

1 **Effect of simulated digestion on antigenicity of banana prawn**
2 **(*Fenneropenaeus merguensis*) after high pressure processing at**
3 **different temperatures**

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25 **ABSTRACT**

26 Changes in tropomyosin derived antigenicity of banana prawn (*Fenneropenaeus*
27 *merguiensis*) due to high pressure processing (HPP) at 600 MPa for 5 or 10 min at
28 various temperatures (40, 80, 120 °C) were investigated. HPP of prawn samples at 40
29 and 80 °C for 5 min increased tropomyosin derived antigenicity by almost double,
30 whereas HPP at 120 °C for 10 min decreased antigenicity by 65%, detected using
31 ELISA kit. A significant ($P \leq 0.05$) reduction of tropomyosin antigenicity after pepsin
32 digestion was noticeable in prawns after HPP, but not in control prawn sample.
33 However, further digestion of the control and HPP sample with pancreatin enzyme
34 decreased antigenicity to $\sim 0 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$. The combination of HPP and high temperature
35 (120 °C) in the current study can potentially reduce tropomyosin-derived antigenicity
36 in whole prawn muscle, whereas SIF digestion with pancreatin enzyme may present
37 a new prospective method to produce hypo-antigenic, enzymatically digested prawn
38 products.

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40 **Key words:** Antigenicity; tropomyosin; high pressure processing; simulated
41 digestion; banana prawn

42 1. INTRODUCTION

43 Prawn is one of the widely consumed seafood products all over the world due to its
44 delicacy and high nutritional properties (Ravichandran et al., 2009; Hoffmann, 2000).
45 It also plays a substantial role in international seafood trade (Oosterveer 2006) having
46 high economic value. However, it has been declared by World Health Organization
47 (WHO) as one of the eight major sources of food allergens due to its high antigenicity
48 (WHO, 2001). Prawn antigenicity causes mild to severe reactions including life-
49 threatening anaphylaxis and usually persists throughout life (Albrecht et al., 2008).
50 The muscle protein tropomyosin has been identified as the major allergen (Steensma,
51 2003), although arginine kinase (García et al., 2007), myosin light chain (Ayuso et al.,
52 2008), sarcoplasmic calcium-binding protein (Shiomi et al., 2008), triosephosphate
53 isomerase and troponin C (Bauermeister et al., 2011) have also been implicated and
54 characterized as minor allergens in prawns. In spite of high allergic incidence,
55 treatments are only available for accidental consumption of prawns and avoidance is
56 the recommended therapy to prevent prawn allergies (Jones et al., 2014).

57 Growing demand for safe, fresh-tasting, additive-free and extended shelf-life of foods,
58 have fostered the development of high pressure processing (HPP), a technology that
59 is used to reduce microbial load but retain flavour, texture, colour and nutritional quality
60 of many foods (Kaur et al., 2016; Barba et al., 2015; Briones et al., 2010). Studies
61 have described several structural and biochemical changes of prawn proteins due to
62 HPP (Joseph et al., 2017; Bindu et al., 2013; Büyükcan et al., 2009). Moreover, HPP
63 has become one of the best commercial alternatives to traditional heat processing
64 methods for the preservation of prawns, e.g. black tiger prawn (Kaur et al., 2013). In
65 addition, Dang et al. (2018) stated that HPP could become a potential processing
66 method to remove shells of shrimp as well as to prepare ready to eat shrimp. However,
67 impact of HPP on antigenicity of prawn remains unclear.

68 As a novel technology HPP can change the nutritional and sensory quality suitable for
69 human consumption (Dang et al., 2018; Barba et al. 2015), therefore its impact on
70 antigenicity of prawn need to be studied clearly. Moreover, the changes through
71 gastrointestinal digestion of HPP treated prawns has not been studied in-depth.
72 Therefore, the aim of this study was to assess the effect of HPP at 600 MPa applied
73 at different temperatures for 5 and 10 min, respectively, on tropomyosin derived
74 antigenicity of banana prawn protein and its fate during gastrointestinal digestion.

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76 **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

77 **2.1. Treatment and extraction of proteins from prawn**

78 Extraction of proteins from prawn is an important step for isolation and analysis of
79 antigenic components. Fresh banana prawns (*Fenneropenaeus merguensis*) were
80 collected from a local supermarket in Australia. The prawns were washed for 2-3 min
81 in Milli-Q water to remove external contaminants, after which the external shells were
82 removed and deveined using the tip of a sharp blade.

