

# Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0023-6438(18)30888-0

DOI: [10.1016/j.lwt.2018.10.042](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lwt.2018.10.042)

Reference: YFSTL 7508

To appear in: *LWT - Food Science and Technology*

Received Date: 2 August 2018

Revised Date: 14 October 2018

Accepted Date: 15 October 2018

Please cite this article as: Zhu, Y., Bhandari, B., Pang, Z., Liu, X., Prakash, S., Protein concentration and hydrocolloid effect on the rheological and tribological of resulting protein solution, *LWT - Food Science and Technology* (2018), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lwt.2018.10.042>.

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1 **Protein concentration and hydrocolloid effect on the rheological and tribological**  
2 **of resulting protein solution**

3

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**13 Abstract**

14 In recent years, the consumption of high protein beverages has increased due to the  
15 consciousness among consumers about their body weight. This study investigated the  
16 rheological, tribological and visual properties of pure proteins solutions with variable  
17 protein concentrations and with/without hydrocolloids (gelatin,  $\kappa$ -carrageenan, low  
18 methoxy pectin and curdlan). Although whey protein addition did not have any  
19 obvious influence on the appearances of protein solutions, it increased the stability  
20 against agglomeration and improved viscosity and lubrication property (measured as a  
21 friction coefficient) to some extent. The protein solutions became less stable with  
22 addition of the hydrocolloids under investigation, however the flow and lubrication  
23 behaviour of the protein solutions improved as the amount of hydrocolloids increased.  
24 The protein solution containing 0.25g/100g of curdlan showed the best lubrication  
25 property at both 15 and 37 °C.

26

**27 Keywords: Hydrocolloids; Protein; Tribology; Rheology**

## 28 1. Introduction

29 The macronutrient protein can give a stronger feeling of satiety and increased energy  
30 expenditure following consumption in comparison to carbohydrates and fats  
31 (Anderson & Moore, 2004; Halton & Hu, 2004; Paddon-Jones et al., 2008). Therefore,  
32 for body-weight control and treatment of obesity, high protein foods are considered  
33 potential candidates. High-protein products are increasingly being developed in  
34 several dairy and non-dairy areas, such as cheese, yoghurt, ice creams, fruits,  
35 beverages, and specialized health products because of their unique health benefiting  
36 properties (Uluko, Liu, Lv, & Zhang, 2015).

37

38 Milk that contains approximately 3.0g/100g protein is ideally thought as high protein  
39 food. Dairy proteins such as caseins and whey proteins are common in high protein  
40 liquid formulations with; and the ratio of casein to whey protein in milk is 4:1  
41 (O'Mahony & Fox, 2014). Although like most proteins, whey proteins are not stable  
42 at high protein concentrations with increased viscosity and gelation after heat  
43 treatment resulting in undrinkable products (Sağlam, Venema, Vries, & van Der

44 Linden, 2014). However, whey is still widely used as an important ingredient in many  
45 foods due its functionalities such as gelation, emulsification, thickening, foaming and  
46 fat & flavour binding capacity (Foegeding, 2015; Onwulata, Huth, & Huth, 2008).  
47 Hydrocolloids are normally used to help maintain a desired product property when  
48 developing high protein foods since unwanted interactions always occurs between the  
49 ingredients (Nguyen, Kravchuk, Bhandari, & Prakash, 2017; Sağlam et al., 2014). In  
50 this study, LM pectin, gelatin and  $\kappa$ -carrageenan that are commonly used in the dairy  
51 industry and curdlan that is gradually being introduced in dairy products as it can  
52 enhance the mouthfeel properties were used (Nakao et al., 1991; Phillips & Williams,  
53 2009; Salvador & Fiszman, 1998). The concentrations of hydrocolloids recommended  
54 to be used in dairy products is  $<0.3\text{g}/100\text{g}$  (Laaman, 2011; Phillips & Williams, 2009),  
55 thus we chose 0.01, 0.05 and 0.25 g/100g in this study.

56

57 Rheological (bulk) and tribological (thin-film) properties are essential characteristics  
58 that provide cues of the viscosity (thickness) and mouthfeel attributes (smoothness  
59 and creaminess) of the high protein solutions with and without hydrocolloids (Baier et

60 al., 2009; Kokini, 1987; Malone, Appelqvist, & Norton, 2003; O'Mahony & Fox,  
61 2014). Particularly there is limited information on the oral sensations (described by  
62 frictional forces) imparted by pure proteins and protein-hydrocolloid complexes that  
63 are essential to understand for product formulations.

64

65 The aim of the current study is to investigate the rheological, tribological and visual  
66 properties of pure protein solutions containing casein and whey proteins at different  
67 proportions with and without four different hydrocolloids, including gelatin,  
68  $\kappa$ -carrageenan, low methoxy pectin and in particular curdlan to explore the possibility  
69 of their use in dairy high protein beverage. Besides, the effect of whey protein  
70 addition on the protein solution was also investigated.

71

## 72 **2. Materials and methods**

### 73 **2.1. Materials**

74 Three hydrocolloids (gelatin, carrageenan and pectin) used in this study were obtained  
75 from Melbourne Food Depot (Melbourne, Australia). The gelatin was a light colored

76 edible bovine skin (type B) powder with bloom 220. The Kappa type carrageenan and  
77 low methoxyl (LM) pectin were also commonly used in the food industry. The  
78 curdlan (Molecular weight is 74000) was bought from Shaanxi Orient Industrial Co.,  
79 Ltd (Shaanxi province, China). The milk protein ingredients, whey protein isolate  
80 (WPI, protein 94.4g/100g, moisture 4.5g/100g, fat 0.3g/100g, lactose 0.1g/100g and  
81 ash 1.9g/100g) was obtained from Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd (Auckland, New  
82 Zealand) and micellar casein (protein 82.0g/100g, moisture 7.3g/100g, fat 1.3g/100g,  
83 lactose 4.6g/100g and ash 4.8g/100g) was purchased from Bulk Nutrients (Sydney,  
84 Australia). All the reagents were of food grade and used without further purification.

85

## 86 **2.2. Protein solution preparation**

87 Protein solutions were formulated by adding micellar casein and WPI to ultra-pure  
88 water. The weight of micellar casein was 2.4g/100g in all samples while varying  
89 amount of WPI was added to achieve the final protein concentration of 3.0, 4.0, 6.0,  
90 8.0 and 10.0g/100g, respectively. The following preparation procedure was used for  
91 all protein solutions. To ensure that no clumping occurred, the protein powder was

92 added slowly to the water in a beaker placed on a Fisher Thermix 310T stirring plate  
93 (American Instruments Exchange, Inc., Haverhill, MA) and kept for 2 hours at 25 °C  
94 under moderate agitation at 400 rpm. A second dispersion and hydration step  
95 consisted of using an UltraTurrax Model T25 fitted with an S25N-18G dispersion tool  
96 (IKA Works Inc., Wilmington, NC) for 5 min at 10,000 rpm and then sonicated in an  
97 ultrasonic bath for 20 min at 300 W. The solutions were kept in 4 °C overnight for  
98 further hydration. The next day the stock protein solution was mixed with the selected  
99 hydrocolloids before heating (95 °C for 10 min), and the final concentration of  
100 hydrocolloids in the system was 0.01, 0.05 and 0.25g/100g. A sample with no  
101 hydrocolloids was treated as control. After heating the samples were cooled with  
102 running water immediately and stored at 4 °C for 48 hours for instrumental analysis  
103 and appearance evaluation.

104

### 105 **2.3. Zeta-potential & particle size measurement**

106 The zeta-potential and particle size of protein solution was measured by dynamic light  
107 scattering using the Zetasizer Nano ZS (Malvern Instruments Ltd., United Kingdom).



