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## Tulum cheese – cheese making technology and main characteristics

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### SUMMARY

Tulum cheese is a specific kind of cheese which is typical of the countries of the Balkan Peninsula, but some of its varieties are also produced in Algeria and Lebanon. In the different countries the cheese is designated with different names. In Romania it is known as *brânză de burduf*, in Bosnia and Herzegovina its name is *mjeh*, in Croatia it is called *mišina* or *sir iz mi ine*. In Algeria it is known as *bouhezza* and in Lebanon as *darfiyeh*. In Turkey and Bulgaria it is designated as tulum cheese. In fact, the variety of names for this kind of cheese in the different languages is related to the specific step of technology which is applied in the production of the cheese.

The unique traditional technology is characterized by ripening of the cheese curd in an animal skin bag (tulum), which

*brânză de burduf*,  
*mjeh*,  
*sir iz mi ine*.  
*darfiyeh*.  
*bouhezza*,  
– *mišina*



al., 2010),  
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 ,  
 ,  
 ,  
 (Cakmakci et al., 2011; Tarakci and Durmu, 2016),  
 ,  
 (Serhana et al., 2015; Medjoudj et al., 2017),  
 (Ertas et al., 2011; Can and Celik, 2012).  
 ,  
 ,  
 (Kunduhoglu et al., 2012; Frece et al., 2016).

technological, microbiological and sensory characteristics of the cheese, but as a matter of fact, the cheese has gained a lot of interest during the last years. The constantly published new researches have revealed the attempts for preserving the typical characteristics of the product (Cakmakci et al., 2011; Tarakci and Durmu, 2016), have showed the different components involved in the cheese flavor and taste (Serhana et al., 2015; Medjoudj et al., 2017), and have detected the presence of some pathogens and toxins (Ertas et al., 2011; Can and Celik, 2012). The experiments on the natural microflora of the cheese made by artisanal technology are coupled with the attempts to compose and apply a proper starter culture for cheese production (Kunduhoglu et al., 2012; Frece et al., 2016).

The aim of the current review is to present a part of the new data concerning the main technological steps of the tulum cheese making technology; the participating species and their scale quantity proportion in the cheese microflora and discuss briefly the presence of some undesirable microorganisms and toxins in the cheese.

### **Tulum cheese varieties and main physicochemical characteristics**

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 ,  
 (2008) Cakmakci et al.  
 Tuncer (2009)  
 50  
 - beyaz kasar.  
 Hayaloglu et al. (2007)  
 (,  
 ),  
 10 000 (2004 )  
 ,

Tulum cheese varieties can be found under different names not only in different countries but also in different geographical regions of one country. According to Cakmakci et al., (2008) and Tuncer (2009), through more than 50 varieties of cheeses produced in Turkey *tulum cheese*, *beyaz* and *kasar cheese* are the most popular. Hayaloglu et al., (2007) have cited the data of the Turkish statistical institute (Ankara, Turkey) about the annual tulum cheese production which was estimated at 10 000 tons per year in 2004 and the researchers marked that the amount of production volume and the numbers of dairy plants which



50.72% (Cakmakci et al., 2011)  
69.13% (Kalit et al., 2012).  
*bouhezza*,  
- 35.98% (Zitoin et al., 2012),  
71 75%  
Kunduhoglu et al.  
(2012) -  
*akcakatik* - 79.71% (Kirdar et al., 2017).  
-  
Dinkci et al.  
(2012) - 20.53%, - 39.5%  
Kunduhoglu et al., (2012).  
Zitoin et al. (2012) *bouhezza*  
14.50%,  
-  
Celik and Tarakci  
(2017) - 16.25%.  
Kunduhoglu et al.,  
(2012) 44.3%.  
-  
16.8% (Zitoin et al.,  
2012), - 26% (Kunduhoglu  
et al., 2012).  
2.46% (Celik and Tarakci,  
2017), - 6.31% (Akpinar et  
al., 2017).  
-  
=3.69 (Kirdar et al., 2017), -  
- 5.48 (Hayaloglu et al., 2007).

cheese made from cow's, goat's, ewe's milk or mixture of these kinds of milk which undergo the ripening period in the animal skin bag or in the other kinds of packaging. It can be seen from the reviewed scientific data that the average total solids of tulum cheese vary between 50.72% (Cakmakci et al., 2011) and 69.13% (Kalit et al., 2012).

Some exceptions are the *bouhezza* cheese made from cow's milk which has a low value of total solids - 35.98% (Zitoin et al., 2012), and also three samples of tulum cheese which dry solids matter reaches 71 and 75% according to the data of Kunduhoglu et al., (2012) or even higher in the tulum cheese variety *akcakatik cheese* - 79.71% (Kirdar et al., 2017). Depending on fat, the lowest estimated value is 20.53% (Dinkci et al., 2012), and the highest - 39.5% is in the research of Kunduhoglu et al., (2012). The shifts from the average value are several cheese samples. The cited from Zitoin et al., (2012) *bouhezza* cheese had a fat content of 14.50%, and this particular fat content was even lower than the fat of the examined by Celik and Tarakci (2017) the low-fat tulum cheese with a fat content 16.25%. On the contrary, in the examined by Kunduhoglu et al., (2012) tulum cheese sample fat content reaches 44.3%. Protein contents of the tulum cheese vary in a comparatively narrow range and the experimentally estimated minimal value was 16.8% (Zitoin et al., 2012) and the maximum value was 26% (Kunduhoglu et al., 2012). With regard of the salt content the minimum content is 2.46% (Celik and Tarakci, 2017), and the maximum - 6.31% (Akpinar et al., 2017). According to the measured active acidity of the cheese the lowest estimated value is pH=3.69 (Kirdar et al., 2017), and the highest pH is 5.48 (Hayaloglu et al., 2007).

