

Metal-chelating activity of soy and pea protein hydrolysates obtained after different enzymatic treatments from protein isolates

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1	Metal-chelating activity of soy and pea protein
2	hydrolysates obtained after different enzymatic treatments
3	from protein isolates
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20 Abstract

Soy and pea proteins are two rich sources of essential amino acids. The hydrolysis of these 21 22 proteins reveals functional and bioactive properties of the produced small peptide mixtures. In 23 our study, we employed the hydrolysis of soy and pea protein isolates with the endopeptidases Alcalase[®] and Protamex[®], used alone or followed by the exopeptidase Flavourzyme[®]. The 24 sequential enzyme treatments were the most efficient regarding the degree of hydrolysis. Then, 25 soy and pea protein hydrolysates (SPHs and PPHs, respectively) were ultrafiltrated in order to 26 27 select peptides of molecular weight \leq 1kDa. Whatever the protein source or the hydrolysis treatment, the hydrolysates showed similar molecular weight distributions and amino acid 28 29 compositions. In addition, all the ultrafiltrated hydrolysates possess metal-chelating activities, 30 as determined by UV-spectrophotometry and Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR). However, the 31 SPR data revealed better chelating affinities in SPHs and PPHs when produced by sequential enzymatic treatment. 32

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Key words: Metal-chelating peptides, enzymatic hydrolysis, soy protein, pea protein, affinity
constant, screening.

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¹*Abbreviations*: DH: Degree of hydrolysis; SPHs: Soy protein hydrolysates; PPHs: Pea protein hydrolysates; MW: Molecular weight; SPR: Surface plasmon resonance; MCPs: Metal-chelating peptides; ROS: Reactive oxygen species; SPI: Soy protein isolate; PPI: Pea protein isolate; LC-MS: Liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry; IMAC: Immobilized metal affinity chromatography.

40 1. Introduction

Transition metals, such as iron II (Fe²⁺) and copper II (Cu²⁺) ions, are powerful promoters for 41 the production of Reactive Oxygen Species (ROSs) since they are able to donate and accept 42 electrons via intracellular reactions, such as the Haber-Weiss and Fenton reactions, and thus 43 induce the production of free radicals (Hancock 1992). The dietary metal-chelators brought by 44 45 nutrition help to reduce oxidative stress resulting from environmental toxins and modern life related factors such as environmental pollution, smoking, UV exposition etc. The antioxidant 46 47 metal-chelating properties of peptides are related to their characteristic amino acid composition 48 and their proper positioning within the peptide sequence. Indeed, certain amino acids can form coordination compounds with metals through their α -amino group, carboxyl group, and R side 49 50 chain of amino acids. The carboxylate group (COO⁻) and the nitrogen atom (N) attach to metals to establish metal carboxylate salt, amine complex, and 5 or 6 membered chelating rings (El 51 52 Hajj, et al. 2021a).

53 Over the past few decades, protein hydrolysates have been widely engaged in human nutrition 54 applications. Upon proteolysis, the obtained small-sized peptides (up to 10 amino acid residues long) are considered as highly advantageous for targeting specific physiological or nutritional 55 56 requirements, mainly because there are less subjected to digestion in the gastrointestinal track 57 and are in the meantime faster absorbed (Clemente, 2000). Proteolysis induces structural changes of proteins notably by degrading the protein primary sequence, which increases the 58 number of AA residues accessible for potential interactions. Indeed, with the loss of their native 59 60 structures, the produced low-molecular-weight peptides enhance their interactions with the 61 environment. Food-derived proteins have popularly undergone proteolysis to obtain a broad 62 range of bioactive and functional peptides, notably metal-chelating peptides (MCPs). For instance, the MCPs produced from the proteolysis of milk proteins, especially casein and whey 63 proteins, have been widely reported in the literature. Calcium, iron and zinc binding motifs 64

65 were discovered in these proteins after submitting them to enzymatic hydrolysis (Chen et al. 2014; Kibangou et al. 2005; Vegarud, Langsrud, and Svenning 2000). Calcium-binding 66 peptides were derived from the hydrolysis of tilapia proteins and shrimp processing by-products 67 as well (Chen et al. 2014; Charoenphun et al. 2013; Cheung et al. 2012). Other protein 68 69 hydrolysates produced for instance from chickpea, rapeseed, sunflower, and bean protein contain also bioactive MCPs (Xie et al., 2015; Carrasco-Castilla et al., 2012; Torres-Fuentes et 70 al., 2011; Megías et al., 2007) . As for the choice of digestive enzymes, many various 71 72 proteinases and their combinations - including pure (e.g., trypsin, pepsin, thermolysin) and crude (Alcalase[®], Protamex[®], Flavourzyme[®], etc.) enzymes – were listed in literature with their 73 hydrolysing optimum conditions (Korhonen and Pihlanto 2006). We hypothesized here that 74 from a same protein resource, different hydrolysis conditions can lead to the production of 75 76 hydrolysates with variations among their physio-chemical characteristics and bioactivities, such 77 as the metal-chelating activity.

