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16 **Tryptophan mediated denaturation of β -lactoglobulin A by UV irradiation.**

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41 **Abstract**

42 β -Lactoglobulin A, a genetic variant of one of the main whey proteins, was irradiated
43 at 295 nm for 24 hours. After irradiation 18% of the protein was denatured
44 (determined by reverse-phase chromatography). The fluorescence spectrum of the
45 irradiated protein was red shifted compared to that of the native protein, indicating a
46 change in protein folding.

47 Sulfhydryl groups, which are buried in native β -lactoglobulin, were exposed
48 following irradiation and became available for quantification using the Ellman assay.
49 The quantity of exposed sulfhydryls increased, but the number of total sulfhydryl
50 groups decreased. Gel permeation chromatography showed that some protein
51 aggregation occurred during irradiation. Fourier transform infrared (FTIR)
52 spectroscopy of irradiated β -lactoglobulin revealed changes in the secondary
53 structure, comparable to that of early events during heat-induced denaturation. There
54 was evidence for some photo-oxidation of tryptophan

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60 **Key words:** β -lactoglobulin, UV irradiation, Tryptophan, Disulfide, Photo-oxidation

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67 INTRODUCTION

68 β -Lactoglobulin is the main whey protein in bovine milk making up ~50% of the total
69 whey protein; consequently it has been widely studied. The structure has been well
70 characterized. It contains 163 amino acid residues and has a molecular weight of
71 18,362 Da (β -lactoglobulin A, primary accession number 02754). The protein
72 contains five cysteines, which give rise to two intermolecular disulfide bonds,
73 between Cys66 and Cys160, and between Cys106 and Cys119 (1). The cysteine in
74 position 121 has a free sulfhydryl group, which remains inaccessible for chemical
75 reaction around neutral pHs. β -Lactoglobulin also contains two tryptophan residues,
76 located at positions 19 and 61. Spatially these are located close to the disulfide
77 bridges, based on three-dimensional structures of β -lactoglobulin A (PDB code 1CJ5).
78 Changes in the functionality of β -lactoglobulin functionality can be induced by
79 unfolding of the protein, whereby reactive groups such as the free sulfhydryl is
80 exposed on the protein surface. This enables aggregation of the molecules. Normally,
81 unfolding is induced by heat, pH or high pressure.

82 As mentioned above, β -lactoglobulin contains two tryptophan residues. The
83 fluorescence of Trp61 is partly exposed to the aqueous solvent and is quenched
84 because of its proximity to the Cys66 – Cys160 disulfide bond. Trp19 is located in an
85 apolar environment within the cavity of β -lactoglobulin, making it easily detectable
86 by fluorescence measurements. This means that the intrinsic fluorescence of
87 β -lactoglobulin is mainly due to Trp19, which is located in a hydrophobic area at the
88 core of the protein. The non-polar location increases the intensity of the Trp19
89 fluorescence and the emission maximum of the protein is blue shifted compared to the
90 light emitted by tryptophan in a polar environment.

91 Dose et al. (2) suggested that disulfide bonds could be photolysed in the presence of
92 aromatic amino acids. Disulfide bonds can quench the fluorescence of tryptophan
93 when they are located in close proximity (3). Cleavage of the disulfide bond can lead
94 to an increase in the fluorescence intensity from tryptophan excitation. An example of
95 this phenomenon has been described for *Fusarium solani pisi* cutinase (4). An
96 increase in free sulfhydryl was observed along with an increase in fluorescence
97 intensity, before a decrease due to photo bleaching. Energy (5) or electron transfer
98 between the excited tryptophan and the disulphide bond (6) have been suggested as
99 possible mechanism for the cleavage of disulphide bonds leading to free sulfhydryl in
100 the protein.