## 1.

Table 1. Main physicochemical characteristics of tulum cheese

	Cheese varieties	/ Physicochemical characteristics of cheese								References	
		% Total Solids, %	% Fat, %	Fat in solids dry matter, %	Salt, %	Salt in solids dry matter, %	Protein, %	% Acidity, % lactic acid	Total nitrogen, %		
					V	V	V	V	V		
1	( ) Tulum cheese (cow's milk)	56.077	26.87		3.276		24.77			Gor et al., 1991	
2	( T1) Tulum cheese (sample 1)	62.83		60.49 ±0.50			19.78 ±0.50	0.72 ±0.01	5.48 ±0.03	Hayaloglu et al., 2007	
3	( T2) Tulum cheese (sample 2)	68.4		59.21 ±0.06			21.31 ±0.14	0.59 ±0.07	5.32 ±0.01	Hayaloglu et al., 2007	
4	Tulum cheese	66.52	36.3	54.30	4.29		24.92	1.25	5.35	Tudor et al., 2008	
5	<i>cimi tulum</i> , ( ) Tulum cheese - <i>cimi tulum</i> (goat's milk)	57.73	30.01		3.51		22.27	1.75	2.92	Karagozlu et al., 2009	
6	( C) Tulum cheese (sample C)	54.00	28.50			3.57		1.22	4.82	Cakmakci et al., 2011	
7	( D) Tulum cheese (sample D)	50.72	28.75			4.49		1.35	4.88	Cakmakci et al., 2011	
8	<i>divle tulum</i> , ( ) Tulum cheese - <i>divle tulum</i> (goat's milk)	56.27 ±7.59	23.46 ±4.48		3.99 ±0.75		25.90 ±3.40	1.074 ±0.425	5.42 ±0.61	Morul at Isleyici, 2012	
9	<i>kargi tulum</i> Tulum cheese - <i>kargi tulum</i>		20.53 ±1.93	31.37 ±1.43	3.69 ±0.56		21.37 ±0.43	0.62 ±0.13	3.35 ±0.07	Dinkci et al., 2012	
10	<i>bouhezza</i> ( ) Tulum cheese - <i>bouhezza</i> (cow's milk)	35.98 ±2.16	14.50 ±1.64		2.98 ±0.24		16.8	1.82 ±0.03	4.19 ±0.23	Zitoun et al., 2012	
11	Tulum cheese	69.13 ±6.46	37.12 ±6.01		2.68 ±1.11		25.60 ±2.70	1.56 ±0.33	5.20 ±0.14	Kalit et al., 2012	
12	<i>kargi tulum</i> ( 6) Tulum cheese - <i>kargi tulum</i> (sample 6)	71	39.5	55.6		3.1	26.0	2.9 SH	4.1	5.20	Kunduhoglu et al., 2012
13	<i>kargi tulum</i> ( 7) Tulum cheese - <i>kargi tulum</i> (sample 7)	75	44.3	59.1		3.6	25.1	2.8 SH	3.9	5.25	Kunduhoglu et al., 2012
14	( ) Tulum cheese (ewe's milk)	59.20	31.06	52.47	3.95	6.67		1.005	5.153	Arslaner and Bakirci, 2016	

15	Tulum cheese	61.96 ±1.31	33.25 ±0.63		3.83 ±0.13	6.20 ±0.32	23.16 ±2.15	1.62 ±0.07		5.09 ±0.03	Tarakci and Durmus, 2016
16	Izmir tulum ( ) Tulum cheese - Izmir tulum (cow's milk)	56.528		43.21	6.31		24.48	0.989	3.84	4.36	Akpinar et al., 2017
17	Izmir tulum ( ) Tulum cheese - Izmir tulum (cow's, goat's and ewe's milk)	60.157		46.24	5.97		24.65	1.069	3.86	4.40	Akpinar et al., 2017
18	Akçakatik ( ) Akçakatik cheese (cow's, goat's milk and mixture)	79.71 ±4.92	21.00 ±3.96	32.18 ±4.42	6.16 ±1.63	4.27 ±1.14		2.40 ±0.5		3.69 ±0.26	Kirdar et al., 2017
19	( ) Tulum cheese – low-fat (cow's milk)	58.38 ±0.74	16.25 ±0.35		2.46		18.83 ±0.32				Celik and Tarakci, 2017
21	Tulum cheese	54.94 ±5.13	27.35 ±6.85	49.15 ±10.53	3.29 ±0.60	7.19 ±2.83	20.76 ±1.934	1.80 ±0.38	3.25 ±0.299	5.10 ±0.40	Erdem and Patir, 2017
21	Erzincan Tulum cheese Tulum cheese – Erzincan tulum cheese	62.13 ±0.03		57.94 ±0.03	3.11 ±0.10	5.01 ±0.16	21.14 ±0.01	1.05 ±0.09		4.69 ±0.01	Cakir and Cakmakci, 2018

### Cheese making technology

The cheese technology is a sophisticated multileveled process, which aims at transforming milk and curd into a specific final product, with its own structure-texture and sensory characteristics (Kindtedt, 2014).

Production of semi-hard and hard cheese varieties includes production steps as milk coagulation, partial drainage of the curd and molding as well as an appropriate ripening period.

The variety of more than 1 000 artisan cheeses is due to variety of the heating temperature or the regime of milk pasteurization, the different types and combinations of milk rennet coagulation, cutting, self-pressing or pressing with additional weights (Blazic et al., 2017).