78 Soy and peas are the two most produced legumes in France. Soy proteins, generally cheaper than other proteins, are one of the vegetable protein sources that contain all the essential amino 79 acids, and are considered as relevant substitutes of animal proteins, especially for vegetarians 80 81 and vegans. They are linked to multiple health benefits for pregnancy, cardiovascular and 82 gastrointestinal systems, cancer prevention, and lactose intolerance condition (Barrett 2006; Montgomery 2003). Similarly, pea proteins are also a low-cost source of proteins and can be 83 84 used as substitute for animal proteins, mainly in smoothies and shakes to increase protein content. As main advantage, pea proteins aids in kidneys and heart health, weight loss, and 85 86 muscle growth and repair (Babault et al., 2015; Tömösközi et al., 2001). Certain studies have 87 identified MCPs with antioxidant activities in soy and pea protein hydrolysates produced by different enzymatic treatments. For example, Lv et al. (2009) used Immobilized-Metal Affinity 88 Chromatography (IMAC) to identify iron-chelating peptides from soy proteins hydrolysates 89

produced by protease M. Also, Bao et al. (2008) used Fourier transform infrared spectrometry
(FTIR) to study complexes formed between peptides of soy hydrolysates produced after
pepsin, flavourzyme[®] and protease M treatments. Iron-chelating activity was determined as
well using UV-spectrophotometry in pea protein hydrolysates produced by thermolysin
(Pownall, Udenigwe, and Aluko 2010).

Hence, the aim of this research is to compare the effect of different enzymatic hydrolysis
conditions on two types of interesting protein sources (soy and pea protein isolate) on the
production of metal-chelating peptides.

98 2. Material and Methods

99 **2.1.** Production of protein hydrolysates

100 The raw materials, soy protein isolates (SPI) and pea protein isolates (PPI), were kindly 101 provided from SAS IMPROVE (Dury, France). The two protein isolates (2%, w/v) were dispersed in 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate buffer and preheated at 90°C for 5 minutes. Their 102 enzymatic hydrolysis was performed in thermostatically controlled reaction vessels at 55°C 103 with various proteases. The enzymes Alcalase[®] (Protease from Bacillus licheniformis, ≥ 2.4 104 U/g, Sigma-Aldrich; Alc) and Protamex[®] (Protease from Bacillus sp., ≥ 1.5 U/g, Sigma-105 106 Aldrich; Prt) were added individually to the SPI solution for a complete 1-hour and 3-hours hydrolysis, carried out at pH = 8 for the Alcalase[®] treatment and pH = 7 for the Protamex[®] 107 treatment. Two sequential hydrolysis were also performed on SPI and PPI solutions using in 108 each case an additional enzymatic treatment with Flavourzyme® (Protease from Aspergillus 109 oryzae, \geq 500 U/g, Sigma-Aldrich; Flv) to compare two sources of proteins in the most 110 interesting hydrolysis conditions. For these sequential treatments, Alcalase® was applied for 1 111 hour (pH = 8) followed by Flavourzyme[®] treatment for 2 hours (pH = 7; Alc+Flv). Similarly, 112

Protamex[®] was applied for 1 hour followed by Flavourzyme[®] treatment for 2 hours, both at pH 113 = 7 (**Prt+Flv**). The enzyme to substrate ratio (E/S) was always set at 1% (v/v). Whatever the 114 enzymatic treatment, the mixture was stirred while monitoring and maintaining the temperature 115 116 and pH. The first enzyme was always inactivated at 95°C for 15 min before adding the second enzyme. Following the hydrolysis by the second enzyme, this latter was also inactivated at 95°C 117 118 for 15 min and the samples were centrifuged (10 000 g; 15min) in order to precipitate and 119 remove both large unhydrolyzed proteins and both enzymes. Finally, the six SPHs and the two 120 PPHs prepared were lyophilized to obtain powders, subsequently stored at -20°C until further analysis. The hydrolysates were named by their respective protein source (SPH or PPH) 121 followed by their enzymatic treatment (Alc, Prt, Alc+Flv, Prt+ Flv) and the time defined for 122 123 their hydrolysis.

124 **2.2.** Ultrafiltration

After lyophilization, ~3 g of hydrolysates were dispersed in 50 mL MilliQ water (18 m $\Omega \cdot cm^{-1}$ 125 ¹) and fractionated under stirring, using consecutively 10 kDa and 1 kDa Ultracel[®] ultrafiltration 126 membranes (Millipore, Jaffry, USA) in a 100 mL-ultrafiltration cell (Millipore, Jaffery, USA). 127 Ultrafiltration through 10 kDa membrane was first required in order to facilitate then the 128 129 ultrafiltration of the hydrolysates through the 1 kDa membrane. The retentates were frozen at -130 20° C and denoted as > 10 kDa fraction, while the permeates were passed through the 1 kDa 131 membrane, thus forming two fractions for each hydrolysate: a first fraction comprised within 1-10 kDa (frozen at -20°C) and a second one \leq to 1 kDa (lyophilized for further assays). 132

2.3. Efficiency of the different hydrolysis protocols

134 2.3.1. OPA quantification

135 The molar concentration of each hydrolysate defined as the primary amino groups revealed by hydrolysis was determined by the OPA (for *o*-phthaldialdehyde) quantification. This method 136 was adapted from Canabady-Rochelle et al., (2018). The OPA solution was prepared by 137 dissolving first 40 mg of OPA (ThermoFisher Scientific, Loughborough, UK) in 1 mL of pure 138 methanol and then 100 mg of N,N-dimethyl-2-mercaptoethyl ammonium (ThermoFisher 139 Scientific) in 20 mL of Borax buffer (sodium tetraborate 100 mM, 1% w/v sodium dodecyl 140 141 sulfate, pH 9.3, Sigma-Aldrich), then these two former solutions were mixed in a volumetric flask of 50 mL-final volume and completed with Borax buffer to give the desired OPA solution. 142 143 Each solution of peptide hydrolysate (20 µL, 1 mg/mL) prepared in Borax buffer was mixed with the OPA solution (200 µL) directly in a 96-well plate (NunclonTM Delta Surface, 144 145 ThermoFicher Scientific) in 5 replicates. The absorbance was read at 340 nm (Multiskan Go 146 spectrophotometer, ThermoFicher Scientific) after 3 min of incubation under stirring at room 147 temperature. The molar concentration of each peptide hydrolysate was calculated as average mean \pm standard error mean in mM eq. glycine with the help of a glycine calibration curve (1-148 149 5 mM).