83 HPP of whole prawn muscle was performed using a Stansted ISO-LAB FPG11501
84 High Pressure 3.6 L unit (Stansted Fluid Power Ltd., Stansted, Essex, UK) described
85 elsewhere (Knoerzer et al., 2010). The pressure vessel has a permitted initial
86 temperature range from -20 to 110 °C for pressures up to 800 MPa. The maximum
87 temperature within the vessel during pressure holding is 130 °C. A deionised
88 water/propylene-glycol mixture (40% glycol) was used as the pressure-transmitting
89 medium.

90 Samples were high pressure (600 MPa) treated separately for 5 and 10 min at 40, 80,
91 or 120°C, respectively. During high pressure treatment, the vessel was conditioned to
92 an initial temperature, which then attained the target temperature after compression
93 heating (Knoerzer et al., 2010). Conditioning times for samples were short (< 2 min)
94 but varied slightly depending on the applied temperature. The compression and
95 decompression rates were set to 600 or 1200 MPa min⁻¹, respectively. The
96 temperature of the compression fluid and sample were monitored using type T
97 thermocouple attached to the sample carrier (Knoerzer et al., 2010). All treatments
98 were replicated on different days. The prawn muscle without any processing used as
99 control.

100 The extraction of proteins from control and HPP samples were executed as described
101 by Faisal et al. (2019). In brief, prawn muscle was homogenized using a laboratory
102 blender (Waring 8011ES blender, NJ, USA) in phosphate buffered saline solution (pH
103 7.4) at 1:3 ratio for 5 min. The protein slurry was agitated for 3 h at 4 °C, trailed by
104 centrifugation (Beckman Coulter Avanti J-26S XPI, Palo Alto, CA, USA) at 4 °C and
105 speed of 29,400× g for 15 min. The supernatant of blend (control or HPP samples)

106 was deliberately isolated utilizing micropipette and stored in sealed containers with
107 appropriate labelling at -80 °C until further analysis.

108 **2.2. Determination of protein content**

109 Determination of total protein content of each concentrate was performed by Kjeldahl
110 method. Foss 2020 Digester Unit DS20 and Foss 2012 Distilling Unit (Hillerod,
111 Sweden), were used for sample digestion and distillation respectively.

112 **2.3. Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE)**

113 The complete protein profile of extracted control and HPP samples was established
114 by using reducing SDS-PAGE as described by Faisal et al. (2019). In brief, 2 mg mL⁻¹
115 extract protein content from prawn sample was diluted 1:1 with 2x Laemmli buffer
116 (containing 5% 2-mercaptoethanol) and heated at 95 °C for 3 min. Precisely 12 µg of
117 protein was added onto each well in a 4–20% Mini-Protean TGX unstained precast
118 gel (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Sydney, NSW, Australia). Electrophoretic separation of
119 protein was accomplished by Bio-Rad prescribed process and Precision Plus Protein
120 Unstained Standard was utilized as a molecular weight marker to highlight the
121 molecular weight of separated protein bands. The protein profile on the gel was
122 visualized through activation by Chemi-Doc imager (Chemidoc MP, Bio-Rad
123 Laboratories).

124 **2.4. Immunoblot analysis**

125 Immunoblotting was performed as described by Faisal et al. (2019). Briefly, protein
126 bands of SDS-PAGE were transferred into Polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) membrane
127 utilizing the Trans-Blot Turbo Transfer System (Bio-Rad) as per manufacturer's
128 guideline (Bio-Rad Laboratories). The membrane was blocked using 5% w/v skimmed
129 milk in PBST followed by incubation with Anti-Tropomyosin antibody (MAC 141,
130 Abcam Australia Pty Ltd, Melbourne, VIC, Australia) at 1:3,000 dilution with 2.5% w/v
131 skimmed milk in PBST for overnight at 4 °C under steady shaking at 150 horizontal
132 strokes per min (Ratek, Orbital mixer, Melbourne, VIC, Australia). Following washing
133 5 times with PBST, the membrane was further incubated with Goat Anti-Rat
134 Immunoglobulin-G H&L, HRP preadsorbed (Abcam Australia Pty Ltd) diluted 1:3,000
135 in PBST for 2 h at 4 °C under constant shaking. Finally, chemiluminescence (Thermo
136 Pierce ECL Western Blotting Substrate) was added to membrane to visualise the IgG

137 binding using Chemi-Doc imager (Chemidoc MP, Bio-Rad Laboratories, Sydney,
138 NSW, Australia).