(Blazic et al., 2017) Raw milk is a primary source for artisan



al., 2017).

(Boyazoglu and Morand-Fehr, 2001; Alichanidis and Polychroniadou, 2008).

(Jandal 1996, Park et al., 2007; Raynal-Ljutovac et al., 2008)

(Albenzio and Santillo, 2011).

Kirdar et al. (2015) (15-20kg), *Kargi tulum* Oksuztepe et al. (2005)

(Yilmaz et al., 2005, Colak et al., 2007) - 31° - 35° (Cakir and Cakmakci, 2018).

Gurses Erdogan (2006) - 30°

65°C 30 min (Gurses and Erdogan, 2006). Celik Tarakci (2017), - 85°

10 min.

- tulum cheese production, predominantly sheep's or goat's milk because these small ruminants are preferably bred in the rural area and especially in the area with unfavorable geographical and climatic conditions (Boyazoglu and Morand-Fehr, 2001; Alichanidis and Polychroniadou, 2008).

- The specific content of components and distinctive properties of sheep's and goat's milk are objects of many scientific researches (Jandal 1996, Park et al., 2007; Raynal-Ljutovac et al., 2008) and undoubtedly have an influence on the quality of produced cheese and also are decisively important for its taste and flavor (Albenzio and Santillo, 2011).

- In the early stages of tulum cheese production Kirdar et al., (2015) stated that the raw milk (15-20kg), used for production of *Kargi tulum* was filtered in order to remove the solid contamination of milk, and Oksuztepe et al., (2005) noted that the source milk must be free from any foreign chemicals or inhibitory substances.

- The raw milk is heated to the proper temperature for addition of rennet which vary in a narrow range - 31° (Yilmaz et al., 2005, Colak et al., 2007) or a higher with several degrees - 35° (Cakir and Cakmakci, 2018). The milk heating temperature for cow's milk used by Gurses and Erdogan (2006) was even lower - 30° .

- Among the research data can be found some variants which use the cow's milk and pasteurization of 65°C for a 30 min (Gurses and Erdogan, 2006), and in the study of Celik and Tarakci (2017), during the production process of a low-fat tulum cheese the pasteurization temperature is even higher - 85° for 10 min.

- The researchers use rennet of different kinds and strength. In the technology process cited by Cakir and Cakmakci,

Cakir Cakmakci (2018)	(2018) the home made calf rennet is used, but the other researches indicated the use of rennet with different strength - calf rennet with strength 1:16 000 (Celik and Tarakci, 2017), rennet with strength 1:15 000 (Gurses and Erdogan, 2006), rennet microbial powder ( <i>Mucor miehei</i> ) and strength 1:150 000 (Serhan et al., 2009), rennet with strength 1:6000 (Yilmaz et al., 2005), rennet with strength 1:8000 (Kirdar et al., 2015).
1:16 000 (Celik and Tarakci, 2017), 1:15 000 (Gurses and Erdogan, 2006), ( <i>Mucor miehei</i> ) 1:150 000 (Serhan et al., 2009), 1:6000 (Yilmaz et al., 2005), 1:8000 (Kirdar et al., 2015).	
Celik Tarakci (2017), Yilmaz et al., (2005)	According to the artisan technology starter culture and calcium chloride are not used, but they are included in the experiment of Celik and Tarakci (2017), and Yilmaz et al., (2005) additionally applied a microbial lipase. Most of the scientists share the common opinion that obtaining the firm curd takes from 60 to 90 min except Yilmaz et al., (2005), who started curd cutting on 30 <sup>th</sup> minutes after addition of rennet.
90 min (2005), 30-	
1x1 1cm (Yilmaz et al., 2005, Cakir and Cakmakci, 2018), 2 2 2cm (Gurses and Erdogan, 2006), 3-4cm <sup>3</sup> (Celik and Tarakci, 2017) 5x5cm (Oksuztepe et al., 2005).	The curd is cut or manually broke up to pieces with a size of 1x1 1cm (Yilmaz et al., 2005, Cakir and Cakmakci, 2018), 2x2x2cm (Gurses and Erdogan, 2006), 3-4cm <sup>3</sup> (Celik and Tarakci, 2017) or 5x5cm (Oksuztepe et al., 2005). Additional heating (up to 50° for 12-15 min) of the cheese curd pieces, in order to expel more whey from curd is mentioned only in the technological scheme sited from Colak et al., (2007).
( 50° 12-15 min)	
Colak et al. (2007).	As a rule, in all reviewed in this paper technologies, the drainage of cheese curd is done by pressing with different weights and with different time duration – as a example 60 kg for 12 hours (Gurses and Erdogan, 2006), a press operation with duration 3.5-4 hours (Karagozlu et al., 2009), 2-kg weights on every 10 kg curd for 2 hours (Celik and Tarakci, 2017). In some cases the press operation is performed by the weight of filled with curd cotton bags at the temperature of 20°C for a period of 24 h (Cakir and
60 kg 12 (Gurses and Erdogan, 2006), 3.5-4 (Karagozlu et al., 2009), 2-kg 10 kg 2 (Celik and Tarakci, 2017).	
20°C 24 (Cakir and	

