

**Evaluation of the antioxidant potential of the flour of the mesquite beans in hamburger type meat product**

**Abstract: Aims:** The objective is to approach the use of the flour of the mesquite grains in restructured hamburger meat product formulations. **Introduction:** The mesquite seed is a byproduct of great nutritional value and little use in large scale for food purposes, being considered, also, discarding raw material in the processing of the mesquite pod. The seeds represent an agroindustrial byproduct with broad technological and nutritional potential, with some applications already tested and widespread in the food and environmental sector. The high sugar content associated with the high levels of nitrogen in the mesquite tree pods favors the biochemical processes and enables the production technology of alcohol, spirits, liquor, wine, honey, enzymes, acids, gums, vinegar, sugars and even a substitute drink for coffee. In some Andean countries other beverages such as lodge, chicha, etole and algarobina (a type of stomach and aphrodisiac fortifier), flour, biscuit and cookies are made. The physicochemical characteristics of the hamburger should contain a maximum fat content of 23.0 %, a minimum of 15% protein, 3% total carbohydrates and a calcium content (maximum dry basis) 0,1% in raw hamburger and 0.45 % cooked hamburger. **Conclusion:** The use of resources to reduce the disadvantages related to the addition of fiber in meat products should be studied in order to obtain the benefits of this addition without compromising the acceptability and quality of the final product, besides allowing a greater addition of mesquite seed in order to achieve the requirements for a functional product.

**keywords:** fiber, fat, mesquite flour, restructured meat

**1. Introduction**

With the dissemination of information, the consumer has increasingly demanded products that are practical, hygienically correct and with nutritional quality, promoting an increase in competitiveness among the industries, which leads to the increasing demand in the process of choosing the products. Due to the demand for low-fat products, the food industry and research institutes are intensifying the development of new formulations or modifications of traditional products with the aim of creating alternatives to reduce fat content [1].

Among the many options available, red meat stands out as one of the main sources of proteins of high biological value, B vitamins and minerals such as iron and zinc. However, it is associated with a negative health image due to its high saturated fat content, being related to coronary diseases and cancer. The resolution 408 of 2008, of the Ministry of Health, was created to support and stimulate the promotion of healthy eating with impact on the reversal of the obesity epidemic and prevention of chronic non-communicable diseases, with a review of the patterns of identity and food quality, aiming to reduce the amounts of sugar, sodium, saturated fats and elimination of trans fats, making them compatible with a healthy standard of living [2].

The development of functional meat products, from the addition of dietary fibers, preserving the sensorial characteristics like color and texture, can be a stimulus to the introduction of healthy foods in the diet of the consumers. Rapidly prepared foods of great popular variety, such as restructured meat products, have become objects of

50 study in this area [3]. Various types of vegetable fibers have been individually evaluated  
51 or combined with other ingredients in reduced fat meat product formulations, such as  
52 restructured and emulsified products. This alternative could indirectly promote a greater  
53 consumption of fiber by consumers, who even knowing the benefits of this nutrient  
54 have not yet incorporated it into their eating habits.

55 Due to the high antioxidant and protein activity in its composition, the mesquite  
56 seed presents a differential when compared to other seeds of commercial use. Its use in  
57 the form of flour is a viable alternative for the integral use of the pod of the mesquite,  
58 since obtaining it requires technological processes accessible to the small producer, in  
59 addition to the possibility of a larger consumption when compared to consumption only  
60 in natura. The production of a product of greater value added from the seed of the  
61 mesquite can contribute to the generation of income of the producing region, improving  
62 the quality of life of the population. The objective is to address the use of mesquite seed  
63 meal in hamburger-type restructured meat product formulations.

## 64 65 **2. Mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora* Sw. DC)**

66 The evolutionary development of the mesquite species of the genus *Prosopis*  
67 originated in the African continent (Tropical Africa), where *Prosopis africana* persists.  
68 Their migration to the American continent occurred when these continents were linked,  
69 involving different species adapted to the dispersion at short distance, but of effective  
70 endozoic diffusion, through birds and mammals [4].