101 A detailed study has been carried out on other globular whey proteins. Vanhooren et
102 al. (7) studied the effect of UV light on goat α -lactalbumin. They found a number of
103 interesting effects of UV radiation: a red-shift and a decrease in the intensity of the
104 emitted light were observed as the protein was irradiated. Importantly they also
105 noticed an increase in the amount of free sulfhydryl present as a function of
106 irradiation time. Gel-permeation chromatography and electrophoresis showed that
107 there was some aggregation of the irradiated protein. UV irradiation of Bovine Serum
108 Albumin (BSA) in the presence of cysteine brought about structural changes in the
109 BSA and induced gelation (8). More recently Dalgaard et al. studied the photo-
110 oxidation of milk proteins in the presence of riboflavin as photo-sensitizer (9). The
111 results show that β -lactoglobulin underwent changes in both secondary and tertiary
112 structure upon irradiation. The degree of polymerization of the globular whey proteins
113 was lower than the caseins. The observed formation of *N*-formylkynurenine and
114 kynurenine were attributed to exposure of tryptophan to singlet-oxygen.

115 The aim of this study was to examine the possibility of using UV radiation to denature
116 β -lactoglobulin A. The extent of denaturation was determined using chromatographic
117 and spectroscopic techniques. UV denatured β -lactoglobulin was compared to heat-
118 denatured β -lactoglobulin.

119

120 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

121

122 All chemicals were from Sigma Aldrich (Dublin, Ireland) unless otherwise stated.

123 Milli-Q water was used through-out.

124

125 ***β -Lactoglobulin purification***

126 β -Lactoglobulin was purified from whey protein concentrate (WPC), which was
127 prepared in-house from fresh milk (pilot plant of Moorepark Technology Ltd.). To
128 produce a WPC with minimal heat treatment raw milk was creamed, microfiltrated to
129 remove caseins, ultrafiltrated to reduce the lactose content and concentrate the whey
130 proteins. 25 mL of 10 % (w/w) WPC reconstituted in mobile phase was injected on a
131 Q-Sepharose column (Amersham Biosciences). A 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.0 buffer
132 with a 0 to 400 mM NaCl gradient was used to elute the proteins. The β -lactoglobulin
133 A fractions were collected, dialyzed extensively to remove salts and freeze-dried. The
134 purity of β -lactoglobulin A was greater than 99% by reverse-phase chromatography
135 (RP-HPLC).

136

137 ***UV treatment of β -lactoglobulin***

138 Solutions of β -lactoglobulin A were prepared in 20 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.0
139 containing 50 mM NaCl. The concentration of β -lactoglobulin A was determined

140 from the absorbance of the solution at 280 nm, using the specific extinction
141 coefficient of $0.96 \text{ Lg}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$, and the final concentration was adjusted to 10 gL^{-1}
142 ($545 \mu\text{M}$ using $18,362 \text{ gmol}^{-1}$ for the molecular weight of β -lactoglobulin A) with
143 20 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.0 containing 50 mM NaCl. The irradiation was carried
144 out at a wavelength of 295 nm for 24 hours using a Cary Eclipse fluorescence
145 spectrofluorimeter (Varian, Inc., USA). A low volume cuvette (Hellma®, USA) was
146 used; the cuvette had an excitation window of $8 \times 5 \text{ mm}$, the emission window,
147 located at a 90° angle to the excitation one, was $2 \times 5 \text{ mm}$. The intensity of the
148 excitation beam was $\sim 20 \mu\text{W}$, the size of the excitation beam was close to that of the
149 excitation window. $170 \mu\text{L}$ of β -lactoglobulin solution was placed in the cuvette. The
150 excitation slit was set to 5 nm for the duration of the irradiation. The irradiation was
151 carried out at 4°C to minimize evaporation from the cuvette.

152

153 *Emission spectra*

154 The same instrument and cuvette outlined above was used to carry out all emission
155 measurements (25°C). The measurements were made immediately prior to and
156 following the 24 hours of irradiation. The protein concentration was the same as used
157 for the UV treatment, 10 gL^{-1} . The instrument settings were as follows: emission slit
158 1.5 nm , excitation slit 10 nm , excitation wavelength 295 nm , emission scan 298 to
159 450 nm , scan rate 120 nm min^{-1} . A control sample, in a $1 \text{ cm} \times 1 \text{ cm}$ quartz cuvette,
160 containing 2 gL^{-1} β -lactoglobulin was used to measure any changes in the intensity of
161 the lamp over the 24 hours of irradiation. The emission spectrum of the control was
162 read before and after the 24 hours of irradiation, the control was not irradiated during
163 the 24 hour period.