139 **2.5. Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) kit**

140 Sandwich ELISA (RIDASCREEN®FAST Crustacean, R-Biopharm, Darmstadt,
141 Hessen, Germany) was used to measure the tropomyosin derived antigenicity in
142 extracted protein samples. Each sample was replicated individually following
143 manufacturer instruction. In brief, exactly 1 mL of protein extract was diluted with 19
144 mL of extraction buffer followed by centrifugation at 2,500× g (Eppendorf centrifuge
145 5810 R, Hamburg, Germany) for 10 min. Exactly 100 µL of sample supernatant was
146 added into each well of antibody pre-coated microwell and incubated at room
147 temperature for 10 min. The microwell was washed three times with 250 µL washed
148 buffer to remove unbound proteins. An aliquot of 100 µL conjugate solution was added
149 to each well, after gentle shaking, the plate was incubated at room temperature for 10
150 min. After subsequent washing, 100 µL of chromogen was added and incubated in the
151 dark at room temperature for 10 min. Finally, 100 µL of stop solution was added to
152 each well and absorbance was measured within 10 min using ELISA plate reader
153 (iMark microplate absorbance reader, Bio-Rad, Tokyo, Japan) at 450 nm.

154 **2.6. Simulated gastrointestinal digestion**

155 Simulated gastrointestinal digestion of untreated and treated prawn samples was
156 performed using the INFOGEST protocol as described by Minekus et al. (2014) with
157 slight modifications. Briefly, 5 g of prawn sample was blended with 5 mL of simulated
158 salivary fluid (SSF) electrolyte stock solution using a laboratory blender (Waring
159 8011ES blender, East Windsor, NJ, USA) for 2 min. The protein slurry was further
160 mixed with 7.5 mL of simulated gastric fluid (SGF) electrolyte stock solution, 1.25 mL
161 pepsin stock solution [10,000 U mL⁻¹ (Pepsin, Sigma, MO, USA) in SGF electrolyte
162 stock solution] and 5 µL of CaCl₂ (0.3 M). The pH of the mixture was adjusted to 3.0,
163 the volume made up to 20 mL with Milli-Q water, and digested at 37 °C in a rotary
164 shaker (Thermo Scientific MaxQ Shaker, Marietta, OH, USA) at 100 horizontal strokes
165 per min for 2.5 h. Afterward, 20 mL of gastric-chyme was mixed with 11 mL of
166 simulated intestinal fluid (SIF) electrolyte stock solution, 5.0 mL of a pancreatin stock
167 solution [100 mg mL⁻¹ (Pancreatin 1X, USB, OH, USA) in SIF electrolyte stock
168 solution], 2 mL of bile stock solution [50 mg mL⁻¹ (Bile, Sigma, MO, USA) in SIF

169 electrolyte stock solution] and 40 μ L of CaCl_2 (0.3 M). The pH of mixture was adjusted
170 to 7.0, and the volume made up to 40 mL with Milli-Q water, and digested at 37 °C in
171 a rotary shaker (Thermo Scientific MaxQ Shaker) at 100 horizontal strokes per min for
172 2.5 h. After complete digestion Na_2CO_3 (0.2 M) was added to solution to inactivate the
173 enzymes and then stored immediately at -80 °C.

174 **2.7. Statistical analysis**

175 Statistical analysis of results was performed using a one way ANOVA by the Statistical
176 Analysis System (v. 9.2). The experimental design was replicated three times. The
177 means were compared using Tukey's Studentised Range (HSD) test. The antigenicity
178 of HPP and enzyme digested samples was considered to be significant at $P \leq 0.05$.

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180 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

181 **3.1. Protein profile of control and HPP prawn extracts by SDS-PAGE**

182 The SDS-PAGE protein profile of banana prawn shows several protein bands having
183 various molecular weights (Figure 1A). In the control extract, 14 protein bands were
184 observed of which molecular weights 20, 34, 37, 40, 75, 90 and over 250 kDa were
185 more visible in intensity, whereas 25, 30, 45, 55, 105, 175 and 213 kDa were less
186 potent (lane 2). Protein bands with similar molecular weights in untreated prawn
187 protein extracts have also been reported in banana prawn and other prawn species in
188 previous studies (Faisal et al., 2019; Wu et al., 2015; Kamath et al., 2013).

