

Physicochemical and Fatty Acid Characterization of Mango Kernel Fat from *Lippens* and *Brooks* Varieties: Valorization of Mango by-products

Wendkouni Marguerite Bamogo^{1,*}, Hyacinthe Kanté-Traoré², Henri Sidabéwindin Ouédraogo¹, Issouf Zida¹, Remy K. Bationo³, Abel Tankoano², Charles Parkouda², Aly Savadogo¹

¹Département Biochimie et Microbiologie, Laboratoire de Biochimie et Immunologie Appliquées, Université Joseph KI-ZERBO, Ouagadougou 03 03 BP 7021, Burkina Faso

²Département Technologie Alimentaire, Institut de Recherche en Sciences Appliquées et Technologies, Ouagadougou 03 03 BP 7047, Burkina Faso

³Laboratoire des Technologies des Produits Naturels et de l'Environnement, Institut de Recherche en Sciences Appliquées et Technologies, Ouagadougou 03 03 BP 7047, Burkina Faso

*Corresponding author: bamogo.marguerite@gmail.com

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Abstract In Burkina Faso, mango processing facilities produce large quantities of by-products, and finding ways to utilize these by-products presents major technological and environmental challenges. The objective of this study was to evaluate the physicochemical characteristics and fatty acid composition of butter extracted from mango kernels, a major by-product of mango processing, from the *Lippens* and *Brooks* varieties in Burkina Faso, with a view to their valorization in food and cosmetic applications. The lipids were extracted using the Soxhlet method with hexane and characterized using standardized techniques. The results showed that the saponification index was 192.17 mg KOH/g for the butter extracted from the *Lippens* variety (BML) and 203.71 mg KOH/g for the butter extracted from the *Brooks* variety (BMB). The iodine value was 73.04 g I₂/100 g for BML and 46.62 g I₂/100 g for BMB. The acid value was 1.40 mg KOH/g and 1.73 mg KOH/g for BML and BMB, respectively. The peroxide value was 0.49 meq O₂/kg for both butters. The refractive index was 1.45 for BML and 1.46 for BMB, and the melting point was 31.35°C and 31.60°C, respectively. The fatty acid profile of the analyzed butters showed that they are primarily composed of stearic and oleic acids. The stearic acid content was 32.32% for BML and 39.56% for BMB. The oleic acid content was 39.93% and 27.49%, respectively. Lauric and linolenic acids were identified in BML but not in BMB. BMB contains higher concentrations of myristic, myristoleic, palmitic, margaric, and arachidonic acids than BML. BML contains higher levels of unsaturated fatty acids than BMB, at 62.23% and 41.50%, respectively. These characteristics suggest the potential use of mango kernel butter in food and cosmetics.

Keywords: Mango kernels, Mango butter, Biochemical parameters, Fatty acid profile, By-product valorization

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1. Introduction

The food industry generates large quantities of by-products from fruits and vegetables [1,2]. These by-products, especially mango by-products, are undervalued and contribute to pollution, as well as health and social issues [3]. In Burkina Faso, mango by-products represent a significant but largely untapped potential [4]. Mango peels account for 7.22% to 18.88%, and seeds account for 8.25% to 19.42% [5]. The seed kernel accounts for 45 to 85% of the seed [6]. Previous studies have shown that peels and seed kernels contain high proportions of carbohydrates [7,8]. They also contain dietary fiber, with

higher levels found in the peels [9,10]. Analysis of bioactive compounds shows that peels and seed kernels have high levels of phenolic compounds with strong antioxidant capacity [11]. Consequently, they are used as food ingredients in the production of functional foods [12]. Mango seed kernels are particularly rich in fat compared to the peels [13]. Studies have shown that mango kernel fat is mainly composed of oleic and stearic acids, whose relative proportions determine its physicochemical properties and potential industrial applications [14]. Using mango butter in cheese as a substitute for milk fats reduces cholesterol concentration and increases antioxidant capacity, unsaturated fatty acid levels, and oxidative stability [15]. Similarly, using mango butter in cosmetic formulations has been shown to increase the

stability and anti-inflammatory capacity of creams [16].

Although Burkina Faso generates large quantities of mango by-products, information on the physicochemical properties and fatty acid composition of butter extracted from the kernels of the *Lippens* and *Brooks* mango varieties remains scarce. This knowledge gap limits the valorization of these by-products. Therefore, the objective of this study was to extract butter from the kernels of the *Lippens* and *Brooks* mango varieties and to characterize its physicochemical properties and fatty acid composition in

order to assess its potential for food and cosmetic applications. The findings provide baseline scientific data on butter from the kernels of the *Lippens* and *Brooks* mango varieties, supporting the valorization of mango by-products and the development of a circular economy in Burkina Faso's mango processing sector.