164

165 ***Absorption spectra***

166 The absorption measurements were performed on a one in ten dilution of
167 β -lactoglobulin A before and after irradiation. The absorption spectrum was measured
168 from 250 to 400 nm using a Cary Scan 1 instrument.

169

170 ***Determination of the quantity of native protein***

171 For the purpose of this study denatured protein was defined as protein which
172 precipitated at pH 4.6 or had had an altered retention time in the reverse-phase HPLC
173 method described below. The quantity of remaining native protein after irradiation
174 was quantified using a previously described method (10). A SourceTM 5RPC column
175 (Amersham Biosciences, UK limited) and a Waters 2695 separation module with a
176 Waters 2487 absorbance detector were used. The proteins were detected at 214 nm.

177

178 ***Ellman's assay***

179 To determine the amount of exposed and total sulfhydryl groups (SH groups) in the
180 irradiated β -lactoglobulin solutions, a variation of the assay developed by Ellman (11)
181 was used. The protein solutions were diluted to a concentration of 0.5 gL⁻¹ protein in a
182 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer pH 7.0 (for the determination of exposed SH) or in a 50 mM
183 Tris-HCl pH 7.0 with 8 M urea (total SH groups). 2.75 mL of the diluted solution was
184 placed in a cuvette and 0.25 mL of a 1 gL⁻¹ 5,5'-dithio-bis(2-nitrobenzoic acid)
185 (DTNB) solution in 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer was added. The solutions were incubated
186 at room temperature for 30 min prior to reading the absorbance at 412 nm. The molar
187 extinction coefficient of free thio-bis(2-nitrobenzoic acid) TNB, 14,150 M⁻¹cm⁻¹ (12)
188 was used to calculate the concentration of the sulfhydryl groups.

189

190 ***High-performance gel permeation chromatography***

191 The samples were analyzed on a TSK G3000 SWXL column (Toshibas,
192 Montgomeryville, PA. USA). The same HPLC system as above was used. The
193 separation was carried out using a mobile phase of 20 mM sodium phosphate, 50 mM
194 NaCl, pH 7.0, buffer at a flow rate of 0.8 mL min⁻¹. The absorbance was measured at
195 214 and 321 nm.

196

197 ***Blocking of sulfhydryl groups with IAEDANS***

198 The sulfhydryl blocking agent 5-(((2-iodoacetyl)amino)ethyl)amino)naphthalene-1-
199 sulfonic acid (IAEDANS) (Invitrogen, Dublin, Ireland) was used to block the exposed
200 sulfhydryl groups as described previously (13). Briefly, 20 μL of IAEDANS (2.26 gL⁻¹
201 ¹ in 20 mM phosphate 50 mM NaCl) was added to 100μL of protein solution (10 gL⁻¹)
202 and incubated overnight in the dark at 37°C. The samples were dialyzed against
203 phosphate buffer to remove excess IAEDANS.

204

205 ***Reduction and alkylation of proteins***

206 100 μL of the β-lactoglobulin solution, which was treated with IAEDANS and
207 subsequently dialyzed, was diluted with 400 μL of 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer containing
208 6 M urea (pH 8.5) and 5 μL of 100 mM dithiothreitol (DTT in 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer
209 containing 6 M urea at pH 8.5). The reduction was carried out at 56°C for 1 hour.
210 After the reduction 20 μL of 2 M iodoacetamide (IAA) was added to the solution and
211 incubated at room temperature in the dark. The solutions were dialyzed against a
212 10 mM carbonate buffer pH 8.5 overnight to remove excess reagents.

213

214 ***Protein hydrolysis***

215 Dialyzed samples were adjusted to pH 8.0 by the addition of HCl. A stock solution of
216 1 gL^{-1} trypsin was added to the protein solution to bring it to an enzyme to protein
217 ratio of 1:100 (w/w). The solutions were hydrolyzed overnight at 37°C . $200 \mu\text{L}$ of
218 hydrolyzed solution was removed and the pH was reduced below 3 with TFA in order
219 to inactivate the enzyme.