<p>Cakmakci, 2018).</p> <p>2% (Oksuztepe et al., 2005), 2.5% (Celik and Tarakci, 2017), 3% (Cakir and Cakmakci, 2018), 3.5% (Gurses and Erdogan, 2006).</p> <p>Erdogan, 2006 – 3-4 ,</p> <p>Tarakci (2017),</p> <p>Oksuztepe et al. (2005). Yilmaz et al. (2005)</p> <p>h.</p> <p>50 kg</p> <p>Kirdar et al. (2015). Yilmaz et al. (2005)</p> <p>5.10,</p> <p>10±2°C 3 (Gurses and Erdogan, 2006), 4±1°C 120 (Celik and Tarakci, 2017) 4±1°C 90</p> <p>Cakmakci (2018).</p> <p>2-4° (Karagozlu et al., 2009), 6±1°C (Kirdar et al., 2015) - 7-8° 90 (Colak et al., 2007, Yilmaz et al., 2005), 10-12° (Serhan et al., 2009).</p> <p>et al. (2009) <i>darfiyeh</i></p> <p>12 9 9cm,</p>	<p>- Cakmakci, 2018). After the initial press operation the curd is further cut to pieces with size of pea and salted to 2% (Oksuztepe et al., 2005), to 2.5% (Celik and Tarakci, 2017), to 3% (Cakir and Cakmakci, 2018), to 3.5% (Gurses and Erdogan, 2006). Additional press operation was applied in the work of Gurses and Erdogan, (2006) – as a weight of 30kg for a period of 3-4 hours, the drainage of salted curd can be found in the technology of Celik Tarakci (2017), for a period of 24 hours at room temperature and applying the weights on the cheese curd is seen also in the technology of Oksuztepe et al., (2005). Yilmaz et al., (2005) defined the pressing with weights of 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup> for 16 h. A very similar press operation but using the weight of full cotton bags which can reach 50 kg can be found in the work of Kirdar et al., (2015). Yilmaz et al., (2005) mentioned also the period of prefermentation during the curd processing and a decrease in the active acidity to the particular value - 5.10, as a result of ongoing lactic acid fermentation. In some particular technologies the salted curd ripens in glass packaging at the temperature of 10±2°C for 3 months (Gurses and Erdogan, 2006) or at 4±1°C for 120 days (Celik and Tarakci, 2017), it can ripen also at 4±1°C for 90 days in plastic containers according to Cakir and Cakmakci (2018). Filled in a skin bag curd can ripen at 2-4° (Karagozlu et al., 2009), at 6±1°C (Kirdar et al., 2015) or even higher 7-8° for 90 days (Colak et al., 2007, Yilmaz et al., 2005), but also at temperature of 10-12° (Serhan et al., 2009). According to Serhan et al., (2009) during the production process of the <i>darfiyeh</i> cheese the skin bag was filled with a hand shaped cheese pieces with an average size of 12 9 9cm, and the expelled whey was collected, subjected to heating and by addition of some quantity of raw ewe's milk the whey proteins have been coagulated. Obtained</p>
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<p>(Gurses (2005)).</p> <p><i>civil cheese</i>, ( ) (lor).</p>	<p>Erdogan</p>	<p>by this manner, whey cheese was mixed with the cheese curd and was introduced inside the ewe's skin bag through the neck.</p> <p>According to Erdogan and Gurses (2005) the tulum cheese technology includes the usage of raw skim milk, rennet and by heating the curd is obtained so called <i>civil cheese</i> and the previously prepared packages (which can be animal skin bags or plastic bags) are filled with the mixture of the processed curd and the whey cheese (lor).</p>
<p>Güven (1994)</p>	<p>nar (1994)</p>	<p>Tightly sewed animal skin prevents air entering inside the bag and in a homemade technology skin bag can be stored in rooms with natural cooling. Güven and nar (1994) have studied the samples in which the hairy surface of prepared skin was directed inwards or outwards of the inside space of animal skin and the cheese curd. Because of a higher number of coliform bacteria yeast and mould in the samples with the hairy surface inside, in comparison to the others samples, authors have drawn the conclusion that the goat's skin bag with the hairy surface inside is not suitable for tulum cheese packaging.</p>
<p>Zitoin et al. (2011)</p> <p>(2018)</p>	<p><i>bouhezza</i></p> <p>Cakir Cakmakci</p>	<p>The technology sited by Zitoin et al., (2011) for <i>bouhezza</i> cheese the hairy surface of the skin was inwards. According to the technology of Cakir and Cakmakci (2018) before the filling the packages the curd was mixed with a black cumin.</p>
<p>Litopoulou-Tzanetaki (2011), (<i>touloumotyri</i>), (<i>touloumia</i>)</p>	<p>Tzanetakis (<i>touloumissio cheese</i>)</p>	<p>Comparatively different is opinion of Litopoulou-Tzanetaki and Tzanetakis (2011), who concluded that the technology of a <i>touloumissio cheese</i> (<i>touloumotyri</i>), which is a Greek designation of tulum cheese (<i>touloumia</i>), is pretty much the same as the technology of <i>Feta</i> cheese, despite existence of some modification in the technology process. The researchers mentioned that the cheese is produced from raw sheep's or goat's milk or from</p>