108 For the measurement, samples were diluted 500 times with deionised water before  
109 measurement. The zeta-potential and particle size was reported as the average and  
110 standard deviation of measurements made on three freshly prepared samples.

111

#### 112 **2.4. Rheological measurement**

113 Viscosities of protein samples were measured under steady state shear conditions by  
114 stress-controlled rheometer (Discovery Hybrid Rheometer, TA Instrument, USA)  
115 using 40 mm aluminium parallel plates at 1300  $\mu\text{m}$  gap, with shear rate ranging from  
116 0.1 to 100  $\text{s}^{-1}$ . At the beginning of each test, the samples were equilibrated again for  
117 120 s at 15 or 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  between the plates at the measurement gap and subjected to a  
118 pre-shear for 60 s at a shear rate of 0.1  $\text{s}^{-1}$ . All tests were performed at 15 and 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

119

#### 120 **2.5. Tribological measurement**

121 Lubrication properties of protein samples were measured on a Discovery Hybrid  
122 Rheometer, using ring on plate tribo-rheometry (TA Instrument, USA) on a rough  
123 plastic surface of 3M Transpore Surgical Tape 1527-2 (3M Health Care, USA). A

124 3-ball spherical geometry was used to measure tribology in this work.

125

126 The tribology measurement was performed at 15 and 37 °C. Since the in-mouth force  
127 was reported to be between 0.01 and 10 N (Miller & Watkin, 1996), we used a  
128 constant normal force of 2 N to represent the moderate normal force applied on  
129 samples during oral processing. The samples were pre-sheared at the speed of 0.01  
130 rad/s for 1 min, and then equilibrated for another 1 min before each measurement. The  
131 results were recorded for rotational speeds from 0.01 to 100 mm/s with 10 points per  
132 decade.

133

#### 134 **2.6. Appearance evaluation**

135 After 48 hours of storage at 4 °C the protein solutions were equilibrated at room  
136 temperature (22–25 °C) for 1 h followed by evaluation of appearance.

137

#### 138 **2.7. Statistical analysis**

139 All the experiments were performed in triplicates and the results are expressed as the

140 mean of independent experiments  $\pm$  standard deviation. Experimental data were  
141 subjected to one-way ANOVA (pairwise comparison of means with Tukey HSD  
142 post-hoc test) in order to find differences in samples. Data was analyzed using SPSS  
143 software 22.0 (SPSS, Chicago, IL). A  $p$ -value of  $<0.05$  was considered statistically  
144 significant.

145

### 146 **3. Results and discussion**

#### 147 **3.1. Zeta-potential, particle size and appearance of protein solution**

148 Tables 1 and 2 show the zeta potential and particle size of different protein solution with  
149 and without hydrocolloids. With the exception of 10.0g/100g protein, the addition of  
150 WPI increased the absolute zeta-potential (Table 1) and decreased the particle size  
151 (Table 2) of the protein solution, suggesting improved stability of the solution. Casein  
152 and WPI interact during heating and WPI will absorb on the surface of casein to form  
153 a casein-WPI complex (Donato & Guyomarc'H, 2009), this may prevent congregation  
154 and help the protein to be well dispersed in the solution. Additionally, disulfide  
155 bridges formed between milk proteins due to heating (Pakseresht, Mazaheri Tehrani,

156 & Razavi, 2017), binds the proteins together hindering protein precipitation, thereby  
157 improving the stability.

158

159

**Table 1**

160

161 The particle size of protein solution increased with the addition of hydrocolloids,  
162 while the zeta potential value was the same with 0.01 and 0.05g/100g hydrocolloids  
163 (Table 1 and 2), suggesting hydrocolloid addition decreased the protein stability in the  
164 system. Moreover, for protein solution (<4.0g/100g) with 0.25g/100g gelatin, the zeta  
165 potential value changed from  $-22.37 \pm 1.10$  mV to  $-15.70 \pm 0.87$  mV (Table 1), the  
166 absolute zeta potential value decreasing significantly. It has been reported that gelatin  
167 has some interaction with milk protein (Pang, Deeth, Sopade, Sharma, & Bansal,  
168 2014), that causes aggregation of protein in the system thereby making the protein  
169 less stable. The non-ionic hydrocolloid, curdlan, may have segregative interaction  
170 with milk protein since it absorbs water and expands at the beginning of heating  
171 (Funami & Nishinari, 2007), which is not ideal for the stability of protein solution.

172 While in this study, although the particle size increased, the zeta potential of protein  
173 solutions with curdlan was almost the same compared with control, even with 0.25g  
174 of curdlan (Table 1). Curdlan has thermal irreversible interactions between itself  
175 during heating at high temperature (80 °C) (Nakao et al., 1991) that may help with the  
176 stability of protein. Therefore, for the application in high protein dairy drinks curdlan  
177 may have an advantage over gelatin because it has less influence on the stability of  
178 milk protein system, even at high concentration. In addition, when the protein solution  
179 reached 10.0g/100g protein, it showed large absolute zeta potential value even the  
180 particle size in the solution was also big, especially after hydrocolloids were added.  
181 Since the WPI has heat-gelling property, at high concentration (10.0g/100g) the  
182 protein solution becomes semi-solid and very viscous after heating, hindering the  
183 conglomeration and moving of particles in the system, that may be responsible for the  
184 high absolute zeta potential value although the particle size were large.

185

186

**Table 2**

187

188 The visual appearance of the protein solutions with/without the hydrocolloids (gelatin,  
189  $\kappa$ -carrageenan, LM pectin and curdlan) after 48 hours storage are shown in Fig. 1. As  
190 can be seen, higher concentration of WPI (8.0g/100g and 10.0g/100g w/w) made the  
191 protein solution more transparent. It is well known that the white color of milk is  
192 largely due to the scattering of light by the casein micelles and pure whey protein is  
193 transparent (O'Mahony & Fox, 2014), thus adding more WPI reduced the whiteness  
194 to some extent. The addition of gelatin/curdlan did not change the visual aspect at all  
195 concentrations of proteins, suggesting a possibility of curdlan being used in place of  
196 gelatin in high protein drinks. However, with the addition of  $\kappa$ -carrageenan and LM  
197 pectin all the protein solutions formed gel when the concentration reached 0.05 and  
198 0.25g/100g, respectively (Fig. 1). This suggests that  $\kappa$ -carrageenan and LM pectin  
199 easily interact with milk protein ( $\kappa$ -casein) and form gel, as previously observed by  
200 Pang, Deeth and Bansal (2015). Overall, the gelation ability of the four hydrocolloids  
201 was in the order gelatin/curdlan < LM pectin <  $\kappa$ -carrageenan, and for the utilization  
202 of hydrocolloids in high-protein dairy drinks, the usage amount of  $\kappa$ -carrageenan and  
203 LM pectin should be below 0.05 and 0.25g/100g, while it could be up to 0.25g/100g

204 for gelatin and curdlan.

205

206

**Fig.1.**

207

### 208 **3.2. Viscosity of protein solution**

209 In order to discuss the effect of the addition of WPI and four different hydrocolloids

210 on the viscosity of protein solutions, the viscosity values at the shear rate  $50 \text{ s}^{-1}$  ( $\eta_{50}$ )

211 was chosen since the viscosity at shear rate of  $50 \text{ s}^{-1}$  has been suggested to relate to

212 perceived thickness, stickiness and sliminess for a wide range of food products from

213 Newtonian fluid to thick emulsion (Shama & Sherman, 1973). Besides, in order to

214 show the property during consumption, the measurements were done at 15 and 37 °C,

215 which are the two temperatures at the start and end of consumption. The  $\eta_{50}$  for all the

216 protein solution are showed in Table 3 and 4.

