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Bean grain hysteresis with induced mechanical damage

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Key words:

mechanical damage equilibrium moisture content sorption isotherms mathematical modeling *Phaseolus vulgaris* L.

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to evaluate the effect of mechanical damage on the hysteresis of beans with induced mechanical damage under different conditions of temperature and relative humidity. Beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) harvested manually with 35% water content (w.b.) were used. Part of this product was subjected to induced mechanical damage by Stein Breakage Tester and controlled drying (damaged and control sample), for sorption processes. The sorption isotherms of water were analyzed for different temperature conditions: 20, 30, 40 and 50 °C; and relative humidity: 0.3; 0.4; 0.5; 0.7 and 0.9 (decimal). Equilibrium moisture content data were correlated with six mathematical models, and the Modified Oswin model was the one that best fitted to the experimental data. According to the above mentioned isotherms, it was possible to observe the phenomenon of hysteresis of damaged and control samples, and this phenomenon was more pronounced in control ones.

Palavras-chave:

danos mecânicos equilíbrio higroscópico isotermas de sorção modelagem matemática *Phaseolus vulgaris* L.

Histerese de grãos de feijão com danificação mecânica induzida

RESUMO

Este trabalho teve como objetivo avaliar o efeito da danificação mecânica na histerese de grãos de feijão, em diferentes condições de temperatura e umidade relativa. Foram utilizados grãos de feijão (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) colhidos manualmente com teor de água de 35% (b.u.). Parte desse produto foi submetido à danificação mecânica induzida (via Stein Breakage Tester) e a secagem controlada (amostra danificada e testemunha), para os processos de dessorção e adsorção. As isotermas de adsorção e dessorção da água foram analisadas para diferentes condições de temperatura: 20, 30, 40 e 50 °C e umidade relativa: 0,3; 0,4; 0,5; 0,7 e 0,9 (decimal). Os dados de teor de água de equilíbrio foram correlacionados com seis modelos matemáticos; o modelo Oswin Modificado foi o que melhor se ajustou aos dados experimentais. Uma vez visualizadas as isotermas supracitadas foi possível verificar o fenômeno da histerese das amostras danificadas e testemunha, fenômeno este mais pronunciado na amostra testemunha.



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INTRODUCTION

Brazil stands out as the largest global producer of bean (MAPA, 2015). According to the estimation made in May 2016 by CONAB (2016), for the 2015/2016 season, Brazil will produce 3,182.7 thousand tons of bean and the state of Paraná will be responsible for most of the production, followed by Minas Gerais and Bahia. For being reniform and having a thin integument, the bean seed is very susceptible to mechanical damages. Because of that, in the operation of harvest and threshing, special attention should be paid to the techniques that will be employed and to the regulations of the devices to avoid crushing, cracking and breaking of the seeds (EMBRAPA, 2004).

Mechanical damage modifies technological and qualitative parameters of agricultural products. Corrêa et al. (2008) observed that the structural alterations caused by the induced mechanical damage changed the water absorption rate by bean grains. The level of such damage directly influences the various grain-processing operations, such as drying, water adsorption and water absorption.

For the same condition of temperature and relative humidity, the equilibrium moisture content achieved by most agricultural products subjected to a process of adsorption is lower than that of desorption. The difference between the equilibrium moisture contents achieved in desorption and adsorption is called hysteresis (Wolf et al., 1972). Due to this phenomenon, it is important that the equilibrium isotherms be determined for both desorption and adsorption. Sorption isotherms can be obtained through mathematical models, which have been studied by various researchers (Costa et al., 2011; Sousa et al., 2013; Paglarini et al., 2013; Corrêa et al., 2014; Silva et al., 2015).

Given the above, this study aimed to evaluate the effect of mechanical damage on the hysteresis of bean grains with induced mechanical damage, under different conditions of temperature and relative humidity.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted at the Laboratory of Physical Properties and Evaluation of Agricultural Products Quality of the National Center of Training in Storage, located at the Federal University of Viçosa, in Viçosa, MG, Brazil.

Common bean grains (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.), cultivar 'Vermelho 2157', were manually harvested and threshed (in order to avoid as much as possible any type of mechanical damage), with approximately 35% water content (w.b.).

The bean grains were divided into three subsamples: one as a control (without physical damage) and the others used in the processes of desorption and adsorption.

To study the adsorption process, a subsample was initially subjected to drying at controlled temperature of 40 °C until the water content of 5% (w.b.) The water contents of the product were determined through the method of the oven, at 105 ± 1 °C, for 24 h, in three replicates (Brasil, 2009).

The mechanical damage was induced in the bean grains using the Stein Breakage Tester, model CK2-M. 100-g samples

of clean grains (from the subsamples) and each one was placed in steel container with diameter of 9 cm, which threw the grains against the wall of the container for 4 min at 1800 rotations min⁻¹; immediately after, the damaged samples were subjected to desorption and adsorption.