				the mixture of these milks, but consider that after salting and ripening the matured cheese is cut into small pieces and filled in the prepared animal skin bag. The researchers noted the high salt content of cheese and also the use of brine which in turn can reach the salt content of 5.56–7.35%.
		5.56–7.35%.		
<i>bouhezza</i>	Zitoin et al. (2011)	Medjoudj et al., (2017).		Very interesting is the manner of <i>bouhezza</i> cheese production explained in the publication Zitoin et al., (2011) and also in the work of Medjoudj et al., (2017). The original technology of cheese is based on the use of raw goat's, ewe's, cow's milk or from a mixture of these.
				The technological steps involved a spontaneous fermentation, drainage and ripening of the cheese inside the prepared skin bag (which has an inside volume of about 10 to 15L). The cheese is produced by using so called <i>lben</i> , which is fermented milk obtained by a spontaneous fermentation of raw milk at the temperature of 20-25° for a period of 24 to 48h without addition of starter culture. The fermented milk is partially skimmed before use in the <i>bouhezza</i> cheese technology. The prepared animal skin <i>chekoua</i> , firstly is filled with 2-3L <i>lben</i> , which helps for the proper treatment of skin and removes undesirable smell.
		10 15		
		<i>lben</i> ,		
		20-25°	24	
48				
			<i>bouhezza</i>	
		<i>chekoua</i> ,		
		2-3	<i>lben</i> ,	
			<i>lben</i>	
0.25g/L,			3-4	The technology process starts with filling the animal skin with a small portion of fermented <i>lben</i> and salt in quantity of 0.25g/L, this provides the initial biochemical changes of milk for 3-4 days.
			<i>lben</i>	
4		7		The successive addition of portions salted <i>lben</i> is repeated every 4 days until the skin bag is completely filled, the whole process continues almost 7 weeks. The changes of cheese curd have happened simultaneously with its ripening and at the end of the ripening period (around 10 <sup>th</sup> week), in the same manner, raw full fat milk is added into the cheese mixture (the quantity of a raw milk is 2 to 3L for each <i>chekoua</i> ).
			( 10-	
			) ,	
		( 2 3L		
<i>chekoua</i> ).				

- The applied raw milk adjusts the fat content of cheese, salt contents and acidity of the final product. Addition of red hot pepper into cheese is optional.

### **Cheese microflora**

Acidity increase and primary partial proteolysis are key processes in the early stages of cheese making technology. The acid production is important because it promotes milk coagulation and suppresses the growth of pathogens (Fox, 1989; McSweeney, 2004; Fernandes ed., 2009). In the technology process of artisan cheeses, without starter culture, the naturally present in raw milk microflora and the microorganisms which enter the curd during its processing are the main cause for acid production, and consequently for the proteolysis and lipolysis in the cheese (Montel et al., 2014; Gobbetii et al., 2015). That's way the specific physicochemical and sensory characteristics of the cheese are direct result of the types of cheese processing and the activity of its microflora (Poznanski et al., 2004; Widyastuti et al., 2014).

In the tulum cheese made by artisan technology is found a great diversity of lactic acid bacteria, which belongs to genera *Lactobacillus*, *Enterococcus*, *Lactococcus*, *Leuconostoc* and *Pediococcus*. Kunduhoglu et al., (2012) studied the microflora of artisan tulum cheese (*kargi tulum*), which was made from raw milk and ripened in animal skin bag. By genotyping the researchers detected the presence of *Lactobacillus paracasei* (43.3%), *Lactobacillus plantarum* (23.7%), *Streptococcus thermophilus* (6.2%), *Enterococcus durans* (6.2%), *Lactobacillus brevis* (5.2%), *Enterococcus faecium* (5.2%), *Lactobacillus fermentum* (4.1%) and *Lactobacillus pentosus* (1%).

*Lactobacillus*,  
*Enterococcus*, *Lactococcus*, *Leuconostoc*  
*Pediococcus*. Kunduhoglu et al. (2012)

(*kargi tulum*),

*Lactobacillus paracasei* (43.3%), *Lactobacillus plantarum* (23.7%), *Streptococcus thermophilus* (6.2%), *Enterococcus durans* (6.2%), *Lactobacillus brevis* (5.2%), *Enterococcus faecium* (5.2%), *Lactobacillus fermentum* (4.1%)  
*Lactobacillus pentosus* (1%).

*darfiyeh*,

Into Lebanon's tulum cheese *darfiyeh*, by



26.7% *Enterococcus sp.*,  
*Lactobacillus ssp.*  
*Enterobacter faecalis*,  
(40.0%),  
13.6% 3%  
*L. lactis*,  
4.5%  
*Leuconostoc mesenteroides*,  
9.1%  
14.7%.  
*Lactobacillus parabuhneri* (13.3%)  
*Lactobacillus bifermentans* (6.7%),  
*L. paracasei*,  
*L. curvatus* *L. casei*.  
*Pediococcus acetilactici*  
6.7%, - 18.2%,  
44  
*Pediococcus*.  
*Lactobacillus plantarum*,  
*Lactococcus lactis*, *Leuconostoc mesenteroides*,  
*Lactobacillus paracasei*,  
*Lactobacillus curvatus*, *Lactobacillus brevis*  
Frece et al. (2016)  
, ,  
, ,  
, ,  
*Lactococcus lactis* *Lactobacillus paracasei*,  
*Leuconostoc mesenteroides*  
*Lactobacillus plantarum*.  
, (S. xylosus)  
, ,

and 26.7% belongs to the genus *Lactobacillus ssp.* In the two mentioned cheeses researchers found *Enterobacter faecalis*, which was in a higher count in the cheese with moulds (40.0%), and in the cheese without mould has reached 13.6%, but consequently during the ripening period decreased to 3%. Very similar was the trend of *L. lactis*, which in immature cheese without moulds reached 4.5% of microflora, but its quantity decreased during the storage time. At the contrary, *Leuconostoc mesenteroides* reached 9.1% in immature cheese without moulds but its number increased during the examined period up to 14.7%. In the cheese with moulds researchers found also *Lactobacillus parabuhneri* (13.3%) and *Lactobacillus bifermentans* (6.7%), and in the cheese with moulds the number of *L. paracasei* was also higher, and *L. brevis*, *L. curvatus* and *L. casei* were also found. In the cheese with moulds *Pediococcus acetilactici* reached 6.7%, and in the cheese without moulds - 18.2%, and the total number of strains which belongs to the genus *Pediococcus* reached 44 strains.