217

218

**Table 3**

219

220 The viscosity of 3.0g/100g protein solution was  $4.84\pm 0.02$  mPa·s under 15 °C, and  
221 increased to  $13.91\pm 0.10$  mPa·s when the concentration reached 8.0g/100g, and got  
222 even significantly higher at 10.0g/100g ( $212.50\pm 6.12$  mPa·s), suggesting viscosity of  
223 protein solution is concentration dependent. With WPI added, more protein denatured  
224 during heating and they tended to interact with each other that network more closely  
225 (Zhao, Wang, Tian, & Mao, 2016), which increased the viscosity. In addition, the  
226 addition of hydrocolloids increased the viscosity of protein solution. For example, as  
227 for 8.0g/100g protein solution, the viscosity increased from  $13.91\pm 0.10$  mPa·s to  
228  $37.58\pm 0.60$  mPa·s,  $26.69\pm 0.98$  mPa·s,  $18.46\pm 0.59$  mPa·s and  $27.82\pm 0.47$  mPa·s with  
229 addition of 0.25g/100g gelatin, 0.01g/100g  $\kappa$ -carrageenan, 0.05g/100g LM pectin, and  
230 0.25g/100g curdlan (Table 3). It was reported that gelatin,  $\kappa$ -carrageenan and LM  
231 pectin had associative interaction with milk proteins (Pang et al., 2015), which  
232 increased the viscosity. For curdlan, the swelling of the molecules occurs as heating  
233 begins followed by interaction with each other to form network (Funami, Funami,  
234 Yada, & Nakao, 2000), increasing the viscosity of the protein solution. In addition,  
235 depletion flocculation of the casein micelles occurs at pH 6.7 when the exclusion of



236 the polymer hydrocolloids chains from the space between colloidal particles (casein  
237 micelles), inducing an effective attractive interaction between the colloidal particles  
238 (Marozienne & de Kruif, 2000), raising the viscosity. Besides, all the four  
239 hydrocolloids have cold-gelling property that is the viscosity increases when stored at  
240 4 °C. When the total protein concentration reached 10.0g/100g (w/w), the solution  
241 transforms to a semi-solid state after heating at 95 °C for 10min due to the denaturing  
242 and gelling property of WPI, thus the viscosity at this concentration is quite high.

243

244

**Table 4**

245

246 The viscosity of the protein solutions at 37 °C was lower compared to that at 15 °C  
247 (Table 3 and 4). This was markedly obvious for gelatin added protein solution. For  
248 instance, the viscosity of 8.0g/100g protein solution with 0.25g/100g gelatin added  
249 decreased from  $37.58 \pm 0.60$  mPa·s to  $9.18 \pm 0.27$  mPa·s when the temperature  
250 increased from 15 to 37 °C. As the temperature increases, the weak bonds (hydrogen  
251 bonds) that is sensitive to temperature break, which may cause the decrease in

252 samples' viscosity. However, it should be noted that the viscosity of protein solution  
253 with  $\kappa$ -carrageenan and curdlan was still nearly twice compared to pure protein  
254 solution (Table 4). Previous studies showed that  $\kappa$ -carrageenan presents strong  
255 interaction with  $\kappa$ -casein (Pang et al., 2015) and curdlan has a thermo-irreversible  
256 interaction with itself at high temperature (Funami et al., 2000; Funami & Nishinari,  
257 2007), thus although the viscosity decreased due to temperature it is still significantly  
258 higher than control (Table 4). Through viscosity results, we can say that  
259  $\kappa$ -carrageenan and curdlan could be an ideal choice for high-protein drinks since they  
260 could even raise the viscosity of solutions under oral temperature conditions (37 °C).

261

### 262 **3.3. Tribological properties of protein solution**

263 Lubrication properties of the protein solution with/without hydrocolloids, measured  
264 using the tribo-rheometer at 2N set at 15 or 37 °C is presented in Fig. 2-3 and  
265 Supplementary Fig.1.

266

#### 267 **(a) Effect of the addition of WPI and hydrocolloids**

268 From Fig. 2, it can be seen that all protein solution showed a “stick and slide” pattern  
269 (traditional Stribeck curve) that is the friction coefficient was constant at low sliding  
270 speed (0.01~0.5 mm/s) and decreased with increasing sliding speed (Prakash, Tan, &  
271 Chen, 2013). The reason for this pattern is at low speeds, the protein solution acts as a  
272 thin lubricating film and the friction depends on the asperity interaction between the  
273 two surfaces while at higher speeds more fluid is drawn into the contact zone to partly  
274 separate the two surfaces in the mixed regime to decrease the friction coefficient. At  
275 low sliding speeds (0.01~0.5 mm/s), the friction coefficient of protein solutions is  
276 almost the same for all concentration. And during the medium speed range (0.5~10  
277 mm/s), the coefficient of friction reduced with the addition of WPI (<10.0g/100g),  
278 meaning the additional WPI in the protein solution contributes towards better  
279 lubrication property. As mentioned in section 3.2, the WPI denature at high  
280 temperature and easily form intramolecular and intermolecular interactions  
281 (O’Mahony & Fox, 2014), which strengthens the absorbability of the protein solution  
282 promoting the formation of thin layer separating the surfaces as the sliding speed  
283 increases. Combined with the results in section 3.2, we can infer that higher viscosity

284 may lead to better lubrication property. Similar results were obtained previously by  
285 Nguyen et al. (2017), who found the dairy samples with higher viscosity showed  
286 better lubrication property (lower friction coefficient). However, when the  
287 concentration of protein solution reached 10.0g/100g, the solution became semi-solid  
288 and hindered the movement between the two surfaces, thus increasing the friction  
289 coefficient.

290

291

**Fig.2.**

292

293 Besides, at high sliding speeds ( $> 10\text{mm/s}$ ), the friction coefficient was almost the  
294 same for protein solutions  $\leq 6.0\text{g}/100\text{g}$  (w/w) protein and increased with further  
295 increase in the protein concentration (Fig. 2). Based on the Stribeck curve, at the end  
296 of mixed regime the friction coefficient decreases slowly that gradually increases  
297 when the sliding speed reaches the hydrodynamic regime (Nguyen, Bhandari, &  
298 Prakash, 2016). Since the surface adsorption force may increase with WPI addition,  
299 the protein solutions were faster to form thick lubricating film, thus entering the

300 hydrodynamic regime earlier. This may explain the increasing friction coefficient as  
301 the protein concentration increased.

302

303 For the protein solution with added hydrocolloids (gelatin,  $\kappa$ -carrageenan, LM pectin  
304 and curdlan), the friction coefficients were lower than the pure protein solution at  
305 37 °C (Supplementary Fig. 1). Considering the friction coefficient of 3.0g/100g  
306 protein (casein/WPI=2.4/0.6) solution at 37°C as an example, we can discuss the  
307 friction coefficient at sliding speed of 0.1, 1 and 10 mm/s that are presented in Table 5.  
308 At the beginning (0.1 mm/s), all the samples have similar coefficient of friction,  
309 however at sliding speed 1 and 10 mm/s, the protein solution with hydrocolloids have  
310 lower friction coefficient compared to control sample. This means the protein solution  
311 containing hydrocolloids have better lubrication property. This is in agreement with  
312 the results that adding hydrocolloids ( $\kappa$ -carrageenan and gelatin) improves the  
313 lubrication properties of yoghurt (Nguyen et al., 2016). The interaction between dairy  
314 protein and hydrocolloids possibly improves the surface adhesion of the resulting  
315 solution, allowing formation of a thin film between the two surfaces with ease and

316 lowering the friction coefficient.

317

318 **Table 5**

319

320 In addition, the addition of curdlan has the best influence on the tribological property  
321 of protein solution (Supplementary Fig.1). Adding 0.25g/100g curdlan to the protein  
322 solution improved the lubrication property, showing the lowest friction coefficient.

323 Although curdlan is partly soluble or insoluble in neutral condition, it swells and  
324 forms thermo-irreversible and thermo-reversible bonds during heating and cooling  
325 (Funami et al., 2000), which may be the reason for the improved lubrication property.