2. Plant Material and Butter Extraction Method

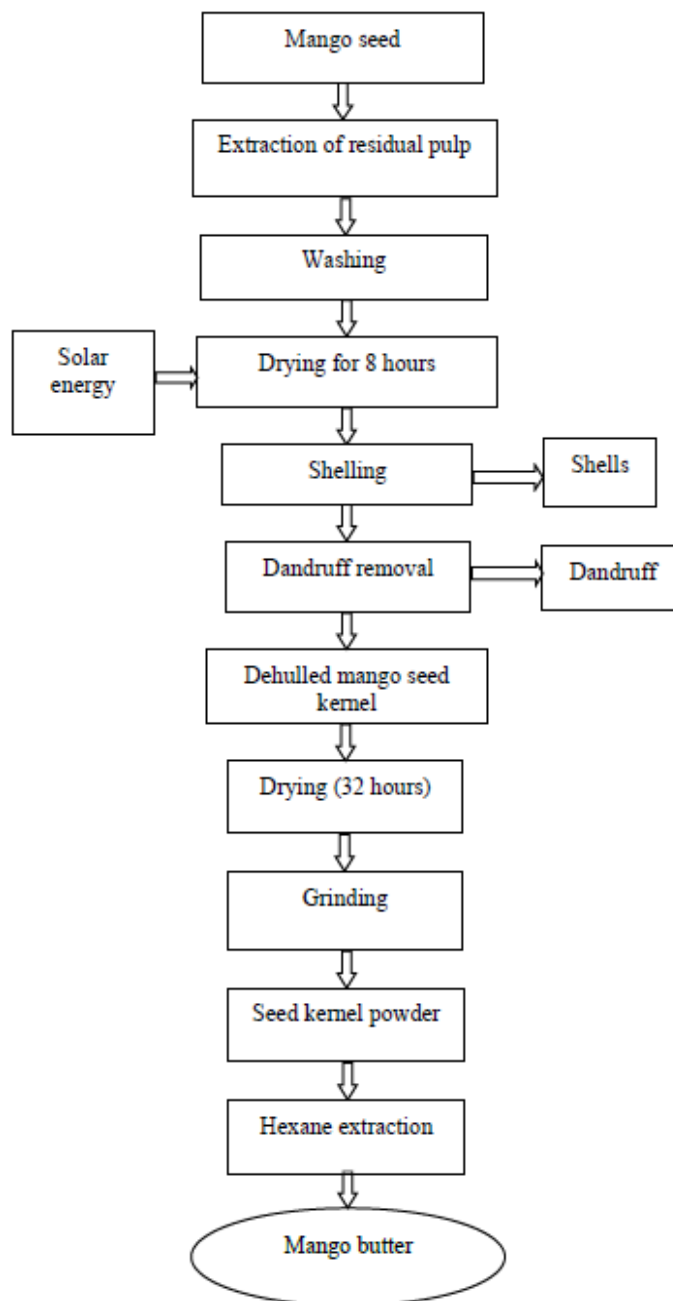


Figure 1. Mango butter production diagram

The biological material consisted of *Lippens* and *Brooks* mango seed kernels. These two varieties were selected based on the availability of their undervalued by-products in Burkina Faso and their fat content compared to other processed varieties [17]. The nutritional composition of the kernels is presented in Table 1. The mango seeds were collected at the Linda mango drying facility in Bobo-Dioulasso. They were

washed to remove any residual pulp and then dried in the sun for eight hours to facilitate shelling. After shelling, the mango seed kernels were dried in the sun on plastic bags for 32 hours before being crushed with a stainless-steel mortar. The resulting powder was used for butter extraction via the Soxhlet method with hexane as the solvent. Figure 1 illustrates the process followed for butter extraction.

