absorbance of mixture was read immediately at 517 nm using a GENESYS 10S S UV-Visible spectrophotometer (A_{sample}). The mixture of 95% ethanol (2 mL) and sample (2 mL) serve as blank (A_{blank}). The control solution was prepared by mixing ethanol (2 mL) and DPPH radical solution (2 mL) (A_{control}). The ability of anthocyanin to scavenge DPPH radical or antioxidant activity was calculated by the following equation:

$$\text{Scavenging Radical Activity (\%)} = 100 - \frac{A_{\text{sample}} - A_{\text{blank}} \times 100}{A_{\text{control}}} \quad (2)$$

In this study, the antioxidant property of the sweet potato flour was determined using only single method (DPPH assay). The decision was based on its availability and simplicity, furthermore Steed and Truong [19] reported that the antioxidant activities assayed by DPPH and ORAC (oxygen radical absorbance capacity) showed a significant correlation.

2.8. Pasting Properties

The pasting properties were measured using Brabender

Viscograph E (USB) Version 4.4.1. About 30 g moisture-free sample (db) was suspended in 470 ml distilled water to prepare slurry in a large beaker. The suspension of the starch was mixed thoroughly and poured into the measuring bowl of the Brabender Viscograph. The test was run at a speed of seventy five (75) revolution per minute with a measuring range of 700 cmg. The temperature profile of the analysis was programmed to commence measurement at a temperature of 50°C with heating at the rate of 1.5°C/min up to a temperature of 92°C. The temperature of the sample was held constant for 15 minutes and then cooled at the rate of 1.5°C/min to a temperature of 50°C. This temperature was also held constant for ten (10) minutes. The parameters recorded from the curve include: the time, temperature and viscosity at the beginning of gelatinization, maximum viscosity, start of holding period, start of cooling period, end of cooling period, and at the end of final holding period as well as breakdown and set back viscosities. The measurements were done in two replications.

2.9. SEM Analysis

Granule micrographs were acquired using FEI Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) type Inspect S50, EDAX AMETEK. Sample powder was placed in a double-sided carbon taped holder, then coated with Au-Pd using sputter coater (Emitech SC7620). The micrographs were obtained with an accelerating voltage of 10.00 kV.

2.10. Experimental Design

The experiment was arranged in a completely randomized block design with 4 replications, except for the pasting properties. The treatments were 6 levels of heating time of purple sweet potato, which were 0, 15, 30, 45, 60, and 75 min at 90°C. The data, except for pasting properties, were analyzed using Analysis of variance (ANOVA) to test the effect of the treatments, then further tested using Least Significant Difference Test at $p < 0.05$ to see significant differences among treatments. The pasting properties data were calculated for their standard deviation because we only did two replications, and therefore not valid for ANOVA analysis.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Degree of Gelatinization

The results showed that the length of preheating significantly affected the degree of gelatinization. The longer the preheating time had caused the higher degree of gelatinization (Table 1). This finding indicates that preheating treatment of PSP in a rotary drum cooker without addition of water before flouring process has caused partial gelatinization of the flour. Gelatinization is a phenomenon when starch granules are heated in water, gradually granules absorb water, swell and change in their structure. The extend of changes depends on some factors such as temperature, amount of water present, and agitation

during heating [20].

Table 1. Degree of gelatinization of preheated PSP flour.

Preheating time (min)	Degree of gelatinization (%)
0	14.9±0.2 ^f
15	25.8±0.3 ^c
30	28.1±0.3 ^d
45	35.6±0.4 ^c
60	39.0±0.4 ^b
75	49.1±0.2 ^a

Means within a column followed by different letters are significantly different at ($p < 0.05$)

3.2. Total Phenolic Content

All various length of preheating at 90°C induced reductions in total phenolic content. The initial phenolic content in fresh PSP was 74.3 mg TAE/100 g dry matter, while those in preheated flour were between 15.3 and 34.6 mg TAE/100 g (Table 2). The reduction of phenolic content could be attributed to polyphenol oxidase activity during heating. Takenaka *et al.* [21] claimed that the change in phenolic content during processing could be caused by degradation from the effects of heat, activity of polyphenol oxidase, and isomerization.

There were significant differences between the treatments ($P < 0.05$), with losses occurring in the following order: without preheating > preheating 15 min > preheating 30 min > 45 min > 60 min > 75 min at 90°C (Table 2). This result indicated that longer preheating time caused more phenolic retention. Cipriano *et al.* [22] reported that preheating treatment helped minimize polyphenol oxidase activity and increased polyphenolic recovery.