150 *2.3.2.* Determination of the degree of hydrolysis

The degree of hydrolysis (**DH**) defined as the proportion of cleaved peptide bonds in a protein hydrolysate was evaluated by the OPA quantification of the primary amino groups liberated during hydrolysis. The value of DH (%) was calculated according to the following formula conducted from Romero-Garay et al., (2020).

155
$$DH(\%) = \frac{(NH_{2(t)} - NH_{2(0)})}{(NH_{2(max)} - NH_{2(0)})} \times 100$$
 [1]

156 Where $NH_{2(t)}$ = concentration of amino groups in 1g/L hydrolysates at the end of hydrolysis, 157 $NH_{2(0)}$ = concentration of amino groups of SPI (without hydrolysis), and $NH_{2(max)}$ = 158 concentration of amino groups after a complete chemical hydrolysis of SPI, performed with 159 6N HCl at 130°C for 24 h (Romero-Garay et al., 2020).

Note that the DH was only determined for whole soy protein hydrolysates, and not for those
submitted to an ultrafiltration step. Indeed, upon ultrafiltration, some peptides are lost, which
do affect the DH determination.

163 **2.4.** Physico-chemical characterization of the produced hydrolysates

164 *2.4.1. Size exclusion chromatography (SEC)*

The molecular weight distribution of the 1 kDa-ultrafiltrated SPHs and PPHs was determined 165 166 by GFC (for gel filtration chromatography) using a Waters 515 HPLC pump, a degazer and a 167 RID 10-A Shimadzu detector. The mobile phase was composed of water containing sodium nitrate at 0.1 M and sodium azide at 0.2% (w/v). The stationary phase was composed of a 168 169 Phenomenex PolySep-GFC-P 2000 (7.8 x 35 mm) guard column to help remove contaminants and free amino acids, followed by a same phase column (7.8 x 300 mm) that has a separation 170 171 range comprised between 0.1 and 10 kDa. Each sample (200 µL) was injected at 5 mg/mL and 172 separated at room temperature with a flow rate of 0.7 mL/min. PolyEthylenGlycol (PEG: 200, 600, 1000, 3000 and 8000 Da, Sigma Aldrich, USA) were used as standards for GFC 173 174 calibration. Data were collected and analysed with the software ASTRA (Wyatt Technology).

175 2.4.2. Identification of amino acid composition

Quantitative analysis of amino acids was realized on a UHPLC system (Thermo Fisher Scientific) in-line with an Orbitrap ID-X Tribrid mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) equipped with an atmospheric pressure ionization interface. Some aminoacids were not considered for the aminogram due to their susceptibility to oxidation (*i.e.*, Tryptophane, Trp, W; Cystein, Cys, C) under the working conditions. Besides, Methionine (Met, M) was investigated but not detected, due to its low concentration in the soy and pea proteins as reported in their sequences presented in UniProtkb databases.

Five microliters of samples (4 hydrolysates: 1kDa-Ultrafiltrated SPH and PPH, either prepared 183 by Alcalase[®] followed by Flavourzyme[®] or by Protamex[®] followed by Flavourzyme[®]) were 184 separated on C18 Alltima reverse phase column (150 x 2.1mm, 5µm - Grace/Alltech, 185 Darmstadt, Germany) equipped with a C18 Alltima pre-column (7.5 x2.1mm, 5µm) at 10°C. 186 187 The flow rate was set at 0.2 mL/min and the mobile phases consisted in water supplemented 188 with nonafluoropentanoic acid (20 mM) as ion-pairing reagent for A and pure acetonitrile for 189 B. Amino acids were eluted using a linear gradient from 5 % to 25 % of B for 12 min, and then 190 an isocratic step at 25 % of B for 18 min. Mass analysis was carried out in heated electrospray 191 positive ion mode (H-ESI⁺) and mass spectrometry conditions were as follows: spray voltage 192 was set at 4.0 kV; source gases were set (in arbitrary units/min) for sheath gas, auxiliary gas and sweep gas at 30, 5, and 5, respectively; vaporizer temperature and ion transfer tube 193 194 temperature were both set at 300°C. MS scans were performed from 70 to 210 m/z at 60 K 195 resolution (full width of the peak at its half maximum, fwphm, at 200 m/z) with MS parameters as follows: RF-lens, 35%; maximum injection time, 50 ms; data type, profile; AGC target: 196 197 custom; normalized AGC target: 25 %. The mass spectrometer calibration was performed using the Pierce FlexMix calibration solution (Thermo Scientific). MS data acquisition was carriedout utilizing the Xcalibur v. 4.3 software (Thermo Scientific).