220

221 ***Reverse phase chromatography of digested samples***

222 The trypsin digested samples were separated on a reverse-phase Symmetry C18
223 column ($2.1 \times 125 \text{ mm}$; Waters, Milford, MA). The column was equilibrated with
224 solvent A (0.106 % (v/v) trifluoroacetic acid in Milli-Q water) and eluted with a linear
225 gradient of 3 to 60 % solvent B (0.1 % (v/v) trifluoroacetic acid in 4:1 (v/v)
226 acetonitrile:Milli-Q water) over 60 min. RP-HPLC separations were achieved at 40°C
227 at a flow rate of $250 \mu\text{Lmin}^{-1}$. Peptides were detected simultaneously at 214 nm and
228 336 nm using a Waters 2487 dual wavelength absorbance detector.

229

230 ***Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR)***

231 FTIR measurements were carried out using a Bruker Tensor 27 instrument in
232 transmission mode with a thermally controlled AquaSpecTM cell. Spectra were
233 obtained for native and irradiated β -lactoglobulin at 25°C in the 20 mM phosphate
234 buffer pH 7.0, 50 mM NaCl buffer. The spectra used were an average of 250 scans at
235 a resolution of 2 cm^{-1} . The quantity of β -sheets and α -helix present were determined
236 using the CONFOCHECKTM system, part of the Opus version 5.5 software, which is
237 based on a multivariate calibration using 35 known proteins. After atmospheric
238 compensation the spectra were vector normalized and the spectrum of the native

239 sample (1%) was subtracted from that of the irradiated one. The resulting curves were
240 compared to those obtained from heated β -lactoglobulin (1%, 78°C) in the same
241 buffer to assign changes in the secondary structure.

242

243 **RESULTS**

244 The intensity of light emitted by β -lactoglobulin decreased with the length of
245 irradiation at 295 nm. Initially there was a large decrease in the intensity emitted at
246 340 nm, but as the irradiation continued the decrease in emission intensity slowed
247 (data not shown). The controls demonstrated that there was no change in lamp
248 intensity over the period of the measurement, Figure 1. Integration of the emission
249 spectra showed a decrease of almost 50%. A red shift of 9 nm in the emission
250 maximum was also observed (Table 1.)

251 The irradiation of β -lactoglobulin caused an increase in the absorbance between 300
252 and 350 nm (Figure 1). A shoulder centered at 290 nm was also more pronounced in
253 the case of the irradiated sample.

254 The gel permeation profile of β -lactoglobulin before irradiation showed a peak eluting
255 at 12 minutes, Figure 2A. The intensity of this peak decreased after irradiation. There
256 was also material eluting before the peak at 12 minutes in the irradiated sample, which
257 can be associated to aggregated β -lactoglobulin. The chromatograms (214 nm) for the
258 irradiated samples were integrated between 9 and 15 minutes. It was found that 93%
259 of the protein was contained in the monomer peak (11.4 – 15 min). The
260 chromatogram was also recorded at 321nm. The results show that there was an
261 increase in absorbance at 321nm for the monomer peak after irradiation, Figure 2B.
262 The newly formed aggregates also absorbed at 321 nm.

263 The reverse phase HPLC results show that there was a decrease in the concentration
264 of β -lactoglobulin in the samples after irradiation (Table 1.). It was previously
265 observed that changes in the profile of RP-HPLC are a good indicator for irreversible
266 structural changes. Non-native monomers such as those described by Croguennec et
267 al. (14) do not elute like native proteins in RP-HPLC, making it a better method than
268 either SDS-PAGE or HP-GPC for studying minor changes in the protein structure.

269 Given that 93% of the protein was monomeric after irradiation, 11% of the protein
270 must have been non-native monomer, (93% - 82%). Non-native monomers are
271 brought about by disulfide rearrangements in the β -lactoglobulin molecule and may
272 contain exposed sulfhydryl groups.

273 After the irradiation, the protein which eluted as native in the RP-HPLC method had
274 an increased absorbance at 321 nm. This indicates that even though the protein has not
275 unfolded some changes have occurred in the primary structure of the protein.