71 The genus *Prosopis* is a vegetable belonging to the subfamily Mimosoideae,  
72 native to North and South America, where most of the 44 known species of the genus  
73 *Prosopis* are found. These species are capable of surviving and producing in soil areas  
74 of low humidity, high temperature, high evapotranspiration and high precipitation, they  
75 present great resistance to salinity, having high capacity to fix nitrogen [5].

76 The mesquite tree (*Prosopis juliflora* Sw. DC) is an xerophilous whose tortuous  
77 stem measures about 6 to 8 meters in height, being able to reach up to 18 meters, the  
78 stem has a thick, slender, reddish-brown, sinuous and twisted bark. The crown may  
79 reach 6 to 20 meters in height and 0,45 to 1,00 meters in diameter, with a brown color,  
80 armed with axillary spines, solitary or twin, rarely unaltered, housed on both sides of the  
81 nodes and branches [4].

82 It is an exotic species and resistant to the conditions of climatic severity,  
83 manifested in arid and semi-arid areas. It was introduced in the Brazilian Northeast  
84 through public policies that aimed to meet the needs of the rural man with regard to the  
85 food supply of his herd, notably cattle and goat farming and also as an alternative  
86 reforestation in areas deforested by the caatinga. It was well adapted to the climate of  
87 the Northeast region of Brazil as it developed in regions with rainfall between 150 mm  
88 and 1200 mm per year [6].

89 The tree of the genus *Prosopis* is used in the Northeastern semiarid region in  
90 three ways: in the exploitation of wood for the production of cuttings and posts and for  
91 energetic purposes, in the form of firewood and charcoal; in the feeding of sheep, goats,  
92 cattle, horses and mules by means of their fruits; and for shading, usually in the vicinity  
93 of farm houses, parallel to fences and on property roads [7].

94 This plant produces a large quantity of pods with excellent palatability and good  
95 digestibility, presenting in its chemical composition 25-28% of glucose, 11-17% of  
96 starch, 7-11% of proteins, 14-20% of organic acids, pectins and other substances. Thus,  
97 the mesquite contains about 43% of sugars and starch, constituting an excellent  
98 fattening food, besides being relatively rich in proteins. It has an ash content of  
99 approximately 3.75% and a moisture content ranging from 16-20% wet basis [8]. The

100 pod of the mesquite is classified as a vegetable, independent, in the form of a drupaceous  
101 lomento, linear or curved, presenting the exocarp striate, carnivorous mesocarp of  
102 yellow color, divided into leathery segments that have one seed each, with an average of  
103 20 seeds per fruit; measuring 10 to 40 cm in length, 15 to 20 mm in width and 4 to 5  
104 mm in thickness [9].

105 The mesquite pods are flattened, more or less curved, measuring on average 20  
106 centimeters in length and between 1 and 2 cm in width, with depressions between the  
107 seeds; are composed of light-colored coryza epicarp; sucrose-rich mesocarp (more than  
108 30%) and about 15% crude protein [10]. It is divided into three parts: pulp, seed and  
109 endocarp, grow in small stalks forming clusters, contains a sweet flesh and yellow  
110 color.

## 111 2.1 Mesquite seeds

112 The seeds are dark brown, oval, having an average of 6 mm in length and 4 mm  
113 in width. They consist of 3 parts: bark (15%), endosperm (35%) and germ (50%) [11].  
114 They represent about 30% of the total weight of the fruit, varying according to the  
115 species and location of development of the pod. The seeds of *P. juliflora* have a water  
116 barrier composed by the palisade layer of seed coat and galactomannan in the  
117 endosperm [12].

118 Because it belongs to the family *Fabaceae*, the mesquite seed has the endosperm  
119 rich in galactomannan (polysaccharide known worldwide and widely used as a  
120 stabilizing and emulsifying agent in the food, cosmetic, textile, pharmaceutical and  
121 biomedical industries), serving as a water reservoir and source of energy to the embryo,  
122 avoiding its death by desiccation and having potential of application in films and edible  
123 coatings [13]. Galactomannans are mainly found in the endosperm of vegetable seeds  
124 as components of cell wall storage and energy reserves. During germination these  
125 polysaccharides are discriminated and used as a reserve for the development of  
126 seedlings [12].