Table 1. Nutritional composition of Lippens and Brooks mango kernels [17]

Parameters	Lippens	Brooks
Fat Content (%)	11.42	9.44
Protein Content (%)	5.62	5.45
Carbohydrate content (%)	80.73	83.30
Ash content (%)	2.20	1.79
Fiber content (%)	7.03	6.35

3. Analysis Methods

3.1. Determination of the Acid Value of Butter

The acid index was determined using the method described in ISO 660 [17]. 5 g of butter were dissolved in 50 mL of hot ethanol (55 °C). After complete dissolution, the mixture was titrated with a 0.1 N potassium hydroxide (KOH) solution containing a few drops of phenolphthalein. A blank was prepared under the same conditions. The acid value, expressed in milligrams of potassium hydroxide (KOH) per gram of butter, is calculated using the following formula:

$$I_a = \frac{(V_e - V_0) N \times 56.1}{M_e} \quad (1)$$

Ia: acid index;

N: normality of KOH;

Ve: volume of KOH added to the sample (mL);

Vo: volume of KOH added to the control (mL);

Me: weight of butter in g;

56.1: molar mass of KOH.

3.2. Determination of the Peroxide Index

The peroxide value was determined using the AOCS CD 8 53 [19] method. This procedure involves weighing 2 g of butter in an Erlenmeyer flask and then adding 8 mL of chloroform. Next, 12 mL of acetic acid and 1 mL of saturated potassium iodide are added. The mixture was shaken, sealed, and placed in the dark for five minutes. Then, 80 mL of distilled water is added to stop the reaction. While stirring, the mixture is titrated in the presence of starch paste; the iodine is released by sodium thiosulfate ($\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$, 0.01 N). The solution turns from blue to yellow. The peroxide index is expressed in milli equivalents of active oxygen (O_2) per kilogram (kg) using the following formula:

$$I_p = \frac{(V - V_0) N \times 10}{M_e} \quad (2)$$

I_p = Peroxide index;

V= volume of $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ added to the sample;

V₀= volume of $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ added to the blank;

Me: weight of butter in g;

N=normality of $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$.

3.3. Determination of the Saponification Index

The saponification index was determined using the method described in ISO 3657 [20]. The procedure consisted of weighing 1.5 g of butter in an Erlenmeyer flask, adding 10 mL of KOH (1 N), and heating the mixture with magnetic stirring for 1 hour. After cooling, three drops of phenolphthalein were added to the mixture, which was then titrated with HCl (1 N) until persistent discoloration occurred for a few seconds. According to the following formula, the saponification index is expressed in mg KOH/g of butter:

$$I_s = \left[\text{PM}(\text{KOH}) \times (V_0 - V_e) \times \frac{N}{M_e} \right] \quad (3)$$

I_s = saponification index;

PM(KOH)= 56.1g;

V₀= volume poured by the blank;

V_e= volume poured for the sample;

Me: weight of butter in g;

N= KOH concentration (1N).

3.4. Determination of the Iodine Index

The dosage method used was the WIJS method described in ISO 3961 [21]. The procedure consisted of weighing 0.2 g of butter in an Erlenmeyer flask, adding 10 mL of chloroform, and 25 mL of Wijs reagent. The mixture was stirred and covered with aluminum foil, then placed in the dark for 1 hour and 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. 15 mL of 10% potassium iodide (KI) was added and stirred. The solution was titrated with 0.1 N sodium thiosulfate ($\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$) until a pale-yellow color was obtained. A few drops of starch solution were then added, and the titration was continued until the blue color produced by the starch indicator disappeared. A blank was prepared and titrated under the same conditions. The iodine value is expressed in g I₂/100 g according to the following formula:

$$I_i = \frac{(V_0 - V_e) N \times 12.62}{M_e} \quad (4)$$

I_i: iodine index;

V₀: burette volume for the blank;

V_e: burette volume for the sample;

N: normality of $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$;

Me: weight of butter in g.

3.5. Determination of the Refractive Index

We used the method described in ISO 6320 [22] to determine the refractive index with a handheld refractometer at 40°C. The butter was melted in a water bath at the same temperature. Then, three drops of the melted butter were placed on the calibrated prism of the refractometer. The refractive index was read directly from the refractometer.

3.6. Determination of the Melting Point

The procedure was carried out according to the method outlined in ISO 6321 [23]. Mango butter was dispensed into three 1-mm-diameter capillary tubes and frozen at -18°C for 16 hours. After freezing, the tubes were placed in a beaker containing distilled water at 0 °C and equipped

with a thermometer. The water temperature was gradually increased. Stirring the water ensured a uniform temperature in the beaker. The melting temperature is the temperature at which, after complete melting, the oil rises by capillary action in the tubes.