189 On the other hand, protein extracts of HPP treated prawn samples for 5 min (lanes 3
190 to 5) showed comparatively less number of protein bands compared to control (Figure
191 1A). In lane 3, out of 9 visible protein bands, 20, 40 and 75 kDa bands were prominent,
192 whereas in lanes 4 and 5, only 3 less visible protein bands were present respectively.
193 Moreover protein extracts from the 10 min HPP treatment of prawn samples (lanes 6
194 to 8) showed similar protein profiles, but with lower intensity compared to the 5 min
195 HPP treatments. In a previous study, Faisal et al. (2019), reported less number of
196 protein bands (7 bands) in banana prawns treated at 100 °C (atmospheric pressure)
197 and autoclaved pressure (121 °C at 0.2 MPa), respectively, for 15 minutes compared
198 to the control. The probable reason of less protein bands in HPP samples was due to
199 the combined effect of heat and high pressure resulting in disintegration of proteins

200 into smaller molecular weight protein fragments (peptides) (less than 10 kDa). In
201 addition, at high temperature (120 °C) proteins likely start to re-aggregate in the
202 presence of high pressure (600 MPa) resulting in the formation of some higher
203 molecular weight aggregates, which appeared on top of lanes 5 and 8 (Figure 1A),
204 whereas smaller proteins ultimately pass through the gel into the buffer (Shriver and
205 Yang, 2011). HPP can alter the tertiary structure as well as induce denaturation of
206 proteins by affecting the ionic, hydrogen and hydrophobic bands (Wang et al., 2013),
207 whereas, heat can result in changes of the secondary and tertiary structures of protein
208 through changes in inter and intra molecular bonds (Chatterjee et al., 2006).

209 **3.2. Protein profile of simulated digested prawn extracts by SDS-PAGE**

210 Figure 1B shows SDS-PAGE protein profiles of the control (lane 2) and HPP prawn
211 extracts subjected to SGF digestion (lanes 3 to 8). Single protein bands of
212 approximately 39 kDa were observed in lanes 2 to 8. The 39 kDa protein band was
213 not from the sample but from the added enzyme (pepsin) as indicated in lane 9. Gámez
214 et al. (2015) also reported the 39 kDa protein band on SDS-PAGE as pepsin enzyme
215 used for SGF digestion. Moreover, protein bands above 39 kDa were completely
216 absent (lanes 2 to 8) indicating breakdown of proteins due to pepsin enzyme activity
217 during SGF digestion. Barrett et al. (2004) reported that pepsin enzymes hydrolyze
218 peptide bonds of tyrosine and phenylalanine residues. Furthermore, the intensity of
219 aggregated proteins at the top of lanes 5 and 8 (Figure 1B) was also reduced
220 compared to undigested proteins (Figure 1A) due to enzymatic digestion. In addition,
221 the smearing of protein bands below 39 kDa to less than 10 kDa (lanes 2 to 8) resolved
222 on SDS-PAGE can be attributed to the breakdown of proteins into peptides as well as
223 intramolecular crosslinking, preventing linearization of protein bands with any specific
224 molecular weight (Shriver and Yang 2011).

225 Figure 1C depicts changes in protein profiles after SIF digestion of control (lane 2) and
226 HPP prawn samples treated with pancreatin enzymes, respectively (lanes 3 to 8),
227 compared to undigested (Figure 1A) and SGF digested protein profiles (Figure 1B).
228 On SDS-PAGE, one prominent protein band at the 50 kDa mark and 4 less intense
229 bands in between 20 to 30 kDa can be observed in lanes 2 to 8 (Figure 1C). These
230 protein bands were not from the sample but from the added enzyme (pancreatin) and
231 bile salt as indicated in lane 9. The disappearance of other protein bands (lanes 2 to

232 8) in Figure 1C, were likely caused by pancreatin enzymes cleaving proteins at
233 multiple sites including glutamic acid, lysine and arginine (Mikita and Padlan, 2007;
234 Beck, 1973) resulting in complete hydrolysis of proteins into peptides. Smaller protein
235 fragments from digestion, with molecular weight less than 10 kDa, passed through the
236 gel during electrophoretic mobility (Taheri-Kafrani et al., 2009). Jin et al. (2015) treated
237 squid at 600 MPa at 20 °C for 20 min and reported similar degradation of protein bands
238 after SGF and SIF digestion.

239 **3.3. Detection of antigenic tropomyosin in control and HPP prawn extracts**

240 Detection of antigenic tropomyosin in control and HPP treated extracts was performed
241 by immunoblotting. The binding of monoclonal antibody with prawn proteins on PVDF
242 membrane at 37 kDa for control and HPP prawn extracts is shown in Figure 2A. Faisal
243 et al. (2019) reported similar results for IgG binding (37 kDa as tropomyosin) in
244 untreated banana prawn. The IgG binding for HPP prawns treated at 40 °C for 5 or 10
245 min, respectively (lanes 3 & 6), showed double band intensity compared to that of the
246 control. On the other hand, HPP prawn samples treated at 120 °C for 5 or 10 min,
247 respectively, showed less band intensity (64 and 48%, respectively) due to fewer IgG
248 binding sites compared to that of the control (lanes 5 & 8), whereas HPP samples
249 treated at 80 °C (5 and 10 min) resulted in similar IgG binding to the control. In a
250 previous study, banana prawn samples were treated at 100 °C atmospheric pressure
251 and 121 °C at 0.2 MPa for 15 min, respectively, IgG binding was reported to be 4 and
252 2.5 times higher respectively, compared to the control (Faisal et al., 2019). This
253 indicates that combining HPP at 600 MPa with temperature ranging from 40 to 120°C
254 has a positive impact on reducing antigenicity.