These results were in the range of total phenolic content of several sweet potato cultivars determined using Dennis reagent which were between 31.5 and 75.0 mg/100 mg dry weight [23]. Padda [24] also reported the average total phenolic acid content in sweetpotato roots, stored at 15°C for 8 months, was 60.9 mg/100 g fresh weight using the Folin-Denis reagent and 74.6 mg/100 g fresh weight using the Folin-Ciocalteu reagent.

Table 2. Total phenolic content of preheated PSP flour.

Preheating (min)	Total Phenolic Content (mgTAE/100g dry weight)*
0	15.3±0.3 ^f
15	22.0±0.3 ^c
30	24.1±0.4 ^d
45	24.3±0.4 ^c
60	25.5±0.4 ^b
75	34.7±0.5 ^a

*total phenolic content of fresh purple sweet potato: 74.30 mgTAE/100 g db
Means within a column followed by different letters are significantly different at ($p < 0.05$)

3.3. Total Anthocyanin Content

Total anthocyanin contents of preheated SPS flour were between 50.40 and 63.15 mg CEG (cyanidin- 3-glucoside equivalents)/100 g (Table 3), while those in fresh PSP was 64 mg CGE/100mg db. Anthocyanin of PSP flour preheated for 15, 30 and 45 minutes were not significantly different. This finding indicated that heating shredded PSP at 90°C for 15,

30 or 45 minutes before flouring process did not significantly decrease anthocyanin in PSP flour. Kim *et al.* [25] reported that total content of anthocyanins in purple sweet potato only experienced slight decrease upon baking, furthermore they also reported that the main anthocyanin in purple-fleshed sweet potatoes are 3,5-diglucoside derivatives from cyanidin and peonidin, acylated with p-hydroxybenzoic acid, ferulic acid, or caffeic acid. Acylated anthocyanins are more stable during processing and storage [26], high heat and light [27] compared to those non acetylated.

Table 3. Total anthocyanin of preheated PSP flour.

Pre- heating time (min)	Total anthocyanin(mg/100g)
0	54.6±0.4 ^{bcd}
15	60.1±0.5 ^{ab}
30	63.2±0.3 ^a
45	58.6±0.3 ^{abc}
60	51.4±0.3 ^{cd}
75	50.4±0.5 ^d

*total phenolic content of fresh purple sweet potato: 64,55 mg/100 g db
Means within a column followed by different letters are significantly different at ($p < 0.05$)

The anthocyanin contents of PSP flour in this study were lower compared to those of reported by Fan *et al.* [28], and Steed and Truong [19] where the anthocyanin contents were 158 mg/100g (dry weight), and between 80 -174,7 mg/100g of fresh purple sweet potato respectively. Probably this was due to different varieties and extraction condition.

3.4. DPPH Radical Scavenging Assay of PSP Flour

The method of DPPH is reported to be a simple and rapid indirect assay for determining radical scavenging activity of plant sample [29] This method is based on the reaction that hydrogen-donating antioxidants reduce the color of DPPH free radical from violet to yellow DPHH-H, a non-radical form [30]. Table 4 shows DPPH radical-scavenging activity of the anthocyanins from preheated PSP flour. In general the radical-scavenging activities of antioxidants could be retained during preheating processed. The RSA of PSP flour preheated for 0 to 30 minutes were significantly lower than those of longer preheating treatments. This was probably polyphenol oxidase was still active during drying the flour, while those in longer preheating treatments has been inactive before drying the flour in an oven. The inactivation of polyphenol oxidase occurs at a relatively high temperature between 60 and 80°C [21]. The action of polyphenol oxidase has caused the reduction of total phenol, and this may have caused the decrease in RSA.

Table 4. DPPH radical scavenging assay of preheated PSP flour.

Treatment (min)	Radical Scavenging Activity (%)
0	41.0±0.4 ^c
15	46.7±0.3 ^b
30	48.9±0.3 ^b
45	53.7±0.2 ^{ab}
60	52.2±0.3 ^{ab}
75	62.4±0.4 ^a

*RSA of fresh purple sweet potato was 71%

Means within a column followed by different letters are significantly different at ($p < 0.05$)

3.5. Pasting Properties

The pasting properties of preheated PSP flour are presented in Table 5. In general, the beginning of gelatinization temperature did not change, except there was a slight decrease in preheated flour at 30 min. The pasting properties of the flour decreased with the increased of heating duration. The original sweet potato flour showed higher peak (780 BU), breakdown (505 BU) and set back viscosities (227 BU) compared to those

of preheated PSP flour.