200 **2.5.** Determination of the metal-chelation properties

201 2.5.1. UV-spectrophotometry

The Cu²⁺ chelation properties of the 1 kDa-ultrafiltrated SPHs and PPHs were determined as 202 203 an indirect antioxidant capacity and measured by spectrophotometry using murexide as colour indicator, similarly as in Canabady-Rochelle et al., 2018. Hydrolysates were prepared in 204 205 hexamine buffer between 0.42 and 40 g/L, and then, their respective concentration was 206 expressed in mM eq. NH₂. Besides, as good complexing agents, EDTA and carnosine were 207 both considered as positive controls and prepared in a range of 0.42-40 mM. EDTA, carnosine and the 1 kDa-ultrafiltrated hydrolysate solutions were directly diluted in a microplate with 208 hexamine buffer for a total volume of 143 µL. Then, 143 µL of a 3 mM CuSO₄ solution in 209 210 hexamine buffer and 14 µL of a 1 mM murexide solution were added in 5 replicates in each 211 well (total volume: 300 µL). The 96-well plate was incubated for 3 min at room temperature 212 and the absorbance was measured at two wavelengths, i.e., 485 nm and 520 nm, for the coppermurexide complex and the murexide alone, respectively. The ratio of absorbance (A_{485}/A_{520}) 213 was considered proportional to the free copper ion (Cu^{2+}) concentration. 214

215
$$Cu^{2+}$$
 complexation (%)= $\frac{[(A_{485}/A_{520})_0 - (A_{485}/A_{520})_s]}{(A_{485}/A_{520})_0} \times 100$ [2]

With (A₄₈₅/A₅₂₀)₀ = ratio of absorbances measured in the absence of sample, and (A₄₈₅/A₅₂₀)_s =
ratio of absorbances measured in the presence of sample (EDTA, carnosine or hydrolysate).
Results were presented as average mean ± standard error mean for 5 replicates.

The surface plasmon resonance (**SPR**) experiments were carried out similarly to Canabady-Rochelle et al., (2018). The binding affinity of protein hydrolysates for Ni²⁺ was analysed by SPR at 25°C using a Biacore X100 instrument (GE Healthcare, Uppsala, Sweden) equipped with Ni²⁺-NTA sensor chips. All binding experiments were performed at a flow rate of 20 μ L.min⁻¹.

First, Ni²⁺ was injected for 1 min onto the NTA chip using a NiCl₂ solution (500 mM, Biacore 225 kit) and followed by a 1-min stabilization. The NTA flow channel uncharged in Ni²⁺ was used 226 as a reference channel in order to determine the importance of aspecific interactions. Then, each 227 peptide sample was injected on both channels for 270 s followed by 270 s undisturbed 228 dissociation time. The chip was regenerated between each studied concentration with a two 229 230 steps protocol involving successively imidazole (500 mM) at a flow rate of 20 µL.min⁻¹ for 1 min and SDS (0.5 % v/v) at a flow rate of 40 µL.min⁻¹ for 1 min. Buffer blanks and 231 232 concentration duplicates were used in each set of samples for dual reference during data 233 processing.

The sensorgrams obtained from the SPR experiments were processed with BIAevaluate software. The isotherms obtained were expressed in Resonance Unit (**RU**, corrected by the offset value) as a function of the concentration of protein hydrolysate (expression in mM equivalent glycine according to the OPA quantification). The K_D were determined at equilibrium by fitting the experimental data with the 1:1 binding model. The affinity constant (K_A , mM⁻¹ equivalent glycine) was calculated as the inverse of the dissociation constant.

240 **3. Results and Discussion**

3.1. Efficiency of the different hydrolysis protocols

Alcalase[®] and Protamex[®] are two serine endopeptidases obtained from *Bacillus*. Both comprise 242 243 the so-called "Subtilisin" enzyme, which has a broad hydrolysing specificity. Yet, according to 244 the literature, these two different commercialized crude enzymes led to different but efficient DH when incubated with soy isolates (Zhang, Huang, and Jiang, 2014; Seo, Lee, and Baek 245 2008; Penta-Ramos and Xiong, 2002). The degree of hydrolysis (DH) of SPI hydrolysates 246 varies from 13 % (Protamex[®] 1h) to 32 % (Alcalase[®] 1h + Flavourzyme[®] 2h) (Figure A1) 247 depending on the enzyme used, the hydrolysis time, and individual or sequential enzymatic 248 hydrolysis. After 1 hour of hydrolysis, Alcalase[®] shows a higher DH than Protamex[®] (19.3 % 249 and 13.2 %, respectively). Raising up the time of hydrolysis by Alcalase[®] to 3 hours does not 250 reveal an improvement of the DH. However, 3 hours of Protamex[®] treatment increases the DH 251 to 19.7 %. So Alcalase[®] is more efficient than Protamex[®], resulting in a greater number of 252 253 peptides after 1 h of hydrolysis, but not after 3 hours.

Being an exopeptidase, Flavourzyme[®] is widely used as a second protease in sequential 254 255 hydrolysis studies with an endopeptidase being the first hydrolysing enzyme. After a sequential enzymatic treatment, using either Alcalase[®] followed by Flavourzyme[®] or Protamex[®] followed 256 by Flavourzyme[®], the DH increased to 31.8 % and 29 % respectively. So, a sequential 257 258 enzymatic treatment gives a clear advantage in terms of quantities of generated peptides. Hence, our results are in agreement with the literature, which reports that the primary use of an 259 endopeptidase facilitates the reaction of the exopeptidase in order to reach a better hydrolysis 260 (Vioque et al., 1999; Ugolini et al., 2015). 261

In our work, we demonstrated similar DH than certain other studies. For example, Zhang et al. 262 (2018) had a DH value of 20% after a 3-hour Alcalase[®] treatment of soy protein isolates (24% 263 in our study). After a 10-hours Protamex[®] treatment of soy protein isolate, Xie et al. (2012) 264 obtained a DH of 16.6 % (19% after 3 hours in our study). Concerning sequential hydrolysis 265 with Alcalase[®] followed by Flavourzyme[®], we have obtained a larger DH (31.8%) than Ma et 266 al. (2013) (24%). Among other factors, this difference may be due to the source of proteins 267 used, their purity but also the source of enzyme, the way the hydrolysis was carried out and its 268 monitoring. 269