127 Polymers of this type, LBG and Guar gums, are widely used in the formulation  
128 of ice creams, pasty cheeses, salad dressings, yogurts etc. In Brazil, the first large study  
129 on the composition and properties of pods, including the description and the elucidation  
130 of the polysaccharide structure of the seed was performed by Figueiredo [14]. It is a  
131 water-soluble polysaccharide; a galactomannan with an average molecular weight of  
132 about 250,000, found in the seed whose solutions have high viscosity and "n"  
133 applications in the food industry. These gums are essential in food processing because  
134 of their ability to improve water retention, reduce moisture loss by evaporation, alter  
135 freezing parameters and formation of water crystals, and especially to increase and  
136 optimize viscosity food and other products [14]. Rincón et al. [13] state that *P. juliflora*  
137 gum can be used as a natural thickener and stabilizer because of the zero shear viscosity  
138 and the non-Newtonian flow behavior of its aqueous dispersions, as well as the fact that  
139 they exhibit properties viscoelastic.

140 Access to products made from wheat flour substitutes that have nutritional value  
141 and pleasant sensory characteristics are difficulties encountered by celiac and the food  
142 industry. Biscuits are among the most consumed by society in general, which is  
143 justified by the ease of consumption and the affordable cost. Despite the significant  
144 production of biscuits in Brazil, the supply of this gluten-free product is very limited  
145 [15].

146 Freitas et al. [16] studied the elaboration of flour with pumpkin seeds and bauru  
147 to make biscuits and concluded that the addition of two flours, partially replacing the  
148 sweet sprinkles, improves the nutritional value of celiac biscuits as they increase the  
149

150 dietary fiber content, proteins, minerals and lipids. However, sensorially, the biscuit B  
 151 containing pumpkin seed flour presented better results, showing that this flour can  
 152 partially replace traditional flours in formulations of biscuits for celiac, both  
 153 domestically and industrially.

154

155 **2.2 Technological characteristics of the mesquite**

156 The mesquite is part of the foods used by man since prehistory, in regions where  
 157 the plant is native. They are palatable and aromatic (reminding vanilla) [10], it has high  
 158 levels of proteins with reasonable digestibility, being equal to those of barley and corn,  
 159 varying in size, color and chemical characteristics, according to the characteristics of the  
 160 species. This makes its cultivation recommended for many purposes: phytochemistry  
 161 [6], allelopathy [17], antioxidant [18], food [13,19], biopesticide [20]; bioethanol [21]  
 162 and use in medicine [22].

163 Ruto et al. [23] concluded that the methanolic extract of *P. juliflora* presented  
 164 several degrees of inhibition against the microorganisms (*S. aureus*, *B. subtilis*, *C.*  
 165 *albicans*, *P.aeurginosa* and *E. coli*). The antibacterial efficacy of the *P. juliflora* extract  
 166 can be attributed to the presence of phenolic compounds; flavonoids and flavonoids;  
 167 tannins and terpenoids. Plants have the ability to synthesize aromatic substances, most  
 168 of which are phenols or their oxygen derivatives that serve as a defense mechanism  
 169 against microorganisms, insects and herbivores. Flavonoids are phenolic compounds  
 170 hydroxylated substance known to be synthesized by plants in response to microbial  
 171 infection [24].

172 The high sugar content associated with the high nitrogen levels of the mesquite tree  
 173 pods favors the biochemical processes and enables the technology of alcohol production  
 174 [25]. spirits, liqueur, wine, honey [26], enzymes, acids, gums [13], vinegar, sugars and  
 175 even drink that replaces coffee [27]. In some Andean countries other beverages such as  
 176 lodge, chicha, etole and algarobina (a type of stomach and aphrodisiac fortifier), flour  
 177 [28] and cookies [29].

178 In a study developed by Silva [30], which improved the process of obtaining  
 179 mesquite spirit, the physico-chemical characterization of mesquite pods obtained in the  
 180 state of Paraíba was obtained (Table 1).