255 Tropomyosin, having α -helix coiled structure, is twisted tightly to the surface of actin
256 filament through gestalt-binding interactions (Faisal et al., 2019; Holmes & Lehman
257 2008). HPP treatment of prawns at 600 MPa is likely to breakdown gestalt-binding
258 interactions in tropomyosin and expose internal binding epitopes. As a result, HPP
259 prawn samples treated at 40 °C showed significantly higher antigenicity compare to
260 the control. Milk proteins treated at 600 MPa at 40 °C for 10 min have been shown to
261 reveal antigenic epitopes resulting in higher antigenicity (Kleber et al., 2007). On the
262 other hand, Ma et al., (2011) reported that beef muscle treated at 600 MPa for 20 min
263 showed increasing solubility of myofibrillar proteins (actin, myosin, tropomyosin and

264 troponin) with increasing temperature. Similarly, our study showed that at higher
265 temperatures (80 and 120 °C), the solubility of tropomyosin increased due to
266 breakdown of the protein structure, resulting in decreased IgG binding. Furthermore,
267 the treatment time also plays an important role in tropomyosin solubility. For example,
268 IgG binding was lower in samples with high pressure treated for 10 min compare to
269 those that were treated for 5 min under similar temperature conditions.

270 Jin et al. (2015) reported that HPP at 600 MPa and 20 °C for 20 min, converted 53%
271 of the α -helix of squid tropomyosin into β -sheets and random coils, resulting in
272 substantial changes of the secondary structure and decreased antigenicity. The
273 structural changes likely masked or destroyed binding epitopes within the protein
274 molecule causing less IgG binding. Long et al. (2015) investigated a range of high
275 pressure (100 to 600 MPa) treatments at various temperatures (25 to 75 °C) on
276 isolated tropomyosin extract from *Litopenaeus vannamei* shrimp and reported low
277 antigenicity for 500 MPa at 55 °C for 10 min. The main reason for the contradiction of
278 this result with the current study is probably due to the use of different treatment
279 conditions. On the contrary, the current study subjected whole prawn muscles to high
280 pressure at various temperatures and found that tropomyosin behaved differently from
281 isolated tropomyosin extracts (Gámez et al., 2015) possibly due to presence of
282 surrounding actin, myosin and troponin molecules within the muscle.

283 **3.4. Detection of antigenic tropomyosin in simulated digested prawn extracts**

284 An immunoblotting method was employed to detect the presence of antigenic
285 tropomyosin in digested samples. IgG binding observed at 37 kDa (tropomyosin) on
286 the PVDF membrane for the pepsin digested control sample is shown in Figure 2B
287 (lane 2). The resistance of tropomyosin against pepsin digestion is due to the presence
288 of its high lysine content (Li et al., 2012; Huang et al., 2010). A similar response of
289 tropomyosin of various crustacean species to pepsin has also been reported in several
290 studies (Gámez et al., 2015; Wu et al., 2015). The IgG binding for pepsin digested
291 HPP samples (lane 3) showed increased band intensity, whereas lanes 4 and 5
292 exhibited decreased IgG binding compared to digested control sample, due to
293 tropomyosin solubility at higher (80 and 120 °C) temperatures. Similar IgG binding
294 trends were observed for lanes 6 and 7, whereas lane 8 (HPP at 120 °C for 10 min)
295 did not show any band indicating non-IgG binding. In comparison to undigested prawn

296 extracts (Figure 2A), digested prawn extracts (Figure 2B) showed much lower IgG
297 binding on the PVDF membrane. The combined effect of high pressure and
298 temperature likely caused structural changes and partial denaturation of tropomyosin,
299 thus accelerating pepsin digestion (Mikita and Padlan, 2007). Similar effects have
300 been reported for autoclave treated (121 °C for 20 min) *Scylla* crab tropomyosin
301 samples (Yu et al., 2011).

