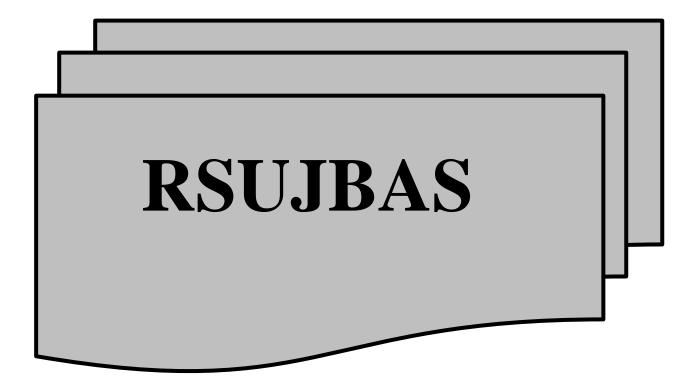
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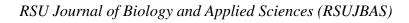
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# THIN LAYER DRYING KINETICS OF GINGER (ZINGIBEROFFICINALE ROSCOE)

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### ABSTRACT

In this study, the optimum model for forecasting how quickly slices of ginger (Zingiber officinale roscoe) will dry was determined. In a convection-desiccant dryer, ginger slices were air dried in a single layer with a thickness of 4mm at various temperatures after conditioning them to eliminate moisture. Three distinct models were used to the experimental data in order to estimate and evaluate the findings of the best drying model. The reduced chi square, root mean square error (RMSE), and coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) were used to assess the goodness of fit.

Key words: ginger, drying, kinetics, thin layer, activation energy, moisture ratio.

# INTRODUCTION.

According to Onu et al. (2014) and Bijaya (2018) ginger is a Zingiberaceae family member that has been used for health purposes for about 10years. Its origins may be found in South-East Asia specifically in India and China and it was then brought to Africa and the Caribbean. These days, ginger is grown all across the humid tropics (Meadows, 1998). According to Onu et al. (2014) ginger is a monocotyledonous perennial herb with strong extensively branched edible underground rhizomes (horizontal stem) that grow close to the soil surface. These rhizomes give rise to the leafy shoots that make up the plant aerial portion.

Researchers have made a number of attempts to produce scientific evidence supporting the industrial processing and storage of food products. According to Crawford and Odle (2005) and Srinivasan (2017) ginger is one of the plants that has gained widespread popularity around the world for its use as a spice to flavor food and as a medicinal plant. As a result, it is often added to snacks, beverages, and drinks to improve digestion, act as an anti-inflammatory and provide other health benefits. According to Jelled et al. (2015) the presence of gingerols, volatile oils, shogaols, and strong antioxidant chemicals in ginger rhizomes is what gives the plant its health advantages.

Slices of dried ginger were examined by Loha et al. (2012) to determine how well they dried in a forced air convective cabinet dryer and the model developed by Midilli et al. (2012) that most accurately captured how thinly sliced ginger was dried. Afolabi et al. (2014) examined the impacts of thin layer drying behavior utilizing heated at oven temperature between 40 and 70C with air speed at 1.5m/s for ginger root slices that were 5-15mm with a different of 5mm thick. According to the results, drying times were declined when both sliced thickness and the drying air temperature were raises. These models make it possible to forecast the ideal conditions for drying such food goods.

The kind, variety, agronomic circumstances, curing procedures, drying procedures, and storage conditions all affect the nutritional composition of ginger. Generally speaking, it has the following nutritional analysis: protein (2.3%), fat (0.9%), carbs (12.3%), minerals (1.2%), fiber (2.4%), and moisture (80,9%) are the other components. Along with vitamins like thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, and vitamin C, it also contains minerals like phosphorus, calcium, and iron (Bijaya, 2018).