181

182 **Table 1. Physical-chemical composition (mean ± standard deviation) of in natura**  
 183 **mesquite pods harvested in the cities of Patos e Sousa, Sertão Paraibano**

Analysis	Cities	
	Patos (%)	Sousa (%)
Moisture	10.30 ± 0.40	13.17 ± 0.12
Proteins	10.26 ± 1.98	9.28 ± 0.14
Lipids	2.94 ± 0.44	1.00 ± 0.17
Total acidity	2.17 ± 0.32	2.37 ± 0.12
Mineral	3.16 ± 0.08	2.50 ± 0.00
Crude Fiber	15.17 ± 0.06	15.27 ± 0.39
Reducing sugars	2.99 ± 0.19	2.44 ± 0.25
Non-reducing sugars	41.77 ± 2.23	36.48 ± 0.31
Total sugars	40.62 ± 1.30	38.92 ± 0.55
Carbohydrates	73.34 ± 1.93	74.05 ± 0.43
Energetic value	345.29 ± 13.51	342.32 ± 0.38

184 Source: Silva [30].

185

186 Silva [30] elaborated an integral flour of mesquite for use in bakery products using  
 187 the unit drying operations (45 ° C for 18 hours), fragmentation and sieving of the pods  
 188 with the physico-chemical composition described in Table 2.

189 **Table 2. Physical-chemical composition of the whole mesquite flour**

<b>Analysis (g 100 g<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	<b>Mean ± standard deviation</b>
Water content	6.8 ± 0.9
Total sugars	56.5 ± 0.4
Reducing sugars	4.6 ± 0.3
Total food fiber	7.2 ± 0.5
Proteins	9.0 ± 1.5
Ashes	3.6 ± 0.1
Ethereal extract	2.1 ± 1.3
Tannins	0.3 ± 0.0

190 Source: Silva [30].

191  
 192 Gusmão [31] prepared a meal of the mesquite pod obtained by convective drying at  
 193 60 ° C for the use of biscuit formulation together with the wheat flour. The  
 194 characterization data of this flour are described in Table 3.

195  
 196 **Table 3. Physical-chemical composition of the mesquite pod meal**

<b>Analysis</b>	<b>Mean ± standard deviation</b>
<i>(g 100 g<sup>-1</sup>)</i>	
Water content	7.17 ± 0.01
Ashes	2.50 ± 0.05
Proteins	9.12 ± 0.10
Lipids	1.28 ± 0.15
Carbohydrates	74.50 ± 0.01
Fibers	15.10 ± 0.20
Ashes	3.6 ± 0.1
Total Sugars	60.50 ± 0.08
<i>(mg 100g<sup>-1</sup>)</i>	
Calcium	650.75 ± 1.17
Phosphor	879.12 ± 2.42
Iron	10.20 ± 1.87

197 Source: Gusmão [31].

198  
 199 It is observed that the in natura pod has an average of 9.7% of protein, 1.9 lipid, and  
 200 15.7 of crude fiber, excellent quantitative to justify its processing in meaty derivatives.  
 201 In this context, it is necessary to potentialize the use of the fruits of the mesquite tree  
 202 crop in the semi-arid regions of Northeast Brazil, where malnutrition is a direct  
 203 consequence of the lack of potentially nutritious and easy-to-acquire foods rich in  
 204 nutrients, but wasted due to lack of information, mainly by the rural population. Choge  
 205 et al. [32] shows the composition of the whole pod meal of *P. juliflora*, confirming the  
 206 product with a high protein and sugar content (Table 4).