326 Thus, curdlan may be the ideal choice for developing smooth and creamy foods.

327 However, the protein solutions with added gelatin did not show any significant  
328 difference in friction curves compared with pure protein solution that was contrary to

329 our previous hypothesis. To investigate whether temperature affects the tribological  
330 property, the protein solution with added gelatin/curdlan was also studied at 15 °C

331 that is discussed below.

332

333 **(b) Effect of temperature**

334

Fig.3.

335

336 Fig. 3 shows the friction curves of 3.0g/100g protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/0.6)  
337 with the addition of gelatin and curdlan at 15 and 37 °C. The friction curves showed a  
338 classical “stick and slide” pattern (traditional Stribeck curve) at both 15 and 37 °C.  
339 For friction curves at 15 °C, the friction coefficient decreased as the gelatin  
340 concentration increased in the protein solution, especially at low sliding speed range  
341 (0.01~0.5 mm/s) and the initial part of medium speed (0.5~6 mm/s). Although the  
342 friction coefficient was lower than the pure protein solution at the later part of  
343 medium speed (6~10 mm/s), it was almost the same for gelatin added protein solution.  
344 In addition, when the speed reached high (> 10 mm/s), the friction curves overlapped  
345 for all solutions (Fig. 3A). Gelatin has a good hydrophilic property and can form  
346 hydrogen bonds with milk protein or itself (Fizsman & Salvador, 1999), thus adding  
347 gelatin improved the surface adhesion of protein solution, forming a thick lubrication

348 film between the two surfaces. Therefore, the friction coefficient decreased. And for  
349 protein solution with curdlan, the coefficient of friction was lower than the control  
350 during the sliding speed measured in this study (Fig. 3C), especially for 0.25g/100g  
351 curdlan added. It means the curdlan addition had similar influence on the lubrication  
352 property of protein solution as gelatin addition at 15 °C.

353

354 However, Fig. 3B shows that there was almost no difference between pure 3.0g/100g  
355 protein solution and gelatin added protein solution at 37 °C. This may be due to the  
356 weak hydrogen bonds formed between gelatin and protein that easily break. As  
357 temperature increases from 15 to 37 °C, the interactions in the protein solution  
358 decreases, thus the friction curves show less differences between pure protein solution  
359 and protein solution with gelatin. While the protein solutions with curdlan added still  
360 showed better lubrication property compared to pure protein solution (Fig. 3D). Thus,  
361 curdlan addition had better influence on the lubrication property of protein solution  
362 than gelatin added at 37 °C. Besides, during the sliding speed from 0.01~6 mm/s, the  
363 friction coefficient of 3.0g/100g protein solution at 37 °C was 0.8~1.0, which was



364 higher than the friction coefficient (0.6~0.8) at 15 °C (Fig. 3).

365

#### 366 **4. Conclusion**

367 According to the results of this study, adding WPI to raise the protein concentration  
368 did not have obvious effect on the visual appearance of protein solution, but increased  
369 the protein stability against agglomeration and the viscosity of protein solution to  
370 some extent. Besides, within a certain range of total protein (< 8.0g/100g), the  
371 addition of WPI led to better lubrication property.

372

373 The addition of hydrocolloids had no influence on the visual aspect of protein solution,  
374 while the protein solution formed gel after adding 0.05g/100g  $\kappa$ -carrageenan and  
375 0.25g/100g LM pectin for all protein concentrations investigated in this research.  
376 Although adding hydrocolloids decreased the stability of protein solution, it increased  
377 the viscosity of protein solution, and the viscosity of  $\kappa$ -carrageenan and curdlan added  
378 protein solution was still nearly twice more than control under 37 °C. The effect of  
379 gelatin on the tribological property of protein solution showed obviously under 15 °C,

380 while almost had no influence when the temperature increased to 37 °C. Interestingly,  
381 curdlan addition improved the lubrication property both at 15 and 37 °C. Therefore,  
382 curdlan might be an ideal choice for high-protein dairy drinks since it could increase  
383 the viscosity and lubrication property of protein solution without effecting the visual  
384 of solution. In the future, we will investigate the application of curdlan in real dairy  
385 products. Since the addition of WPI alters the casein to WPI ratio, the influence of  
386 fractions of casein to WPI at fixed protein concentration will also be studied in the  
387 future.

388

### 389 **Acknowledgements**

390 This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public,  
391 commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

392

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- 475

**Fig. 1.** The appearance of protein solution with/without different concentration (0.01, 0.05 and 0.25g/100g) of gelatin,  $\kappa$ -carrageenan, LM pectin and curdlan. (A) 3.0g/100g Protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/0.6); (B) 4.0g/100g Protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/1.6); (C) 6.0g/100g Protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/3.6); (D) 8.0g/100g Protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/5.6); (E) 10.0g/100g Protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/7.6). \* Means gel formed and the other samples without mark kept solution after 4 °C storage 48 hours.

**Fig. 2.** The tribology curve of different pure protein solution at 37 °C. ×3.0g/100g Protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/0.6); □4.0g/100g Protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/1.6); ◇6.0g/100g Protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/3.6); ○8.0g/100g Protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/5.6); △10.0g/100g Protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/7.6)

**Fig. 3.** The tribology curves of 3.0g/100g protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/0.6) with/without added gelatin or curdlan (0.01, 0.05 and 0.25g/100g) under (A and C) 15 °C and (B and D) 37 °C. ×Control; ◇0.01g/100g Gelatin; ◆0.05g/100g Gelatin; ★0.25g/100g Gelatin; ○0.01g/100g Curdlan; ●0.05g/100g Curdlan; ◐0.25g/100g Curdlan

**Supplementary Fig. 1.** The tribology curve of different protein solution with/without gelatin,  $\kappa$ -carrageenan, LM pectin and curdlan (0.01, 0.05 and 0.25g/100g) at 37 °C. (A) 3.0g/100g Protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/0.6); (B) 4.0g/100g Protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/1.6); (C) 6.0g/100g Protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/3.6); (D) 8.0g/100g Protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/5.6); (E) 10.0g/100g Protein solution (casein/WPI=2.4/7.6). ×Control; ◇0.01g/100g Gelatin; ◆0.05g/100g Gelatin; ★0.25g/100g Gelatin; △0.01g/100g Carrageenan; □0.01g/100g Pectin; ■0.05g/100g Pectin; ○0.01g/100g Curdlan; ●0.05g/100g Curdlan; ◐0.25g/100g Curdlan



**Table 1** The zeta potential of different protein solution with/without various concentrations (0.01, 0.05 and 0.25g/100g) of gelatin,  $\kappa$ -carrageenan, LM pectin and curdlan.