302 The pancreatin enzyme activity on control and HPP prawn samples is shown in Figure
303 2C. No IgG binding for tropomyosin was observed on the PVDF membrane. Jin et al.
304 (2015) similarly reported the absence of tropomyosin after 60 min of SIF digestion for
305 samples treated at 600 MPa for 20 min at 20 °C. Moreover Yu et al. (2011) also
306 reported the absence of IgG binding for tropomyosin after 120 min of SIF digestion for
307 autoclaved treated (121 °C at 0.14 MPa for 20 min) crab sample. The authors (Yu et
308 al., 2011) further showed that tropomyosin and its fragments were still detectable by
309 immunoblotting after 240 min of digestion for boiled (100 °C for 20 min) sample,
310 indicating the impact of pressure on tropomyosin degradation during SIF digestion.

311 **3.5. Quantification of antigenicity by ELISA**

312 The quantification of antigenicity in control and HPP prawn samples is shown in Figure
313 3. HPP samples treated at 40 and 80 °C for 5 or 10 min, respectively, showed
314 significant ($P < 0.05$) increase in antigenicity compared to the control. However,
315 antigenicity of HPP samples treated at 120 °C for 10 min decreased significantly by
316 65%, similar to trends discussed in immunoblotting of HPP samples. On the other
317 hand, the same control sample subjected to SGF digestion with pepsin enzyme
318 showed no significant ($P > 0.05$) difference for tropomyosin antigenicity. Whereas HPP
319 samples digested with pancreatin enzymes following pepsin digestion resulted in
320 significant ($P < 0.05$) reduction in antigenicity similar to immunoblotting results. HPP
321 samples treated at 120 °C for 10 min digested with pepsin enzyme showed a slight
322 deviation compared to immunoblotting. The immunoblotting result for this sample
323 showed complete disappearance of antigenicity, whereas the ELISA results indicated
324 the presence of antigenicity at 1.21 mg mL⁻¹. The cause of this antigenicity is likely
325 due to IgG binding epitopes still active in peptides resulting from enzymatic hydrolysis
326 of proteins. Long et al. (2015) showed a declining trend of IgG binding for squid
327 tropomyosin extract treated with 600 MPa for 10 min compared to 5 min treated

328 samples using inhibition ELISA. The authors further reported that antigenicity of squid
329 tropomyosin extract treated at 600 MPa decreased with increasing temperature
330 treatment from 25 up to 75 °C.

331

332 **4. CONCLUSION**

333 Prawn muscles treated with 600 MPa at 40 and 80 °C for 5 or 10 min showed
334 significant ($P < 0.05$) increased antigenicity, whereas samples treated at 600 MPa and
335 120 °C for 10 min decreased antigenicity by 65% compare to control. Therefore, the
336 combination of high pressure (600 MPa) and temperature (120 °C) can potentially
337 reduce tropomyosin-derived antigenicity in whole prawn muscle. On the other hand,
338 prawn muscles digested in presence of pepsin enzyme showed more than 50%
339 reduction of tropomyosin antigenicity for HPP samples, yet no significant difference
340 for the control sample. Moreover, further digestion with pancreatin enzymes
341 decreased antigenicity of tropomyosin up to ~ 0 mg mL⁻¹ for control and HPP prawn
342 samples. This potential reduction indicates digestion with pancreatin enzymes can
343 possibly open new opportunities to produce hypo-tropomyosin-antigenic,
344 enzymatically digested prawn protein powders. This hypo-antigenic prawn protein
345 powders can be used as prawn seasoning in different meals, as well as flavour and
346 taste enhancer in various biscuits, cakes, and other snack products.

347

348 **5. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

349 The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

350

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List of Figures

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490 Figure 1: SDS-PAGE of control and HPP prawn protein extracts (A), SGF (pepsin)
491 digested protein extracts (B), and SIF (pancreatin) digested protein extracts (C): Lane
492 1 - standard; lane 2- control; lane 3, 4 and 5 - HPP (600 MPa) at 40, 80, and 120 °C
493 for 5 min, respectively; lane 6, 7 and 8- HPP (600 MPa) at 40, 80, and 120 °C for 10
494 min, respectively, lane 9 - SGF (including pepsin (B) or pancreatin (C) enzyme) without
495 having prawn protein extract.

496

497 Figure 2: Immunoblotting of control and HPP prawn protein extracts (A), SGF (pepsin)
498 digested protein extracts (B), and SIF (pancreatin) digested protein extracts (C): Lane
499 1 - standard; lane 2- control; lane 3, 4 and 5 - HPP (600 MPa) at 40, 80, and 120 °C
500 for 5 min, respectively; lane 6, 7 and 8- HPP (600 MPa) at 40, 80, and 120 °C for 10
501 min, respectively, lane 9 - SGF (including pepsin (B) or pancreatin (C) enzyme) without
502 having prawn protein extract.