Ginger rhizomes can either be collected by hand or using a mechanized digger depending on how they will be used, ginger rhizomes are picked at various periods for example, for fresh consumption: When the leaves begin to turn yellow which occurs after 5 months then ginger can be stored for 5-7 months while for 8–9 months for dried ginger preparation and oil production (FAO)

Fresh ginger contains a lot of moisture (80–95%) promotes microbial degradation and causes significant losses after harvest (Osae *et al.*, 2019). Drying is a popular technique for preserving food after harvest. In essence, drying is a procedure that improves both heat and mass transmission (Dincer, 1998) and it remains a very effective method of food preservation, by

reducing microbiological, enzymatic activities brought on by a significant amount of moisture present, extending the biomaterial self-life, it protects the safety of food goods during the storage term, it reduces transportation and packing expenses, enables year-round product availability, improves product aesthetics, and maintains the nutritional value and flavor of the product (Bijaya, 2018; Deng *et al.*, 2018). Ginger is dried in two stages: first the rhizomes are peeled to remove the outer layer then they are mechanically or sun-dried to a safe moisture content (Balakrishnan, 2005). The majority of developing nations sundry the scraped ginger, whereas those with bad seasonal conditions use more advanced drying techniques.

This work assessed the drying properties of ginger using thin layers in order to define its drying kinetics. The experimental output data was then fitted into various thin layer drying models.

#### 2.0 MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### 2.1. Sample preparation and Experimental procedure.

For this investigation, ginger tubers were purchased from a neighbourhood at Tombia market and with the help of a slicer similar to a Mandolin the ginger tubers were cleaned, peeled and sliced into 4 mm-thick pieces. After that the slices are dried on the drier at 60, 70, 80, 90, and 100 degrees Celsius in the convection oven. In addition to recording, the 4g weight of the ginger root slices were measured using electronic weighing balance and their thickness were measured using a digital Vernier caliper. Zibokere and Egbe (2020) also kept track of how much weight was lost during the drying experiment due to dehydration. When no noticeable changes are seen after 5 minutes the drying process is terminated (Mohsenin,1986).

### 2.2 Analysis of the Drying Curve

The moisture ratio formula was used for the sliced ginger.

$$MR = \frac{M_t - M_e}{M_0 - M_e}$$
 1

Where M= Moisture content at time.

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 $M_t$  is the moisture content at t.

 $M_0$  is the initial content moisture %.

Subsequently, plot of MR versus time was done to obtain the curve.

### 2.3 Selection of the Appropriate Model

Three models with various moisture ratio equations were fitted with the experimental drying data. (Table1)

### Table 1. Model fitted to the drying curves

Model	Equation
Lewis model	$MR_{pred} = exp(-kt)$
Handerson model	$MR_{pred} = aexp(-kt)$
Page Model	$MR_{pred} = exp(-kt^n)$

To determine the suitability of the drying model, the acquired data were assessed using three statistical metrics: the  $R^2$ , RMSE, and  $X^2$ . The model with the highest  $R^2$ , the lowest RMSE, and the lowest  $X^2$  values is the one that is most appropriate. These three parameters can be found using equations 2, 3, and 4.

$$R^{2} = \frac{\left[\sum_{i=1}^{N} (MR_{exp,j} - MR_{esp})(MR_{pre,j} - MR_{pre})\right]^{2}}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (MR_{exp,j} - MR_{exp})^{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (MR_{pre,i} - MR_{pre})^{2}}$$
2

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N}} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left( MR_{exp,i} - MR_{pre,i} \right)^2$$
3

$$X^{2} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (MR_{exp,i} - MR_{pre,i})^{2}}{N-z}$$
4

### 2.4 Estimation of effective moisture diffusivity.

The following equation, known as Ficks law of equations, was used to compute the effective diffusivity value, abbreviated as Deff (Egbe and Ebienfa, 2022)

$$MR = \frac{8}{\pi} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2n+1} esp \left[ \frac{(2n+1)\pi^2}{4L^2} \right]$$

$$MR = \frac{8}{\pi^2} esp \left[ \frac{\pi^2 D_{t^2}}{4l^2} \right]$$
6

Then equation (6) can be linearized into:

$$\ln MR = \ln \frac{8}{\pi^2} - \frac{\pi^2 D_{eff^1}}{4l^2}$$
 7

### 2.5. Activation Energy

The Arrhenius type equation which was used to arrive at this conclusion (Egbe *et al.*, 2022 Akgun and Doymaz, 2005; Sanjuan et al., 2003), explains the link between the drying temperature and the diffusion coefficient as follows.

$$Deff = Doexp(-\frac{E_a}{R*T})$$
 8

$$\ln Deff = \ln Do - \frac{E_a}{R} \frac{1}{T}$$

Activation energy can be calculated to be

$$Y = \frac{E_a}{R}$$
 10

Where Y is the slope of the  $D_{eff}$  plot of 1/T and R is the gas constant (J mol<sup>-1</sup>K<sup>-1</sup>).