Samples (g/100g)	3.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/0.6)	4.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/1.6)	6.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/3.6)	8.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/5.6)	10.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/7.6)
<b>Control</b>	-22.37 (1.10) <sup>Abc</sup>	-22.87 (0.97) <sup>ABc</sup>	-23.53 (0.73) <sup>ABb</sup>	-24.30 (0.65) <sup>Bc</sup>	-25.80 (0.31) <sup>Cab</sup>
<b>0.01 Gelatin</b>	-20.37 (0.93) <sup>Ab</sup>	-21.00 (0.61) <sup>Ab</sup>	-21.57 (0.49) <sup>Aa</sup>	-23.33 (0.36) <sup>Bc</sup>	-26.83 (0.48) <sup>Cb</sup>
<b>0.05 Gelatin</b>	-20.33 (0.74) <sup>Ab</sup>	-20.83 (0.35) <sup>Ab</sup>	-21.47 (0.90) <sup>Aa</sup>	-23.47 (0.36) <sup>Bc</sup>	-24.53 (0.41) <sup>Ca</sup>
<b>0.25 Gelatin</b>	-15.70 (0.87) <sup>Aa</sup>	-17.63 (0.71) <sup>Ba</sup>	-21.10 (0.85) <sup>Ca</sup>	-23.50 (0.74) <sup>Dbc</sup>	-24.83 (0.76) <sup>Da</sup>
<b>0.01 Carrageenan</b>	-21.13 (0.49) <sup>Abc</sup>	-21.57 (0.30) <sup>ABc</sup>	-22.00 (0.17) <sup>Ba</sup>	-22.87 (0.18) <sup>Cbc</sup>	-27.57 (0.18) <sup>Dc</sup>
<b>0.05 Carrageenan</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>0.25 Carrageenan</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>0.01 Pectin</b>	-20.73 (0.35) <sup>Ab</sup>	-21.27 (0.59) <sup>ABbc</sup>	-21.90 (0.68) <sup>Ba</sup>	-24.57 (0.41) <sup>Cd</sup>	-24.93 (0.66) <sup>Ca</sup>
<b>0.05 Pectin</b>	-21.73 (0.36) <sup>Ac</sup>	-22.33 (0.65) <sup>Ac</sup>	-22.33 (0.66) <sup>Aab</sup>	-23.97 (0.33) <sup>Bc</sup>	-25.30 (0.43) <sup>Ca</sup>
<b>0.25 Pectin</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>0.01 Curdlan</b>	-20.93 (0.66) <sup>Abc</sup>	-21.10 (0.57) <sup>Ab</sup>	-21.33 (0.58) <sup>Aab</sup>	-21.80 (0.40) <sup>Aa</sup>	-26.37 (0.71) <sup>Bb</sup>
<b>0.05 Curdlan</b>	-20.13 (0.41) <sup>Ab</sup>	-20.83 (0.93) <sup>ABbc</sup>	-21.87 (0.13) <sup>Ba</sup>	-22.60 (0.30) <sup>Cb</sup>	-25.77 (0.97) <sup>Da</sup>
<b>0.25 Curdlan</b>	-20.17 (0.48) <sup>Ab</sup>	-20.23 (0.59) <sup>Ab</sup>	-20.80 (0.40) <sup>Aa</sup>	-22.17 (0.30) <sup>Bab</sup>	-26.17 (0.20) <sup>Cb</sup>

Mean value (n=9) in mV and standard deviation shown in parenthesis. Different superscript capital letters in the same line indicate significant differences between different protein concentrations (P < 0.05).

Different superscript lower-case letters in the same column indicate significant differences between additions of hydrocolloids (P < 0.05).

**Table 2** The particle size of different protein solution with/without various concentrations (0.01, 0.05 and 0.25g/100g) of gelatin, κ-carrageenan, LM pectin and curdlan.

Samples (g/100g)	3.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/0.6)	4.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/1.6)	6.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/3.6)	8.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/5.6)	10.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/7.6)
<b>Control</b>	184.1 (2.46) <sup>Afg</sup>	175.9 (1.91) <sup>Bf</sup>	150.6 (0.33) <sup>Dg</sup>	134.3 (1.31) <sup>Ef</sup>	168.9 (0.99) <sup>Cf</sup>
<b>0.01 Gelatin</b>	197.4 (1.69) <sup>Ad</sup>	179.1 (2.47) <sup>Bef</sup>	171.3 (2.17) <sup>Cd</sup>	141.0 (1.87) <sup>De</sup>	183.0 (1.60) <sup>Be</sup>
<b>0.05 Gelatin</b>	201.8 (0.23) <sup>Ac</sup>	186.6 (0.58) <sup>Bc</sup>	175.3 (2.75) <sup>Dcd</sup>	152.5 (0.56) <sup>Ed</sup>	182.4 (1.05) <sup>Ce</sup>
<b>0.25 Gelatin</b>	260.8 (5.34) <sup>Aa</sup>	225.7 (0.60) <sup>Ca</sup>	178.3 (1.52) <sup>Dc</sup>	164.4 (1.39) <sup>Eb</sup>	246.1 (0.69) <sup>Bb</sup>
<b>0.01 Carrageenan</b>	208.9 (0.79) <sup>Bb</sup>	199.0 (1.85) <sup>Cb</sup>	194.8 (0.95) <sup>Da</sup>	184.1 (6.99) <sup>Ea</sup>	325.1 (6.78) <sup>Aa</sup>
<b>0.05 Carrageenan</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>0.25 Carrageenan</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>0.01 Pectin</b>	186.9 (0.66) <sup>Bf</sup>	184.4 (0.71) <sup>Cd</sup>	166.6 (1.88) <sup>De</sup>	165.2 (1.85) <sup>Db</sup>	201.2 (2.46) <sup>Ad</sup>
<b>0.05 Pectin</b>	186.0 (1.44) <sup>Bfg</sup>	184.8 (1.08) <sup>Bd</sup>	163.4 (2.47) <sup>Cf</sup>	158.4 (0.61) <sup>Dc</sup>	202.0 (5.25) <sup>Ad</sup>
<b>0.25 Pectin</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>0.01 Curdlan</b>	181.5 (2.25) <sup>Bg</sup>	181.6 (0.53) <sup>Be</sup>	178.8 (0.39) <sup>Cc</sup>	178.6 (2.13) <sup>BCa</sup>	206.5 (3.75) <sup>Acd</sup>
<b>0.05 Curdlan</b>	184.0 (2.12) <sup>Bg</sup>	182.9 (1.51) <sup>Bde</sup>	180.0 (2.50) <sup>BCbc</sup>	178.1 (2.47) <sup>Ca</sup>	201.7 (4.20) <sup>Ad</sup>
<b>0.25 Curdlan</b>	188.6 (1.01) <sup>Be</sup>	186.5 (0.55) <sup>Cc</sup>	184.4 (2.46) <sup>CDb</sup>	182.2 (1.01) <sup>Da</sup>	215.7 (6.72) <sup>Ac</sup>

Mean value (n=9) in nm and standard deviation shown in parenthesis. Different superscript capital letters in the same line indicate significant differences between different protein concentrations (P < 0.05).

Different superscript lower-case letters in the same column indicate significant differences between additions of hydrocolloids (P < 0.05).

**Table 3** The viscosity ( $\eta_{50}$ ) of different protein solutions with/without various concentrations (0.01, 0.05 and 0.25g/100g) of gelatin,  $\kappa$ -carrageenan, LM pectin and curdlan under 15 °C.