276 Ellman assay results showed there was 0.96 ± 0.02 mol total sulfhydryl per mol of
277 β -lactoglobulin present in the sample prior to heating. This is close to the expected
278 value of one mol sulfhydryl per mol of β -lactoglobulin. Only very small quantities of
279 these sulfhydryls were exposed (Table 1.). After irradiation there was a decrease in
280 the concentration of total sulfhydryl present but there was a greater quantity of
281 exposed sulfhydryls (Table 1.).

282 The sulfhydryl groups which had been exposed by irradiation were blocked with
283 IAEDANS. The peptides containing cysteines blocked with IAEDANS were easily
284 identified, as IAEDANS absorbs at 336 nm. The chromatograms obtained for the
285 separation of peptides from irradiated β -lactoglobulin treated with IAEDANS are
286 shown in Figure 3A and B. Figure 3D shows that in the absence of IAEDANS there
287 were some peptides absorbing at 336 nm. This intrinsic absorbance was considered

288 when analyzing the significance of the results for the irradiated sample. Comparing
289 the data from the current study with that obtained previously (13), allowed several
290 peptides containing cysteines blocked with IAEDANS to be identified. The results
291 showed cysteines 121 and 119 were blocked with IAEDANS. Cysteine 121 has a free
292 sulfhydryl in native β -lactoglobulin; however, this is normally unavailable for
293 reaction with IAEDANS. Peptides containing Cysteine 119 blocked with IAEDANS
294 were also identified. Cysteine 119 forms a disulfide linkage with cysteine 106 in
295 native β -lactoglobulin but cysteine 119 has previously been shown to readily
296 interchange with cysteine 121 during heat-denaturation (14). Cysteine 66 was also
297 found blocked with IAEDANS.

298 The amide I band in FTIR spectra is very sensitive to changes in the secondary
299 structure of proteins. The denaturation, aggregation and gelation of globular proteins
300 (including β -lactoglobulin) have been studied previously by looking at changes in the
301 amide I region of the FTIR spectrum. The spectra of native, irradiated and heat-treated
302 β -lactoglobulin are shown in Figure 4A. The spectra show that there are structural
303 differences between the β -lactoglobulin treatments. Using a multivariate analysis it
304 was determined that in native β -lactoglobulin, the β -sheet content was 35.4% and the
305 α -helix content was 17.6%. Irradiation for 24 hours did not significantly alter these
306 values. The irradiated samples contained 33.9% β -sheet and 14.9% α -helix. The
307 subtraction of the native spectrum from that of the irradiated sample showed that there
308 was a significant change in intensity at 1627 cm^{-1} . A similar change was observed for
309 that of heat-denatured β -lactoglobulin, see Figure 4. The band around 1627 cm^{-1} was
310 previously assigned to strongly bonded β -sheets (15,16). The formation of anti-
311 parallel intermolecular β -sheets caused by aggregation caused the appearance of a
312 band around 1617 cm^{-1} (17,18), which increased with heating time. UV irradiation of

313 β -lactoglobulin did not cause the appearance of a band around 1617 cm^{-1} . An increase
314 in intensity at 1645 cm^{-1} was also observed in both the heated and irradiated samples.
315 This band has been assigned to both unordered structure and α -helix (19,20). In the
316 case of the irradiated sample the calculated quantity of α -helix did not change
317 significantly. Therefore, this change in the intensity at 1645 cm^{-1} can be assigned to
318 an increase in unordered structure. Similarly, the broadening of the band between
319 1656 to 1580 cm^{-1} could be due to an increase in turns or β -sheets. However, the
320 calculated β -sheet content did not change upon irradiation; hence this band could be
321 associated to an increase in turns. β -Lactoglobulin that had been heat-denatured for 10
322 minutes at 78°C showed the greatest degree of homology to the irradiated sample in
323 terms of the FTIR spectrum. However, when the heated sample was analyzed using
324 the HPLC method above, 42% of the protein had been denatured. This compares to
325 only 18% denatured in the irradiated sample (determined by RP-HPLC).