3.7. Determination of fatty Acid Profile

The fatty acid content was determined using the method described by Bationo *et al.* [24]. This technique involves converting the fatty acids into esters, either fatty acid esters or methyl esters, and then analyzing them via a Hewlett-Packard 6890 gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS). First, fatty acid extraction involves solubilizing the triglycerides in butter using an organic solvent. Then, methyl transesterification is performed by adding an alcohol to the released fatty acids to form fatty acid methyl esters, facilitating their separation. This derivatization process increases the volatility of the fatty acids, ensuring the stability required for GC analysis. Extraction and methylation of the fatty acids will be carried out directly on the extracted butter. The esterification steps can be summarized as follows: In a 5-mL glass tube, melt 15 mg of butter, then add 1 mL of hydrochloric acid. The mixture was vortexed for one minute and then incubated at 70°C for 45 minutes. Then, 250 µL of distilled water and 2 mL of heptane were successively added. The mixture was shaken, and the resulting supernatant was collected in a vial for gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) analysis. The injection volume was 1 µL and the chromatograph was equipped with a flame ionization detector with a DB Wax (PEG) type capillary column (internal diameter 0.25 mm; film thickness 0.25 µm). Compound identification was performed by comparing the retention indices, which were determined relative to the retention times of a series of n-alkanes (C7–C40), with the indices in the Wiley 275.1 database. The mass spectra were also compared with those of the compounds in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) database.

4. Statistical Analysis

All analyses were performed in triplicate. The mean values, standard deviations, and analysis of variance (ANOVA) were calculated using R software, version 4.4.1.(2024) Tukey's test was applied at a 5% significance level.

5. Résultats and Discussion

5.1. Biochemical Parameters of Butter

Figure 2 shows the fat extracted from mango seed kernels in liquid and solid (butter) forms. Table 2 presents the chemical analysis values of the butters extracted from two mango varieties: *Lippens* and *Brooks*. Statistical analysis revealed no significant differences between the two butters except for saponification value ($p = 0.000168$) and iodine value ($p = 0.000074$).

The acid value was 1.40 mg KOH/g and 1.73 mg

KOH/g for BML and BMB, respectively. This value indicates the amount of potassium hydroxide, in milligrams, needed to neutralize the free fatty acids in 1 g of butter. It is an important parameter for assessing butter quality [25]. The results obtained for the acid value are consistent with those reported by Fahimdanesh and Bahrami and Mustafa *et al.* [26,27]: 1.50 and 1.59 mg KOH/g, respectively. However, Kittiphoom and Sutasinee [28] reported a lower index of 0.10 mg KOH/g. In contrast, Sahar and Yadav *et al.* [29,30] reported higher values of 2.13 and 4.77 mg KOH/g, respectively, than those obtained in the present study. These variations can be explained by differences in kernels processing and storage. According to the *Codex Alimentarius* [31], butter must have an acidity level of 4.0 mg KOH/g or less. The values obtained comply with this standard. These low acid values indicate that the various butters contain fewer free fatty acids. These values also demonstrate that the butters could be stored for a long time under proper temperature conditions, thus indicating low triglyceride hydrolysis.

Both butters had a peroxide value of 0.49 meq O₂/kg. This value is also used as an indicator of butter quality. It measures the amount of peroxides formed when unsaturated fatty acids oxidize [25]. Thus, it allows for the assessment of the degree of primary oxidation in butter. The obtained peroxide value is lower than the values reported by Mustafa *et al.*, Saddique *et al.*, and Sahar: 1.93, 6.72, and 1.73 meq/kg, respectively [27,29,32]. According to the *Codex Alimentarius* [33], the peroxide value of butter must be less than or equal to 10 meq of active O₂/kg of butter. The obtained value is below this standard, indicating that the butters are a high-quality product. The peroxide value indicates the degree of fat oxidation. Therefore, it is a measure of spoilage; the higher the value, the more oxidized the fat. Processing the almonds and storing the butter away from light resulted in a high-quality product.

The iodine value was 73.04 g I₂/100 g for BML and 46.62 g I₂/100 g for BMB. This value determines the degree of unsaturation in fats. It corresponds to the amount of iodine bound by the double bonds in the fatty acids present in the butter [25]. The iodine value results show that butter extracted from *Brooks* mango seed kernels contains fewer unsaturated fatty acids than butter extracted from *Lippens* mango seed kernels. Consequently, butter from *Brooks* mango seed kernels will be less prone to auto-oxidation than butter from *Lippens* mango seed kernels [34]. These results are lower than those reported by Yadav [30], who found an iodine value of 123.83 g I₂/100 g of butter. Sahar [29] reported a value close (46 g I₂/100 g) to that found in BMB. The index obtained with BML is higher than the indices reported by Fahimdanesh and Bahrami [26] and Kittiphoom and Sutasinee [28], who reported indices of 55.15 g I₂/100 g and 38.50 g I₂/100 g, respectively. This variation could be explained by varietal differences.