The presence of *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *Lactococcus lactis*, *Leuconostoc mesenteroides*, *Lactobacillus paracasei*, *Lactobacillus curvatus*, *Lactobacillus brevis* was detected by biochemical analysis from Frece et al., (2016) in the milk, curd and the cheese. The same researchers marked that in the cheese made from cow's milk *Lactococcus lactis* and *Lactobacillus paracasei*, and in the cheese of ewe's milk and after ripening in animal skin bag - the predominant were *Leuconostoc mesenteroides* and *Lactobacillus plantarum*. The researchers made an assumption that some strains of staphylococci (*S. xylosus*) may have a role in formation of the desirable and distinctive taste and flavor of cheese.

The changes in the trends of lactic acid bacteria which participate in the



Oksuztepe et al. (2005) Cakmakci et al., (2008). Cakmakci et al., (2008)

*Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus*

*Streptococcus* *Lactococcus*

al. (2009) *Lactococcus*

( $p < 0.01$ ). (2008)

*Lactobacillus*. Tuncer (2009), (43.58%) *Enterococcus faecium*, *Enterococcus faecalis* *Enterococcus durans* - 28.21%. Cakmakci et al. (2008)

*Lactobacillus brevis*, *Leuconostoc mesenteroides* subsp. *dextranicum*, *Pediococcus damnosus* *Enterococcus mundtii*

*Lactobacillus coryniformis* *Lactobacillus malafermentans*

6 9

*Enterococcus faecalis*

Oksuztepe et al.

microflora of tulum cheese can be viewed from the study of Oksuztepe et al., (2005) and Cakmakci et al., (2008). Cakmakci et al., (2008) found in immature cheese bacteria of genera *Enterococcus*, *Lactobacillus*, *Streptococcus*, *Lactococcus* and *Pediococcus*.

According to their data, during the ripening, the cells of *Streptococcus* and *Lactococcus* disappeared, but these data are not supported by Karagozlu et al., (2009) which results revealed that the cells of genus *Lactococcus* can be found at the time of cheese ripening, and the number of *Streptococcus* has even increased during the ripening period ( $p < 0.01$ ). The data of Cakmakci et al., (2008) showed that the number of species belonging to the genus *Enterococcus* stayed constant independently of the type of package which could be animal skin bag or plastics and its quantity is as much abundant as the quantity of species of genus *Lactobacillus*. Similar was the data of Tuncer (2009), who isolated 39 strains and almost half of them (43.58%) were *Enterococcus faecium*, and in the same quantity - 28.21% were strains of *Enterococcus faecalis* and *Enterococcus durans*. Cakmakci et al., (2008) have noticed, that some particular species as *Lactobacillus brevis*, *Leuconostoc mesenteroides* subsp. *dextranicum*, *Pediococcus damnosus* and *Enterococcus mundtii* can be isolated only from cheese ripened in plastics, and the strains of *Lactobacillus coryniformis* and *Lactobacillus malafermentans* were isolated only from cheese ripened in goat's skin bag for a period of 6 to 9 months. The interesting observation of the authors is that the numbers of strains *Enterococcus faecalis* in cheese ripened in plastics were higher than in the cheese ripened in animal skin bag.

Oksuztepe et al., (2005) have published very detailed study which

(2005),	-	examined the changes of microflora of
cheese,	<i>savak tulum</i>	<i>savak tulum</i> cheese, made from raw
	90	ewe's milk and 90 days ripening period in
		plastic package.
783	851	The researchers isolated in all 851 strains
		and 783 of it were lactic acid bacteria.
		Researchers also found that during the
		first months of cheese ripening the
		predominant were round shaped bacteria
		and lately rod shaped bacteria prevailed.
		Among round shaped bacteria the most
		abundant were strains of <i>Lactococcus</i>
		<i>lactis</i> subsp. <i>cremoris</i> , <i>Lactococcus</i>
		<i>lactis</i> subsp. <i>lactis</i> , and <i>Leuconostoc</i>
		<i>mesenteroides</i> subsp. <i>cremoris</i> .
		Enterococci also was found in very high
		number – from 19 up to 34% from all of
		the isolated strains during the ripening.
		According to the quantitatively
		proportion among the different groups of
		microorganisms in the cheese Karagozlu
(2009)	Karagozlu et al.,	et al., (2009) estimated equally high
	(7.301 log cfu/g)	number of lactobacilli (7.301 log cfu/g)
	(7.278 log cfu/g),	and streptococci (7.278 log cfu/g), along
		with a substantially lower number of
	(0.176 log cfu/g),	enterococci (0.176 log cfu/g), but a
	(1.623 log	comparatively high number of yeast
cfu/g).	(5.716 log cfu/g)	(1.623 log cfu/g). The same researches
		noticed high number of coliform bacteria
		(5.716 log cfu/g) and even higher count of
		psychrophilic and lypolitic bacteria (7.000
		log cfu/g). Similar were the results of
		Dinkci et al., (2012) in whose study the
Dinkci et al. (2012),	(7.28 ±0.20 log cfu/g)	number of streptococci (7.28 ±0.20 log
	(7.39±0.12 log cfu/g)	cfu/g) and lactobacilli (7.39±0.12 log
		cfu/g) was almost equal, but on the
		contrary the researchers found a higher
		number of yeast and moulds - 6.10 log
		cfu/g, but a low number coliform bacteria
6.10 log cfu/g,		(less than 10 in the gram of the product).
( - 10		
).		
	<i>bouhezza</i> Zitoin et	In microflora of <i>bouhezza</i> cheese Zitoin
al. (2011)		et al., (2011) also found the presence of
	(4-5 log cfu/g <sup>-1</sup> )	yeast and moulds (4-5 log cfu/g <sup>-1</sup> ) and
	(3 - 4	lypolitic bacteria (3 - 4 log cfu/g <sup>-1</sup> ).
log cfu/g <sup>-1</sup> ).		According to the opinion of researches
		the aforementioned two groups of
		microorganisms had little effect on the