According to the literature, the increased DH value could be correlated to an increased 270 antioxidant activity of hydrolysates, including metal-chelating property (Zhang, Huang, and 271 Jiang, 2014; Theodore, Raghavan, and Kristinsson 2008; Raghavan and Kristinsson, 2008). 272 Moreover, the hydrolysate fraction collected after ultrafiltration - thus, constituted of low 273 molecular weight peptides - could have better antioxidant activities than the one containing 274 high molecular weight peptides (He et al., 2013; Ranamukhaarachchi, Meissner, and Moresoli, 275 276 2013; Tsou et al., 2010; Ren et al., 2010). Thus, we focus our attention on examining the 1kDa-277 ultrafiltrated samples in this study.

278 **3.2.** Characterization of the produced hydrolysates

The molecular weight distribution (%) of the 1 kDa-ultrafiltrated SPHs and PPHs was evaluated according to the linear regression of Log (MW) and elution chromatograms obtained by SEC (**Figure 1**). The results indicate that the molecular masses of the SPHs (except SPH by Protamex[®] 1h) and PPHs are mostly distributed within 400-200 Da. The highest percentages of peptides in this former range were collected for the SPH by Alcalase[®] 1h followed by Flavourzyme[®] 2h (57%) and for SPH treated by Protamex 3h (65%). 285 The amino acid composition of four hydrolysates is shown in **Figure 2**. These compositions 286 are globally similar regardless of the protein source and the hydrolysis process, with some 287 differences. Indeed, regarding acidic amino acids (Asp and Glu), well known for their ability to chelate metal ions through their carboxylic groups (Lv et al., 2013), the highest percentages 288 are observed in PPH and SPH, both sequentially hydrolysed by Alcalase[®] (1h) followed by 289 Flavourzyme[®] (2h) with 20% and 12.9%, for aspartic acid, respectively; both sequential PPH 290 and SPH show high percentages of glutamic acid as well (14.8 % and 7.9 %, respectively). 291 Besides, the SPH generated by Protamex[®] (1h) followed by Flavourzyme[®] (2h) contains 11.8% 292 293 of histidine, which is a well-known metal-chelating amino acid (Chen, Shen, and Xia, 2020; Zhang et al., 2018; Sun et al., 2017; Torres-Fuentes, Alaiz, and Vioque, 2011). Finally, proline, 294 295 arginine and lysine, which are present at similar percentages in SPHs and PPHs, were previously found in Ca²⁺-chelating peptides (Bredderman and Wasserman, 2002). Therefore, 296 297 those results suggest that the metal-chelating activity observed for the different hydrolysates 298 could reflect the presence of a great variety of MCPs.

3.3. Determination of the metal-chelation properties

300 *3.3.1. By UV-spectrophotometry*

The copper-chelation capacities of the 1kDa-ultrafiltrated SPHs and PPHs were evaluated by spectrophotometry and expressed as a function of the molar ratio (mM equiv Glycine for hydrolysate / mM CuSO4) (**Figure 3**). Whatever the hydrolysate treatment, we observed a Langmuir-shaped graph and a saturation plateau, indicating the presence of peptides able to bind copper ions in all the 1kDa-ultrafiltrated hydrolysates, with similar capacities. From these presented graphs, we determined various indices similarly as in Canabady-Rochelle et al., 2015 and 2018. **Table 1** shows the EDTA and carnosine equivalent chelating capacities (**EECC** and 308 **CECC**, no unit) calculated for all the samples. The EECC and CECC values ranged between 309 [1.54 - 2.52] and [2.19 - 3.58] respectively, without significant differences between each 310 hydrolysate according to SEM. This implies that the ultrafiltrated soy and pea hydrolysates 311 contain copper-chelating peptides, but the spectrophotometry method has a low sensitivity in 312 differentiating between the chelation power of the different hydrolysates. In fact, screening of 313 bioactive peptides by UV-spectrophotometry often depends on their relative concentration in 314 the hydrolysates.

315 *3.3.2. By Surface Plasmon Resonance*

316 SPR is a sensitive and selective method for MCPs screening (Canabady-Rochelle et al., 2018; Maalouli et al., 2011; Knecht et al., 2009). The SPR signal is detected when the peptide is 317 interacting and surrounding the metal-ion in its favourable geometry, producing accurate and 318 comparable information about the hydrolysates. The immobilized Ni²⁺ was used due to its 319 similarities with Cu²⁺ (Grenács, et al., 2013; Grenács, et al., 2014; Rajković et al., 2003) in regards 320 to its coordination properties with amino acids according to the HSAB theory and since Ni²⁺ is 321 322 commonly used for immobilization on NTA for IMAC purification procedures than can come after screening (Sóvágó and Ősz, 2006). 323

The SPR response (RU) is plotted as a function of the hydrolysate concentrations (mM equiv. Glycine) (Figure 4). Note that for each investigated hydrolysate, the hydrolysate concentration had to be adapted in SPR in order to get sorption isotherms with a plateau value. These socalled sorption isotherms indicate the binding response of investigated hydrolysates on the immobilized Ni²⁺ at equilibrium. They are presented either as a function of the enzymatic treatment applied to soy protein (panel A) or as a function of the source of protein used for proteolysis (soy or pea), using the same enzymatic treatment (panel B). Whatever the enzymatic treatment or protein source used, the isotherms show hyperbolic profiles with saturation or a tendency for saturation. The differences are more visible in the saturation plateau of the metalbinding response, unlike UV-spectrophotometry data. The maximum response, R_{max} (R.U.) are presented in **Table A.1**. Dissociation constants (K_D) obtained from the fitting of these binding isotherms and the calculated association constants (K_A) are reported in **Table 2**. Note that the K_D value for each investigated sample was determined from the whole fitting by the BIAevaluate software, which is more accurate compared to a graphical determination.