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**Table 4. Composição da farinha de vagem inteira de *P. Juliflora***

<b>Analysis</b>	<b>100 g matéria seca<sup>-1</sup></b>
Protein (g)	16.2
Total sugar (g)	13.0
Fructose(g)	3.2
Glucose (g)	0.8
Galactose (g)	0.8
Sucrose (g)	7.5
Maltose (g)	<0.4
Lactose (g)	0.7
Carbohydrates (g)	69.2
Energy value (KJ)	1530
Diet Fiber (g)	47.8
Fat (g)	2.12
Monosaturated fatty acids (g)	0.4
Polyunsaturated fatty acids (g)	1.06
Saturated fatty acids (g)	0.56
Sodium (mg)	20.0
Ashes (g)	6.0
Total solids (g)	93.5

217 Source: Choge et al. [32]

218  
219

### 3. Kinetics of drying of agroindustrial products

220  
221 Drying is a traditional process in food preservation, responsible for reducing the  
222 availability of water to deterioration reactions, increasing food stability and reducing the  
223 volume and mass of the product [33]. The advantages of using this process are several,  
224 among which: ease in the preservation of food products, stability of the aromatic  
225 components at room temperature for long periods of time, protection against enzymatic  
226 and oxidative degradation, the reduction of product weight, energy savings due to the  
227 lack of refrigeration and the availability of the product at any time of the year [34].

228 The kinetic drying studies have aroused the interest of several researchers for the  
229 most different products, crambe seeds [35], seeds of mesquite [28], guandu, [36], and  
230 melon seeds [8]. According to Shanthilal & Anandharamakrishnan [37], mathematical  
231 modeling based on empirical resolutions is considered an important instrument for  
232 immersion processes, since it allows understanding food behavior, predicting results  
233 and assists in the kinetic quality of the process in a simple way.

234 Due to the importance of the mesquite seed, more research needs to be done to  
235 find out about the potentiality of the same. It is necessary to create cryopreservation  
236 protocols and one of these protocols is the drying of the seeds. In the literature, several  
237 mathematical models have been used to describe the kinetics of thin film drying for  
238 agricultural products. Three types of thin layer drying models are used to describe the  
239 drying kinetics of thin films, being: the theoretical model, which considers only the  
240 internal resistance to the transfer of heat and water between the product and the hot air;  
241 and the empirical models, which consider only external resistance to temperature and  
242 relative humidity of the drying air [38].

243 The conservative method can be described by mathematical models that make it  
244 possible to obtain estimates of the time required to reduce the water content of the  
245 product under different drying conditions so that they become useful tools for decision  
246 making and contribute to the improvement of process efficiency [39]. According to  
247 Kaleta et al. [40], some mathematical models are widely used in the drying processes,  
248 they are: Henderson & Pabis, Lewis and Page (1949). In this study, it will be used in  
249 addition to the models cited by Kaleta et al. [40] the models of Fick, Cavalcanti Mata,  
250 Exponential of two terms and Midilli, to compare and analyze the different curves and  
251 drying obtained in the different models.

252 Vilela & Arthur [41] state that the information contained in the drying curves is  
253 of fundamental importance for the development of processes and for the sizing of  
254 equipment. With them, it is possible to estimate the drying time of a certain quantity of  
255 products and, with the time necessary for the production, it is estimated the energy  
256 expenditure that will reflect in the cost of processing and, in turn, will influence in the  
257 final price of the product, in the sizing of equipment can determine the operating  
258 conditions for drying and, with this, the selection of heat exchangers, fans and others.

259 In spite of the great diversity of research involving grains and seeds, no studies  
260 are available in the literature that address the effect of temperature on the drying  
261 kinetics of processed mesquite grains for direct and indirect consumption, which makes  
262 the present study important. Considering the importance of reducing food waste and the  
263 use of mesquite seeds, it is necessary to study methods of preserving them through  
264 drying. In this way we can study the way to use the mesquite seed meal in the  
265 development of meat restructured types.

#### 267 **4. Restructured hamburger meat product**

268 In the early 1970s, the term restructured meat began to be used in the inclusion  
269 of a series of products made from lean and fat meats, cut into pieces of varying size,  
270 crushed and reduced to the mass, marketed as raw products, frozen or chilled, or as  
271 precooked and cooked [42]. In the same decade, this definition covered a large number  
272 of meat products. Recently, this term is used for meat products that try to imitate the  
273 aspect of the integral meat.