#### 3.0 Results and Discussions

#### **3.1 Evaluation of the Drying Curve**

The sample moisture ratio dropped as drying time increased as shown in Figures 1 and 2 which shows the drying values obtained from the sample. The drying curve approaches the drying time tangentially, although it does so slowly because to the high systemic water content in the ginger. The slow-moving curve pattern also demonstrated that there was no case-hardening in the high-temperature zones during the dying phase. All of the MR are calculated on a dry basis (db). The graphs in the Figure 1 appear to have adopted the general pattern of drying curves that has been reported for a variety of biomaterials. The curves had a steeper slope at first indicating greater and faster evaporation of moisture during drying. This may be because moisture moved to the surface for evaporation and evacuation more quickly in the samples, which led to increased water activity in the samples and reducing the drying time. However, even with increasing temperatures the drying process got slower (the curves flattened) as less and less water became available for evaporation at the surface of the samples. This is typical of biomaterials with a high component content, even with an increase in drying temperature, moisture coupled with fats/oils and protein considerably reduces water activity (Zibokere and

Egbe, 2019; Jain and Pathare, 2007). The condition is also consistent with studies on thin layer drying operations on fresh water clams (Burubai, 2015), fresh tilapia fish (Zhiqiang *et al.,* 2013), salted catfish fillets (Sankat and Mujalfar, 2006), and fresh fish (Sankat and Mujalfar, 2006). (Kilic, 2009).

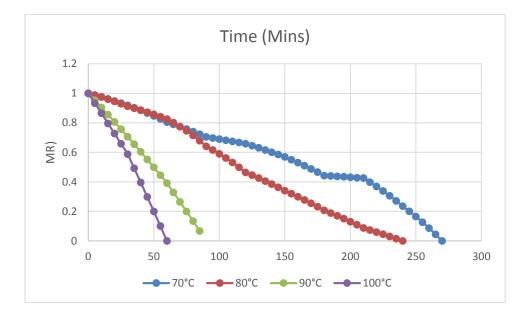


Fig. 1: Drying curve at different temperature)

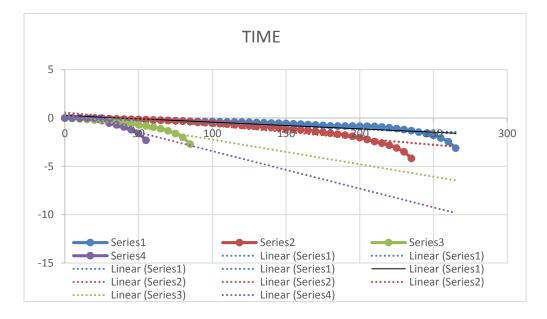


Fig. 2. A plot of logarithmic moisture ratio [ln(MR)] as a function of drying time