326

327

328 **DISCUSSION**

329 The irradiation of β -lactoglobulin brought about some structural changes, which
330 manifested themselves in a number of ways. There was a red-shift in the intrinsic
331 tryptophan fluorescence of β -lactoglobulin. The red-shift is indicative a change in the
332 tertiary structure of the protein. The red-shift observed here was similar to that seen in
333 other globular proteins, such as goat α -lactalbumin (7). As well as the red-shift there
334 was a decrease in the intensity of the emitted light. Disulphide rearrangements which
335 occur in this study could give rise to an increase in the intensity of emitted light as
336 they would act to move disulphide bonds further from tryptophan residues.

337 The increase in the absorbance spectrum around 320 nm is indicative of the
338 formation of an oxidation product of tryptophan, *N*-Formylkynurenine. Numerous
339 studies have shown that the irradiation of tryptophan can lead to the formation of
340 *N*-formylkynurenine (21,22). *N*-formylkynurenine is formed by the oxidative cleavage
341 of the 2, 3 – bond of the indole ring in tryptophan. The structure of tryptophan and
342 *N*-formylkynurenine are shown in Figure 1. Assuming the increase of absorbance at
343 320 nm is caused by the formation of *N*-formylkynurenine, it was estimated that 30%
344 of the tryptophan present had been converted to *N*-formylkynurenine after 24 hours of
345 irradiation (using the extinction coefficient of 3200 L mol⁻¹cm⁻¹ at 315 nm (23)) The
346 formation of this oxidation product also explains the decrease in the intensity of the
347 emitted light observed in the fluorescence experiments.

348 The gel permeation chromatography results showed that aggregate formation is
349 induced by the irradiation. The formation of these aggregates may be responsible for
350 the observed decrease in the quantity of sulfhydryl groups present in the
351 β -lactoglobulin, assuming the aggregates are covalently linked. Another consideration
352 is that the aggregates are linked by other means such as hydrophobic or electrostatic
353 interactions and the observed decrease in sulfhydryls is due to some other cause. It
354 had been shown previously that goat α -lactalbumin formed aggregates when it was
355 irradiated (7). Even though the majority of the irradiated protein remained
356 monomeric, RP-HPLC analysis revealed that not all of these monomers were native
357 β -lactoglobulin. The formation of non-native monomers is considered to be the first
358 step in the aggregation process during heat-denaturation at pH 7.0 (24). Combining
359 the results of reverse-phase and gel permeation chromatography allowed the quantity
360 of non-native monomer to be determined, 11%. These non-native monomers could

361 explain the increase in the concentration of exposed sulfhydryl groups in the
362 irradiated protein.

363 The non-native monomers formed during this study exhibit different characteristics to
364 a non-native monomer formed by heat-denaturation (25). The monomers studied
365 contained a free cysteine 119 and exhibited an increase in intrinsic fluorescence.
366 However, photo bleaching would not occur in heat-denatured samples. More
367 importantly no shift in the emission maximum was observed in the heat-denatured
368 monomer, showing the environment surrounding the tryptophans had not altered.
369 When β -lactoglobulin was heated for longer periods of time then a red-shift in
370 intrinsic fluorescence occurred (26). When β -lactoglobulin was denatured using
371 hydrostatic pressure the same red-shift and increase in intrinsic fluorescence was
372 observed (27).

373 The FTIR results showed that the denaturation by irradiation brought about different
374 structural changes to those that occurred during heat-denaturation. The largest
375 difference was that light-denatured β -lactoglobulin did not form anti-parallel β -sheets.
376 The formation of these sheets has been attributed to the formation of non-covalent
377 linked dimers in heated samples.

378 This study demonstrated that UV radiation can denature β -lactoglobulin. There was
379 evidence of two different processes occurring in irradiated β -lactoglobulin: cleavage
380 of disulfide bonds leading to protein unfolding and aggregation and, photo-oxidation
381 of tryptophan into *N*-formylkynurenine. Previous studies have shown that the amount
382 of denaturation was related to the intensity and duration of the radiation (5), so it
383 could be possible to denature and aggregate β -lactoglobulin to a greater extent by
384 altering the conditions of irradiation. However, the depletion of tryptophan and the

385 formation of oxidation products would have to be taken into consideration before
386 irradiated β -lactoglobulin were used as a food ingredient.