Maximum viscosity shows the maximum swelling of the starch granule prior to disintegration, Liu et al. [31] claimed that peak viscosity is achieved when swelling and breakdown of the granules are in equilibrium stage. It also can be used as an indication of the viscous load likely to be encountered during mixing [32]. The decrease in the peak viscosity of preheated purple sweet potato flour could be attributed to the decrease in the degree of gelatinization. In addition, longer preheating duration had caused decrease in breakdown viscosity.

Table 5. Pasting properties of preheated PSP flour.

Treatment (Heating at 90°C)	Start of Gelatinization temperature (°C)	VISCOSITY (BU)						
		Maxi- mum	start of holding period at 90°C	start of cooling period	end of cooling period	End of final holding period at 50°C	Break- down	Setback
0 min	66.7 ± 0.6	780 ± 0.8	469 ± 0.9	321 ± 0.7	548 ± 0.8	571 ± 0.5	505 ± 0.4	227 ± 0.4
15 min	66.4 ± 0.5	557 ± 1	510 ± 0.7	349 ± 0.6	519 ± 0.7	527 ± 0.3	208 ± 0.7	170 ± 0.5
30 min	64.1 ± 0.3	590 ± 1.2	560 ± 0.9	392 ± 1.0	563 ± 0.5	574 ± 0.3	198 ± 0.4	171 ± 0.9
45 min	66.3 ± 0.3	688 ± 1.5	363 ± 0.8	222 ± 0.9	368 ± 0.5	375 ± 0.4	446 ± 0.5	146 ± 0.6
60 min	66.1 ± 0.2	643 ± 2.0	508 ± 0.5	319 ± 0.7	491 ± 0.8	503 ± 0.5	324 ± 0.2	172 ± 0.6
75 min	66.9 ± 0.3	547 ± 2.1	405 ± 0.5	263 ± 0.5	383 ± 0.5	381 ± 0.5	284 ± 0.3	120 ± 0.5

Values are mean ± SD of two replications

3.6. SEM Analysis Results

Scanning electron micrographs of native PSP flour and preheated flour show structural differences. Native flour contains starch granule which are round, spherical and surrounded by cell wall material (Figure 1). While in preheated SPS flour the granular characteristic partly changed and become more compact (Figure 2-6) due to partial gelatinization as a result of preheating. The change in granular structure may lead to the changes in starch functional properties and physiology function when starch is used for food and pharmaceutical purposes.

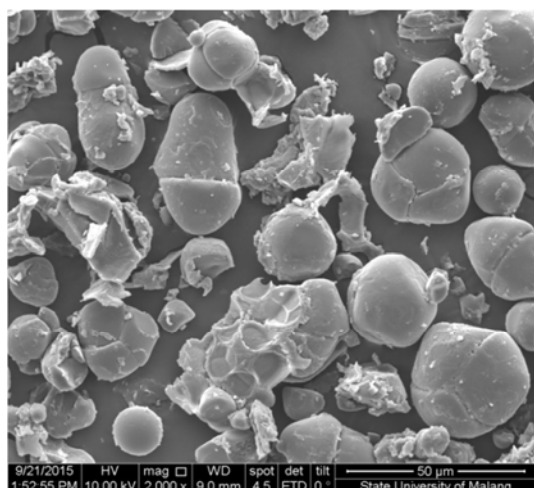


Figure 1. Native (Non Preheated) PSP Flour, 14.94% Degree of Gelatinization.

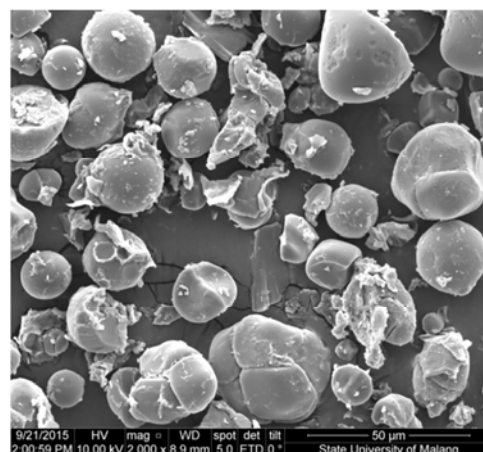


Figure 2. PSP Flour Preheated at 90°C for 15 minutes, 25.77% Degree of Gelatinization.