The level of damage was indirectly evaluated through the electrical conductivity of the solution of the exudates of the grains, using a portable conductivity meter (Digimed - Model DM3).

To obtain the hygroscopic equilibrium moisture content through the static method, the grains were placed in a climatic chamber (Tecnopon - THL 1200). The temperatures used were 20, 30, 40 and 50 ± 1 °C, combined with relative humidity values of 30, 40, 50, 70 and 90 \pm 3%. Three replicates were used for each condition.

Mathematical models (Eqs. 1 to 6) commonly used to describe sorption phenomena in agricultural products were fitted to the observed data of hygroscopic equilibrium obtained for each condition of temperature and relative humidity.

- Modified Oswin

$$Xe = \frac{\left(a + bt\right)}{\left[\frac{\left(1 - A_{w}\right)}{A_{w}}\right]^{\frac{1}{c}}}$$
(1)

- Modified Henderson

$$Xe = \left\{ \frac{\ln(1 - A_w)}{\left[-a(T+b) \right]} \right\}^{\frac{1}{c}}$$
(2)

- Modified Halsey

$$Xe = \left\{ \frac{\exp(a - bT)}{\left[-\ln(A_w) \right]} \right\}^{2c}$$
(3)

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- Sigma-Copace

$$Xe = \exp\left\{a - (bT) + \left[c \exp(A_w)\right]\right\}$$
(4)

- Chung-Pfost

$$Xe = a - b \cdot \ln\left[\left(c - T\right) \cdot \ln\left(A_{w}\right)\right]$$
(5)

- GAB

$$Xe = \frac{abc \cdot A_{w}}{\left[\left(1 - c \cdot A_{w}\right)\left(1 - c \cdot A_{w} + bc \cdot A_{w}\right)\right]}$$
(6)

where:

U_a - equilibrium moisture content, %, d.b.;

A_w - water activity, decimal;

T - temperature, °C; and,

a, b, and c - coefficients that depend on the product (a, b and c are determined for each temperature).

The mathematical models were fitted through nonlinear regression by the Gauss-Newton method using the software Statistica 7.0°. The degree of fit of each model was verified considering the magnitudes of the coefficients of determination (R²) and the standard deviation of the estimate (SE) (Eq. 7), relative mean error (P) (Eq. 8) and residual distribution (degree of randomness).

$$SE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum \left(Y_i - \hat{Y}_i\right)}{RDF}}$$
(7)

$$P = \frac{100}{n} \sum \frac{\left| Y_i - \hat{Y}_i \right|}{Y_i}$$
(8)

where:

Y_i - value observed experimentally, %, d.b.;

 \hat{Y}_i - value estimated by the model, %, d.b.;

n - number of observed data; and,

RDF - residual degrees of freedom (number of observed data minus the number of parameters of the model).

For the best fit, the model must show R^2 higher than 95% and P and SE lower than 10% (Özdemir & Devres, 1999), besides random distribution of residuals.

Results and Discussion

The control bean sample and the sample subjected to induced mechanical damage showed mean values of electrical conductivity in the exudates of 29.88 and 152.38 μ S cm⁻¹ g⁻¹, respectively. The value of electrical conductivity for the sample subjected to induced mechanical damage was 5 times higher compared with the control sample. According to the Tukey test at 0.05 probability level, it was possible to verify significant differences between the control and the damaged sample.

The mean water contents for the hygroscopic equilibrium of bean obtained through the desorption process, for the temperatures of 20, 30, 40 and 50 °C and water activity from 0.3 to 0.9 (decimal), are presented in Table 1.

According to Table 1, for all conditions of temperature and relative air humidity, the water content of the damaged grains was lower. In this table, it is also possible to observe that, for the increase in the vapor pressure of the ambient air,

Table 1. Mean values for equilibrium moisture content (% d.b.) of bean grains for control and damaged samples, obtained through desorption as a function of temperature (°C) and water activity of the ambient air (decimal)

Temperature		Relative humidity of the ambient air (decimal)						
	(°C)	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.9		
20	Control	12.03	12.27	13.20	19.26	31.55		
	Damaged	11.29	11.89	12.94	18.41	30.87		
30	Control	9.44	10.53	12.61	16.85	32.24		
	Damaged	9.19	10.25	11.83	16.06	31.20		
40	Control	7.72	8.56	11.00	16.48	33.01		
	Damaged	7.79	8.50	10.59	15.95	32.59		
50	Control	7.44	8.53	9.50	15.23	28.94		
	Damaged	7.46	8.12	9.36	14.50	28.40		

the difference between the water contents for damaged and control grains tends to decrease.