274 Restructured products are those that undergo a process of partial or total  
275 mechanical subdivision for comminution and subsequent reconstitution of the meat. The  
276 main restructured meat products are hamburgers, meatballs, steaks and chicken nuggets  
277 [43]. Sousa et al. [44] restructured the hamburger using watermelon peel and concluded  
278 that the final product presented high fiber content and low humidity, making a product  
279 with nutritional value and capable of having a longer shelf life, besides having a high  
280 protein content and a low content of lipids.

281 Restructured products semi-ready for consumption are presented as an  
282 alternative to the market, meeting the demand for ease in preparation and good  
283 acceptance. For consumers, these products are an option in view of the growing need to  
284 minimize the time of food preparation, especially for the population of large urban  
285 centers [45]. The scientific and industrial community of the meat sector has been  
286 investing in the development of new products that meet the demand for products that  
287 are easy to prepare and healthy [46]. Restructured meat products represent a category  
288 with great potential for application of functional ingredients with appeals for health [3].  
289 For small producers, the restructured represent a viable alternative from the point of  
290 view of production and cost, because besides being a product that has good acceptance,  
291 it needs low investment for its elaboration. In addition, it has the characteristic of  
292 allowing the insertion of ingredients in its formulation, which is the case of flours and

293 fibers, aiming to add value to the product from a nutritional point of view and  
294 contributing benefits from the technological point of view.

295 Some products have been used as substitute for animal fat in meat products by  
296 starch or gum mixtures [47], by vegetable oils [48] and by different dietary fibers  
297 [49,50]. These products are well accepted by the population, because they are practical  
298 and convenient. In this regard, there is much relevance in studies of the technological,  
299 sensorial and functional effect of ingredients used in restructured products [44]. With  
300 the increasing increase in the diversity of this type of product, which do not require  
301 much time for its preparation, hamburgers, sausages, empanadas, salami, mortadellas  
302 and sausages are available in the market [51].

303 In accordance with Brazilian Law [52], the hamburger is an industrialized meat  
304 product obtained from the ground beef of animals, added or not of adipose tissue and  
305 ingredients, molded and subjected to suitable technological process. These meat  
306 products are easy to prepare and consumed by all popular classes [51]. Frozen crusts or  
307 frozen stews may be marketed; however, in the supermarket shelves, it is observed that  
308 the raw and frozen hamburger is the main choice of Brazilian consumers [3].

309 During the manufacture of meat derivatives various ingredients may be added,  
310 among them soy textured protein and (soluble and insoluble) fibers. Food fibers are  
311 widely studied because of their benefits, including: reduction of blood cholesterol,  
312 improvements in the function of the large intestine, and reduction of postprandial  
313 glycemia (thus contributing to the prevention or reduction of intestinal diseases),  
314 decreased risk of coronary heart disease, and type 2 diabetes [53]. In addition, the fibers  
315 also collaborate for the rheological properties of products through characteristics such  
316 as solubility, viscosity, gel formation, water retention capacity and volume increase  
317 through association between molecules [54]. Among the properties, the solubility of the  
318 fibers is relevant, mainly, to define the technological and physiological effects. When  
319 the functional properties of fibers are evaluated, the soluble fraction shows a greater  
320 capacity to provide viscosity, to form gels and to act as an emulsifier, without altering  
321 the texture and taste of the food, being easier to be incorporated into processed foods  
322 and beverages [55].

323 The incorporation of dietary fiber of vegetable origin may be of great  
324 importance for the Brazilian population, since nutritional recommendations suggest the  
325 consumption of 25 to 38 g of fiber per day for young and adults. Due to its functional  
326 and technological properties, have been used as fat substitute in various meat products  
327 [50] with the purpose of adopting integrated strategies that manage the production of  
328 accessible products, and at the same time healthy formulations, with beneficial  
329 properties to the health of the consumer. In addition, the addition of dietary fiber helps  
330 to modify the general technological and sensory characteristics of a meat system, such  
331 as water retention capacity, fat retention capacity and texture profile [56].

332 According to Oliveira et al. [51], several studies have demonstrated the  
333 possibility of substitution and addition of ingredients in the formulation of hamburgers,  
334 with the intention of incorporating substances with functional properties and reduce the  
335 high fat content of the product; contributing to the health and well-being of consumers.  
336 The reduction of sodium and fat can bring about changes in the technological properties,  
337 as in the texture profile and presence of exudate liquid, as well as changes in sensorial  
338 properties [57].