- Sengül et al. (2001) -  
 TS 3001 -  
 100 cfu/g -  
 Oksuztepe et al. (2005) 2.7 10<sup>4</sup> CFU/ml -  
 Samelis Kakiuri (2007) *Listeria monocytogenes*, 25% -  
 CFU/g 10 -  
*L. innocua*. -  
*Salmonella spp.* *L. monocytogenes* -  
 Colak et al. (2007), 250 -  
*L. monocytogenes* 12 (4.8%) -  
*Salmonella spp.* 6 (2.4%) -  
 Binöl et al. (2012) 25 -  
*Staphylococcus aureus* 8, *E.coli* 1 -  
*E. coli* O157, 6 -  
 Kunduhoglu et al. (2012) -  
*Staphylococcus haemolyticus*, *E. coli*, *Clostridium ssp./Eubacterium tenue*. Frece et al. (2016) -

cheese, but in the publication of Sengül et al., (2001) was mentioned, that the Turkish standard for tulum cheese TS 3001 specify a limit amount of 100 cfu/g of yeast and moulds in the ripened cheese. Oksuztepe et al., (2005) also found 2.7 10<sup>4</sup> CFU/ml yeast and moulds in raw milk used for cheese production, but didn't find these microorganisms during the cheese ripening.

The main pathogen which can be associated with tulum cheese according to Samelis and Kakiuri (2007) is *Listeria monocytogenes*, which was detected in 25% of the samples in their study. The results showed that by direct counting, the quantities of some live cells were lower than 10 CFU/g and some of them were identified as *L.innocua*. The very detailed and expanded study on the presence of *L. monocytogenes* and *Salmonella spp.* in samples of different tulum cheeses was done by Colak et al., (2007), who analyzed 250 samples which have been bought from the markets in Istanbul. The laboratory tests revealed the presence of *L. monocytogenes* in 12 samples (4.8%) and *Salmonella spp.* in 6 (2.4%) samples. The scientific work of Binöl et al., (2012) was aimed not only in detection of pathogens, but also in the detection of some enterotoxins and verotoxins in different local cheeses sold in the Turkey's markets. Among 25 tulum cheese samples positive for the presence of *Staphylococcus aureus* were 8 samples. *E.coli* was found in 12 of these samples, 1 sample gave positive results even for the presence of *E. coli* O157, 6 of the samples showed the presence of enterotoxin and one sample was positive for verotoxin. Kunduhoglu et al., (2012) also found in tulum cheese *Staphylococcus haemolyticus*, *E. coli*, *Clostridium ssp.* and *Eubacterium tenue*. Frece et al., (2016) detected in the tulum cheese staphylococci as *S. xylosus*, *S. aureus* and *S. epidermidis*. Comparative-ly high number staphylococci were found

*S. xylosum*, *S. aureus* *S. epidermidis*.

Karagozlu et al., (2009) - 4.173 log cfu/g.

*S. aureus* ( 2 log CFU/g)

Frece et al. (2016)

(SE)

C (SEC).

Karagozlu et al. (2009)

from Karagozlu et al., (2009) - 4.173 log cfu/g. After the detection of higher number *S. aureus* (over 2 log CFU/g) in the two third of the tested samples of milk, curd and ripened cheese Frece et al., (2016) broadened the examination of the same samples and made tests for the presence of staphylococcal enterotoxins (SE). Two of the ewe's cheese samples turned out to be positive for enterotoxin C (SEC).

Because of the presence of some unwanted microorganisms Karagozlu et al., (2009) drew a conclusion that the production of tulum cheese still faced some difficulties in order to produce final standard product, and some of the microorganisms which are found in it can be serious threat to health.

The same researchers thought that such unsafe in microbiological aspects food products shouldn't be recommended for consumption, but bearing in mind the great popularity of this kind of cheese they expressed the necessity of measures aimed of increasing quality of the product and acceptance of standard technology scheme.

Others researches also expressed the necessity of further experiments on the cheese microflora (Erdogan and Gurses, 2005; Frece et al., 2016).

(Erdogan and Gurses, 2005; Frece et al., 2016).

The scientific researches on the natural microflora of artisan tulum cheese have indicated that starter culture, which can be applied in cheese making technology, should combine both round and rod shaped lactic acid bacteria.

The concluding opinion about the participating species or their exactly quantitative proportion or even any kind of precise composition of the starter culture are still missing, but there are several suggestions about the species which should participate in the starter

*Lactobacillus plantarum*,  
*Lactobacillus casei subsp. casei* *L.*  
*paracasei* (Oksuztepe et al., 2005;  
 Kunduhoglu et al., 2012),  
*Lb. parabuhneri* (Erdogan and Gurses,  
 2005).

