
Poster

Study of physico-chemical parameters in small-scale craft beer production



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Keywords: pH; density; craft beer.

ABSTRACT

In this past decade, the craft beer market has been gaining importance from large national and international beer breweries, especially micro-breweries and brew pubs. The evidence of this competition is the fact that many large companies' advertisements remind the public that their roots were originally a microbrewery (1,2). However, the smaller budget of microbreweries in comparison to large companies, requires greater efficiency because a big loss for a small business would be a significant cost which could affect the competitive power of the company in the market.

In our microbrewery we have been studying different physico-chemical parameters (pH and density between others), changing critical steps in the elaboration of the different craft beers and analysing which factors influence these parameters the most, with the objective of making the beer production much more efficient. At the same time, we are going to compare these parameters between the different types of beers that we produce in the factory.

Our results show that the pH is slightly more acidic in beers that use a lower proportion of Pilsen-type malts. In relation to density it seems to be the opposite, the higher of this proportion of this type of malt, the higher the density. Furthermore, some correlation has been observed between the degree of milling and the density, with a higher degree of milling of the grain the higher the density is in the wort which allows to use less malt for the same volume, something that can have beneficial economic repercussions.

Another problem that we found in this kind of industries it's the contamination of the final product. However, we have designed a plan for waste management that consists in all the contaminated beer previously analysed, is distilled in an alembic that extracts the ethanol from this useless product, that could then be used to make different valuable alcoholic drinks (gins, vodkas, whiskies, liqueurs). The point of this waste management plan is to reduce the costs as well as improve the efficiency. We observed that the higher the alcoholic strength of the substrate to be distilled the greater the alcoholic strength of the final product. At the same time, the higher the volume to distill the longer it takes to start producing the final product.

REFERENCES

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