339 The addition of fiber in hamburgers [58], at 2% levels, can be performed without  
340 negative impact on sensorial quality. Other studies indicate that the addition of more  
341 than 10% of dietary fiber does not have a significant impact on the sensory analysis of  
342 hamburgers [59]. It should be noted that for Brazilian legislation, in accordance with



343 Portaria 27 [52] a fiber-rich product is defined as the minimum fiber content of 6 g per  
344 100 g of solid product (3 g / 100 ml for liquid products), while the fiber source product  
345 must have a minimum content of 3 g / 100 g (1 g /, 5g / 100ml for liquids). It is valid to  
346 score the average consumption recommendation of 21-38g / day of dietary fiber.  
347 Dietary and dietary experts suggest that 20-30% of daily fiber intake should be  
348 composed of soluble fiber [55].

349 According to the Technical Regulation of Hamburger Identity and Quality [52]  
350 in the burger should contain a maximum fat content of 23%, a minimum of 15%  
351 protein, 3% total carbohydrates and calcium content (maximum dry basis) 0.1% in raw  
352 hamburger and 0.45% in cooked hamburger. Note the high fat content that this food can  
353 contain, highlighting the importance of techniques to reduce this component, so that the  
354 final product is healthier.

355 Trevisan et al. [3] observed that the use of oat fiber was considered effective to  
356 improve physico-chemical properties in cooked burgers, such as yield, weight loss  
357 during microwave heating and color stability during freezing storage. There were no  
358 changes in the texture, indicating that oat fiber presents as promising ingredient to aid  
359 formulations of meat products with reduced fat and salt content.

360

#### 361 **4.1 Chemical changes: oxidation reactions in meat products**

362 The process of oxidation is the transfer of electrons from one molecule that  
363 oxidizes to another that is reduced. During the oxidation, the oxidizing agent can  
364 abstract an electron in the form of hydrogen atoms of a molecule susceptible through the  
365 formation of free radicals by the action of reactive substances of oxygen or nitrogen  
366 [60]. Oxidative transformations have been associated with deleterious effects on the  
367 quality of foodstuffs. Food technologists consider oxidation as one of the main  
368 problems related to the deterioration of the quality of meat and meat products during  
369 storage [61].

370 The susceptibility to oxidation is due to the high concentrations of unsaturated  
371 lipids, heme pigments, catalysts and several different types of oxidative agents present  
372 in muscle tissue. Oxidative deterioration in meat manifests as a change in color, taste,  
373 formation of toxic compounds, shorter shelf life, loss of nutrients and water [61]. The  
374 release of iron from myoglobin, hemoglobin, and ferritin also occurs after the steps of  
375 processing (salting, grinding, etc.), storage and cooking of meat and meat products,  
376 which promotes intense changes in color, aroma and taste, perceptible by the consumer.

377 Products formed after lipid oxidation have been characterized as toxic and  
378 associated with the development of deteriorating processes of human health. Peroxides  
379 and cholesterol oxides may be involved in the development of tumors and  
380 arteriosclerosis, while malonaldehyde has been characterized as a mutagenic agent and  
381 related to the formation of nitrosamines [62]. During storage, factors such as heat,  
382 moisture, oxygen, presence of light, metals, enzymes and pigments can promote  
383 oxidation of lipids, generating compounds harmful to human health, such as  
384 malonaldehydes and cholesterol oxides, which have carcinogenic activity [63].

385 The technological strategies for the control of lipid and protein oxidation in meat  
386 and meat products are based on the insertion of substances with antioxidant activity in  
387 the formulation of products and / or reduction of meat exposure to molecular oxygen  
388 through the use of modified atmosphere packaging [64]. The addition of phenolic  
389 compounds from vegetable extracts has been extensively used in the control of lipid  
390 oxidation in meat products [65]. Inhibition of lipid oxidation prevents oxidative  
391 degradation of proteins by minimizing the formation of secondary compounds of lipid

392 oxidation and, consequently, their interaction with proteins to form carbonyl  
393 compounds.