387

388 **Legends for tables and figures**

389 **Table 1.** Summary of results for native β -lactoglobulin A and β -lactoglobulin A
390 irradiated for 24 hours at 295 nm

391

392 **Figure 1.** Absorbance and emission profiles of native and irradiated β -lactoglobulin.
393 Excitation was at 295 nm for the emission measurements. The control measurements
394 were made before and after irradiation to verify the stability of the lamp intensity over
395 the measurement period. The structures show tryptophan (left) and *N*-
396 formylkynurenine (right).

397

398 **Figure 2.** Gel permeation chromatography profiles for native β -lactoglobulin (black
399 line) and irradiated β -lactoglobulin (grey line). Detection at 214 nm (A) and 321 nm
400 (B) for the detection of *N*-formylkynurenine.

401

402 **Figure 3.** Reverse-phase chromatograms for the separation of tryptic digests of
403 β -lactoglobulin. Irradiated sample (A & B) and irradiated sample not treated with
404 IAEDANS (C & D). Chromatograms A & C were detected at 214 nm.
405 Chromatograms B & D were detected at 336 nm.

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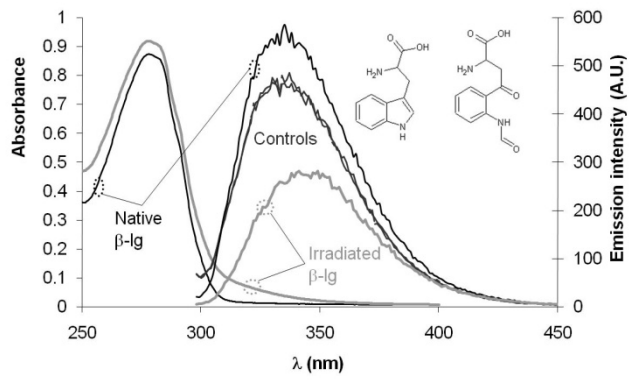
407 **Figure 4.** (A) FTIR Spectra; vector normalized amide I bands, spectra of native,
408 irradiated and heat-treated (10 gL^{-1} , 78°C) β -lactoglobulin are shown. (B) FTIR
409 spectra with the spectrum of native β -lactoglobulin subtracted.

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	Native	Irradiated
Exposed SH (mol SH per mol β -lg)	0.03 ± 0	0.08 ± 0.01
Total SH (mol SH per mol β -lg)	0.96 ± 0.02	0.76 ± 0.02
Native (RP-HPLC) % of total β -lg	100	82
Monomer (GPC) % of total β -lg	100	93
Non-native monomer % of total β -lg	0	11
Emission max (nm)	335 ± 1	344 ± 4
Emission area (Integration of spectrum)	100%	50%
% α -helix (by FTIR)	17.6	14.9
% β -sheet (by FTIR)	35.4	33.9

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Table 1.



424

425 Figure 1.

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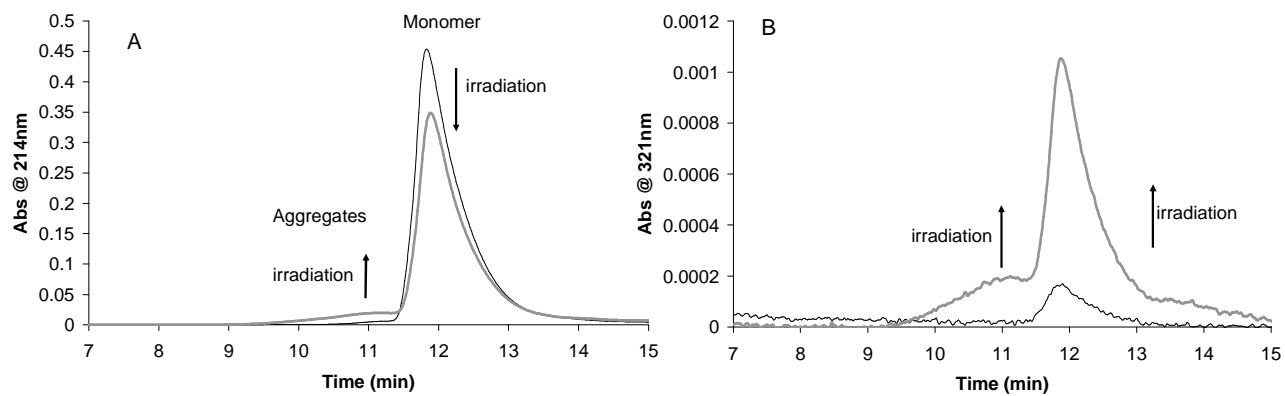
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445 Figure 2.

