

PULSE PROTEINS

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Benefits of Using Pulse Proteins

- Important protein source in human and animal nutrition – can be used to fortify foods
- Ideal for blending with other protein sources or food components
- High quality protein source to complement lysine deficiencies in cereals
- Good source of protein for vegetarians
- No cholesterol
- Low fat
- Non-GM
- Low allergenicity
- Highly digestible
- Gluten free

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PULSE PROTEINS



Biochemical Composition of Select Canadian Pulses¹ (g/100g dry matter)

| Pulse | Protein (N x 6.25) | Starch | Amylose (% starch) | ADF | NDF | Fat | Ash |
|------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| Field Pea | 20.2–27.4 | 41.6–49.0 | 20.7–33.7 | 5.8–8.7 | 8.4–11.2 | 1.0–1.7 | 2.3–3.4 |
| Chick pea* | 17.9–30.8 | 33.1–43.9 | 20.5–29.2 | 3.0–13.5 | 4.2–13.6 | 4.4–6.9 | 2.7–3.8 |
| Beans** | 19.7–34.3 | 31.8–45.3 | 19.9–29.6 | 5.5–9.3 | 7.3–12.8 | 0.7–2.3 | 3.2–4.7 |
| Lentil*** | 21.3–30.2 | 41.5–48.5 | 22.5–28.3 | 4.5–7.4 | 7.0–9.5 | 1.0–1.3 | 2.3–3.5 |

*Includes Desi and Kabuli types. **Includes red, light red and white kidney beans, navy, black turtle, cranberry, dutch brown, great northern, pinto, small red and pink beans. ***Includes green and red lentils.



Globulin proteins in pulses provide functionality²⁻⁴

In pulses, water-soluble albumins, and salt-soluble globulins predominate⁵, with prolamins and glutelins present in smaller concentrations. Globulin proteins contribute most to the functionality in food products. Of all pulses, peas provide the most accessible, highest concentrations of globulins making them a good choice for commercial protein concentrates and isolates.

All pulse globulins are composed of two major proteins – 11S legumin-like and 7S vicilin-like proteins. Both the globulin:albumin ratio and the 11S:7S ratio contribute to differences in the physicochemical properties of pulse flours and protein concentrates and isolates⁶. Vicilin-like globulins have high foaming capacity and legumin-like globulins have high emulsifying capacity. Compared to soy, most pea globulins are always higher in vicilin than legumin.

| Protein | Peas | Beans | Chickpeas | Lentils |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|------------|
| Crude Protein (dry basis-whole seed) | 15–32% | 18–25% | ~22% | 27.9–32.1% |
| Globulins | 65–85% | 55–80% | 42% | 51% |
| Albumins | 20–35% | 10–20% | 16% | 11–16% |
| Glutelins | 12% | 10% | 9.9 | 11% |
| Prolamins | ~1% | ~1% | 0.48% | 3.5% |



Processing of Protein Concentrates and Isolates

Both dry and wet processing methods can be used to yield protein products with different characteristics and functionalities.

In the dry method, air-classification separates the flour particles to yield an enriched light or fine (protein) fraction containing about 50-60% protein and a heavy or coarse (starch) fraction.

More concentrated protein fractions (70-92%)^{7,8} are obtained by wet extraction of pulse flours. Processing parameters can be modified to give protein isolates with different proportions of legumin and vicilin.

Modifying the extraction process produces proteins with desirable functional attributes, preserves biological activity and improves organoleptic qualities^{9,10,11,12}.

Applications

| Pulse flours, protein concentrates and isolates | Protein concentrates and isolates |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bakery products Snack foods Extruded products Pastas Meat extenders in processed meats | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beverages (drinks, smoothies, shakes), Nutrition bars Meat products Texturized proteins in meat replacements products Edible films Soup products |



Canadian Research Expertise

- R. Aluko, Department of Human Nutritional Sciences, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB
 - Characterization, structure and function of plant seed proteins
- J. Boye, Food Research and Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ste. Hyacinthe PQ
 - Characterization, functionality, processing and utilization of pulse proteins
- J. Han, Department of Food Science, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB
 - Biodegradable and edible protein-based films
- R. Tyler, Department of Food and Bioproduct Sciences, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK
 - Functionality and utilization of pulse proteins



Functionality of Pulse Proteins¹³⁻¹⁶

| Pulse | Protein | Water Holding Capacity (WHC) (g or ml H ₂ O/g protein) | Oil Holding Capacity (OHC) (g or ml oil/g protein) | Foam Capacity (% volume increase) | Emulsion Capacity | Gelation |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| <i>Cicer arietinum</i> (Chickpea) | Micelle protein conc. (87.8%) | 4.9 g/g | 2.0 g/g | 43.3 | 63.7% | |
| | Isoelectric protein conc. (84.8%) | 2.4 g/g | 1.7 g/g | 47.5 | 72.9% | |
| | Desi protein isolates (89.9–94.3%) | 2.6–3.4 g/g | 2.08–3.75 g/g | 30.4–44.3% | | Least gelation concentration ranges from 14–20% |
| | Kabuli protein isolate (94.4%) | 2.4 g/g | 3.96 g/g protein | 40.0 % High foam stability | | Least gelation concentration ~18% |
| <i>Lens culinaris</i> (Lentils) | Native protein isolate | 1.08 ml/g protein | 2.61 ml/g protein | 83.8–88 ml | 54.2% | |
| | Acylation (62.5–93%) protein isolates | 1.67–2.33 ml/g protein | 1.76–2.17 ml/g protein | 67–89 ml | 52.3–56 % | |
| <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> (Dry beans) | Whole bean flours | 1.43–2.03 g/g | 1.05–1.32 g/g | 115–129 | 63–88% | Requires 10–20% protein to make "instant gel" |
| | Dehulled bean flours | 1.66–4.36 | 1.34–1.59 g/g | 121–133 | 64–94% | |
| | Protein Isolates (75.6–88.7%) | 2.63–3.09 | 3.26–3.48 | 38.3% | 55.12 % | Least gelation concentration ~14% |
| | <i>Pisum sativum</i> (Field pea) | Flour (25% protein) | 0.78 g/g | 0.41 g/g | 300 | 34.6 ml/100g sample |
| | Protein fraction (47.2%) | 1.09 g/g | 1.59 g/g | 565 | 37.2 ml/100g sample | |
| | Protein isolate (80.3% protein) | 2.52 g/g | 0.98 | 315 | 36.6 ml/100g sample | |
| Soybean | Protein isolate (82.3%) | 2.65 g/g | 1.03 g/g | 120 % | 45.1 ml/100g sample | |



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