Samples (g/100g)	3.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/0.6)	4.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/1.6)	6.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/3.6)	8.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/5.6)	10.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/7.6)
<b>Control</b>	4.84 (0.02) <sup>Eg</sup>	5.27 (0.09) <sup>Df</sup>	7.07 (0.27) <sup>Ce</sup>	13.91 (0.10) <sup>Be</sup>	212.50 (6.12) <sup>Aj</sup>
<b>0.01 Gelatin</b>	4.95 (0.03) <sup>Ef</sup>	5.35 (0.05) <sup>Df</sup>	6.86 (0.36) <sup>Ce</sup>	14.69 (0.50) <sup>Bd</sup>	290.25 (11.80) <sup>Ai</sup>
<b>0.05 Gelatin</b>	5.06 (0.05) <sup>Ee</sup>	5.55 (0.13) <sup>De</sup>	7.14 (0.13) <sup>Ce</sup>	14.52 (0.53) <sup>Bde</sup>	361.33 (10.05) <sup>Ah</sup>
<b>0.25 Gelatin</b>	7.69 (0.08) <sup>Eb</sup>	8.22 (0.13) <sup>Da</sup>	12.20 (0.28) <sup>Ca</sup>	37.58 (0.60) <sup>Ba</sup>	1249.68 (11.76) <sup>Ab</sup>
<b>0.01 Carrageenan</b>	5.80 (0.06) <sup>Ed</sup>	7.65 (0.08) <sup>Db</sup>	11.62 (0.45) <sup>Cab</sup>	26.69 (0.98) <sup>Bb</sup>	457.85 (4.59) <sup>Ag</sup>
<b>0.05 Carrageenan</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>0.25 Carrageenan</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>0.01 Pectin</b>	5.02 (0.04) <sup>Eef</sup>	5.45 (0.05) <sup>Def</sup>	7.48 (0.27) <sup>Ce</sup>	14.62 (0.99) <sup>Bde</sup>	498.70 (10.81) <sup>Af</sup>
<b>0.05 Pectin</b>	6.17 (0.11) <sup>Ec</sup>	7.25 (0.03) <sup>Dc</sup>	9.21 (0.26) <sup>Cc</sup>	18.46 (0.59) <sup>Bc</sup>	891.45 (11.30) <sup>Ac</sup>
<b>0.25 Pectin</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>0.01 Curdlan</b>	4.85 (0.04) <sup>Eg</sup>	5.53 (0.09) <sup>De</sup>	7.14 (0.22) <sup>Ce</sup>	14.82 (0.35) <sup>Bd</sup>	642.14 (7.73) <sup>Ad</sup>
<b>0.05 Curdlan</b>	5.10 (0.04) <sup>Ee</sup>	6.38 (0.08) <sup>Dd</sup>	8.25 (0.32) <sup>Cd</sup>	15.45 (0.49) <sup>Bd</sup>	569.22 (6.69) <sup>Ae</sup>
<b>0.25 Curdlan</b>	8.03 (0.08) <sup>Ea</sup>	8.30 (0.06) <sup>Da</sup>	11.7 (0.16) <sup>Cb</sup>	27.82 (0.47) <sup>Bb</sup>	1799.34 (12.56) <sup>Aa</sup>

Mean value (n=3) in mPa·s and standard deviation shown in parenthesis. Different superscript capital letters in the same line indicate significant differences between different protein concentrations ( $P < 0.05$ ). Different superscript lower-case letters in the same column indicate significant differences between additions of hydrocolloids ( $P < 0.05$ ).

**Table 4** The viscosity ( $\eta_{50}$ ) of different protein solutions with/without various concentrations (0.01, 0.05 and 0.25g/100g) of gelatin,  $\kappa$ -carrageenan, LM pectin and curdlan under 37 °C.

Samples (g/100g)	3.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/0.6)	4.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/1.6)	6.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/3.6)	8.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/5.6)	10.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/7.6)
<b>Control</b>	3.98 (0.09) <sup>Dcd</sup>	4.09 (0.04) <sup>De</sup>	4.67 (0.17) <sup>Cfg</sup>	7.79 (0.18) <sup>Be</sup>	88.71 (4.07) <sup>Ag</sup>
<b>0.01 Gelatin</b>	3.96 (0.12) <sup>Dcd</sup>	4.02 (0.10) <sup>De</sup>	4.49 (0.11) <sup>Cg</sup>	7.40 (0.08) <sup>Bf</sup>	103.29 (6.29) <sup>Af</sup>
<b>0.05 Gelatin</b>	3.90 (0.03) <sup>Ed</sup>	4.14 (0.12) <sup>Dde</sup>	4.83 (0.10) <sup>Cf</sup>	7.60 (0.09) <sup>Be</sup>	170.87 (5.73) <sup>Ae</sup>
<b>0.25 Gelatin</b>	3.98 (0.02) <sup>Ec</sup>	4.16 (0.10) <sup>Dde</sup>	5.03 (0.09) <sup>Ce</sup>	9.18 (0.27) <sup>Bc</sup>	363.65 (6.70) <sup>Ab</sup>
<b>0.01 Carrageenan</b>	4.47 (0.03) <sup>Eb</sup>	5.12 (0.08) <sup>Db</sup>	6.36 (0.18) <sup>Cb</sup>	13.17 (0.31) <sup>Bb</sup>	176.62 (16.47) <sup>Ae</sup>
<b>0.05 Carrageenan</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>0.25 Carrageenan</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>0.01 Pectin</b>	4.01 (0.16) <sup>Dcd</sup>	4.12 (0.05) <sup>De</sup>	5.04 (0.01) <sup>Ce</sup>	8.10 (0.31) <sup>Bde</sup>	218.19 (7.81) <sup>Ad</sup>
<b>0.05 Pectin</b>	4.20 (0.03) <sup>Ec</sup>	4.52 (0.08) <sup>Dc</sup>	5.26 (0.11) <sup>Cd</sup>	9.41 (0.16) <sup>Bc</sup>	361.60 (11.09) <sup>Ab</sup>
<b>0.25 Pectin</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>0.01 Curdlan</b>	3.97 (0.05) <sup>Dcd</sup>	4.06 (0.09) <sup>De</sup>	4.94 (0.21) <sup>Cde</sup>	7.97 (0.50) <sup>Bde</sup>	251.34 (15.00) <sup>Ac</sup>
<b>0.05 Curdlan</b>	4.10 (0.15) <sup>Dc</sup>	4.32 (0.11) <sup>Dd</sup>	5.69 (0.12) <sup>Cc</sup>	8.36 (0.27) <sup>Bd</sup>	268.12 (6.65) <sup>Ac</sup>
<b>0.25 Curdlan</b>	6.38 (0.11) <sup>Da</sup>	5.98 (0.09) <sup>Ea</sup>	7.34 (0.17) <sup>Ca</sup>	14.93 (0.27) <sup>Ba</sup>	1067.05 (14.15) <sup>Aa</sup>

Mean value (n=3) in mPa·s and standard deviation shown in parenthesis. Different superscript capital letters in the same line indicate significant differences between different protein concentrations ( $P < 0.05$ ). Different superscript lower-case letters in the same column indicate significant differences between additions of hydrocolloids ( $P < 0.05$ ).