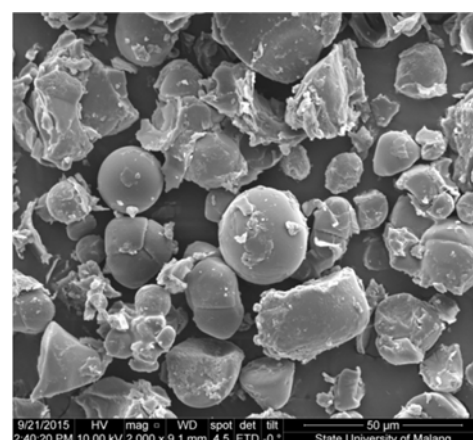


Figure 3. PSP Flour Preheated at 90°C for 30 minutes, 28.11% Degree of Gelatinization.

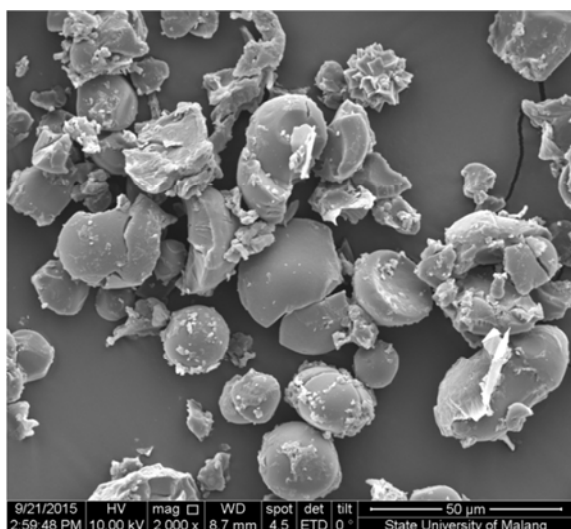


Figure 4. PSP Flour Preheated at 90°C for 45 minutes, 35.57% Degree of Gelatinization.

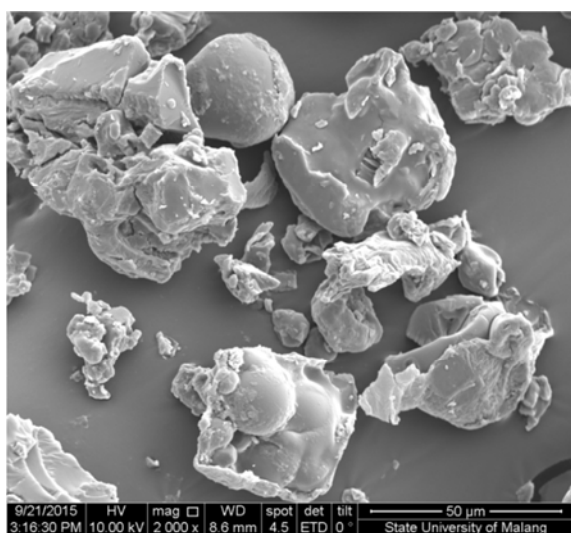


Figure 5. PSP Flour Preheated at 90°C for 60 minutes, 39.02% Degree of Gelatinization.

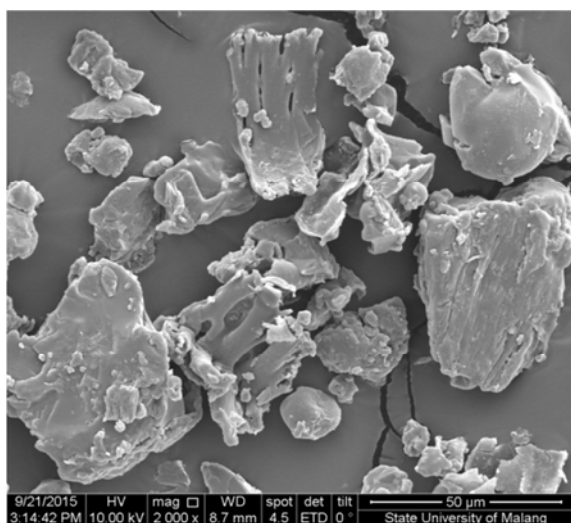


Figure 6. PSP Flour Preheated at 90°C for 75 minutes, 49.08% Degree of Gelatinization.

4. Conclusion

Preheating treatment of purple sweet potato flour caused an increase in degree of gelatinization, slight decreased in the start of gelatinization temperature, peak viscosity, and setback, but increased breakdown viscosity. Preheating treatment up to 75 min at 90°C of PSP before flouring could be used to preserve total phenolic compound, total anthocyanin and radical scavenging activity and change the granular structure of the flour. Thus preheating treatment could be used as a method for modifying and preserving functional properties to suit various applications of purple sweet potato flour.

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