For single protease hydrolysis of SPI, and considering the KA values, apparent affinity of 338 peptides for Ni²⁺ ion varied from 0.12 to 0.38 mM⁻¹ equiv Gly. Hydrolysates produced by 339 340 Alcalase[®] treatment present better apparent affinity compared to those produced by Protamex[®] treatment, and the best apparent affinity is observed for only 1 hour of Alcalase[®] treatment. 341 This shows that there is no direct correlation between DH and apparent affinity for Ni²⁺. 342 Moreover, addition of exopeptidase (Flv treatment for 2 h) in the hydrolysis procedure give rise 343 to an increase of the apparent affinity (from 0.38 to 0.42 and 0.12 to 0.23 mM⁻¹ equiv Gly, for 344 345 Alc 1h and Prt 1h, repectively). Finally, the results are independent from the protein source, since similar affinities are observed for PPH after sequential hydrolysis with Flv (0.45 and 0.27 346 mM⁻¹ equiv Gly for Alc 1h and Prt 1h, respectively). This could be probably due to the fact that 347 348 both soy and pea are legumes. Therefore, the hydrolysis treatments had an effect on the metalchelating activity of the ultrafiltrated produced hydrolysates. A sequential treatment with an 349 endopeptidase (Alcalase[®] or Protamex[®]) followed by an exopeptidase (Flavourzyme[®]) is more 350 efficient than individual hydrolysis by an endopeptidase and the small-sized peptides (≤ 1 kDa) 351 produced have better metal-chelating affinity *i.e.*, these hydrolysates globally contain peptides 352 353 with better affinity for Ni²⁺. This difference could only be detected by a sensitive screening 354 method like SPR.

355 **4. Conclusion**

In conclusion, soy and peas, which are the two most produced legumes in France, constitute rich sources of metal-chelating peptides. The fact that both soy and pea are from the legume family and that both proteins are complete might reflect the global similarities observed in the molecular weight distributions and amino acid compositions regardless of the hydrolysis condition employed.

As perspective of this work, the MCPs present in hydrolysates could be identified by MS experiments (Paris et al. 2021). In addition, Immobilized Metal ion Affinity Chromatography (IMAC) coupled to mass spectrometry experiments is currently under development in order to isolate and determine some MCPs present in these hydrolysates. Then, these MCPs will be purified in order to increase their concentration for further applications related to human oral ingestion.

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375 Conflicts of Interest

376 The authors declare no conflict of interest

378 Appendix A. Supplementary data





Sample	R _{max} (RU)	STD (R _{max})
SPH by Alc (1h)	109.32	4.9
SPH by Alc (3h)	157.01	21
SPH by Prt (1h)	270.34	24
SPH by Prt (3h)	166.49	11
SPH by Alc (1h) + Flv (2h)	192.24	10
SPH by Prt (1h) + Flv (2h)	84.43	16
PPH by Alc (1h) + Flv (2h)	67.84	3
PPH by Prt (1h) + Flv (2h)	27.56	2

385 SPH: Soy Protein Hydrolysate

386 PPH: Pea Protein Hydrolysate

387 Alc 1h: Alcalase® treatment for 1h

388 Alc 3h: Alcalase[®] treatment for 3h

389 Prt 1h: Protamex[®] treatment for 1h

390 Prt 3h: Protamex[®] treatment for 3h

 $\label{eq:solution} 391 \qquad \text{Alc (1h)} + \text{Flv (2h): Alcalase}^{\$} \text{ treatment for 1h followed by Flavourzyme}^{\$} \text{ treatment for 2h}$

 $\label{eq:second} 392 \qquad {\mathsf{Prt}} \, (1h) + {\mathsf{Flv}} \, (2h) {:} \, {\mathsf{Protamex}}^{\circledast} \, {\mathsf{treatment}} \, {\mathsf{for}} \, 1h \, {\mathsf{followed}} \, {\mathsf{by}} \, {\mathsf{Flavourzyme}}^{\circledast} \, {\mathsf{treatment}} \, {\mathsf{for}} \, 2h$

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588 Captions to Figures

- Figure A.1. Degree of hydrolysis (DH%) of soy protein isolates treated with different enzymes
 for different durations. Non-filtrated soy hydrolysates are analysed for DH. Results
 are presented as mean ± standard deviation from 5 replicates.
- Figure 1. Molecular weight distribution of the 1kDa-ultrafiltrated SPHs and PPHs after (A) 592 Alcalase[®] treatment for 1 h or 3 h or 1 h followed by 2 h of Flavourzyme[®] 593 treatment, and (B) Protamex[®] treatment for 1 h or 3 h or 1 h followed by 2 h of 594 Flavourzyme[®] treatment. PPHs were produced only by Alcalase[®] 1 h (or 595 Protamex[®] 1 h) followed by 2 h of Flavourzyme[®]. SPH: Soy Protein Hydrolysate. 596 PPH: Pea Protein Hydrolysate. Alc (1h): Alcalase treatment for 1 h; Alc (3h): 597 Alcalase treatment for 3 h; Prt (1h): Protamex treatment for 1 h; Prt (3h): Protamex 598 treatment for 3 h; Alc (1h) + Flv (2h): Alcalase treatment for 1 h followed by 599 600 Flavourzyme treatment for 2 h; Prt (1h) + Flv (2h): Protamex treatment for 1 h followed by Flavourzyme treatment for 2 h. 601
- Figure 2. Amino acid composition of 1kDa-ultrafiltrated SPH and PPH produced by sequential
 hydrolysis treatment, *i.e.*, Alcalase[®] or Protamex[®] followed by Flavourzyme[®].
 SPH: Soy Protein Hydrolysate. PPH: Pea Protein Hydrolysate. Alc (1h): Alcalase
 treatment for 1 h; Alc (3h): Alcalase treatment for 3 h; Prt (1h): Protamex treatment
 for 1 h; Prt (3h): Protamex treatment for 3 h; Alc (1h) + Flv (2h): Alcalase treatment
 for 1 h followed by Flavourzyme treatment for 2 h; Prt (1h) + Flv (2h): Protamex