The parameters of the models fitted to the data of hygroscopic equilibrium moisture content of the grains through desorption for the samples, aiming at different conditions of temperature and relative humidity and their respective values of coefficient of determination (\mathbb{R}^2), standard deviation of the estimate (SE), relative mean error (P) and residual distribution, are presented in Tables 2 and 3.

According to Tables 2 and 3, the utilized mathematical models showed coefficients of determination (\mathbb{R}^2) higher than 95% and reduced values of standard deviation of the estimate (SE) and relative mean error (P), lower than 10% (Özdemir & Devres, 1999), indicating good adequacy of the models to explain the studied phenomenon, except for GAB, with 68.3, 25.6 and 19.6%, respectively.

Table 2. Estimate of parameters of the hygroscopic equilibrium models for bean grains in the control sample, obtained through desorption

Madala	Estimate of the	D2	SE	Р	Residual	
wouers	parameters	n-	(%)		distribution	
Modified	a = 14.75937		0.975	4.935	Random	
	b = -0.08473	0.986				
0300	c = 2.17828					
Modified	a = 0.00026					
Henderson	b = 94.32552	0.967	1.492	8.881	Biased	
Henderson	c = 1.23211					
Modified	a = 4.624518	0.988	0.910	4.561	Random	
	b = 0.014227					
Taisey	c = 1.830394					
	a = 0.602950	0.979	1.191	6.194	Biased	
Sigma-Copace	b = 0.006863					
	c = 1.259787					
	a = 52.61405		1.580	9.702	Biased	
Chung-Pfost	b = 9.64256	0.963				
	c = 59.36635					
	a = 7.3625	0.756	22.564	16.158	Biased	
GAB	b = 0.5968					
	c = 11.2563					

Table 3. Estimate of parameters of hygroscopic equilibrium models for bean grains in the damaged sample, obtained through desorption

Modole	Estimate of the	D2	SE	Р	Residual	
Models	parameters	n-	(%)		distribution	
Modified	a = 14.07605	0.984	1.021	5.797	Random	
	b = -0.07630					
USWIII	c = 2.16400					
Modified	a = 0.0002					
Noullieu	b = 106.6569	0.962	1.572	9.667	Biased	
Henderson	c = 1.2250					
Modified	a = 4.498716	0.987	0.903	4.318	Random	
	b = 0.013176					
паізеу	c = 1.818582					
	a = 0.538859	0.975	1.259	6.958	Biased	
Sigma-Copace	b = 0.006340					
	c = 1.267446					
	a = 51.85773	0.957	1.669	10.282	Biased	
Chung-Pfost	b = 9.38822					
-	c = 66.33299					
	a = 8.9652	0.683	25.593	19.557		
GAB	b = 0.7526				Biased	
	c = 12.2333					

The model that best represented grain hygroscopicity was selected based on the randomness of the residual distribution, highest coefficient of determination (R^2) and lowest magnitudes of the standard deviation of the estimate (SE) and relative mean error (P). This criterion was also used in the selection of the best model for the adsorption.

It was observed that Modified Oswin and Modified Halsey models showed random residual distribution, besides lower values of standard deviation of the estimate and relative mean error, indicating more adequate fit to the experimental data; thus, these were the models that best fitted statistically to the experimental data and can be recommended for the estimation of equilibrium moisture content for bean grains subjected to desorption.

Table 4 showed the mean water contents for the hygroscopic equilibrium of beans obtained through adsorption.

For most of the conditions of temperature and relative air humidity (Table 5), the water content of bean grains subjected to induced mechanical damage was higher than the water content of undamaged grains.

Tables 5 and 6 show the parameters of the models fitted to the data of hygroscopic equilibrium moisture content of the samples, with their respective values of coefficient of determination (R^2), standard deviation of the estimate (SE) and relative mean error (P).

Table 4. Mean values of equilibrium moisture content (% d.b.) of bean grains, for control and damaged samples, obtained through adsorption as a function of temperature (°C) and water activity of the ambient air (decimal)

Temperature		Relative humidity of the ambient air (decimal)					
	(°C)	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.9	
20	Control	-	10.18	10.18	17.53	-	
	Damaged	-	10.40	10.78	17.48	-	
30	Control	7.28	8.50	11.10	15.72	31.26	
	Damaged	7.78	9.16	11.41	15.58	29.73	
40	Control	6.48	7.66	10.13	15.54	30.73	
	Damaged	7.10	7.88	10.19	15.74	30.24	
50	Control	6.67	7.64	8.92	15.22	27.99	
	Damaged	6.72	7.82	9.26	15.86	27.94	

Table 5. Estimate of parameters of the hygroscopic equilibrium models for bean grains in the control sample, obtained through adsorption