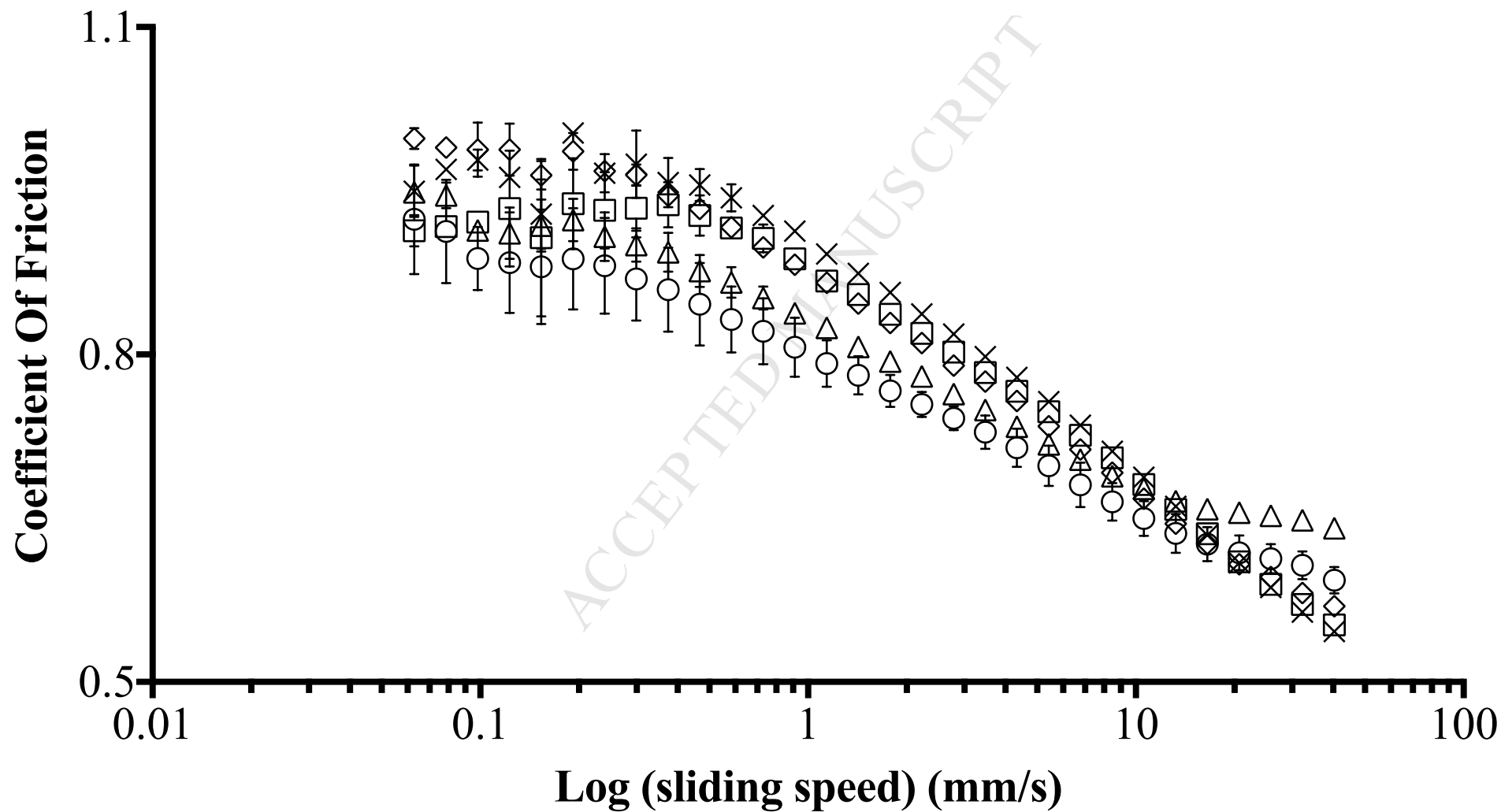
**Table 5** The friction coefficient of 3.0g/100g protein (casein/WPI=2.4/0.6) solution at 37 °C under sliding speed of 0.1, 1 and 10 mm/s.

<b>Samples (g/100g)</b>	<b>0.1 mm/s</b>	<b>1 mm/s</b>	<b>10 mm/s</b>
<b>Control</b>	0.96 (0.004) <sup>Aa</sup>	0.89 (0.005) <sup>Ba</sup>	0.69 (0.001) <sup>Ca</sup>
<b>0.01 Gelatin</b>	0.96 (0.016) <sup>Aa</sup>	0.88 (0.009) <sup>Bab</sup>	0.68 (0.005) <sup>Cb</sup>
<b>0.05 Gelatin</b>	0.97 (0.024) <sup>Aa</sup>	0.87 (0.005) <sup>Bb</sup>	0.67 (0.001) <sup>Cc</sup>
<b>0.25 Gelatin</b>	0.95 (0.034) <sup>Aa</sup>	0.87 (0.003) <sup>Bb</sup>	0.67 (0.005) <sup>Cbc</sup>
<b>0.01 Carrageenan</b>	0.98 (0.057) <sup>Aa</sup>	0.84 (0.015) <sup>Bc</sup>	0.66 (0.002) <sup>Cd</sup>
<b>0.05 Carrageenan</b>	-	-	-
<b>0.25 Carrageenan</b>	-	-	-
<b>0.01 Pectin</b>	0.96 (0.015) <sup>Aa</sup>	0.86 (0.011) <sup>Bbc</sup>	0.66 (0.002) <sup>Cd</sup>
<b>0.05 Pectin</b>	0.95 (0.020) <sup>Aa</sup>	0.84 (0.015) <sup>Bc</sup>	0.66 (0.001) <sup>Cd</sup>
<b>0.25 Pectin</b>	-	-	-
<b>0.01 Curdlan</b>	0.92 (0.012) <sup>Aa</sup>	0.81 (0.019) <sup>Bcd</sup>	0.64 (0.002) <sup>Ce</sup>
<b>0.05 Curdlan</b>	0.92 (0.023) <sup>Aab</sup>	0.83 (0.005) <sup>Bc</sup>	0.63 (0.004) <sup>Cf</sup>
<b>0.25 Curdlan</b>	0.86 (0.044) <sup>Ab</sup>	0.78 (0.023) <sup>Bd</sup>	0.61 (0.004) <sup>Cg</sup>

Mean value (n=3) and standard deviation shown in parenthesis. Different superscript capital letters in the same line indicate significant differences between different sliding speed ( $P < 0.05$ ). Different superscript lower-case letters in the same column indicate significant differences between additions of hydrocolloids ( $P < 0.05$ ).