The saponification values were 192.17 mg KOH/g and 203.71 mg KOH/g for the butter extracted from the *Lippens* (BML) and *Brooks* (BMB) mango varieties, respectively. This value represents the amount of potassium hydroxide (in milligrams) required to saponify one gram of fat. It provides an estimate of the average length of the fatty acids. A high value indicates a

significant proportion of short-chain fatty acids [35]. Butter extracted from the *Brooks* variety contains more saponifiable lipids than butter extracted from the *Lippens* variety. According to the *Codex Alimentarius* [33] standard for crude vegetable oils, the saponification index must be between 190 and 209 mg KOH/g. The obtained values fall within this range. The value obtained with the BML sample corroborates the value reported by Sahar [29] of 192 mg KOH/g of butter. These indices are lower than those reported by Kittiphoom and Sutasinee [28] but higher than those reported by Saddique *et al.* [32] and Yadav *et al.* [30] (188.13 and 162.69 mg KOH/g butter, respectively).

The refractive index was 1.45 for BML and 1.46 for BMB. The refractive index is used to evaluate the purity of a fat and to monitor changes to its structure, such as hydrogenation or isomerization. It is defined as the ratio of the speed of light in a vacuum to its speed in the fat at a given wavelength. The refractive index depends on the wavelength, temperature, and the composition of the fat, particularly the degree and type of unsaturation of the fatty acids and associated substances [25]. The obtained refractive indices are consistent with those reported by Fahimdanesh and Bahrami, Saddique *et al.* (2014), and Yadav *et al.* [26,30,32]: 1.44, 1.45, and 1.47, respectively. However, these values are slightly lower than those reported by Sahar [29], who reported the value of 1.58.

The melting points were 31.35°C for BML and 31.60°C for BMB. This is the temperature at which a substance changes from a solid to a liquid [36]. The melting points of the two butters are slightly higher than the 30°C melting point reported by Fahimdanesh and Bahrami [26] and Sahar [29]. However, they are lower than the values reported by Klinkajorn and Sukhasem [37], which ranged from 36.5 to 37.5°C. These results suggest that the butter may melt during periods of high temperatures in Burkina Faso, particularly from March to June.

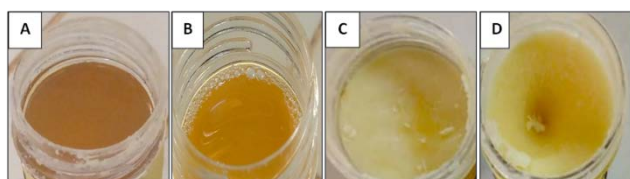


Figure 2. Images of mango kernel butter from *Brooks* (BMB) and *Lippens* (BML). Legend: A: Oil obtained from *Brooks* mango kernels after extraction; B: Oil obtained from *Lippens* mango kernels after extraction; C: Oil extracted from *Brooks* kernels after solidifying at room temperature; and D: Oil extracted from *Lippens* kernels after solidifying at room temperature

Table 2. Physicochemical properties of mango butters

Parameters	BML	BMB	p-value
Acid value (mg KOH/g)	1.40±0.05 ^a	1.73±0.05 ^a	0.0527
Peroxide value (meq O ₂ /kg)	0.49±0.10 ^a	0.49±0.10 ^a	1.00
Iodine content (g I ₂ /100 g)	73.04±0.07 ^a	46.62±0.06 ^b	0.000074
Saponification value (mg KOH/g)	192.17±0.14 ^b	203.71±0.04 ^a	0.000168
Refractive index at 40°C	1.45±0.03 ^a	1.46±0.02 ^a	0.609
Melting point (°C)	31.35±0.14 ^a	31.60±0.07 ^a	0.155

BML: Butter made from *Lippens* mangoes. BMB: Butter made from *Brooks* mangoes.