Figure 3. Copper chelating activity (%) of the different 1-kDa ultrafiltrated (A) SPHs and (B) PPHs as a function of molar ratio (mM eq Glycine of hydrolysate / mM CuSO₄). SPH: Soy Protein Hydrolysate. PPH: Pea Protein Hydrolysate. Alc (1h): Alcalase treatment for 1 h; Alc (3h): Alcalase treatment for 3 h; Prt (1h): Protamex treatment for 1 h; Prt (3h): Protamex treatment for 3 h; Alc (1h) + Flv (2h): Alcalase treatment for 1 h followed by Flavourzyme treatment for 2 h; Prt (1h) + Flv (2h): Protamex treatment for 1 h followed by Flavourzyme treatment for 2 h. Results are presented as average \pm SEM. 5 replicates.

Figure 4. SPR response signal (R.U.) of the different 1-kDa ultrafiltrated (A) SPHs and (B)
PPHs as a function of different molar concentrations (mM eq Glycine of
hydrolysate). SPH: Soy Protein Hydrolysate. PPH: Pea Protein Hydrolysate. Alc
(1h): Alcalase treatment for 1 h; Alc (3h): Alcalase treatment for 3 h; Prt (1h):
Protamex treatment for 1 h; Prt (3h): Protamex treatment for 3 h; Alc (1h) + Flv
(2h): Alcalase treatment for 1 h followed by Flavourzyme treatment for 2 h; Prt (1h)
+ Flv (2h): Protamex treatment for 1 h followed by Flavourzyme treatment for 2 h.

632 Tables

633 Table 1. EDTA equivalent chelating capacity (EECC) and carnosine equivalent chelating

634	capacity	(CECC)	values	determine	ed for	1kDa	-ultrafiltra	ited SPE	Is and	PPHs.
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	EECC		CEC	C
	Mean	± SEM	Mean	± SEM
SPH Alc (1h)	2.52	0.06	3.58	0.08
SPH Alc (3h)	1.94	0.02	2.76	0.03
SPH Alc (1h) + Flv (2h)	2.10	0.01	2.98	0.02
SPH Prt (1h)	2.33	0.05	3.31	0.07
SPH Prt (3h)	1.95	0.04	2.77	0.06
SPH Prt (1h) + Flv (2h)	2.08	0.01	2.96	0.02
PPH Alc (1h) +Flv (2h)	1.81	0.15	2.57	0.21
PPH Prt (1h) +Flv (2h)	1.54	0.02	2.19	0.03

635 Results are presented as mean \pm standard error mean from 5 replicates.

636 SPH: Soy Protein Hydrolysate

637 PPH: Pea Protein Hydrolysate

638 Alc (1h): Alcalase[®] treatment for 1 h

639 Alc (3h): Alcalase[®] treatment for 3 h

640 Prt (1h: Protamex[®] treatment for 1 h

641 Prt (3h): Protamex[®] treatment for 3 h

642 Alc (1h) + Flv (2h): Alcalase[®] treatment for 1 h followed by Flavourzyme[®] treatment for 2 h

643 Prt (1h) + Flv (2h): Protamex[®] treatment for 1 h followed by Flavourzyme[®] treatment for 2 h

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650 **Table 2.** Peptide concentration (mM equivalent glycine) determined by OPA dosage (n=5), Dissociation constant (*K*_D, mM) and, Affinity constant

Sample	Peptide concentration (mM equiv Gly for 1g/L SPH)	<i>K_D</i> (mM equiv Gly)	STD (K _D)	<i>K_A</i> (mM ⁻¹ equiv Gly)
SPH by Alc (1h)	1.91	2.59	0.59	0.38
SPH by Alc (3h)	2.39	5.35	1.80	0.19
SPH by Prt (1h)	1.92	8.18	1.50	0.12
SPH by Prt (3h)	2.41	7.43	1.00	0.13
SPH by Alc (1h) + Flv (2h)	1.29	2.43	0.64	0.42
SPH by Prt (1h) + Flv (2h)	3.06	4.44	2.60	0.23
PPH by Alc (1h) + Flv (2h)	2.54	2.23	0.44	0.45
PPH by Prt (1h) + Flv (2h)	3.54	3.76	0.96	0.27

651 (K_A, mM^{-1}) determined by Surface Plasmon Resonance \pm standard deviation for the 1kDa-ultrafiltrated SPHs and PPHs.