503

504 Figure 3: Quantification of antigenicity of prawn protein extracts before and after
505 digestion (SGF and SIF) using ELISA method for control and HPP samples processed
506 at 600 MPa and 40, 80 and 120 °C for 5 and 10 min, respectively. (■ Undigested
507 prawn protein extract; ▨ SGF digested prawn protein extract, ▩ SIF digested prawn
508 protein extract). Here the lower cases (a-m) represent significant differences ($P < 0.05$)
509 among the treatments.

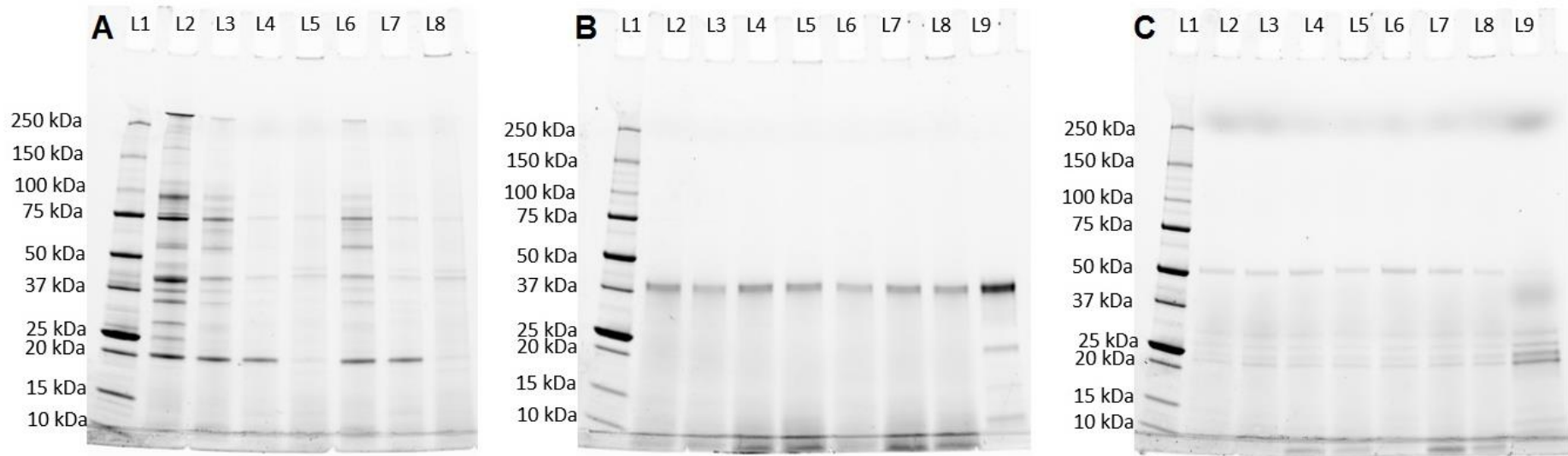


Figure 1.