ACCEPTED

**Fig.2.**

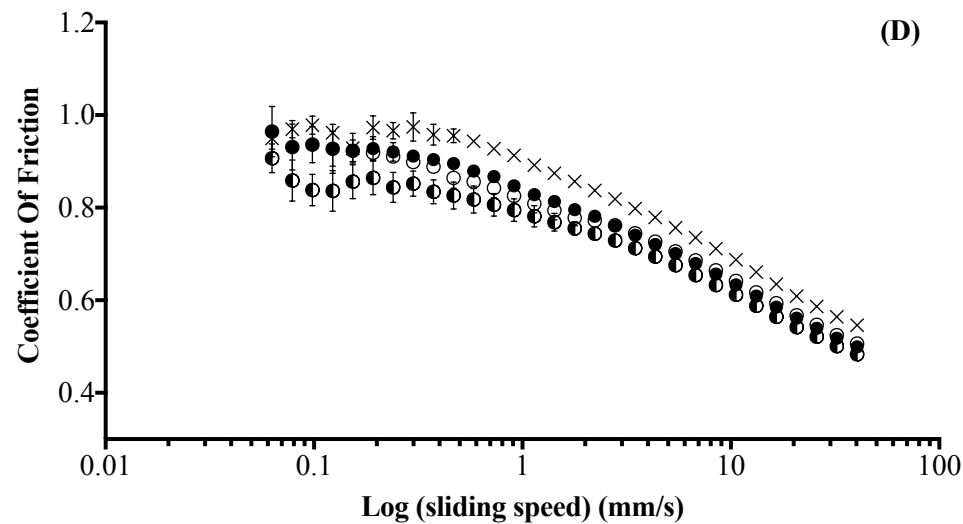
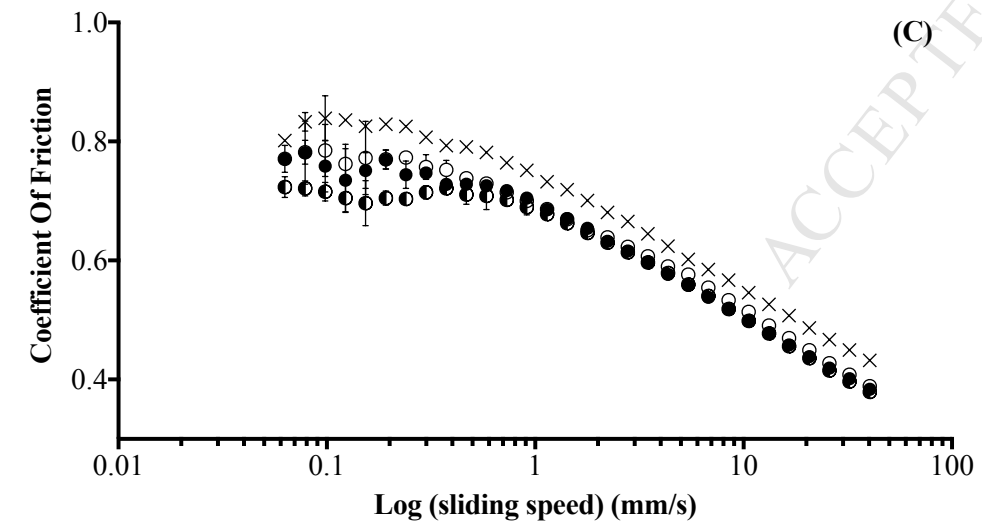
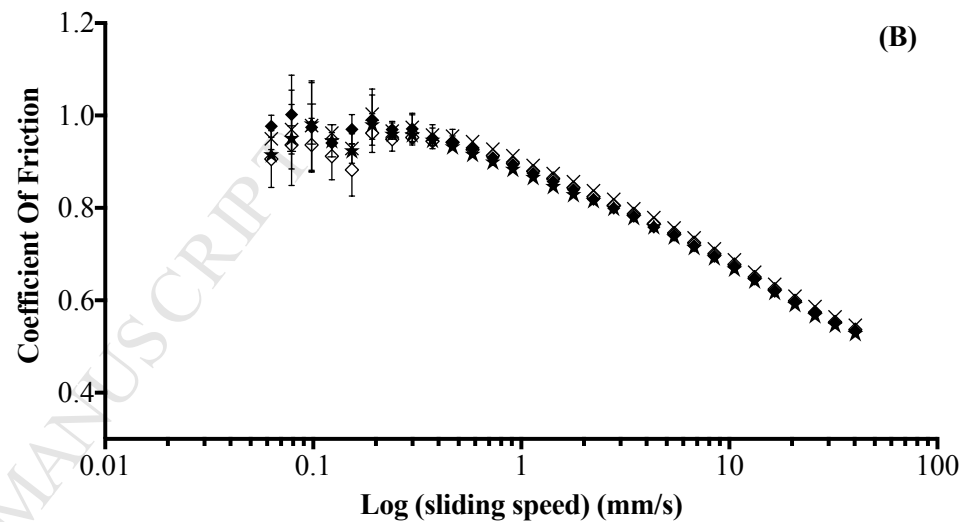
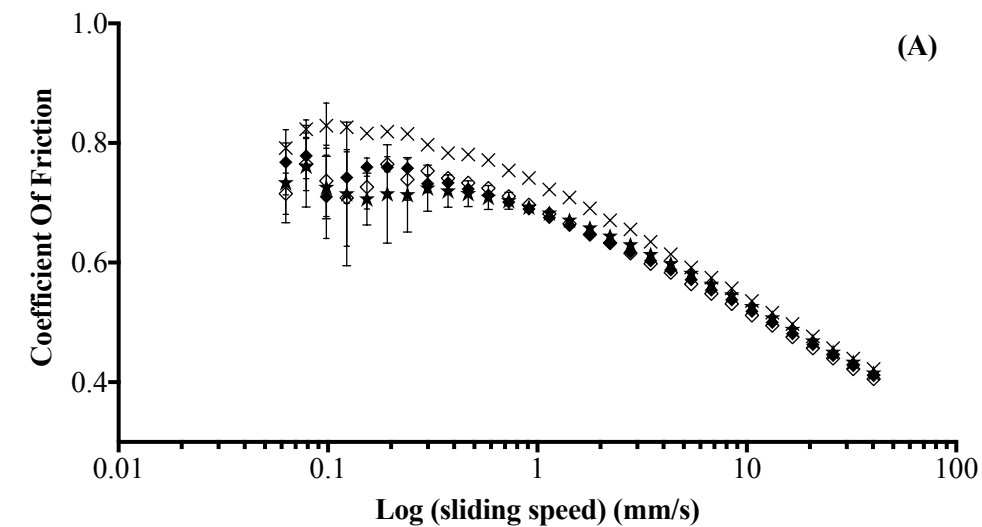
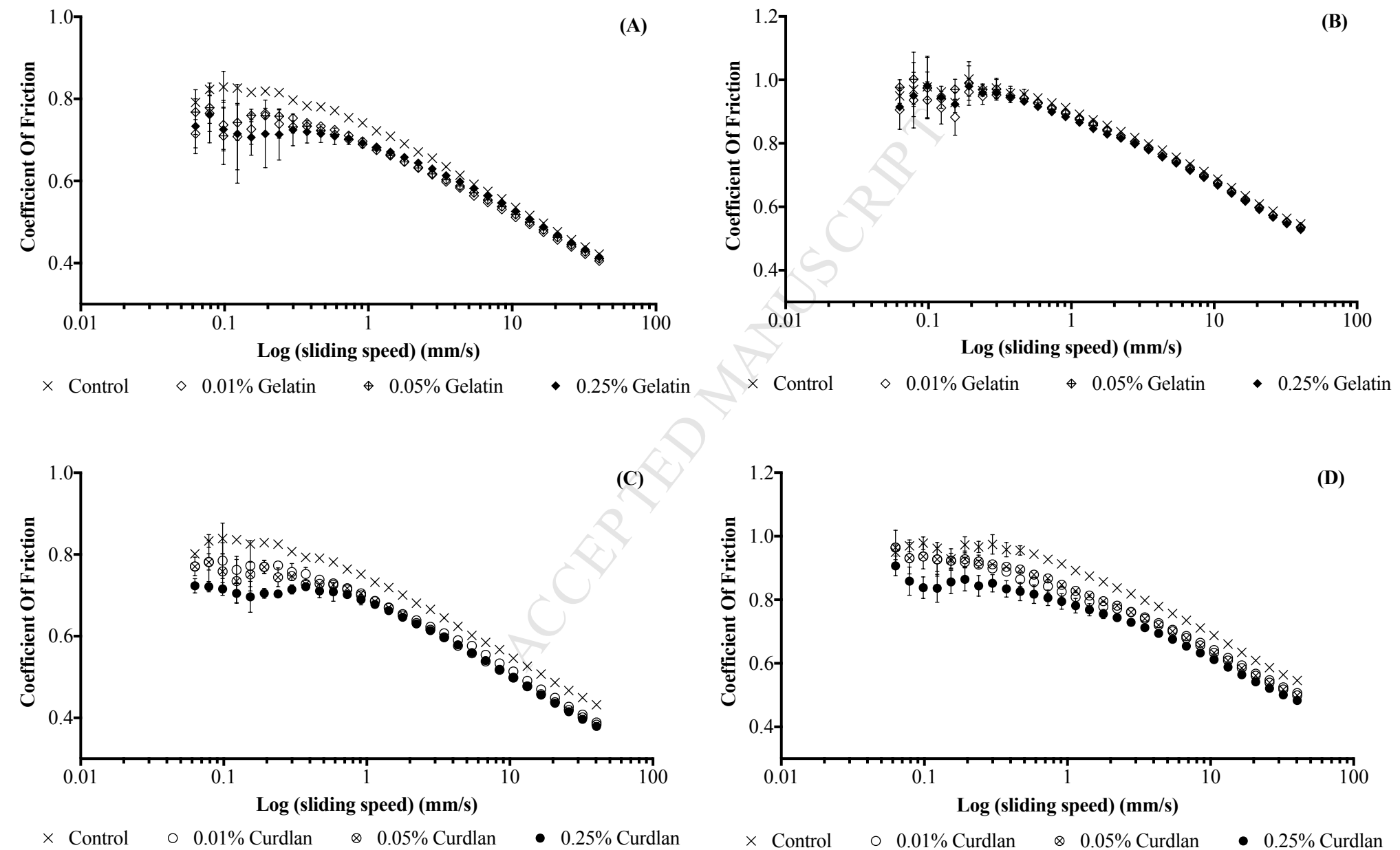
**Fig.3.**



Fig.4.



**Highlight**

- Addition of WPI improves rheological and tribological property of protein solution
- Hydrocolloids addition improves rheo-tribological property of protein solution
- Protein solution has better lubrication property at low temperature
- Curdlan might be an ideal choice for dairy high protein drinks