652 SPH: Soy Protein Hydrolysate

653 PPH: Pea Protein Hydrolysate

654 Alc (1h): Alcalase[®] treatment for 1 h

655 Alc (3h): Alcalase[®] treatment for 3 h

656 Prt (1h): Protamex[®] treatment for 1 h

657 Prt (3h): Protamex[®] treatment for 3 h

658 Alc (1h) + Flv (2h): Alcalase[®] treatment for 1 h followed by Flavourzyme[®] treatment for 2 h

659 Prt (1h) + Flv (2h): Protamex[®] treatment for 1 h followed by Flavourzyme[®] treatment for 2 h

660	Figures
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661 Figure 1.







691 Figure 3.

















Molecular Weight (Da)

Figure 2.



Figure 3.



Molar ratio (mM eq Gly of peptides/ mM CuSO₄)





SPHs and PPHs concentrations (mM equiv. Glycine)

Table 1. EDTA equivalent chelating capacity (EECC) and carnosine equivalent chelating capacity (CECC) values determined for 1kDa-ultrafiltrated SPHs and PPHs.

	EECC		CECC	
	Mean	± SEM	Mean	± SEM
SPH Alc (1h)	2.52	0.06	3.58	0.08
SPH Alc (3h)	1.94	0.02	2.76	0.03
SPH Alc (1h) + Flv (2h)	2.10	0.01	2.98	0.02
SPH Prt (1h)	2.33	0.05	3.31	0.07
SPH Prt (3h)	1.95	0.04	2.77	0.06
SPH Prt (1h) + Flv (2h)	2.08	0.01	2.96	0.02
PPH Alc (1h) +Flv (2h)	1.81	0.15	2.57	0.21
PPH Prt (1h) +Flv (2h)	1.54	0.02	2.19	0.03

Results are presented as mean \pm standard error mean from 5 replicates.

SPH: Soy Protein Hydrolysate

PPH: Pea Protein Hydrolysate

Alc 1h: Alcalase® treatment for 1 h

Alc 3h: Alcalase® treatment for 3 h

Prt 1h: Protamex® treatment for 1 h

Prt 3h: Protamex® treatment for 3 h

Alc (1h) + Flv (2h): Alcalase $^{\circledast}$ treatment for 1 h followed by Flavourzyme $^{\circledast}$ treatment for 2 h

 $Prt~(1h) + Flv~(2h): Protamex^{\circledast}~treatment~for~1~h~followed~by~Flavourzyme^{\circledast}~treatment~for~2~h$

Sample	Peptide concentration (mM equiv Gly for 1g/L SPH)	<i>K_D</i> (mM equiv Gly)	STD (K _D)	<i>K</i> _A (mM ⁻¹ equiv Gly)
SPH by Alc (1h)	1.91	2.59	0.59	0.38
SPH by Alc (3h)	2.39	5.35	1.80	0.19
SPH by Prt (1h)	1.92	8.18	1.50	0.12
SPH by Prt (3h)	2.41	7.43	1.00	0.13
SPH by Alc (1h) + Flv (2h)	1.29	2.43	0.64	0.42
SPH by Prt (1h) + Flv (2h)	3.06	4.44	2.60	0.23
PPH by Alc (1h) + Flv (2h)	2.54	2.23	0.44	0.45
PPH by Prt (1h) + Flv (2h)	3.54	3.76	0.96	0.27

Table 2. Peptide concentration (mM equivalent glycine) determined by OPA dosage (n=5), Dissociation (K_D , mM) and, Affinity constants (K_A , mM⁻¹) determined by Surface Plasmon Resonance \pm standard deviation for the 1kDa-ultrafiltrated SPHs and PPHs.

SPH: Soy Protein Hydrolysate

PPH: Pea Protein Hydrolysate

Alc 1h: Alcalase® treatment for 1 h

Alc 3h: Alcalase® treatment for 3 h

Prt 1h: Protamex[®] treatment for 1 h

Prt 3h: Protamex® treatment for 3 h

Alc (1h) + Flv (2h): Alcalase[®] treatment for 1 h followed by Flavourzyme[®] treatment for 2 h

Prt (1h) + Flv (2h): Protamex[®] treatment for 1 h followed by Flavourzyme[®] treatment for 2 h

Figure A.1. Degree of hydrolysis (DH%) of soy protein isolates treated with different enzymes for different durations. Non-filtrated soy hydrolysates are analysed for DH. Results are presented as mean ± standard deviation from 5 replicates.



Results are presented as mean \pm standard error mean from 5 replicates.

Table A.1. R_{max} (R.U) determined by surface plasmon resonance \pm standard deviation for the 1kDa-ultrafiltrated SPHs and PPHs.

Sample	Rmax (RU)	STD (R _{max})
SPH by Alc (1h)	109.32	4.9
SPH by Alc (3h)	157.01	21
SPH by Prt (1h)	270.34	24
SPH by Prt (3h)	166.49	11
SPH by Alc (1h) + Flv (2h)	192.24	10
SPH by Prt (1h) + Flv (2h)	84.43	16
PPH by Alc (1h) + Flv (2h)	67.84	3
PPH by Prt (1h) + Flv (2h)	27.56	2

SPH: Soy Protein Hydrolysate

PPH: Pea Protein Hydrolysate

Alc 1h: Alcalase[®] treatment for 1 h

Alc 3h: Alcalase[®] treatment for 3 h

Prt 1h: Protamex[®] treatment for 1 h

Prt 3h: Protamex[®] treatment for 3 h

Alc (1h) + Flv (2h): Alcalase[®] treatment for 1 h followed by Flavourzyme[®] treatment for 2 h

Prt (1h) + Flv (2h): Protamex[®] treatment for 1 h followed by Flavourzyme[®] treatment for 2 h