Madala	Estimate of the	D2	SE	Р	Residual	
Wouers	parameters	n	(%)		distribution	
Modified	a = 12.33483		0.5526	4.03	Random	
	b = -0.05566	0.995				
USWIII	c = 2.01759					
Modified	a = 0.0002					
Hondoroon	b = 163.3494	0.986	1.337	7.275	Biased	
Henderson	c = 1.1312					
Modified	a = 3.950579	0.992	0.835	5.236	Random	
	b = 0.009989					
паізеу	c = 1.702599					
	a = 0.232399	0.993	0.783	4.446	Random	
Sigma-Copace	b = 0.005013					
	c = 1.366165					
	a = 57.8135	0.975	2.221	9.337	Biased	
Chung-Pfost	b = 9.6676					
	c = 149.4429					
	a = 6.670046	0.985	1.718	6.013	Biased	
GAB	b = 0.871878					
	c = 8.527795					

Table 6. Estimate of parameters of hygroscopic equilibrium models for bean grains in the damaged sample, obtained through adsorption

Madala	Estimate of the	D2	SE	Р	Residual	
wouers	parameters	n	(%)		distribution	
Modified	a = 12.25352		0.677	4.288	Random	
	b = -0.04408	0.992				
03000	c = 2.13543					
Modified	a = 0.0002		0.989	7.202	Biased	
Hondorson	b = 220.9779	0.984				
TIEITUEISUTI	c = 1.2031					
Modified	a = 4.172208	0.989	0.800	5.319	Random	
Holooy	b = 0.008296					
Паізеу	c = 1.799343	-				
	a = 0.351825		0.731	4.326	Random	
Sigma-Copace	b = 0.003775	0.991				
	c = 1.288272					
	a = 56.4492		1.154	8.254	Biased	
Chung-Pfost	b = 9.2287	0.978				
	c = 159.8543					
	a = 6.82095		0.916	6.194	Biased	
GAB	b = 0.85991	0.986				
	c = 10.12076					

According to Tables 5 and 6, the utilized mathematical models showed R^2 higher than 97% and reduced values of SE and P, lower than 10%, indicating good adequacy of the models to explain the phenomenon of adsorption.

It is observed that the Modified Oswin, Modified Halsey and Sigma-Copace models were the ones that best fitted statistically to the experimental data; thus, they can be recommended for the estimation of the equilibrium moisture content of bean grains subjected to adsorption.

Thus, the Modified Oswin model, in general, showed the best results for desorption and adsorption, being recommended for the estimation of equilibrium moisture contents of bean grains.

Figure 1 shows the results (experimental and calculated by the Modified Oswin model) referring to the processes of adsorption and desorption for damaged and control samples.

According to Figure 1, the hygroscopic equilibrium curves obtained through desorption and adsorption for bean grains showed a sigmoid shape, typical of many agricultural products: Chaves et al. (2015); Hassini et al. (2015), Oliveira et al. (2010; 2014a; b); Siqueira et al. (2012); Smaniotto et al. (2012); Sousa et al. (2013) and Costa et al. (2013). It is also observed that the increase of temperature promotes reduction in the equilibrium moisture content of the grains, following the same tendency of the other agricultural products.

Based on the presented isotherms, the product can be adequately managed aiming at the maintenance of its water content at the levels recommended for a safe storage. The graphs of sorption isotherms can also be used to define the period most suitable to bean grain storage in the various regions of the country, taking into consideration the data of temperature and relative humidity.

Figure 2 shows the phenomenon of hysteresis through desorption and adsorption isotherms estimated by the Modified Oswin model, for the temperature of 20 °C to exemplify the above mentioned phenomenon.

According to Figure 2, the values of hygroscopic equilibrium moisture content obtained through desorption



Figure 1. Values observed and estimated by the Modified Oswin model of the equilibrium moisture content of bean grains, obtained through desorption for control (A) and damaged (B) samples and obtained through adsorption for control (C) and damaged (D) samples

are higher than those obtained through adsorption, evidencing the phenomenon of hysteresis. In addition, the control sample exhibited greater magnitude between the phenomena of



Figure 2. Desorption and adsorption isotherms estimated by the Modified Oswin model for 20 °C for the control (A) and damaged (B) samples

desorption and adsorption, compared with the damaged sample, which points out that maintaining the integrity of the grains favors the maintenance of moisture inside them. For constant values of relative humidity, the difference between the water contents obtained through desorption and adsorption decreases with the increase in temperature, pointing to a direct relationship between the phenomenon of hysteresis and temperature; similar result was obtained by Corrêa et al. (2014), studying hygroscopic equilibrium of coffee grains.

Conclusions

1. Grains subjected to induced mechanical damage showed higher values of equilibrium moisture content in comparison to undamaged grains, under the same conditions of temperature and relative humidity.

2. Based on statistical analyses, the Modified Oswin model showed the best fit to the experimental data, for both desorption and adsorption.

3. Hysteresis showed greater magnitude between desorption and adsorption in the control sample, which evidences the fact that maintaining the integrity of the grains favors the maintenance of the moisture inside them.

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