394 Ultimately, food quality is defined in terms of consumer acceptability: taste,  
395 aroma and appearance characteristics. The growing demand for convenient foods has  
396 led to rapid growth in the category of consumer-ready products. Many of the food  
397 ingredients contain unsaturated fatty acids that are quite susceptible to deterioration of  
398 quality, especially under oxidative stress. For this reason, efforts to reduce oxidation  
399 have increased. Most of the time, the best strategy is to add antioxidants [66].

400 In recent years, there has been an increase in the search for alternatives to  
401 synthetic antioxidants, due to their carcinogenic potential. Thus, there is a need to look  
402 for suitable alternatives from natural sources, such as plant-derived antioxidants, to  
403 combat oxidative instability of lipids and proteins in meat [67]. Several strategies have  
404 been adopted by the food industry, among which the reduction and/or exclusion of  
405 preservatives and artificial colors, the reduction of sodium concentration, the  
406 replacement of ingredients whose high intake may be associated with the onset of  
407 pathologies and the incorporation of bioactive compounds capable of promoting  
408 physiological health benefits for the consumer. This last strategy, in particular, has  
409 presented a high growth, being that the foods that contain the so-called bioactive  
410 compounds are called functional foods [68].

411 Recently, special attention has been given to a number of medicinal plants that  
412 can be used as a potential source of antioxidants. In this sense, several scientific studies  
413 are being carried out with the objective of finding natural additives with broad spectrum  
414 of antioxidant activity, to increase the quality and shelf life of meat products [23,69].  
415 The efficacy of the different natural antioxidants has been reported in the reduction of  
416 lipid and protein oxidation, color change and microbial growth in meat products [70].

417 Most natural antioxidants are obtained through herbs, spices, vegetables, fruits  
418 and seeds, where phenolic compounds are the main substances responsible for their  
419 antioxidant activity. Plant extracts that present phenolic compounds are considered  
420 effective sources of antioxidants, since they have high activity of hydrogen donation or  
421 have high capacity to absorb free radicals. The antioxidant activity of these compounds  
422 depends on their structural skeleton and the pattern of their functional groups [66] Ruto  
423 et al. [23] observed that the oxidizing activity between the methanolic extracts was high  
424 for *P. juliflora*, there was a greater inhibition activity in the  $\beta$ -carotene assay. In the  
425 absence of an antioxidant,  $\beta$ -carotene undergoes rapid discoloration, but the presence of  
426 phenolic compounds inhibits the extent of  $\beta$ -carotene destruction by neutralizing the  
427 free radical linoleate formed in the system [71,72]. The results of this study indicate that  
428 *P. juliflora* extract efficiently inhibits the oxidation of linoleic acid, thus inhibiting the  
429 bleaching of  $\beta$ -carotene. According to Sirmah et al. [73] *P. Juliflora* extracts may be of  
430 valuable interest as a source of natural antioxidants for applications in the food,  
431 cosmetic or pharmaceutical industries.

432 Chia seeds have beneficial effects on health and high levels of protein,  
433 antioxidants and dietary fiber [74]. Due to its nutritional importance, it has been used in  
434 several products, such as baby foods, cereal bars, roasts, yogurt, sauce, among others  
435 [75]. Fernandez-Ginés et al. [76] and Viuda-Martos et al. [77] observed that the addition  
436 of 0.5% to 2% of orange fibers produced an antioxidant effect on mortadella meat  
437 product, proving the antioxidant properties of the bioactive compounds (polyphenols,  
438 carotenes) of the citrus fibers. Vegetable oils, particularly grains, show marked  
439 resistance to rancid plants. Some grains, if not damaged or pressed, can be stored for  
440 years, thanks to the presence of natural antioxidants [78].

441

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

The study concluded that the mesquite seed is a promising fiber to be used in hamburger-type meat products. We can also observe that there are only few studies regarding the mesquite seed, needing to diversify those to better understand how we can better aggregate the seed in other products.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have declared no conflict of interest for this article

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