5.2. Fatty Acid Profile of Butters

The fatty acid profile of butter describes the types and proportions of fatty acids it contains, which determine its stability and nutritional value [25]. A high content of unsaturated fatty acids is generally recommended for a healthy diet. However, this makes fats more susceptible to auto-oxidation. The fatty acid profiles of the butters are shown in Table 3. The profiles indicate that the butters primarily consist of stearic and oleic acids. BML had a stearic acid content of 32.32%, while BMB had a content of 39.56%. Oleic acid content was 39.93% and 27.49% for BML and BMB, respectively. These findings corroborate those of Mustafa *et al.* and Sahar [27,29], who demonstrated that mango butter primarily consists of stearic and oleic acids. However, the oleic acid content reported by these authors is significantly higher than the values obtained here. They obtained values of 41.76% and 44.89%, respectively. Similarly, Klinkajorn and Sukhasem [37] reported higher levels (41.1–52.4%) than the present study. In contrast, the level reported by Aliyua *et al.* [16] (35.71%) is lower than that found in BML. The stearic acid content in BML is lower than that reported by Mustafa *et al.* and Sahar [27,29], who found contents of 35.56% and 36.57%, respectively. Kouame *et al.* [38] found a lower oleic acid content compared to that of BMB. However, their stearic acid content is consistent with that of BMB, at 23.10% and 38.6%, respectively. Varietal and climatic differences can influence the fatty acid profile of butters [14]. BMB has a higher stearic acid content than BML. However, stearic acid has little adverse effect on health. It can be converted into oleic acid in the body, which is essential for cardiovascular health because it regulates LDL cholesterol levels [39]. A High stearic acid content serves as a thickener in chocolate and margarine formulations [40]. The obtained fatty acid profiles show that butter extracted from *Lippens* seed kernels is richer than butter extracted from *Brooks* seed kernels. The level of unsaturated fatty acids is indeed higher in BML than in BMB, at 62.23% and 41.50%, respectively. Previous studies have shown that a high level of unsaturated fatty acids gives butter desirable properties for human consumption. These properties include balancing LDL by reducing, maintaining or increasing HDL cholesterol, and reducing cardiovascular risk [15,41,42]. Like shea butter, mango butter can be used in cosmetic formulations [16,43]. Oleic acid, mango butter component, has emollient, active, and protective properties [44]. Stearic acid contributes to stabilization and thickening [45,46].

The results show that BML contains lauric and linolenic acids, whereas BMB contains neither. BMB has higher concentrations of myristic, myristoleic, palmitic, margaric, and arachidonic acids than BML. Both BML and BMB contain linoleic acid. Lenucci *et al.* [11] identified linoleic and linolenic acids in the kernel fat of *Tommy Atkins* and *Keitt* mango. Furthermore, linoleic and linolenic acids play an important role in the prevention of cardiovascular diseases and certain types of cancer [11,47,48,49]. These essential polyunsaturated fatty acids are known as omega-6 and omega-3, respectively. The human body cannot synthesize them. They are also crucial for retinal and nervous system function [50]. Linoleic acid is essential for maintaining healthy skin and cell membranes.

Table 3. Fatty acid profile of mango butter

Fatty acids	BML (%)	BMB (%)
Lauric Acid C12:0	1.26	-
Myristic acid C14:0	1.37	4.19
Palmitic acid C16:0	1.58	4.18
Margaric acid C17:0	1.24	10.55
Stearic acid C18:0	32.32	39.56
Total saturated fatty acids	37.77	58.48
Myristoleic acid C14:1	1.48	4.23
Palmitoleic acid C16:1	7.89	4.61
Oleic acid C18:1	39.93	27.49
Linoleic acid C18:2	9.04	3.10
C18:3 linolenic acid	2.81	-
Arachidonic acid C20:4	1.08	2.07
Total unsaturated fatty acids	62.23	41.50

BML: Butter made from *Lippens* mangoes, BMB: Butter made from *Brooks* mangoes, -: Not detected

6. Conclusion

A biochemical analysis of the butters extracted from the *Lippens* and *Brooks* varieties shows that they are of good quality. They meet *Codex Alimentarius* standards, with low acidity and a low peroxide value. The fatty acid profile of the butters indicates that they primarily consist of oleic and stearic acids. Unlike BMB, BML has a higher percentage of unsaturated fatty acids than saturated fatty acids. Similarly, the levels of omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids, such as linoleic and linolenic acids, were similar in BML, which had a significant amount of linoleic acid. However, only linoleic acid was detected in BMB, and it was present at a low level. These characteristics suggest that butter extracted from *Lippens* mangoes may be suitable for human consumption. Further studies should measure the levels of vitamins, phytosterols, tocopherols, and antioxidant capacity. Conversely, BMB would be better suited for cosmetic formulations due to its high saturated fat content.

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Competing Interests

The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.

List of Abbreviations

BML: Butter made from *Lippens* mangoes
BMB: Butter made from *Brooks* mangoes

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