Erdogan Gurses, (2005), Cakmakci et al.  
 al. (2008) Kunduhoglu et al. (2012)

*E.faecalis*, *E.faecium* *E.durans*

Kunduhoglu et al. (2012)

*L. plantarum* *S. thermophilus*,  
 Oksuztepe et al. (2005) *Lactococcus*  
*lactis subsp. cremoris*, *Lactococcus lactis*  
*subsp. lactis* *Leuconostoc*  
*mesenteroides subsp. cremoris*.

culture. The research data clearly indicates that *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *Lactobacillus casei subsp. casei* and *L. paracasei* should participate in the starter culture for tulum cheese production (Oksuztepe et al., 2005; Kunduhoglu et al., 2012), and also *Lb. parabuhneri* (Erdogan and Gurses, 2005). Because of the presence of an abundant quantity of enterococci in the tulum cheese Erdogan and Gurses (2005), Cakmakci et al., (2008) and Kunduhoglu et al., (2012) have suggested that enterococci species as *E.faecalis*, *E.faecium* and *E.durans* also can take part in the starter culture combinations. Kunduhoglu et al., (2012) contemplated the necessity of inclusion in the starter culture some additional homofermentative strains as *L. plantarum* and *S. thermophilus*, and Oksuztepe et al., (2005) have added also *Lactococcus lactis subsp. cremoris*, *Lactococcus lactis subsp. lactis* and *Leuconostoc mesenteroides subsp. cremoris*.

### Sensory characteristics

Due to specific cheese making process and ripening, tulum cheese has a crumbly texture and doesn't possess a regular shape or particular size.

(2011) Hayloglu et al.

According to Hayloglu et al., (2011) the cheese has a white to lightly cream color, high fat contents and a crumbly and semihard texture.

(Durlu-Ozkaya and Gun, 2014).  
 Karagozlu et al. (2009)

*cimi tulum*

(31.73%),

The cheese is dispersible in the mouth and has a buttery and pungent flavor. The color of cheese put in an animal skin bag obtains yellowish color when it comes into contact with the inner surface of the skin, but the inner parts of the cheese retained its white color (Durlu-Özkaya and Gün, 2014). Karagozlu et al., (2009) estimated the quantity of the free fatty acids in *cimi tulum* cheese and found that the most abundant was the quantity of oleic acid (31.73%), followed

(24.19%)  
 (9.32%).  
*tulum*  
 2- 3- -1- )  
 (Hayaloglu and Karagul-  
 Yuseer, 2011). Hayaloglu et al. (2007)  
 100  
 11  
 16 , 12 , 7  
 , 22 , 7  
 , 6 19  
 , 2-  
 1 7  
 . Zitoïn et al. (2011)  
*bouhezza*  
 -  
 Medjoudj et al.  
 (2017) 109  
*bouhezza*,

by palmitic acid with 24.19% and myristic acid with 9.32%. The sensory characteristic of cheese variety *divle tulum* depends on the volatile components as ketones, alcohols (mostly 2-butanol and 3-methyl-1butanol) and different terpenes (Hayaloglu and Karagul-Yuseer, 2011). Hayaloglu et al., (2007) found more than 100 volatile components in the *tulum* cheese. Among them are 11 organic acids, 16 esters, 12 methylketones, 7 aldehydes, 22 alcohols, 7 sulfur components, 6 terpenes and other 19 components. The main cheese components are short chain fatty acids, 2-butanone and ethanol.

By applying the tests on a point scale from 1 to 7 points about flavor, texture and intensity Zitoïn et al., (2011) examined the sensory characteristics of *bouhezza* cheese and defined two major families of odours and aroma characteristics: lactic and animals. The chromatographic examination of *bouhezza* cheese done by Medjoudj et al., (2017) found more than 109 different components and the carboxylic acids, esters, and alcohols are the main classes of the volatile components in the cheese.

## CONCLUSIONS

- The growing number of scientific
- articles and available data about *tulum*
- cheese are the indicators for increasing
- interest towards artisan technology and
- the influence of entirely natural raw
- materials and methods which are used in
- the homemade production. The diversity
- of materials and methods have an impact
- on the presence of heterogeneous
- microflora in both aspects - quantitatively
- and qualitatively and this microflora has a
- paramount influence over unique and
- distinctive taste and flavor of the cheese.
- The specific cheese appearance,
- accompanied by a sophisticated
- combination of aroma and taste
- substances, is a real prerequisite for

- successful marketing at guaranteed price, along with the possibilities of gaining a specific market share and particular group of devoted consumers.
- 
- The successful retail, despite the limited volume of cheese production, will facilitate the economic stability of cheese producers and will guarantee preservation of the original artisan cheese technology.
- 
- It has to be taken into account that not only the homemade production of cheese but also in small dairy plants can be under the influence of variable and unfixed factors, which can lead to the production of cheese batches with uneven quality and characteristics. This trend sometimes can be accompanied by an elevated thread of presence or development of undesirable microorganisms and pathogens.
- 
- Remodeling the homemade methods, in order to meet the requirements of industrial plant scale production will include the introduction of standard processing system and different kind of packaging instead of an animal skin which probably will change the typical characteristics of cheese.
- 
- During industrial manufacturing process the unique taste and flavor of cheese can be preserved by suitable starter culture which till now is not composed.
- 
- The existing controversial trends, one of which is towards preservation of artisan technology, and the other is towards increasing the product popularity and good economic profit for the producers, can be attenuated by receiving a status according to the European Union scheme:
  - : Protected Designation of Origin (PDO),
  - PGI (Protected Geographical Indication)
  - or Traditional Speciality Guaranteed (TSG).
- 
- TSG

(Traditional Speciality Guaranteed).

Slow food

taste).

(the Ark of

In Turkey, as a country where the cheese is comparatively well-known, the appropriate standard documents about cheese production already exist.

- Slow food organization have included the tulum cheese in its collection (*the Ark of taste*) of interesting and valuable local food products. All aforementioned facts undoubtedly indicate the growing interest, both scientific and economic, towards production of tulum cheese, as well as its spreading popularity.

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