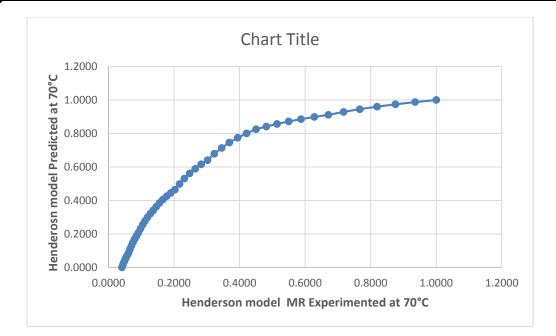


Figure 3. Compared Predicted MR with Experimented MR by Henderson model

### **3.2. Selection of the Appropriate Model**

The Page model, Henderson-Pabis model and Lewis model were each used separately to calculate the experimental drying values. To determine which model would portray the drying the ginger the best, a fitting was conducted. The data were fitted to Fick's second law of diffusion equation, and the constant 'k' as well as the coefficients 'a' and 'n' were determined using a non-linear least squares method (SPSS 1996). The R<sup>2</sup>, RMSE, and X<sup>2</sup> obtained from the plot of the experimental moisture ratio against the projected moisture ratio were then validated by performing the calculations described in tables 2 for the R<sup>2</sup>, RMSE, and X<sup>2</sup>. For the purpose of representing the specimen drying feature, the model with the lowest RMSE, X<sup>2</sup> and maximum R<sup>2</sup> was determined to be the most suitable. Out of the three models employed in this study, Henderson and the Page model were found to have the best fit to the drying characteristic of ginger.

LEWIS MODEL								
Temp. °C	$\mathbb{R}^2$	$X^2$	RMSE	Κ	А	Ν		
60°C	0.6577	6.33951x10 <sup>3</sup>	0.078893899	0.0069	-	-		
70°C	0.9618	7.94934x10 <sup>4</sup>	0.027905395	-0.00133				
80°C	0.9726	8.67504x10 <sup>4</sup>	0.030275125	-0.0255				
90°C	0.9826	9.67504x10 <sup>4</sup>	0.030275125	-0.0255	-	-		
100°C	0 9516	$4.03085 \times 10^3$	0.060998225	-0 0388	-	-		
HANDERSON MODEL								
60°C	0.9999	$7.19 \times 10^7$	0.000832437	0.0069	1.297319	-		
70°C	0.9992	$1.68652 \times 10^5$	0.004022038	-0.00133	1.732733	-		
80°C	0.9998	1.61669x10 <sup>5</sup>	0.004683804	-0.0255	1.569437			
90°C	0.9997	1.51669x10 <sup>5</sup>	0.003683804	-0.0255	1.369437	-		
100°C	0.9998	$2.00096 \times 10^5$	0.00411755	-0 0388	1.585183	-		
PAGE MODEL								
60°C	0.9512	$1.72734 \times 10^2$	0.129016509	1.2612		0.001201		
70°C	0.9718	3.75328x10 <sup>3</sup>	0.060000665	2.7829		0.000865		
80°C	0.9826	3.82415x10 <sup>3</sup>	0.073710023	1.4486		0.004141		
90°C	0.9926	3.22415x10 <sup>3</sup>	0.083710023	1.348		0.004141		
100°C	0 9916	$1.89605 \times 10^2$	0.126663067	2.456		0.000165		

### Table 2: Values of Statistical Analysis Equation of Drying Models

### 3.3. Effective Diffusivity (De) and Activation Energy Ea

The graphs between the natural logarithms of the moisture ratio (ln MR) and drying time were used to illustrate the effects of temperature and airflow on the effective diffusion coefficient of ginger in Figure 2. As the drying temperature rises, it can be seen that Deff values rise as well. Higher heating energy would increase the activity of water molecules, resulting in higher moisture diffusivity when the items were dried at higher temperatures (Mghazli *et al.*, 2017). The De values ranged from 6.42x10-8-m<sup>2</sup>/s to 4.085x10-6m<sup>2</sup>/s. This is comparable to what has been observed in the case of palm weevil larvae (Zibokere and Egbe, 2019). Ea and Ln Deff versus 1/T were determined using equations 9 and 10 and 20.40 kJ/mol was the activation energy value.



**Figure 4. Estimation of Activation Energy** 

### 4. Conclusion

When the drying kinetics of ginger was examined, it became clear like other agricultural materials, the drying process belongs to the falling rate period. The Henderson model was were statistically analysed.  $6.42 \times 10-8 \text{-m}^2/\text{s}$  to  $4.085 \times 10-6 \text{m}^2/\text{s}$  was calculated as the Deff with respect to the temperatures studied. Amongst the three thin layer models examined the Henderson model best predicted the drying kinetics of ginger. The associated activation energy measurement yielded a value of 20.40 kJ/mol.

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