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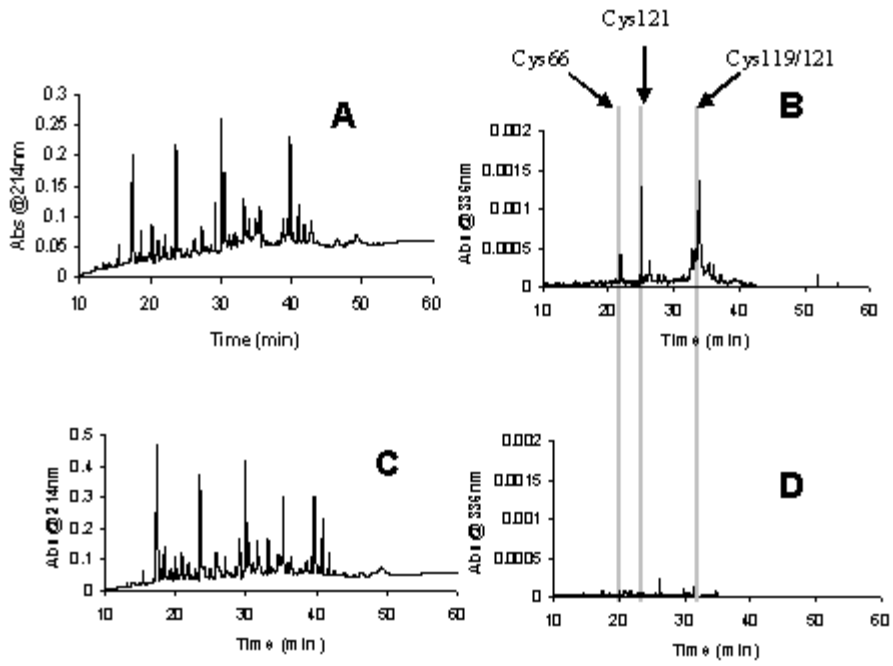
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465 Figure 3.

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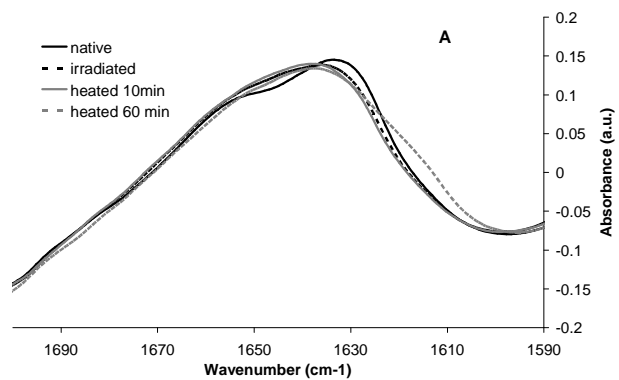
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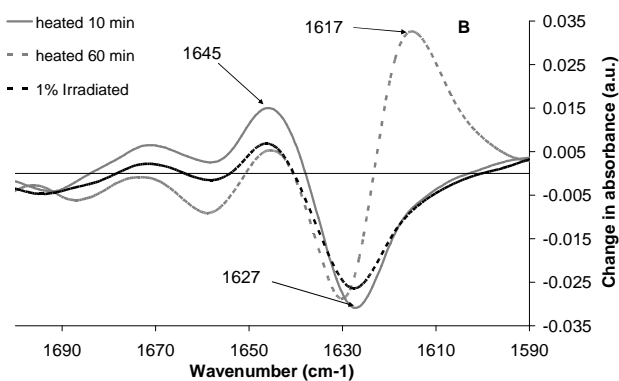
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480 Figure 4.

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