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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Analysis by non-linear irreversible thermodynamics of compositional and structural changes occurred during air drying of vacuum impregnated apple (*cv. Granny smith*): calcium and trehalose effects.

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Abstract

Apple discs were impregnated with isotonic solutions of sucrose and trehalose with and without calcium addition and after air dried. In the vacuum impregnation experiments, the calcium and the replacement of sucrose by trehalose did not have significant effect on the final volumetric deformation of the samples. During air drying two stages of changes were considered. The first one lasted until the saturation of the intracellular liquid phase, and the second one from the saturation of the intracellular liquid phase until the end of the drying process. Mass transfer has been analysed applying nonlinear irreversible thermodynamics. Water flux, water chemical potential and tissue shrinkage have been taken into account in order to accurately describe the mass

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