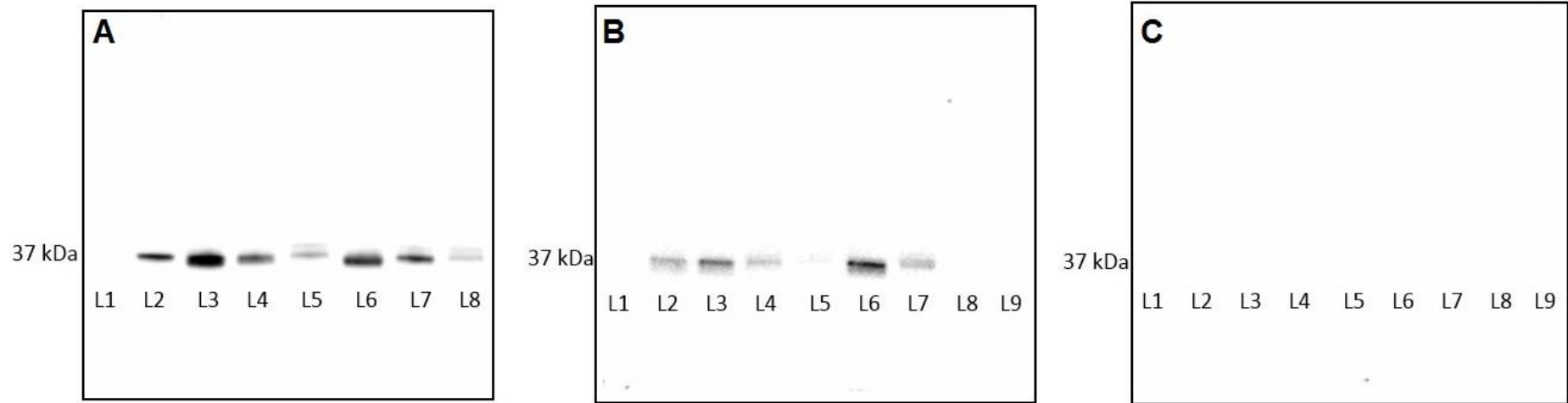


Figure 2

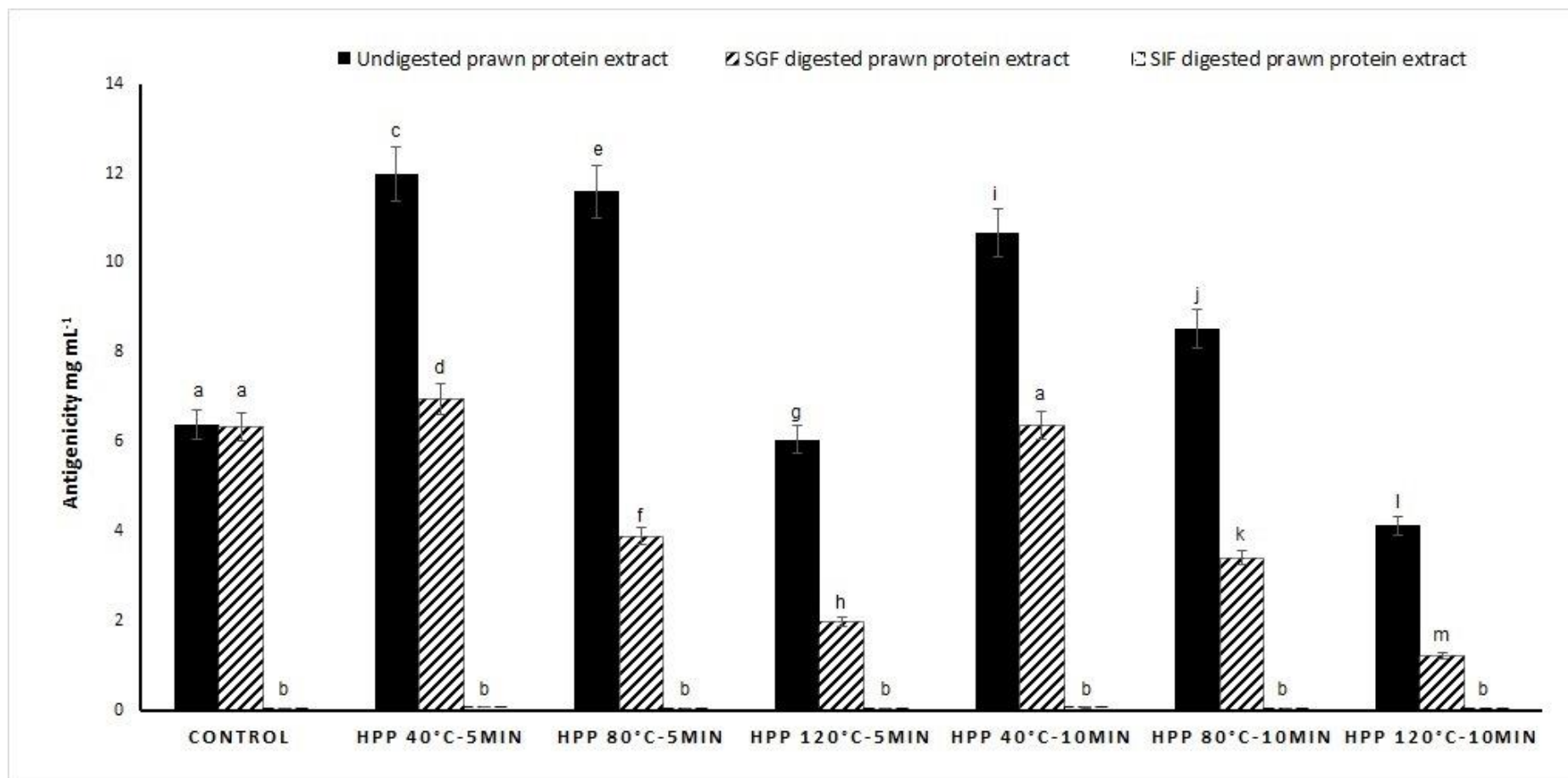


Figure 3